

ExtraTime

BRISBANE'S SOCCER MAGAZINE

Issue 1
August 2003

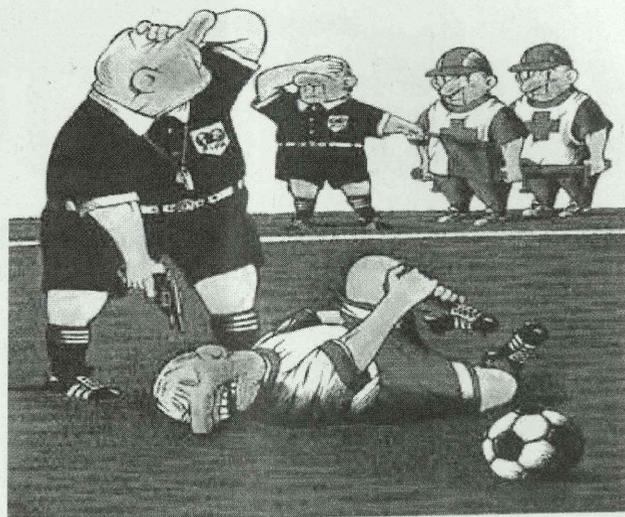
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**FRANK
PIMBLETT**

**STUART
McLAREN**

**CRAIG
SLAUGHTER**

inside... **THE LOCAL NEWS • INTERVIEWS • TABLES**
• REVIEWS • FEATURES • LIONS SECURE PREMIERSHIP
and more!



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EDITOR'S

Comment

Welcome to the pilot edition of ExtraTime - Brisbane's only soccer magazine devoted to local issues and identities.

The idea for this publication was conceived some time ago and was largely born of my own frustration at not being able to get my hands on a hard copy magazine that dealt with the local game. The demise of the 'Eye On Soccer' and the independent 'Farr Post' left a gaping hole in what was already an under-reported sport in Brisbane. Soccer people with access to the internet are able, in part, to glean certain amounts of local info from the web, but the general feeling I was getting from the folk in club-land was that a hard copy mag' was wanted out there.

Just to get the thing to this stage has taken an enormous amount of work from a number of people and my thanks (and yours if you like the mag') goes to Peter Polichronis, Sharon Jackson, Paul Harley, Bruce Dinsdale and Phil Moye at BMS, and the very patient people of Rocket Printing at Lawnton.

Our intention all along has not been to replace or replicate the Eye On Soccer or The Farr Post in any way. Being a monthly publication we want to steer away from the purely factual reporting of scores and match reports etc. Our focus is to provide an interesting and hopefully, entertaining look at the local game and a forum for you to express your views. Again, our hope is that ExtraTime will be part of an evolutionary process involving you, the reader. If you like it, tell us. If you don't, tell us why!

Also, we intend to make ExtraTime a magazine for **all** clubs - not just those who are in the top divisions. If you would like your club featured or have any interesting, anecdotal information then let us know.

In this issue you have 24 pages, but if the publication is a success and continues next season then we will increase it to 32 (and counting!). Purely to minimise costs we have stuck to a black and white format for this edition and kept the number of photographs low. In the future our intention is to introduce colour and more pictures. We are aware that this issue does not contain a great deal of current news items, but again, this will be rectified in future editions.

So read on and enjoy. If you are entertained then please support the concept as much as you can. After all, any publication relies on it's readers for it's very survival and this one is no different.

Editor

LOCAL round-up

QUEENSLAND LIONS secured their second successive Premiership in what has been another impressive season for the Richlands club. A 2-0 victory against Toowoomba in the replay of a previously abandoned game put Lions out of the reach of the chasing pack with 3 games remaining. With the opportunity to rest a few players Miron Bleiberg's side will be red-hot favourites to complete the double and take out the Grand Final next month. Lions have enjoyed further success in both the Youth and Reserve divisions and CEO Lawrence Oudendyk says this is testimony to the Youth Development Program at the club. "Obviously we are delighted to have won the Premiership again. We have had a much younger team this season and it hasn't been as easy as people think. We allowed a number of more experienced players to leave the club and for the Reserves and Youth to have also done so well is very pleasing. It shows we are on the right track with our Development Programs."

At the time of print Queensland Lions were still awaiting news from Soccer Australia regarding their application for inclusion in the 2003/2004 National League. ExtraTime would like to wish them the best of luck.

Elsewhere in the Premier League Taringa, Brisbane City and Pine Rivers look to have secured Finals places, although all three will be looking to avoid 4th place and a subsequent semi-final game against Lions.

At the bottom, The Gap will be looking to next season as their relegation fate is all but assured. Ipswich Knights will be hoping they can put a disappointing season behind them and remain in the Premier League via the promotion and relegation play-off.

Division 1 has arguably been the most entertaining league of the year in 2003. In a very tight division Eastern Suburbs and Mitchelton have been going blow for blow since the middle of the season and the battle for the Premiership, and of course the automatic promotion spot, could go down to the wire. Those who witnessed the game when the two sides clashed at Teralba Park will not

forget that game in a hurry. Mitchy's Jason Poggi bagging six goals in a humdinger of a match. University, Capalaba and Olympic have all kept pressure on the top two and kept themselves in Finals contention and Peninsula Power should be very pleased with their efforts this season having been promoted from Division 2. The Redcliffe side have defended solidly but found goals hard to come by at the other end. Down at the bottom Newmarket will need a minor miracle to avoid the drop and Inala, Albany Creek and Beenleigh will all be looking nervously over their shoulders.

Division 2 has also provided no shortage of excitement and entertainment this year. Southside Eagles, Bethania and Slacks Creek have all been toughing it out for the right to be promoted but as the run-in comes to a close the smart money is on the Eagles to edge over the line.

It has been an abysmal season for Acacia Ridge and in their 90th year of existence Oxley United will be disappointed to have not finished further up the table.

Praise must go to Pineapple Rovers and University in Metro Division 1. The Rovers have been banging goals in all season but it will be very tough for them to catch leaders University at this late stage. They also dispatched Division 1 side Mount Gravatt from the South East Queensland Cup earlier this year and look to have the goods to compete in a higher league... time will tell.

Finally, congratulations to new Brisbane Strikers Player Coach Stuart McLaren. ExtraTime held an interview with Stuart prior to his departure to Scotland for his wedding and obviously well prior to his appointment. We would like to wish him and the team all the very best for the upcoming season and hope that he can bring success to the club. Brisbane needs a strong presence in the National League.

You can read the interview on page 9.



**Brisbane
Men's
Soccer**

2003 Tables

as of 11th August

PREMIER LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	20	16	2	2	60	16	50
BRISBANE CITY	20	11	5	4	39	24	38
TARINGA ROVERS	20	10	5	5	36	22	35
PINE RIVERS UTD	20	10	4	6	34	27	34
PALM BEACH	20	9	4	7	38	37	31
ROCHEDALE ROV	20	9	2	9	31	27	29
T'WMBRA RAIDERS	20	7	5	8	15	19	26
WYNNUM	20	7	4	9	26	34	25
NORTH STAR	20	7	4	9	25	37	25
SOUTHS UTD	20	6	2	12	27	39	20
IPSW KNIGHTS	20	3	5	12	17	35	14
THE GAP	20	2	4	14	16	47	10

PREMIER RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	20	17	2	1	64	13	53
TARINGA ROVERS	20	12	7	1	46	15	43
SOUTHS UTD	20	13	2	5	46	26	41
ROCHEDALE ROV	20	11	3	6	48	34	36
IPSW KNIGHTS	20	9	4	7	29	30	31
PINE RIVERS UTD	20	9	3	8	39	50	30
WYNNUM	20	7	5	8	42	41	26
PALM BEACH	20	6	6	8	26	42	24
T'WMBRA RAIDERS	20	5	4	11	28	42	19
BRISBANE CITY	20	3	4	13	22	39	13
THE GAP	20	3	4	13	21	51	13
NORTH STAR	20	2	2	16	13	41	8

PREMIER YOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	20	16	2	2	70	18	50
NORTH STAR	20	14	2	4	42	20	44
PINE RIVERS UTD	20	13	1	6	48	36	40
PALM BEACH	20	10	6	4	33	29	36
WYNNUM	20	8	7	5	44	30	31
SOUTHS UTD	20	8	6	6	39	34	30
T'WMBRA RAIDERS	20	8	3	9	35	36	27
ROCHEDALE ROV	20	7	5	8	38	43	26
IPSW KNIGHTS	20	5	3	12	27	38	18
BRISBANE CITY	20	4	4	12	27	41	16
TARINGA ROVERS	20	3	2	15	24	51	11
THE GAP	20	2	3	15	22	73	9

DIVISION 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MITCHELTON	23	15	3	5	55	34	48
EASTERN SUBURBS	22	14	4	4	58	26	46
UNI OF QLD	22	14	2	6	46	26	44
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	22	10	9	3	39	28	39
CAPALABA	22	11	5	6	35	25	38
PENINSULA POWER	22	9	4	9	42	29	31
MT GRAVATT	23	7	7	9	28	34	28
ROCKLEA UTD	22	7	6	9	36	38	27
REDLANDS UTD	22	6	6	10	32	40	24
BEENLEIGH	22	5	6	11	26	39	21
ALBANY CREEK	22	6	3	13	26	46	21
INALA CITY	22	4	5	13	21	47	17
NEWMARKET	22	5	2	15	23	55	17

DIV 1 RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UNI OF QLD	22	18	1	3	61	20	55
MITCHELTON	23	17	3	3	65	24	54
PENINSULA POWER	22	12	6	4	35	24	42
REDLANDS UTD	22	13	1	8	47	32	40
EASTERN SUBURBS	22	11	4	7	41	31	37
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	22	10	5	7	43	30	35
MT GRAVATT	23	9	4	10	35	31	31
CAPALABA	22	8	4	10	40	41	28
ALBANY CREEK	22	9	1	12	32	42	28
BEENLEIGH	22	7	3	12	32	48	24
INALA CITY	22	5	1	16	30	59	16
NEWMARKET	22	3	3	16	23	52	12
ROCKLEA UTD	22	3	2	17	15	65	11

DIV 1 YOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ALBANY CREEK	20	14	2	4	45	24	44
MT GRAVATT	22	13	3	6	52	26	42
CAPALABA	20	12	3	5	55	25	39
PENINSULA POWER	20	12	3	5	52	32	39
ROCKLEA UTD	21	11	2	8	45	34	35
REDLANDS UTD	20	9	5	6	38	37	32
UNI OF QLD	20	9	2	9	38	48	29
MITCHELTON	21	5	7	9	36	45	22
BEENLEIGH	20	6	3	11	25	37	21
EASTERN SUBURBS	20	4	5	11	34	52	17
INALA CITY	20	4	2	14	28	58	14
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	20	2	5	13	28	58	11

DIVISION 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S'SIDE EAGLES	20	16	1	3	45	17	49
BETHANIA RAMS	20	14	3	3	58	24	45
SLACKS CREEK	20	14	2	4	55	17	44
MOGGILL UTD	20	12	3	5	69	31	39
GOODNA & DIST	20	10	3	7	37	30	33
IPSWICH CITY	20	9	1	10	42	33	28
SAMFORD	20	7	4	9	33	29	25
ANNNERLEY	20	7	4	9	32	53	25
NORTH PINE	20	7	3	10	38	40	24
GRANGE THISTLE	20	5	6	9	33	35	21
OXLEY UTD	20	2	4	14	23	58	10
ACACIA RIDGE	20	0	0	20	10	108	0

DIV 2 RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S'SIDE EAGLES	20	15	4	1	64	14	49
SLACKS CREEK	20	14	3	3	60	26	45
NORTH PINE	20	13	5	2	77	15	44
IPSWICH CITY	20	11	2	7	36	27	35
BETHANIA RAMS	20	9	6	5	49	29	33
MOGILL UTD	20	10	3	7	47	36	33
GRANGE THISTLE	20	10	2	8	47	34	32
SAMFORD	20	8	1	11	38	54	25
OXLEY UTD	20	5	5	10	34	46	20
ANMERLEY	20	5	2	13	34	61	17
ACACIA RIDGE	20	1	2	17	22	97	5
GOODNA & DIST	20	0	3	17	12	81	3

METRO DIV 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UNI OF QLD	18	13	5	0	49	19	44
PINEAPPLE	19	13	4	2	67	24	43
CLAIRVAUX	19	13	2	4	64	32	41
SOUTHS UTD	19	9	2	8	51	26	29
DARRA UTD	19	7	6	6	36	39	27
MITCHELTON	19	7	4	8	42	40	25
TARINGA ROVERS	19	7	4	8	41	42	25
PINE HILLS	17	7	2	8	42	50	23
BAYSIDE UTD	19	6	2	11	34	49	20
PARKRIDGE	20	4	3	13	29	50	15
WILSTON	19	3	4	12	29	86	13
BRISBANE CITY	11	0	2	9	8	35	2

METRO DIV 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WYNNUM	18	15	3	0	82	20	48
SLACKS CREEK	18	13	3	2	58	27	42
LOGAN CITY KINGS	19	10	3	6	62	38	33
WOODRIDGE	18	9	5	4	71	36	32
CAPALABA	18	10	2	6	62	34	32
SOUTH STAR	19	7	3	9	49	37	24
SOUTHS UTD	18	6	3	9	37	48	21
MOOROONDU	18	5	6	7	33	59	21
KINGSRIDGE	18	6	1	11	43	62	19
IPSW KNIGHTS	18	2	1	15	22	85	7
OXLEY UNITED	18	2	0	16	22	95	6

METRO DIV 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PENINSULA POWER	22	19	2	1	89	25	59
NORTH STAR	22	17	3	2	82	27	54
THE GAP	23	16	3	4	78	29	51
RIDGE HILLS	22	15	2	5	62	34	47
PINE HILLS	22	14	3	5	97	38	45
NEWMARKET P'L	23	12	2	9	47	44	38
NEWMARKET	22	8	3	11	50	52	27
BRIGHTON DIST	22	7	4	11	57	55	25
NORTH PINE	22	7	3	12	40	54	24
WILSTON ATHLETIC	22	5	3	14	46	80	18
GRANGE THISTLE	21	4	1	16	27	111	13
REDCLIFFE PCYC	22	4	0	18	31	72	12
SAMFORD	22	1	1	20	27	112	4

METRO DIV 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CLAIRVAUX	18	14	1	3	75	19	43
UNI OF QLD	18	13	2	3	55	13	41
ACACIA RIDGE	18	11	3	4	58	28	36
IPSW KNIGHTS	18	10	4	4	69	40	34
BAYSIDE UTD	19	10	3	6	47	37	33
PINEAPPLE ROVERS	18	10	2	6	67	28	32
PINE HILLS	17	5	2	10	31	47	17
EASTERN SUBURBS	18	5	2	11	22	54	17
SLACKS CREEK	18	5	1	12	29	60	16
NORTH PINE	18	4	0	14	21	79	12
DARRA UTD	18	2	0	16	20	89	6

METRO DIV 5	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NEWMARKET	24	19	4	1	97	26	61
SLACKS CREEK	24	18	4	2	80	19	58
TARINGA ROVERS	24	16	5	3	73	28	53
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	24	15	4	5	64	28	49
THE GAP	24	12	9	3	57	30	45
BEENLEIGH	24	14	2	8	71	41	44
MT GRAVATT	24	10	3	11	41	55	33
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	24	7	4	13	37	61	25
NORTH STAR	24	7	4	13	34	66	25
SOUTHS UTD	24	7	3	14	44	68	24
CLAIRVAUX	24	6	4	14	36	54	22
RIDGE HILLS	24	5	2	17	28	81	17
ALBANY CREEK	24	3	5	16	28	79	14
IPSWICH CITY	24	1	3	20	15	69	6

METRO DIV 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CAPALABA	20	17	1	2	83	17	52
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	20	15	1	4	59	25	46
REDLANDS UTD	20	12	3	5	68	27	39
NEWMARKET	20	12	1	7	60	48	37
BRISBANE CITY	20	12	1	7	39	32	37
ANMERLEY	20	10	2	8	44	37	32
BAYSIDE UTD	20	10	1	9	54	36	31
OXLEY UTD	20	10	1	9	45	46	31
ALBANY CREEK	20	8	3	9	33	30	27
MOOROONDU	20	2	2	16	26	62	8
PARK RIDGE	20	2	0	18	23	85	6
WYNNUM	20	2	0	18	28	117	6

PREMIER LEAGUE LEADING SCORERS

Greg Di-Losa	(Qld Lions)	13
Peter Grierson	(Palm Beach)	13
Jon San Martin	(Brisbane City)	9
Luke Morley	(Taringa)	9
Koji Kanagawa	(Pine Rivers)	9
Robert Kidd	(Brisbane City)	8
Shaun Blackman	(North Star)	8
Shane Coffey	(Wynnum)	7
Craig Slaughter	(Taringa)	6

THE FULL MONTY

Monty pulls on the steel-capped boots and wades into the Premier League clubs

In this first issue I thought I would give my two bobs worth on the Premier League clubs in Brisbane and give my rating of their 'feel good' approach to our local league. In our fair city there are a number of venues that make your football juices flow and at some others you just wonder if anyone really cares about the end product. My ratings are given out of 100 so I guess I'll be removed from a few Xmas card lists!

BRISBANE CITY

The sleeping giant of local football. Still a place that one looks forward to playing but the stadium has been let go somewhat and the surface has also not kept as a high a standard as years gone by. Great changing rooms and cannot beat the variety of canteen food with one of the most informative match day programs. My thoughts are that with some more helpers behind the scenes City can become a true cauldron, but it really needs some major attention to the graffiti, general maintenance and a coat of paint to give it a needed lift. **Rating 75.**

IPSWICH KNIGHTS

I cannot remember one occasion in the past 10 years when I woke up and said 'Thank goodness the day has finally arrived when we travel to Ipswich - cannot wait!' So what is it about the dreaded road trip to Bundamba? Is it the natives? No, they are harmless and generally add to the occasion. The pitch is rarely good although better early in the season, the dressing rooms are woeful, but the grub in the canteen is probably the best around. A new stand has given some relief from the heat (doesn't matter when you go out there it is always bloody hot!). The fact that they don't have floodlights to standard is disappointing. However, I wonder how much more intimidating it would be at night. Perhaps it is because every Ipswich side I have seen seems to play with a resolve which is

bordering on the same sought-after spirit that featured in the classic Braveheart! I wish that they would get closer to Council though to help improve the facilities and make it a more enjoyable trip. But maybe that's what they DON'T want to achieve!! **Rating 50.**

NORTH STAR

Sorry one has to be so cruel but with what has happened at this club I am surprised that they are able to be a part of the PL. Surely they need to make improvements for next year or regardless of where they finish they will struggle to get in. I am sure that there are a lot of good, hard working people out there but really those similar hard working people are at most clubs. Pitch is only just there, dressing rooms need work, and they have no clubhouse to open up for post match activities ...sorry but no star rating for North Star. **Rating 20.**

PALM BEACH

Now this is a fixture that I relish. Great feel to the whole set-up, good program, pitch can be affected at times by weather and volume of traffic but not too bad. Good dressing room although need for more, no covered facilities but you are on the Gold Coast! The committee are always trying things re: match day activities, always made to feel welcome before and after. **Rating 85.**

PINE RIVERS

Now here is another club which can be seen to be openly improving facilities and match day presentation. Dressing rooms could do with a touch up, but really from a geographical aspect and the way that the club is run Pine Rivers is a favourite visit. Not that you get too many favours on the field as they are as intimidating as the outfit from Bundamba. **Rating 75.**

QUEENSLAND LIONS

What can one say other than we are fortunate to have a club with such facilities and attention to detail with their match day presentation. The club is run by football enthusiasts and 'love em or hate em' they are the jewel in the crown for the PL. Until Perry Park gets its act together all Finals should be played at Richlands.

Rating 100.

ROCHEDALE

Once again another road trip to pencil in on the football calendar. The pitch has probably warranted a fair bit of stick in recent years and hopefully this will eventually come good. Great dressing room set-up and great facilities for all concerned, including soccer shop. I think that the old 'pensioners' need to recharge their pace-makers as the singing of past years has diminished noticeably recently. **Rating 95.**

SOUTHS UNITED

The first thing about Souths that hit me was the poor dressing room accommodation. Apparently the club is constructing new rooms for 2004 which will be welcome. Pitch wasn't great but then again was not noticeably worse than the general 'herd' in the PL. Clubhouse was most hospitable with post match nibbles and hospitality. I will sit on the fence with this one and reserve judgment until next yearif they make it. **Rating 60.**

TARINGA ROVERS

Need to be careful here, oh bugger it, why!? The club has certainly shown advancement with match day presentation including ball boys (which every club should have), pitch is one of the better ones of the 'herd' (not including Lions in this gathering!) but disappointments are floodlights not up to standard, no covered facility for spectators and although we have 4 dressing rooms they were built 'pre-substitutes' and as such are too small. Canteen food is also a fairly narrow range. Post match presentations and hospitality are excellent. **Rating 75.**

THE GAP

My old club. Great junior production line, but they don't really look as if they want to be in the PL and I feel that another club will give far

better presence. For all the hard working people there I am not sure why they don't have bigger numbers in a working committee and introduce the word 'delegation'. Sorry guys, but I have seen absolutely nothing which suggests that you seriously want to be in the league, pitch is zero, dressing rooms are poor and singular, viewing is difficult. Sorry, come back when you can pick up lessons from the likes of Pine Rivers. **Rating 15.**

TOOWOOMBA

If I was writing this 12 months ago they would have struggled to outscore The Gap! However what a great occasion going to Toowoomba is now they are at Stadium Toowoomba. One cannot fault anything about the trip and tremendous hospitality driven by Broady - I think that the canteen prices are a bit high which the club may not have any control over. **Rating 95.**

WYNNUM WOLVES

Here is a club that has been trying to improve, and slowly but surely a lot of this is coming to fruition. Pitch has never been the best and hopefully some of their obvious energy can be directed into improving the surface. Dressing rooms were among the worst have now been improved dramatically, only problem is that despite having 4 dressing rooms only two are used on match days as the Ladies hold the keys to rooms 3 and 4. Seriously guys, you need to 'fix' this situation as it is laughable if not ridiculous! Fantastic post match hospitality, not too many faults here despite the change rooms debacle. **Rating 80.**

So there it is. As you can see we have plenty of room for improvement and hopefully this will be seen over the next few years as presentation of the product (your club) is important.

Sometimes it is amazing how a lot of small things add up to a 'feel good' experience at little financial cost, but simply good planning and delegation.
Cheers for now.

Monty

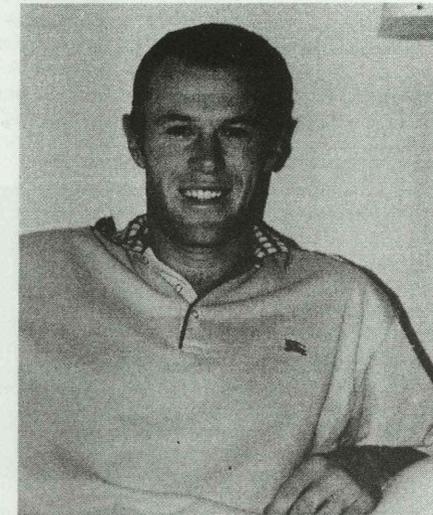
Stuart McLaren

New Strikers Coach Stuart McLaren waxes lyrical on all things football

I met Stuart McLaren at his comfortable northern suburbs home just 24 hours before he and his family were due to jet off to Scotland for his wedding. Despite the fact that the Strikers' captain was about to leave for a pre-nuptial-jitter-settling game of golf, he was more than happy to meet with ExtraTime.

McLaren, 27, is the quintessential modern professional footballer. Affable and accommodating, he appreciates how lucky he is to get paid to do what he loves and is refreshingly modest on the subject. Born in Scotland, Stuart emigrated to Australia with his family when only 5 years old. He spent his junior days at Mooroodu, Mount Gravatt and Capalaba, until his family relocated to Rockhampton and he continued his development at the Berserker club, the same breeding ground that produced ex-Striker Jeromy Harris. His talent already evident, a move via a scholarship to the Institute of Sport honed McLaren's skills, preparing him for a move to NSL side Woolongong. By now a career in football was the only path McLaren wanted to follow. "I was always pretty single-minded. My earliest memory is watching the '82 World Cup and my Dad said to me that these guys get paid for playing football and although I was only 7 at the time I thought - that'll do me!"

Although extremely proud of his Scottish roots McLaren considers himself to be an Aussie now. "I'm very much a Queenslander. Australia, and Queensland in particular has done everything for my career in terms of my development and making me the player I am now. Up to a certain age I think Australian youngsters are every bit as technically gifted, if not more gifted than players in Scotland." As is the case with most Aussie youngsters playing the game, Stuart wanted to try his luck and test his skills overseas and a return to his native Scotland for a spell with First Division side Stirling Albion provided that opportunity. "Playing in Scotland was great as the game is the be-all and end-all over there. The attention you get is probably the main difference



between here and the UK. Even for a relatively small club like Stirling Albion you'd find your name in the papers and hear it on the radio quite frequently, whereas over here, we're the only NSL team in Brisbane but if you mention the Strikers people still don't recognise the brand or know when the season runs or anything."

Next, the lure of warmer climes took him to Hong Kong. Things didn't go quite to plan in Asia and McLaren was happy to be offered a contract by the Strikers. "The Hong Kong experience was a good lesson for me in terms of what goes on behind the scenes at a football club. Despite things going a bit sour over there I still enjoyed myself, but it was a natural progression for me to come back to Queensland. Brisbane is where I call home."

Between the end of the last NSL season and prior to departing for Scotland and wedded bliss, McLaren had been plying his trade for Division 1 pacesetters Eastern Suburbs. "The pace of the game in Div one is a bit slower obviously, as is the intensity, but there are still

some talented players at that level. Some of the most enjoyable times at Easts and Souths Utd were when you hear coaches say that some of the younger players have benefited from playing with me. Naturally I wanted to help both clubs get the results they were after and if I did so then that's a bonus. They've got a few good youngsters at Easts, Matt Baldizzone has done well and Jeff Dyne scored a few goals for us."

As Australian soccer seemingly lurches from one self-inflicted crisis to another these are worrying times for those who earn their crust from the game. The knight in shining armour that is the Frank Lowy team has been hampered in its quest to lead the game by certain Soccer Australia Board members who refuse to budge.

"It's disappointing," says McLaren, "There are some individuals in the game that are being really selfish. We have a group of people that want to come in and give it the shot in the arm it needs, and it's what every soccer supporter in the country is crying out for. It doesn't matter whether you're involved in the game purely as a spectator, or as a player, etc at your local club or NSL club, everybody is desperate to see these people come on board and run the code as we know it should be run."

Is the Lowy team the best option for resolving the woes of the game? McLaren thinks yes. "John Kosmina had a bit to do with Frank Lowy from his early days at Sydney City and he's only had good things to say about him. You certainly can't knock the man's credentials and the people he wants to appoint in his team bring a lot to the table. The game is teetering on the edge of not being able to support full-time footballers and without Board members making big investments" at clubs it probably wouldn't be possible. It could go either way at the moment. If Lowy gets in then we could go forward – if not, the game could literally fall on its backside."

So what does the future hold for Stuart McLaren? Coaching? "Definitely! Soccer has been a big part of my life and if I wasn't a professional I would still play because I love the game. I'd really like to stay involved in the game when my playing days are over, as a coach or in media work or something, but coaching would be my number

one choice. I've done quite a bit of work with young kids and it's certainly something I'd like to carry on with in the future."

At the time of the interview it was still unclear as to who would be coaching the Strikers in 2003/2004. The captain of the team was as much in the dark as everyone else.

"The Board have been pretty tight-lipped because of the circumstances surrounding the NSL and Soccer Australia, which is understandable."

The light at the end of the proverbial tunnel for soccer is at times nothing more than a distant blip.

However, direct qualification to the World Cup Finals for Oceania in 2006 did increase the wattage somewhat – until it was dramatically taken away by FIFA. The sport's world governing body quoted the Oceanic

attitude to the Confederations Cup and Soccer Australia's instability as the primary reasons for the move. Like the rest of us, McLaren was grateful for the direct entry birth but is pragmatic when it comes to Australia's misfortune at the hands of Sepp Blatter. "I'm just angry that politics have again come along to trip the game up in Australia. Fingers crossed though that the Socceroos can overcome the obstacles this time and prove to the world that we are more than good enough".

When talking to Stuart McLaren it is patently obvious that the man is grateful and regret-free for the life he has led. He rates being given the captaincy at the Brisbane Strikers as one of the highlights of his career and the pride displayed in both his voice and expression echoes that.

"It wasn't something I'd aspired to but it's part of my natural game to talk a lot on the field and try to keep things organised." Another high point was playing in a friendly for Stirling against his boyhood idols, Glasgow Rangers. "Craig Moore, who was at the AIS with me and is still a good mate was playing that day, so it was very special."

SOCCKER. What is it about this game? It's enough to drive a woman to drink so I suppose I should be grateful. I mean, world-wide nothing else dominates the hearts and minds of men and boys like this does. Even the detached Swiss get Brazilian like in their goal celebrations. A State of Origin decider is insipid after the passion of a Sunderland – Newcastle derby. Both on and off the park, emotions overflow. Who could forget Elton John's tears after Watford's 1984 F.A. Cup Final loss?

At the start of every season I feel like shouting "We interrupt this marriage for the start of the soccer season" as he becomes trance-like at the opening bars of Match of the Day.

"I'm just popping out to have an affair with a Tongan rugby prop forward, dear" I say. "Righto, here's some pocket money for you," he replies. Aargh, oblivious already!

As we all know, it's much more than just life and death (Shank's legendary words). Growing up in Liverpool in the 60's, it's something that pervades your earliest memories. It's a religion and your love of red and hatred of blue is formed unconsciously at that point. Shopping with Mum was always on a Saturday afternoon since the checkout girls were all tuned in to the radio and she was often under charged. The normal shopping crowds were non-existent and now every time I hear the Beatles' "Yesterday," I'm instantly back there.

Pre-GenXers, we girls and boys alike kicked a football around in the back streets and it wasn't long before we all took on our heroes (soccer players were around long before pop stars staring appeared on the walls). I was Tommy Smith and I'd just scored in the final. Persuasive isn't it?

But we women being the more discerning creatures grew up and looked outwards to the world to see what was happening. What was happening was that our erstwhile playmates had turned inwards to play, watch, sleep and breathe soccer. It's there in your most intimate moments. Is there a man in the world who does not say "Bobby Charlton, Bobby Charlton" at the crucial moment. If there is he must be a Manchester City fan.

You'd think you might guess what's in store. At the start of even the headiest romance, you fondly imagine a dinner date is a table for two in a dimly lit Italian restaurant with a bottle of red. Reality shatters this wonderful illusion with a burger on the terraces, 10,000 screaming idiots and a XXXX.

And, would you believe, it's not just men. Women are every bit afflicted. Seeing pictures of small boys from all over the world kicking footballs in the street, in the dust and even sometimes in the park, there are always parents looking fondly on. We all smile at the littlies chasing the ball like bees around the honey pot. A few years later, the smiles have disappeared as the under 10's have become quite adept and start to compete. Mothers eye each other warily, poised and ready to attack. The ref pales visibly. Fathers cringe at a bad pass and wish their mates weren't there. Even the young players start to get complexes about noisy parents embarrassing them and try to keep their new strip clean. Would we give this up? Not a bit of it.

married to soccer

Sharon Jackson
renews her
vows

"We interrupt this marriage for the start of the soccer season!"

The 2002 World Cup was a sure sign that passion for soccer has not waned one bit since its creation in the middle ages in England. This is more than can be said for the crusades and the search for the Holy Grail. Perfectly responsible husbands and fathers have taken a full year's holiday entitlement and 2 years money to go. "Just to be there for the lads." Very true if you are Scot, it's a modern day crusade, the World Cup being the coveted Holy Grail.

The atmosphere in the terraces is the thing, I'm sure of it. How can any woman hope to compete with that incredible surge of spirit after your team scores. Not even Kylie. The singing, comradeship's built in seconds as is the wholesale condemnation of the ref. It's even worse if he's right. It's hardly surprising

that you come home exhausted and that's only from a Sunday morning friendly!

But it would be nice, even lovely, if we could find some priority instead of the "can't it wait 'til half time" attitude. This, when your contractions are five minutes apart, is not what you want to hear. Just for once could we receive the rapturous attention that Beckham does, even when he's only talking, instead of that selective deafness known only to us.

You know what? We would be so shocked and so happy, we'd smile and say "Whatever you'd like to do dear" And you know what the answer is.

Pass me the bottle quick!

10 questions for...

The 2002 Gold Medal winner and Taringa playmaker is on top of the world

craig SLAUGHTER

Did you expect to win, or go close to winning the Gold Medal in 2002?

I never thought that I would walk away that evening with the gold medal. The team had a remarkable end to the 2002 season and I was just apart of that team success. Plus I must have done something right to the referees!

How did it feel to win the award?

To receive an individual accolade in a team sport is always extremely rewarding, considering the quality of players that perform in the Premier League. The feeling of winning the award didn't sink in till after the night as people started ringing me and congratulating my efforts. Considering the bar staff were working very hard on the night, continually refilling the Taringa table.

Has it affected your performances or has there been added pressure on you this season?

I think there has been added pressure on me

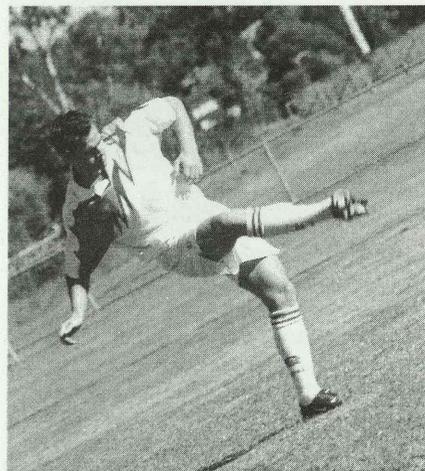
this season, but that is expected. The club expects more of me now and John (Taringa coach) sees me as a senior player and demands more of me each week. I think I have been marked a little closer this year, which I guess has allowed others in the team to be free and perform well.

Do you think you will be in the running for this year's Gold Medal?

I have had a run of injuries this year which has stopped me playing in several games, and has also contributed to some varying performances. The medal is not something I think about, all you can do is train well and perform on the weekend and those issues sort themselves out later.

Who would be your leading contenders?

Players such as Craig Collins and Matt Bell have been superb for Taringa and rarely put in a poor performance. I think Joel Hale from Pine Rivers always leads his team well and



is one of the leading defenders in the comp. Damien Waugh is a class midfielder and his partner in crime "The Fish" (Demetri Theochari) are always going to poll well. However over the last couple of years there has been a bolter and that could even come from Pat in Toowoomba. Otherwise it is any ones guess.

Has it gone to plan for Taringa Rovers this season?

Taringa's goal was to win the league, so I guess at this stage we aren't in the perfect situation to reach that goal. However, the club is starting to get on a similar type of run into the finals as we did last year. There is increasing levels of enthusiasm around Jack Spear Park as we still have plenty to play for, including the SEQ Cup. We have a great squad with heaps of talent and we finally getting the right formula at the right time of the year.

Who have been the outstanding players at Taringa in 2003?

Once again good mate and Taringa captain Craig Collins leads by example, also former Brisbane Strikers defender Matt Bell brings a sense of professionalism into the camp and continually ignites many of our attacks. Luke Morley has been consistently one of the sharp shooters of the comp. However every player at Taringa does the job and performs, so it is hard to single people out.

Who has been the major influence on your soccer career?

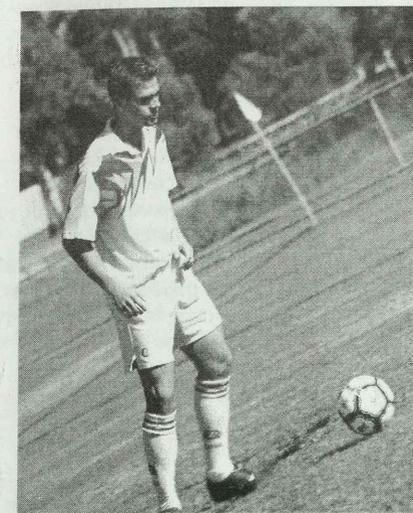
My parents always supported my soccer and let me travel on rep camps from a very early age, so I would have to say they are the ones who have influenced my soccer career. John Ogden gave me the chance to play first team at 17 after coming down to Brisbane, and has over the last few years been the main influence on how I play the game and how he has developed my attitude to the game.

Have you moulded your game on any particular player?

I really enjoy watching Roy Keane's approach to the game. He leads his team through his passion to win, an aggressive nature in defence, a smooth passing game who also pops up and scores goals. There are definitely more skillful players, but none who wants to win more.

What does the future hold for Craig Slaughter and what are your ambitions in the game?

Well, I finish my university degree this year so I may have to travel away from Brisbane for work, however given the chance I would really hope that I could push for inclusion in a national league team squad. I really enjoy the game and still feel that the best is yet to come.



Sharon Jackson goes for a surf and takes a byte out of some local club websites. This issue it's The Strikers, Queensland Lions and Taringa Rovers who have their portals perused

in the net

A Website review? That's a toughie. Where do you start? Start at the top methinks, and compare the Brisbane Strikers (www.brisbanestrikers.com) with the NSL hopefuls, Queensland Lions (www.qldlions.com.au). Hmm, 'twas a short-lived experience.

A Strikers-blue, blank screen greets you, making a very bold 'no comment' statement. The Lions website, by contrast, draws you in immediately with clever use of club colours that puts you in mind of walking through the club doors. If this is what the designer had in mind, he's achieved it with ease.

I decided to compare the progressive Premier League southside club to a progressive northside one, Taringa Rovers (www.taringarovers.com.au). Lions' is a glamorous well laid out production, done in the glossy mag' style of select holiday brochures. 'Come and spend your leisure time with us', it's saying to you and having been on the virtual tour, I'm up for the real thing.

You would be hard pressed to name another social club in Brisbane on a par with this. 'Social' being the operative word though. Soccer has become almost an afterthought on the site, fans having to navigate through the portals to find their team of interest. This is particularly a shame for the Academy of Soccer whose brilliant initiative should have home page inclusion. That said, good use is made of images and few words to get the information over to the user. An overall impression is one of wealth, bright lights and good times but you feel that purpose for which this was created is being superseded by the club's attractions.

Over on the Northside, the focus is very firmly on

the football. As you open the site, the Rovers weekly position is in front of you. Latest news from on and off the field follows directly and is relevant and easy to read. If you're going to sponsor a team, sponsor this one, as you have full exposure on this site, the sponsors clearly in view on each page. However, this is somewhat distracting from the information you're trying to read and the streamlining of club colours is lost.

An enlightening inclusion is the club constitution. It's clearly accessible and the reader becomes rapidly aware that this is an ethical club having a proud history and family traditions. It also has ambitions but to the casual observer, this is not immediately apparent. The layout, though easy to use would have better impact with less words and more images and benefit from a higher contrasting font.

An overall impression is one of beloved football in a family atmosphere. Both sites have been inflicted by the phantom forum flingers with their courageous critiques and insightful invective. How we've got along without them for so long is a mystery and it's a pity that this feedback opportunity is abused in this way. Each site too has become tempted to be a one stop shop for worldwide football. Why do it? I can find out about Kewell's transfer shenanigans anywhere.

On the whole, each site reflects their club fairly accurately and the advertising is a good measure of the club atmosphere giving you some prior knowledge before you visit. In that, they are serving their purpose and so they are adjudged to be a colourful, useful addition to their clubs and members.

three POINTS

ET caught up with a few delegates at the July BMS General Meeting to get the drum on this trio of issues

	What's your reaction to FIFA's backflip on entry to the World Cup for Oceania?	The South-East Qld Cup – worthwhile competition or lame duck?	Premiership or Grand Final – which is more important?
Rod Fielding, Referee	Probably the right decision in the long term. In the short term, bad for the image of football in general, worldwide.	Worthwhile competition for the elite teams, but doesn't do anything for the broader base of clubs.	Grand Final. Being an Australian I've always been used to a Grand Final. The Grand Final is still the big one.
Gary Green, Mitchelton	Disappointed but not surprised.	It's worthwhile but there has to be a lot of work done to make sure that the club's involved in it are putting out, if not their best team, close to their best team.	The Premiership is definitely more important than a Grand Final. You play for it all year and promotion and relegation hinges on it, which I think is one of the most important things in soccer.
Brian Portsmouth, Inala City	I thought it was a bit tough, but then again, if we can't beat the 5 th best team in South America then we don't deserve to be in there anyway.	It's a good idea. The lower division teams have got the chance to play the big boys.	Definitely the Premiership.
Rob Wilkinson, Logan City Kings	Initially I thought it was out of order. Then I listened to Johnny Warren's comments about scrapping Oceania as a confederation and joining Asia, and I think that is probably a good idea. This would give us a more equitable chance of getting into the World Cup.	To be honest I haven't really followed it. I haven't watched as many games as I usually do because I've been tied up, so I can't really comment.	Premiership. I'm from the old school and first past the post should always win, but it is exciting that those teams who just missed out winning the Premiership by a few of points can win the Grand Final.

who ate all the pies?

intrepid reporter Peter Polichronis starves himself then braves the club grub. Amazingly, he's pleasantly surprised...

Olympic United

IT'S LATE SUNDAY MORNING AND WE are off to Olympic United Soccer Club to give them the responsibility of satisfying an extremely volatile appetite after a bit of a night on the town.

As we enter the gates our salivary glands are working in overdrive as the aroma of barbecued souvlaki wafts through the air and our stomach is already telling us what it is craving before we even look at the menu. Approaching the canteen we see a familiar site, John Pappas on the BBQ cooking the souvlaki to perfection as he has done for the past 10 years. A small selection of deep fried cuisine can not tempt us away from a chicken souvlaki in a roll with salad (\$4.80), and as Freda prepares it like only she can we take a look at what refreshments Olympic have to offer us.

The wet bar consists of the bare essentials, a small selection of local beer (\$3 for a can) and a couple of spirits (\$3 a glass), however with the mere scent of alcohol bringing back horrible memories of some tragic dance moves from last night a PowerAde (\$2.20) seems the wiser option. After devouring the souvlaki roll the sweet tooth kicks in and whilst viewing the selection of Greek sweets no arms need to be twisted to taste a slice of the home made baklava (\$2.50).

When the main meal on the menu is as nice as this there is no need for a huge variety, however you could possibly go a little hungry if you happen to be a vegetarian!

Food: 7 Bar: 5 Service: 8

Value for Money: 9

In a nutshell: Worth braving a hangover for

Mitchelton

THE OLD ADAGE, "DON'T JUDGE A book by it's cover" is the first thing that comes to mind after a visit to Mitchelton Soccer Club.

At first glance the choices were looking a little thin with your standard meat pies, hot dogs and toasted sandwiches, however upon further inspection we discovered the meal of the day, which tonight was a potato stuffed with savory mince and onions all covered in a spicy satay sauce (it's recipe we are told is kept under lock and key), served with a generous helping of coleslaw and salad. At only \$5 your back pocket won't be crying and your taste buds will be more than satisfied, in fact we would have had seconds if the apple pie (\$3 with a cappuccino) wasn't eyeing us off!

After the potato and apple pie a thirst begins to build and judging by the singing and slander at the opposition, coffee isn't the only beverage being served and quaffed.

The gang at Mitchy know what's important with a wet bar consisting of no less than 11 beers (local \$2.80, imported from \$4.20), a wide range of spirits (glass \$2, can \$4) and wine (\$2.50) giving us the reason for finding a car park so easily. If you're a player Mitchelton away is definitely a game to be suspended for.

Although variety may be a little frail, the quality of the food and the yarn at the bar certainly makes up for it.

Food: 6 Bar: 9 Service: 8

Value for Money: 9

In a nutshell: Bottoms Up

"Get your boots on...

YOU'RE PLAYING!"

City coach and Queensland soccer legend, Frank Pimblett rolls back the years and picks his all-time XI



Goalkeeper:

I was torn between Mirko Runje and Kim Wishart (Brisbane City & Qld). I went with Kim because I played with him longer and he was probably more durable. At one stage he was in the Australian squad – I think he was on the bench when they played England at Lang Park - and I would say that he had everything you would want in a goalkeeper. He was agile, a good shot stopper and commanded the box superbly.

Central Defenders:

Two central defenders, Jim Hermiston (Brisbane City) and Dave Radcliffe (Brisbane City). Jim was probably the best player I've played with over here. He had everything, he was a great athlete and had tremendous ability. He was a great defender and a terrific player.

As for Dave Radcliffe, when he left Brisbane City to go south they called him 'Bronson' after Charles Bronson because he was such a hard man. Uncompromising, take-no-prisoners kind of style and nothing got past him. He played a lot of games for Australia and was just a great defender. They don't make them like him anymore.

Full-backs:

I've gone for Steve Perry (Brisbane City) on the right and Alan Niven (Lions & Qld) on the left. Stevie was probably the best one-on-one defender I've played with. He was quick, very light on his feet and I can never remember anyone getting the better of him. We called him the ferret! He was a fantastic defender and a captain who led by example.

Alan could open a can of beans with that left peg of his and was a superb all-round footballer. He was one of those blokes who everyone liked and nobody had a bad word to say about him. He was universally admired for his character and his ability. I went on a 6-a-side tour to America with him and that was just fantastic.

Midfield 3:

Roberto Ecchevaria, Lee Howells and Larry Gaffney. Roberto was an Argentinean import and played about the first 2 or 3 years with Brisbane City in the National League with me in the middle of the park and was full of South American flair. He could knock a ball anywhere – outside of the foot – free-kick specialist – fantastic shot and not a bad first

touch! His work-rate wasn't the best but for sheer ability and flair he was a joy to play with.

Lee Howells' inclusion might surprise a few people but he had an impact on virtually every game he played in. He could score goals and was good for 15 a season. He had a tremendous shot, was two-footed and could glide past players. He played with Cheltenham for about ten years when he left Brisbane City.

Larry Gaffney was from Woollongong originally and played with me here at City in the National League also. He was a workhorse and was under-rated in terms of his ability. He was a player who you really appreciated playing with in the middle of the park. The type of player who coaches and other players love but supporters might not go mad about because he did the simple things. He was a tremendous footballer.

Attacking Midfielder:

Billy Williamson – the man in the hole! I played with him at Brisbane City and he was a good a player that I've played with over here. He reminded me of Alan Gilzean (how many of you out there remember him!). He had just about everything. Two good feet, could skip past players and a great shot. When he went back to play sweeper in the XXXX League he was fantastic. He had tremendous pace - he would stand players up and then he was gone – a terrific player.

Strikers:

Barry Kelso and Bobby Campbell (both Brisbane City). There are people like Coops and Chrissie Slater who were good natural goal-scorers but these two together just put the fear of God up any defence they played against in the early days of the National League. They were both big fellas, Barry was about 6 foot 3' and bone hard! His attitude let him down at times but when he was up for it he was unstoppable. He was one of those players who even the likes of Hermiston or Radcliffe would have trouble containing. He was fast, had ability and was a real handful.

Bobby Campbell came here in '79 and played with me at Aston Villa. He was an old-fashioned centre-forward, tall and a fantastic header of the ball. He could hang in the air but in my view was under-rated on the floor. With Bobby and Bary together you would just fear

for your life if you were a defender! They were fearless and physical. Bobby went on to play for Northern Ireland and was in the squad for the '82 World Cup Finals in Spain. We got a postcard from him!

Subs:

Alan Hunter (Brisbane Utd), Kieren Cooper (Brisbane City), Jimmy Dunne (Brisbane City), Chris Slater (Brisbane Utd) and Peter Tokesi (Brisbane City).

Big Alan Hunter is probably unlucky to miss out on the first eleven. He was a super competitor, loved a one-on-one battle and didn't mind a bit of sledging either! I've seen him hold a defence together single-handedly.

Coops was a natural goal-scorer although he was criticised for his work-rate he was worth a goal a game. His ratio of chances to goals was very good, probably about 60-70%. It makes all the difference in the world when you have a player who scores regularly.

If I'd picked to play with a sweeper I'd have to say Jimmy Dunne. He played in '83 and read the game like no-one I have played with. He'd be waiting for the ball yawning and smoking a cigar! He was slow but not many people got past him or exposed his lack of pace. He broke his leg in Melbourne and sadly it was the end of his career.

Chris Slater at one stage looked like setting the world on fire and scored a lot of goals in that first year at Brisbane Utd. He was good in the air, great touch and looked like a natural footballer. At that point he was touted as the certain future Australian international – an exciting player.

My good mate Toska was just an old fashioned defender and didn't let anyone past him. Plenty of ability and a really good bloke to have in the team.

Hypothetically, I think if this side played against a side from today's Premier League or National League it would be a cricket score!

There just aren't players like this around anymore. It's a new generation now and you can go on for hours as to why the players today aren't as good, but maybe we'll save that for another time!



straight RED

Referee Dave Ogston reaches for the top pocket

As Moses had professed his ten commandments in the bible many years ago, all of a sudden, the Gods of the beautiful game in Queensland decreed there was to be an eleventh! "Thou shalt be banished frometh the field of play, if expression in the form of swear words are muttered past your lips".

An audible groan went up from the Brisbane soccer community at the sound of "zero tolerance red cards for foul language" was second only to the moans given out days previous by the boys and girls in black. The scarred memories were still fresh in many minds of Brisbane referees from the last time we attempted to enforce such a strategy and of the back flip that was given from the governing body of the day. Previously there was a quick retraction of the local ruling after the first weekend by the Queensland Soccer Federation and leniency was once again called for, after approx 135 players were sent from the field and the coffers were overflowing (This was not a mere money making exercise, it was a genuine attempt to clean the game up that went off the rails).

This time more caution was given to the wording and a little more common sense was required to be applied to the overall handling of the precarious situation that referees had been requested to step into. And as another famous member of history had done, referees were to follow the lead of St Patrick, show a red card at every audible impropriety so the game would be clear of the evil scourge of the swear word.

Weeks into it and the handbags are still swinging, the insults are still flying and the red cards are still being issued to the offending culprits and the question we are asking is "are we getting through to the players?" A follow up directive has been given in more

recent days adding to the original wording and attempting to ensure referees only take action if the vernacular is heard outside the field of play and the wording involved warrants the action. This means in particular any comment involving f#\$* or c&*!, there is NO option but to send the player off, if the player is physically seen and heard but words such as sh!t, bugger or lesser words are to be acted upon by the referee in a manner as they see fit.

In regards to the laws of the game, since the laws were first officially recorded FIFA have always had the wording "A player is sent off and shown the red card if he/she uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures". This is usually a road taken by the referee if a player verbally attacks another whether it be another player, official or spectator and an important part of the laws.

To finish the sermon on the language we ask you to please listen to the referees with their address prior to the start of the game. They know what they are out there looking and listening for on the paddock, they are just trying to inform you of what may be their particular idiosyncrasies and remind you of the things like language, jewellery and any other personal requirements.

As a referee we all stand back and ask a question of ourselves several times a year "What am I doing here? Particularly after a torrid match that involves heavy challenges, countless cautions and/or send offs and worst of all, constant barrages of insults and abuse from either on or off the field. We too are here to enjoy the game, most senior referees are able to understand the frustrations that lead to comments and are able to deal with the culprit in the appropriate manner but we totally disagree with any adult attempting to assert undue pressure on any

youth referee, remember they are trying their best, they have no bias against you or your team and they will be back next week if you realise they are as important to your game as your strikers or defence.

As for being back next week, a lot has been said about how we have as S.A.R.B (Soccer Australia Referees Brisbane) not been able to supply referees to lower division senior games and more disturbingly only one referee on most occasions to Premier and other Youth divisions. We agree it is disquieting but with the numbers of senior referees not increasing and more games being slotted in, how can we help local soccer clubs help themselves? SARB continually run Laws of the Game courses throughout the year and maybe it has got to the stage where every club has to supply 2 members of the senior and 2

members of the junior club to learn the laws and help themselves in the event of there not being enough officials.

One final thought, a club of 400 members in Brisbane has been able to send a member to participate in The World Cup, The Women's World Cup, Confederations Cup, Under 19s Women's Championships, Men's Oceania Qualifiers, Women's Oceania Qualifiers, various B Class Internationals and competitions, NSL and NWL representatives, NYL representatives and last but not least as this is where it all begins National and State Youth championships. Every now and then you really do have something to be proud of, as Brisbane soccer has somehow helped get these people to where they are today, showing not only Australia, but the world how it's done.

get it off YOUR CHEST

Something getting up your nose? What gets your goat, sticks in the craw, has you reaching for the valium or generally wanting to kick the cat? Tell us, you'll be all the better for it

Write to us at: extratime2003@hotmail.com

Why does everyone abuse the ref's all the time? We all know they are never going to change a decision so abuse will only get the ref offside. It's no wonder referee numbers are dwindling with the abusive comments made by players, supporters and officials.

T. Lunge

The only way soccer will go forward in this country is if people actually get off their backsides and do something rather than keep on criticizing.

F. Henesey-Jones

After recently watching a lower division match I was quite surprised to see some of the quality of players in the game. Some of these players could definitely be playing Premier league or 1st Division. For soccer to go ahead we need to be able to sustain a Premier League where the players have enough incentive stay in the top flights.

J. Williams

Bring back the ethnicity into our game. All around the world soccer produces passion and although at times this may not be good it is the heart and soul of the game.

A. King

I hate the way soccer is perceived in this country. The media only cover it if something bad happens and it makes the game look like a joke, the National League Grand Final score was not even reported on a couple of the channels. The SA board obviously isn't doing a good job, however on a local level most clubs made a profit last year, and although a couple of clubs are in financial trouble we are not the only sport to face this problem with a couple of local rugby league and AFL clubs not doing too well. If the final three SA board members would resign I think our wonderful game can finally make it down under.

J. Wright



Phil Moye

The BMS supremo talks it up

The current season is shaping up to be the closest contest in years. Not just the Premier League but in almost every division teams are separated by only a few points. No game is without drama as teams try to stay in the top four or cling to the possibility of making it into the finals. At the other end of the ladder, the desperate race to avoid the relegation zone produces upsets and heartache at every win or loss.

Why is it so close this year?

I firmly believe that the changes instigated by the BMS Competition Sub-Committee heralded the return of the almighty 'Premiership' race. The committee headed by Neil Favager produced a raft of changes that, combined with other changes to the divisional structure, has resulted in the tightest ladders in recent memory.

The significant changes were;

1. Separate the amateur clubs into a Metropolitan competition and restrict the use of Premier competition players into that competition. This has resulted in fairer games as the amateur teams battle out their fixtures without distortion of results caused by players from higher divisions. I believe closer games engender more enjoyment for the players and supporters.

2. Introduce promotion/relegation at every level of competition. All divisions will consist of twelve teams as soon as practicable. The top team is promoted and the bottom team is relegated automatically. The second bottom team has to play the second top team to retain their position. In the first year, it is interesting to note, that every team eligible for a promotion playoff, won promotion to the higher division.

Promotion is subject to the club meeting the BMS criteria for the higher division. This gives certainty to the clubs that effort on the field will be rewarded provided the club has the management and physical assets to 'fit' into the higher division. This places the entire football program of a club firmly in the control of the club. The club can

plan, develop and grow at a pace that the club is comfortable with. The criteria will not change arbitrarily giving stability to the clubs plans and management thereby the destiny of the club resides with the club.

I realise that there is still plenty of room to improve the competition but credit should go to the sensible realignment of the competitions by the sub-committee. Once again the 'Premiership' is the main prize. Grand Finals will still be held but all season clubs will strive to avoid relegation or battle to win the Premiership with no game a dead rubber. The winners are the players, the spectators and the clubs.

"The criteria will not change arbitrarily giving stability to the clubs plans and management thereby the destiny of the club resides with the club"

3. Limit the number of "non-amateur" players available to each club. The intention here is to spread the talent pool throughout the clubs and divisions. The previous "limit" was 30 per club. The reduction to 24 players per club was

introduced for the current season with a further reduction to 22 players per club for the 2004 season. This will and I believe already has, make available to all clubs the talented players that wish to play at their highest level.

Another beneficial effect will be to place further emphasis on club youth development. Talented youth players should be able to develop at their home club with the guidance of quality players.

The changes to date will be followed by further "tweaking" of the system. The football sub-committee will revisit the issue of the Under 19 Youth competition linked to Division 1 and Premier teams. The concept of a "summer league" as an Under 21 competition will also be reviewed. BMS is keen to hear your thoughts on these and any other matter for the betterment of soccer.

If you wish to discuss the above issues or any other concept that you feel would be workable, please feel free to contact me through the BMS office.

ninety years young

Oxley United break out the Champers to celebrate being Brisbane's oldest club

Here's a question for you. If I mention 'Red and White', 'United', 'Babes' and 'Trebles' what famous football club am I thinking of? If you answered Manchester United - sorry, you're wrong. The 'United' I have in mind is local club, Oxley United, which this year celebrates its 90th Anniversary, making it Queensland's oldest football club still competing.

When at the start of the 1913 season Oxley's first President was dispatched to the big smoke to buy a football kit, the only one available was in red and white. Today, 90 years on, the red and white of Oxley still graces the football fields of Brisbane. In 1946 Oxley won promotion to the First Division with a very young side. The following season the Brisbane media would nickname Oxley 'The Babes' - some years before the 'Busby Babes' became synonymous with that other United. In 1958 Oxley United would win all three major trophies on offer in the Brisbane competition thus completing their treble some forty years before that other United. This achievement would be capped by their winning the inaugural Ampol Cup (later the Queensland Cup) in 1959. Incredibly in the Brisbane Representative side of 1958 nine of the eleven were from Oxley!

This famous old club began life amidst the hurly burly of the Brisbane tramway strike of 1912. A number of lads looking for ways to fill in their time during the strike began organising kick-about and playing social matches. In the following year they joined the Brisbane football Association and Oxley United was born. The first home ground was on Blunder Road opposite the Oxley Hotel. The then publican allowed the Oxley players to use the saloon bar as a changing room - thus beginning an association with the brewing industry still

treasured by many Oxley players to this very day!

The first years of the new club were successful ones and in a golden period between 1927 and 1930 Oxley won the Third Division, Second Division and First Division Premierships. When a split occurred between the Brisbane and Ipswich Associations, Oxley



opted for the Ipswich competition winning their second Premiership in 1937. After the Second

World War, Oxley alternated between First and Second Divisions before consolidating in the First Division in 1954. This was the side that would go on in 1958 to reach the pinnacle of Oxley United's achievements to date. The other important

development at this time was the club settling on Dunlop Park as its home ground, moving there in 1956 and where Oxley plays to this day.

The Sixties saw a gradual decline in Oxley's fortunes. The club spent most of that decade languishing in the bottom half of the First Division, fighting to avoid relegation. By the early Seventies Oxley's time as a major force in Brisbane football had ended. A combination of changing demographics, the rise of new clubs and increased professionalism would see

Oxley drop to the second level of Brisbane clubs. Yet even during the lean years of the Eighties and Nineties the Spirit of Oxley still burned brightly in those associated with, or playing for the club.

The perseverance of these faithful diehards would be rewarded from the late nineties on as the sleeping giant of Dunlop Park began to stir. Since then the club has moved from playing at the fifth level of Brisbane football to the third level. The new century has seen a

very young Oxley team strive hard to meet the demands of competing in Premier Division Two but echoes of 1946 can be heard as the current crop of Oxley 'Babes' seek to emulate their club-mates of half a century ago.

There is no doubt that the foundations of a new golden age have been laid. Oxley United has slowly but surely rebuilt and is now poised to begin the journey back to the elite. Dunlop Park is a magnificent facility with tremendous potential. The club currently fields seven senior sides (four men's and three women's) and more importantly Oxley United now boasts some 370 junior players wearing the red and white. All this augurs well for the future of this proud club.

As we celebrate 90 years of Oxley United we can look back on many triumphs and

highlights. Above all though, we remember the camaraderie and the sportsmanship of all who have played for or against Oxley. We remember the many wonderful people who have contributed to the Oxley United Story. To be at Dunlop Park watching all those in the Red and White of Oxley United, men and women, boys and girls, is to be reminded that this is what sport is really all about. It is to experience our beautiful game in its finest manifestation.

So, long may Oxley United continue and bring on the next 90 years.

Michael Bailey
President - Oxley United

the WIT and the WISDOM

Football's had some great philosophers, but has there been any more insightful and profound than England's very own Kevin Keegan?

"The ref's shirt pocket is like a toaster - every time there's a tackle, up pops a yellow card."

"You can't do better than go away from home and get a draw."

"He's using his strength and that is his strength, his strength."

"Gary always weighed up his options, especially when he had no choice."

"I know what is around the corner - I just don't know where the corner is. But the onus is on us to perform and we must control the bandwagon."

"In some ways, cramp is worse than having a broken leg."

"One of his strengths is not heading."

"He can't speak Turkey, but you can tell he's delighted."

"I'm not disappointed - just disappointed."

"No way - I tell you, anyone who knows him, knows that wouldn't be the case. He doesn't even swear. He's got a big heart, Shaun, it's as big as, err, as big as him, which isn't very big, but it's bigger."

"I came to Nantes two-years-ago and it's much the same today, except that it's totally different."

"The 33 or 34-year-olds will be 36 or 37 by the time the next World Cup comes around, if they're not careful."

"England have the best fans in the world and Scotland's fans are second-to-none."

"They're the second best team in the world, and there's no higher praise than that."



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Diary Dates

Final Round: 23rd August

Promotion Relegation Play Offs

Round 1: Wednesday 27th August

Round 2: Saturday 30th August

Premier Comp Final Series (top 4 for all divisions)

Round 1: 6th September (4th v 1st, 3rd v 2nd)

Round 2: 13th September (1st v 4th, 2nd v 3rd)

Grand Final: 20th September

Miss Soccer/Gold Medal Dinner

Saturday 27th September

(at Queensland Lions)