



THE CUP FINAL

LOZZA'S SINGING IN THE PUBS TONIGHT

FURZE HILL 5 VS 0 PUDDLETOWN UTD

After being tipped for a successful season the Cup final was Lozza's last chance at silverware. Standing in his way was the Welsh Cat Lover and virtual weekend bridesmaid Niel Humphries. Niel has done a brilliant job getting his 3rd Division title winners to the Cup final but today proved to be a step too far as his side were quite simply outclassed. His decision to employ a defensive minded 4-4-2 formation was the right choice but a lack of any attempts at marking the talented **Furze Hill** midfield plus Gomez being followed everywhere on the pitch resulted in a 5-0 demolition job. Lozza's talented midfield teed up chance after chance for their attacking duo Aakesson and McCourt who shared the goals between them. After watching his side lift the Trophy Lozza was seen heading straight for his favourite pub ready to grab the mic and start belting out some of his favourites from his back catalogue of folk songs.

TIGHTER THAN A SCOTSMANS WALLET

It's delight for Dag as he wins the Division 1 title yet again, but he was made to work hard for it after a terrific challenge from that Hairy Ashcroft fella. Unfortunately for the rest of the Nelson Dag will be up at the top challenging again next season with a clutch of stars including the impressive Chun Mad and courtesy of his uncanny ability to keep discovering brilliant young midfield talent. With six midfield specialists to choose from next season Dag will have the ability to rotate them and perhaps reduce the chances of those pesky training injuries. There could be one blot on the landscape with keeper Windsor known for his overindulgence in the close season but that could easily be remedied with spending some of the £5m Bank balance on a replacement.

What a job Woolly Back Ashcroft has done at **Hornchurch** this season. Much kudos from me for running Dag so close with a side that most managers would have had lurking around in mid table. Plenty of youth in the side and four stars, of which two are midfield specialists. Mashy will be left to fret over the close season as to the condition of captain Tolkien and maestro Kuznetsov will return in next season.

One should come back refreshed for the new campaign whilst the others future at the club in serious doubt.

Lozza finished 3rd and it's definitely a case of what might have been. His squad was the strongest at the start of the season, but some key results didn't go his way. Next season will be harder to keep competing at the top but with a bit of luck and a good early auction buy they could be in amongst it again. If influential captain Maenpaa comes back out of shape then Lozza could be joining Dag on the lookout for a new keeper early doors.

A mid-season spending spree by Steadders turned around **Palmeiras** season and with four of their five specialists being visited by the star fairy and Kumsabi most likely to get the rejuvenation spot he should be joining the title fight next season, although without the financial clout of those around him.

Creditable effort by Florida Colly to finish 5th in the topflight. He will be sweating on Keane's fitness when the season restarts though. Next season could be more of a struggle and a potential relegation battle may be imminent, even if Keane reports back fit for the new campaign.

No relegation scrapes for Brooksy this season but everything depends on Gainsborough's fitness yet



again. There is some good young talent in the squad and a few million in the Bank too but if their captain spends too much time drinking beer and eating pies over the next couple of months then it's back to the lower reaches of Division 1 again as the Nelson next season is going to be full of talented sides.

Best of the rest is the mad Professor and the side has a smattering of stars and is generally on the young side. Unfortunately, it lacks the midfield panache compared to the rest of the sides in Division 1, so Danny is going to have to try and address this quickly if they are to avoid flirting with relegation.

A side that should be on an upward curve thanks to an extremely fortunate visit by the star fairy in the last week of the season are **Recwand**. Fingers has stuck to his tried and tested approach of bringing through the youngsters, but this has been backed up by keeping some money in the Bank and star fairy visits to key players. Top half of the table finish for you next season Paul, don't let me down now.

Chorley Villa avoid relegation on goal difference and KP may well regret not going down. The side isn't bad at all with a few good young players, three stars including key men Cavan and Robson but, and being blunt here, the Nelson top flight will be the strongest I have seen it since I started writing the newsletter and KP doesn't have the bank balance to bring in better players to compete.

First of the relegated sides are unmanaged **FC Babylon**. Carlos Stifez has starred and there are some good youngsters on the books here plus a healthy bank balance. Get a new man in sharpish next season and they could be surprise candidates to bounce straight back up.

Martian Maniacs struggled all season long and Napier will welcome the return back to the 2nd Division. Another manager sweating on the fitness of a key player as there are plenty of other gaps to be filled in this side to make them a force to be reckoned with again. There is a good young

midfield gem to build the team around though and Murgesti will return in good shape so it's not all doom and gloom here.

Double spunky Scotty knew his fate from the first couple of sessions so has had all season to plan for life in Division 2 next season. There are a few young players in the first team now plus a couple of stars but with no cash for team strengthening much depends on captain Breitner's fitness yet again as to how next season will pan out.

SEAMY FADES SO THE COONCILLOR RISES TO POWER

Another close finish at the top of the 2nd Division as the Cooncillor nicks the title from under the nose of Seamy (WF). All Seamy had to do to win the Division was match what the result the Cooncillor got at home to **Rhuddlan**. Unfortunately, he was left pulling out the few hairs from what remained on his shaven head after his side slumped to a surprise 1-0 home defeat to **Strasbourg**. The Cooncillor emerged with a hard fought point form his game to take the accolades in a resplendent pink and black shirt last seen in the 1980's. If captain Black emerges unscathed from the rigours of pre-season then they have the squad strength and bank balance to more than hold their own next season in the top flight. They look a couple of quality midfielders shy of a title challenging team but mid table should be easily achievable.

Despite only having a couple of visits by the star fairy, and not necessarily on the players Seamy would have chosen, **Westwood** should settle into the 1st Division without too many problems but they do need to get a keeper in quickly until Parkhead is ready to take the gloves. If they don't, expect some early season drubbings at the hands of Daggins, Wooly Back Ashcroft and co.

In 3rd we find **Rhuddlan** who could end up performing the best of the three promoted sides. Young Ben Lawton has done a fine job here with eight teenagers and four stars in the squad. It seems he has planned well for the sterner tests to come in the top flight, including a good young



keeper. Not much cash in the Bank but enough to get a quality player to boost the squad if required.

The even younger Jack Smith at **Strasbourg** may have missed out on promotion this season but next time around he will start as one of the favourites for a return to the top flight. With four stars, three of them midfield specialists and a few youngsters coming through the only negative is a small Bank balance but that could be remedied by selling on Geneva as I'm sure there will be plenty of managers in need of a young keeper at the start of the season.

Dave Hails has done a great job since stepping into the breach at **Utah Saints**. It must be his new aftershave as the star fairy has been a regular visitor here to leave them as my tip for the title, especially if Davids remains in top form next season.

The Bearded Matron completes the top half of Division 2 and he will be sweating on captain Solskjaer not retiring. If he signs on for another season and the ageing process is kind then he should be planning on a better campaign next time around, especially if he can use the couple of million in the Bank wisely.

A man with a job on his hands next season is Fingers at **Wickford Athletic**. He should have done better with this side this season and, yet again, if he had attempted to coach just one less youngster they would have been in better shape. The star fairy has visited a couple of times but not to the players he would have wanted and at least one of his midfield trio will soon be looking for a new home. The Bank balance is in the black though and they do have a good young keeper so the signs are there that the advice is sinking in.

After a decent start to the season ska dancer Samson fell away from the upper reaches of Division 2. Next season though could well be a different matter as his team should emerge from the rigours of the close season in good shape. All his key midfield specialists plus target man Barker have starred so we have a manager who won't be needing the rejuvenation Gods to fall on a preferred player, although Figuirola would be

EURO QUALIFIERS FOR NEXT SEASON

Unfortunately the qualifying, criteria was wrong, despite it being corrected during the season the incorrect criteria kept re-appearing. So,

CHAMPIONS TROPHY will see **Sunningdale** representing the league.

CUP-WINNERS CUP will see **Hornchurch & Furze Hill** qualifying here.

SUPER CUP will see **Palmerias & Havenmates** qualifying here

John's pick I'm sure. No money in the Bank, so any team strengthening will need come from within the clubs youth set up.

Hovering just above the relegation places are Simon Pritchard's **Dickhead Utd** who must be wishing he had thought of Humphy Wumphy's plan to throw a host of matches in the latter half of the season to get relegated. If Turku Merxc doesn't get the rejuvenation pick expect another season of strife here as although they have three stars, none of their key players were amongst them and there isn't enough youth in the squad to ensure they are competitive from day one of the new season. Cash will need to be spent early doors to boost their chances of survival I fear.

Just the one star for Humphy Wumphy but it's main man Tomattio so he can't complain too much. If Brexit Trust gets rejuvenated then it's looking good for next season with a nice discovery to focus SPS on. This is a generally youthful team plus they have a bit of cash in the Bank so they could bounce straight back up.

If Rich Barnsley can negotiate a tricky start while Costa Rhu gets up to speed of first team football then **Temasik Lions** will also have promotion ambitions. A very young squad with a high likelihood of both specialists being in top form from day one of the new season. They also have one of the biggest war chests in the league so it's looking good here.

Bottom of the pile are **Royal Wadds** and Dave Craven looks to have a job and a half on his



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hands next season. He gambled almost all the clubs coffers on young Sauer and unfortunately for him it didn't pay off. He's going to struggle to get the SPS to coach the talented youngster so Dave may have to bite the bullet and trigger a private auction battle to give him the players or spending power to improve the team.

WINNERS DELIGHT AND ACES SURVIVE

After dominating the 3rd Division Humphry Wumphy's **Puddletown** look in excellent shape to shoot straight through Division 2 into the top flight, if he wants to that is. With a bit of luck he will have three excellent midfielders to call upon and with enough youngsters and stars in the side to ensure they have as good a chance as anyone to be challenging for promotion.

Jason Reid has done a tremendous job with a very pedestrian **Balamory** side to get them promoted. They do have some decent attacking players but at least one of these will need to be moved on next season and whilst there are a good number of young players he really needs to secure at least one decent midfield specialist quickly or it could be a season of struggle next time out.

Winners secured promotion on the last day of the season and I'm hoping John Pritchard doesn't end up regretting this. They should be ok provided the KA rejuvenation Gods are kind and in striker Dennison and attacking midfielder Kaka they do have some quality to turn results in their favour.

Ian Read has one of the great players in the Nelson league in teenager Greggsson and with the support provided by the likes of Gernon and Agamemnon he really should have got **Camlann** promoted. The fact he hasn't is definitely a good thing as this side could age badly and I mean really badly. There's plenty of cash in the Bank though and provided this is spent wisely they should improve as the season progresses.

I always look forward to checking in on Disco Dave's sides as I take a look over another experiment as it takes shape. He has two of the Nelson leagues most exciting young midfield talents and there are enough youngsters and stars

kicking around to make them promotion contenders, especially if Spudeyes gets the rejuvenation spot and the large Bank balance is drained further.

Mega-City have gone all season unmanaged and they are now starting to see the effects of that. There are a couple of stars but with not one player brought through from the youth academy next season will be a struggle with a rebuild in order.

A side definitely on the up is **St Judes**. Decent job done here by Hugo with four stars, some decent young players and over £5m in the Bank. Top half finish next season for sure and a possible promotion push on the cards. Discount them at your peril.

If Becker can be enticed into another season at the top of his game then Jason Reid's **Umbolo** are another side that will be challenging in the top half of the table next season. If Meewan, John and Stuka can all be brought through to fulfil their potential then things will really start to look up.

Congratulations to one of my favourite DJ's, Steve Wright, who has done a great job saving **Richies Aces** from what looked like certain relegation. Key to survival was the signing of Kaneda and if the old stager can be persuaded to carry on playing to the best of his ability then better times should be ahead. There is money in the Bank to strengthen the weaker areas of the team and there is some exciting attacking talent in the squad too.

California are the first of the relegated sides and they look in real trouble. An old squad with just the one star, but at least it is their best player Leffe, although he is on the last week of his contract. The squad needs a real overhaul but at least there's a few million in the Bank to help a new manager resurrect their fortunes.

Hawaii shirt lover Cranners has taken over from the astute caretaker manager at **Spartak** and continued the rebuilding job. There is a good core of young players and a couple of stars to build the team around. With approaching £7m in the Bank he should be able to complete the rebuild job in Division 4 before the rise back up through the Divisions.



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Rock bottom are the terribly named **Leeds City**. Steven Reid has done a decent job here with the rebuild well on the way and a decent number of players having been brought through from the academy. Further work to do next season to make them competitive at the top end of the table but watch for them to challenge the season after next.

RISE FROM THE DEPTHS

We will gloss very quickly over title winner Lawton (F) losing his unbeaten home record for the season to Dumpsters thuggish louts to focus on how they will fare in Division 3 next season. If Eusabio gets the much coveted rejuvenation spot then it's all looking peachy with eight teenagers in the starting X1, a couple of stars and Polokov will be able to keep terrorising defences for at least another season. I wouldn't bet on them being amongst those teams competing to continue rising up the Divisions.

Wared finished a creditable 2nd as the assistant manager stepped in for the convalescing Paul Hudson (hope you are soon back taking the reigns Paul). I don't think they will be challenging for back to back promotions though as it's all looking a bit average for the start of next season apart from young Was Do. There's a bit of money to spend but with only Valhalla getting a visit from the elusive star fairy and not enough youngsters coming through then it's looking like a mid table finish next season.

MacAulay's **Dale Park Aces** also only have the one star but he's done a sterling job bringing through so many young players that this won't be a hindrance. He will have everything, and I mean everything, crossed on Maina returning in peak fitness when the season resumes as that will go a long way to deciding how they will fair in Division 3 next season.

Butters has done a great job down at **Ravensdale**, they are now hard to beat and with a youthful squad and captain Rhys and defender Magyar having been visited by the star fairy they look well

set for next season. A dip into the transfer market to buy a midfield specialist of some kind and they could be in the fight for promotion next season.

Another side who had a drastic upturn in form are **NKA Flugels** whose bearded caretaker manager has done a fantastic job even if I say so myself. If anyone wants to take a new team on next season then this is the one to go for. Their best two players have starred, there are 10 (yes 10) fully trained teenagers in the squad, have one of the best wage structures in the league, over £600k in youth and £3.3m in the Bank coffers. Who is the lucky manager going to be???

Dag's 2nd side are up next and he's started to get **Southend Seas** finally back on track. Half a dozen youngsters now grace the side and with a couple of stars and some money building in the Bank they have the basis of a side that should improve next season. Will it be in a promotion place? Currently I'm doubtful, but a bit of wheeling and dealing or perhaps some of his remarkable luck from the youth academy could soon change all that.

The Dumpster will be hoping Rentiato returns in good form next season if they are to improve on this seasons showing. Swanscombe should prove to be the resolution of their keeper problems and there are a handful of decent youngsters but they don't have the financial muscle to fill me with much confidence it will be anything other than another mid table finish. Prove me wrong Christof!

Rainham Villa have recently been left managerless after Walters walked out on them after a disagreement over social distancing rules. He leaves behind a squad with some promise for next season if the right replacement can be found. There are 5 stars in the squad including keeper captain Arkwright and enough youngsters to keep even Fingers happy.

It's been quite the turnaround at **Thunderbirds** where the bearded caretaker manager has again woven his KA magic to resolve the years of mismanagement by previous incumbents. The large overdraft has gone and there is a tidy £3.6m



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in the Bank. A couple of key players including key winger Kroofts have starred and there's a youthful look to this team now. All set for a new manager to take them onwards and upwards.

Into the depths of Division 4 we go and **Tokra** are up next. Petey Thornhill is the man in the hot seat here and he's made some tough calls to trim the squad back to the bare bones to try and keep captain Preece in prime condition whilst also increasing the Bank balance to improve the first team squad next season. A work in progress here but the signs are looking promising.

Another team to recently have been left in the lurch are **Twickenham**. The side isn't bad with half a dozen good quality youngsters, a couple of stars and over £4m in the Bank. They do need two things desperately though _ a new manager and a decent keeper. If both are achieved early doors then the only way is up.

The Dave Hails project at **Chelsea Cons** continues on course. Key man Kennedy will be rejuvenated and with a few good quality youngsters starting to come through they may get more than one win next season. Still lots to do to get them competitive but the Bank balance is looking very healthy, it's just a matter of when he starts to spend it. I guess it will be the season after next Dave?

THE BOWL FINAL

DOUBLE SPUNKIED

ATLANTIS ACES 1 VS 3 SUNNINGDALE

Prior to the Bowl final you could get odds of 50-1 on a win for Double Spunky's **Atlantis**. It's worth a gamble of a tenner thinks pal Butters and at half time he was promising to buy all those sat around him in the ground a plate of sarnies and a cream tea after the game courtesy of Londo's 25th minute goal which put **Atlantis** in the driving seat. Unfortunately, Daggins has many evil plans and he brought out plan 29B, a particularly cunning one for the 2nd half, as his side were instructed to bypass the packed midfield and hit the ball long up to Van Plumke. Just three minutes after the re-start and the Golden Boot winner had equalised. Chances came and went for both teams with no further

goals but with the **Atlantis** defenders starting to tire as the game entered the final ten minutes the crowd sensed a goal. They weren't wrong either as first Berisha and then Muller scored twice within a minute to secure another Trophy for the **Sunningdale** cabinet. Congrats to Dag and acknowledgement to a great effort by Rob here.

THE TROPHY FINAL

ALL HAILS DARTH FADER

GDANSK 1 VS 0 UTAH SAINTS

Was it going to take some Sith mind trickery to give **Gdansk** the edge against a side sitting two Divisions higher and much improved under manager Hails over recent months? Well, no of course not, but man marking the oppositions key midfield playmakers and having a few creative talents in the side could do the job. That's exactly what happened in the Trophy final as Hails motivated his side to do their best to win the game only to be undone by Polokov and Ozil Turk reducing the influence of Jeorgie Bast and Davids. On 17 minutes a dangerous ball in the box was cleared by the **Utah** defence to **Gdansk** striker Pedersen who beat three players in a brilliant jinking run before pulling the ball back to defender Raus to rifle home. Both sides had chances to add to the scoreline but the keepers were equal to everything to leave Lawton (F) to collect his 2nd Trophy of the season.

MANAGER OF THE MONTH

DIVISION ONE: goes to Manager Overli at **Sunningdale** - securing the Div.1 title and Bowl trophies despite Mashy & Scotty's valiant challenges

DIVISION TWO: goes to Manager Jack Smith at **Strasbourg** - relegating wee fadey Seamy to 2nd place and giving a warning of their promotion intentions for next season

DIVISION THREE: goes to Manager Pritchard at **Winners Utd** - after a long hard season promotion is finally secured

DIVISION FOUR: goes to Manager Dempsey at **Premier Utd** - I can hear him chuckling about his league win all the way from Glasgow



KICKABOUT

RESULTS

RESULTS ROUND-UP

TEMPERATURE: Hot

Week forty-six

DIVISION 1

FURZE HILL Dripunkt padich 57 Mccourt 88 Pitch: Hard	2 : 0 MARTIAN MANIACS (H - 1.7) Att 61426 Wind: Brisk
RECWAND Att 34320* Wind: Brisk	0 : 1 LONE PINE FC (A - 0.3) Tzamora 12 Pitch: Hard
ATLANTIS ACES Att 40402 Wind: Brisk Pitch: Hard	0 : 3 SUNNINGDALE (A - 1.1) Van plumke 9,15 Wayne 49
FC BABYLON Mbaku 15 Lyta 27 Carlos stifez 70	3 : 0 HAVENMATES (A - 0.1) Att 46220 Wind: Brisk Pitch: Good
PALMEIRAS Vesuvius 9 Dragon 19 Dragon szabo 28 Osgood 64	4 : 0 SHANKIL NACKERS (H - 1.7) Att 61380* Wind: Brisk Pitch: Hard
HORNCHURCH Yoko 71 Monet 84 bkd - Buna sierra (68)/ Ungaria (49) off - Patton (12)	2 : 0 CHORLEY VILLA (H - 0.5) Att 37217 Wind: Brisk Pitch: Hard

DIVISION 2

UTAH SAINTS off - Svenssen (26) Wind: Brisk	0 : 0 DIAL SQUARE (H - 0.9) Att 43879 Pitch: Hard
DICKHEAD UTD Montolivo 3 Mendes 51 Pitch: Hard	2 : 0 TEMASIK LIONS (H - 0.5) Att 30026 Wind: Brisk
VIKING LORDS Wan king 14,78 Wind: Brisk	2 : 0 ROYAL WADDS (H - 2.9) Att 35670 Pitch: Hard
WESTWOOD CELTIC Att 34845 Wind: Light	0 : 1 STRASBOURG (A - 0.1) Guadul 45 Pitch: Good
WICKFORD ATH Turda 9 Costa rhu 11 Ovsky 37,77,85 bkd - Kilkenny (24)/ Audren (2) *Derby Game*	5 : 1 WEMBLEY FC (H - 0.9) Barker 9 Inj - Liege (6) Att 40138* Wind: Light Pitch: Hard
KERNOW CABBAGES Att 51000* Pitch: Good	0 : 0 RHUDDLAN ROVERS (A - 0.7) Wind: Brisk

DIVISION 3

CALIFORNIA Jens morten 27,89 Att 26548 Wind: Brisk Pitch: Good	2 : 3 WINNERS UTD (A - 0.1) Jacobsen 34 Kallstrom 36 Borges 45
PUDDLETOWN UTD Gascoigne 31,42,63,80 Berne 51 Att 35265 Pitch: Hard	5 : 2 UMBOLO FC (H - 0.9) Mancinelli 13 Dreseden 88 Wind: Brisk

PRESTON N.E. Count reventlow 13 Hagi 23 Klaus von 90	3 : 0 RICHIES ACES (A - 0.5) Att 29771 Wind: Brisk Pitch: Good
CAMLANN TOWN Osheam 4 Gernon 83 bkd - Nogan (69)/ Piett (85)/ Greggsson (84)/ Burns (44) off - Joshua badnitz (81)	2 : 1 SPARTAK BOHEMIA (H - 1.1) Carenza 85 Inj - Price (1) Att 38000 Wind: Light Pitch: Good *Derby Game*
BALAMORY FC Flo 4 Coady 13 Mahak 41,63 Pitch: Good	4 : 1 LEEDS CITY (H - 0.9) Arshavin 18 Att 28635 Wind: Brisk
ST JUDES Att 30043 Pitch: Hard	0 : 0 MEGA-CITY (H - 0.1) Wind: Brisk

DIVISION 4

DALE PARK ACES Hans gruber 14,80 Wind: Gale	2 : 0 SOUTHEND SEAS (H - 0.9) Att 32564 Pitch: Hard
WARED WANDERERS Was do 16,26 Degolas 32 Valhalla 64	4 : 0 CHELSEA CONS (H - 1.9) Att 19735 Wind: Brisk Pitch: Hard
THUNDERBIRDS FC Att 22060 Wind: Brisk	0 : 1 NKA FLUGELS (A - 0.5) Gudston 59 Pitch: Wet
GDANSK Att 37749 Wind: Brisk	0 : 1 PREMIER UTD (H - 0.3) Bungabunga 67 Pitch: Hard
RAVENSDALE RVRS Okocha 35 Att 24004 Pitch: Hard	1 : 0 RAINHAM VILLA (H - 0.6) bkd - Banucci (80) Wind: Light
TWICKENHAM FC Von scheer 50 Rafique 90 Wind: Brisk	2 : 1 TOKRA FC (H - 0.9) Mcadder 87 Att 23071 Pitch: Good

Week forty-eight

THE NELSON CUP

FINAL

FURZE HILL Aakesson 18,51 Mccourt 44,50,66 Pitch: Hard	5 : 0 PUDDLETOWN UTD (H - 1.3) Att 53163 Wind: Brisk
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THE NELSON BOWL

FINAL

ATLANTIS ACES Londo 25 Att 47369 Wind: Brisk Pitch: Hard	1 : 3 SUNNINGDALE (A - 0.9) Van plumke 48 Berisha 90 Muller 90
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THE NELSON TROPHY

FINAL

GDANSK Raus 17 Wind: Brisk	1 : 0 UTAH SAINTS (A - 0.9) Att 39354 Pitch: Good
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KICKABOUT

RESULTS

NELSON FRIENDLIES

HAVENMATES	4 : 7	ATLANTIS ACES	(A - 3.1)
STRASBOURG	1 : 5	GDANSK	(A - 1.9)
		bkd - Kursikov (39)	
WESTWOOD CELTIC	5 : 4	HORNCHURCH	(A - 0.7)
RHUDDLAN ROVERS	2 : 1	NKA FLUGELS	(H - 0.7)
RAVENSDALE RVRS	5 : 0	WYCOMBE(NL)	(H - 2.5)
TOKRA FC	2 : 4	DALE PARK ACES	(A - 1.3)
PRESTON N.E.	5 : 1	STOWMARKET(NL)	(H - 1.5)

BALAMORY FC	3 : 3	LEEDS CITY	(H - 0.1)
COLWYN BAY(NL)	5 : 2	UMBOLO FC	(A - 0.7)

WEATHER FORECAST

Temperature next session: Hot

Predicted wind speed next session: Calm



BUNGABUNGA TRAVELS HOME IN STYLE
FORM GLASGOW



KICKABOUT

TABLES

NELSON LEAGUE. DIVISION 1

...TEAMNAME...	PL	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
1 SUNNINGDALE	22	8	3	0	29	3	7	4	0	33	7	52	52
2 HORNCHURCH	22	8	3	0	27	7	7	4	0	17	7	30	52
3 FURZE HILL	22	7	2	2	40	10	7	2	2	31	10	51	46
4 PALMEIRAS	22	3	4	4	12	13	9	0	2	18	6	11	40
5 HAVENMATES	22	5	4	2	13	5	3	2	6	5	9	4	30
6 LONEPINEFC	22	5	2	4	11	17	3	4	4	10	19	-15	30
7 SHANKILNACKERS	22	5	1	5	10	16	3	1	7	12	23	-17	26
8 RECWAND	22	4	1	6	13	16	3	3	5	13	25	-15	25
9 CHORLEY VILLA	22	2	3	6	5	15	2	3	6	9	20	-21	18
10 FCBABYLON	22	2	4	5	13	21	2	2	7	4	20	-24	18
11 MARTIAN MANIACS	22	2	2	7	4	16	2	2	7	4	18	-26	16
12 ATLANTIS ACES	22	0	3	8	9	26	1	5	5	9	22	-30	11

NELSON LEAGUE. DIVISION 2

...TEAMNAME...	PL	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
1 KERNOWCABBAGES	22	8	3	0	39	8	7	2	2	32	11	52	50
2 WESTWOODCELTIC	22	9	1	1	30	2	6	4	1	22	8	42	50
3 RHUDDLAN ROVERS	22	7	2	2	29	7	6	4	1	23	5	40	45
4 STRASBOURG	22	7	2	2	29	14	5	2	4	15	18	12	40
5 UTAH SAINTS	22	5	4	2	13	7	5	0	6	14	17	3	34
6 DIAL SQUARE	22	4	3	4	17	8	3	5	3	13	10	12	29
7 WICKFORDATH	22	6	2	3	27	16	2	2	7	21	37	-5	28
8 WEMBLEYFC	22	4	1	6	26	25	3	3	5	9	19	-9	25
9 DICKHEAD UTD	22	3	3	5	9	8	3	3	5	7	8	0	24
10 VIKING LORDS	22	3	2	6	8	19	3	1	7	7	31	-35	21
11 TEMASIK LIONS	22	2	6	3	8	12	0	2	9	2	23	-25	14
12 ROYAL WADDS	22	2	0	9	6	41	0	1	10	2	54	-87	7

NELSON LEAGUE. DIVISION 3

...TEAMNAME...	PL	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
1 PUDDLETOWNUTD	22	10	1	0	33	5	6	4	1	23	7	44	53
2 BALAMORYFC	22	7	4	0	33	13	5	5	1	12	3	29	45
3 WINNERS UTD	22	7	2	2	13	2	5	3	3	13	7	17	41
4 CAMLANNTOWN	22	7	3	1	14	3	5	1	5	11	19	3	40
5 PRESTON N.E.	22	7	3	1	17	3	3	4	4	9	10	13	37
6 MEGA-CITY	22	6	3	2	14	11	5	1	5	17	8	12	37
7 ST JUDES	22	5	5	1	9	2	3	2	6	13	15	5	31
8 UMBOLOFC	22	4	3	4	11	12	2	2	7	14	22	-9	23
9 RICHIES ACES	22	5	1	5	12	16	1	1	9	6	27	-25	20
10 CALIFORNIA	22	3	2	6	11	18	1	4	6	5	11	-13	18
11 SPARTAK BOHEMIA	22	3	3	5	13	16	0	5	6	11	25	-17	17
12 LEEDS CITY	22	0	2	9	2	38	0	0	11	5	28	-59	2

NELSON LEAGUE. DIVISION 4

...TEAMNAME...	PL	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
1 GDANSK	22	8	1	2	31	2	9	2	0	24	2	51	54
2 WARED WANDERERS	22	8	1	2	20	4	6	1	4	21	7	30	44
3 DALE PARK ACES	22	8	2	1	18	1	5	3	3	11	5	23	44
4 RAVENSDALE RVRs	22	6	3	2	17	4	5	2	4	12	7	18	38
5 NKAFLUGELS	22	6	4	1	12	2	4	4	3	12	9	13	38
6 SOUTHEND SEAS	22	7	2	2	19	6	4	2	5	10	14	9	37
7 PREMIER UTD	22	3	4	4	7	18	4	4	3	14	10	-7	29
8 RAINHAM VILLA	22	5	2	4	14	11	2	3	6	2	9	-4	26
9 THUNDERBIRDS FC	22	4	2	5	8	7	1	4	6	2	13	-10	21
10 TOKRA FC	22	5	2	4	9	10	1	0	10	2	21	-20	20
11 TWICKENHAM FC	22	2	5	4	12	13	0	3	8	5	21	-17	14
12 CHELSEA CONS	22	1	0	10	1	39	0	0	11	2	50	-86	3



KICKABOUT STATS

LEADING SCORERS

DIVISION 1

1	VAN PLUMKE	SUNNINGDALE	39
2	AAKESSON	FURZE HILL	32
3	MCCOURT	FURZE HILL	30
4	SANCHEZ	SUNNINGDALE	15
5	YOKO	HORNCHURCH	15
6	TOLKIEN	HORNCHURCH	14
7	OSGOOD	PALMEIRAS	13
8	IGNEMBRITE	RECWAND	13

DIVISION 2

1	HANS GUDERIAN	KERNOW CABBAGES	26
2	COSMOPOLITAN	KERNOW CABBAGES	19
3	AUSTEN	STRASBOURG	17
4	AUDREN	WICKFORD ATH	16
5	DUNQVIST	WESTWOOD CELTIC	16
6	BARKER	WEMBLEY FC	16
7	ANTWERP	WESTWOOD CELTIC	13
8	FIGUROLA	WEMBLEY FC	13

DIVISION 3

1	GASCOIGNE	PUDDLETOWN UTD	20
2	BERNE	PUDDLETOWN UTD	15
3	SOLSTICE	PUDDLETOWN UTD	14
4	FLO	BALAMORY FC	13
5	BREEM	MEGA-CITY	12
6	THANUS	MEGA-CITY	12
7	GERNON	CAMLANN TOWN	10
8	GIORGIOS	UMBOLO FC	10

DIVISION 4

1	POLOKOV	GDANSK	24
2	FARGO	DALE PARK ACES	19
3	PEDERSEN	GDANSK	15
4	JINGOS	NKA FLUGELS	13
5	TANG JON	GDANSK	12
6	OKOCHA	RAVENSDALE RVRS	10
7	HAUGESUND	GDANSK	9
8	VAN PERSIL	WARED WANDERERS	9

Since An Away Win

Leeds City	33 games
Spartak Bohemia	19 games
Chelsea Cons	17 games
Twickenham Fc	17 games
Temasik Lions	10 games
Royal Wadds	10 games

THE ROLE OF SHAME

The following players are all suspended next session for the number of games shown besides their name :-
PATTON [1] (HORNCHURCH) / SVENSSEN [6] (UTAH SAINTS) / AUDREN [3] (WICKFORD ATH) / NOGAN [8] (CAMLANN TOWN) / JOSHUA BADNITZ [3] (CAMLANN TOWN) / BANUCCI [8] (RAINHAM VILLA) /

MANAGERIAL RATINGS

DIVISION 1

Danny Breznitz - Shankil Nackers - 2

L.Symonds - Furze Hill - 3

Dag Overli - Sunningdale - 4

DIVISION 2

Graeme Miller - Kernow Cabbages - 1

Rob Lewis - Dial Square - 5

Ben Lawton - Rhuddlan Rovers - 6

DIVISION 3

Dave Hargraves - Preston N.E. - 22

Ian Cranfield - Spartak Bohemia - 23

Ian Read - Camlann Town - 27

DIVISION 4

Craig Lawton - Gdansk - 25

Danny Smith - Nka Flugels - 26

Fader - Thunderbirds Fc - 28

Since A Home Draw

Chelsea Cons	26 games
Royal Wadds	15 games
Gdansk	10 games
Wembley Fc	9 games
Southend Seas	8 games
Rhuddlan Rovers	7 games



KICKABOUT

AUCTION

Remember the transfer deadline comes into operation at the end of session thirteen

IE NOW

ROLLING AUCTION LEVELS

The following are the minimum levels relating to each session for entering players into the rolling auction:-

<u>SESSIONS</u>	<u>MIN LEVEL</u>
1 to 3	5
4 to 5	6
6 to 8	7
9 to 10	8
11+	9

These are also the same levels which decide whether a player will go straight to N/L when out of contract rather than being put into the auction

AUCTION NOTES

From now onwards we would like you to always write, 'don't sell if he turns star in the messages to GM box EVEN IF HE IS A LEVEL TWELVE STAR, as well as ticking the relevant DON'T SELL box in teampick. NOTE THAT TICKING THE BOX IS THE MAIN DECISION-MAKER IN WHETHER A PLAYER IS SOLD OR NOT, the GM Message is just to help the GM as during the transfers we have no way of knowing whether a player has become level twelve in THAT SESSION.!

Also PLEASE DO NOT leave partially-completed transfers in your transfer section, i.e. leaving the team name or the player, etc., it is laziness on your part and might result in strange things happening to your team!!!

And you MUST spell the names of the players included in any deal correctly. If you don't then the program might refuse them and they don't go through, so be careful.

In future, you are allowed multiple conditional bids from which the program will attempt to purchase just one item. However, you are also allowed multiple Unconditional bids from which the program will attempt to purchase all. teampick users just have to use the relevant boxes in the program, those who don't use teampick must ensure they stick to these rules and make it clear on their turns just what they want to happen in their bidding process.

LSO, be careful when doing deals etc. The program works on team order, which can cause problems. Best idea is NOT to have 25 players in your squad at the start of a turn and do deals and sell to NL, cos if the manager you are doing a deal with has a lower team number than yours, the program will say you have no space in your squad, even though you are trying to sell players to the non-league. His orders will be processed before yours!!



KICKABOUT BITS

SOCIAL MEDIA

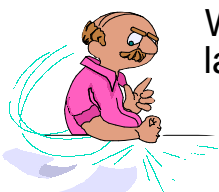
We have finally been dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st Century , pity all dinsoaurs aren't like that and have upped our presence on social media sites. Links to our pages will soon appear on the web-site, but in the meantime we can be foudn on

FACEBOOK - kickabout online

and Twitter

Online Kickabout

MARKING UPDATE



We have worked out a system to check on anybody who is using last season's marking numbers for the current season. Basically the program will save a list of all valid marking successes each session and if somebody cries foul, that he has been marked by somebody who hasn't scouted him, we can check and say yea or nay.

So from now onwards if you use last season's numbers then you will be found out AND if guilty the result of the game will either be reversed or decided against you.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Can be made to us using the PAYPAL service. So if you want to pay anything by credit card then you could register with them and give it a try. Also note that if you send your payments as a gift ALL of the cash reaches us without any paypal fees being charged at our end and all is credited to your account.

You can pay by card/paypal through our new web-site

kickaboutonline.co.uk



KICKABOUT BITS

THE KICKABOUT COMMUNITY

EMAIL CHAT LIST - yes, you can subscribe to our email discussion group. There is a list for general Kickabout topics, a list for each individual league, one for the vulcano, one for teampick subscribers, even one for the weekend players. Learn more about the game, talk to other players and the Gm. To subscribe to the main list send a blank email to Kickabout-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. For others you do the same except put the league, name with Ka- in front of subscribe. However, some league lists have an ending in .co.uk instead of .com, so if one doesn't work then please try the other!!

One thing to note about subscribing to the list, we post a regular schedule of where every league is in the processing schedule, when it is sent out, when the latest return-by-date is. This is of great help and if you have email you should really be receiving this.

KICKABOUT SERVICES

MAILING - rather than sending SELF-SEALING SSAE's, rather than getting charged a £1 postage when you neglect to send one in or if they don't arrive. Pay for all-season mailing and we provide the envelope, the stamp, and the sticky label as well. No sweat. A season costs £25.00 overseas, £15.00 UK, or pro rataish if started during the season.



ALL EMAIL - if you have shomatch/ teampick then you can elect not to have any hardcopies sent to you at all as everything can be done by email. Just let us know if you wish to do this in future. Handy for those abroad or in difficult postal areas. If you play in more than one league, and paid for all season mailing it's actually cheaper to buy shomatch and do it this way.



TEAMPICK/ SHOMATCH/ MARKINFO - all the info you need for these programs is at - www.Teampick.co.uk

NEW WEB-SITE is now up and running, www.Kickaboutonline.co.uk to see the goodies



MARKING INFO - Tim Dodge has put together a clever little program that allowss shomatch subscribers to gather all the international squads together each session so that you can use that info to get marking info. Shomatch/ teampick subscribers get a file sent out a file with all the int squads listed and this program pulls them all together. Makes it easier than ploughing through back newsletters, etc.

Latest version now available at
<https://cloud.invisibles.org/index.php/s/IRZTnvG4zmbNXBt>

PLEASE NOTE THAT UNLESS YOU
SUBSCRIBE TO TEAMPICK/SHOMATCH
THEN YOUR TEAMSHEETS WILL
ALWAYS BE SENT OUT BY POST.
EMAIL TURNS ARE ONLY SENT TO
TEAMPICK/ SHOMATCH SUBSCRIBERS



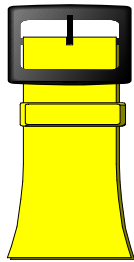
KICKABOUT BITS

BULK PAYMENT OF TURN FEES -

remember if you pay £55.25 at one time (which can cover more than one team) you get an extra free turn credited to your account. This offer does not include shomatch/weekend or special offers monies!

STANDING ORDER PAYMENTS

- you can also pay your turn fees by standing order now. Contact us for details about how to do this and remember that this is not only the way to spread your payments over the year rather than having to find a lump sum at the start of every season, but it is also the way to avoid those dreaded double turn fees. With SO payments this can't happen.

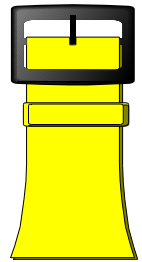


COMPETITION TIME

We know how you all love a competition and something for nothing so we are putting up another free lifetime membership for you to battle for.

Simple to enter. For every £25 that you pay to the credit of your account(s) you will receive one free ticket in a draw for the lifetime membership

This competition runs until all of the S16 postal leagues have had Session Sixteen processed. Can't be bad can it?



OCTOBER KICKABOUT WEEKEND

Yes another KKA weekend is planned, and a new venue and city. So from October 8th-11th this year we will be hitting the sin bins of Glasgow to try out Glaswegian hospitality

This has all been arranged by Craig Lawton who has worked his fingers to the bones to all rally round and don't let him down. The hotel has been fully renovated in the last few months and seem very welcoming

Craig tells me beer is much cheaper in the are and there are places to eat on Thursday evening, Friday and saturday the bright lights are only a taxi drive away The hotel is £60 per night, but not only do we get full breakfast but they also provide us with a cooked lunch on Friday and saturday which can't be bad.

Photos of the hotel will appear her in due course. To book your place you don't have to contact the hotel, just tell Craig who has all the bookings arranged. **{NB, if you want to attend then you stay at the hotel unless you are a local!}**

GO ON TAKE THE CHANCE THOSE WHO NEVER COME ALONG!

JUST £40 for a weekend of fun

Craig Lawton, Niel Humphries, Graeme Miller & Andy Baker are the first takers

Seamus, Jens Jensen, Morten Jensen, Chris Ballantyne, Danny Breznitz, Gareth Ashcoft , Rob Lewis ,Steven Reid, Ian Cranfield, Thomas Lawton,, Dennis Engslev, Colin Armstrong, Dave Craven, Dag Overli & Chris D have all indicated they are going to attend

NORWICH WEEKEND IN MAY 2021

Another KA weekend has been booked for 6th to 9th of May next year in Norwich.

SO why not put it in your diaries NOW, and make it a bumper weekend in a really good environment me hearties?

The Norwich Hotel is where the action takes place, book direct

Cost to us is a measly £40

First Takers Are Steve Thompson & Richard Pickup



KICKABOUT

EUROS

CHAMPIONS TROPHY Semi-finals

LICHFIELD TIGER Witkiewicz 94 Wind: Calm	1 : 0	EASTWOOD FOREST (A - 0.5) Att 65874 Pitch: Hard
MARTINO FC Att 67965 Wind: Calm Pitch: Good	0 : 2	COMP CITY (A - 0.9) Oddessa 46 Hintor 89

Lichfield get the chance to defend their trophy. Could they be the first team since the mighty Lutterworth many years ago to defend the trophy. Comp will be out to stop them, into their third final and a really dominating victory over Martino suggest they might be able to stop the Tigers??

CUP-WINNERS CUP Semi-final 1st legs

KINGS TOWN RAN Januzaj 27 Aamodt 72 Zuma 83 Smith 86	4 : 1	GEOGRAPHIC FC (H - 1.3) Niemi 32 Att 54188 Wind: Calm Pitch: Good
SUTTON ROVERS Tomasz 33 Bugatti 44,83 bkd - San jose (48) Wind: Calm	3 : 2	BOLTON WANDS (H - 0.1) Kandinsky 20 O'regan 54 Att 68004 Pitch: Wet

Two goal-filled second legs here though Geographic never really had much chance and were perhaps punching above their weight to get this far as they battled hard but were eventually blown away . little between the other two teams which the Wanderers perhaps might think should have gone to extra time.

Super Cup Semi-finals

RED STORM Att 48939 Wind: Calm Pitch: Wet	0 : 4	DEANE RANGERS (A - 0.5) Calzoghe 6,20,60 Azevedo 19 bkd - Edderton (88)
INCIPIENT UTD Warren 66 off - Pruff (53) Wind: Calm	1 : 0	LAIZY TOWN (H - 0.7) off - Barthez (8) Att 64038 Pitch: Hard

Not much goes right for Red Storm in their replay as a CALZOGHE hat-trick blows them away. Much closer in the other but a single goal finally gives Incipient a first ever Euro final

KICKABOUT MUSINGS

One of the subjects that always rises to the surface when Kickabout players gather to enjoy the company and talk about things is the wistful desire when the subject of the old brown paper envelope dropping through your letterbox. Those were the days the older ones amongst us claim, ripping open the brown paper box and page after page of printed sheets spilling out for your delectation.

Why should this nostalgia be so strong. Is it the fact that here is something that isn't a bill dropping through the letterbox. Is it an anally retentive scenario, like having a dump as the envelop hits the floor. How many of you as well sued to sit on the loo reading your turns, go on own up so all anal for sure.

On the other hand perhaps it relates to that moment away from everything, your own special moment with your team

Or perhaps it is just that nice moment of surprise to brighten up the day (until you see that all season injury has hit your bestest player?)



KICKABOUT BITS

Ok, Crono virus is going to cut down on your social life, no going out for drinkies, clubbing, meals. You may be stuck at home for the rest of your lives. So what to do. Well KA is still here, and there are teams to be played, so get in and take on another team before you die of boredom or kill the wife!!

ROBSON LEAGUE - AJAX AMSTERDAM - fourth in division three though perhaps not good enough to go up. The basis is here for a good side to be built plus six mill in the bank to spend

GLADSTONE LEAGUE - FEELHAILA FC - A real challenge side, no money in the bank, bottom of the third, few prospects but they do have three stars to build next season's team around.

RAMSEY LEAGUE - CREWE ALEX - an old team, relegated to division three but almost five million in the bank to play with next season.

PRICE RISE

FIRST THE BAD NEWS

It has come to that time again when we have to assess the finances. Unfortunately the price has to go up. Been a long time at the current rate. So from next season the turn fee will be going up to £3.50

BUT HERE IS THE GOOD NEWS

Which means that you can buy as many turns at the old rate as you have the finances for and they will be honoured. Plus your existing credit will be upgraded to the new turn

Your Newsletter-writer
is
Craig Lawton



KICKABOUT

**NEW
SEASON**

TEAMPICK

Teampick is a program available for all PC owners who have windows On their machine. It allows you to manipulate your team on screen to look at differing formations and conditions. This automatically works out the factors which will affect your team, helps prevent errors, and all sorts of things into the bargain. It also prints out your team sheet, and you can then get the program to format an Email team sheet for submitting instead of the normal order sheets, if you so choose. The program also has an on-line rulebook, i.e., you can dial up the relevant section of the rulebook at the click of the mouse and read that part of the rules while selecting your team. If you can't remember how the weather affects things, when your captain moves onto an extra level, or the formulas that govern transfer negotiations and marking, well just ask the computer! Subscribers also get a .kik file which upgrades your team details every session as well making it even easier for you. Even better news is that the program is FREE to all players who sign up for Shomatch.

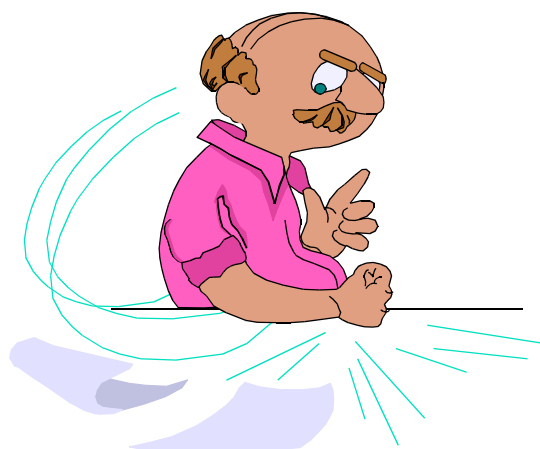
Finally, you'll find some other goodies that are useful to a keen player on the teampick web-site, while Paul has now released V1.17 for the new season which will allow you to use teampick for int/rep games and generate the proper teamsheets as a result for sending into us.

REMEMBER WE DO NOT ACCEPT TEAMPICK ORDERS PRODUCED BY ANYTHING OTHER THAN VERSION V.1.17 SO ENSURE YOU USE THIS OR THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU.

ALSO if you are NOT a registered user please be aware that not every option on teampick will work 100% due to you needing the .kik files which are only sent to registered users.

So why not try:-

www.Teampick.co.uk and explore??



SHOMATCH

For those who don't already know Shomatch is our very own tele-printer in which you get the results, the newsletter and league tables on it, plus a minute by minute printout of the state of your game. Nail-biting to watch if you've got a particularly important game to play. Far better, and definitely more nerve-wracking than just tearing the newsletter open and seeing your fate decided in the flash of a micro-second. This is only available to those who have email players as everything is sent to you as an email which shomatch interprets and displays to you on your PC screen. But not only do you get the tele-printer printout and the league tables, but we send you a number of extra files which include the results, suspensions, Euro results, international results, rep results and the like. All of these can be displayed and watched as they tick through minute by minute as well. Thanks to the programming skills of Paul Sutton, shomatch now runs under windows, with pictures, sound effects and the like making it an even more gripping experience for the real masochists amongst you!!

If you are playing the game from abroad by Email, and who doesn't receive any hardcopy newsletters (mainly those who are playing from outside of continental Europe, MUST purchase shomatch as it is via this that we send your results, newsletters (in PDF format now), and the like. It's up to the rest of you whether you subscribe to this and get your results earlier than the hardcopy comes out. But for the overseas player it is a boon allowing them a little bit extra time to complete their orders - something that they were always moaning about in the past!

What is the cost then. Well you have to pay a single fee of £17.95 which covers a season of sign-ups for Shomatch. For this you get all the information above, and for this one fee you can request shomatch and related details for any league you want to. You aren't restricted to just the leagues you are playing in,. Euro contestants can watch their rivals and plan for when they meet them in this way. You'll see a box on your season start-up sheets which says sign me up for Shomatch. Tick this, enclose the cash and indicate which league you want to subscribe to and we'll do the rest. Remember it's a once-only £17.95 amount for all the



KICKABOUT

**NEW
SEASON**

THE NEW SEASON COMETH

Ok, attached to your printouts this session is your Start-up sheet for next season. This you have to send back to us with any monies or instructions you might have. Sooner you get it back sooner the new season can start.

Please send the start-up sheet on one sheet of paper (DAG/JOHN SAMSON!), please do not send the whole of your printouts back, or send the start-up with part of your orders (this usually happens with Email sets of orders!). The team name should be the first thing on the start-up papers you send back to us (makes it much easier for filing at our end!). And on one sheet, please don't put extra blank lines in your start up (some people do!0

Please also note that if you particularly want to be an international manager or particularly do not want to be one, please intimate this on your orders so we can give you or not give you what you want. If you don't you will be stuck with being an int manager, no arguments. Int managership gives you lots of advantages, extra MPS, cash, a super scout and knowledge of your opponents players plus the chance to experiment with different formations, who would not want this? So you have the opportunity NOW!

If you need to re-do a team for some reason then all you get is 100 levels + 100K, , please contact us before you re-do any team to talk about it.

Also, your subscription for Shomatch/Teampick will be taken from the first league that you receive a start-up for so please ensure you have enough to cover it

Remember you may only re-name your side if it is not a first division side and if you took them over during THIS season. Certain teams with a history who are now in the lower divisions cannot be re-named either.

Also, please DO NOT, say same as lasts season for nicknames (Paul STEVENS note), ground colours, put something in the box to save us from having to look up what your last decisions were. some of you might enjoy playing in asshole park, which is what we are likely to choose for you!!

Finally, get your start up sheet back soonest with any payment, then we can get the new season going, it is a pain having to chase people for things.

And good luck in the new season to you all

GREY MATTER TIME

COACHING – one of the main keys to improving your sides is the intelligent development of your team by the application of your SPS to raise the performance levels of your players. One thing to remember here is that you are always seeking a trade-off between future development and present playing strength. Only eleven players can actually play in your team at a time so all levels that players outside of the 1stXI have to their name are virtually useless when it comes to the actual ninety minutes. On the other hand, if you put all your levels into your 1stXI squad then come the future you'll have a weakening team through ageing. So you must look for a balance. Young players have to be brought on for the future – only the strongest and most successful teams can buy the new blood they need. Obviously you have to use the transfer market as well, but in general it's development from within that is going to strengthen your squad and defeat the ravages of ageing.

So, you must intelligently use your PS to bring on your players. Question is where do you put them. It's not wise to use training a 21-7 – unless perhaps he's a UT or your side is in desperate need of players (perhaps you've taken over a poor challenge side where a 21-7 is a string player. SBY's & FUT's of the correct category and where you have a gap in the squad are the main priority as they improve far more rapidly than do others. APPS are next best, but that doesn't mean that you ignore your current players. Any STAR player MUST be trained if you have the SPS' because otherwise you might see him injured and thus losing that coveted start status (see below), Also it is only a level twelve player (of age 19+) that can go to become a star so in reality you need your level eleven players trained up to twelve ASAP, and younger lower level players also need to be pushed towards the magic level twelve level as well. You might not be able to get them there all at once but it should be an aim.

Remember that players gain experience with every game that they play, the more games the quicker will this experience level rise and therefore, it is sometimes a good idea, especially with younger players, to leave them at level ten or eleven and let them rise to twelve by experience gains. They aren't going to age as badly so rather than spending SPS to gain those extra couple of levels this is often an option, so you can use the SPS elsewhere..

One thing it is not really advisable to do is to train a level thirteen star. It is advisable to train a level twelve star as an injury can see him drop from 12 star to eleven non-star (for those who sometimes wonder at this an injury ALWAYS loses a player a performance level whatever!!!).SO always get a player who has become a star from twelve to thirteen to protect his status. After that it costs two SPS, and really that isn't efficient. He will rise via experience anyway so best to leave him alone.

Finally, a word on training specialist players. Remember that if your specialist player isn't going to be a star at end of season, or isn't going to gain some special bonus like best defender or top scorer, then he will age as per any player. This is an awful lot of PSS to throw away come end of season. So, make the decision early in the season about specialist players. Is he going to be any use next season, what is his worth to me this season (in terms of helping to win silverware), and plot his season's course accordingly. Every league is full of MF/A/D – MF/A – MF/D – MF/G's of 24-4 ilk come end of season, who have aged badly and who managers are trying to get rid of, but buying one cheap is a two-edge sword and it might be you who is selling the same player as a 25-3 come next season and lost a dozen or so PSS in the process.

It all comes down to planning and thinking about the needs of your team, of future growth balanced against current requirements. Certainly buy that FWT & WG combo that some kind manager is offering, but make sure that you know what you are getting into and that in the long run it is good for your team??