

Get Stuck In!

By Mo Holkar

Get Stuck In! is a two-player larp in which each character is the father (or other male elder) of a player in a kids' football (soccer) match (aged 9 or 10 maybe). The larp is about talking while watching your kids playing against each other.

It was inspired by a discussion, about football and masculinity, with Michael Esperum (thanks Michael!)

Setup

Character creation consists of each player choosing one of the two DADs and one of the two KIDs, and then answering the self-questions.

- **KID 1** is a slender and agile winger, good at dribbling, but too often gets caught in over-elaboration and ending up facing in the wrong direction. Their crossing and centring is creative but weak.
- **KID 2** is a stocky and not-very-mobile defender who rarely ventures far up the pitch. They are not at all afraid of throwing their body on the line to break up an attack. Their distribution is limited to hoofing the ball upfield.
- **DAD A** used to be a decent footballer himself when he was younger, but never got his lucky break. (At least, that's how he tells the story.)
- **DAD B** was not really a football player or fan as a kid, but got into it during parenthood. He has been surprised by how strong the emotions can get.

Self-questions

To answer together:

- Where is the match taking place, is the setting present-day or in the past, how wealthy/well-equipped are the teams, are there many other supporters present, what's the weather like? Etc.

To answer individually:

- What's your name, what's your kid's name, what sort of work do you do (if you do), does the kid live with you, what other members of the family are there and do they live with you, what did you get the kid for their last birthday? Etc.

Play

The larp is in two halves of 15 minutes each.

- In the first half, the two kids are playing on opposite sides of the field, so they don't really come into contact. But in the second half, KID 1 switches wings, so KID 2 is now defending against them.
- The larp is made up of the two players chatting about parenthood and what it's like having a kid who plays football, broken up by commenting on the match and shouting at their own kid and/or the other players and/or the referee.
- Just before the end of the second half, KID 2 puts in a crunching tackle on KID 1 and cleans them out completely. How do the fathers react?

Gender of the kids

By default, the kids are boys; although the situation where one or both is not a boy is also interesting to explore.

Why is it about dads?

Because I was interested in looking at that particular gendered angle. If you're interested in exploring the theme with parents of other genders, though, then that's great: please do go ahead and try that.

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