

CLIPS OF THE WEEK

Paul Hawksbee and Andy Jacobs

BEST BLOOPERS FROM

talkSPORT 

'I'd be surprised if Alex Oxtail-Chamberlain isn't playing'



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from **talkSPORT** 

PAUL HAWKS BEE AND ANDY JACOBS



**SIMON &
SCHUSTER**

London · New York · Sydney · Toronto · New Delhi

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First published in Great Britain by Simon & Schuster UK Ltd, 2013
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1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Simon & Schuster UK Ltd
1st Floor
222 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8HB

www.simonandschuster.co.uk

Simon & Schuster Australia, Sydney
Simon & Schuster India, New Delhi

A CIP catalogue record for this book
is available from the British Library

Photographs courtesy of talkSPORT

ISBN 978-1-47113-358-9
ebook ISBN 978-1-47113-359-6

Typeset in UK by M Rules
Printed and bound by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY

To Karen and Sue, for putting up with us
for *far* too long.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Paul and Andy would like to thank Dennie Morris for going above and beyond as he always does, Melissa Rudd for painstakingly transcribing all of the clips, assistant producers Tom Marshall and Carly Warren, Polly and Ugo on the decks, gaffers Liam Fisher, Bill Ridley and the man who came up with the idea for this book, Calum Macaulay – plus all of our production teams over the years, any talkSPORT colleague who's ever suggested a clip and, of course, the listeners, without whom ...

INTRODUCTION



Had we known that *Clips of the Week* would run for more than 13 years and counting – and become something of a talkSPORT institution in the process – we might have given it a slightly less lame title.

Well, it's not very snappy, is it? We could have at least incorporated 'cock-ups', 'bloopers' or even 'gaffes' in there somewhere, plus a bit of alliteration. But in all honesty, we probably weren't even sure that the idea had legs.

And why would we? Surely the ultra-professional band of talkSPORT presenters, newsreaders and sportscasters couldn't generate enough cock-ups, bloopers or gaffes to justify a regular slot on our show every Friday afternoon at 3.30? And there was categorically no way the station's ever-growing army of articulate, erudite callers would stumble over their words or say enough dumb stuff on air to pad it out even further.

Oh yes, they could.

It's amazing to think that over the many weeks, months and years that we've compiled the clips there's been only a handful of occasions when we couldn't generate enough good ones to broadcast. And that was probably only because Alan Brazil was on holiday.

Somehow, through listening to many hours of the station's quality output (always a pleasure, never a chore as far as we're concerned), getting whispered tip-offs from producers encouraging us to 'check out what Beaky said at 7.14 this morning', and, of course, the keen ears of the talkSPORT listeners who took to the feature immediately and quickly began suggesting brilliant clips of their own, we've generally managed to offer up at least a dirty dozen.

Over the years, one or two talkSPORT bosses have questioned whether the *Clips of the Week* sent the right message to the audience and the advertisers. And it's a fair point. They are, after all, a weekly celebration of our (very) occasional foot-in-mouth

moments. But we see the fact that they've endured as one of talkSPORT's many virtues. In fact, we doubt whether the clips would have survived beyond Week 1 on any other radio station.

That's because the many brilliant broadcasters who have featured in them over the years have never let their egos get in the way of good content. We hope they realise that the clips are compiled and delivered with affection and with a genuine love of the station and what makes it special: its approachability, its connection with its audience, and yes, its ability to laugh at itself.

Enough of the schmaltz, what about a few *Clips of the Week*-related FAQs? Why do we play them out at 3.30 on a Friday? Well, why not? It's a bit of a 'here comes the weekend' thing. Like bringing in games on the last day of term.

Why do we never feature in the *Clips*? Simple answer: I think you'll find we never make mistakes (*ahem ...*).

And, probably the most F of all the FAQs, what was the first-ever talkSPORT clip we played on air? It's something we've pondered since compiling this book and have come to the conclusion that ... we haven't got a clue. Sorry.

We can, however, recall the first collection of clips that we unearthed and performed together. They predate our time at talkSPORT and go back to when we first met and worked together on TV's *Fantasy World Cup* with David Baddiel and Frank Skinner in 1998.

Our job then was to trawl through the ITV Sport archives, find funny footage and supply the appropriate punchlines to accompany it. We'd then present our ideas to David and Frank who'd give them the gladiatorial thumb either way – usually down.

Over the course of the series, there were a few clips that we both thought were absolute gold. Unfortunately, they didn't. We'd try sneaking them back into our clips reel for a second viewing, hoping they wouldn't notice. They always did, of course. 'We've seen this three times already – and it wasn't funny the first time. Next!' seems to ring a bell.

On the day of the final transmission, David and Frank decided that we would go onto the *Fantasy Football* set and perform this collection of clips we'd championed in front of the audience who'd just watched the show, to see if they worked as well as we claimed they would have done. And so we did.

Jack Charlton dispatching a rabbit ... Kevin Keegan on *Disney Club* teaching Winnie the Pooh – complete with giant honey pot – to head the ball more effectively ... swearsy Wolves legend Derek Dougan ... Bobby Robson trying to say 'Abercrombie & Fitch' ... the bloke who'd swallowed Alan Ball ... we played them all out. And, largely because the crowd probably took pity on a couple of amateurs, they went down a storm. Maybe that was the moment we got the bug.

So, are we saying that without Skinner and Baddiel there would be no *Clips of the Week*? Well, if they want an acknowledgement, then yes. But if they want money, no.

We hope you enjoy this collection of talkSPORT *Clips of the Week*. If you're a seasoned listener, many of the clips and their perpetrators will be well known and well loved by you. In which case, prepare to indulge in some Clip Karaoke. Because all of your favourites are here – past and present: Parry, Beaky, Quinny, Keysie, Goughie, Keith 'Mr Inadvertent Innuendo' Arthur.

But even if you've never tuned into talkSPORT in your life (are you mad . . . where have you *been*?) and are just thumbing through this book in Waterstone's chuckling at Big Al's tortured pronunciation of Greek newspaper *Eletheros Typos*, then welcome, friend. There's plenty more where that came from . . .

Paul & Andy

THE LEGEND THAT IS ALAN BRAZIL

Big Al, talkSPORT's legendary *Breakfast Show* host, played upfront for Ipswich, Spurs, Manchester United and more, as well as for his native Scotland – including a World Cup in 1982. One of the UK's best speech broadcasters, he possesses a natural ease and charm that allows him to breeze through four hours of radio every morning. During his 15 years at the station, his notable co-hosts have included Mike Parry, Graham 'Beaky' Beecroft and Ronnie Irani. These days, he's joined by a hand-picked selection of friends, including ex-Arsenal midfielder Ray Parlour, avuncular boss Neil Warnock and former Spurs and Newcastle heart-throb David Ginola. A noted *bon viveur*, whose early end to the working day allows plenty of opportunity for 'socialising', Alan's warts and all, what-you-see-is-what-you-get presenting style, has furnished us with hundreds of memorable clips over the years. No doubt he'll want to claim 50 per cent of the royalties from this book – and let's face it, he'll have a point.

**Alan Brazil reflects on the previous evening's
MTV Awards ...**

'Best dancer, best videos, who was the guy, erm, who was the guy who choreo, choreog, choreogra – who put it all together?'

Alan on TV – here he is on The Apprentice ...

'It's only the first time I've seen it. He's very firm, old Sugar, isn't he, ol' Sir Alan – you're fired, you're hired, get lost!'

(I'm not sure 'You're fired, you're hired, get lost' is his catchphrase.)

**Alan's back at Cheltenham, with a race we've
never heard of ...**

'Now the 3.20 – the big one – the Queen Mother Champion Moose.'

**Chatting to the Mirror's John Cross about Carlos Tevez
on holiday ...**

JOHN: 'He's got his music on his iPod playing, running across the beach!'

ALAN: 'You say music, it could be Rosetta Stone. He could be learning Italian – or a bit of Spanish.'

(Think, being Argentinean, he can already get by in Spanish, Al.)

A message to the Breakfast production team – when you're doing Alan's research notes, make sure you put commas in ...

'They're almost the equivalent of a team like Villa losing young Barry Milner and Petrov. Sorry – losing Young, Barry, Milner and Petrov.'

His definitive review of the 2008 Champions League final between Manchester United and Chelsea ...

'Moscow, crikey – what a game it was. And to end like that. John, slipping – left leg went ... BANG!'

(Only Alan can sum up 120 minutes plus penalties in 18 words.)

Deciding not to insult FIFA President Sepp Blatter, then does it anyway ...

'He's done it again, this tube. Sorry, I keep saying that. But Sepp Blatter – and what a numpty by the way ...'

A unique insight into an unorthodox motivational technique ...

'Know your players. Some need a kick up the backside – some just need an arm.'

(Not up the backside, we hope.)

Alan reporting live from the Open Golf Championship ...

'It's just gone 9.32. Don't forget, Andy Gray coming up at ten o'clock, here on the *Sports Breakfast*. 9.32. Tiger, with his ball on the left-hand side. It's 9.32, here on talkSPORT.'

(Sorry Al, we didn't quite catch the time ...)

With a fantastic link ...

('Get Back' by the Beatles playing)
'Tell you what, Billy Preston actually played with the Beatles on that one – but can Preston sneak into the play-offs and get back to the promised land?'

(We can see what you did there, Al.)

Recalling an old opponent ...

'I was trying to think of great Austrian players, and the only one I could really come up with I played against at Ipswich a long time ago – it was Franz Klammer.'

(Who could forget the way the skiing legend slalomed through defences?)

A hands across the water moment from the big man during the Finance section ...

'Tough times for Japan. Not that I care ...'

Talking to Manchester Evening News Sports Editor Peter Spencer about Wayne Rooney, Alan launches into one of his trademark lengthy questions ...

ALAN: 'Peter, what about, you know, it's hard to get to the bottom of this because a year ago, I loved him the way he was, he led the line, he just led Man United, he was strong, you know, he was just fantastic. The punters loved his attitude, chasing back, getting tackles in, apart from scoring brilliant goals. Now all of a sudden, is it, you know, I'm trying to get to the bottom of it, what's happened? The World Cup was a disaster, was that because of off-the-field antics? All right, allegedly and all this. Or has something been bothering him for a while about United? I don't know you know, people have, footballers sometimes always think the grass is greener on the other side, they speak to Ronaldo, people like that. Or can we look even deeper? We had a call earlier talking about the problem with the Irish who sold to the Glazers. The Glazers have this huge, huge debt hanging over their heads and at the moment United's cashflow looks after that. But what if one of their other businesses is maybe not pulling its horns in, or the money that it did, so they have to pull their horns in and perhaps something's got to give? Now, is it a deeper, deeper problem than what we know about, or have we heard anything there?'

PETER SPENCER: 'Bloody hell Alan, that was a question and a half, wasn't it?'

But it's not all long questions with Alan. Here's one he posed to journalist Chris Davies ...

'Chris. Wolves?'

Recalling the Champions League final with former United centre-back Henning Berg ...

ALAN: 'Henning, take me back to the wonderful triumph, the wonderful year of 1999. I'm told Alex Ferguson gave a real rousing, tremendous speech just before you walked out on the pitch – can you remember that?'

HENNING: 'No.'

Summing up the career of Denis Law in his own inimitable fashion ...

'Sleeves down over his hands – aggressive. You know, hung in the air – BOOM! Exploded – BANG! Bent double – BOOF!'

With news of the England captaincy ...

'Rio Ferdinand has reclaimed the captain's armbag from Stevie Gerrard.'

With some surprise news on Bolton chairman Phil Gartside ...

'I did hear them talking about Phil Gartside coming out.'

Looking ahead to the second FA Cup semi-final ...

‘It’s gonna be an absolute cracker. Chelsea have to play Sunday night, they don’t want to, but the FA won’t bulge.’

Discussing a great Pakistani bowler with co-host**Ronnie Irani ...**

RONNIE: ‘When it comes to skill and performance, there’s probably no better bowler the world has seen than Wasim Akram.’

ALAN: ‘Brian Lara said that as well, he said: “Azim Wazi – the most outstanding bowler I’ve ever faced.”’

(One for the Sooty fans, there. ‘Azim Wazi, let’s get, er ... Bazi.’)

Introducing a special guest ...

‘He’ll soon be treading the boards with the West End production of *Fences* – delighted to welcome Lenny Henry. Morning, Henry!’

(Bit public school that, Al.)

On American politics ...

‘Very interested in this story – Sir Burruck Obama back in for another term ...’

With an unfortunate turn of phrase that sends a shiver down your spine ...

‘Plenty of action in the Football League tonight; let’s have a quickie with the Moose.’

Apparently not happy that tramps are getting verbally abused ...

‘The clubs should be docked points if they can’t control their supporters. It’s not nice when you know you suffer hobo-phobic chants.’

Former Premier League manager Neil Warnock speaks for the nation, as Alan takes us on a geographical tour of Renfrewshire ahead of Rangers v St Mirren ...

ALAN: ‘I was going to say it’s a Glasgow derby but St Mirren are up in Paisley now aren’t they? I say now, they’ve always been out there. In fact, that is probably closer to Ibrox than Parkhead, I think. Well, Love Street used to be right up from Glasgow Airport, so it was nothing – just a flick from Ibrox to Love Street. I don’t know where St Mirren Park is now. Someone will text or email me ... Oh, six miles, is it? So that would be ... would that be ... I was going to say that would be closer. I don’t know. Parkhead’s not that far from Ibrox ...’

NEIL: ‘Listen, I’m not really bothered, Alan. Can we move on?’

**At the Cheltenham Festival, crossing to reporter
Rupert Bell ...**

‘Let’s go back out to the course, it looks an absolute picture, maybe a little bit of frost early on that’s departed now. Here’s talkSPORT’s Rupert Bear.’

With a bizarre combined cricket score and time check ...

‘OK, Australia, 201 for eight o’clock. How does that affect the sporting odds?’

(It’ll be quite dark by then, so we imagine they’ll lengthen, Al.)

**There’d been talk of Becks going as far as Australia,
but according to Alan he was considering moving even
further away ...**

‘Good morning. David Beckham is set to leave the galaxy next month.’

Alan Brazil has a rare gift ...

‘We’re just reminiscing about the forthcoming Ryder Cup and the St Leger.’

*(He’s the only man who can reminisce about something
that hasn’t happened yet.)*

With a winning turn of phrase ...

‘It’s a bit like a kettle calling another kettle black.’

And another ...

‘United started like a train on fire.’

And surely not another ...

‘Darren Lewis has really put the cat amongst the bags ...’

Well done to Al on winning talkSPORT employee of the month, awarded for being the ultimate company man ...

RONNIE: ‘Listening to talkSPORT on the iPhone is brilliant. I did it over in China, Al. We’ve got to get you that!’

ALAN: ‘Ah, who cares!?!’