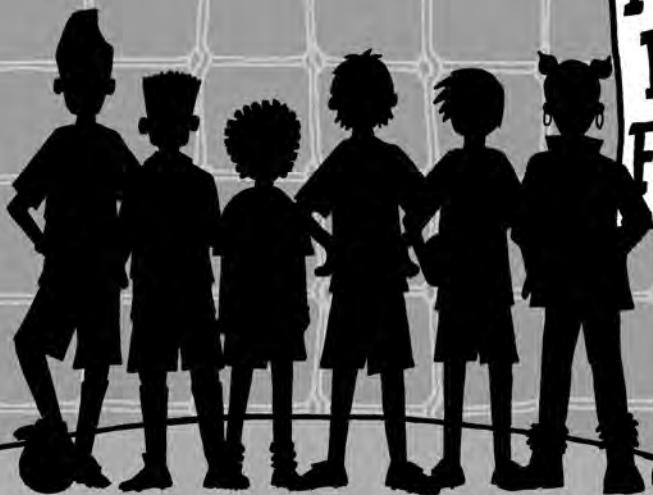


CHARLIE  
MERRICK'S

★  
**MISFITS IN**



**FOULS,  
FRIENDS,  
&  
FOOTBALL**



OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS



WORLD CUP COMPETITION ENTRY FOR:

# NORTH ★ GALAXY

UNDER-12s

FOOTBALL—it's all I ever think about. I dream about it when I'm asleep. At school I'm always getting told off for doodling kits and formations. My art teacher says I've got REAL TALENT—I just need to widen my subject matter. So I drew all the away kits to go with the home ones. She wasn't impressed.

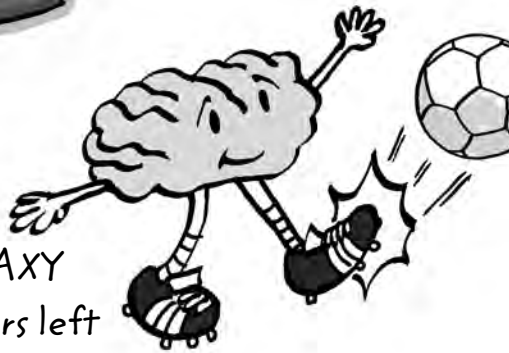


I wish my real talent was football. I can always see the pass or when to make a run into space. The PROBLEM comes when I get the ball. That's when my FEET need to take over. The trouble is, they're NOT QUITE AS GOOD



AT FOOTBALL as my BRAIN!

This is my first season as captain of NORTH STAR GALAXY UNDER-12s. All our best players left to join another club, so it's just the subs and the people nobody else wanted in the team now. My best mate Sam calls us CHARLIE MERRICK'S MISFITS—which is about right really!



I'm going to tell you everything that happens—the TRUTH—however painful that might be. I don't know how it's going to end. By the time I finish writing and you finish reading . . . we'll both know!

Charlie<sup>\*</sup> Merrick<sup>\*</sup>  
(team captain)



ONE DAY I  
FOUND THIS.

# FAB'S FOOT

WHERE FUTURE FOOTBALL STARS

ABOUT • TRAINING ROOM • TACTICS



Hi, I'm **FABRICE ROUX**. Playing football was my life, my dream.

When injury ended my playing career, I created **FAB'S FOOTBALL FACTORY** to help young players to train better, live a healthy life and enjoy their football.

MY  
HERO!

## **FAB'S FAB WORLD CUP COMPETITION!**

IT'S TIME TO  
**SEIZE  
THE  
MOMENT**



# BALL FACTORY

ARE CREATED

LOGIN / REGISTER

WORKSHOP • SKILLS WAREHOUSE • FACTS • SHOP



Do **YOU PLAY** youth football?  
Would **YOUR TEAM** like to take part  
in a **PRE-MATCH TOURNAMENT**  
at this summer's  
**WORLD CUP FINALS?**

Tell us **WHY YOUR TEAM**  
**DESERVES** a place at the World Cup.

## COMPETITION GUIDELINES:

Are your team record-holding  
world-beaters? Or have you battled  
against the odds to avoid relegation?

**WE WANT YOUR FOOTBALL STORIES.**

Send us a video, your club history,  
an account of a special game.

Be **CREATIVE**. Football is about  
**PASSION, HEART & MAGIC!**

Make us **LOVE YOUR TEAM**  
just as much as **YOU DO!**

PLEASE NOTE: TEAMS MUST  
BE BASED IN THE HOST COUNTRY.  
**CLICK HERE FOR FULL TERMS & CONDITIONS**

I READ  
THAT ...

AND  
STARTED  
THIS.

# MATCH REPORT SHEET

NORTH  GALAXY



CEDAR STREET WASPS



FINAL SCORE

0

11

HALF-TIME

0

7



POS LEAGUE TABLE PTS

9	LEIGH ROAD COSMOS	3
10	HOLCOMBE WAND	1
11	TORBAY TERRIERS	1
12	NORTH  GALAXY	0

NORTH  SQUAD

GK	SAM	
D	MOLE	
D	MIKO	
W	CHARLIE (captain)	
DM	DONUT	
AM	NATHAN	
W	KASH	
S	OSCAR	
S	LUKAS	
SUB	GERBIL	

MATCH REPORT

A COMPLETE  
DISASTER!!!

# North Star Galaxy v Cedar Street Wasps

There's losing and then there's LOSING! Getting TROUNCED. BATTERED. HUMILIATED.

Five games. Five defeats. You'd think we'd be used to it by now . . .

'Eleven-nil!' said Donut. 'ELEVEN!'

'NIL!!' added Gerbil, in case he'd forgotten.

'Remember lads, football's not just about winning,' said Doug, our manager.

Sam scowled. 'I thought that was the whole point!'

'Well, that's certainly the aim.' Doug scratched his beard. 'I'd say the POINT is the pure pleasure of playing the beautiful game!'

If Doug thinks THAT was beautiful, he must have been watching with his eyes shut.

'How can anyone enjoy losing eleven-nil?' I muttered.

'You want to try being in goal!' said Sam. 'I've never lost count of how many I let in before.'

Jasmine laughed. 'Well, you have only got ten fingers!'

She's allowed to say stuff like that, because every week Jasmine stands on the touchline... and watches us lose.

'Right then lads, gather round,' said Doug.

Sam rolled his eyes. 'Here comes the speech.'

