

SWEET F. A.

A Play

adapted from the musical

NO PLACE FOR A GIRL

by

MARK WHEELER

SchoolPlay Productions Ltd

15 Inglis Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3HU

SWEET F.A.

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CAST LIST

The Stanbury Family:

Sarah Stanbury (also known as **Sedge**)

Sue Stanbury *Sedge's Mum*

Rob Stanbury *Sedge's Dad*

Debbie Stanbury *Sedge's younger Sister*

Non-family members:

Paul *Sedge's best "mate"*

Mr. Brewer *Junior School football coach*

Quentin *Member of Foundhart football team and very spoilt.*

Quentin's Daddy *Quentin's pompous father
a cartoon character.*

Steven Carey *Member of Foundhart Football team.*

Abdul Sobur *Star of Foundhart Football team.*

Shopkeeper

Referee

Miss Vallas *Sedge's class teacher at Junior School.*

SFA Official *Schoolboys Football Official
(of the "old school").*

WPC Elliot

Pat Chapman *Manager of **Red Star Southampton**,
top women's football team of the early 1990's*

Spanner 1 & 2 *A "chorus", introducing problems to Sedge's life. The lines are written continuously and CAN be spoken by one actor. At the discretion of the performing group / director these lines can be shared by any number of actors who present the speeches as "performance poetry".*

PRODUCTION NOTES

Sweet FA is an entirely **true story** of Southampton girl, Sarah Stanbury (Sedge) and her struggle to gain recognition as a football player. The play uses the words of the real life characters as the basis for the script. Extensive interviews with Sarah, her family, John Brewer, Pat Chapman, Jane Clarke, Barbara Dobson, Yolander Soler and Paul Sanders were conducted by Mark Wheeler throughout the summer of 1990.

This style of playscript is often referred to as Documentary Theatre. This should in no way infer any lack of imagination in the animated style of presentation the play needs to realise its potential in performance.

Clearly the script can be performed by different numbers / gender mixes according to your needs. It would be possible for an all female cast to perform **SWEET F.A.**

This version of the play was written to be performed by a cast of 3f / 2m. Here is how, in this instance, the roles would be allocated to the performers.

Female 1	Sedge
Female 2	Sue Stanbury; Shopkeeper, Miss Vallas
Male 3	Rob Stanbury; Mr. Brewer, Abdul Sobur
Male 4	Paul; SFA Official; Quentin; Steven Carey; Referee; Spanner 2
Female 5	Debbie Stanbury; Quentin's Daddy; WPC Elliot; Spanner; Pat Chapman.

All of the actors play team members (and possibly share "Spanner" roles) etc. where necessary.

Set:

The play will benefit from a simple, uncluttered stage set. It needs no more than a few well placed rostra blocks, but do give consideration to imaginative ideas that may enhance the visual presentation without being unnecessarily cumbersome or complicated to realise.

It is possible for there to be a realistic front room setting for the Stanbury's house.... but this is not essential. What is essential is that there is an opportunity for the various other locations to be depicted in any remaining area of the stage. This area should not be cluttered with naturalistic scenery.

The power of the performance should come from the imagination/energy of the performers.

Props / Costume:

There is little need for stage properties or elaborate costuming.

A few well chosen "significant" props may well enhance the visual presentation, but in general a simple form of mime will provide a better way to maintain the pace of this play.

M. W.

INTRODUCTION FOR SWEET F.A. - by Sue Lopez.

During the 1990's women's football in England has begun to receive the interest and recognition that it deserves but in other parts of the world, especially the USA where 8 million women play, it has become a phenomenal success. This has been highlighted during the 3rd FIFA (the world governing body of football) Women's World Cup held in the USA in the summer of 1999. The standard of play from the top nations was good and more spectators watched the final than for any other female game worldwide. The USA won their second title, beating China in a penalty shoot out after a 0-0 draw in front of 90,000 spectators at the Pasadena Rose Bowl. They also beat them in the 1997 Olympic women's football championship. The other top nation, Norway, who the USA beat in the 1st FIFA World Cup held in China in 1991, won the 2nd World Cup, held in Sweden in 1995, but only managed 4th in 1999, with Brazil taking 3rd place.

Despite having had an England team since 1972, England have only ever competed in two major finals. They lost the inaugural UEFA championship final to Sweden in 1984 and were eliminated in the preliminary rounds of the 1995 World Cup Final in Sweden. But in the 1970s England would beat France, Holland and even Italy, one of the top nations in those days. Then, in the early 1980s, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Germany started successfully to develop women's football and as a result they started to dominate the game. They were followed by newer nations, such as Brazil, China, Nigeria, Japan, Russia and Australia.

If England were slow to capitalise on the potential of their early start in the 1970's it is astonishing that there was another golden era even earlier. During the time of the 1st World War, women in a sense replaced the men who had gone to war by playing friendly matches in aid of the war effort. The most famous and successful team was Dick Kerr's of Preston who reached their zenith in 1920 when at Everton's Goodison Park, they beat St. Helen's 4-0 in front of a crowd of 53,000 with an estimated 10,000 locked outside! But the bubble was burst in 1921 when there was growing resentment towards women's football within the male football establishment. In December 1921 the FA banned women's teams from using their grounds and stated that they considered the game unsuitable for women and should not be encouraged. This ban remained in place until 1971!

The FA was one of the last governing bodies to take responsibility for developing women's football when they took full charge of the game in 1993. Since 1969 the women's FA administrated the game, but this group of volunteers had insufficient funds or time to develop the game. Its for this reason players like myself who played for England and the all-conquering Southampton Women's Football Club in the 1970s, winning eight out of ten Women's FA national cup finals, sympathise with Sedge's frustration. In fact, I went to Italy in 1971 to play in their national semi-professional league. If it wasn't for our pioneering efforts in starting women's football in Southampton in 1966, where the first ever women's league was formed, Sedge may not even have had the chance to play the game at all!

Things have improved a lot since the FA's take over and the girls have more opportunities to play in schools and local small-sided leagues, and last year the FA funded a talent identification and performance programme. As a result there are now 20 Centres of Excellence for the best girls aged 10-16 years, based at professional men's clubs, including Southampton FC. I am the Director of the Centre. As one of only three FA Advanced Licence women's coaches in this country, it gives me great pleasure to use my experience and qualifications to bring on the next generation of Sedges. There is still a long way to go to catch up the best nations, but hopefully the opportunities today in England will mean there will be less girls feeling like Sedge. I hope, too, that this play will help raise the profile of girls' football in schools. Perhaps even more important, I hope it helps young people to debate the dangers of prejudice. Why should thousands of women have been deprived of having opportunities to play football since the 1920s right up until only recently? I hope it provokes some lively and interesting debates wherever this play is read or performed.

Anyone wishing to know the full story about the development of women's football in England and in other parts of the world should read my book:

"Women on the Ball" - *A guide to women's football 1997*, Scarlet Press, London.
ISBN 1 85727 0169 paper back; ISBN 1 85727 0215 hard back.

Sue Lopez
*Hampshire FA Coaching & Development Officer
and Director of Southampton FC Centre of excellence (female).*

SWEET F.A.

by Mark Wheeler

SECTION 1: FIRST FOOTBALL KIT.

(A radio is playing in the background perhaps a football commentary. SUE is doing the housework. ROB is reading the sports pages of a newspaper with half an ear to the after match comments to a Southampton [aka Saints] F.C. football match).

Sue (2): Rob *(He continues reading. SUE turns the radio off).* Rob!

Rob: I was listening to that!

Sue: I know.

Rob: What's up now?

Sue: We did discuss it.

Rob: What?

Sue: Don't pretend you don't know.

Rob: Well, I don't know what you want me to say.

Sue: I want you to tell her that she can't wear it.

Rob: I can't!

Sue: We had discussed it we had agreed a football kit wasn't right.

Rob: I agreed that the pedal car was a good idea.

Sue: You put them up to it.

Rob: That's not true.

Sue: Well why did they get it?

Rob: Sedge probably asked them.

Sue: Why do you call her that?

Rob: Sue everyone does!

Sue: Her name's Sarah!

Rob: Everyone calls her Sedge.

Sue: You think it's one big joke don't you?

Rob: I can't understand what the big problem is.

Sue: If we let her go on like this we'll pay for it you mark my words She'll be trouble if we go on like this.

Rob: Like what?

Sue: Rob, she's a girl a three year old girl for crying out loud! How do you think I feel? All the other little girls at play group come in after their birthdays showing off their new dresses or new dolls while Sarah struts

around in her new football kit.

Rob: But she loves it!

Sue: It's really embarrassing! All the other mums are looking at me and thinking well I don't know what they must think!

Rob: Does it matter?

Sue: Yes it does! It'd be like you posing off around town in a bra and suspenders.

Rob: (*Laughing, struts*). And there was me thinking you'd really go for that sort of thing.

Sue: We spent a lot of money on that pedal car to make up for her not having the kit. That should have been the end of it!

Rob: Can't you see Sue even with the pedal car she's not happy unless she's getting it to skid!

Sue: And who taught her to do that I wonder!

Rob: She found out for herself.

Sue: You treat her like a boy! What'll it be next A pint of lager down the club with her mates?

Rob: I just follow what appears to interest her.

Sue: I hope you'll be just as keen when she starts to do the things all the other little girls do.

Rob: She loves that kit.

Sue: She looks like a boy!

Rob: She looks great in it next month she'll be on to something else you know what kids are like!

Sue: I hope so cos then I can throw it away!

SECTION 2: THE JASON INCIDENT. Part 1

Sedge (1): By the time I was about nine, I was well known for playing football at my school. Mum and Dad knew nothing about it they thought I'd gone off football, cos I never talked about it to them.

Paul (4): Sedge used to come into school in this skirt that did up at the side and at lunch time she'd rip it off!

All: (*Adopting appropriate posture and mock high pitched "dinner ladies" voices*). Put it on!

Paul: the dinner ladies used to say.

Sedge: I can't play football in a skirt!

Paul: So she'd put it back on, roll it up and tuck it into the shorts she had on underneath like some great nappy. Underneath were these

All: Huge muscley legs!!!!

Paul: She was better than all of the boys except Abdul and he's professional now!

Sedge: I only played at lunch time I never even thought of asking to be in the school team I knew I wouldn't be allowed.

Paul: (*Adopting the attitude of an old fashioned grumpy well heeled fuddie duddie.... a characature!*). Football is a boys' game only boys should play it. Any girls who play should be rounded up and shot through the head at least four times!

Sedge: Anyway, the team were doing fine without me under the expert leadership...

All: Twenty three - nil!!!

Sedge: of our teacher Mr. Brewer

Mr. Brewer: Quite a good result lads but I wanted twenty four!!!

(3)

Paul: We'd won the league in the previous year

Brewer: And if we got a draw in our final match nothing could stop us from winning it again!

All: Introducing Quentin.

Paul: Have I got to be him?

Sedge: (*Melodramatically*). Someone's got to Paul just just create a soppy characature with a very corny lisp!

All: Quentin (*clap...clap...clap!!!!*).

Quentin (*clap...clap...clap!!!!*).

Quentin (*clap...clap...clap!!!!*).

Paul/Quentin: All right then.

All: Quentin (*clap...clap...clap*).

Sedge: the big-head!

Quentin: Wathn't I bwilliant today thir? You are a lucky, lucky teacher to have thomeone like me in your team!!!

Brewer: We certainly wouldn't be the same without you Quentin!

All: Introducing Quentin's Daddy played with a full sense of irony by

Q's Daddy (5): A female. Quentin's Daddy, who I might add serves on numerous football committees, should be played by a strong muscular male....

Sedge: But we disagree! So get on with it!

Q's Daddy: (*A macho characature. Whenever ***'s appear a "'horn" or bleeper should go off to denote the covering up of an expletive*).

My son is an exceptional talent. This *** *** Brewer has never recognised him for what he is!

All: } (*Sung as Q's Daddy tries to make the speech below*).:
} *Get him off, get him off, get him off etc.*

Q's Daddy: } I serve on numerous football committees and am highly respected
} for my services to football.

Brewer: Quentin is becoming far too Prima-Donna-ish if he's not careful I'll be dropping him!

All: Yeh!!!

Q's Daddy: This is a *** ** outrage!

All: Emergency

Brewer: Abdul twisted his ankle

All: In a Country Dancing lesson

Brewer: He wasn't going to be able to play in the practice match that night. We needed a replacement and quick

All: Everyone wanted Sedge to play.... everyone.

Quentin: Exthept Quentin!

Q's Daddy: And Quentin's Daddy who, as I've said before, served on numerous football committees and

All: Get on with it.

Q's Daddy: Girls do not play football in our league! (*Exits*).

Brewer: (*To SEDGE*). Get you kit Sedge you're playing I'll just phone your mum.

Sedge: Do you have to Sir? She doesn't even know I play football she'll hate it!

(*By now BREWER is already dialling. SUE enters as SEDGE ends her speech*).

Sue: I think you must have made a mistake Mr. Brewer I'm Sarah's mum Sarah Stanbury.

Brewer: Sarah's very good at football she plays every lunch time

Sue: I do hope you've made a mistake Mr. Brewer.

Brewer: You don't have any objections do you?

Sue: I really don't know what to say.

Brewer: Good I hoped you'd agree (*BREWER puts the phone down*).

Sue: (*Desperately*). Mr. Brewer Mr. Brewer Why me? (*She reluctantly puts the phone down*). Why me? My daughter playing for the school football team! What have I done to deserve this?

Brewer: Sedge played and scored two of her team's six goals we had one match left it was obvious Sedge should partner Abdul up front Quentin was to be dropped!

SECTION 3: SHOPLIFTING

Sedge, Abdul & Steven: Players from Foundhart football team:

Abdul: Abdul

Steven: Steven

Sedge: Sedge

All 3: The cream
Win our match and off we steam
On the way home we pass a shop
Got no money but that won't stop
Us mischief makers regulation breakers
Walk walk walk (*indicating sign*) Drifters
(*aside*) for apprentice shoplifters.
(*All three laugh then enter*). Ting!

Steven: (*pointing*) Shopkeeper.

Abdul: (*turns to SHOPKEEPER*) Distract. (*They laugh*). Chat.

Steven: Unzip! (*He mimes unzipping his [mimed] bag*). Nick! (*Mimes the taking of the following objects from [mimed] shelves*). Chocolate, crisps, Barbie Doll!

Abdul & Sedge: Barbie Doll?!! (*They look at one another and laugh*).

Steven: Zip! (*He mimes zipping up his "bag"*).

Abdul & Sedge: Is she looking?

Steven: Yes. (*Goes to SHOPKEEPER*). Distract.

Abdul: Unzip! Nick! Pot Noodles sandwiches, reduced to clear
Financial Times cuddly toy zip!!!

Abdul & Sedge: Is she looking?

Steven: Yes distract.

Abdul: Your turn Sedge.

[*A possible idea here could be to do a short section in slow motion with vocal heartbeats to build the tension of Sedge's crime*].

Sedge: (*Somewhat nervous*). Unzip! Nick! Pens footie-mag transformers
.... zip!!!

Abdul & Sedge: Is she looking?

Steven: Yes.

All 3: Leg it!
Tearing down the streets

Zip bags full with no receipts
Hearts are pumping
Minds are jumping
Will they catch us
Then dispatch us
To the local police.

(All out of breath panting).

Out of breath at the top of the hill.
Got the stitch but what a thrill it was
Nicking from a shop.
Team bonding and fond farewells we all did swap.

(STEVEN and ABDUL exit).

SECTION 4: THE JASON INCIDENT - Part 2

Sedge: Mum was delighted to see me when I got home after that my first school football match She couldn't stop congratulating me!!!!

Sue: Don't you move until you've taken those blooming football boots off!

Sedge: All right Mum keep your hair on! *(She takes the boots off).*

Sue: You'd better get upstairs and have a shower and no wonder your shoes get so scuffed. What must they think of us?

Sedge: Who?

Sue: Everyone the teachers I won't be able to show my face at parents' evening.

Sedge: You will I scored twice.

Sue: What happens if you get injured?

Sedge: I'll go to hospital! Mr. Brewer said I can play in a league match.

Sue: Where will you get changed?

Sedge: He said you'd given me permission Mr. Brewer said he'd phoned you

Sue: I didn't give my permission

Sedge: He said you did.

Sue: Well, maybe this once but it won't be happening again

Sedge: Thanks mum!!!

Sue: Get up those stairs and clean yourself up you look a disgrace. I don't believe it!

Brewer: Sedge's Mum had a surprise but that was nothing to compare with how Quentin and his Dad would react when they found out I was to replace Quentin with Sedge?

"Quentin I'm afraid you won't be playing in this match".

Quentin: But it'th if we loothe thith we'll

Brewer: I know.

Quentin: Why thir?

Brewer: Sarah Stanbury is a better player than you Quentin.

Quentin: Thawrah Thtanbuwy!

Brewer: Yeth Quentin I mean yes Quentin.

Quentin: She'th not ath good ath me!

Brewer: Quentin it's my job to pick the team.

Quentin: She can't be ath good ath me becauthe

Brewer: Yes?

Quentin: She can't be

Brewer: Why not?

Quentin: Thir!!! Thawah Thtanbuwy ith a giwl!

Brewer: Ten out of ten for observation, Quentin!

Quentin: If she playth in a league match my daddy will shoot her in the head four timeth!

Sedge: Come here and say that!

Quentin: That'th what my daddy thayth! My Daddy therveth on numerouth football committeeth and ith vewy well wethpected for hith thervitheth to football! Football, sayth my daddy, ith a manth game! Tho ner!!! I'm going to tell him and he'll come over here and shoot both of you! You're both thupid twith!!!

Brewer: I'd be pleased to talk with him Quentin very pleased!

All: (*Singing*). ***Hard luck Quentin hard luck son!***

Hard luck Quentin he's got you on the run.

(*They arrange themselves as though they are sitting in a minibus*).

We're on our way to winning

We're on our way to winning

We're on our way to winning

And Sedge is going to score!

(*They mime skidding to a halt*).

Brewer: We can't call her Sarah we'll have to call her Jason.

(*He starts the minibus up again and they continue on their journey*).

All: *And Jason's gonna score*
 And Jason's gonna score
 We're on our way to winning the league!!!
 And Jason's gonna score.

(A whistle signifying the start of the match is blown. The cast could become spectators re-acting where appropriate, and add as much choreographed movement to this sequence to animate the atmosphere of the match).

Brewer: The match was going well. After only fifteen minutes the score was

All: Two - nil!!!

Brewer: Then.... just before half time almost from nowhere Quentin's father appeared on the opposite touchline. I feared he may want to have a little discussion with me!

Q's Daddy: What the *** do you think you're doing Brewer?

Brewer: He marched across the pitch and really let fly!

Q's Daddy: Why isn't my Quentin in the team?

Brewer: If you really want to know, I think he has a bad attitude problem.

Q's Daddy: It's you Brewer, it's you who has the attitude problem. I serve on numerous football committees and

Brewer: You're "highly respected for your services to football". I know so you're bound to recognise that the person playing in his shirt is a better player.

Q's Daddy: The person playing in Quentin's shirt is a girl!

Brewer: At that very moment, no word of a lie, Sedge who had a lethal right foot, planted a fifteen yard shot right in the corner of the net! Thanks Sedge!

All: Three-nil!

Brewer: "Good goal excellent shot!" (*Aside*). He had to have seen it!

Q's Daddy: You're not even listening to me you *** **.*

Brewer: I'm not here to listen to you I'm here to encourage my team!

Q's Daddy: Some *** **.* encouragement you've given my son. You've *** **.* humiliated him!

Brewer: We are achieving a good result, so, as far as I'm concerned my team selection is entirely vindicated. Your son has no divine right to be in our school's football team even if you served on every blooming football committee that's ever been convened!

Q's Daddy: Mr. Brewer! You leave me no choice! I will see your headmaster tomorrow to make arrangements to remove my son from Foundhart School.

Brewer: Well, if that is what you want to do, it's your choice, but really over a

football match!

Q's Daddy: No Mr. Brewer there's a principle at stake here.

Brewer: For once I completely agree with you!

Q's Daddy: You'll be hearing from me, Brewer you *** **

*(Exeunt.... ranting and raving. As he leaves a *** is played for each of his footsteps. He may well be catcalled by the CAST).*

All: Ooooooooooh!!! Four - nil!!!

Brewer: Well done lads! Let's have another!

All: Ooooooooooh!!! Five - nil!!! Yeh!!!

(The referee blows his whistle).

Brewer: The next few minutes are all a bit of a blur. I don't quite know what happened but the referee called both teams together. I was right over the other side of the pitch I couldn't really see what was going on.

Referee (4): There's a girl on the pitch! Come on! It'll be very easy to find out who you are! OK then if you're not going to play ball with me I'll have to ask all of you "lads" to take off your shirts.

(SEdge steps forward slowly).

Referee (4): Ah. What's your name girl?

Brewer: Ref., it's my responsibility. You'd better sort it out with me.

Referee: We've had a complaint. I think you ought to know the result of this match probably won't stand.

Sedge: You can't cancel my goal! Everyone saw it! Everyone knows that it was the best in the match! It's so stupid! Just cos I'm a girl! Why should it matter?

Referee: It's what the rules say young lady, and your teacher knew it!

Sedge: The rules are pathetic! They won't stop me from playing!

Referee: They will stop you from playing in THIS league!

Brewer: Any rule that prevents the best player from taking part can't be right!

Referee: I shall be reporting this to the Schoolboys Football Association: we'll let them decide for us shall we?

(The atmosphere changes as MISS VALLAS steps forward. The scene freezes for MISS VALLAS'S monologue).

Miss Vallas (2): I was Sarah's form teacher at that time and also used to teach her Netball. There was one conversation I had with Sarah that I remember really quite distinctly. It was just myself and a few others from her class discussing what they were going to do when they left school they were saying things like

"When I grow up I'm going to be an actor" or an "astronaut" or mundane things like "work in a shop" or "work in an office".

I was hardly prepared for what Sarah was about to say.

"When I grow up I'm going to have a sex change". So I said: "Why Sarah?"

I was mentally preparing myself for all manner of possible accounts. Everything was just buzzing around in my mind.

Her answer though was very clear.

"I want to have a sex change so that I can play football properly in a men's team.

It was as simple as that. That was her sole reason for wanting it.

It was really sad to discover that this nine year old child had to think along those lines to pursue her dream in life and that in this day and age there is not equality in something as basic as a sports activity.

SFA Official (4): Schoolboys Football Association. Response to Referees Report.

Brewer: Wrist slapping time.

SFA: If you throw football open to girls then the Netball Association would have to change their rules to allow boys to play.

Brewer: So what!

SFA: It's just not practical to spend time and money setting up a Schoolgirls' League. You would probably only be able drum up fifty girls from the whole of Southampton.

Brewer: She's only ten can't you grant her dispensation to play?

SFA: No we can not!!! Furthermore, if the situation is repeated either you, Mr. Brewer, or the school you are appointed to will receive a ban.

Brewer: Somehow I got the impression that it would be a ban for somewhere in the region of ten years!

SFA: Now if you don't go away I'll shoot you!

(He gets out a water pistol and chases BREWER. They have a cartoon style fight, the staging of this can be very imaginative. Ultimately BREWER dies elaborately).

SFA: He won't be bothering me again.

Brewer: Too right. I knew where I stood! It was blatant discrimination. Thank heavens things have changed now!

SFA: Yes they have and I'm going to tell you how. Girls have more opportunities to play in schools and small sided leagues. In 1998 the FA funded a talent identification and performance programme. As a result there are now over 20 Centres of Excellence for the best girls aged between 10-16 years based at professional men's clubs one of them is at Southampton FC. So we've done well don't you think?

Brewer: Great but why did the FA ban women's football in the first place?

SFA: It was a long time ago.

Brewer: Yeh 1921 to be precise. But why? Just tell me why?

SFA: They believed it wasn't suitable

Brewer: They were worried that the popularity of the women's game while the men were away at war would threaten the men's game. That's why the F.A. suddenly branded it "unsuitable".

SFA: We did rescind the ban in 1971.

Brewer: Yeh 50 years of prejudice.

SFA: Carry on with the story Brewer this is an irrelevant side-track.

Brewer: I will but I think you at the FA have considerable ground to make up even now.

So, to help Sedge I contacted Pat Chapman the manager of the then top local women's football team Red Star Southampton maybe she could help

Sedge: After only one training session she offered me a contract.

Brewer: However the rules of the Women's league at that time stated that clubs are not allowed to play anyone in a League match under the age of thirteen.

Sedge: I HAD THREE WHOLE YEARS TO WAIT! It wasn't fair but I was happy just so long as I could train with the rest of the women.

Brewer: There's another thing Sedge if you DO sign for Red Star you won't be allowed to play for any other team.

Sedge: What? Not even England?

Brewer: *(With a smile)*. One step at a time eh Sedge!

Sedge: I'll be playing for England before long you'll see!

SECTION 5: RED CARD FROM MUM

Sedge: (*Carrying / playing with a football as is almost always the case throughout the rest of the play*).

Now that I was training with Red Star I knew I could make it I mean they were one of the best Women's football teams in the country. Everything was going so well but I was not prepared for what was to happen a few months later. I arrived home from school to find a policewoman sitting in our front room.

WPC Elliot: (5) I've been asked to call in and see you tonight because there's been some shoplifting from Drifters over the last six months.

Sedge: What could I say?

Rob: Sedge, the Police Officer found these Transformers in your room.

Sedge: I felt so humiliated. There was nothing I could do so I admitted it.

WPC Elliot: Was anyone else involved?

Rob: Sedge, if anyone else was involved you'd better say now so that we can sort it out. If it was you on your own then you're going to have to face up to it.

Sedge: I couldn't grass my mates up it's just not done well is it?

WPC Elliot: Do you know someone called Stephen Carey?

Sedge: They knew all along. They just wanted to see if I'd tell tales.

WPC Elliot: Steven was caught shoplifting today and when we asked him who else has been involved he mentioned your name.

Sedge: The bastard and here I am protecting him!

WPC Elliot: We want you to make a list of everything you have taken. Then on Wednesday you'll come up to the station with all the things that you have put on the list and we'll ask you to make a statement.

Sedge: What'll happen?

WPC Elliot: My senior officer will decide what action is to be taken. (*Exit*).

Sedge: In the end I was given a verbal warning and told that nothing would go on my record unless I got into trouble again before I was eighteen. The ball was in my court.

Sue: (*Taking the football away from SEDGE*). Get up to your room. Now!!!

Rob: Go on Sedge.

(*SEdge exits*).

Sue: She shouldn't be hanging around with these boys trying to prove herself all the time.

Rob: What are we going to do?

Sue: Ban her from *Red Star*.

Rob: The season doesn't start again until August so it'll hardly affect her.

Sue: That depends on how long we ban her for.

Rob: What do you mean?

Sue: A ban for next season would make the point.

Rob: The whole of next season?

Sue: Well why not?

Rob: It'll be like a lifetime to her

Sue: We've got to do something to hurt her.

Rob: But she's got a real talent everyone down there says so.

Sue: It's only because no other girls play anyway, she can't even play for the blooming team until she's thirteen. With luck she'll be into something different by then.

Rob: That's not the point.

Sue: What exactly is the point?

Rob: She's done something wrong, she's been seen by the police, she's been scared but it hasn't got anything to do with her training at Red Star.

Sue: What do you suggest then?

Rob: Stop her pocket money.... something like that.

Sue: That's not serious enough.

Rob: What about making her do all the washing up? She'd find that difficult!

Sue: You know what she's like and we'd need a warehouse full of Super-glue to sort out all the breakages no Rob, I'm quite clear on this one. We've got to make a stand!

(They freeze. SEDGE enters).

Sedge: How long are you banning me for?

Rob: We've decided that it should be for next season.

Sedge: What, all of it?

Rob: That's what we've decided.

Sedge: You can't!

Sue: You've got to realise how serious it is Sedgie.

Sedge: But it's got nothing to do with Red Star.

Sue: We're not going to change our minds are we Rob?

Sedge: *(To SUE).* You decided this didn't you? You've done this just to try and stop me from playing football haven't you?

Rob: We've both agreed on what we should do.

Sedge: If I was a boy you'd never have done this to me and anyway if I was a boy it wouldn't matter as much because I could still play for the school.

Sue: You've got to see the punishment through.

Sedge: What am I going to say to Pat? I don't want her knowing what's happened!

Rob: Then we won't tell her.

Sedge: She'll think I've lost interest.

Rob: We'll find a way round it somehow.

Sedge: How?

Rob: We've got some time to think on that.

Sedge: There's no way round it.

Sue: Sedge no amount of argument is going to make us change our minds.

Sedge: I hate you! I really hate you!

All: (*Sung plaintively*).

Wanna be in that number when the Saints go marching in.

SECTION 6: PUBERTY BLUES?

Rob: That year was by no means Sedge's favourite.

Sedge: The ban was compounded by a long teachers' strike where all after-school activities were stopped.

Rob: At twelve she transferred to a local secondary school where the sports facilities were amazing.

Sedge: But, initially there no more opportunity for my football to develop

Rob: She kept her interest up and after serving her year's ban was back at Red Star training for her thirteenth birthday when she could play in the league.

Paul (4): Once again Sedge would be fighting for her place in a team

Rob: She was fired with determination.

Paul (4): driven with ambition.

Rob: To be the best.

Paul (4): To be the winner.

Rob: The scorer of the goals.

Rob & Paul: The girl who scores the goals.

Rob: But at thirteen there were other surprises in store other hurdles to jump introducing Debbie, Sedge's eight year old sister and very much a "girl"!

(Enter DEBBIE (5) as PAUL exits).

Debbie (5): Wicked! A wicked idea to get my own back on my big sister.

Rob: The first of her "surprises" came to us via Debbie.

Debbie: Dad?

Rob: Yes Debbie.

Debbie: Dad? What's what's a Tampax?

Sue: Pardon Debbie.

Debbie: Shouldn't I ask then?

Sue: Of course you should.

Debbie: Wicked! What are they then?

Rob: It's something girls use when they're older.

Debbie: Does Sedge use them?

Sue: Why do you ask that?

Debbie: I can't say.

Sue: Come on Debbie what's going on?

Debbie: She'll kill me!

Rob: What do you mean?

Debbie: You know strangle, stab, suffocate

Sue: Debbie please I want you to

Debbie: She's been making me go to the shop to buy them for her.

Rob & Sue: Oh has she now?

Debbie: Now she's really in trouble! Wicked!!!

Rob: Sedge's first period was a real bombshell. She couldn't put up with how she felt. She was angry and resentful about it. She felt that it was yet another problem that men didn't have to have. She saw it as her own inefficiency, not as something natural. She thought it would be the end of her sport. She asked me if she could have an operation to stop it from happening permanently. She made me take her up to the doctor's.

By a stroke of luck she saw a young guy straight out of college with all the new ideas; he explained that every sportswoman in the world had this problem and that there was a solution to it. He gave her the pill so that she could control her period bring it backwards or forwards to ensure that she was all right for the sports fixtures.

It was like a big load lifted off her. She finally had an answer to it. It was just as if she'd had an operation and it was all cured. She was over the moon! But that was only the start soon there'd be an on-going saga every day when she arrived home from school

Sue: And it started significantly just after her thirteenth birthday when she became eligible to play for Red Star's league team.

Sedge: Hi mum!

Sue: Hello love how (*Catches sight of SEDGE*) Sarah you have got your

bra on haven't you?

Sedge: I took it off because I had to have a shower at school.

Sue: Well, why didn't you put it back on again?

Sedge: No point! I was coming home.

Sue: What difference does that make?

Sedge: It itches!

Sue: You'll get used to it.

Sedge: I don't see why I have to wear one.

Sue: Well you do.

Sedge: Why can't I wear what I want to wear? I don't tell you or dad to make sure you've got your knickers on.

Sue: You just have to wear one and that's final.

Sedge: Why?

Sue: You're of an age where men will notice.

Sedge: These ones are no good. I need a Sports Bra!

Sue: Sarah, the only bras I buy for you are sports bras!

Sedge: I'm not wearing one unless it fits properly.

Sue: Yes you are! Suppose someone notices and comments to me about it.

Sedge: I don't care!

Sue: I just don't understand why you're so funny about wearing them!

Sedge: You know why they get in the way.

Sue: What do you mean?

Sedge: You wouldn't understand.... you don't play football!

Sue: If anything, they should help you.

(ROB enters with a small sandwich box and two sports shop bags).

Sue: Thank God you're here.... Sarah came back from school again without her bra on!

Rob: If you want to go football training tonight, just go and put the bloody thing on!

Sedge: You don't understand!

Rob: No, I don't do we have to have an inspection every morning and every night we get upset, you get upset, and the radiator in your room gets beaten up again and again.

Sue: If she doesn't wear it at school we'll have the teachers phoning us up about it

Rob: Well she's going to wear it aren't you Sedgie? *(No response)*. Aren't you Sedge?

Sedge: I suppose so!

Rob: Right go and get your stuff ready for football. We've got to be there for six o'clock.

(She goes to exit).

Rob: Sedge.

Sedge: *(Aggressively).* What?

Rob: I bought this for you.

Sedge: What is it?

Rob: Have a look.

Sedge: *(Takes out an expensive track suit)* Wow! Thanks dad!

Rob: Just make sure you put your bra on eh?

Sedge: All right.

(Exits).

Sue: What did you go and do that for?

Rob: What?

Sue: You know what You didn't say you were going to

Rob: She served her ban I wanted her to know that, at least, I am behind her.

Sue: The other day she was even talking about turning professional and going over to Italy.

Rob: That's what she'd have to do.

Sue: Rob she's only thirteen.

Rob: But she can dream I doubt she will go out there if she did, great at least she's got an interest and she's committed to it. It's really healthy!

Sue: I just don't want her to end up beingwell you know come on then Rob what do they look like then these women footballers?

Rob: What does it matter? I don't take any notice really.

Sue: Since when did you not take any notice of women?

Rob: They don't all look the same. It's just that they all play football.

Sue: So why won't you give me a straight answer?

Rob: They come in all shapes and sizes just like any women, athletes, tennis players even women down our club!

Sue: You wouldn't find any of the women down our club playing football.

Debbie: *(Interrupts from offstage).* Mum?

Sue: Yes Debbie.

Debbie: Can I show you something?

Sue: Of course you can.

(DEBBIE enters wearing a bra on the OUTSIDE of her jumper).

Sue: Debbie!

Sue & Rob: What are you doing?

Debbie: I've got Sedgie's bra on!

Sue: I can see that but why are you wearing it?

Debbie: Well, Sarah won't I think it looks wicked!

Sue: It looks lovely darling but I reckon it would look even better

Sue & Rob: under your jumper!

Sedge: I remember once in a muck around match with my mates at the Sports Centre. There weren't enough shirts to go round and I was a sub. One of the nippers suddenly got injured so I had to come on in a bit of a hurry. He gave me his shirt and I went to change behind a bush. By this time I'd developed a habit of conveniently "losing" my bras so on this occasion I wasn't wearing one it was so embarrassing everyone was looking over and laughing! Even that wasn't quite as embarrassing as when my little scam was uncovered.

Rob: *(Enters carrying a holdall).* Sedge What's this?

Sedge: Dad, that's mine!

Rob: I know I found it in the garage hidden behind the shelves!

Sue: What is it Rob?

Sedge: Don't Dad. Please!!!

Rob: You'll never guess what's in here Sue?

Sue: What?

Rob: Go on.... you'll never believe it!

Sedge: *(Trying to prise it off him).* Dad!!!

Sue: What?

Sedge: *(He starts to unzip the bag she tries to stop him).* Dad don't.

Rob: Bras!!!

Sue: Sarah!

Rob: Do you know how many bras are in here?

Sedge: Dad!!!

Rob: Sixteen! I wonder how they got there

Sue: That'll be enough to last you for a good long time to come.

Sedge: I'm off out!

Sue: Sarah!!!

Sedge: I'll be back in about an hour. I'm meeting Paul at the shop!

SECTION 7: SPANNER IN THE WORKS.

Sedge & Paul: Local shops!!! Hard nuts!!!

Spanner (5): A quaint (?) little hideaway for out of nappy in-betweenies
Keep themselves cleanies
Where saucy secrets are given their first airing of this generation
Flavoured with a strong scent
Of trying to invent
A better story than the one the night before.
Welcoming peers' ears approve
Before the following night they go on to improve
And prove
Themselves.
Real life "Chinese Whispers" where truth and fantasy merge
To emerge as "I'm growing up".
All this outside the local shop, alongside "environmentally
friendly" human consumer
Providing ball substitute for a new Lineker to score another
scorcher.
Hearty shouting, no doubting the skill of that particular kill.
But we're only on the outside
Inside kid's eye paradise.
A shop selling sugary sweets and sweet picture comics.
Just above
Hidden from view
A few out of reach dirty mags
With piccies the wet-behind-the-ears eyes love to spy.
Sexism on the shelf making pelf.
The mags and miles and miles of fags
Takes you from riches to rags
Dozens and dozens and dozens
Waiting for lips to drool or some fool

(Gestures to PAUL) To buy them.

Why are thrills always out of reach to each and every kid?
Well maybe not

(Enter SHOPKEEPER (2)).

Spanner (5): A need-the-money shopkeeper
But very kindly

What a find
A child styled on street corner adults and ready to be trapped
Strapped into wanting

Spanner, Sedge & Paul: Cigarettes.

Paul: 20 Embassy please.

Spanner: He says in his most adult of voices but not bothering to wear his expensive false beard.

Shopkeeper (2): (*Over elaborately costumed as old fashioned shopkeeper*). Are you sure you're over sixteen laddie?

Spanner: Says the shopkeeper, (*rubbing her hands with glee*) eager to hook another youngster and ensure a steady income throughout his secondary schooling.

Paul: (*In a mock "deep" voice*). I've just had my birthday I'm forty-eight!

Spanner: He says, exposing how immoral they really are, and just in case they see through his little fiction he puts his false beard on. (*Does so*).

Paul: That's bound to let me buy them!

Shopkeeper: We have to ask, just to cover ourselves you know. (*Suddenly becoming very over aggressive, grabbing PAUL by the shirt collar*). Give me all your money.... fags are expensive! (*Throws PAUL down*).

Paul: But worth it!

Shopkeeper: They're certainly worth it to me! (*SHOPKEEPER take all the money PAUL has, fiddles with the mimed till and hands the cigarettes to PAUL*). Ting!

(*Exits*).

Paul: (*To SEDGE*). Cigarettes. Do you want to try one?

Spanner: Think Sedge
Think of your football
Don't be a burk
You don't want a spanner up your work!

Sedge: Yes.... all right!

Spanner: Spanner No. 1. Clank!

Paul & Sedge: 'Ard nuts!

Spanner: (*Standing behind SEDGE and PAUL, almost treating them as puppets*).
Breath in inhale cough! Breath in inhale cough! Breath in
inhale cough!

Paul: Good aren't they?

Spanner: Breath in inhale cough!

Sedge: Yeh suppose so.

Paul what would you do if you had a daughter like me?

Paul: What do you mean?

Sedge: Would you let her play football and that?

Paul: Course!

Sedge: What about if your son wanted to be a ballet dancer?

Paul: I dunno.

Sedge: Go on what would you think?

Paul: It's a bit different isn't it?

Sedge: No.

Paul: I'd be embarrassed.

Sedge: What, like my mum is about me?

Paul: Do you ever wish you were a boy?

Sedge: No way! Why?

Paul: Just wondered.

Sedge: My mum's strange. She's quite the business woman the latest is that my dad's bought this new place for the company and there's a shop attached to it, so mum and Auntie Lorraine are going to manage it well traditionally that's a man's job, but she doesn't give that a second thought I don't understand her it just doesn't make sense.

(PAUL is in another world).

Sedge: Paul? Oh I am sorry am I boring you?

Paul: What? No.

Sedge: What's up then?

Paul: Sedge.

Sedge: Yes.

Paul: There's something I've got to tell you.

Sedge: Yeh.

Paul: I don't know how to put it.

Sedge: What on earth are you going to say?

Paul: It's really awkward.

Sedge: Well, don't then I don't care.

Paul: But I need to.

Sedge: This is stupid!

Paul: I've been getting hassle recently.

Sedge: What do you mean?

Paul: People reckon I'm seeing you.

Sedge: And?

Paul: *(Pause)*. Look well it's just that going around with you could affect my chances of going out with other girls.

Sedge: You bastard!

Paul: I'm sorry but it's

Sedge: I thought you were my best mate.

Paul: I know it's stupid cos I can talk to you better than I can to anyone else.

Sedge: People are always asking me about me and you. It's none of their business.

Paul: They make it their business.

Sedge: You can't fall to these people. You're dusting me off just cos I'm a girl
like you said you'd never do.

Paul: Yeh, I know It's just that

Sedge: Just what?

Paul: I can't say!

Sedge: So that's it is it? (*Stubs out the cigarette and makes to leave*).

Paul: No no don't go.

Sedge: If you've got nothing else to say, there's no point in me hanging around.

Paul: Sedge!

Sedge: Well is there?

Paul: It's not that easy!

Sedge: You've got to decide what you want and stop messing me about. It's not
fair on me either.

Paul: I don't think you'll understand.

Sedge: Try me.

Paul: It's Cassie.

Sedge: Tart!

Paul: She's not Sedge.

Sedge: In my opinion she is.

Paul: It's just that she won't keep going out with me unless I stop seeing you.

Sedge: But I'm a mate Paul, it's different with "mates"!

Paul: Yeh, I know.

Sedge: So what's going to happen at school then? We don't sit next to each other
no more? We don't play football no more? We don't talk to each other no
more? We don't mess around no more? You're going to make everything
change because some little tart starts telling you what to do! I thought you
were my best mate Paul. I thought you were my very best mate!

Paul: I don't know what to think.

Sedge: (*Passionately*). I get it all the time in this bloody "girl" business! Why
does it all matter so much to everyone?

Paul: (*Brief pause*). I'm sorry. I didn't think

Sedge: Well you ought to.

Paul: Yeh, sorry.

Sedge: What are we going to do now then?

Paul: Want another fag?

Sedge: Yeh good idea!

Spanner: Forbidden fruit festering in her lungs
Nico-teenage temptation came to kill that
Some say
Misplaced football skill.
One year on and all those boring "don't smoke" warnings she's
ignoring
"Don't affect my game!"
She'll exclaim
Claiming she's immune
In tune with her body
So much so that Pat, the Red Star coach, makes her approach
To Sedge and asks her to play for the first team.
That night at home someone mentioned football.

Sue: Rob, you knew we were going to see Alex and Linda on Sunday.

Rob: Oh no I forgot!

Sue: What are you going to do about it?

Rob: There's not much I can do now I said to Pat that she could play!

Sue: You'll have to phone this Pat up and say that we've got something else on.

Rob: I can't.

Sue: Of course you can.

Rob: She'll let the team down.

Sue: And what about us letting Alex and Linda down I'm not telling them we're not coming down because Sarah's "playing football".

Rob: I'll do it if you want.

Sue: Don't be facetious!

Rob: Well I'm sure they'll understand.

Sue: I'm not.

Rob: You get yourself so wound up by it all.

Sue: I'm constantly having to back down over it all. I don't ever want her to play Rob they forget how young she is. The training's far too tough for her I'd do anything to stop her I hate it so much.

Rob: She must be coping or they wouldn't play her.

Sue: Every Tuesday you and her are off out training I've accepted that, now, if she keeps on being picked it's going to be Sundays, you'll be off to God knows where and we won't have weekends anymore. It's not fair on Debbie or me!

Rob: It's not fair on Sedge to stop her from doing the one thing she's really good at.

M4 & F5: Read all about it! Read all about it!

M4: Red Stars package stuns the Gunners.

[Add as much choreographed movement to this sequence to animate the atmosphere of SEDGE'S goal scoring achievement. Each goal should be scored in a different way].

Sedge: Goal! Goal! Goal!

F5: A Sarah Stanbury hat-trick took Red Star Southampton to the top of the Home Counties Division 1 following their 4-0 victory over Arsenal.

SECTION 8: ANOTHER HURDLE.

Spanner No. 2: Passing time

(M4) Passing balls
Passing goal-scoring records
Critics passing judgment claim
Stanbury's soccer fame
Is just around the corner
Yawn a-way classic "against all odds" script
As Sedge is tipped.
But add an "r" and Sedge is tripped
She's clipped another hurdle
Temptation number two
"Boo" plus "z" makes booze
Sad and obvious downfall clues.
Fifteen and drinking
Sinking thrills of football skills
Sedge should be as happy as a lark
As she plays more teams off the park
Here a goal, there a goal, everywhere a goal

All: Goal!!!

Spanner 2: But Pat, the Red Star coach, has an Ace up her sleeve
Some news on match day Sedge could not believe

Pat (F5): You're sub!

Spanner: Pat had seen her down the pub!

Pat: After the match I want a chat

Spanner: And then thought Sedge "Screw you"

But deep inside she knew

She would have to savour Pat's "word or two".

Pat: You know why you were sub today don't you?

Sedge: No!

Pat: If you don't come to training, you can't expect to play

Sedge: I sent a message in.

Spanner: Georgie Best training
Tests the resolve of those who quest your thrills
Your skills.

Pat: I heard you were out with your mates.

Sedge: I had a bad back.

Pat: Then you should have had the courtesy to phone me and let me know. What's more you were late this morning.

Sedge: It's not my fault!

Pat: It's your responsibility. If you don't make the effort to speak to me then what am I to believe?

Sedge: I'm sorry.

Pat: You didn't look like you were ready for a football match. Had you been drinking last night?

Sedge: A bit.

Pat: It's not for me to say where you go or what you do, but turning up late, with a hangover, and missing training sessions is not on while you're playing for us.

Sedge: I know.

Pat: We've got thirteen players turning up for training and I just can't play one who misses and turns up late. You're no good to me like that.

Sedge: It was only once.

Pat: Once too many. Girls like you don't come along very often Sedge. You know we've all got really high hopes for you. You mustn't throw it all away. You could really make a name for yourself.

Spanner: Both spanners in the work removed
Bit by bit her attitudes improved
Mistakes she vows she won't repeat
Complete her case
For finding a regular first team place
As a regular Red Star face.

M3 & 4: Read all about it! Read all about it!

M4: Red Star's ginger bombshell lived up to her "Lethal in the box" reputation again today as she repeatedly weaved her way into Fulham's penalty area setting up two spectacular goals for her team-mates.

All: Red Star Champions!

F5: Stars shame proud lions!

M4: Young Sarah Stanbury shone today in one of Red Star's finest performances of the season. I would hope that, like so many of her team mates she will, sometime soon, be accorded international honours.

M3: News!

M3 & M4: Red hot news!

Sedge: Sedge's school football team win their division.

All: Yeh!

Sedge: Without Sedge.

All: Without Sedge?

Sedge: She's a girl.

F5: However, two years later in her GCSE PE exam.

M4: She achieved a higher mark for her football skills than any of the school team members.

All: More good news.

Pat: I had a call from Liz Deigan.

Sedge: The England Under 21 manager?

Pat: She wants you to go for a training weekend at Lilleshall.

Sedge: You're joking!

Pat: You've worked hard for this. You've made your mistakes but you've pulled through. You've got your foot in the door now.

Sedge: What do you reckon my chances are?

Pat: It depends on how you play.

Sedge: I want that number seven shirt Pat.

Pat: Go out and get it then!

All: Sedge!

SECTION 9: A CHANGE OF HEART?

(SUE is busy with a domestic chore. Some new expensive football boots are clearly visible).

Sue: Rob what are you doing?

Rob: *(Offstage).* Nearly done it.

Sue: *(Hearing a noise).* Sarah is that you?

Sedge: *(Offstage).* Yeh.

Sue: Had a good birthday?

Sedge: What, at school with a Maths exam?

Sue: When they're over you'll really miss school.

Sedge: All I'll miss is PE and messing around in Darlek's lesson. (*Impersonating*).
If your homework is not in I will exterminate you!!!

Sue: Miss Fipps is a very nice person.

Sedge: She's a crap teacher!

Sue: I don't know how she puts up with you all.

Sedge: She doesn't she chucks most of us out she must have the smallest
classes in the world!

Sue: Oh Paul phoned he's coming over.

Sedge: What now?

Sue: And there's a letter for you in the kitchen I think it's about the England
under 21's.

Rob: (*Entering*). Here you are love.

Sedge: Yes!!!

Sue: Go on then. Open it!

Sedge: (*Opening it*). All right Mum. Calm down!

Sue: What does it say then?

Sedge: Hang on.

Rob: Is it

Sedge: It's the arrangements for the training weekend.

Sue: Debbie'll be pleased away for the whole weekend!

Rob: I can just imagine it

Rob & Sue: "Wicked!"

Sedge: More like I'll be glad to be away from her.

Rob: You'd better step up your training Sedge.

Sedge: No need. I'm as fit as I'll ever be.

Rob: Your Achilles?

Sedge: Sorted.

Rob: I hope it is.

Sedge: It is Dad don't worry.

Sue: Here's Paul.

Paul: Happy Birthday Sedgie. I made this little card for you.

Sedge: Couldn't be bothered to buy one then?

Paul: I'm not wasting my money on you!

Sedge: You just don't care for me!

Paul: I care for you more than all the leaves on an autumn tree.

Sue: Paul!!!

Rob: Come on then tell Paul the good news.

Sedge: Paul!!! That's vulgar! That's really disgusting I don't know how you can

draw that on someone's birthday card!

(PAUL laughs).

Sue: Let's have a look then.

Sedge: No way!!!

Paul: Hey *(Looking at the pair of expensive football boots).* These must have set someone back a bit!

Sedge: Guess who bought them?

Paul: Your mum?

Sedge & Rob: Got it in one.

Paul: Seriously?

Sedge: You were really interested in the catalogue, weren't you?

Sue: I wanted to get you the ones you liked.

Paul: Bit of a change in attitude?

Sue: I really admire what she's done she's had no help from me she's had to be so determined I really admire what she's done.

Paul: You have got into the England team?

Sedge: They've invited me to a training weekend.

Paul: When do we ask for your autograph?

Sedge: I'll do it now if you want but I've got to sort out the details for my Visa first!

Paul: If she plays for England will you go and watch her Sue?

Rob: Yes she would.

Sedge: Sue?

Sue: I'd probably hate it but I'd go.

Rob: You'd enjoy it if you let yourself.

Sue: I'd enjoy it if you offered to help around the house sometimes!

Sedge: I was telling Paul we're going out jogging, every evening if you get home from work on time.

Sue: I'm going to get fit so that I can play her at Badminton.

Sedge: I'll still beat you!

Sue: I'm not playing to win Sarah it's just for fun.

Rob: I never believed I'd see the day when you two are involved in a sporting activity together.

Sue: I'm full of surprises! There's Debbie I'll go and let her in.

Sedge: When are you going to let me have my football trophies on display down here then?

Sue: Never! *(She goes offstage).*

Sedge: She won't ever really change.

Sue: I've got to draw the line somewhere.

Debbie: Dad, Sedge can I tell you something?

Rob: Course you can Debbie.

Debbie: Sedge are you listening?

Sedge: Go on!

Debbie: I scored a goal today!

Sedge: That's more like it Debs.

Sue: What did you say Deborah?

Debbie: It was a header.

Sue: Have you been playing football at school today?

Debbie: It was wicked!!!

Sue: Well don't you go thinking you can start doing everything Sarah's done! Rob!

Rob I want you to have a word with her.

Rob: Oh no! No way. I'm not going through all that again.

Debbie: You wait Dad! Soon Sedge and me'll both be playing for England!

Sedge: I went for the training session even though I knew I had an injury to my Achilles

Rob: And she was selected for the Bulgaria tour.

Sedge: When I told Pat she said that I wasn't fit enough

Rob: She said that Sedge had lots of time and that she wouldn't do herself justice.

Sedge: That season we went on to appear in the F.A. Cup Final and we were runners up in the first year of the National Premiere League.

Rob: Sedge has been playing for all these years and to my mind nothing's really changed in the Women's game still no payment she has to pay all her travelling expenses

Sedge: I'm 26 now. I still live in Southampton and play for Wimbledon they're not in the Premiership but we've been about one point off going up for the last two seasons. I've scored between 25 and 35 goals every season.

Rob: She has to work and arrange that around her football even though she's playing for one of the top teams. It's not right.

Sedge: Dad I don't want this to sound like I'm moaning cos nothing would ever stop me from playing football. I get the same butterflies before a game begins I still love scoring goals. Football is still my passion and I still want to play for England!

All: Watch this space!

Sedge: Yeh more than anything I still want to play for England!

THE END