

BOOK REVIEWS

STILL AN ORDINARY SPECTATOR. Five More Years of Watching Sport.

By John Rigg.

THIS follow-up to his award-winning book *'An Ordinary Spectator: 50 Years of Watching Sport'* allows author John Rigg to present a further collection of his wide ranging sports writing, this time from the last five years.

'*R.L. Journal*' readers will be familiar with John's writing as a regular contributor to this magazine, and will share a warm connection with his excellent powers of description and an immediate empathy with his observations. In recording this most recent stage of his long sports-spectating journey, John Rigg takes us on a worldwide journey from high-school American football in Texas to club cricket in Saltaire. In between, he includes top golfers like Rory McIlroy, seeing Inter Milan playing Glasgow Celtic and the Stade Toulouse Rugby Union juggernaut coming to town.

But, more than ever, the two sports he grew up with in Yorkshire - Rugby League and cricket - shine through. For Rugby League fans there is so much to enjoy in this book and John Rigg has a wide ranging knowledge of our sport, a welcome attention to detail and a very accurate memory of the people and events he has seen in years gone by. His first sporting love was watching Hunslet at Parkside in the 1960s, and they figure regularly in his reminscences which include a very nice personal tribute to the late Mr. Harry Jepson and a visit to the Garden Gate and all its Hunslet heritage.

If you enjoy good writing on all sport, and you appreciate that rarity of seeing Rugby League being given serious and respectful treatment alongside major sports from around the world, this will be one of the most enjoyable books you could ever read.

Published by SilverWood Books, price £16. Full details are given and copies can be purchased at the website:

www.anordinaryspectator.com

