

**\*\*\* David Luxton shortlisted for Literary Agent of the Year 2018 \*\*\***

LONDON BOOK FAIR RIGHTS HOTLIST 2018 – TABLE 22N

**SPORT**

**Matchplan by Christoph Biermann**

Blink Publishing (Matt Phillips), WE. Football

Christoph Biermann is the author behind *Die Fussball-Matrix* and *Wenn wir vom Fussball traumen*, both of which were voted as Germany’s Football Book of the Year in 2009 and 2014 respectively. By day, he is the editor-in-chief of the hugely significant and influential *11 Freunde* magazine. Put simply, he is one of the best and most consistent writers around when it comes to football. And his latest project is true to form.

Published by Kiepenheuer & Witsch in April 2018 to huge critical acclaim, *Matchplan* stayed in the top 10 bestseller list for 3 weeks after it was released. It has even been described by former German football star Thomas Hitzlsperger as *the most exciting book on football of our time*. In it, Christoph travels through England, the US, Scandinavia and Germany, talking to scientists, trainers, managers, scouts and psychologists to better understand this digital revolution that is changing the face of football.

First there was *Soccernomics*, then *The Numbers Game*, and now we have *Matchplan*.

Manuscript delivery: December 2018

Publication: May 2019

Primary agent: Nick Walters for DLA on behalf of Hoffman und Campe

Translation rights: DLA

**One Way Ticket by Jonathan Vaughters**

**Quercus (Richard Milner) UK & Commonwealth. Cycling**

**T**he long-awaited autobiography of the American professional cyclist, Jonathan Vaughters – one of the sports’ biggest names.  From his early years in his hometown in Colorado to his unflinching rite of passage as a professional rider with US Postal to his elevation as one of cycling’s most resilient, ethical and intelligent team bosses, Vaughters’ story is nothing if not remarkable.  He is hugely admired in the world of cycling and attracts over 200,000 to his Twitter account.  But this is not just his story; it is the story of modern cycling told with a genuine love for the sport. Vaughters will tell the whole story (he has ridden alongside the greatest names of the last twenty years) with the assistance of Jeremy Whittle, the author of “Bad Blood”, Ventoux and co-author on David Millar’s bestselling “Racing Through the Dark”. Promises to be highly explosive.

Publication: Summer 2019

Primary Agent: David Luxton

US and Canada: Penguin USA (acquired by Patrick Dolan with Matt Klise)

All other rights: DLA

**The Yellow Jersey by Peter Cossins**

**Penguin Random House (Tim Broughton for Yellow Jersey), WEL. Cycling**

The yellow jersey is the most coveted prize in cycling and one of the most iconic in sport, a prize that compares with the green jacket at the US Masters or a gold medal at the Olympics. First presented and worn in the 1919 Tour de France, it will celebrate its centenary in 2019, which will provide the ideal opportunity to investigate its fabled history and the impact and influence it has had on bike racing and some of the 268 riders who have worn it. Pete Cossins’ latest book will highlight the stories of some of the most fascinating, but often least heralded of them, including the oldest surviving wearer of the yellow jersey, 93-year-old Antonin Rolland, who led the Tour for twelve days in 1955, and French sprinter Jean-Patrick Nazon, who in the centenary Tour of 2003 held it for less than 90 minutes, the time it took for his team to complete that year’s team time trial course, and Alex Stieda, an unheralded Tour debutant who in 1986 upstaged one of the most star-packed of fields with a beautifully calculated performance that put him into the yellow jersey for a mere 83 minutes.

Publication: Summer 2019

Primary Agent: David Luxton

Translation rights: DLA

**1312: Ultras, A History by James Montague**

**Ebury (Andrew Goodfellow) WEL. Football**

James Montague, author of “The Billionaires Club”, “Thirty-One Nil” and “When Friday Comes” is turning his attention to the culture of the Europe’s secret football gangs. Fiercely loyal, organised, political, violent and united by a hatred of the establishment, ultras are a visible part of the global game, their credo and aesthetic replicated in almost every league everywhere on earth. Yet they remain an enigma; their anti-establishment perspective meaning that their voices are rarely heard on radio or TV.

1312 tells the story of how the ultras movement began, emerging from the terraces of post-war Italy, the Balkans and Brazil, and how it has become a global phenomenon that now dominates the stadiums of Madrid, Munich and Buenos Aires. With unique inside access 1312 will show how ultras have, today, grown into a fiercely political movements that embraces extremes on both the left and right; fighting against the commercialisation of football and society, the resettlement of refugees, the rise of fascism, opposition to dictators and the attempts to control them by the authorities who both covet and fear their power.

Publication: April 2020

Primary agent: Rebecca Winfield

Translation rights: DLA

**Michael Carrick: My Autobiography by Michael Carrick**

**Blink Publishing (Bonniers)/UK & Commonwealth. (Matt Philipps) Football/Manchester United**

This is the incredible account of Michael Carrick’s life and career, from growing up in a small town in the north of England, to winning almost every club honour a footballer can. For the first time, Carrick will address his relationships with his family, wife and children, and those who have played a key role in his career, including Alex Ferguson, David Moyes, Jose Mourinho, Harry Redknapp, Paul Scholes, Wayne Rooney, Ibrahimovic, Ryan Giggs, Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard and many more renowned footballing names. Written with award-winning journalist Henry Winter (*The Times*), the book will also look at Michael’s personal life away from the cameras, giving the reader an insight to what life is like as a footballer away from match day, and all the highs and lows he experienced personally as well as publicly. This is a uniquely intimate portrait of a footballer who has won it all.

Manuscript delivery: September 2018

Publication: October 2018

Primary agent: David Luxton

All rights: DLA

**Robin Knox-Johnston – My Story**

**Simon and Schuster/UK & COMMONWEALTH (Ian Marshall). Sailing**

Fifty years have gone by since Sir Robin Knox-Johnston made history by becoming the first man to sail solo and non-stop around the globe in 1968-69.One of nine sailors to compete in the Times Golden Globe Race, Sir Robin set off from Falmouth, with no sponsorship, on 14 June 1968.With his yacht Suhaili packed with supplies he set off on a voyage that was to last just over ten months. He arrived back in Falmouth after 312 days at sea, on 22 April 1969, securing his place in the history books. Since then, he has competed in numerous races around the world including the Whitbread Round the World Race and the Jules Verne Trophy and a life packed with incident and tragedy. In this autobiography, Sir Robin will tell the whole story which takes in his love for his wife who he divorced and then remarried, his relationship with Donald Crowhurst who committed suicide after faking a round the world voyage (as told in the recent film “Mercy” starring Colin Firth) and his refusal to give up sailing, even as he approaches his 80th birthday.

Publication: May 2019

Translation rights: DLA

**Driven: The Men Who Made Formula One by Kevin Eason**

**Hodder & Stoughton (Hachette)/UK & Commonwealth. (Roddy Bloomfield) Formula One**

Formula One is speed, glamour, danger - and eye-watering wealth. *Driven: The Men Who Made Formula One*tells how a small group of extraordinary men transformed Formula One from a niche sport played out on primitive tracks surrounded by hay bales and grass verges into a £1 billion circus performing in vast theatres of entertainment all over the world.

Led by Bernie Ecclestone, the billionaire ringmaster, this clique started by scraping a living to go racing and ended up creating space-age cars, turning drivers from amateur gladiators into multimillion-pound superstars, like Ayrton Senna and Lewis Hamilton, while the names of Ferrari, McLaren and Williams are now as familiar around the world as Manchester United or Real Madrid.

For 20 years, Kevin Eason watched how these men operated like a sporting Mafia, protecting each other while squabbling over the vast wealth pouring into the sport. As motor racing correspondent for *The Times*and then with *The Sunday Times*, Eason was privileged to have a ringside seat as this cabal of wealthy characters ruled and then were pushed out of the sport they created.

This colourful and compelling account of the extraordinary flourishing of Formula One explores the quirks and extravagances of the men who converged - in one generation - to shape their sport; disparate characters with a common impulse: they were racers - and they were driven.

Publication: November 2018

Primary agent: David Luxton

All rights: DLA

**Darkness and Light: My Story by Joe Thompson**

**Pitch Publishing/WEL. (Jane Camillin) Football and Survivor Memoir**

*Darkness and Light: My Story*, is the heart-wrenching and soul-stirring autobiography of footballer and two-time cancer survivor, Joe Thompson.

His mother’s battle with mental illness and father’s descent into a life of drugs and crime saw him battle adversity from birth. Football opened up a new world of opportunity when Manchester United signed him aged nine. Joe spent six years living every boy’s dream but was left devastated when the club released him at 16. He bounced back to forge a career in the Football League, before his life was thrown into turmoil.

At 23, he was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer. Six months of chemotherapy followed, which eventually rid his body of the disease. He had been given a second chance at life, but three years later he was given the shock news that his cancer had returned. An 18-day stay in an isolation unit reduced him to skin and bone, but he vowed he wouldn’t be beaten. For a second time, Joe gave cancer the boot and he has since made an incredible return to professional football, including an appearance at Wembley in the FA Cup.

*Darkness and Light* is an incredible tale of survival against the odds.

Publication: October 2018

Primary Agent: Nick Walters

Translation rights: DLA

**The Barcelona Legacy: Guardiola, Mourinho and the Fight for Football’s Soul by Jonathan Wilson**

**Blink/UK & Commonwealth (Matt Philipps). Football**

When Johan Cruyff left the Barcelona manager’s job in 1996, it was amid some acrimony. There had been two years without a league title and there were realistic fears that Barcelona, as they had done so often in the pre-Cruyff era, would lapse into crisis. Instead, in the four years that followed, Barcelona became a crucible in which modern football was formed – not just in terms of its dominant tactical philosophy but in terms of the personalities and narratives that continue to shape today’s game.

This is a book in part about tactics, about how the theories that underpin the modern game were forged by Cruyff and his successors, but also about the people and personalities who gathered at the Camp Nou for what was effectively the greatest coaching seminar in history, about their friendships and rivalries and, in one case, an apocalyptic falling out that continues to shape the game.

Publication: September 2018

Primary Agent: David Luxton

Rights sold: US (Nation Books), Netherlands (Ambo Anthos), Japan (Toyokan), Poland (SQN)

All other rights: DLA

**The Coffeehouse Revolution by Jonathan Wilson**

**Blink/UK & Commonwealth (Matt Philipps). Football.**

Modern football was invented in the coffeehouses of Vienna and Budapest in the 1920s and 1930s by a group of people who by the 1940s would, for reasons of their race, be dead, interned or have fled into exile.

Budapest in the decade before the Second World War was home to an unprecedented generation of coaches, most of them Jewish, who revolutionised how football was thought about and how it was played. Those who survived the Holocaust and remained in or returned to Hungary after the war helped create the *Aranycsapat*, the golden squad, the great side of Ferenc Puskás, József Bozsik and Nandor Hidegkuti that won the Olympic title in 1952 and twice hammered England before a four-year unbeaten run came to an end at the worst possible time, in the World Cup final of 1954. But there were others who moved abroad, whether for straightforward professional reasons or because of anti-Semitism at home, who transformed the game in Italy, Argentina and Brazil. And there were others who didn’t make it, killed in the death camps or executed for their part in the anti-Fascist resistance.

This is a story that remains largely untold. Many of the key figures died tragically young and many of those who survived the war were reluctant to reveal how they had done so. But there’s more. More to be uncovered about them and their contemporaries, about the vibrant coffeehouse culture that for a glorious decade redefined football.

M/s delivery: December 2018

Primary Agent: David Luxton

Rights sold: US (Nation Books)

**Simply the Best: The Biography of Ronnie O’Sullivan by Clive Everton**

**Pitch Publishing. UK & Commonwealth. Snooker.**

*Simply the Best* traces Ronnie O’Sullivan’s course from carefree junior snooker prodigy, to a deeply troubled adult star forced to deal with the fame that was a by-product of his own genius.

In the process, Ronnie emerges as instinctively warm-hearted, the most loyal of sons and a true sportsman in his acceptance of the rare defeat.

This is a rounded portrait of one of sport’s most fascinating, complicated and successful characters, written by a man who knows him, and those around him, extremely well.

Publication: October 2018

Primary Agent: David Luxton

All rights: DLA

**The Jersey: How One Tiny Nation Conquered the World by Peter Bills**

**Macmillan/UK & Commonwealth (Robin Harvie). Rugby.**

*“New Zealand rugby? They are the most insular and secretive rugby nation in the world. They are, also, unbelievably good; maybe the most successful sporting team ever!”* Bob Dwyer, Australian coach.

Peter Bills is an award-winning British rugby writer, long respected in the game worldwide, the author of 17 sports books, mostly on rugby, and a prolific contributor to the ‘New Zealand Herald’.

Over the last eleven months, he has worked tirelessly to forge an understanding and relationship with those at the heart of New Zealand rugby. He has now reached an agreement with the New Zealand Rugby Union and All Blacks management. He will be given **exclusive access** to the senior All Blacks coaches and management, NZRU officials and the All Black players for interviews, which will be at the heart of this book.

Publication: August 2018

Primary Agent: David Luxton

All rights: DLA

Sold: Marabout, France

**Edge: Leadership Secrets of Football’s Top Thinkers Ben Lyttleton**

**HarperCollins/UK & Commonwealth (Oliver Malcolm). Football Tactics.**

*‘Remarkable access to some of the biggest names in football – a tour of the game’s new thinking, written up with great fluency.’ – Simon Kuper, Contributor, Financial Times*

*‘Full of fascinating ideas – this book make will make you think!’ – Wim Jonk, Cruyff Football*

*‘A fascinating read … Inspiring for anyone who wants to learn how to be successful.' – Marcus Christenson, The Guardian*

Finding the next superstar is a challenge for all businesses. There may be certain measurable skills that you can glean from CVs but the intangible qualities that make up the next generation of leaders are harder to spot. There needs to be a revolution in the way we measure talent. In this book, we look at football, arguably the world’s biggest talent hothouse, to learn about these immeasurable qualities. These are personality traits from the head up that differentiate the good from the great; qualities like resilience, ambition, leadership, decision-making, adaptability, composure under pressure. You can’t polish those on a CV.

Published: September 2017

Primary Agent: David Luxton

All rights: DLA

Sold: France (SoFoot Publishing)

**Sevens Heaven: The Beautiful Chaos of Fiji’s Olympic Dream by Ben Ryan & Tom Fordyce**

**W&N/UK & Commonwealth (Paul Murphy) Rugby Sevens.**

*This is the story of how one man changed a nation, how that nation changed the man and how together they made sporting history.*

It is late summer 2013. Ben Ryan, a red-haired, 40-something, spectacle-wearing Englishman, is given 20 minutes to decide whether he wants to coach Fiji’s Sevens team, with the aim of taking them to the nation’s first ever Olympic medal. He has never been to Fiji. There has not even been a discussion of contracts or salary. Ryan says yes. With that simple word, he sets in motion an extraordinary journey that will encompass witchdoctors and interfering prime ministers, sun-smeared dawns and devastating cyclones, intense friendships and bitter rows, phone taps and wild nation-wide parties. It will end in Rio with a performance that not only wins Olympic gold but touches fresh heights for rugby union, with Ben made a tribal chief and hundreds of Fijian babies given his name, with his 12 players global stars and heroes forever back home.

It is *Cool Runnings* transposed from ice to tropical grass, *Moneyball* for a world without spreadsheets, Leicester City 2016 meets Brazil 1970.

Publication: May 2018 (Hb, 320pp)

Primary Agent: David Luxton

All rights: DLA

Sold: Japan (Tatsumi)

**Bring the Noise: The Jurgen Klopp Story by Raphael Honigstein**

**Vintage (Yellow Jersey)/UK & Commonwealth (Fran Jessop). Football**

Jurgen Klopp's coaching career began in the German second tier at the unfashionable club of FSV Mainz 05, whom he steered to the Bundesliga for the first time in forty-one years. In 2008, he joined Borussia Dortmund, where he achieved back-to-back league titles and took the club to the UEFA Champions League final. He left Germany for one of the England's most challenging jobs: to manage Liverpool, a once-mighty club that had not managed sustained success since the 1980s.

It was not a task for the fainthearted. Anfield, Liverpool's home, is a temple to flamboyant attacking soccer powered by passion. In Klopp, Liverpool finally *found* a manager who embodied the essence of the club. Klopp is dynamic, expressive, restless, driven-he feels every move and play, every tactical shift, every contact on the field. His eyes betray a wild ecstasy and agony as his team thrives or falls. His game plan demands relentless commitment-the famous *gegenpress-*and he is one of the great personal motivators in all sport.

Raphael Honigstein, author of Das Reboot and Budesliga correspondent for the Guardian, has interviewed Klopp and followed his career since his early years, and better than anyone knows how to "bring the noise" to his subject.

Publication date: November 2017

Primary agent: David Luxton

All rights: DLA

Sold: Nation Books (USA), Ullstein (Germany), ArtPeople (Denmark), Euromedia (Czech Republic), Znak (Poland), Publica (Romania), Grande Area (Brazil), B2S (Thailand)

**Arsene Wenger: The Inside Story of Arsenal Under Wenger by John Cross**

**Simon and Schuster, UK & Commonwealth**

**THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE BIOGRAPHY OF ARSENE WENGER EVER PUBLISHED, NOW FULLY REVISED AND UPDATED TO THE END OF HIS ARSENAL CAREER.**

In this fascinating account of Arsene Wenger's reign as manager of Arsenal and the methods he has used to keep the club at the top, John Cross has spoken to everyone from board members to players and backroom staff to build the most complete portrait of the man and his management style, and the club he has inspired for almost 20 years.

When Wenger arrived at Arsenal in 1996, he was little known to fans at the club and many doubted he could bring back the glory days of George Graham. But soon he was transforming the way the team played. At the same time, he introduced new ideas on diet, fitness and professionalism, which many players believe extended their careers. Having won numerous trophies, and led the Invincibles to an unbeaten league season in 2003-04, Wenger then had to help the club through the next stage of their development when they moved from Highbury to the Emirates. Despite the financial constraints he faced, he still managed to keep the club playing in the Champions League year after year while remaining true to his philosophy of how the game should be played. Furthermore, he once again began to build a trophy-winning squad, winning back-to-back FA Cups in 2014 and 2015, that was admired by football fans everywhere.

Publication: September 2015

Primary agent: David Luxton

Sold: Poland (SQN), Czech Republic (Mlada Fronta), Japan (Toyokan), Korea (Garam Publishing), Bulgaria (Janua ’98), China – simplified (Cultural Development Press Co.), Russia (Eksmo)

All rights: DLA

**Doctor Socrates by Andrew Downie**

**Simon and Schuster/UK & Commonwealth (Ian Marshall). Football.**

Socrates was always special. A hugely talented athlete who **graduated in medicine yet drank and smoked to excess**. The attacking midfielder stood out - and not just because of his 6'4" frame. Fans were enthralled by his inch-perfect passes, his coolness in front of goal and his back heel, the trademark move that singled him out as the most unique footballer of his generation.   
  
Off the pitch, he was just as original, with a dedication to politics and social causes that no player has ever emulated. His biggest impact came as leader of **Corinthians Democracy** - a movement that gave everyone from the kitman to the president an equal say in the running of the club. At a time when Brazil was ruled by a military dictatorship, it was truly **revolutionary**.   
  
Passionate and principled, entertaining and erudite, Socrates was as **contradictory** as he was complex. He was a socialist who voted for a return of Brazil's monarchy, a fiercely independent individual who was the ultimate team player, and a romantic who married four times and fathered six children.   
  
Armed with Socrates' unpublished memoir and hours of newly discovered interviews, Andrew Downie has put together the most comprehensive and compelling account of this iconic figure. Based on conversations with family members, close friends and former team-mates, this is a brilliant biography of a man who always stood up for what he believed in, whatever the cost.

Publication: March 2017

Primary Agent: David Luxton

Rights sold: France (Solar), Turkey (Ithaki), Italy (Milieu Edizione), Poland (Raphael)

All other rights: DLA

**A Year in Cycling by The Cycling Podcast**

**Yellow Jersey. UK & Commonwealth.**

Readers as well as listeners can now embark on a journey through the cycling year with The Cycling Podcast, which has been entertaining and informing fans since 2013.   
  
Richard Moore, Lionel Birnie and Daniel Friebe share their diaries from three incident-filled Grand Tours, the Giro d’Italia, Tour de France and Vuelta a España. These take readers behind the scenes and explore the culture and landscape as well as the racing, while the ‘Lionel of Flanders’, complete with beer recommendations, does the same for the Classics in Belgium.  
  
There are appearances, too, by leading journalists and podcast favourites François Thomazeau, who takes responsiblity for the French Tour de France jinx, Ciro Scognamiglio, with a heartfelt love letter to cult favourite Filippo Pozzato, Fran Reyes, who pens a farewell to El Pistolero, Alberto Contador, and Orla Chennaoui, who hits the road to cover La Course in a one-woman karaoke-booth-on-wheels.  
  
Further contributions from professional riders Ashleigh Moolman Pasio and Joe Dombrowski and the voice of the Tour de France, Sebastien Piquet, as well as stunning galleries from the podcast world’s first and only dedicated photographer, Simon Gill, make this the perfect celebration of a year in cycling.

Publication: March 2018

Primary Agent: David Luxton

All rights: DLA

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