

KNOW YOUR HISTORY



TALES FROM FOOTBALL'S PAST

HOW TO MAKE A



VICTORIAN FOOTBALL

When football was first invented, more than 150 years ago, you couldn't just pop to a shop and buy a ball. There weren't many sports shops around, and footballs cost way more than your pocket money. So Victorian children had to make their own, often following instructions printed in their favourite comics. Here's what they said...



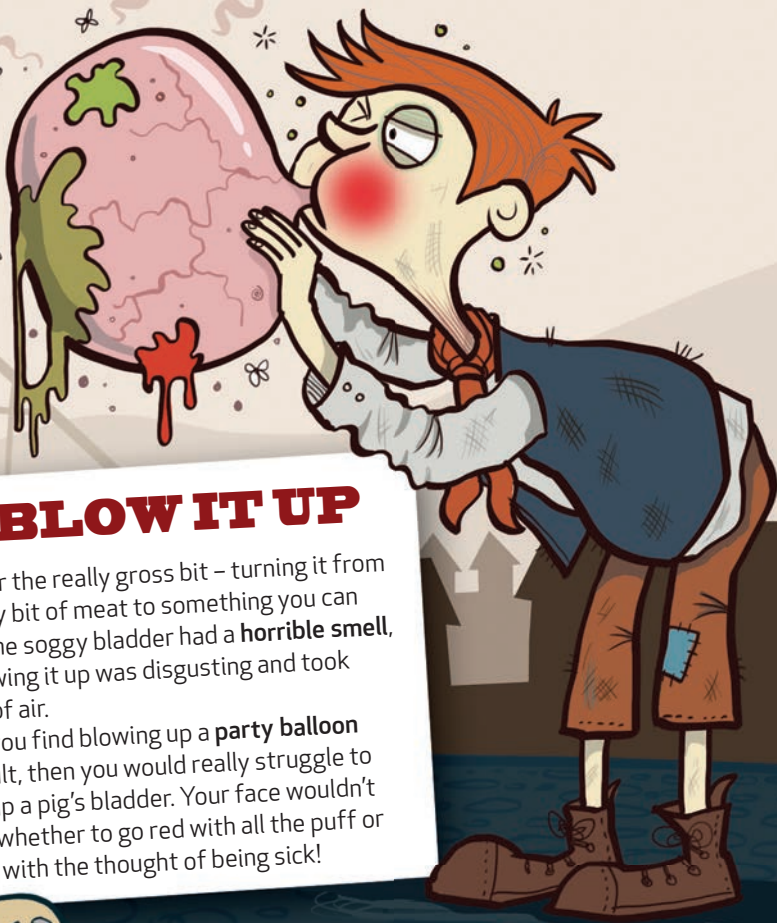
1 GO TO THE BUTCHERS

Making a football was a very messy job. While modern footballs are manufactured in factories from man-made materials, old footballs were made on kitchen tables from leftover animal parts! The main ingredient was an animal bladder – usually a pig's bladder.

The comics advised readers to buy their bladder from a butcher's shop, but warned that it wasn't a nice sight – they looked more like a gooey, deflated balloon than a football.



ILLUSTRATION BY NIGEL BAINES



2 BLOW IT UP

Now for the really gross bit – turning it from a stinky bit of meat to something you can kick. The soggy bladder had a **horrible smell**, so blowing it up was disgusting and took loads of air.

If you find blowing up a **party balloon** difficult, then you would really struggle to blow up a pig's bladder. Your face wouldn't know whether to go red with all the puff or green with the thought of being sick!



3 GO TO THE SHOEMAKERS

Even when inflated the bladder still didn't look like a football. It needed a **leather case** to go around the outside.

The comics suggested getting a leather case made by a **shoemaker**. It was fitted around the bladder and sewn up with boot laces to create a nice round football.

4 HAVE A KICKAROUND

If the kids had any energy left, they could finally enjoy a kickaround. But these footballs weren't very tough – one wrong kick and **BANG, the ball burst!** Then the laces would need to be undone, the case removed and the bladder checked for punctures – just like with a flat bike tyre.



NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM



SEE THE REAL THINGS!

If you want to see footballs like this in real life, many are on display at the **National Football Museum in Manchester**. To win a **FREE** guided tour and a day pass that allows you to use all the museum's **FootballPlus+ interactive challenges**, answer the following question...



Test your skills

COMPETITION

Q: What animal part did Victorian children use to make a football?

- A) The heart
- B) The lungs
- C) The bladder

Get an adult to email the answer, along with your name and age, to hello@kickaroundmag.co.uk
Good luck!

T&Cs apply, see kickaroundmag.co.uk for details. You must make your own way to the National Football Museum.