

Nuggets and Bright Lines

- *Don't accept what the world tells you is progress*



No Ball Games



Is the proliferation of signs like this a cause of the demise of street games? Has it just been part of the evolution of The UK/ Western World's move towards increased control of so much of life?

The apparent chaos of life in places of unkerbed roads, unused 'wasteland' and 16 v 13 a side, no bibs, one ball, open age activity probably bred character, leadership, respect, social and technical ability that may have been lost forever from this part of the world.

It seems we can trace the ultimate fairytale success in 1967 of The Lisbon Lions back to this with the majority of the team developing their prowess in built up industrial working class, survival of the fittest, tight space, one ball, limited choice, open age, all in environments.

The favellas of South America have provided breeding grounds of a similar nature and lets not blind ourselves to the plethora of talent over the decades that has developed in such places.

I hope we are happy with our choices and we can all enjoy tepid safety, ungrazed shins, manicured prohibited areas of grass, telling stories to our young generations how we had adventures everyday with minimal restriction and how they can't do the same. Maybe though they're happy sitting in the back of a car with an iPhone for an hour on the way home from an academy session listening to an adult tell them how they should have done it.

The Author

Rob is a UEFA qualified coach with a League Managers Association qualification and a science and medicine background. He has worked in the football industry in Europe, The USA, Asia and Africa; at International, Premiership, League, Non-League and grass roots levels with both World Cup and European Championship experience.



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