



was written and performed by **Screwed & Clued**
who are:

Baz Barrett (**Peter**)
Stewart Matthews (**The Ref**)
Justin Sage-Passant (**Vinnie**)

Baz supports Liverpool and England.
Stewart supports Wolverhampton Wanderers and England.
Justin supports Ipswich and England.

A Brief History Of Football

Though a similar game may have been played in ancient China, football is generally regarded as having started in medieval England. Whole villages played each other in matches that lasted days at a time using a pigs bladder for a 'ball'. The game was frequently banned by local administrators for its rowdiness and by national rulers because it distracted military archers from their practise. The game nevertheless survived.

These vast contests were gradually eclipsed by smaller matches played in towns and schools and in 1848 the first codification of laws came about to overcome the problem of every 'team' playing with different rules.

This more formalised game gradually spread until, in 1863, the Football Association was formed. During this time the game developed dramatically in the industrial Midlands and North of England where the factory employers saw it as a good way of organising their workers leisure time.

Meanwhile as the British Empire expanded the game was spreading around the world.

In 1904 FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) was formed in France by seven nations - France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden and Spain - to organise the sport on a global scale. England, along with Scotland, Ireland and Wales, refused to join, the first sign of an insularity, which has never fully disappeared. Various small international tournaments were created and in 1930 the first World Cup was held in Uruguay (England did not play in a World Cup until 1950 where they were beaten in the first round by the USA). The competition is now the second biggest sports event after the Olympic Games and FIFA now rivals the United Nations in terms of member countries.

Canada has only qualified for the World Cup once, in 1986, where they lost every game.

*All the above information is taken from
The Concise Encyclopedia Of World Football, Glenn Moore, 1998*

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Peter and Vinnie are completely fictitious. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is unintended and completely coincidental. Everything else in EN-GER-LAND is true.

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