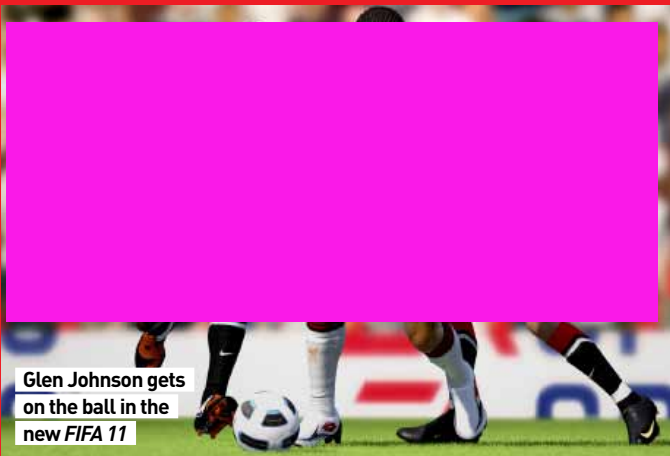


Lee Cattermole, 22, has received five red cards in the Premier League in just 18 appearances, two already this season

ADVERTISING FEATURE

PAST MASTERS & PASS MASTERS

Hitesh Ratna starts his FIFA challenge – first, the basics and a North London derby



Glen Johnson gets on the ball in the new FIFA 11

The time has come: I finally get my hands on FIFA 11. Having last month got some much-needed practice on FIFA 10, I've made my way to EA HQ in Guildford. I'll be introduced to the latest incarnation before challenging reigning FIFA champion, Nenad Stojkovic, to a match. It's the gaming equivalent of Hendon FC turning up at Old Trafford for kick-about.

But first I need to get to grips with the new Personality+ feature, which accurately mirrors a player's ability and style onto the game. I've been trying to power through defences with Wilson Palacios – how am I going to cope now each player's skill-sets are that much more realistic? And how am I going to defend against an Andres Iniesta who can control the ball as tightly as he does in real life, or a Wayne Rooney who holds off defenders with the same ease as he does for Manchester United?

It's a worry. But I'm still confident I can get a handle on it – after all, I'm regularly beating the computer and my mates at FIFA 10 now. Also, in terms of game-play, it appears not much as changed.

But appearances can be deceptive. Because the first thing I notice – having picked Spurs to play Arsenal, as I invariably do – is that I'm

constantly losing the ball. That, EA bods tell me, is because players need to be much more precise with their passing in FIFA 11. Shooting, too, has been tweaked for extra realism. It quickly becomes clear – if it wasn't already obvious – that I'm no match for Nenad. So rather than dish out a beating, he offers some pointers.

"One thing that will definitely help is taking a touch before passing," he explains. "Just like real life, most good passing moves on FIFA 11 require a first touch." Right, first touch, got it. Next he explains that I need to be more precise with my through balls – I can't simply boff it in the general direction of the striker and hope to create a goal. OK, precision. But what about the most important thing: improving my goalscoring? "Use the finesse shot [R1] more often – I score with about 90 per cent of my chances when I use that," he says. So I do as he suggests and it works.

Simply taking more time to control and having more composure in front of goal sees a series of 1-0 defeats turned into solid 2-0 wins. Not against Nenad, of course – that match has been postponed for a month. Which should give me enough time to not get totally humiliated.

Pre-order your copy of FIFA 11 at hmv.co.uk, out Friday Oct 1. For more info: youtube.com/EASPORTSfootball



Bailey in his Man United pomp. He empathises with today's stars



Wiki says what?

Tino Asprilla

Wiki says: "He was known by supporters in his home country as The Octopus for his flexible, fluid style."

Tino says: "I was nicknamed The Octopus by some friends from a local club. They said that, like an octopus, everything I got in my hands I put in my mouth – that I would eat the spoon if I could!"

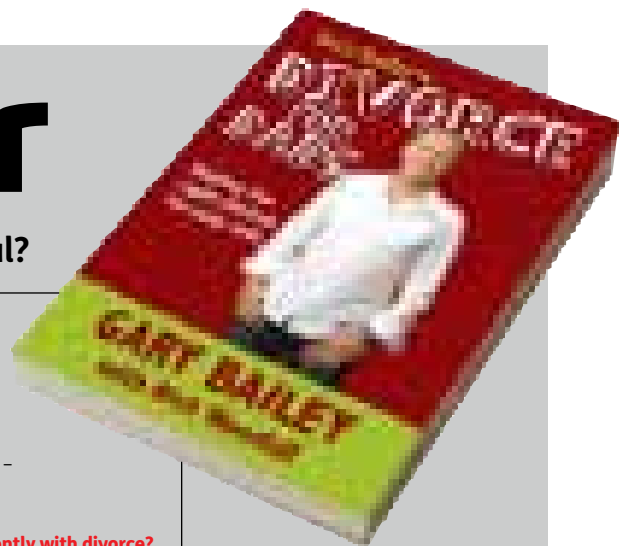


£5,000

When **Mario Balotelli** crashed his car in Manchester, police asked why he carried so much cash. "Because I'm rich," he replied

Book keeper

Many players pen autobiographies – but a divorce manual?



He's better known for saving goals than saving children from the trauma of divorce but former Manchester United and England keeper Gary Bailey, 52, is aiming to do just that.

The Red Devils legend – now a football TV presenter and motivational speaker in South Africa – has teamed up with English writer Nick Woodall to pen *Gary Bailey's Divorce for Dads*, which advises fathers on how to deal with a marriage break-up following his divorce from wife Kate Saunders four years ago. He has three children, aged 19, 15 and 13.

We must say, this is unusual thing for an ex-footballer to do. Why did you write the book?

Divorce can be very traumatic for children, especially if there is bitterness between a husband and wife. When it happened to me, the only advice I seemed to be getting was about the best lawyers or how much alimony you can get instead of dealing with the most important aspect: the children. That's why I wrote the book. You have to put your own feelings aside, particularly if you were the



wronged party as it was in my case. You have to sit down and talk about it.

Is it harder being someone in the public eye?

We don't have the same tabloid press here in South Africa as the UK. My divorce went largely unreported so I was fortunate, but it must tough for the top Premiership players who are under the microscope.

Would you be happy to help if they came to you for advice on the back of this book?

I'd say read the book – it's all in there. I think I've still got enough of a profile in the UK so maybe they'll read it – who knows?

Do men deal differently with divorce?

With men, there is this unwillingness to deal with separation or divorce – just play an extra game of squash or work harder. But it's crucial to deal with it for the sake of the children whose world falls apart when parents separate. You can employ the top lawyers and get all macho about it but in the end you're still going to have to sit down and come to an agreement. If you can do that in a civil manner at the start, for the sake of the children, all the better.

What did you do?

When my wife and I decided to separate we drew up a written commitment and stuck it on the fridge and made sure grandparents and friends knew about it so we were tied to it. We're still friends and have dinner with the kids when she brings her

partner. It's good for us to be together for them. Kids don't want to see parents tearing each other apart because they love them both. Parents can't ignore what's going on either because kids will find out sooner or later.

Is honesty the best tactic with kids?

It depends on how old they are. Kids when they get to eight or nine have much better awareness of what's going on and they'll hear about things at the school gates. Do you want them to hear you're divorcing from school friends whose parents have been talking about it? That would be cruel – so you have to open and honest while at the same time giving them love and support.

Gary Bailey's Divorce for Dads is out now

Interview Ian Evans



Jamie Harden
Administrator

FAN vs PLAYER

Who knows more about Reading FC: keen fan Jamie Harden or long-serving player, Brynjar Gunnarsson? Time to find out

Brynjar Gunnarsson
Midfield grinder



Uh... 1998	✓	In what year did Reading move to the Madejski Stadium?	✗	Er... erm... what year... I will say '97 – no, '95
105. What? 106? Oh, of course it is! D'oh!	✗	How many points did Reading score in their promotion year of 2006?	✓	106. I got one right! That's all right then
Robin Friday	✓	In 1999, Reading asked their supporters for their Player of the Millennium. Who won?	✓	I would say... Robert Friday? [Close enough]
Semi-finals in 1927	✓	What is the furthest Reading have ever gone in the FA Cup?	✗	Er... last season – was it quarter-finals? No, last 16, was it? No, last eight!
The Reading fans! I hate it! It's cringeworthy. I wear a Reading shirt, but not 13	✓	Who wears the no13 shirt for Reading?	✓	Reading fans. They wear it everywhere

WINNER

DESPITE SOME CONTROVERSIAL ANSWERS, JAMIE HARDEN WINS IT FOR THE SUPPORTERS... That makes the overall score: Fans 2, Players 0