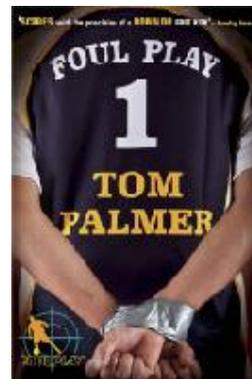


**Tom writes all sorts of books. They include storylines including detectives, spies, football, rugby, running, aeroplanes, war and ghosts. You can find out more here:**

### **Detective stories**

In Tom's five *Foul Play* books, Danny and Charlotte take on football kidnappers, ex-players out for revenge against former teammates and Russian billionaires who want to murder England players.

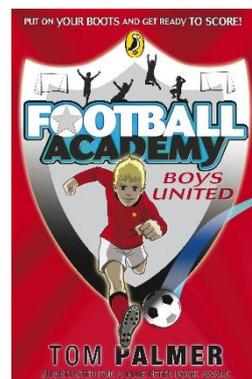
[www.tompalmer.co.uk/foul-play](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/foul-play)



### **Football Academy**

Six straightforward books set in a realistic Premier League football academy. Read together they make up one season in the life of a team of under-twelve football hopefuls. The first one is called *Boys United*.

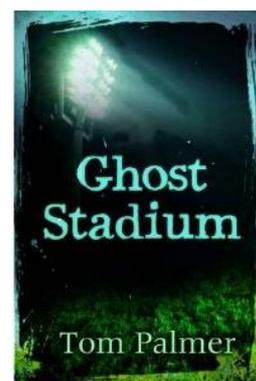
[www.tompalmer.co.uk/football-academy](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/football-academy)



### **Ghost Stadium**

Three boys go camping in the old abandoned football stadium on the edge of town. Not a great idea. It's haunted. And bad stuff is about to happen to them.

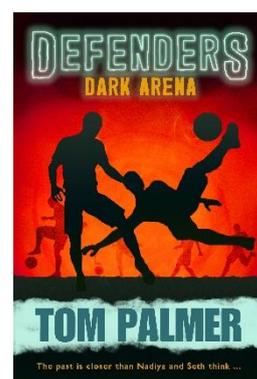
[www.tompalmer.co.uk/other-books/ghost-stadium](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/other-books/ghost-stadium)



### **Defenders**

*Defenders* is a trilogy about Seth and Nadiya, who specialise in solving hauntings at football venues by ghosts from famous historical periods.

[www.tompalmer.co.uk/defenders](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/defenders)



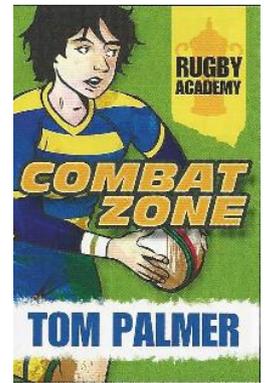
## Rugby books

The *Rugby Academy* series is about a rugby team whose parents are members of the British armed forces.

★★★★★ **Rugby World**

Tom has also written five rugby league books.

[www.tompalmer.co.uk/rugby](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/rugby)

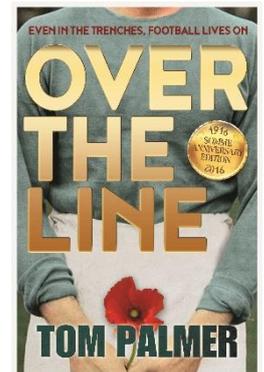


## War stories

*Over the Line* is the true story of the footballers who went to fight in the First World War.

*"Over the Line deserves to sit alongside War Horse and Private Peaceful on any bookshelf."* **Helena Pielichaty**

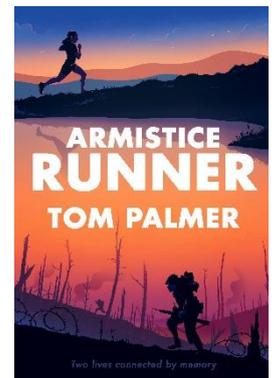
[www.tompalmer.co.uk/over-the-line/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/over-the-line/)



## Armistice Runner

Lily is struggling to compete in her fell-running races and, worse, she's losing her gran to Alzheimer's. But then she discovers her great-great-grandfather's diaries from the First World War. Could his bravery help her reconnect with her gran and give her the inspiration she needs to push through and win?

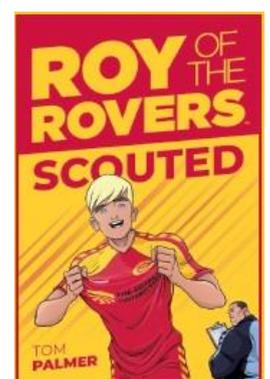
[www.tompalmer.co.uk/armistice-runner/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/armistice-runner/)



## Roy of the Rovers

Roy Race is a totally normal 16 year old – he just happens to be the best footballer his age in Melchester, too. Trouble is, he's so good that he's not playing against kids his age any more.

[www.tompalmer.co.uk/roy-of-the-rovers/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/roy-of-the-rovers/)

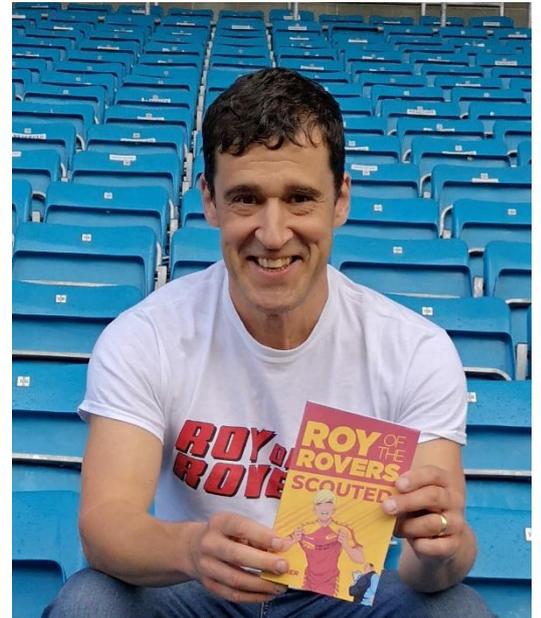


*"Turning book-phobic boys into page-turning maniacs."* **Sunday Telegraph**

# Ask Tom Palmer

## **1 How did you become a writer?**

I was reluctant to read before I reached 17, so being a writer was the last job on my list. But my mum used football newspapers and magazines to encourage me to enjoy reading. It worked! I started to really love stories, wanting to try my own. Reading made me a writer.



## **2 Where do you get the ideas for your Foul Play books from?**

From real football crimes. Every day the newspapers have new stories about dodgy dealings in football. I can walk past an old football stadium or do something fun with my family that makes me think about a story. I always keep a notebook with me to write ideas down.

## **3 How do you go about writing your stories, and how long do they take?**

Longer books, like *Foul Play*, take four months to write. The *Football Academy* books take about a month each. I start by going to the places the book is set, make a plan, then I write a first draft. I spend a lot of time making changes to improve it.

## **4 Do you base your characters like Danny Harte in the *Foul Play* books on anyone in real life?**

Sort of. Danny is what I wish I'd been when I was 14. But wasn't brave like he is. A lot of my villains are based on real people. You might be able to work out who. Basing characters on real people can be a good way to make characters more believable.

## **5 What books do you enjoy reading?**

Stories. Books about travelling to foreign countries. Crime fiction. Books about football abroad. I am open to reading anything - I am currently reading *Anne of Green Gables!*

## **6 Can you recommend any good books for anyone who has enjoyed your *Foul Play* stories?**

Yes. *Keeper* by Mal Peet, *Young Samurai* by Chris Bradford, *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz.



## **7 What advice do you have for anyone who wants to be a writer?**

Read books by lots of different authors so you can learn what you like and don't like. Write about what you love or hate: then you will write with passion. And never give up if you want to get published. If I can do it, then why not you?

## **8 What do you do when you're not writing?**

Spend time with my wife and daughter. Watch football and rugby. Read. And I like fell running.

## **9 Which football team do you support, and why?**

Leeds. Because I always have. And I was born there.

## **10 What's the most unusual fact about you and your life?**

Probably that I met my wife in the Sahara Desert.

**When Tom comes into school you can ask him questions too.**



## **Answer these questions then fit them in the grid opposite**

- 1** In which book does a headmaster ban football?
- 2** The third Foul Play story features a young footballer from a cocoa growing family in Africa, but what is it called?
- 3** To research which book did Tom sleep in a tent in Wrexham stadium?
- 4** In which of the Football Academy series is the main character an under twelve player called Ryan Flynn?
- 5** Which story starts with 5 children in the Saharan desert and ends in Poland?
- 6** In which book does Jatinder learn to fly like his Ace Flyer hero Hardit Singh Malik?
- 7** What is the name of the book that opens with Woody arriving at a British boarding school?
- 8** What is the name of Tom's new series out in 2017?
- 9** Which book follows footballer Jack from the football pitch to the trenches of the First World War?