

nick's novel stings like a hornet

A FOOTBALL fan has written a novel set against the backdrop of **Watford's** historic FA Cup journey to Wembley a quarter of a century ago.

Nick Corble's book, **Golden Daze**, follows a young man on the brink of adulthood seen through the twin lenses of his passion for Watford FC and his reaction to tumultuous changes to the country in the Thatcher years of the mid-1980s.

Described by Nick as a "Fever Pitch for fans of non-glory clubs", the book takes a nostalgic look back to the season of 1983/84 when Watford went all the way to the FA Cup final only to lose by two goals to Everton.

Nick, a life-long Hornets fan, grew up in Sandpit Lane, St Albans, and was educated at St Albans School. He owns his own management company and is a freelance writer.

The 50-year-old has had 14 non-fiction books published in the past few years on subjects including canals, the countryside and fairgrounds — but this

is his first novel.

He said: "The book is essential reading for anyone who looks back with fondness on a more complex and yet also a simpler time. It's also a rattling good yarn about growing up!

He added: "Just as Mrs Thatcher was taking on the miners, Watford, who six years before had been playing in the old Fourth Division, were taking on the big boys. Like his club, his family and even his country, the novel's hero stumbles blindly to a crossroads as that season unfolds.

"With his team homing in on the ultimate prize he too closes in on the big questions of work, life and women — and as the final whistle blows the secrets to all three are finally revealed to him."

Nick will be signing copies of his book, published by Troubador, at Waterstones in St Albans on Saturday.

For more information about Nick, visit www.nickcorble.co.uk where copies of Golden Daze can be ordered.



Nick Corble with his book Golden Daze