



INVENTOR & MAKER OF THE WEEK

Charles Goodyear

INVENTOR OF THE STANDARDISED FOOTBALL BALL

In medieval times there were town-wide football games, just like today. But back then there were no Adidas sponsored balls to play with. So what did players actually use? Originally they used skulls, but eventually a pig's bladder – inflated and tied like a balloon – became the ball of choice.

Pigs' bladders came in all different shapes and sizes, making them very difficult to control. They also burst a lot, so all in all they weren't great to play with.

Charles Goodyear, born in 1800, was a self-taught chemist and manufacturing engineer. He had dedicated his life to developing a strong form of rubber.

In 1855 Charles put a perfectly spherical rubber ball on display. This was immediately adopted as the perfect ball to replace the pig's bladder in the American game of soccer. It was a huge step as it started to standardize the size and shape of a football.

It wasn't until the 1900's that footballs started being made out of leather and then in the 1960's this was updated to synthetic materials.

