



# THE GAMES THAT TIME FORGOT

BY ALEX HORNE

ALEX HORNE, author, award-winning comedian, and co-star and co-creator (alongside TIM KEY and MARK WATSON) of BBC Four's comedy quiz show We Need Answers, has taken a completely different journey for a brand new BBC Four documentary – The Games That Time Forgot. In this one-off special, ALEX explores the world of forgotten and extinct sports, from Quintain to Cricket on Horseback.

ALEX used to love playing games. Not just football, rugby and cricket, he loved all the sports, even the made up ones, that he and his friends used to play when they were kids. Since leaving school and growing up, ALEX stopped playing sports and instead watched them on TV, but it wasn't the same. The games seemed too commercial, over-regulated and, to be frank, boring. Surely this wasn't what sport was all about?

Then, one afternoon, ALEX found himself reading Joseph Strutt's *Sports and Pastimes of the People of England*, published at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This was more like it, these were the sports that ALEX wanted to watch; The Quintain, The Jingling Match, Hot Hasty Pudding Eating; why weren't people playing these games any more?

But then he discovered an advert from the *Kentish Gazette* of 29<sup>th</sup> April 1794 for a particular game that was due to take place the following month. It read:

*"A very singular game of cricket will be played on Tuesday, the 6th of May, in Linsted Park, between the Gentlemen of the Hill and the Gentlemen of the Dale, for one guinea a man. The whole to be performed on horseback. To begin at nine o'clock, and the game to be played out."*

They had played a game of cricket on horseback! Why weren't people still playing cricket on horseback? ALEX couldn't just sit there any longer. He had to do something about it. Not only was he desperate to see a game of cricket on horseback, he wanted to play a game of cricket on horseback.

So he did. This film follows ALEX's attempts to uncover, recreate and revive some of the games that had been buried under the weight of modern sports. Why was horseless jousting once so popular? How do you win a smoking match? And is it really possible to play a whole game of cricket on horseback? Watch The Games That Time Forgot to find out.

***The Games That Time Forgot will transmit on BBC Four, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 9.00pm***

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## PRODUCTION CREDITS

The documentary is filmed, produced and directed by ANDY DEVONSHIRE. The Executive Producers are JON THODAY, RICHARD ALLEN-TURNER and JAMES TAYLOR for Avalon, and SUZANNE GILFILLAN for the BBC.

### ALEX HORNE

ALEX HORNE is an award winning comedian and star and co-creator (alongside TIM KEY and MARK WATSON) of BBC Four's comedy quiz show We Need Answers, who has established a reputation among critics, comics and audiences as a thoughtful and original stand-up, writer and solo performer. Nominated for the *Perrier Best Newcomer Award* in 2003 for Making Fish Laugh, his interactive Edinburgh Festival Fringe debut stand-up show, he has brought five solo shows to the Edinburgh Fringe, including 2004's *Chortle Award* winning Every Body Talks, and 2005's When In Rome which went on to be ALEX'S first national tour. In 2007 ALEX performed Birdwatching to critical acclaim at the Fringe. The show went on to tour nationally in 2009 coinciding with the release of ALEX'S debut book Birdwatchingwatching (Virgin Books). Alex's second book Wordwatching, based on his 2008 Edinburgh show, was released in January this year after which ALEX embarked on a 35 date national tour. In addition to ALEX's documentary for BBC Four The Games that Time Forgot 2010 has seen him become a columnist for The Observer. ALEX'S other recent credits include The Percy Edwards Showdown (BBC Radio 4), The Verb (BBC Radio Three) and Loose Ends (BBC Radio 4).

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