[INSERT PIC 1]

When Villarreal fans taunted Barcelona’s Dani Alves by throwing him a banana, it was not entirely surprising.

Spain does, after all, have a history of this kind of racist goading, including such notable incidents as the monkey chanting directed at England players during the 2004 international in Madrid….

[INSERT PIC 2]

…and the abuse aimed at Lewis Hamilton during the 2008 Grand Prix, which ranged from the venomous to the downright bizarre…

[INSERT PIC 3]

Alves was faced with what we at Anorak call a Barnes-Quinn Dilemma. When insults hurled at you in the form of tasty comestibles, do you dismiss or consume?

John Barnes back-heeled a banana thrown at him by Everton fans at Goodison…

[INSERT PIC 4]

…while cube-shaped striker Mick Quinn famously ate a pie that was tossed his way, and even celebrated his prowess in the title of his autobiography, *Who Ate All The Pies?...*

[INSERT PIC 5]

In the event, Alves went for the Quinny option, and dispatched the fruity barb with some panache…

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylMfERo60jc>

Alves has been racially abused throughout his career in Spain. ‘I don’t know who threw the banana but I want to thank him,’ he said after the game. ‘It gave me the energy to put two more crosses in for our goals.’

On a lighter note, here’s a Top Five Unusual Things Thrown From The Crowd.

**5th: Chicken**

[INSERT PIC 6]

The place: Ewood Park.

The event: Blackburn Rovers fans’ protest against club owners and millionaire chicken farmers, the Venkys.

**4th: Octopi**

[INSERT PIC 7]

Not a common sight at football matches admittedly, but a well established tradition in ice hockey. Since 1952 every Detroit Red Wings home game in the play-offs has been marked by the throwing of octopi onto the ice. And here are some rats in Florida.

[INSERT PIC 8]

3rd: Pig’s head

[INSERT PIC 9]

When Barcelona legend Louis Figo signed for arch-rivals Real Madrid, there was fury at the Camp Nou. He was greeted on his return by a pig’s head (as well as a blow-up doll and the usual bottles).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWJZcPSJyIs>

2nd: Beach Ball

[INSERT PIC 10]

Liverpool fans paid the price for their boisterous celebrations when a beach ball thrown from their section caused Darren Bent’s shot to ricochet past Pepe Reina, giving Sunderland the lead.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5loeV-_4og>

1st: Grenade

[INSERT PIC 11]

In 1965, a league match between Brentford and Millwall was held up after Lions fans lobbed a hand discovered a live hand grenade into the Brentford goalmouth. A policeman put it in a bucket of sand and took it to the station, where it was discovered to be a harmless replica.

Not such luck in this Iranian derby game…

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlRTHMA-hiM>