

ROY OF THE ROVERS / SAMPLE NEWSPAPER STRIP 1 / FIRST DRAFT

Title: **ROY OF THE ROVERS**

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1

An image of Roy Race from the mid-1970s, playing for Rovers. He looks strong, lithe and athletic, with plenty of long hair. Shown in full figure, he's striking the ball powerfully with his left foot - it's the Rocket, as seen so often in the comic strips of the past. But the image is in fact a poster for a new DVD release charting Roy's playing career. So at the top of the image are the words **REAL ROY OF THE ROVERS STUFF**. At the foot of the image are the words **DVD OUT NOW**.

MEL (BALLOON OFF): LIKE THE POSTER, DAD?

ROY (BALLOON OFF): ...WAS I EVER THAT YOUNG?

2

We are in a temporary porter-cabin office. Mel is hanging the framed-up DVD poster on one wall. Roy stands close by. Both are seen in full figure. Roy is clearly much older than the poster image. His hair is shorter and neater, with flecks of grey in the blond. He's still handsome, but the face carries some deep lines now. He's put on a few pounds, particularly around the neck area, but he isn't too out of shape. He does, however, have to lean heavily on his walking stick to aid his prosthetic lower leg hidden under his trousers. Mel looks stunning, even when dressed casually, as here.

MEL: APPARENTLY! SO, THE PROPOSED *RACE FOR ENGLAND* BOOK...YES? NO?  
NEED MORE TIME?

ROY: MEL, IT FEELS...*GRUBBY*. LIKE CASHING IN...

3

Just a head image of Mel, and a head image of Roy. Mel looks patient but determined. Roy has a rueful, uncertain look on his face.

MEL: IT'S MARKETING DAD! THE CLUB NEEDS EVERY PENNY. WE HAVE TO *SELL!*  
ROVERS SHIRTS, DVDS - EVEN MEL PARK!

ROY: YEAH, I NOTICED..!

4

A view across the building site where the new ground is under construction. Only sections of some stands have been constructed so far - there's clearly a long way to go. The porter-cabin, with others like it, is to one side. Roy is just visible looking out of the windows across the scene. The words **MELCHESTER ROVERS TEMPORARY OFFICES** are readable on a porter-cabin sign.

ROY: STILL, IF YOU CAN TALK ME INTO THAT...YOU'VE GOT YOUR MOTHER'S POWERS OF PERSUASION...

5

Mel is at the internal door of the porter-cabin office, which she's just opened. Outside there is a narrow corridor. Sitting outside is Sam Farrel. From the office doorway, Mel beckons to him to come inside. Sam is casually dressed, short and slim, in his early thirties. He has a laptop bag with him.

MEL: AND YOUR DETERMINATION. THAT'S WHY YOU MADE ME M.D. HERE, ISN'T IT? SO...

6

Sam trails Mel into the office. She gestures to Sam as she introduces him to Roy. Sam looks keen and optimistic. Mel looks confident, sure in what she is doing. Roy wears a long-suffering expression, realising he's been out-played.

MEL: ...I'VE ALREADY CONTACTED A JOURNALIST ABOUT THE BOOK. MEET SAM FARREL - HE'S GOING TO HELP YOU WRITE *RACE FOR ENGLAND*..!

(Ends strip 1)