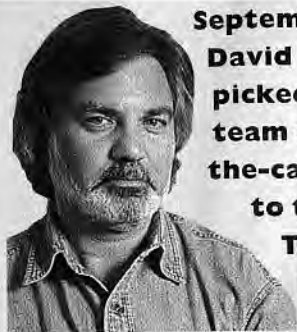


TOP JOB: PULLING THE PRODUCTION TEAM TOGETHER FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT FOOTBALLERS



September Films' David Green has picked a top team of behind-the-camera talent to tell *The Truth About Footballers* for ITV

Cameraman Martin Hawkins (right) knows all about the lifestyles of the rich and famous having worked with September Films on documentaries from *Fame and Fortune* to this year's *The Truth About Women*. Following the success of that series on ITV – and just in time for the World Cup – Hawkins has teamed up again with executive producer David Green to start filming a one-hour special for Meridian focusing on how football in the late 1990s has become cool and sexy.

September head of production Elaine Day says she came up with the idea for the show but admits she's not at all devoted to



football beyond admiring Georgie Best.

Day says that director David Cumming is very knowledgeable about football while producer Jannine Waddell – David's wife – is excellent on the lifestyle side.

'We had to get it together very quickly', says Day, who says September signed up associate producer Jim Anderson plus researchers Simon Powell and Stephen Carris on their knowledge of football. Meanwhile, researcher Pippa Healy, who has worked with September before, was hired for a woman's view of the game.

As for hiring Hawkins, director Cumming says he is simply 'first class'. 'We've

worked so well together in the past on programmes like *Challenge Anneka*, right through to *Fame and Fortune* and *The Truth About Women*,' says the director. 'He's the best video cameraman to catch the glamour off the field.'

Hawkins' other credits include *Drop the Dead Donkey*, *Birds of a Feather* and *The Great Antiques Hunt*. He has just been working on Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads*.

Hawkins has brought in camera assistant Martin Blinko, having worked with him for over five years. He has also worked with sound recordist Tim Hunt before on the *Great Antiques Hunt* and *The Truth About Women*. 'It's nice to vary your team, but when the pressure's on – and you're working with a stranger – it only puts more pressure on you,' says Hawkins. 'At the end of the day everything reflects on you.'

Freelancer Greg Darby will edit the show, having also cut *The Truth About Women*. '*The Truth About Footballers* is very much an editor's film – it's very much down to the editing,' says Day.