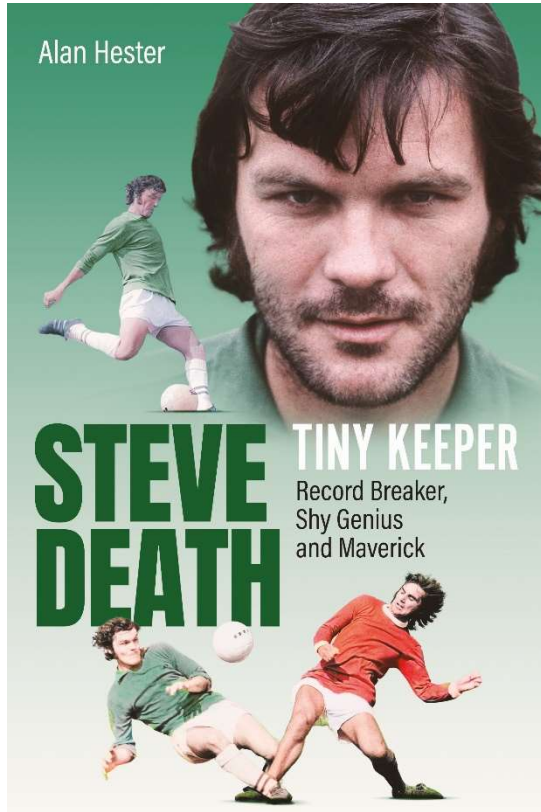




## Title information



### Tiny Keeper

Steve Death, Record Breaker, Shy Genius and Maverick

By Alan Hester

#### Key features

- Compelling story of lower-league legend Steve Death, once the shortest goalkeeper in the Football League
- Death was part of the legendary West Ham United academy under Ron Greenwood and trained and played with World Cup-winning trio Hurst, Peters and Moore
- At 5ft 7in, only his lack of height prevented him from playing at the highest level
- Based on first-hand accounts from interviews with players from West Ham and Reading, journalists, supporters and family
- Previously unpublished memories and reflections on a unique local hero
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

#### Description

*Tiny Keeper* is the extraordinary story of Steve Death, once the shortest goalkeeper in the Football League – at just 5ft 7in. He was good enough to keep Peter Shilton out of the England Schoolboys side, yet spent his career in Divisions Three and Four and became a lower-league legend. He started out at West Ham United, but stopped growing and was sold to Reading in 1969 for a club record £20,000 fee. He repaid them by playing 537 matches, was Player of the Year four times and made the Football League Team of the Year twice. In 1979, he set a Football League record for clean sheets – which still stands – as Reading won Division Four. Described on his debut as ‘an insignificantly built bundle of daredevil energy’, Death played without gloves, caught crosses one-handed and saved penalties instinctively. This is the story of a shy genius, record-breaker and maverick. It provides a fascinating insight into the lost world of ’70s lower-league football.

#### Details

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