

Who the F*cking Hell Haiku?

Matt Eccles



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Matt Eccles was born and raised in North London. His first match was at White Hart Lane for Pat Jennings testimonial in November 1976, a seventh birthday present, stood on a milk crate (imagine doing that now). While he keeps an eye on Spurs results, he follows Barnet (closer to where he grew up); fortunately, this arrangement isn't reciprocated, and he is delighted that they feature in this book.

Never a great centre-back, to disguise a distinct lack of pace, but always the loudest voice, he captained most teams he played for. His chutzpah ensured he grabbed the ball first in the two penalty shoot-outs he took part in, hitting the post and being eliminated in both. A ruptured patella tendon put paid to his unrealistic playing ambitions — they say your first love always hurts you the most!

He has lived in Wolverhampton since 2000, (following a stint running fantasy football games for the national press), ensuring it received city status before he ventured back to the West Midlands. Previously, he studied for a media degree in Birmingham in the 1990s, winning that particular tussle 2:1.

Aside from his Ma, his partner Cath and daughters Eve and Matilda, his biggest love is salt and vinegar crisps.

Review copy

To those who lift me
Out of darkness cometh light
You know who you are

鵲

1. Answer

Jimmy sits with Jack
And Magpies flock to see them
Were they the first ones?

陶工

Super Lou knew that
Nello would be Marvellous
A full kit banker

2. Answer

赤龍

3. Answer

Welcome To The Turf
Acted quickly and rose fast
Needed R n' R

森

4. Answer

Within Tricky Trees
Fans believe in miracles
They're out of the Wood

塔

5. Answer

A crooked Spire
Inspired this side to near
FA Cup glory

梟

6. Answer

These wise head turners
Got the monkey off their chest
Midweek moniker

女王

7. Answer

Man Friday frolics
All by Royal appointment
You ain't seen me, right?

別邸

8. Answer

With the Little fanfare
Ozzy's team, not Ossie's Dream
Shaw won't let you down

トロッター

9. Answer

Del and Rodney's team?
Their best goal was overhead
Deft by Worthington

ブルース

10. Answer

Stan Drews watches the
Blue Noses rise once again
Big hearts in Small Heath

川岸

SAS took shots
Both by art and by labour
On the riverside

11. Answer

白羽

12. Answer

Little Fella tees
Up the White Feather, superb
In the air some say

勇敢

13. Answer

They're Valiant but
Existentially nowhere
Rudge nudged them upward

鉄道

14. Answer

They're always on track
To train well under pressure
Cheshire grins throughout

狼

Bully's special prize
13 caps and a pork bap
Leader of the pack

15. Answer

埠頭

16. Answer

The theme from Z Cars
Did blare out by the lock-up
Docked points to Dockside

船乗り

17. Answer

Here's a riddle, what's
Black, white and red all over?
Played outside this Town

トラクター

18. Answer

Burley Tractor Boys
Make up half of the Old Farm
They're Suffolk n' good

級

19. Answer

Hairdryer treatment
Blew the class of '92
To domination

鳥類

20. Answer

The Throstles bustle
Putting a spring in their step
Three degrees agree

バイキング

21. Answer

A striking Viking
Has players jumping through hoops
Donny Dog looks on

最高

22. Answer

London Called for Moore
On the Marsh to boost morale
When not at their Best

黒猫

23. Answer

Roared into the Light
I can't help falling in love
At least 'Til I Die

白鳥

24. Answer

Kerry and Kurtan
Cheer this Town in This Country
Haunted training ground?

船

25. Answer

They had the Power
Hutchinson scored for both sides
Pep talk required

無敵

26. Answer

Invincible or
Lilywhite at the double
Tom made a big splash

蜂

27. Answer

The Goaldiggers Song
Is an obscure reference
Do I not like that

クラレット

28. Answer

A drop of Claret
To celebrate winning all
Four pro divisions

拍車

29. Answer

No one can stop them
Successful for the first time
N seventeen years

女王

30. Answer

Hoos in the chair here?
Four-year plan, Superstar Stan
Abbreviated

海賊

31. Answer

It's a gas, gas, gas
Watching the Pirates salute
Bradford and Taylor

象

32. Answer

Decked out in brown is
The elephant in the room
A badge of honours

川

33. Answer

Right by the Mersey
Won nine without conceding
A great league record

郡

34. Answer

Just look at his face!
No County lines on this bog
A black and white case

狐狸

35. Answer

The Fox in this box
Is always welcome home here
A Goalhanger though

大聖堂

36. Answer

Imps play Inn Fields
Having walked from John O'Gaunts
But not to Land's End

旅人

37. Answer

Roy Race didn't start
But Nevin and Aldridge did
Johnny was the King

帽子

38. Answer

Hats off to this lot
If they're not up, they are down
And always in Beds

キーパー

39. Answer

Matija Sarkic
Was retired at 20
This one's a keeper

全人

40. Answer

Floodlit pioneers
Success by the Lawrie load
Grey shirts helped big win

砲手

41. Answer

Moore saurus win some
Pre-Premier League honours
It's up for grabs now

巡礼

42. Answer

Wayne couldn't sustain
The Pilgrim's progress to reach
Some greener pastures

地鼠

Derek Smalls taps in
To tame the opposition
Coracle long gone

43. Answer

炭坑夫

44. Answer

For the Colliers
It's just like watching Brazil
Second level best

蜜柑

45. Answer

A tangerine dream
Brings legendary cup win
Two Stans brought it home

町

46. Answer

Whaddon earth is this?
A Thorndale in my side
At the Robins nest

議長

47. Answer

To reach the semis
Pull up a chair so these boys
Can sign from Ceefax

蜂

48. Answer

Back for a fourth time
Regis, Hoddle and Sansom
Brothers in arms here

東洋

49. Answer

Here from the Far East
It might even be Brisbane
Wyvern in defence

鞍

50. Answer

Calling good fellows
Should I predict a Fryatt?
Or a swift exit?

西側

51. Answer

Hey Jude, this club once
Had a pub on each corner
They stomach Andrews

鋼鉄

52. Answer

Bean, Root and Flea all
Behold mighty flashing Blades
United they stand

鳥

53. Answer

These Boys made a film
Played against Nigeria
And got league status

赤い

54. Answer

With hope in their hearts
The Mersey beat all-comers
Crown paints the town red

牧人

55. Answer

Loved it when Shepherds
Paid fortunes for a Shearer
It's 5 for silver

鰓孔

56. Answer

You can breathe easy
Their nickname's on a white horse
Hidden in the mane

牛

57. Answer

To the Manor born
They milked their cup victory
Ruled above the rest

ロビン

58. Answer

Avon calling all
The South End robin red breasts
Drink Up Thy Zider

運動会

59. Answer

Ken Bates owned these Blues
Years before they became a
Royle family

鉄

60. Answer

Where's Thames Ironworks?
Please could you show me the Way?
I've looked everywhere ...

悪魔

61. Answer

These Red Devils are
Not the ones you first think of
Noli Cedere here

原

62. Answer

A Stag do to mark
Arnold playing the Field
More than most, some Rod!

靴屋

63. Answer

A load of Cobblers
Play their games on six fields
Quickest up and down

港

64. Answer

They fraternise here
Recalling Monty's red socks
Westwood rings a bell

桜ん坊

65. Answer

The meaning of life
Is 42, MacDougall's
The Cherry on top

国都

66. Answer

Capital gains here
The only team to do this
Who aren't from England

古墳

67. Answer

Out of the Furness
Into the fire, higher
The Bluebirds fly

鷗

68. Answer

In the rolling hills
They Foster great memories
And have earned their stripes

棒綯

69. Answer

Average crowds at
Another St James Park
Grecian 2000?

辛子

70. Answer

This TV chef could
Direct a policeman home
They're mustard, sometimes...

谷

71. Answer

Down in the Valley
Only they sport the colours
Claret and Amber

虎

72. Answer

They're grrreat in play-offs
And once beat London 0-4
Browned off at half time

スポーツ万能

73. Answer

Nelson battled all
Putting his left foot forward
It's quite Addictive

獅子

74. Answer

Blue is the colour
Kings of the road (and at home)
Harding stands for them

鷲

75. Answer

Down where Eagles dare
Bouncebackability's there
Their wings had Hilaire

魚

76. Answer

The Cod Army jink
At Highbury Stadium
Is it who you think?

テリア

77. Answer

Smile a While
They gave a Lawman his start
Shanks was here as well

修道院

78. Answer

A Monk was in charge
Dublin, Smith and Mannion
Preyed at The Abbey

行進

79. Answer

Goldie Lookin' Chain
Parade a state of mind here
Exiles no more

白鳥

80. Answer

Covered by Jack Tar
A veg patch became a pitch
Liberty takers

スパ

81. Answer

Sparring in yellow
Sulphur springs eternal here
Always Riding West

ピーコック

82. Answer

Once preening peacocks
They have been to hell and back
Dirty? No not now

工場

83. Answer

Pass to me, to you
On a good ground they named twice
Windy Miller's ball

痙攣

84. Answer

Whelan and dealing
Took this lot right to the top
Tics all the boxes

☒

85. Answer

On this rock sat Pat
He made them social climbers
Fry ups fuelled trophies

合同

86. Answer

U'sual suspects
Also make these Essex boys
Pride of Anglia

素人

87. Answer

A lads club indeed
Alas, they seem stuck down here
Bigmouth strikes again

蔵元

Darren took great strides
To give the mighty Brewers
Football league status

88. Answer

牛乳

89. Answer

If you don't drink milk
You'll only be good enough
To play for Owd Reds

ハート

90. Answer

Herts and minds saw them
Extracted from the Borough
And frighten the Toon

連中

91. Answer

This old Crazy Gang
Had ploughed a furrow right
through Football's pyramid

公民權

92. Answer

Football's first franchise
Isn't at all common it's
Strictly Winkelman

#WTFHHaiku

To continue your 'got, got, need' conversation make sure you connect with #WTFHHaiku across your social feeds. This is a dedicated space where, among other things, you can swap answers, discuss the content and put questions to the author. We'd love to see your haiku of the team you support too!

You can follow Matt and Halcyon on Instagram @thathaikuguy and @halcyonpublishing respectively.

We look forward to seeing your responses ...

Review copy

This book features 92 haikus, one for each club in the English Premier and Football League pyramid. A haiku is a Japanese poem that typically consists of three lines, with five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third. For purists, they should contain a seasonal reference. Well, these reference an entire season — 2025/26!

This is where the ‘highbrow’ element of this book starts and finishes, for this is essentially a quiz, layered with clues for you to guess the identities of the 92 teams represented.

There are nods to British popular culture, famous commentary lines, managers, players and fans, terrace chants (our title is testament to that), grounds, club crests, nicknames and even some Latin mottos. The Japanese characters that accompany each poem offer a further clue to the bilingual or indeed smartphone-owning reader.

If you’re a football fan, or a trivia fiend (or you know someone that is), it’s time to answer the ultimate football question — who the f*cking hell haiku?

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