



# Duncan's talent – in his own words

By Rachel Hickman

A LIFELONG Manchester United fan has re-published a book written by Dudley's very own Duncan Edwards.

Nick Sharples, from Manchester, first heard about Duncan's book "Tackle Soccer This Way" a few years ago and after tracking down an original copy on eBay, found it was "a delight to read".

The book was written by the Busby Babe as a guide for young people wanting to learn how to play football, but also features a number of asides with stories about his own life and players at the time.

Tragically, Duncan never saw the book published. He died in the Munich air crash just days after handing over the final manuscript.

At first the publishers, Stanley Paul, considered not printing the

book, but with the blessing of his family, the book was published as a tribute to the United star.

The book had three print runs in 1958, which all immediately sold out, but then no more were released.

Nick, aged 34, said: "Whenever we watch Manchester United play, before the matches people always talk about who is the best footballer – and everyone used to say no-one was as good as Duncan Edwards."

"I heard about the book he had written, so I found an old copy on eBay and it was a delight to read."

"These days footballers get a lot of bad press, but this book comes from a completely different age, when football was about proper sportsmanship."

He added: "It is really well written and the standard of English is quite high. It is like a historical document, but is still also a relevant instruction manual for budding young footballers of today."

"I thought it was such a shame that this book is so hard to get hold of. Second hand copies are also expensive, they can go for anything between £70 and £200 now, so I decided to get it re-published myself."

Nick got to work tracking down the

rights to the book and hit brick walls as he found companies didn't exist anymore, or had merged into other companies.

But after finally getting the go-ahead from the publishers, he had to work out who owned what copyright and contact them to ask permission to re-use the work in the latest edition.

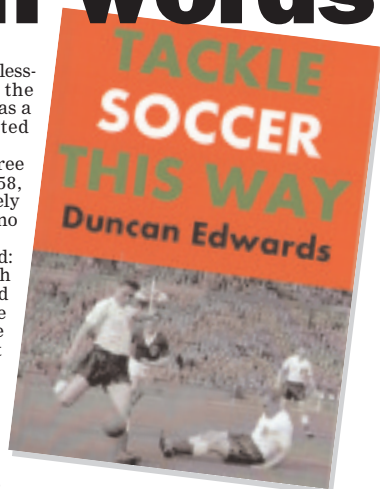
It took the dedicated Mancunian, just six months to get the book in print and get 250 copies published.

The book is almost exactly like the original, although the new version is in paperback, whereas the original was hardback.

The front cover also had to be redesigned after the owner of the original picture couldn't be found.

Nick said: "Getting the book re-published was only a side line for me, it was just a hobby. I have never done anything like this before, but I think it is brilliant."

□ The book, priced £10 with £2.50 postage and packing, is only available online at [tstw.co.uk](http://tstw.co.uk)



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