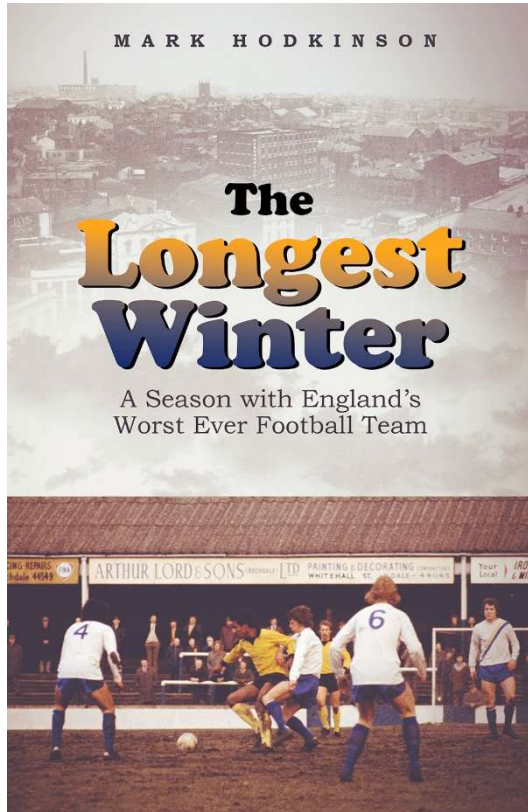




## Title information



### The Longest Winter

A Season with England's Worst Ever Football Team

By Mark Hodkinson

#### Key features

- Forensic sports and social history focused on the early and mid-1970s, a time of near-civil war across the UK
- Imagine the approach and atmosphere of the television series *Unforgotten* and *Cold Case Files* or the documentary *The Yorkshire Ripper Files*, but in book form
- A study of the philosophy of defeat – the Rochdale team of 1973/74 are widely considered the worst to play in the Football League
- Featuring scores of interviews and insight from the author, who was previously longlisted for the William Hill prize and a winner of *Q's* 'Novel of the Year' award
- Mark was a *Times* columnist for several years and a presenter of documentaries on BBC Radio 4
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

#### Description

In 1973/74, Britain was in meltdown. The Arab-Israeli War had sent energy prices soaring. Petrol was scarce. Offices were limited to a temperature of 17°C and power cuts were frequent. A three-day working week came in as inflation took hold and miners and other workers went on strike. The northern mill town of Rochdale suffered more than most. Its cotton industry was on shut-down in the face of cheap imports, and the football team was a mirror image of the town – tired, defeated, clinging to life. The Rochdale team of 1973/74 are considered the worst to play in the Football League. They finished bottom of the third division, winning just twice in 46 league matches. They closed the season with a 22-game winless run and played one home match in front of the lowest-ever post-war crowd. That season 32 players played for the team, many of them drafted in from amateur or Sunday league clubs. *The Longest Winter* is as much a piece of forensic social history as it is a sports book. It evokes the smells, textures and moods of the early 1970s.

#### Details

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