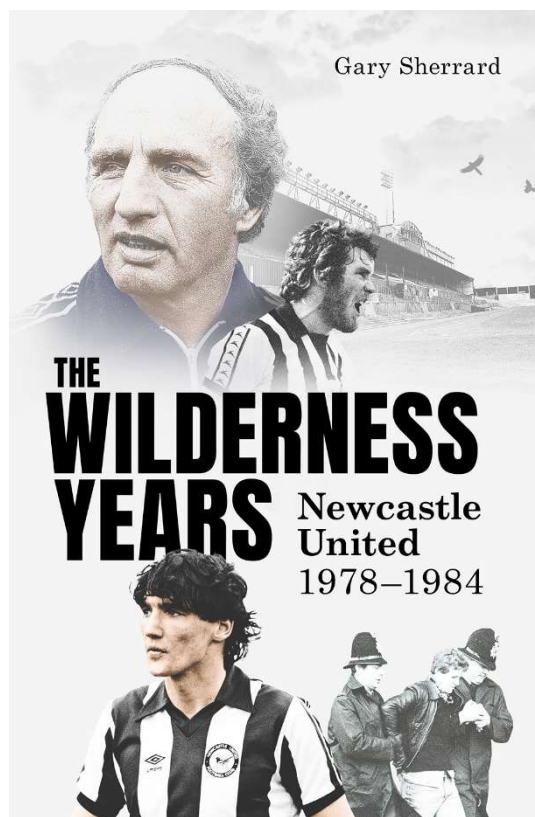




Title information



The Wilderness Years

Newcastle United 1978–1984

By Gary Sherrard

Key features

- From Wembley glories and a European trophy, Newcastle experienced a shocking fall; relegated in the season they returned to Europe, this is the wilderness years through the eyes of a fan born in the right place at the wrong time
- Told season by season through the six wilderness years, growing up on terraces that featured boiled burgers, bover boys, basic facilities, and through the mesh of fan fencing
- Hoping to become the next Malcolm Macdonald in the number-nine shirt, football dominates the life and hopes of a typical North-East hopeful in a story transferred from schoolboy diaries, scrapbooks and newspaper cuttings
- There is hope, too, and there is a happy ending with the signing of a superstar and promotion in his final season as reward for the patience and loyalty of the support
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

Description

The Wilderness Years explores what it meant to grow from matchday debut to die-hard regular in the void between Newcastle's Wembley glory days of the 1950s and its dazzling entertainers of the 90s. After humiliating relegation from the old First Division in 1978, it soon became clear to fans there was no plan to bounce straight back. This was Newcastle United in the wilderness: a stadium redevelopment that never started; new signings pulled from coal seams and factory floors; bover boys and boiled burgers; a record for fewest goals scored at home; outdone by non-league neighbours; dredging for a wearer of the Number Nine; youngsters randomly blooded and rapidly discarded. It would take more than mediocrity, though, to deter the young fans born in the right place at the wrong time. Reward finally came after six long, patience-testing years thanks to a superstar arrival and promotion before his theatrical farewell. This is one resolute supporter's tragicomic remembrance of times past, dedicated to anyone who calls themselves a football fan and doesn't only sing when they're winning.

Details

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