



A YEAR WITH EASTLEIGH FOOTBALL CLUB

Paul McNamara offers behind-the-scenes glimpses of an entire football season at a non-league club

“I held an enduring fascination with the idea of viewing, from a multitude of perspectives, an entire football season at one club.” Paul McNamara has enabled football fans to do just this in ‘The More We Win, The Better It Will Be’, a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the non-league team Eastleigh Football Club.

Eastleigh Football Club is an ambitious semi-professional club that in 2013/2014 competed in the Football Conference South. Ten years earlier, they were a very small club playing in their local regional league. Progress from that lowly status saw the team spend the 2013/2014 campaign challenging for the Conference South league title and promotion into the Conference Premier Division. The book follows the fortunes of the men who played during that season. It charts the weekly highs and lows experienced by the owners, the manager, staff and followers and provides a candid view of the club’s day-to-day life.

“The club gave full permission for me to spend the season with complete access to its management and playing staff. I enjoyed continuous contact with the manager, the coaching staff and the club’s directors. All were extremely open, enabling me to depict a broad and captivating range of incidents and developments, starting pre-season and lasting right through until the campaign’s final day,” observes Paul. The end result is a compelling story of life on and off the pitch at the club and the unfolding events of the season. With a team striving to achieve promotion into the Conference Premier and reach Wembley in the FA Trophy, this book will be enjoyed by football fans at any level.

“As a latecomer to the charms of the non-league world, I developed something of an obsession with Eastleigh Football Club. I came to understand how much this small club meant to so many people, and the number of lives it affected, and I realised that there was a story waiting to be told,” says Paul, who has also written the match reports, interviews and articles for the past two seasons for the Eastleigh Football Club website and match day programme.

Paul is based in Fareham and his work has been a weekly feature over the recent season in the *Southern Daily Echo’s The Sports Pink*. He has also written articles for *UK Tennis* and *Late Tackle*.



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