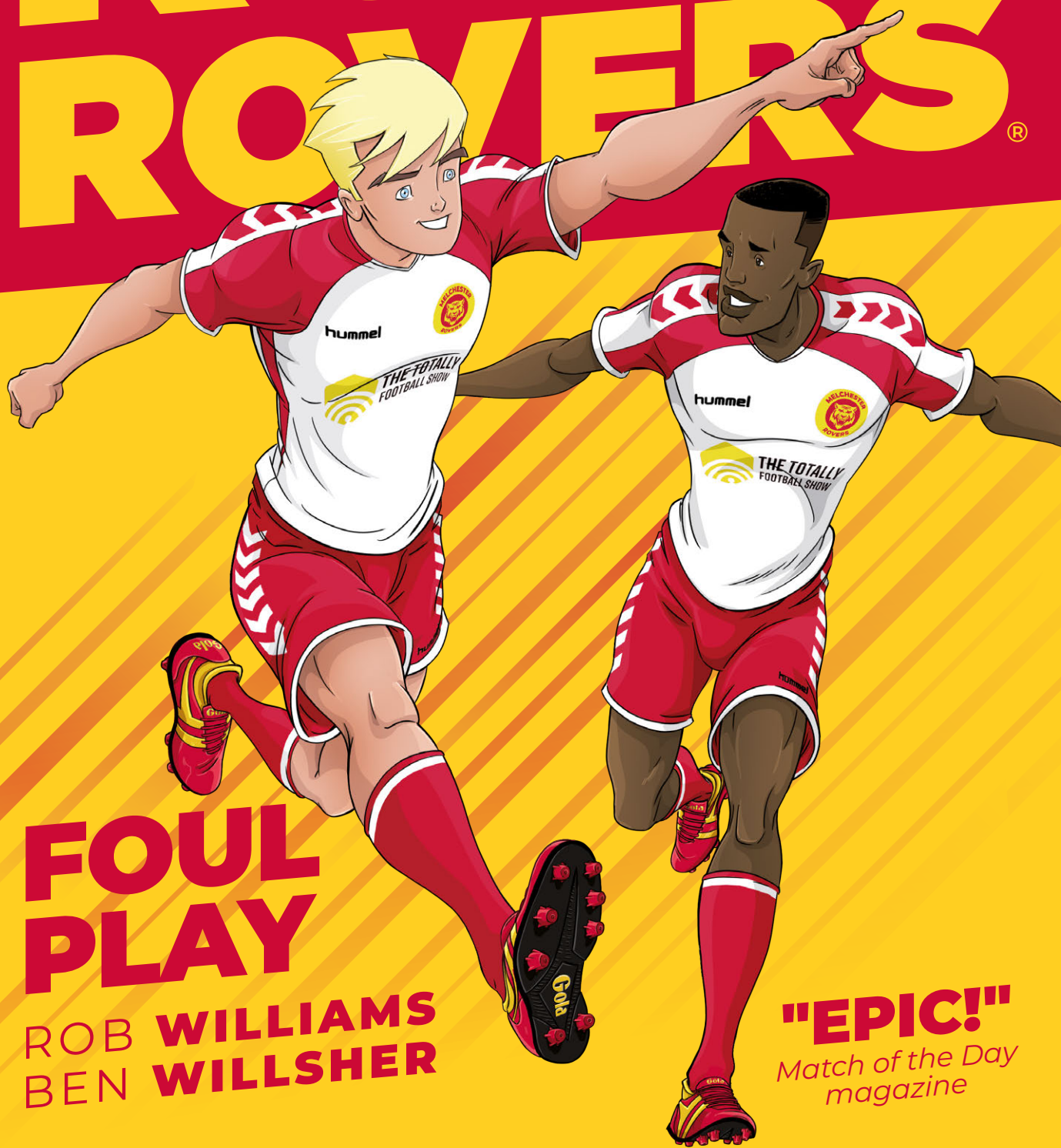


ROY OF THE ROVERS®



FOUL PLAY

ROB WILLIAMS
BEN WILLISHER

"EPIC!"
Match of the Day
magazine







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ROY OF THE ROVERS[®]



FOUL PLAY

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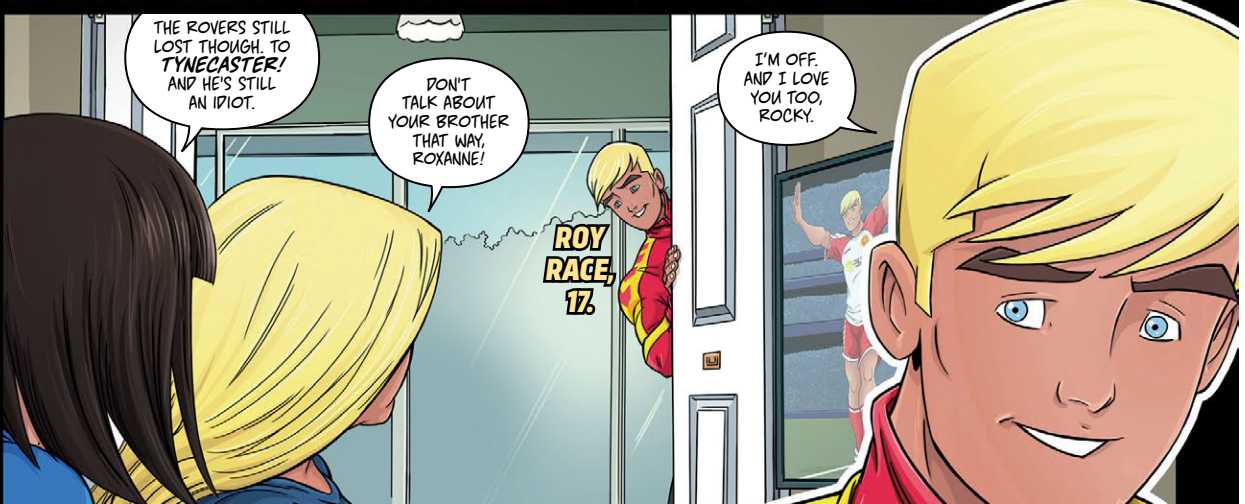
B O O K T W O
FOUL PLAY

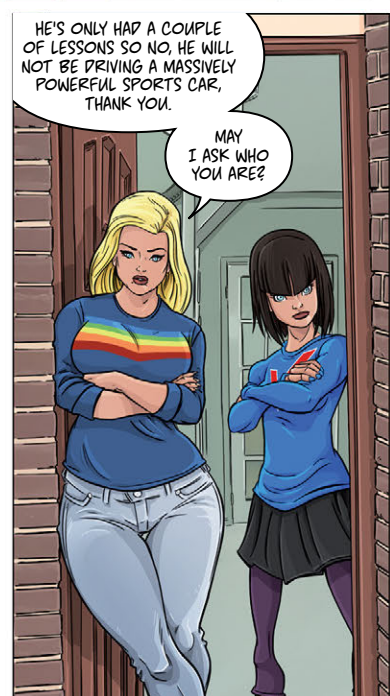
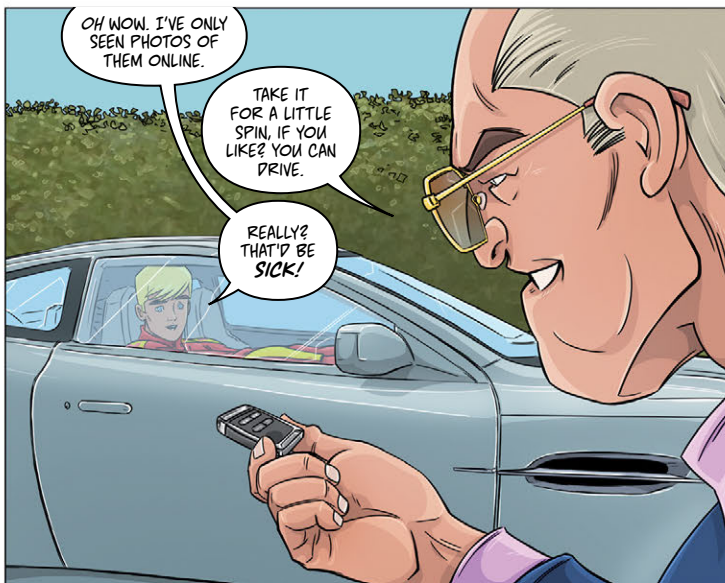
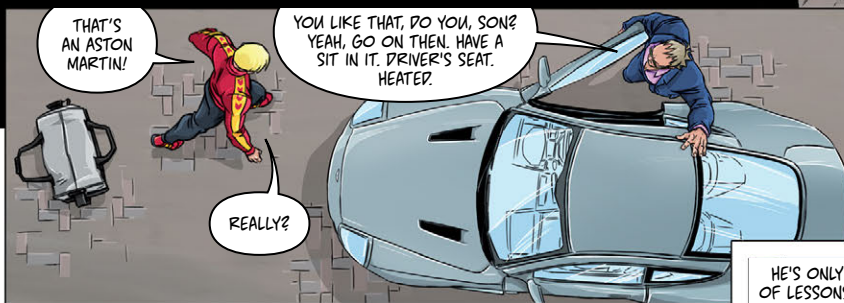
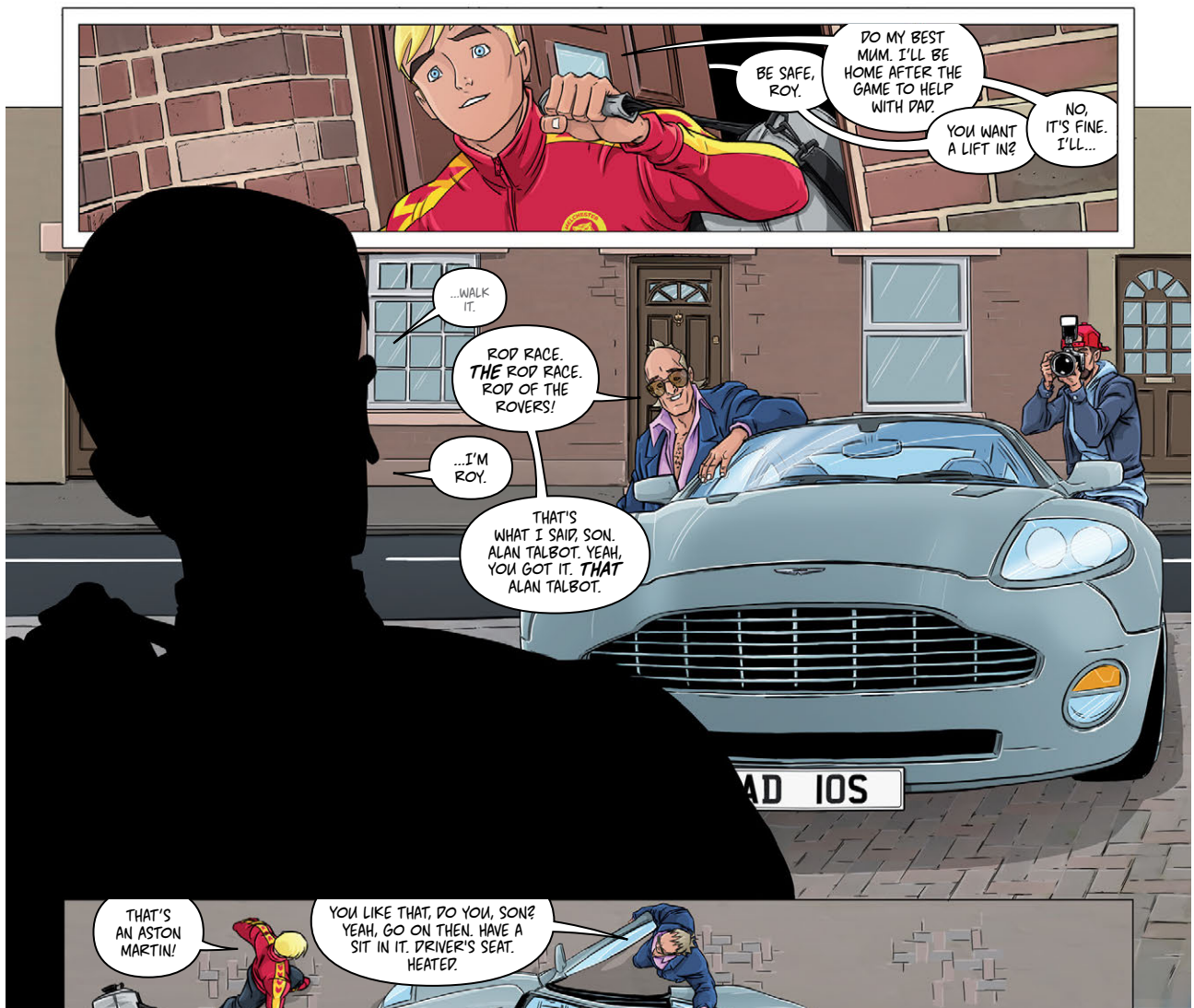
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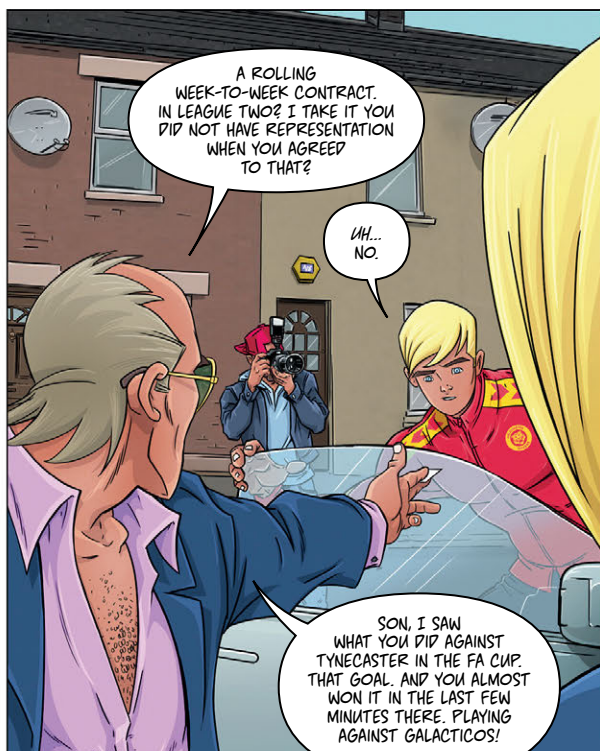
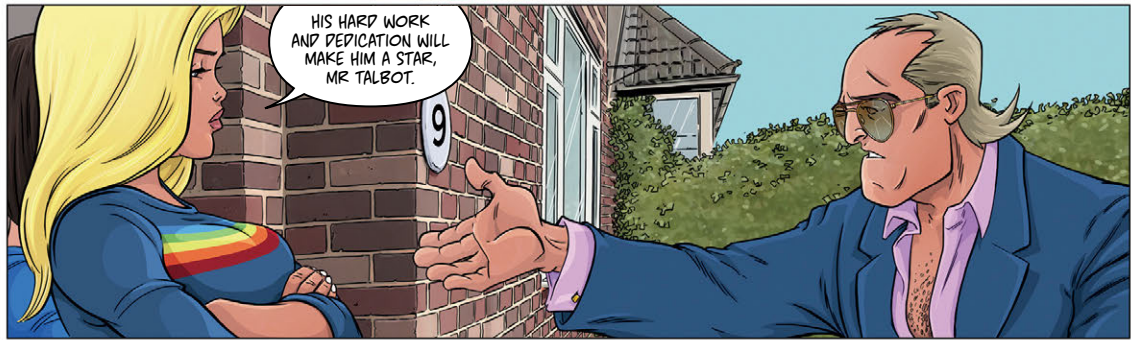
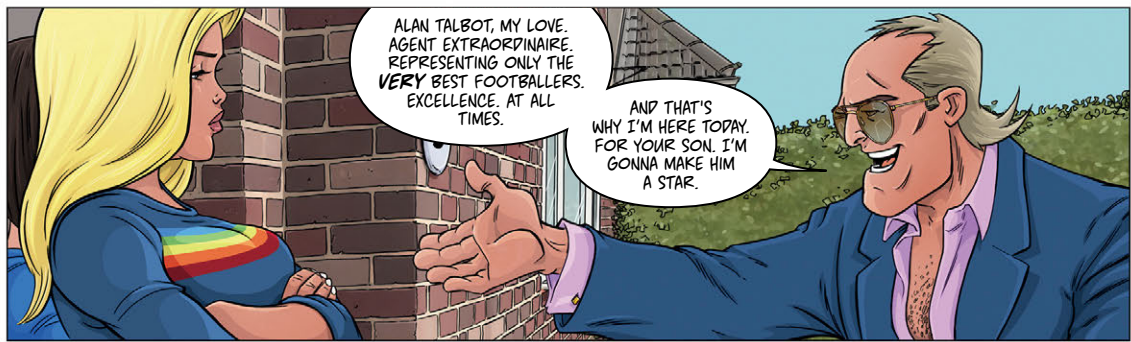
Art
BEN WILLISHER

Letters
JIM CAMPBELL

Colours
JOHN CHARLES & GUILHERME LINDEMBERG MENDES









YOU KNOW ALI CAMPBELL?
THE TYNECASTER MIDFIELDER?
JUST WON HIS FIRST
COUPLE OF ENGLAND
CAPS?

YEAH,
HE PLAYED
AGAINST US IN
THE CUP.

ONE OF MY
CREW. I SORTED HIS
TYNECASTER TRANSFER.
£29 MILLION. HE'S NOW
ON £190,000 A WEEK.

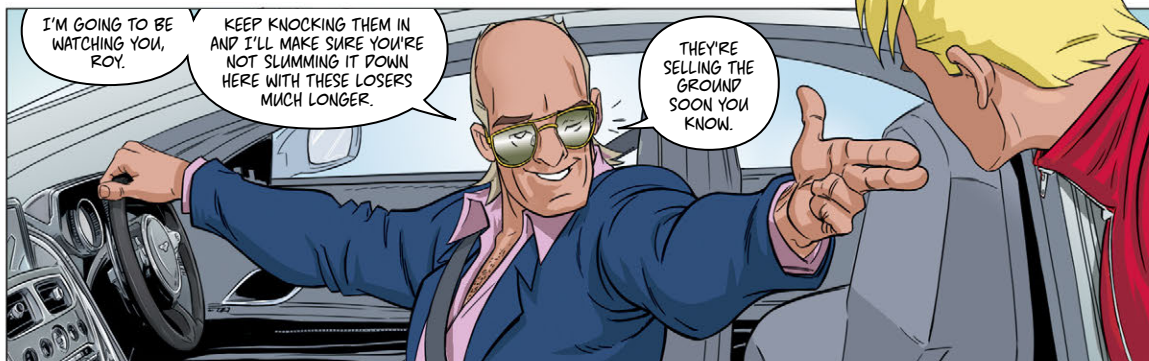
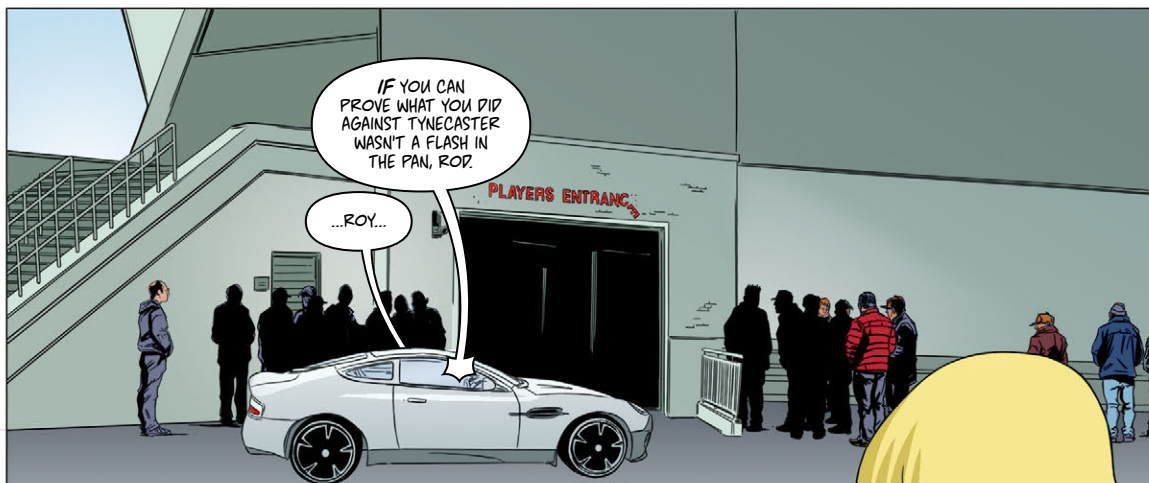
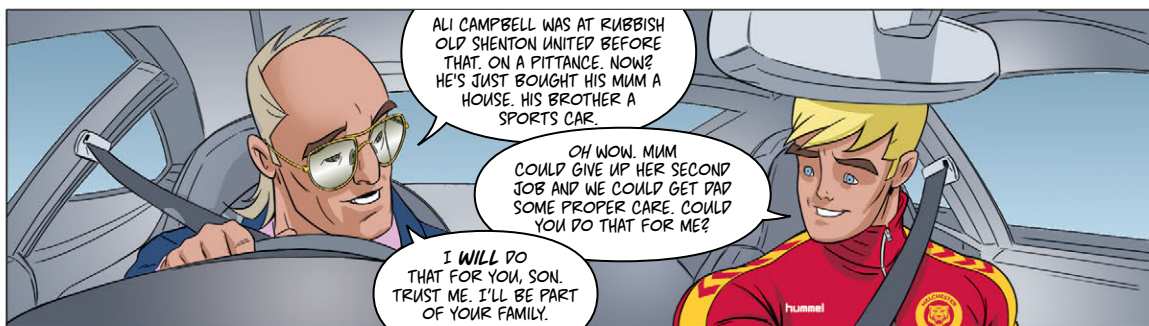
FFION!
FFION!

IT'S ME!
ROY!

ROY
RACE!

HMMM...

THAT'S A
SHAME.





ROY RACE!

MEL PARK, THE IMMORTAL MEL PARK.

GET INSIDE ITS HALLOWED BOWELS! NOW!

JOHNNY DEXTER, MELCHESTER ROVERS FIRST TEAM COACH.



ALAN TALBOT? ASTON MARTINS? YOU'VE ONLY SCORED ONE FLASH GOAL ON TV, ROY RACE OF THE ROVERS. DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY.

HE JUST TURNED UP AT MY HOUSE. NOTHING TO DO WITH ME, GAFFER!

HMM... BEFORE YOU BUY YOUR OWN HELICOPTER WITH BUILT-IN DEEP FAT FRYER MAY I REMIND YOU THAT WE'RE STILL IN THE RELEGATION ZONE?



TALBOT SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THE STADIUM BEING SOLD?

THAT SORT WILL SAY ANYTHING IF IT MAKES THEM MONEY, RACE. MY OLD AGENT ONCE PROMISED TO BUY ME A PANDA.

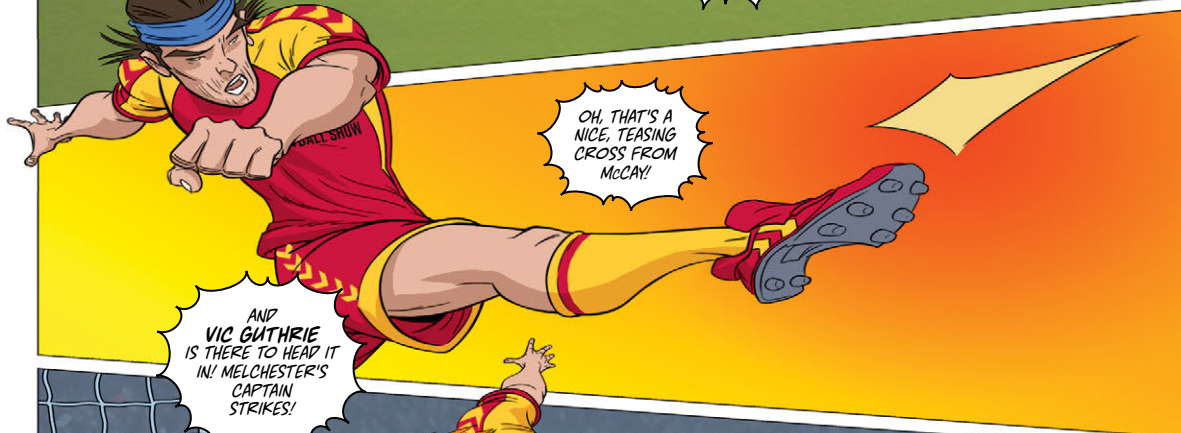
BUT HE NEVER DID...LYING GIT.



UH... JOHNNY SOUNDS GENUINELY UPSET.

HE MUST LOVE PANDAS. AND HE'S NOT BEEN THE SAME SINCE WE LOST AGAINST TYNECASTER.

HE REALLY HATES TYNECASTER.



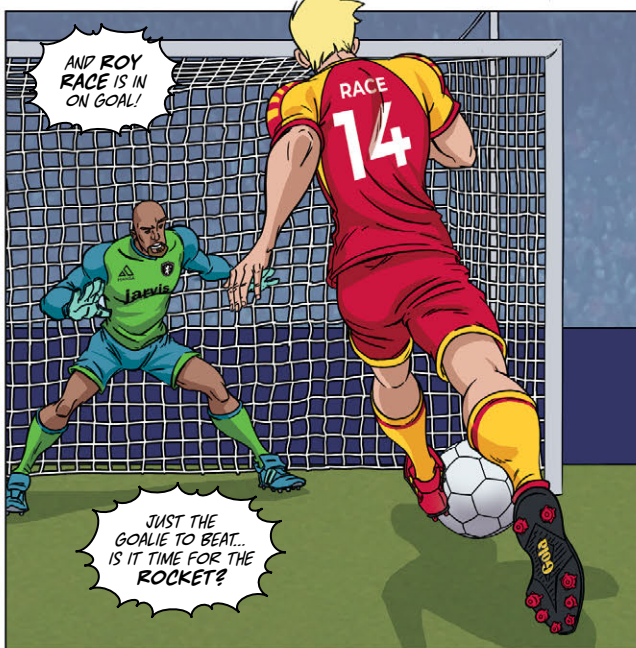
BUT LOFTY PEAK, MELCHESTER'S
EXCITING YOUNG CENTRE-HALF, WHO
GOT RAVE REVIEWS FOR HIS
PERFORMANCE AGAINST
TYNECASTER, GETS A
LONG-LEGGED
FOOT IN.



AND
WESTON COULD GET
CAUGHT HERE! THEY
WERE ON ALL-OUT
ATTACK!



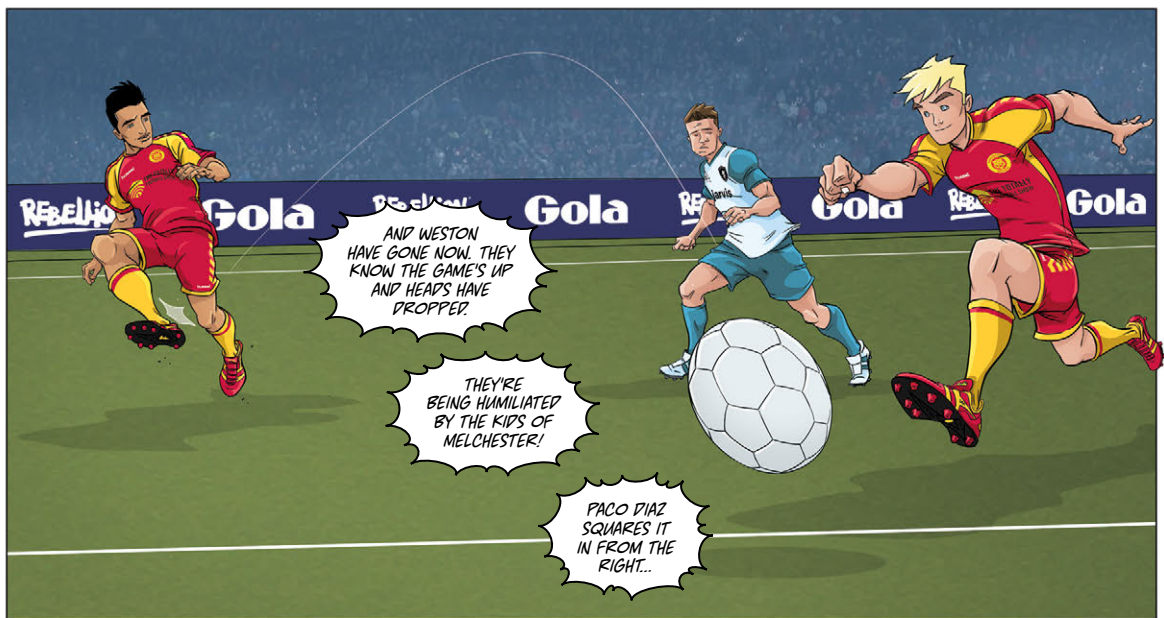
PACO DIAZ
FLICKS IT FORWARD
WITH...OH...THAT'S AN
OUTRAGEOUS
TOUCH!



AND ROY
RACE IS IN
ON GOAL!

JUST THE
GOALIE TO BEAT...
IS IT TIME FOR THE
ROCKET?









AH... IT'S...IT'S NOT BROKEN IS IT?

STAY DOWN, LAD. LET ME LOOK.



AND, YES, IT'S A RED CARD FOR NAYLOR.

SHOCKING CHALLENGE. FRUSTRATION GOT THE BETTER OF HIM THERE.

is



OH, YOU! YEAH, YOU!

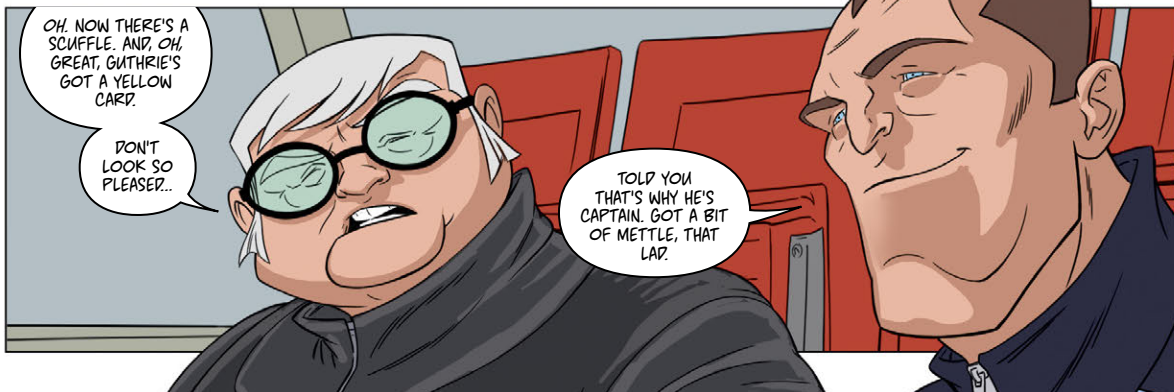
DON'T YOU HAVE DAYCARE TO GET TO, SONNY?

TOOK YOU TO SCHOOL, DIDN'T WE? HAVE A LOOK AT THE SCORE, CAVEMAN.



MESS WITH ONE OF MELCHESTER ROVERS AND YOU MESS WITH ALL OF US. GOT IT?

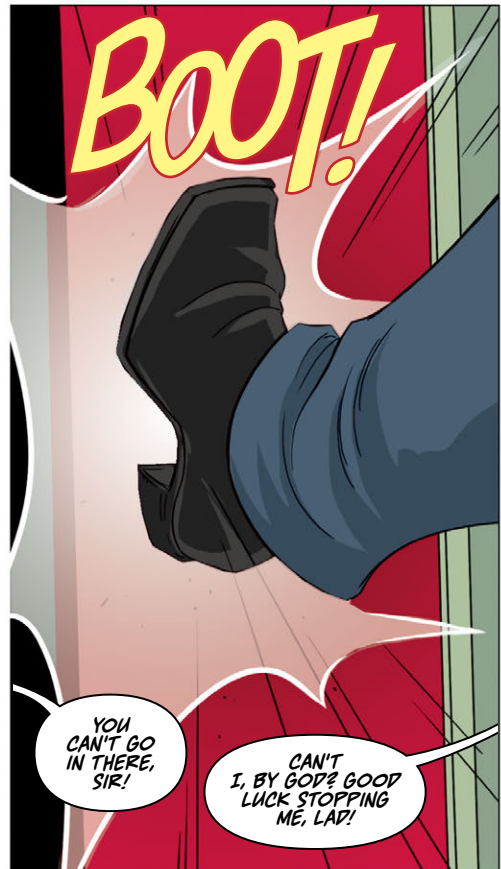
COME ON, VIC. LEAVE IT.



OH. NOW THERE'S A SCUFFLE. AND, OH, GREAT, GUTHRIE'S GOT A YELLOW CARD.

DON'T LOOK SO PLEASED...

TOLD YOU THAT'S WHY HE'S CAPTAIN. GOT A BIT OF METTLE, THAT LAD.

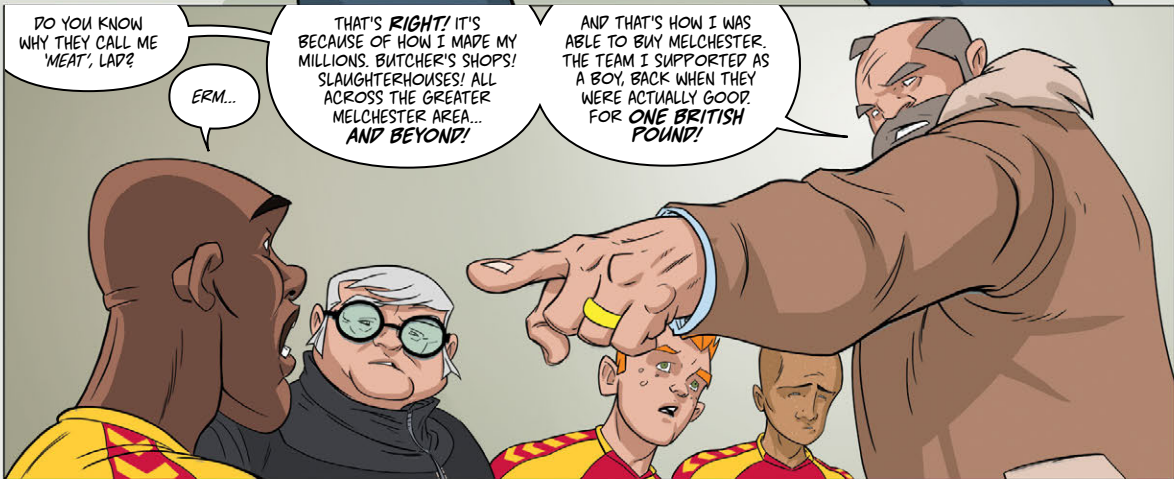




THIS IS MY HOUSE!

ALRIGHT BOYS, LISTEN UP MY NAME IS **BARRY 'MEAT' CLEAVER!** AND I'M THE FOOL WHO PAYS YOUR BLOOMING WAGES!

I **OWN** MELCHESTER ROVERS!

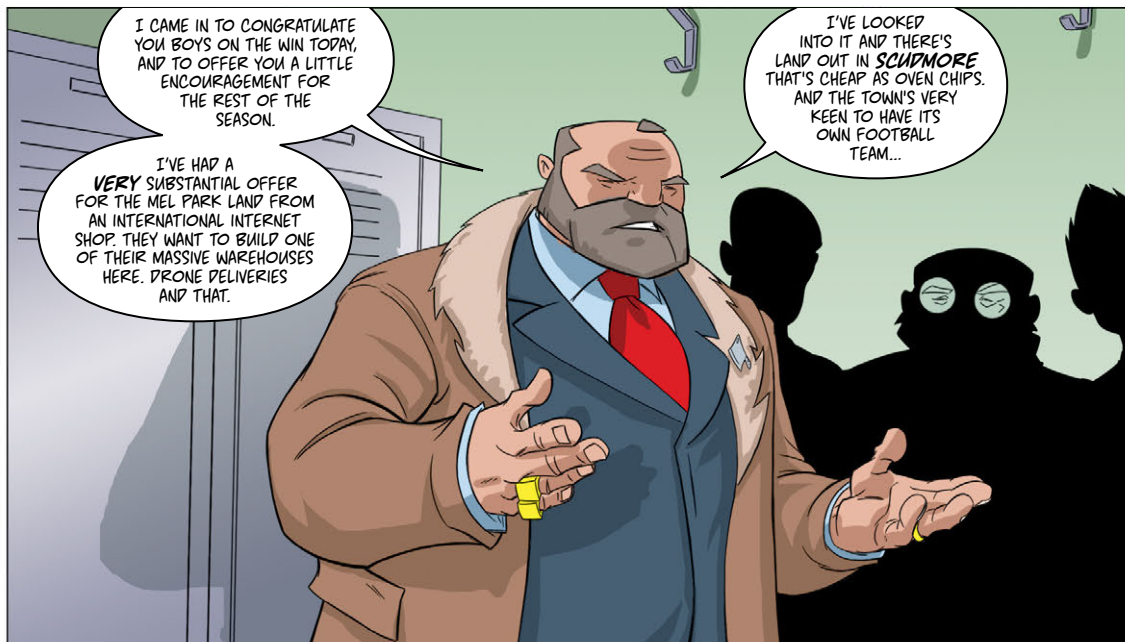
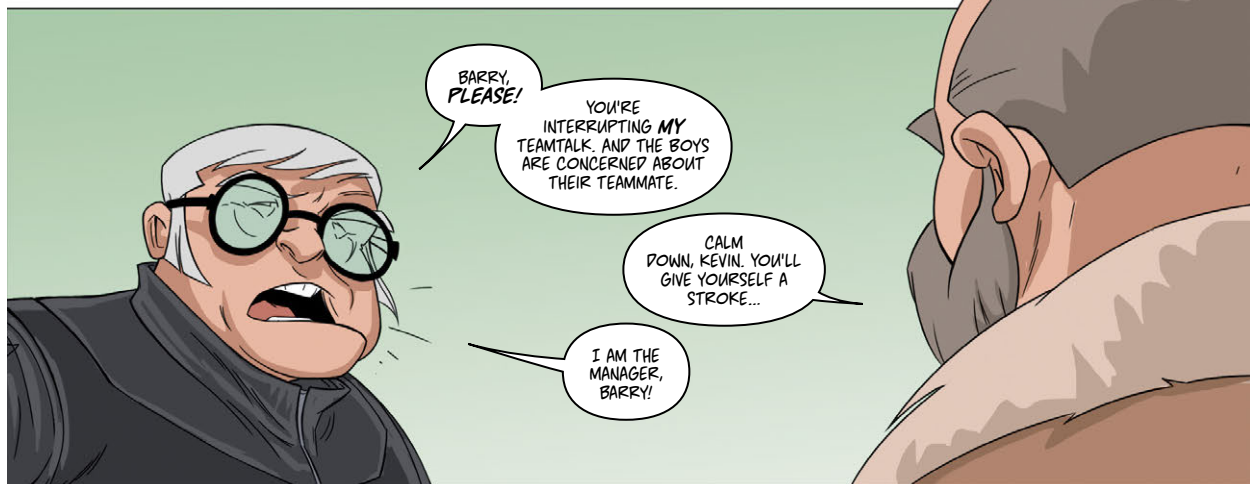


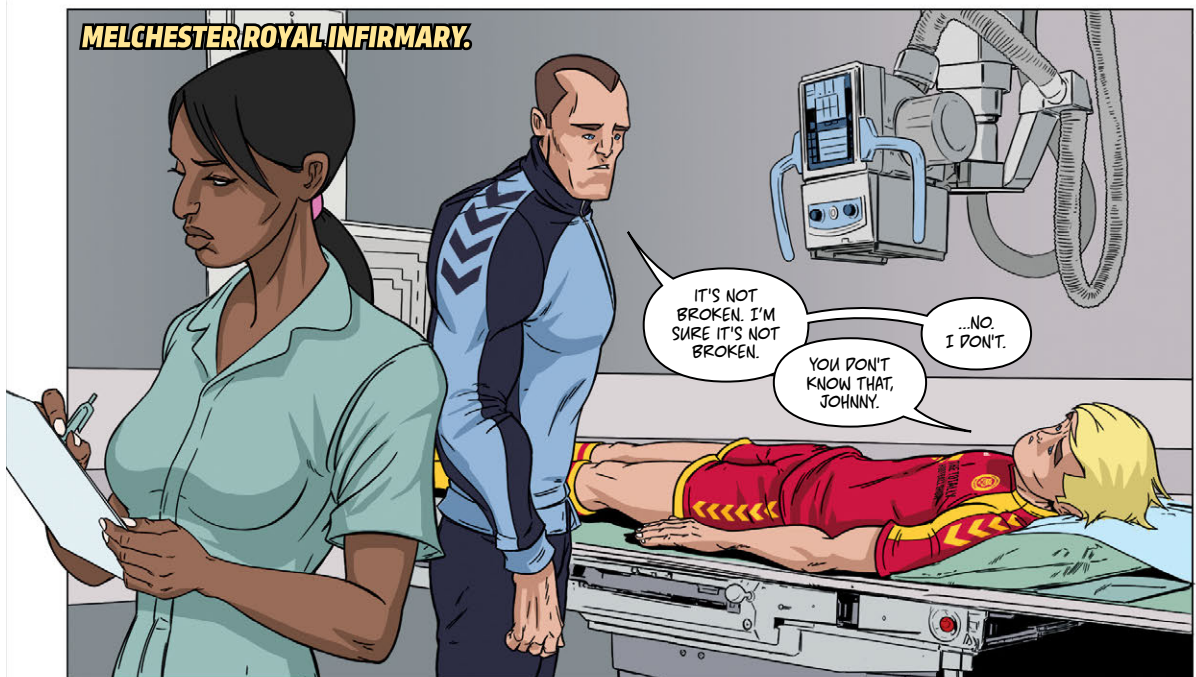
DO YOU KNOW WHY THEY CALL ME 'MEAT', LAD?

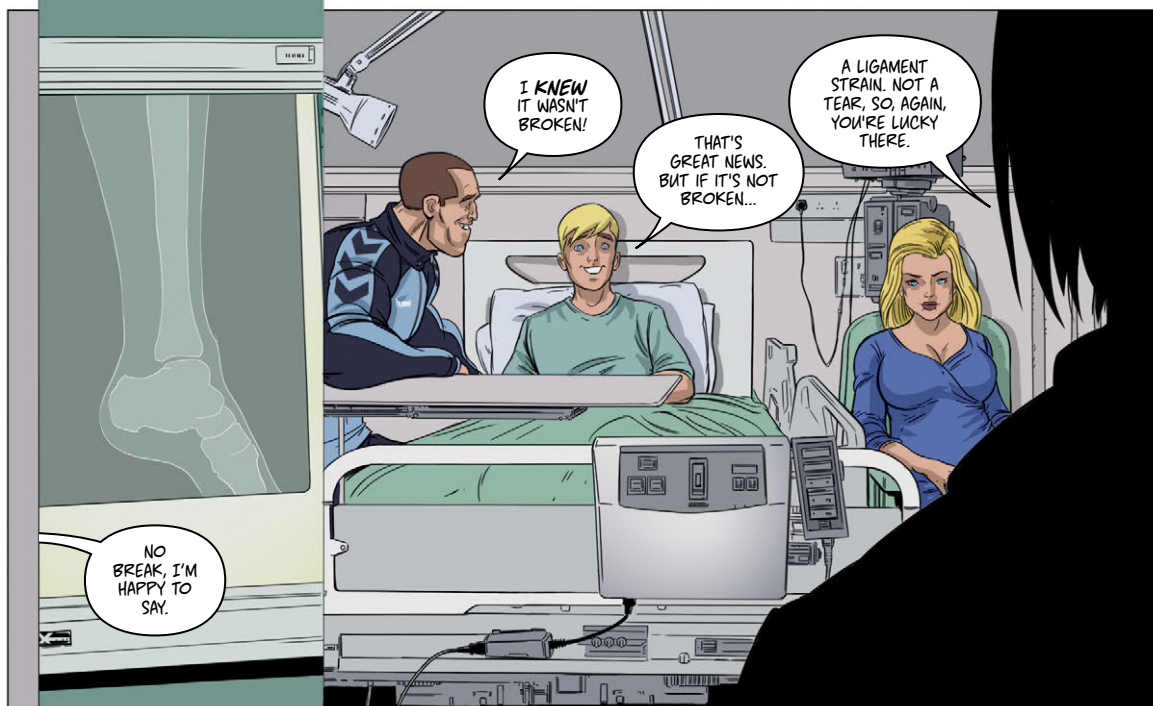
ERM...

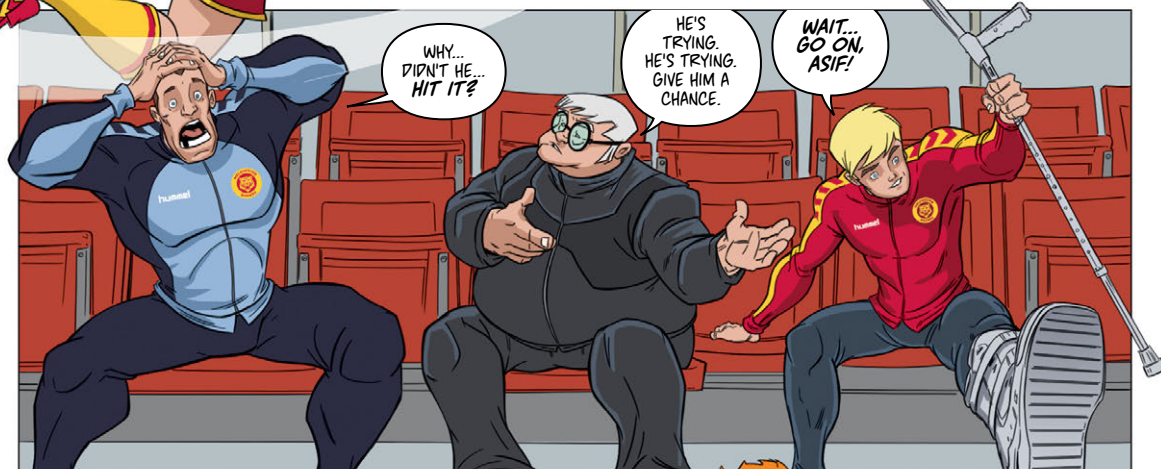
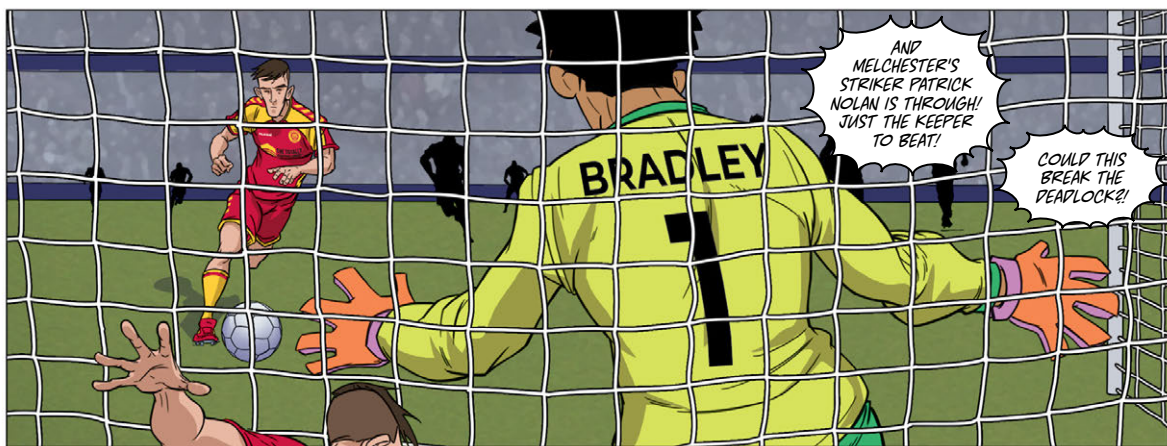
THAT'S **RIGHT!** IT'S BECAUSE OF HOW I MADE MY MILLIONS. BUTCHER'S SHOPS! SLAUGHTERHOUSES! ALL ACROSS THE GREATER MELCHESTER AREA... **AND BEYOND!**

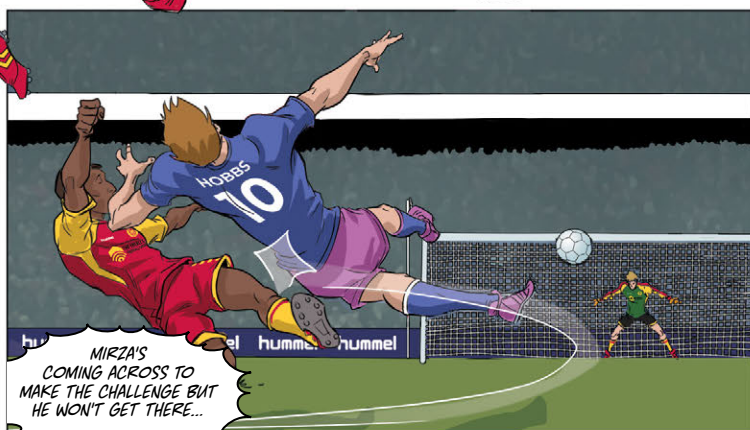
AND THAT'S HOW I WAS ABLE TO BUY MELCHESTER. THE TEAM I SUPPORTED AS A BOY, BACK WHEN THEY WERE ACTUALLY GOOD. FOR **ONE BRITISH POUND!**



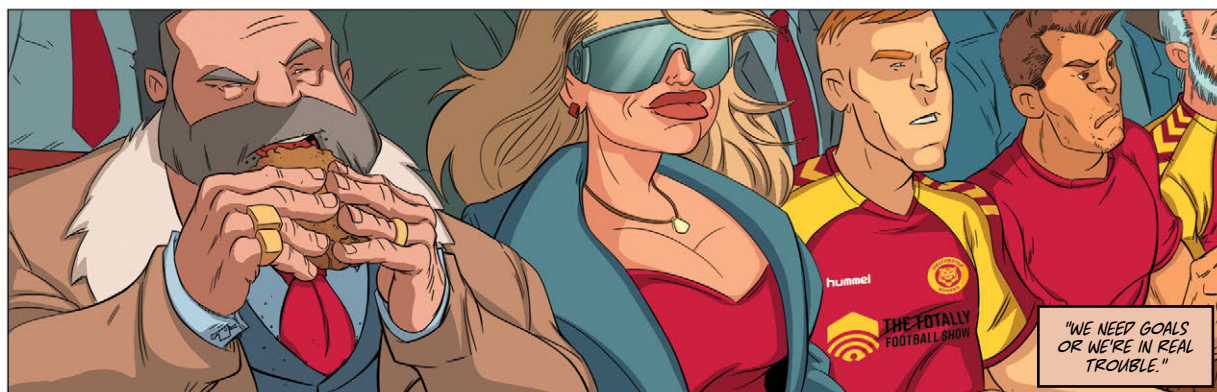
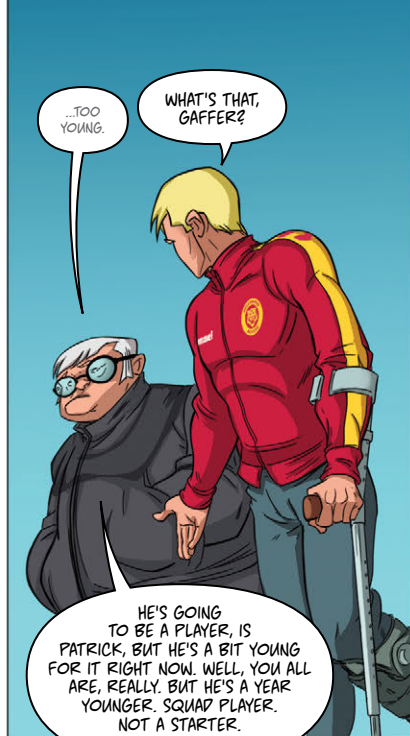


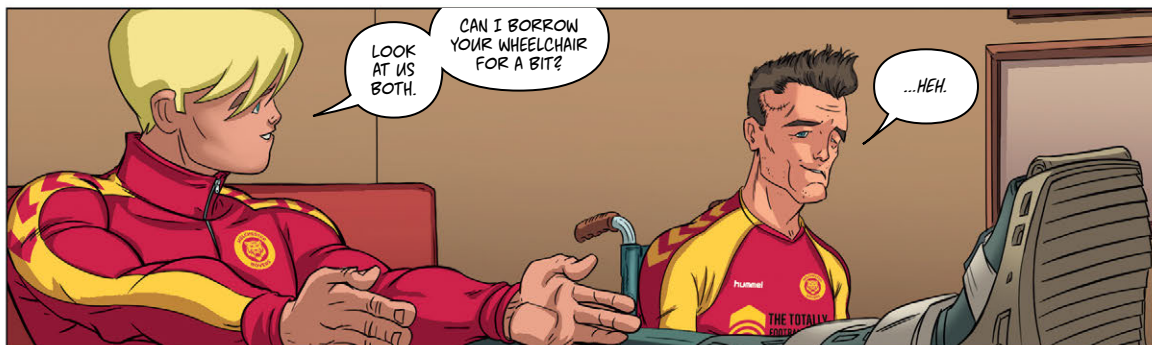
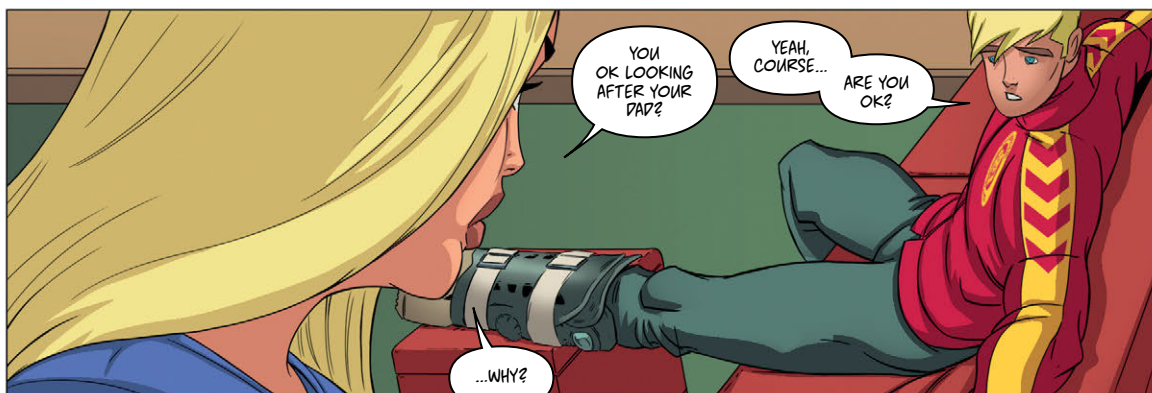














UH...
...HELLO.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

...FFION..

AND ME, ROY.
I'M HERE TOO,
YOU KNOW. YOUR
SISTER. YOU
REMEMBER.

HELLO,
ROCKY.

WHAT ARE
YOU... ?

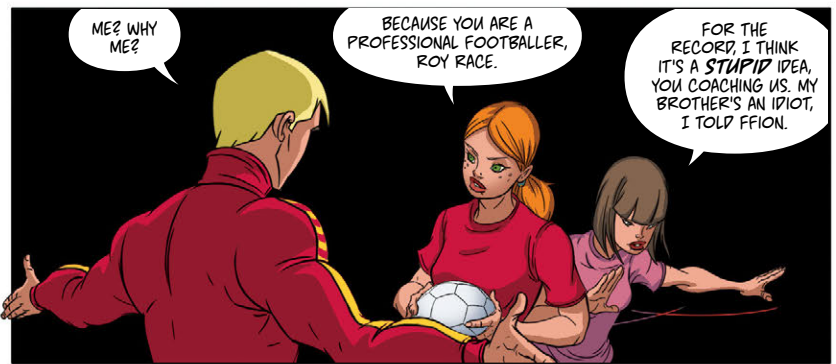


ROY, YOU
KNOW OUR
FOOTBALL TEAM.
SOWERBY.

...YEAH.

WELL,
OUR COACH HAS
JUST HAD TO LEAVE.
HE'S MOVING TO
HORBY. WHICH IS A
SILLY THING TO DO
BUT THERE YOU
ARE.

ANYWAY,
WE NEED A COACH.
AND YOU'RE NOT
DOING ANYTHING AT
THE MOMENT, ARE
YOU? APART FROM
YOUR PHYSIO-
THERAPY.



ME? WHY
ME?

BECAUSE YOU ARE A
PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER,
ROY RACE.

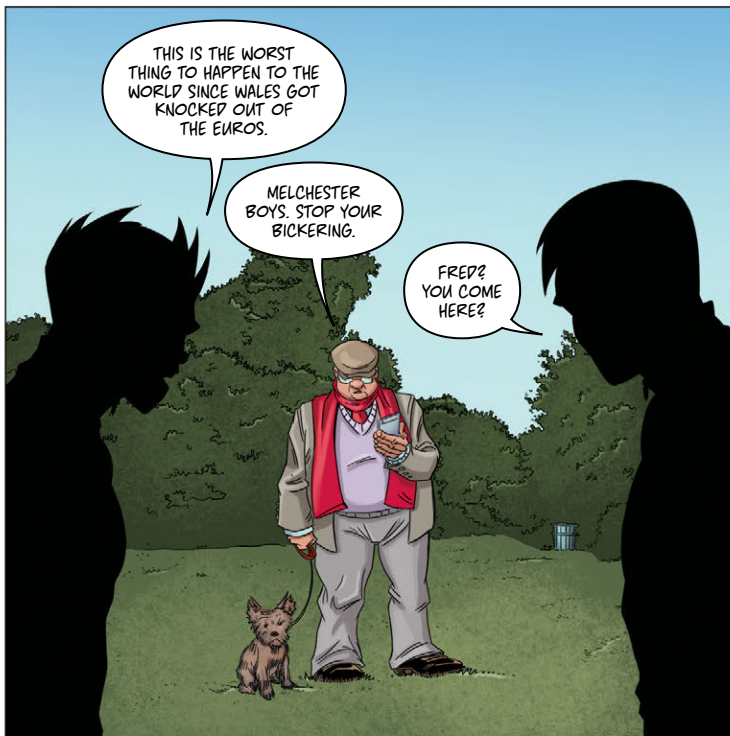
FOR THE
RECORD, I THINK
IT'S A **STUPID** IDEA.
YOU COACHING US. MY
BROTHER'S AN IDIOT,
I TOLD FFION.

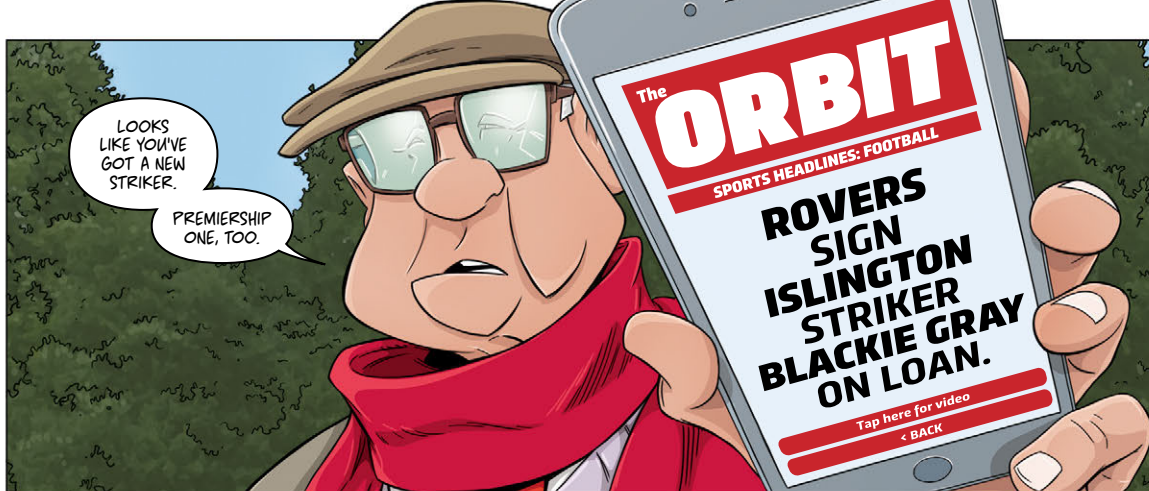


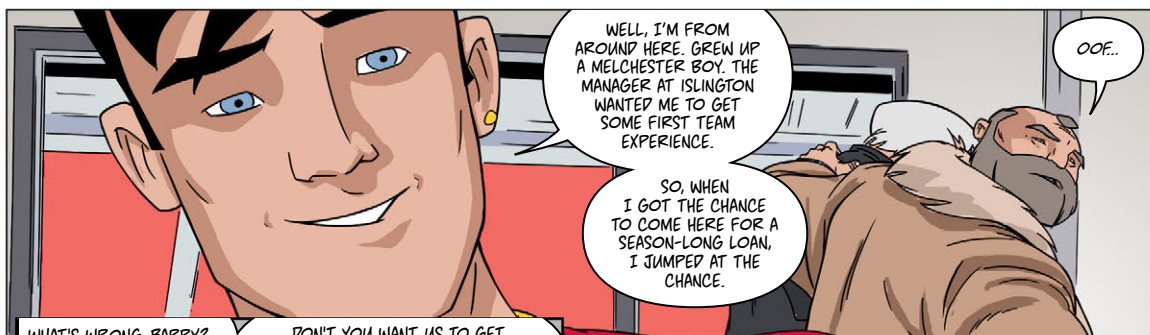
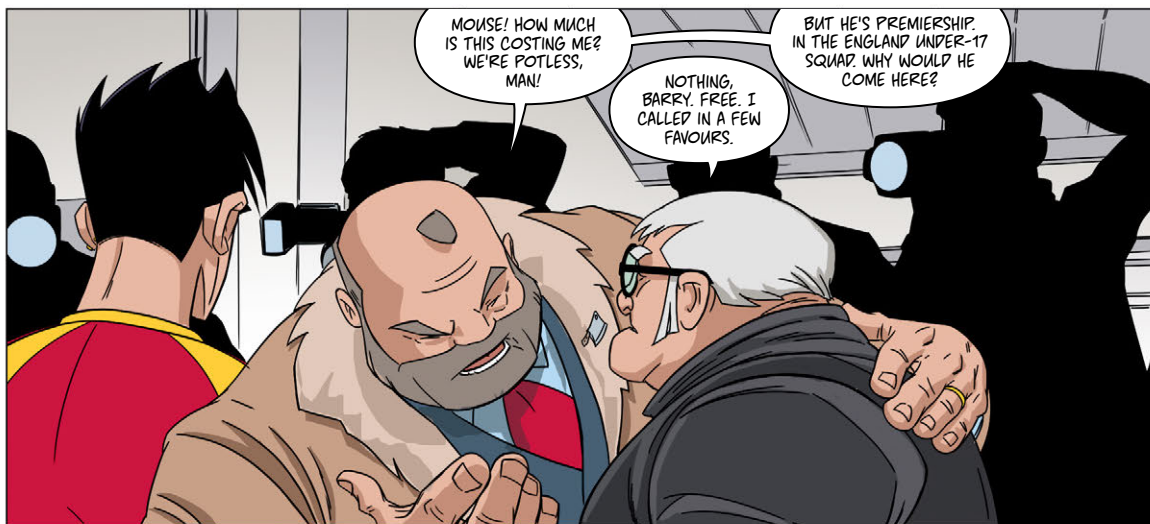
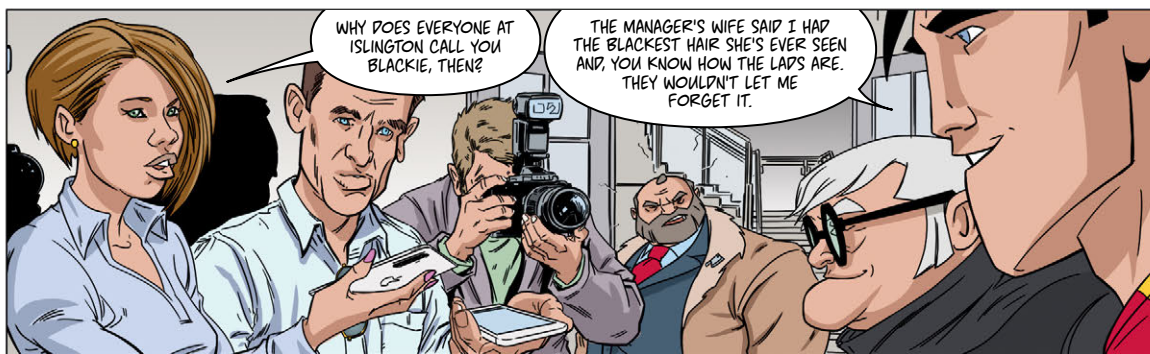
HELP COACH. I'D BE
PLAYER-COACH, ROY. BUT
A GOOD EYE ON THE
SIDELINE WOULD
HELP OUT.

I LIKE TO
THINK YOU'D LIKE
TO GIVE BACK TO THE
COMMUNITY A BIT. NOW
YOU'RE DRIVING ROUND
IN ASTON MARTINS,
LIKE.

YEAH...OK
THEN.

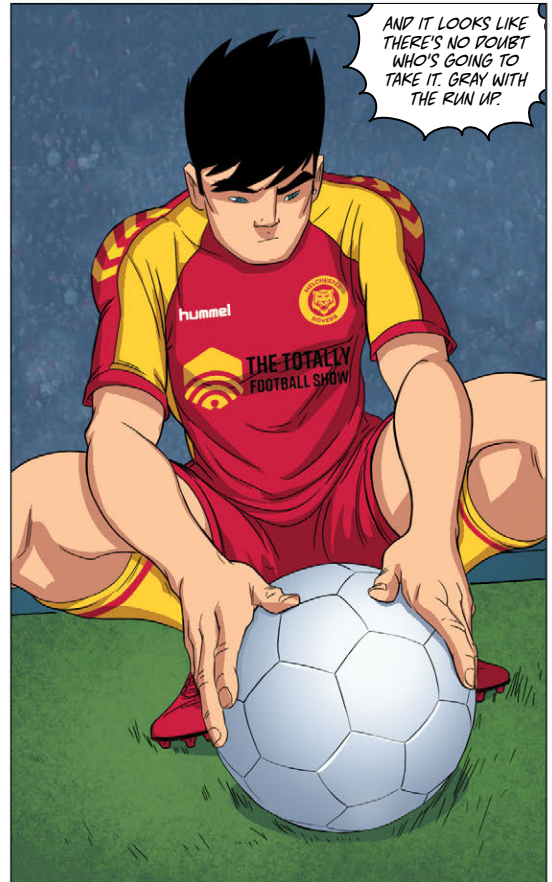
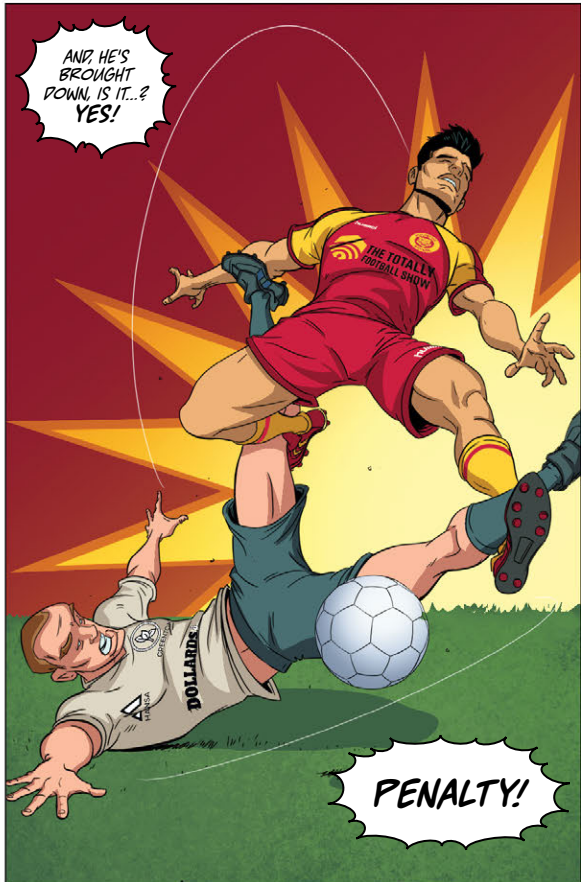




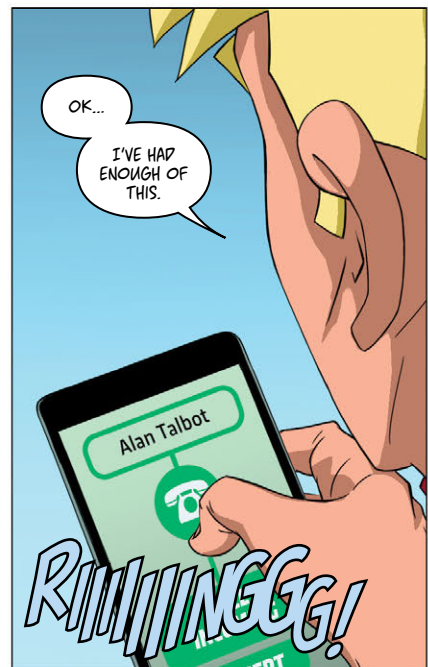
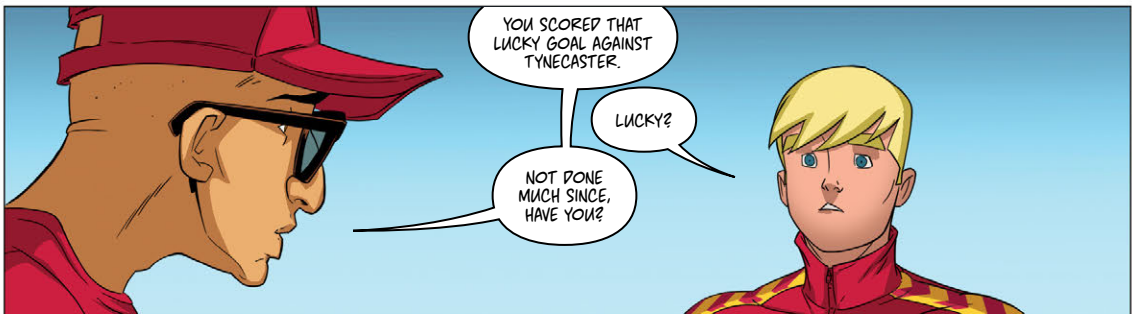
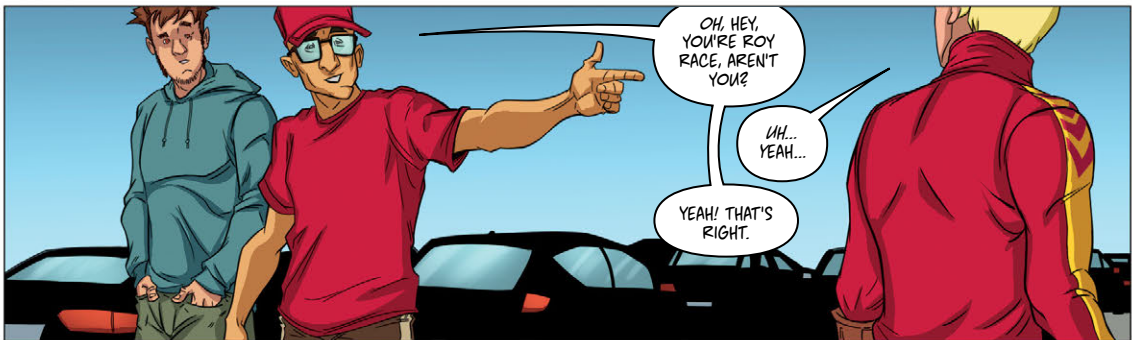
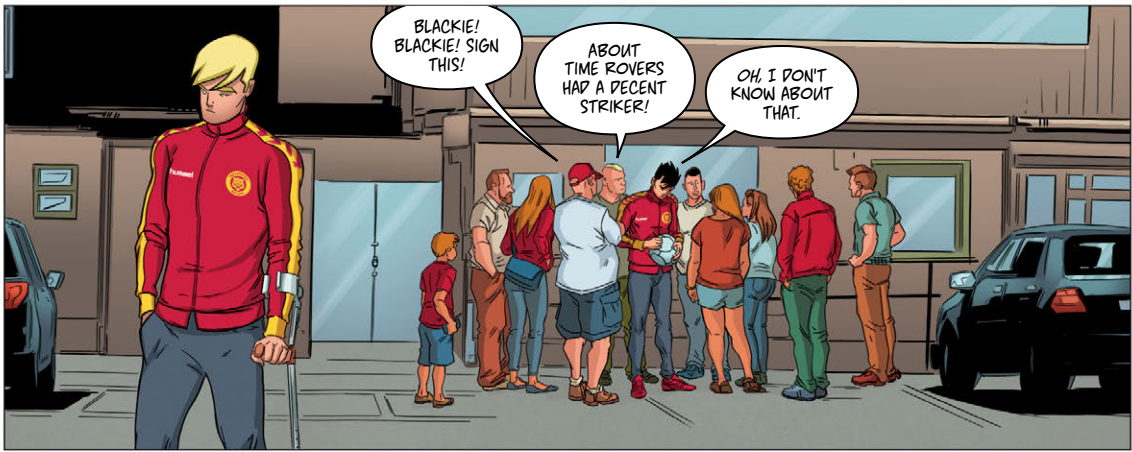


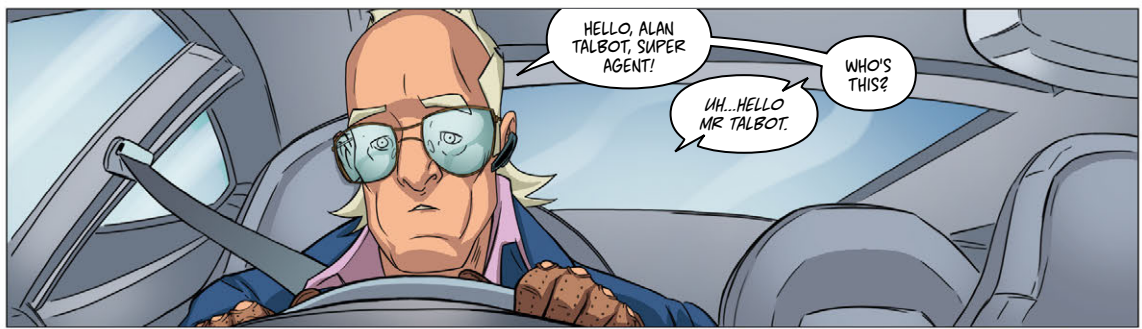


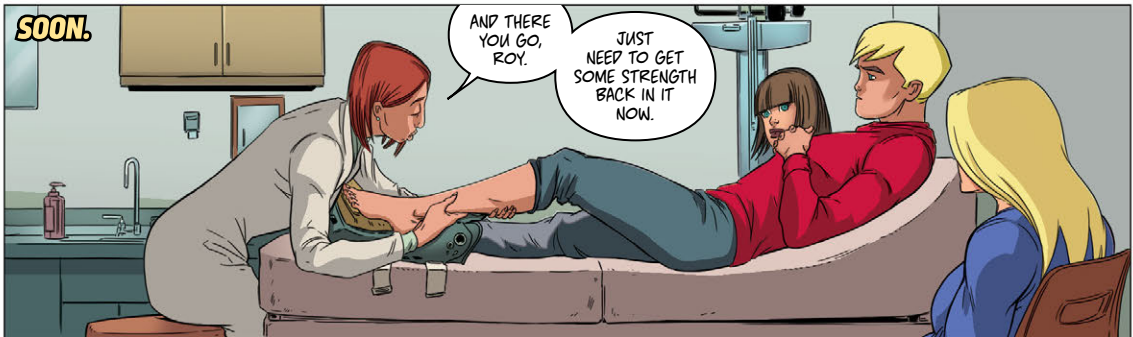
GRAY WAS WITH THE ENGLAND TEAM IN THE U17 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP RECENTLY AND... OH...

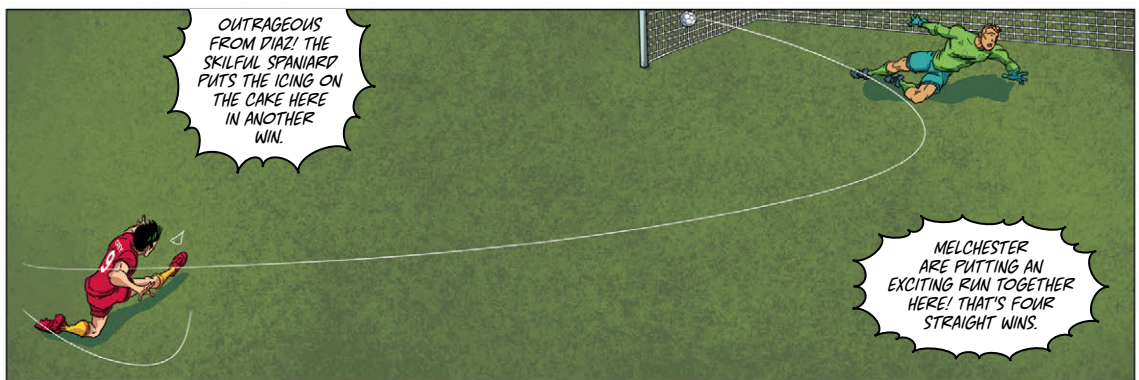
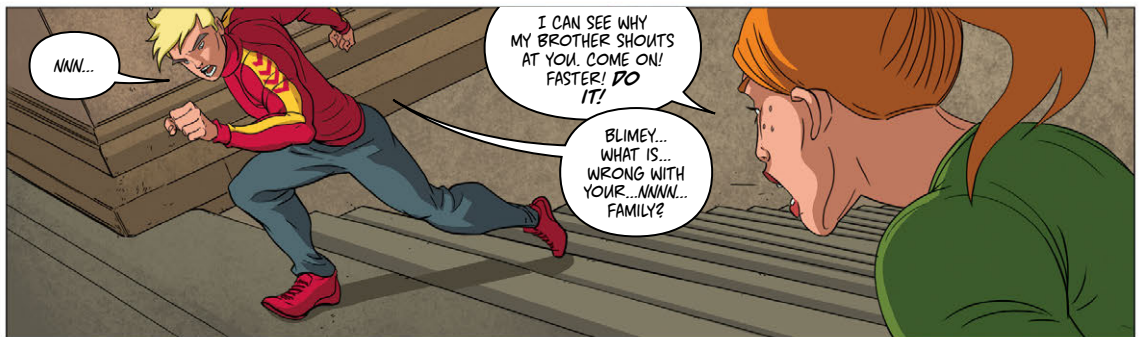
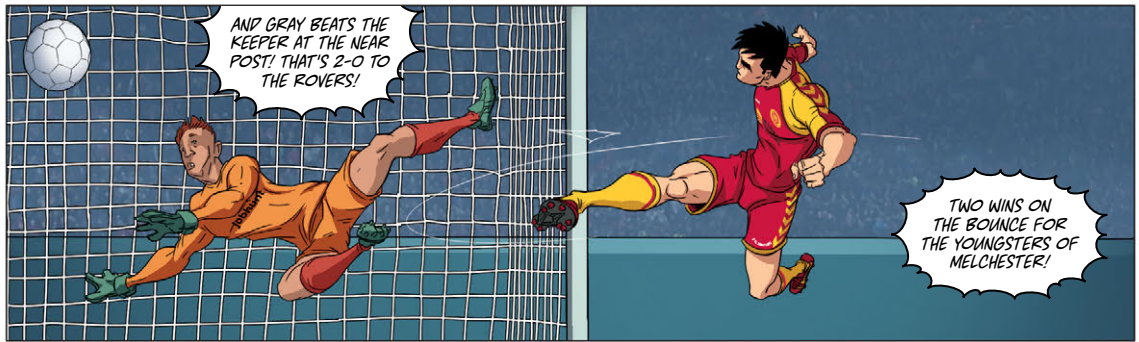


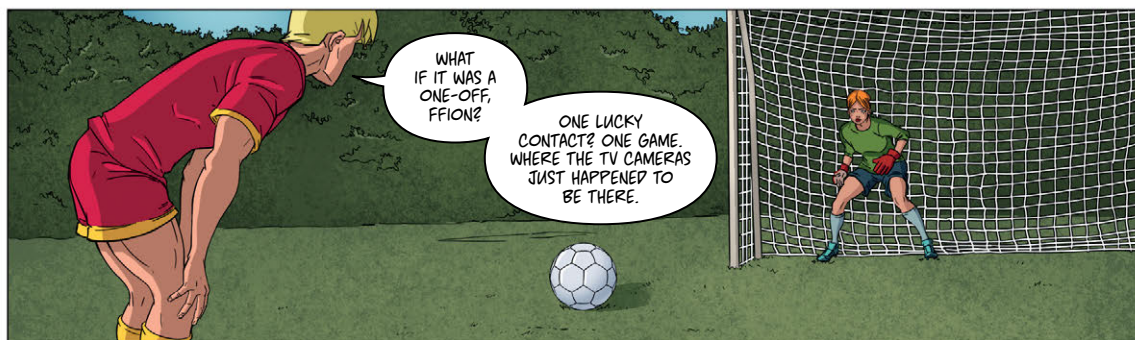


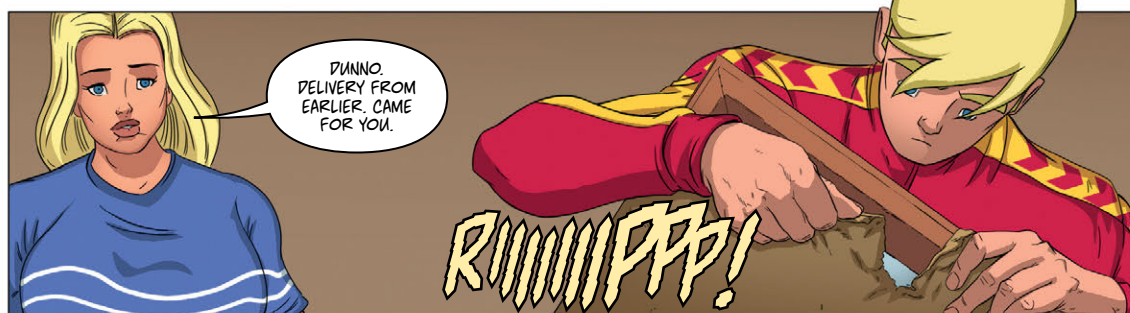


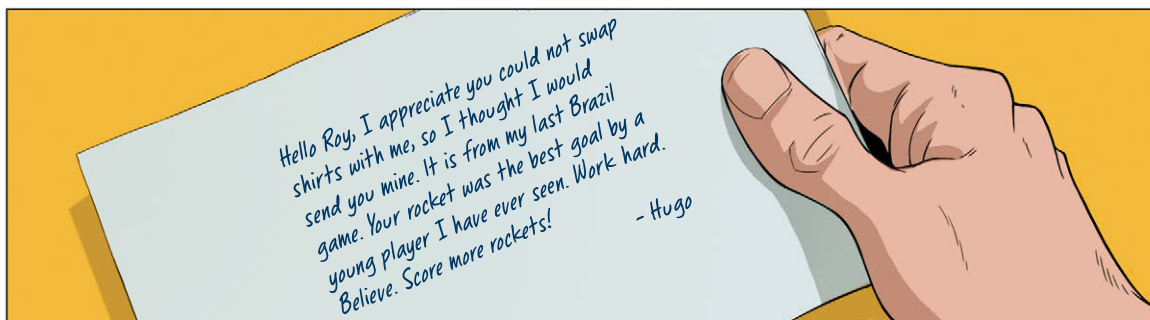














AND
ATHERTON HEADS
IT AWAY. FRUSTRATION
MOUNTS FOR
MELCHESTER
HERE.

WE'RE STILL
TIED AT 1-1 WITH
SIX MINUTES TO GO
AND A POINT WON'T
BE ENOUGH.



AGONY
FOR ROVERS FANS.
THEY'VE BEEN ON AN
UNBELIEVABLE RUN BUT
A POINT HERE WILL
ELIMINATE THEM FROM
THE PLAYOFF
PLACES.

MUNCH



ROY!

ROY
RACE!

OH NO...



BLACKIE'S
PLAYING REALLY
WELL. YOU CAN'T
TAKE HIM
OFF.

WHAT?
WHY? SHUT
UP!

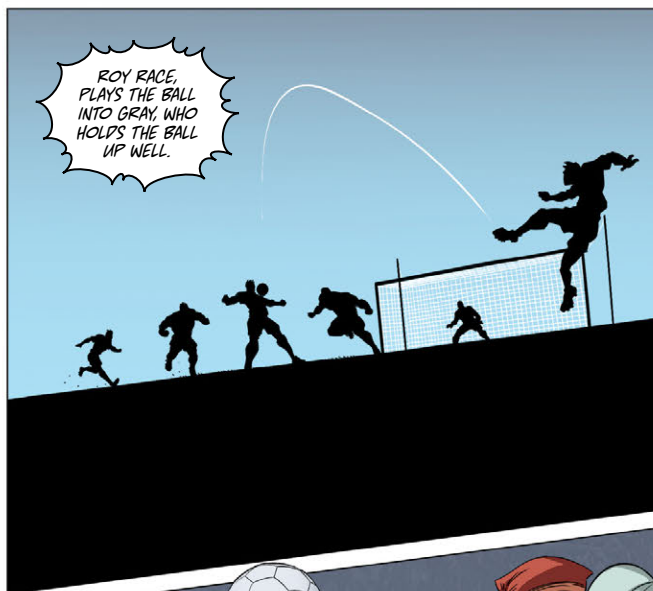
WE'RE NOT ROY.
WE'RE GOING TO BRING
OFF AMBURO. PLAY TWO
UP FRONT. YOU AND
BLACKIE.

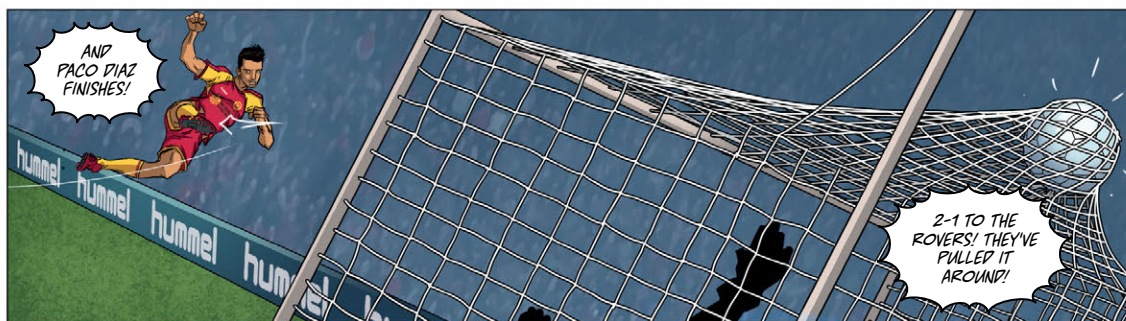


BUT... MY
ANKLE. WHAT IF
IT'S NOT...

PHYSIO
SAYS YOU'RE GOOD,
ROY. AND FRANKLY, SON,
IF WE DON'T SCORE HERE
WE'RE BANTEXED!

NO PLAYOFFS.
FAT BARRY WILL SELL
THE GROUND AND MOVE
US. WE WILL BECOME
SCUDMORE ROVERS! AND
THEN I WOULD DIE!
IMMEDIATELY.







PACO!
PACO DIAZ!

GOT A COUPLE OF
VERY BIG CLUBS VERY
INTERESTED IN YOU, MY
ITALIAN FRIEND..

ALAN TALBOT,
SUPER-AGENT! YEAH,
YOU GOT IT. **THAT**
ALAN TALBOT!



HE'S SPANISH,
TALBOT! AND HE'S
OUR STAR WINGER.
MELCHESTER'S!

MY
PHONE...
OI!

YOUR
PHONE, ALAN TALBOT,
SHALL BE RETURNED TO YOU
FORTHWITH THE MOMENT YOU
EXTRICATE YOUR SELF FROM MY
TUNNEL! WHICH YOU DO NOT
HAVE PERMISSION TO BE IN!

YEAH, THAT'S
RIGHT, RUN! WE'RE
THE ROVERS AND
WE'RE NOT SELLING
ANYONE
YET!

BECAUSE WE'RE
GONNA GET TO THE
PLAYOFFS AND GET
PROMOTED!

TRESPASS
ON MY TUNNELLING
AREA AGAIN AND
I WILL HAVE YOU
EATEN BY
PANDAS!!



SORRY, PACO. BUT
THAT GUY...

HE'S AN
IDIOT.

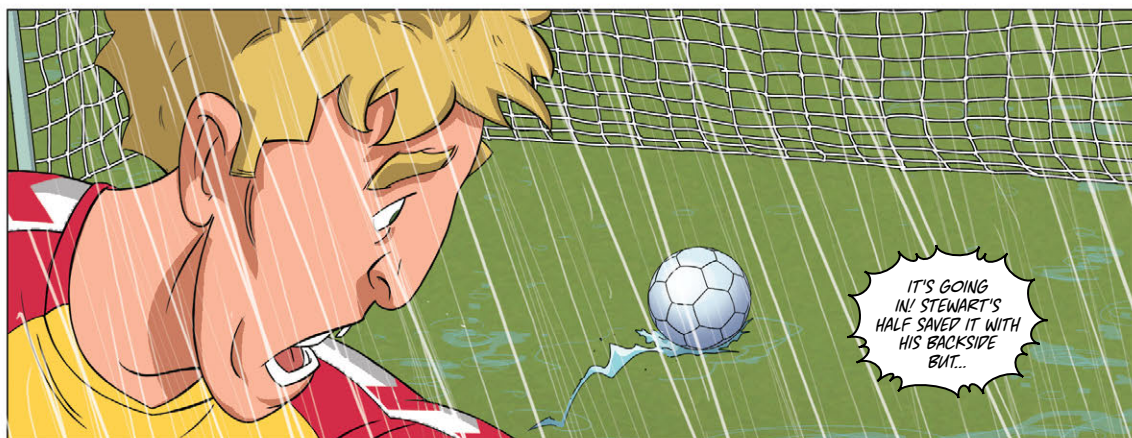
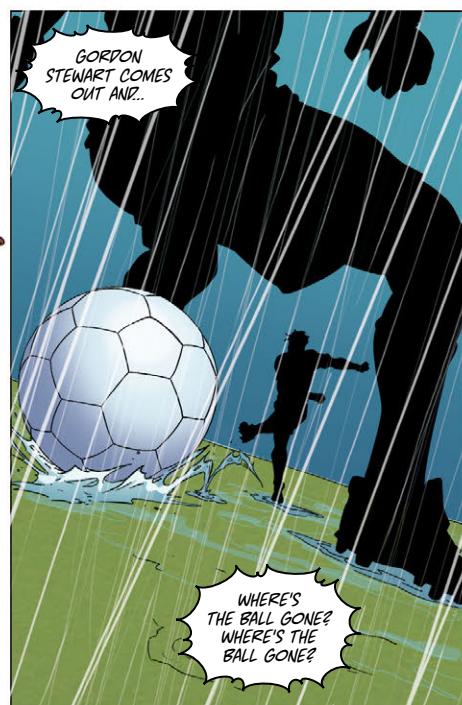
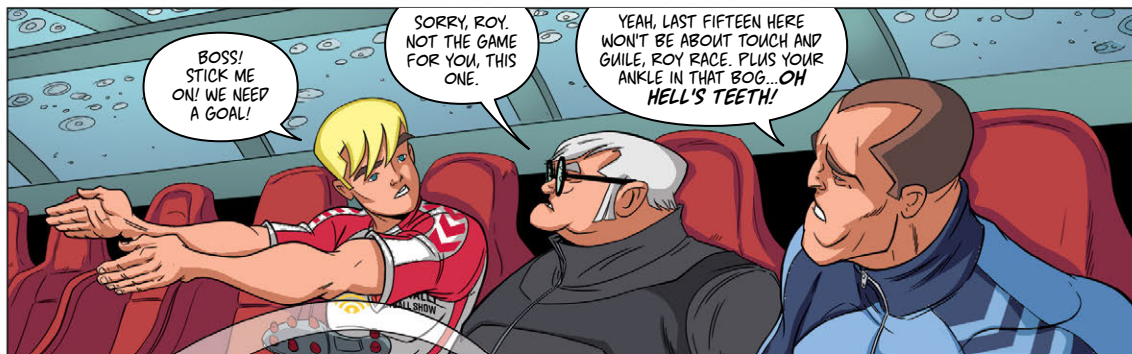


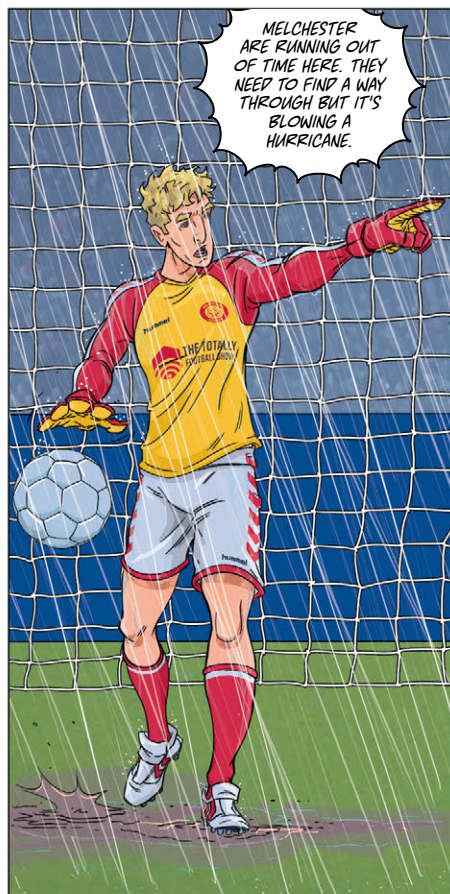
HA! YOU
HAVE BEEN TRAINED
BY JOHNNY DEXTER TOO
LONG! YOU ARE TURNING
INTO A CRAZY CENTRE
HALF, ROY!

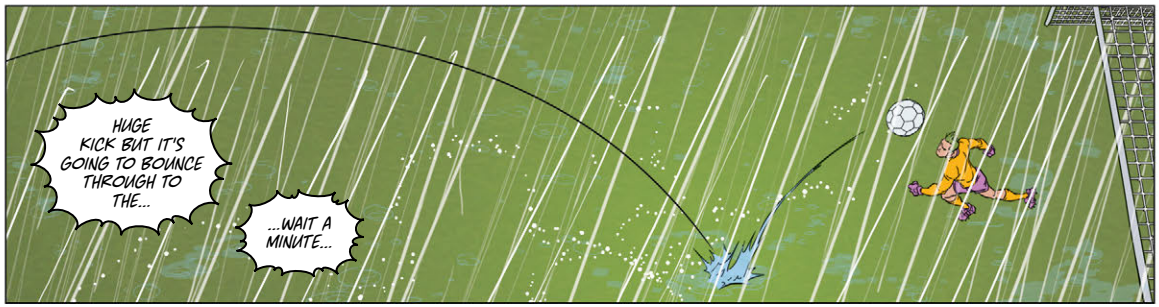
YES, MY
FRIEND! MELCHESTER
FOR EVER! TWO MORE
WINS AND PLAYOFFS!

WE ARE
BROTHERS! WE
ARE BLOOD!

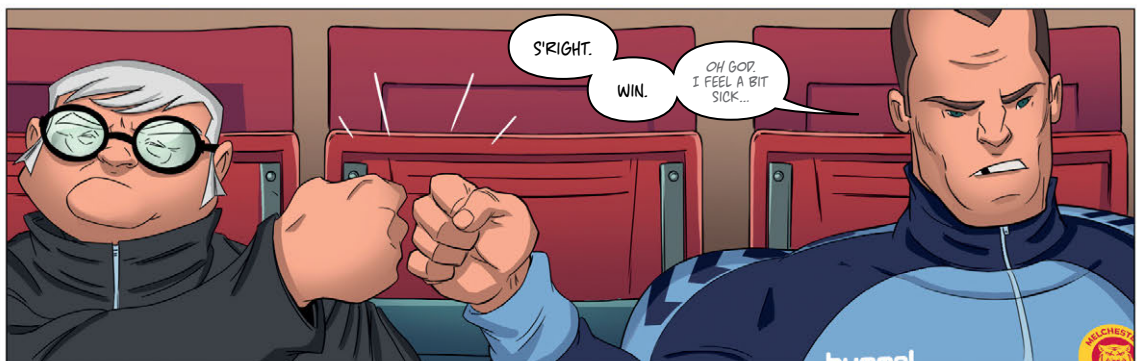
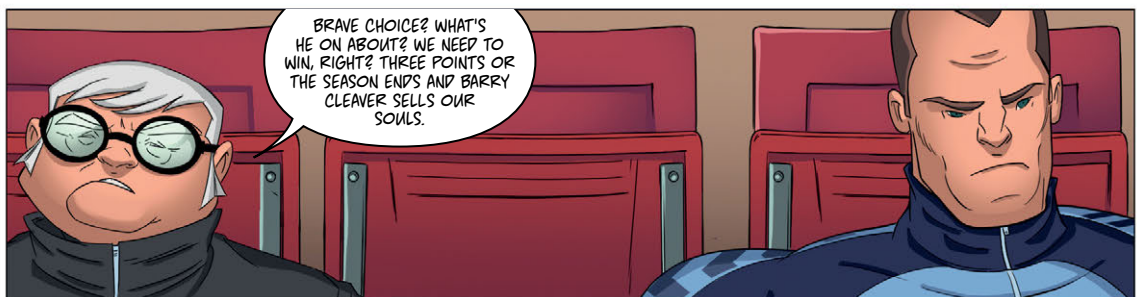
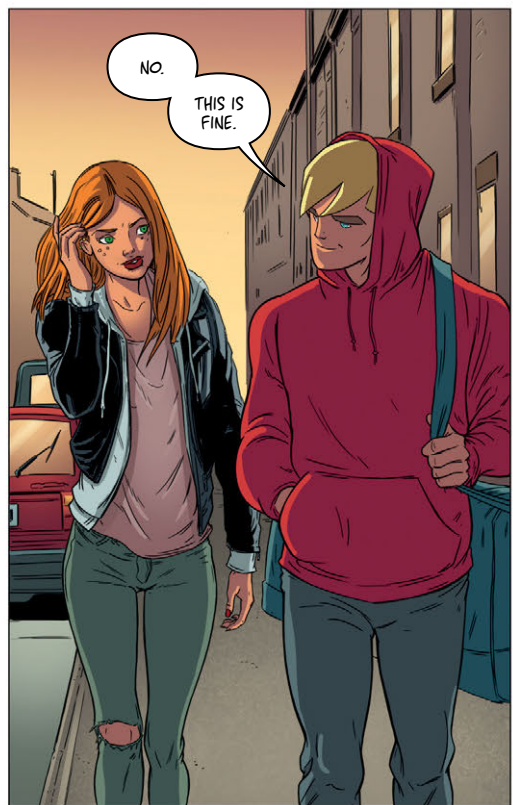
hummel













AND IT'S LIKE
A RETURN TO THE
GLORY DAYS HERE. THE
BIGGEST CROWD OF THE
SEASON HAVE PILED INTO
MEL PARK FOR THIS
SEASON FINALE.

MELCHESTER
WIN AND THEY GET
THE FINAL LEAGUE
TWO PLAYOFF
PLACE.

DRAW
OR LOSE AND
THE SEASON IS
OVER!

AND WE'RE
UNDERWAY.



HOLVERTON
WARRIORS HAVE ALREADY
GOT ONE OF THE TWO
AUTOMATIC PROMOTION
PLACES, SO WE KNOW
THEY'RE A QUALITY
OUTFIT.

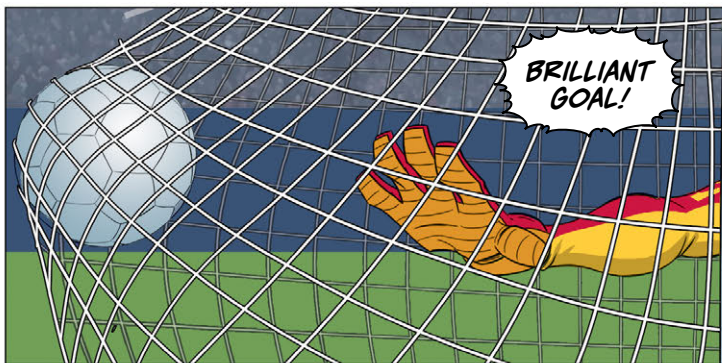
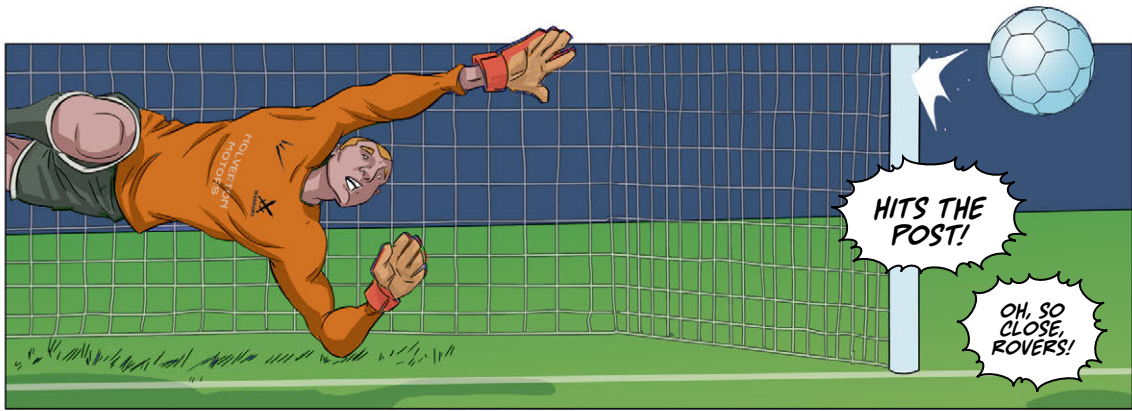
THIS IS A TOUGH
CHALLENGE FOR
MELCHESTER.



EARLY
STAGES HERE.
BLACKIE GRAY
KNOCKS THE
BALL ON...



RACE
HITS IT
FIRST
TIME!





RIGHT THEN...

OK.

WE SCORE TWO.

YEAH...



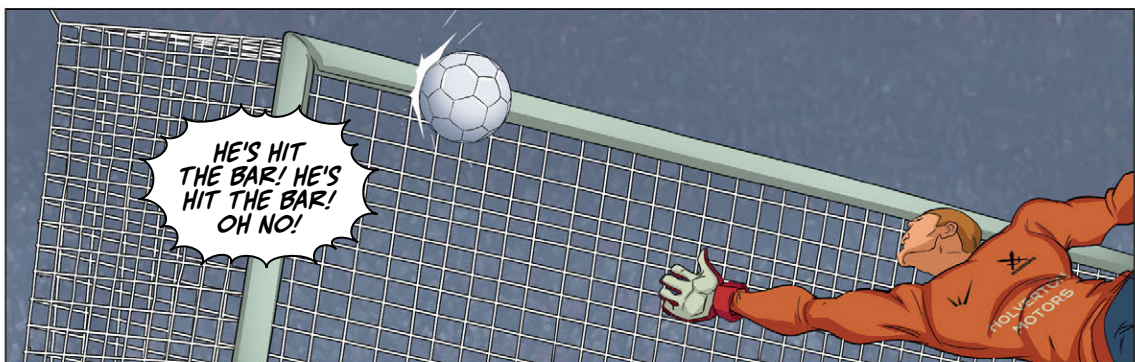
EXCELLENT CHALLENGE BY ROVERS' CAPTAIN, VIC GUTHRIE.



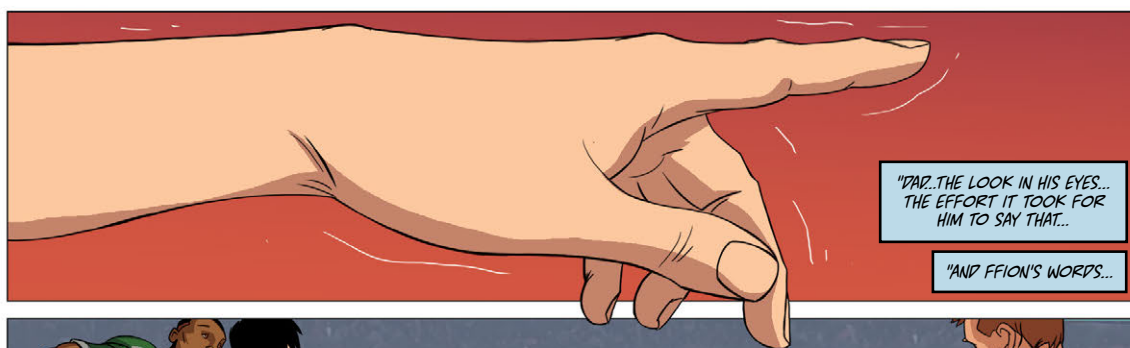
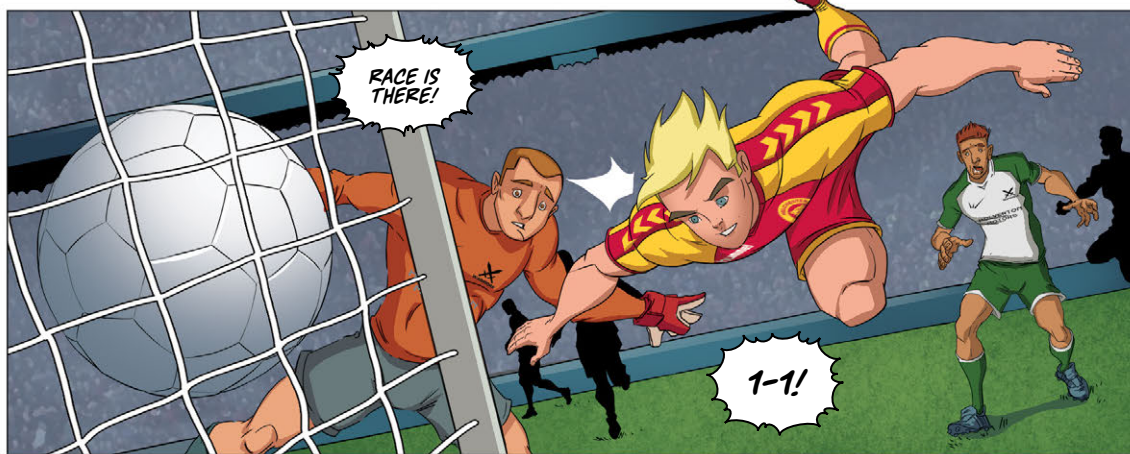
PACO DIAZ PICKS IT UP. LOOKS FOR RUNNERS AHEAD OF HIM...



HE'S SPOTTED THE GOALIE OFF HIS LINE...HE CHIPS IT...FROM THIRTY-FIVE YARDS!



HE'S HIT THE BAR! HE'S HIT THE BAR! OH NO!



SO, INVENT A **GOOD**
STORY FOR YOURSELF.



**END OF
BOOK
TWO**

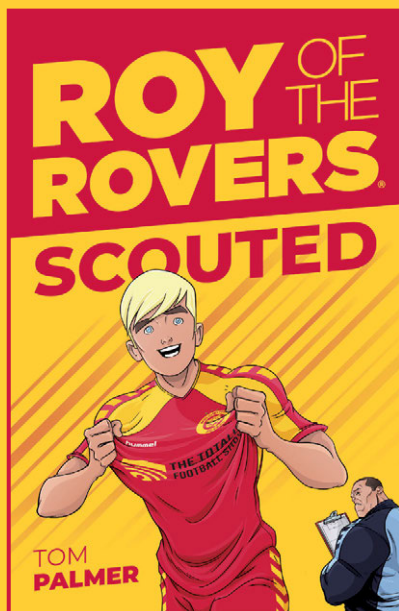


ROY OF THE ROVERS®

THE FIRST SEASON

Keep track of every new **Roy of the Rovers** book here!
Don't forget to tick the boxes as you read each one.

FICTION

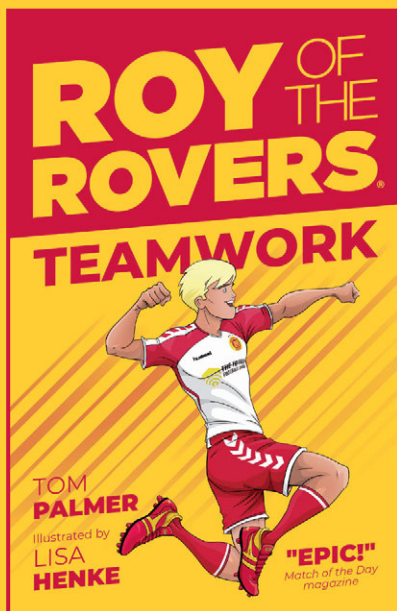


BOOK 1 SCOUTED

Author: Tom Palmer
Out: October 2018
ISBN: 978-1-78108-698-8

Roy Race is the most talented striker in Melchester – but is he good enough to catch the eye of the Melchester Rovers scouts?

READ? ☐

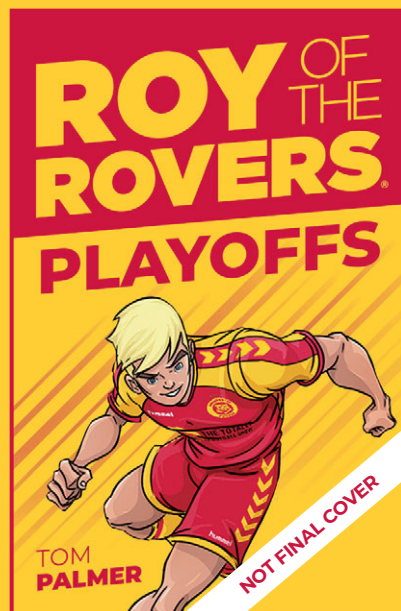


BOOK 2 TEAMWORK

Author: Tom Palmer
Out: February 2019
ISBN: 978-1-78108-707-7

Life gets tricky for Roy as he adjusts to life in the spotlight. Fortune and glory await, but can Roy juggle football, fame and family?

READ? ☐



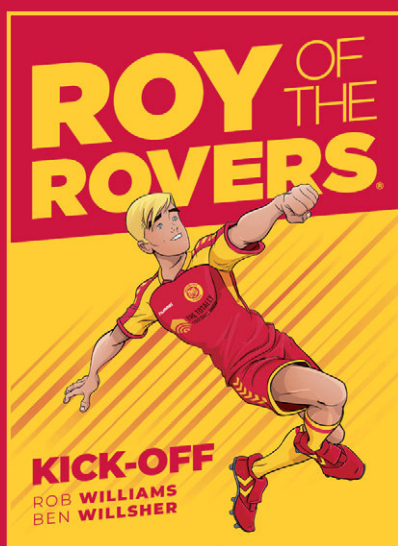
BOOK 3 PLAYOFFS

Author: Tom Palmer
Out: May 2019
ISBN: 978-1-78108-722-0

Crunch time for Rovers: the end of the season is here, the club is in deep trouble, and it's down to Roy to bring a bit of hope back to the Melchester faithful.

READ? ☐

GRAPHIC NOVELS

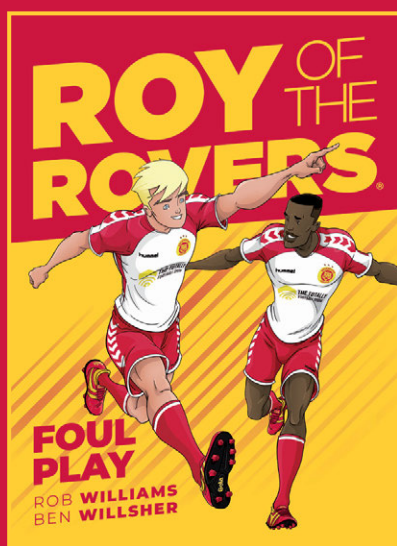


BOOK 1 KICK-OFF

Writer: Rob Williams
Artist: Ben Willsher
Out: November 2018
ISBN: 978-1-78108-652-0

Roy Race is 16, talented, and desperate to make it as a footballer. But is he good enough for Melchester Rovers? Now's the time to prove if he's got what it takes to become Roy of the Rovers.

READ? ☐

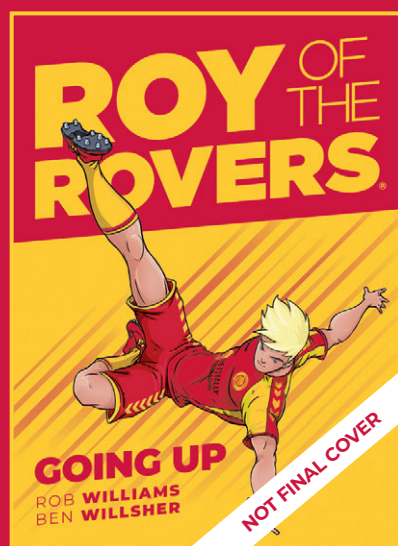


BOOK 2 FOUL PLAY

Writer: Rob Williams
Artist: Ben Willsher
Out: March 2019
ISBN: 978-1-78108-669-8

Roy picks up an injury that puts him on the sidelines, and suddenly there's competition for his place as a brand new - and brilliant - striker is brought in by the management...

READ? ☐



BOOK 3 GOING UP

Writer: Rob Williams
Artist: Ben Willsher
Out: June 2019
ISBN: 978-1-78108-673-5

Roy and the team have battled through a tough season, but have they got enough left to get promoted? Or will they fall at the final hurdle and see the club sold by its greedy owner?

READ? ☐



PLAYER INTERVIEW

Introduce Yourself

Hello. I'm Asif Mirza - right back for Melchester Rovers.

Do you have a nickname?

The lads just call me As.

Who was your favourite club growing up?

I'm a Melchester player so I really shouldn't say anything right? Okay, alright...I supported Deans Park. You're going to get me into trouble with the Gaffer!

Who is the best player that you have played with?

Wow, you're a trouble-maker! Only joking. I like playing with all the lads, but I feel that on the pitch I've really started to connect with Lofty. He makes us strong and stable.

Who is the best player that you have played against?

I give any forward or winger coming at me the same respect. If they get past me then the fault lies with me. So all of them and at the same time none of them. You look confused! Ha!

Do you have a pre-match routine?

I say a quiet prayer. Listen to some music. It all helps get me into the zone.

What's your advice to young players?

Never underestimate the opposition. And also, make sure you do your research on them before a game. Most strikers are creatures of habit - to know how they play allows you to stop them from playing.

What's your favourite social media network and why?

Snapchat. My brother puts pictures up of me doing my thing on the pitch. Luckily they disappear before it all becomes too embarrassing!





PLAYER INTERVIEW

Introduce Yourself

Ah'm Gordon Stewart - otherwise known as the safest hands in Scotland!

Do you have a nickname?

Back home when I was playing for fun, it was Nessie, as in the big Scottish monster. The Melchester boys were calling me Big Man for a while, but then Lofty turned up!

Who was your favourite club growing up?

Princes Park- the pride of Scotland! Our bossman played there once and is an absolute legend at the club.

Who is the best player that you have played with?

At Melchester? I don't know. I can easily tell you who is the busiest player at the club though...me!

Who is the best player that you have played against?

Hands down, its that Hugo. I was dreading coming up against him in our cup tie with Tynecaster. I've seen him destroy some of the best keepers in the world. Thankfully, I came out of that game relatively unscathed. No, we didn't win, but we didn't get humiliated either.

Do you have a pre-match routine?

No liquids or food an hour before the game. I flick through an old Scotland international game on my phone just before we leave the dressing room - that usually gets me fired up!

What's your advice to young players?

To aspiring goalkeepers I'd say find your voice, use it to organise your defence. Defenders are like sheep that need herding and part of your job is to play farmer!

What's your favourite social media network and why?

I can't stop watching videos of goalkeeping blunders on YouTube.







THE END OF THE DREAM?

With a stunning super-strike against premier English club Tynecaster, Roy Race announced himself to the footballing world.

Melchester Rovers fans thought a saviour had arrived to lift them out of lowly League Two, and the agents came calling, sensing a new cash cow on the scene.

But a lot of things can go wrong on a football pitch. Injuries can happen to anyone - even Roy of the Rovers. Is Roy's career over before it's even begun? Will he ever play in front of the Mel Park faithful again? And can Rovers make it to the playoff finals without him?

The dramatic footballing adventure of Roy Race continues!

REBELLION
READING



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