




## TALES FROM FOOTBALL'S PAST

# ONE NIL TO EL



Ever wondered who would win a penalty shootout between a professional footballer and an elephant? Nope, nor had we until we discovered this amazing story from back in the Victorian times.

## INTRODUCING JIMMY TRAINER

In 1899 there were no smartphones, no YouTube and no TV, so the Victorians had to find other ways to entertain themselves. Step forward **Jimmy Trainer**, who was a footballing legend at the time.

Trainer had become famous because he kept goal for **Preston North End** during their incredible 1888-89 campaign, when they went the whole season unbeaten to become champions of England. They were the only club to not lose a league game during an English season until **Arsenal** managed it in 2003-04.

Bored of facing humans, Trainer turned his attention to other challenges. When a travelling circus set up opposite Preston's stadium, **Deepdale**, it gave Trainer the perfect chance to show off his skills – though it didn't all go to plan...

## ELEPHANT TACTICS

Trainer decided to entertain the audience by having a **penalty shootout** against an elephant called **Palm**. Now, elephants might look slow and stupid but as poor old Trainer found out, they are actually **very intelligent animals** and extremely agile on their feet.

Palm and his fellow circus elephants had already impressed the crowds in a warm-up match against a team of **clowns**. The massive elephants bumped their opponents off the ball, smashed it into the net with their humongous legs and then **tooted from their trunks in celebration**.

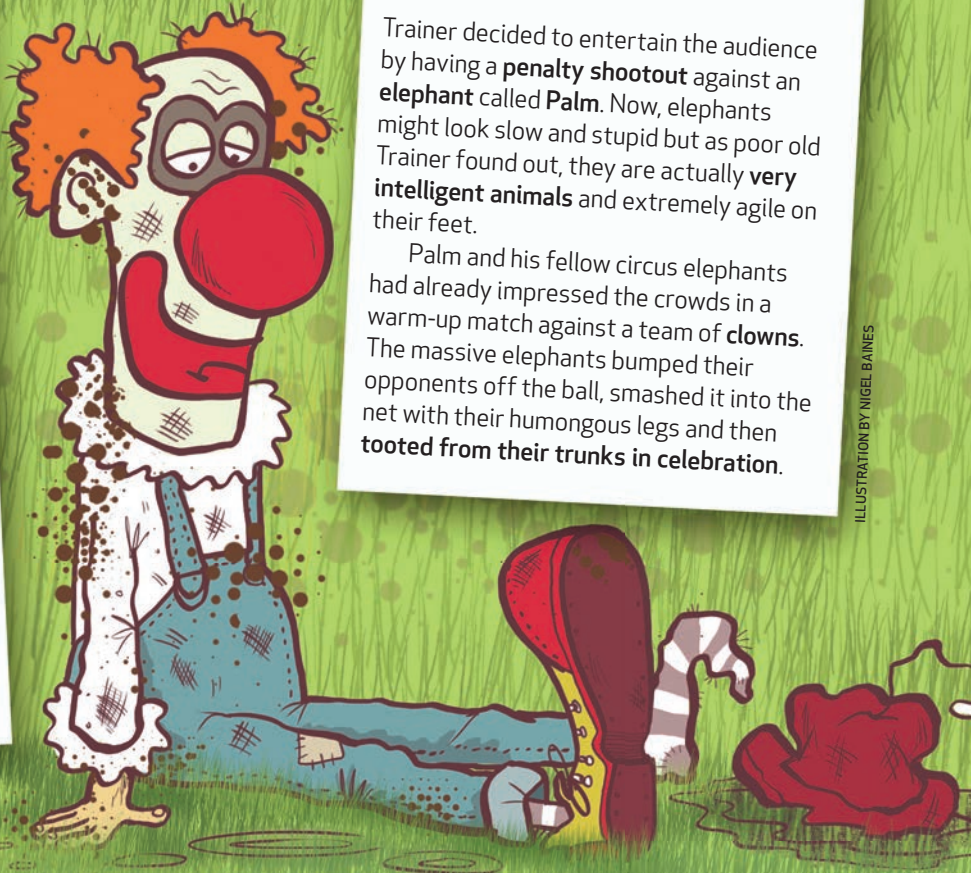


ILLUSTRATION BY NIGEL BAINES

# THE EPHANTS!

PRESTON 1899



NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM



## DISCOVER MORE FOOTBALL HISTORY!

If you want to find out more about football's amazing history head to 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...

## THE MAIN EVENT

Then came the main event: **Jimmy Trainer v Palm the Elephant**. Each competitor took **three penalties** and Palm went first. He charged up to the ball and smacked it straight down the middle, where Trainer tipped it over the bar.

Palm sent in a second ferocious shot but again Trainer beat the ball away. Finally, on his **third attempt**, Palm took an enormous run up and launched the ball into the bottom corner. It was **too powerful** for Trainer and the ball flew past his outstretched hand and into the net: **Jimmy 0-1 Palm**.

Now it was Trainer's turn. Unfortunately for him size is important for a keeper and Palm was the biggest one yet. Three times Trainer shot but Palm was so large he filled the **entire goal** and the ball kept bouncing off his body.

So Palm outwitted the pro keeper and won the competition 1-0 - **get that elephant some peanuts!**



Test your skills



## COMPETITION

**Q: Which club did legendary goalie Jimmy Trainer play for?**

- A) Preston North End
- B) Blackpool
- C) Blackburn Rovers

Get an adult to email the answer, along with your name and age, to [hello@kickaroundmag.co.uk](mailto:hello@kickaroundmag.co.uk)  
Closing date: 1st June. Good luck!

T&Cs apply, see [kickaroundmag.co.uk](http://kickaroundmag.co.uk) for details. You must make your own way to the National Football Museum.