

KICK IT

by

Alexander McNab

CHARACTERS

John "Brooksie" Brooks

Pam Brooks

Jeff Chance

Stewart "Briggsy" Briggs

Gordon Wilkie – Chairman, Muddletown Rovers

Steven Poole - Football Correspondent

Chris Kenward – Sports Presenter

A play for Radio

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SCENE 1. SCHOOL STAFF ROOM

JEFF CHANCE: John, old Grainger has tweaked his groin

JOHN BROOKS: I'm a CDT Teacher, not a doctor.

JEFF CHANCE: No, he can't take the sixth form for their last two games of the season and the Head says you've got to do it.

JOHN BROOKS: Me? I know nothing about football.

JEFF CHANCE: That's OK, neither do the boys! Head doesn't want us finishing bottom – doesn't look too good in the league tables.  
(LAUGHS)

JOHN BROOKS: Very droll Jeff. Can't he get someone else to do it?

JEFF CHANCE: He's asked everyone else already.

JOHN BROOKS: Charming. What about Rogers? Or Wilson?

JEFF CHANCE: Rogers is going to Wookie Hole with Year 7 and Wilson is taking his dogs to be stroked at the old folks home.

JOHN BROOKS: Unbelievable. And what excuse have you managed to conjure up?

JEFF CHANCE: Well, I can help of course, but I can't drive the minibus again, not after that incident with the lollipop lady.

JOHN BROOKS: Oh yes, I'd forgotten about that. How is she now?

JEFF CHANCE: Well, she's much better but still has trouble sitting down.

JOHN BROOKS: Hmm, I see.

JEFF CHANCE: Anyway, I've told the Head we'll do it.

JOHN BROOKS: What!

JEFF CHANCE: (OFF) I'll sort the kit, you can be "The Gaffer", Saturday 10.30 kick off, meet at 9.30 for your team talk.

JOHN BROOKS: Team talk? Great.

## SCENE 2. THE BROOKS HOUSEHOLD

PAM BROOKS: John, your suppers nearly ready

JOHN BROOKS: (OFF) Be there in a moment, just putting my tools away.

PAM BROOKS: Any nearer the maiden voyage?

JOHN BROOKS: Still months and thousands of pounds away.

PAM BROOKS: Oh, I forgot to mention, there's an article about Questa in today's Gazette.

JOHN BROOKS: What does it say?

**F/X: NEWSPAPER RUSTLING**

PAM BROOKS: (Reading out loud) Questa Water Project has announced further delays and funding difficulties for it's narrowboat project. Questa Chairman Mark Chalmers said "Rising raw materials prices means we are way over budget and we are appealing for new sponsors and more volunteers." The project, to build and provide a narrowboat for disabled children and their families has been beset by difficulties from the start. Costs have doubled and its launch date has been delayed indefinitely.

JOHN BROOKS: Hmm, well I can't give them any more time, it'll just have to take as long as it takes.

PAM BROOKS: I did offer to give them financial advice for free. They've got themselves into a right pickle.(PAUSE)

**F/X:** **SOUND OF CROCKERY, CUTLERY, DRINKS**  
**POURED**

PAM BROOKS: "Footballers' Wives" is on TV tonight, I thought that would get you in the mood for the big game tomorrow.

JOHN BROOKS: (LAUGHS) How did I get myself into this one?

PAM BROOKS: Shall I get some oranges for the boys for half time?

JOHN BROOKS: Yes, you could do although Jeff says they usually take the opportunity to nip off for a smoke.

PAM BROOKS: According to that advert it's all isotonic drinks these days.

JOHN BROOKS: Isotonic, what nonsense. They need something to keep their minds clear.

PAM BROOKS: If memory serves me right, 16 year old boys have only one thing on their minds. How much clearer can they be?

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### SCENE 3. THE MORNING OF THE MATCH

#### F/X: BOYS CHATTING AND LAUGHING

JOHN BROOKS: Ok lads gather round. Right, who's the captain?

BRIGGSY: Me Sir, Stewart Briggs

JOHN BROOKS: Ok Stewart, the first thing we need is a good nickname for you.

BRIGGSY: Everyone calls me Briggsy.

JOHN BROOKS: Briggsy, yes Briggsy, I like the sound of that. Ok Briggsy, same eleven as last time, just get out there and kick it.

BRIGGSY: But Sir, what about the formation and the tactics?

JOHN BROOKS: At this point I'll call in my Assistant Manager who has been doing some extensive research. (PAUSE) Jeff.

JEFF CHANCE: Well Boss, Gaffer. Only had time for a quick look on the internet. It seems most teams play with a holding midfielder

and a lone striker in a 4-1-4-1 formation with the wide midfielders pushing down the flanks.

JOHN BROOKS: Great, does everyone understand that? (PAUSE) Anyone? (PAUSE)

JEFF CHANCE: Or...

JOHN BROOKS: Yes

JEFF CHANCE: When I was at school our team played with 3 defenders and 7 strikers.

JOHN BROOKS: You played for your school team?

JEFF CHANCE: Me, crikey no, not with my knees. I used to write the match reports for the school paper.

JOHN BROOKS: This isn't getting us anywhere. Briggsy, how many games have you won this season?

BRIGGSY: Well, err, we did score a goal earlier this year.

JOHN BROOKS: Who scored the goal? He's my striker.

BRIGGSY: Well, their fullback passed back to their keeper who tripped over and.....

JOHN BROOKS: (INTERUPTS) It was an own goal wasn't it?

**F/X: CRIES OF "GET IN", "GOAL", "YES" FROM THE TEAM**

JOHN BROOKS: Just get out there. (PAUSE) And try not to think too much.

JEFF CHANCE: Exciting isn't it Gaffer, we're just like Brian Clough and Peter Taylor.

JOHN BROOKS: Who? (PAUSE) And stop calling me Gaffer.

SCENE 4. ON THE MINIBUS ON THE WAY HOME

F/X: SOUND OF MINIBUS AND CRIES OF "3-0, 3-0, 3-0"  
FROM THE TEAM

JOHN BROOKS: Jeff, correct me if I'm wrong, but the other team scored the three goals didn't they?

JEFF CHANCE: Yes, that was how I saw it Gaffer.

JOHN BROOKS: So why are they so happy? Briggsy, what's with the boys. They do realise that we lost the game?

BRIGGSY: But we '*nearly*' won Boss, we've never been that close. It was only 3 goals, just 3.

JOHN BROOKS: Good grief.

JEFF CHANCE: (DRAMATICALLY) We've started to turn the tanker around, the sleeping giant is awakening, the green shoots of recovery are showing, the....

JOHN BROOKS: (INTERUPTS) Jeff, Jeff. Please, no more or I'll have to crash the mini bus.

JEFF CHANCE: Just look at the smiles on their faces. They're having a great time.

JOHN BROOKS: I see it Jeff, I see it.

JEFF CHANCE: They can't wait until next Saturday. Whatever we've done, it's working.

JOHN BROOKS: I've got to admit something has happened today. But what have we done? Maybe it was the thinking that was the problem.

SCENE 5 THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY ON THE  
FOOTBALL FIELD. THE TEAM GATHER, EXCITED  
CHATTER

JEFF CHANCE: Ok lads, the Gaffers coming. Quieten down a bit.

JOHN BROOKS: Hi lads, looking forward to the game?

BRIGGSY: We're going to play just like we did last week Boss.

JOHN BROOKS: No, you're not going to do that Briggsy. This week, for your last match, I want you to forget how you played. Forget about sneaking into the pub this afternoon and whose poor parent's house you are going to trash tonight. And forget about that girl you just haven't managed to pluck up courage to ask out. Close your eyes. (PAUSE) Come on, we haven't much time. I want you to think about how you felt on the



JOHN BROOKS: Shame, he's a good left foot on him, and a right one to match.

JEFF CHANGE: And a good box to box engine too.

JOHN BROOKS: Box to box engine. You've been on the internet again haven't you Jeff.

BRIGGSY: His dad manages the Sunday morning team so they need a new Gaffer. How about it Sir, the lads all want you?

JOHN BROOKS: I'm not sure.

BRIGGSY: We're in the final of the district cup – a week Sunday against Denverlee.

JEFF CHANGE: Come on John, it's just one more game.

JOHN BROOKS: I'm supposed to be helping on the boat.

JEFF CHANGE: From what I hear it'll be 2015 before you've enough money to finish that boat.

SCENE 7 DRESSING ROOM BEFORE  
MUDDLETOWN SUNDAYS VS DENVERLEE

F/X: BACKGROUND CHATTER, FOOTBALL STUDS ON  
TILED FLOOR

JOHN BROOKS: Ok Muddletown, listen up. Some of you know me from the school team. The rest of you have probably heard all about

my football expertise, or lack of it. Here's Jeff with today's team tactics, Jeff.

JEFF CHANCE: Err, right. (PAUSE) Thanks Gaffer. (PAUSE) Try not to shout at each other too much. (PAUSE)

JOHN BROOKS: Is that it?

JEFF CHANCE: Yes, I don't think it helps. And I've a bit of a headache.

JOHN BROOKS: Ok, well we can see how that goes. I only want to hear Briggsy's voice out there ok? Briggsy? Briggsy?

**F/X: DOOR OPENING, FOOTBALL STUDS ON TILES  
AS BRIGGSY RUNS ACROSS ROOM**

BRIGGSY: Sorry Gaffer, what was that? Got a bit of a chill on my bladder, must be the nerves.

**F/X: LAUGHTER FROM THE TEAM**

JOHN BROOKS: In 30 years time you won't remember that, but you will remember the day you won the cup. And, if you can still run at the end of the match it means you've not worked hard enough.

JEFF CHANCE: Yeah, and you can do ten laps of the pitch.

JOHN BROOKS: Steady Jeff, we don't want any cruelty lawsuits. OK, let's do it.

**F/X:** **SOUNDS OF THE TEAM LEAVING THE DRESSING ROOM**

JOHN BROOKS: And we need to finish in normal time because I promised Jeff a beer to mark the end of our football management career.

**SCENE 8 THE BROOKS HOUSEHOLD**

**F/X:** **SOUND OF CURTAINS OPENING, MUG BEING PUT DOWN**

PAM BROOKS: (JOKING) And what time did you manage to stagger in last night?

JOHN BROOKS: (BIG YAWN) I can't answer that question I'm afraid. That Jeff is a bad influence on me, that's all I know. You can blame him for everything.

PAM BROOKS: Here, you're all over the Gazette. I'll let you read about your success.

**F/X:** **NEWSPAPER RUSTLING**

JOHN BROOKS: What the! (READING OUT LOUD) "Brookshire's Boys benefit from Briggsy Backslider, by Sports Correspondent Steven Poole. A bizarre goal earned Muddletown Sundays the district Under 18's Cup yesterday against Denverlee.

The Denverlee keeper was taking a free kick just outside his area when Muddletown midfielder Stewart Briggs bent over to tie a flapping boot lace. The ball struck him firmly on the backside, rebounded, and somehow managed to trickle over the goal line amid chaotic scenes and hysterical laughter. Muddletown Manager John "Brooksie" Brooks, whose reputation is growing rapidly, commented "The lads seemed a bit nervous before the game, I just told them to get their arses out there". His words were taken literally it seems. Police are investigating an incident after the game which saw Assistant Manager, Jeff Chance, leading several players through the town centre, twirling their shirts around their heads and showing their backsides at passers by."(END OF READING OUT LOUD)  
I don't believe it.

PAM BROOKS: He's daft, he could get in serious trouble for that.

JOHN BROOKS: No, not that. I've got a nickname (PAUSE) "Brooksie"

**F/X: TELEPHONE RINGS, JOHN ANSWERS**

JOHN BROOKS: Hello

GORDON WILKIE: (D) Hello, John. Gordon Wilkie here, Rovers Chairman. Well done for yesterday. I've got a job for you. Interested?

JOHN BROOKS: A job. I've already got a job.

GORDON WILKIE: (D) Playing hard to get eh?

JOHN BROOKS: No, not really.

GORDON WILKIE: (D) There's money in it, couple of grand if you win. I need you for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Round FA cup match against Bury. You seem to be the man for the job.

JOHN BROOKS: I think you've got me confused with someone who knows what they are doing. Thanks anyway, good bye.

**F/X: PUTS TELEPHONE DOWN**

Unbelievable. Chairman of Rovers wants me to work for him now.

PAM BROOKS: What's he paying?

JOHN BROOKS: Why? I'm a teacher.

PAM BROOKS: Take the cash and give it to the Questa Project.

**F/X: TELEPHONE RINGS**

PAM BROOKS: Why don't you leave this to me dear.

**F/X: ANSWERS TELEPHONE**

Hello.

GORDON WILKIE: (D) Hello, it's Gordon again, is that Mrs Brooks?

PAM BROOKS: Please Gordon, call me Pam.

## SCENE 9 SPORTS STUDIO

CHRIS KENWARD: Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of the FA Cup. We have some intriguing matches lined up for you this afternoon. Perhaps the most talked about is Muddletown Rovers visit to League Two opposition Bury. Rovers have appointed local teacher John Brooks to manage their cup campaign. We are joined now by Steven Poole, Sports Correspondent for Muddletown Gazette. Steven. This is a strange story, what can you tell us about John “Brooksie” Brooks?

STEVEN POOLE: Afternoon Chris. Well, he’s come from nowhere. He’s a 45 year old CDT teacher who has had some tremendous success with his school team and a Sunday morning team. Rovers Chairman Gordon Wilkie apparently kept pestering him to take over the team and after some prolonged discussions with his wife, who remarkably says she is also now his agent, a deal has been struck.

CHRIS KENWARD: He sounds to be a real revelation for football Steven. He doesn’t play the game and he hasn’t any coaching badges. What’s his secret?

STEVEN POOLE: I’m not sure Chris. I haven’t been able to work it out yet. Of course, Brooksie insists there is no secret but he’s not fooling me with that one.

CHRIS KENWARD: I heard some of the players saying that they feel they have to work much harder when he’s around?

STEVEN POOLE: That’s strange, people say that about me...

CHRIS KENWARD: Steven, have to interrupt you I can see the Muddletown coach arriving behind you. Any chance you can get a word with John Brooks?

**F/X: COACH STOPPING, DOOR OPENING**

STEVEN POOLE: John, John, any chance of a word about the game.

JOHN BROOKS: Yes, hello Steven, what can we do for you.

STEVEN POOLE: John, how are you going to approach the game today? This is quite a step up for you against league opposition.

JOHN BROOKS: Yes, it's ridiculous Steven isn't it. We had a chat with the team on the way here and I told the lads I really couldn't give a monkey's what happens today.

STEVEN POOLE: I see, a reverse psychology tactic.

JOHN BROOKS: No no, I really don't mind – it's just a bit of fun isn't it.

STEVEN POOLE: It's the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the FA Cup John. Is Jeff Chance with you today? He had a bit of bother after your Sunday Cup success.

JOHN BROOKS: Jeff's on his way, yes, he missed the coach this morning after sleeping in. He's promised to behave himself today. He wouldn't miss the free ticket, spot of lunch and no doubt a few drinks later.

STEVEN POOLE: Good luck with the game John, perhaps we can have a word at half time?

JOHN BROOKS: OK, thanks Steven

SCENE 10 SPORTS STUDIO

F/X: SPORTS JINGLE

CHRIS KENWARD: Welcome back to Soccer Days for the half time roundup. Gillingham are a goal up at Rotherham. It's Brentford nil, Crewe nil and Darlington one, Wrexham one. And it looks like Muddletown's cup exploits could be coming to an end, they are one nil down at Bury who have dominated the first half. The players are on their way out for the second half. Steven Poole is in the tunnel with John Brooks.

STEVEN POOLE: John, you're a goal down, what did you say to the team at half time?

JOHN BROOKS: I told them I was a teacher and knew nothing about football and if they didn't think they could do it not to bother going out in the second half.

STEVEN POOLE: Really, and what was their reaction to that?

JOHN BROOKS: Not much, they trotted out for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

STEVEN POOLE: You seem pretty laid back for such an important game.

JOHN BROOKS: Do you think so? What do you think I should have said?

STEVEN POOLE: Well, (PAUSE) Perhaps closing them down quickly and spreading the play to the wings more?

JOHN BROOKS: That's very interesting Steven, I'll get Jeff to pass that onto the team.

STEVEN POOLE: But I ....

JOHN BROOKS: Must go, (CALLS OUT) Jeff, Jeff

STEVEN POOLE: Back to the studio, Chris.

CHRIS KENWARD: Thank you Steven, (LAUGHING) we'll be back at full time to see if your tactics work.

**FX:** **SPORTS JINGLE**

CHRIS KENWARD: There's been a goal at Bury, which way has it gone Steven Poole.

STEVEN POOLE: I don't quite believe this Chris but Muddletown, the team of part timers, are right back in it. Jeff Chance has been waving manically at the players to use the wings more and get more crosses in – a tactic I suggested – and a cross came over from the left. A big group of players have gone up for it, the ball caught in this swirling wind and gone over everyone straight into the top corner. Its one – one with just a minute to play, it looks like Muddletown have earnt themselves a lucrative replay.

CHRIS KENWARD: Thanks Steven, you must be delighted your tactics are paying off today?

STEVEN POOLE: Oh wait, I don't believe it, they've scored again, it's an own goal from the Bury fullback. What a disaster for him and Muddletown are into the fourth round. It's all over.

CHRIS KENWARD: Dramatic stuff as the non leaguers make the fourth round of the cup for the first time. Elsewhere Gillingham (fades out)

SCENE 11. IN A CAR ON WAY TO MATCH STUCK  
IN TRAFFIC

FX: FOOTBALL CHANTS, HORNS BLOWN

PAM BROOKS: I told you we should have left earlier. They said on the radio there are 3,000 Bournemouth fans coming, I don't think they'll all fit in the ground will they?.

JOHN BROOKS: The main thing is Questa will be getting £2k from the Bury game and £2k from this one, that will get us right back on track. They'll be well pleased with that.

PAM BROOKS: Yes, they will.

FX: MORE CAR HORNS

PAM BROOKS: This is ridiculous, I'll get some help.

FX: SOUND OF CAR WINDOW LOWERING

JOHN BROOKS: Pam, Pam what are you doing?

PAM BROOKS: Excuse me, Officer

POLICE OFFICER: Can I help you madam?

PAM BROOKS: Do you know who this is?

POLICE OFFICER: If I had a pound for every time...John Brooksie Brooks,  
(Calling out) Sarge, Brooksie's here.

JOHN BROOKS: (EMBARRASSED) Oh Pam

POLICE OFFICER: Ok Brooksie, lets get you a motorcycle escort, just follow the  
rider there.

PAM BROOKS: Thank you Officer.

#### SCENE 12. SPORTS STUDIO

#### FX: FOOTBALL JINGLE

CHRIS KENWARD: And Muddletown have gone down 2-0 at home to  
Bournemouth – the dream is over – Steven Poole is with  
Assistant Manager Jeff Chance.

STEVEN POOLE: Jeff, you gave it a shot but they were just too strong for you  
today.

JEFF CHANCE: There are no easy games in football, Steven, I'm as sick as  
a parrot.

STEVEN POOLE: I see you've been practising your football clichés Jeff?

JEFF CHANCE: Well you have to because it's a funny old game (LAUGHS)

STEVEN POOLE: A game of two halves, (LAUGHS) And how has Brooksie taken it? He must be disappointed the run is over so soon?

JEFF CHANCE: Brooksie is in that dressing room now crying like a baby. (PAUSE) He's inconsolable. (PAUSE) A broken man.

STEVEN POOLE: I don't think he is, is he Jeff?

JEFF CHANCE: No, he's not Steven. I think he's gone home actually, there's a programme on TV he wanted to catch.

SCENE 13. IN THE BROOKS' CAR ON THE WAY  
HOME, SPORTS NEWS RADIO ON IN THE  
BACKGROUND

JOHN BROOKS: Hopefully, life can get back to normal now.

PAM BROOKS: Yes normal, whatever that is. It's that reporter on the radio, John, turn it up.

STEVEN POOLE: (D) And some sensational news just in - the FA have announced that Bournemouth have been thrown out of the Cup for fielding an ineligible player. Apparently they hadn't received the registration papers for their Nigerian striker Mansoon.

CHRIS KENWARD: (D) And of course, Mansoon scored both goals today against non league Muddletown. What does that mean for them Steven?

STEVEN POOLE: Well Chris, an FA spokesman said that Muddletown are back in the draw for the 5<sup>th</sup> round of the cup. Quite remarkable.

PAM BROOKS: That's fantastic!

JOHN BROOKS: Another £2k, that'll pay for the fittings in the galley. Just so long its not away at Carlisle or something. I couldn't stand travelling that far. I hope we get one of the big teams.

PAM BROOKS: I think you're getting a bit of a taste for this now.

JOHN BROOKS: (LAUGHS) Let's go out for a meal tonight.

PAM BROOKS: That would be nice. I just need to ring Gordon Wilkie when we get in and make sure our deal is still ok.

**FX:** **CAR STOPS, DOORS OPEN AND CLOSE,**  
**DISTANT SOUND OF PHONE RINGING INSIDE**  
**HOUSE**

PAM BROOK: Quick John, the phone is ringing

**FX:** **KEY IN LOCK, DOOR OPENING, PHONE NOW**  
**LOUDER**

PAM BROOKS: Hello, Pam Brooks

GORDON WILKIE: (D) Pam, Gordon Wilkie here, great news, we're through to the next round.

PAM BROOK: Yes, its fantastic, we're so excited.

GORDON WILKIE: Pam, I've been thinking about our little agreement. I'd like to re-negotiate it. I expect John's got more than enough for the Questa project now and we could really do with spending this cup money on improving the ground.

PAM BROOKS: Gordon, dear Gordon, I think you will find that our "*little agreement*" as you put it is a legally binding contract. I'm more than happy with its terms so let's just look forward to another big cup day and say no more of it.

GORDON WILKIE: But Pam I ....

PAM BROOKS: (INTERUPTS) Goodbye Gordon

**FX: PUTS PHONE DOWN ABRUPTLY**

JOHN BROOKS: Everything alright with Gordon?

PAM BROOKS : Everything is fine, just fine.(PAUSE) I've been thinking.

JOHN BROOKS: Sounds ominous. I'll put the kettle on.

**F/X: SOUNDS OF KETTLE BEING PUT ON, CUPS ETC**

PAM BROOKS: I've been wondering about football management, I mean, you seem to have something.

JOHN BROOKS: Yes, I have a knack of playing against ineligible players who end up handing the game to us, it's a rare skill I have to admit.

PAM BROOKS: I'm not just talking about today obviously but you've got to admit you've been successful one way or another and maybe you should think about it. It might be fun.

JOHN BROOKS: Pam, I think you've caught cup fever, I know nothing...

PAM BROOKS: (INTERUPTS) Yes, yes, you know nothing about football but you seem to be doing pretty well on it.

JOHN BROOKS: But I'm a teacher and what about the Questa Project, that's really important to me.

PAM BROOKS: I know. You could always go back to teaching if it didn't work out. The Questa Project will be wrapped up pretty soon with the money you're earning from the cup run. Who knows there may even be a bit left over after paying for it. I mean, do you want to be a teacher for the rest of your life?

JOHN BROOKS: Doesn't this all sound a bit ridiculous to you?

PAM BROOKS: Why do you have to answer a question with a question? You've got me doing it now. Ridiculous or not, what does that matter? (PAUSE) This is actually happening and you can grab it with both hands. Have you spoken to Jeff about this? I bet he'd be keen.

JOHN BROOKS: Jeff is keen on everything, it's how he is. I'm sure he'd be up for it. It might be a laugh but this deal is only for a few cup matches, it's not a full time job.

PAM BROOKS: Forget about the money. What would you really like to do if you had the choice?

JOHN BROOKS: But do I have a choice?

PAM BROOKS: You're doing it again. Sometimes you are infuriating.

JOHN BROOKS: I guess, ditch the teaching and work on something like Questa if I could afford it.

PAM BROOKS: And what about the football?

JOHN BROOKS: Well the football doesn't seem real.

PAM BROOKS: You should read the papers and listen to the news more often.

JOHN BROOKS: But nobody has offered me a job in football.

PAM BROOKS: I'm sure they will. Win a few more games and someone will.

JOHN BROOKS: This is so bizarre. And what about you?

PAM BROOKS: What do you mean? I'm your agent aren't I? I'll sort the deals for you. Give Jeff a ring and see what he thinks.

**F/X:** **PICKS UP PHONE AND DIALS**

JEFF CHANCE: (D) (drunk voice) Briggsy, how the devil are you? We're gonna win the cup!

JOHN BROOKS: Started celebrating already by the sounds of it.

JEFF CHANCE: (D) I've got a few of the lads with me, we're going for a curry.

JOHN BROOKS: Pam thinks we should take this a bit more seriously.

JEFF CHANCE: Ok, seriously, (In a serious voice) *We're going for a curry.*

JOHN BROOKS: Jeff, how would you fancy really trying to get into football management? Pam reckons it would be a good idea.

JEFF CHANCE: (D) Ah Pam, lovely Pam, Pammy, Pammy, Pammy

JOHN BROOKS: Never mind that. What do you reckon?

JEFF CHANCE: (D) Of course, let's do it, gotta go

**FX: (D) SOUNDS OF LAUGHING & CHEERING**

JEFF CHANCE: (D) It's all kickin off here, later Brooksie

PAM BROOKS: Does he want to go for it?

JOHN BROOKS: In Jeff's own way he's considered all the options, weighed up the pros and cons and reached the decision that yes, he would like to throw his career upside down and do something daft.

PAM BROOKS: Fantastic, that's settled then. I'll see if I can get us a table at Luigi's

JOHN BROOKS: But Pam...

PAM BROOKS: (INTERUPTS) Shall we say 8 o'clock?



JEFF CHANCE: Never to play badminton again?

STEVEN POOLE: Get some new shoes?

JOHN BROOKS: I learnt that I'd convinced myself I couldn't do it before I'd even started and in my head I'd talked myself out of winning before the first ball had been struck.

STEVEN POOLE: Shuttlecock

JOHN BROOKS: No, it's a true story Steven.

STEVEN POOLE: So somehow you've managed to instil some confidence into the team, a winning mentality?

JOHN BROOKS: I'm not asking the team to win.

JEFF CHANCE: It's true, he's never asked that.

JOHN BROOKS: All I'm trying to do is get them play without the baggage. Most men can only think about one thing at once right. But put them in a football match and it seems to me like they get to think too much. Can I score a goal? Will the crowd get on my back? What if I miss an open goal? What happens if I get injured?

JEFF CHANCE: Is my Alice band on straight?

JOHN BROOKS: So all Jeff and I try to do is clear their minds and I guess it works. We can't over complicate it because we don't know how to.

STEVEN POOLE: I see. I think. So what is your build up for the Southampton game?

JOHN BROOKS: Our approach to the game today is exactly the same. I can't tell you we are going to win, but I can guarantee we'll start off with a really positive attitude.

STEVEN POOLE: John, Jeff, good luck with the game.

CHRIS KENWARD: That was very interesting Steven, it looks like its going to be another exciting day in the cup. Elsewhere today Liverpool take on ..(fades out).

**F/X: SPORTS REPORT JINGLE**

CHRIS KENWARD: Welcome to final score and Liverpool have beaten Norwich by six goals to nil but that's not the biggest story of the day. Non-leaguers Muddletown Rovers have beaten Southampton from the championship by a goal to nil and have made it to the quarter finals of the cup. Steven Poole has been following the Muddletown story for us and he's speaking to John "Brooksie" Brooks in the tunnel.

**F/X: BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF PLAYERS  
CHATting AND LAUGHING**

STEVEN POOLE: Thanks Chris. John this is unbelievable, how do you feel.

JOHN BROOKS: It's fantastic. The lads have put up a hell of a performance.

STEVEN POOLE: The goal came late on, there was a big deflection on the shot. You came under a lot of pressure from Southampton towards the end.

JOHN BROOKS: We did Steven, but the boys have worked incredibly hard out there and they fully deserve it. OK so the goal was a bit lucky but that doesn't matter.

STEVEN POOLE: Can you go all the way and win it now.

JOHN BROOKS: Maybe, nobody knows, Jeff is in there now telling them they can so who am I to argue with that.

STEVEN POOLE: And I've heard that you and Jeff are going to go into full time management.

JOHN BROOKS: It's a possibility yes, if an opportunity comes up.

STEVEN POOLE: Good luck for the next round.

JOHN BROOKS: Thanks Steven, hopefully we'll be live on TV again..

SCENE 15 FA CUP 6<sup>TH</sup> ROUND VS FULHAM

**F/X:** **SPORTS JINGLE**

CHRIS KENWARD: Welcome back to Cup Football Special. Three of the four quarter finals have been completed with Liverpool, Chelsea and Sunderland through to the semi finals. But the game between Fulham and Muddletown Rovers has ended nil nil after extra time so it's going to penalties. Steven Poole is pitch side.

STEVEN POOLE: Thanks Chris. I don't think anyone could have scripted this. Fulham have dominated the match but John Brooks and Jeff Chance have inspired Muddletown who have put up tremendous resistance to their professional opposition.

CHRIS KENWARD: I see John and Jeff talking to the players now just ahead of the penalties. What do you think they might be saying.

STEVEN POOLE: Have you got any easier questions for me? It's difficult to tell with those two.

JOHN BROOKS: Ok lads, what I want you to do is decide now where you are going to kick the ball and I'll make this easy. It's either bottom left or bottom right, no other options. Don't go high, it'll look awful when you miss. Decide now, left or right. Don't change your mind and think only of that.

JEFF CHANCE: Left or right and stick to it, Let's go.

#### SCENE 16 THE BROOKS HOUSEHOLD

PAM BROOKS: Good morning sleepy head.

**F/X: CURTAINS OPENING, RADIO COMES ON**

RADIO PRESENTER1: (D) And in sports news the draw for the semi finals of the cup has been made and it will be Chelsea against Sunderland and Liverpool will play (PAUSE) Oh, my computer screen has gone off (PAUSE) Oh, its back now, Liverpool will play Muddletown Rovers after their emphatic win on penalties against Fulham.

RADIO PRESENTER2: (D)Can you have an emphatic win on penalties?

RADIO PRESENTER1: (D)That was how Jeff Chance described it.

PAM BROOKS: That Jeff gets everywhere, I don't know how he does it.

JOHN BROOKS: He has a knack for it.

PAM BROOKS: So, it's Liverpool in the semi finals, it's so exciting. We're going to Wembley.

JOHN BROOKS: I still can't believe this is happening.

PAM BROOKS: You'll need to stop saying things like that. You'll want prospective employers to think you are calm and in control.

JOHN BROOKS: Well, I'm calm, one out of two isn't bad. The team are going to be raring to go for this one and Jeff will probably explode on the new Wembley turf. I can see him doing cart wheels when the cameras are on him.

PAM BROOKS: You'll all be doing be cartwheels.

JOHN BROOKS: I was talking about before the game.

PAM BROOKS: You'll have to get a new suit of course, a nice cream linen one.

JOHN BROOKS: I'm not sure that's in the budget.

PAM BROOKS: I don't think you need to worry about the budget dear. How many kids from school will be going?

JOHN BROOKS: You can't call them kids anymore, they're young people. I'm not sure, hundreds I guess. The Head seems to be jumping on the bandwagon. He's even been telling everyone how he gave me my first break.

PAM BROOKS: The cheeky sod. You could drop him in it next time you do an interview. Well, perhaps that's not a very good idea.

### SCENE 17 SEMI FINAL SPORTS PROGRAMME

#### F/X: SPORTS JINGLE

CHRIS KENWARD: It's semi final day in the FA Cup. Earlier on Chelsea beat Sunderland 2-0 thanks to two late goals. We've reached half time in the Liverpool against Muddletown game and this looks like it is going to be a thrashing. Liverpool are leading 4-0 but they could easily have been into double figures. The part timers are being given a real runaround. Steven Poole has been watching for us.

STEVEN POOLE: Thanks Chris. You've got to feel a little sorry for Muddletown really. They've tried hard but there is huge difference in class. They've been stretched at the back and on the few occasions they've managed to get into the Liverpool half any threat has easily been snuffed out. It's not looking good for the second half. To be honest, it could be a massacre.

CHRIS KENWARD: You have to wonder if there is anything Brooksie can do to lift his team.

STEVEN POOLE: It's difficult, he has so little experience in the game. That doesn't seem to have held him back so far but today is a



JOHN BROOKS: We want you to believe in yourselves as much as we do. We've been through a lot these last few months. The first half has gone, there's nothing more you can do about that. I want you to make every tackle, every pass and every shot count. I want you to come off that pitch and be able to look me in the eye and say "Boss, I gave it my best" and really mean it. That's all I ask.

PLAYER1: We'll give it a shot Boss.

JOHN BROOKS: I'll leave you a quote, WC Fields said "*If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then quit. There's no use being a damn fool about it.*" (BEAT) You can quit when the ref blows for full time. (PAUSE) And then you'll have a story for your grandkids.(PAUSE)

JEFF CHANCE: Ok, lets get out there.

**F/X: CRIES OF "COME ON", "LETS GO" AND THE SOUNDS OF THE PLAYERS LEAVING THE DRESSING ROOM**

JOHN BROOKS: A bit too much?

JEFF CHANCE: No, I, err, think it was just right.

JOHN BROOKS: Is that more grit in your eye Jeff?

JEFF CHANCE: No, (PAUSE) It's a tear.

SCENE 19 SPORTS STUDIO

**F/X:** **SPORTS JINGLE**

CHRIS KENWARD: Welcome back. We're almost at the end of the match and it looks like Liverpool are going through to the final to play Chelsea but Muddletown Rovers, the part timers, have put up a tremendous fight back in the second half.

STEVEN POOLE: Chris, it's been an amazing second half. This team has shown such spirit. They've had Liverpool on the back foot and are giving them a real scare. It's now 4-2 to Liverpool. Both goals coming soon after the break, both from corners.

CHRIS KENWARD: Will Liverpool hang on Steven?

STEVEN POOLE: They will, we're just seconds away from full time.

**F/X:** **LOUD CROWD CHEERS**

STEVEN POOLE: They've scored again Chris, it's now 4-3, surely they can't come back. Its been a remarkable match. This team has shown such courage and determination and frankly a lot of skill we didn't know they had. The final whistle has gone, it's all over.

CHRIS KENWARD: Its been an incredible campaign for Muddletown Rovers.

STEVEN POOLE: Yes, and for John "Brooksie" Brooks and Jeff Chance it could just be the beginning of the story.

SCENE 20 THE BROOKS HOUSEHOLD



PAM BROOKS: Well, altogether adding up all the various elements..

JOHN BROOKS: (INTERUPTS) Pam

PAM BROOKS: £414,235

JOHN BROOKS: Oh my god.

PAM BROOKS: And 24 pence. The cheque is coming tomorrow.

JOHN BROOKS: Oh my god.

PAM BROOKS: That's why I thought it would be a good idea if we used it to pay for the Questa Project and also set up a foundation to develop half a dozen other projects. What do you think John?

JOHN BROOKS: I think its fantastic, you're fantastic!

**F/X: TELEPHONE RINGS**

PAM BROOKS: Hello, Pam Brooks.(PAUSE) I see. (PAUSE) Just a moment please, I'll get him for you. John, there's a Senior Fernandez on the phone who'd like to talk to you.

JOHN BROOKS: Fernandez, who on earth is he?

PAM BROOKS: He's from Real Madrid and he'd like to talk to you about a job.

END

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