

1. How did you come to the hobby "Groundhopping"?

One day I realized that, even though I deal with football daily both on professional and academic environment, I stopped going to stadiums. And the most important thing in my football passion are matches, that is why I had to reorganize my life in such a way I was able to have more free time and in order to enjoy live matches. As you see I nailed it :)

2. What do people say, when you tell them, that you do Groundhopping? How do male Groundhoppers react?

The people react in different ways. One part of them is astonished, and reckons that it is good to have passion and fulfil this passion, and not everyone has enough courage to doing it. Unfortunately, there is also another group which does not understand it. They claim it is waste of time and money. In my opinion, journeys and memories are worth more than material things.

When it comes to male groundhoppers they generally react normally. It is usual that at the beginning they are cautious in contacts with me, but after exchanging few words and drinking few beers, they notice that I am like them – I am beer lover and football freak, so there is not a big difference between us.

3. What is your motivation?

Most of all getting away from reality, living real emotions and enforcing conviction that football is something more than just a sport discipline – it is a social phenomenon. I would like to show other people that they can experience something extraordinary even on small, local stadium.

4. Do you have other hobbies? Or is there only time for Hopping?

Unfortunately, I have got too many interests of which most is neglected by groundhopping and working over blog about it. However, I still spend a lot of time reading books, mainly sport books and also these about marketing, branding and social media.

5. Do you travel alone most of the time?

Most of times I travel alone because it is easier to interact with local people and I hold it in high regard. Furthermore, it is a good time to reflect on and seek an inspiration to pursue my further plans.

6. When you travel for Hopping: do you also do sightseeing when you are in new cities?

Hardly ever. As I have got full time job and work from Monday to Friday I am only able to have free Saturday and Sunday. Journey takes most of my time and there is only some time left for watching a match, especially when I come back the same day. It is true that I often plan to go sightseeing, but eventually I choose to go to pub with local supporters. Frankly, I love meeting new people and their stories and share my experience with them. It will be always the most valued thing for me.

7. In your opinion: What makes a stadium attractive for you?

Of course, one of the most attractive things for me is the architecture of a stadium. I like old stadiums, but also these which have something distinctive, something which make them unique compared to others. Even ‘backstage’ seems interesting to me, dressing rooms, club facilities, especially in small towns have a lot of enchantment. There is not a lot of money invested, but everything makes a terrific climate. As much as architecture, important things for me are history and traditions of a place. And what is the most important - people, who are on the stadium, spectators. Often they give colors to the grey stadiums.

8. How does it feel to be a female Groundhopper? Most of the Hoppers are male...is it something special for you?

I think it is really cool to be a female groundhopper. I will say more, it is good to be a woman with “out of the ordinary interests”, because people perceive you as interesting and worth to meet person. However, the most important is being authentic because it is easy to tell if football is the passion for a woman or just a way of getting fame. Anyways, I think that as a female-groundhopper I gain a lot, because people I meet on matches are friendly-biased. Thanks to that it is sometimes easier for me to get into closed stadium, to get tickets to a match or get into stadium for free.

9. How is Groundhopping in Poland?

Groundhopping is still a hobby for enthusiasts. It is not popular in Poland. Many people outside the community do not know this phenomenon and do not know what it is about. The most frequent for us are short trips starting from few hours to a maximum of weekend, but mostly those trips take place in the region where a groundhopper lives. From time to time, we go abroad or have longer stays. There are some reasons of that, the first reason is financial aspect and the second is professional life. Not many of us have flexible jobs and cannot afford far and long journeys. Regardless of all, I think that there are more and more of us and others are enthused by this idea of life.

10. Do Polish Fan scenes hate Groundhoppers (as it's often in Germany)

From my point of view Polish fans do not have anything against groundhoppers. Personally, I have got a lot of friends who belong to ultras groups and invite me to matches, or send requests to send them pictures from their teams’ matches. In my perception, they are happy that a stranger is interested in their club and travel a long distance in order to watch a football game, and then this person publishes an account of it on the net. Generally, I think that attitude of Polish fans is rather indifferent than hostile. At least, I have never experienced any disgraceful incidents.

11. What's your all-time favourite Ground?

Among many football grounds I have seen, most of them have something original and I have problem with choosing which is my favourite. I hope that the best football ground is yet ahead of me.

12. How important is photographing for you?

In the past, I have been just watching what was going on the pitch. Now, I pay attention to everything around like architecture and spectators. Having travelled to different football grounds I saw a lot of unique facilities and expressive emotions of the fans, beautiful tifo display and charming moments, which I would like to share with others. That is why taking photographs is so important to me, because it lets feel great atmosphere e.g. on the lowest level of football. Without the pictures it would be hard to describe it, and some people would not believe it. It is said: "A picture is worth a thousand words".

13. What makes the Polish football being special for you?

Polish football has always been special and close to me, because I am able to understand its specificity thanks to the fact that I know traditions, historical background, mentality and I am familiar with Polish fans community.

14. What is your favourite German ground?

I have not seen so many German grounds yet, but the most appealing of these I have seen was small stadium of SpVgg Dresden-Löbtau. Principally, because of fantastic supporters and family atmosphere in this club.

15. Do you have a favourite football team that you support?

Yes. My favourite team is WKS Śląsk Wrocław. When I went for a first time to a match, I knew it is THIS club. Now, I do not often go to Śląsk matches as I do not like the new stadium, which is too modern and does not have the atmosphere I fell in love. I think groundhopping is also the case, since I started to be more open to other clubs, even to those I did not sympathize with.

16. What is your main job?

I work full-time as a project manager in football firm "Playarena". This is the biggest 6-a-side league in Poland. As a part of the project, we organize Polish Championship and Polish Cup. I am also responsible for organisation issues concerning Polish 6-a-side national team.