**[5 News Tonight](https://scout.tveyes.com/)**

02/15/2017 06:30:18 PM

* [FIVE](https://scout.tveyes.com/) /

* [U.K. National](https://scout.tveyes.com/)

The link between **football and dementia**, the true story of Tara Palmer Tompkinson's death and a new twist in the mystery over the murder of Kim-Jong-nam. You're watching 5 News Tonight. The families of two footballing legends tell us more needs to be done about possible links between heading the ball and brain damage. Tara Palmer-Tompkinson's family reveal what really happened to her. Caught on camera - did this woman assassinate the half-brother of North Korea's leader? And also tonight. It's official, we're a nation of complainers. Customers are making more complaints than ever before but how do you do it effectively? We'll have top tips from a super-complainer. And, could old mobile phones be making a comeback? I'll be asking whether it's time to turn our back on smartphones. Welcome to 5 News Tonight. Welcome to 5 News, I am Dani Sinha.

They're both footballing icons, one has Alzheimer's, the other died from a form of brain disease. Now the families of Nobby Stiles and Geoff Astul are demanding more action over possible link between heading a ball and brain damage. A new study on a small number of players has found it could cause long-term damage. The scientists behind the study say it's proof more research is needed. Peter Lane reports. Everything football gave him, football took away. Because he died never even knowing or remembering he'd been a player. In 2002, a coroner ruled that years of heading a football caused his dementia. His death certificate reads, industrial disease.

It is not just we need to know and we need closure, but all these other families need to know. But more importantly perhaps football needs to know. I can't believe that some of today's players aren't worrying about it. I would be if I was playing. When you are diagnosed with brain damage, there is nothing anyone can do for you. Like my Jeff, he was dead at 59. The findings published today are small scale, based on six former players who developed dementia. So they only provide tentative evidence of a link between CTE damage and heading the ball. We have only looked at six brains and four of them were found to have CTE pathology. So we cannot definitively say that playing football causes CTE, although there is a possible association.

The FA said it and the players union will fund wider research, but haven't said when or how big the project will be. Although the balls used today are lighter, they're faster and some World Cup legend Nobby Stiles has dementia. His son is backing calls for research. The balls are lighter, but when my dad was playing, especially if they got wet were very heavy. Watching anybody with dementia is a painful process. And our family, like other families, are going through that. Jeff Astle's family haven't given up hope that his death can lead football to answers. Like his cherished England caps, it would be part of his legacy. I'm joined now in the studio by Sean Conlon, founder

of We Make Footballers, a children's footballing coaching franchise. Good to have you with us tonight. That study of course was based on heavy balls that those former players were using. It isn't like that now, things have changed. I know parents at home will be thinking should my children be playing football when these things could possibly happen, we don't have that research yet, do we? No, but I don't think parents need to worry a great deal. The balls are a lot lighter now, they're padded. It's very different to those heavy balls that soaked up water and had big stitches on. I really don't think they need to worry as much. Of course it's finding that right balance, we are told to exercise more but even so you might be frightened that your kid might be doing the wrong thing. Yeah, the 4-12-year-olds, those ages, players will not really need to head the ball often. So they're not really going to have a lot of time using their head. I was going to ask is

this the style change, as well? Yeah, the FA now instruct on the syllabus they teach children now that we keep the ball on the floor as much as possible. Children are not having, like it was maybe in the older days, where there was a lot of the ball in the air and a lot of head impact. We hear a lot of headlines with rugby because they've taken action when it comes to brain health, they've tag rugby for younger children. Is the this something we should be looking into more when children are concerned? As I understand the study was done with a small pool. With a repeated study of a bigger pool that is obviously needed. I think the FA have sanctioned that today. I guess I am thinking, if you look at countries like America they've actually banned kids under 11 from doing headers at all. You have to wonder should we be doing something similar? Yeah, I mean, if the evidence, if a repeated

study with a bigger pool, then yes, I would think that would be the appropriate measure. Good advice, thank you very much