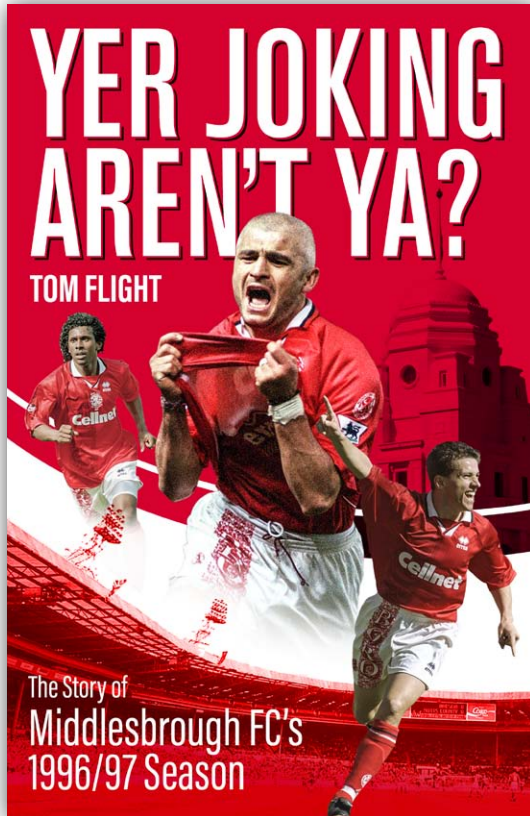




## Title information



### Yer Joking Aren't Ya?

The Story of Middlesbrough's Unforgettable 1996/97 Season

By Tom Flight

#### Key features

- Written by Boro season-ticket holder for the 1996/97 season Tom Flight, this is the previously untold story of one of the most bizarre and memorable rollercoaster seasons in the history of football
- Nostalgic exploration of what that unique season meant to Middlesbrough fans and the town itself, the book also looks into what really happened and sets the record straight
- Includes first-hand accounts from players who were part of that special season
- Explores the broader topic of Middlesbrough's place in the nation during the mid-1990s, and how the town received broken promises from the government and FA
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites and magazines

#### Description

*Yer Jokin' Aren't Ya?* is the bizarre and gripping story behind Middlesbrough's epic 1996/97 season. When the Premier League ushered in a bright new era of English football, a Middlesbrough businessman named Steve Gibson asked a daring question. Why couldn't an untrendy team from a bleak North-East town join the elite of world football? With Bryan Robson at the helm, Gibson set out to prove it could be done. Gibson built a state-of-the-art stadium on the banks of the River Tees, and spent millions so the pitch would be graced by superstars. Robson helped attract Fabrizio Ravanelli, Emerson and the Brazilian maestro Juninho. For an ephemeral moment Boro's breathtaking football captured the nation's imagination. But chaos followed as Boro's season spiralled out of control. The book begins in the summer of 1996 and traces month by month how Boro's season unravelled due to the egos and excesses of this crazy team. It ended in tragedy, but for those who took part – and for the fans who witnessed it – it was a truly unforgettable time.

#### Details

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