



DAWN O'PORTER

HONESTLY...

WARNING she always says what she thinks

“The Olympics made me realise how much I hate football”

So I want you to know that I've battled with whether or not I should write this article. Some women have suggested that admitting to what I'm about to tell you lets the side down, and some men have joked about me being 'typical'. But you know what? This is my column and I'll do what I want with it, so here it is... I hate football.

When I told a male friend that I wanted to write about why I hate

football, he said, “That's stupid. It's like a man writing about hating dresses,” so I promised I'd bear in mind as I wrote my article that women are stupid for loving clothes.

The thing is, it's not the literal game I hate. I like games. I'm fun, look... jazz hands. It's everything that surrounds it. The ridiculous money, the rivalry, the way it dismisses women on the pitch and off, but most importantly, the fact that it makes heroes out of wankers.

There are lovely footballers, of course. Good guys with strong work ethics and the ability to keep their todgers in their pants. But there are some who are given a golden ticket to act horrendously off the pitch (and sometimes on) and get away with it. Very young men are paid excessive amounts for their *one* incredible talent, but have no moral guidance on how best to spend their wealth. So some of them spend it on prostitutes and expensive hotel suites to have

affairs. And society creates this atmosphere where they know that no matter how badly they behave, everything will be forgiven as soon as they score a goal.

Some players do get punished. Ched Evans recently got five years after being found guilty of rape (five years doesn't seem long enough, but that's another article), but it was rape – of course he should be punished. It's the other, less illegal but morally corrupt stuff that drives me nuts.

Why is John Terry still allowed to be a hero? He should have been kicked off the pitch ages ago. The man mocked Americans in an airport the day after September 11th. He's been sent off for violent conduct. He had an affair with a teammate's ex-girlfriend and all he got was a fine that barely touched his ridiculous earnings and his captaincy taken off him (which he got back a year later). Finally, when he racially abused another player in 2012 he had his captaincy taken away again. But he *still* has thousands cheer him on every week, so what did he suffer really?

I'm sure footballers get away with it because they are part of a team. As people love the teams they support, they turn a blind eye to the individuals in it. But if a pop star like Rihanna behaves badly, ►

When I was single I was (apparently) a typical singleton who loved my cat, Lilu, too much and chatted about her non-stop on dates. Now, as a married woman, I still love her too much and talk about her constantly when on dates with my husband. Anyway, the point of me telling you this is that I recently read a book that reminded me how amazing having a cat can be. *A Street Cat Named Bob* is the story of a homeless guy and his cat, Bob, who takes the bus, walks on a lead and basically changes this man's life. It's a true story and ideal for anyone like me who's a bit mad when it comes to felines.

I'm loving...



◀ people can just choose to stop buying her albums.

The Olympics made me realise how much I hate football. That's how sport should be. Men and women screaming with joy at the successes of world-class athletes of both sexes; everyone could be a fan. But then the Premier League came back, and it all became about men again.

The women's football league isn't taken as seriously as the Premier League. It doesn't have money and power attached to it. And it's this attitude that lets men think they can own football. In September 2013, at a youth football match in Southampton, a female referee was verbally abused. At half time, one of the player's dads shouted, "You're a female, you should not be involved in football – get your handbag and go home." And that says it all really. I hate how aggressive football makes people. How crowds scream racist chants. It's barbaric.

If I had a pound for every time I've pitched a TV show and heard the words, "No, it's too female," I might be as rich as a footballer. Yet we're drowning in football coverage on TV.

Maybe things are shifting. Back in August more men watched *The Great British Bake Off* than Arsenal's Champions League qualifier. It's nice to think of men ogling over baps in a positive manner, but I don't think things will ever really change.

My friend was probably right: maybe this piece is stupid, but I hate the way that football makes some men behave. It isn't the same as women who love dresses. Clothes are an integral part of our existence. Trust me, I've tried walking down a street naked, people really don't like it! Football is (yup, I'm gonna go there) JUST A GAME (ducks for cover). ☺

Tell me what you think
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AUNTIE TWIT

Dawn solves your problems (well, sort of) in 140 characters

@hotpatooties Any suggestions for those who love vintage but find most clothes in shops to be too small?
@ceeledford Get on Ebay. Online you will find loads. Just know your measurements and never be afraid to get stuff tailored.

@hotpatooties I've finished uni, moved back home with my parents, working like a mad woman and life is boring. HELP!

@jadeyluck Keep working, make as much cash as u can, then start the rest of your life. The more you make, the more fun u have.

@hotpatooties Street heckling. Why must we put up with it?

@heatherbetsy We shouldn't have to. I've always wanted to stop and say, 'Come on then hot stuff, give me one'. Bet they would run a mile...

WOMAN OF THE MONTH

It seems right to big up a sportswoman this month, so I've picked athlete **Amy Williams**.

The skeleton racer won our only gold medal in the winter Olympics in Vancouver in 2010 – which was also the first gold in an individual event in 30 years, and the first won by a woman in 58 years. Amy (GLAMOUR's Sportswoman of the Year in 2010) has since been awarded an MBE and as British Olympic Association Ambassador, she went to Singapore to encourage British competitors in the Youth Olympic Games. She's now Team GB's first ambassador for the winter Olympics, which start on February 7. Good luck, Amy!



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AMOROUS BEASTIES Shut up!

While I'm kept awake by the agonising sound of fox sex, residents in Southampton are being woken by a weird humming that could be the Midshipman fish mating call. Yup, scientists believe fish in an estuary in Hythe are using sonic calls, which let out a low hum, to attract potential mates. Some locals thought they had tinnitus. No, it's just some horny fish.



DAWNAGRAM



Only your own sex life should keep you up at night
love
Dawn
XXX