

Extra Time

Brisbane's Soccer Magazine

Issue 4
April 2004

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Inside... **2004 SEASON LAUNCH** • THE LOCAL NEWS •
BMS TABLES • ANDY PASCHALIDIS • **READING FC**
KEEPER JAMIE YOUNG • BRISBANE FORCE •
and more!

ExtraTime

Brisbane's Soccer Magazine

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ExtraTime

Issue 04 April 2004

contents

- 4 Season Launch**
- 5 BMS Tables**
- 7 Local Round Up**
- 10 Opinion**
Coops on the State team
- 12 Andy Paschalidis**
The former Fox Sports presenter gives us the low down
- 14 Young Talent Time**
Former Easts & QAS keeper Jamie Young
- 17 Eric Sinclair**
Profanity free zone
- 18 Force Field**
Brisbane Force in focus
- 20 National News**
The proposed new National League
- 22 The Full Monty**
Monty on the Finals format
- 23 2004 Premier Cup**
The full draw
- 25 Rooting 4 Soccer**
Sharon Jackson talks \$'s
- 26 Straight Red**
Referee David Ogston gives us a good talking to

EDITOR'S

Comment

In mid-March ExtraTime magazine joined forces with the 101 FM SoccerShow, hosted by Brenton Wilson and Gary Johnson.

The renaming of the program to the 'ExtraTime SoccerShow' signals the start of a strategic alliance between ExtraTime Magazine and the SoccerShow that can only benefit the local soccer community.

In a market where resources are tight it is imperative that like-minded people combine their ideas and energy to create the best possible end product. The sharing of information and resources between the two entities can only strengthen the integrity of both the show and the magazine in terms of information delivery.

For all the latest week to week news, interviews and information on the local and national scene, the soccer public can tune into the ExtraTime SoccerShow at 9.00 am on a Saturday morning. ExtraTime magazine will deliver its usual blend of editorials and features as well as details on local matches and upcoming events.

The alliance will ensure the local soccer community is more informed than it has been for a number of years and hopefully coincides with a new era for the sport in Australia. It will also create more exposure opportunities for the sponsors and advertisers of both projects.

All those concerned with both the show and the magazine urge the soccer people of Brisbane to get behind the new venture and spread the word to their friends and other soccer folk. These services to the game will only survive if you support them and that means clubs and supporters being proactive. You now have 2 media outlets to promote your club or air news items etc, and that's 2 more than you had 6 months ago. So, if you have information you would like us to cover, or if you are aware of any interesting local news, then please send it in.

One final request to all clubs - please include both the magazine and the show on your mailing lists for media releases.

Cover Pic: Brisbane Premier League players line up at the season launch with current Miss Soccer, Jocelyn Fischer. Photo kindly supplied by Photo Perfection, 3/118 Boundary St, West End. Ph: 3217 2166

BRISBANE MENS SOCCER 2004 SEASON was launched prior to the first weekend of fixtures with a function at the Brazilian Touch Theatre Restaurant.



Teams playing in the Premier League and the 1st Division with players wearing their club strips were announced

to the guests who had been previously entertained by a spectacular show of Latin dancing and music. The evening was attended by the Minister for Sport the Honourable Mr. Terry Mackenroth (above), Councillor Peter Cumming from Brisbane City Council along with numerous players, coaches, club officials and sport officials.

Mr. Phil Moye, President of Brisbane Mens Soccer, wished all teams the best for the season after announcing the creation of new awards for Player of the Year and Golden Boot for Division 1, adding to similar awards already in place for Premier League players. He was also able to announce that a Premier League Team of the Year and coach was to be selected at the conclusion of the season, voted by their peers. This team and coach would be presented with a specially commissioned set of jerseys recognizing their selection.



Don't try this at home!



The 12 Premier League teams and the trophies up for grabs

Bruce Dinsdale, General Manager of Brisbane Mens Soccer, highlighted that the Brisbane Mens competition consists of 53 clubs, 174 teams, over 3000 registered players and countless club officials, referees and volunteers all combining to put together 87 games every weekend.

Tables (as of 29th March)

PREMIER LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	5	5	0	0	23	3	15
MITCHELTON	5	3	1	1	11	7	10
EASTERN SUBURBS	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
PALM BEACH	5	2	2	1	11	7	8
BRISBANE CITY	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
SOUTHS UTD	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
PINE RIVERS UTD	5	2	1	2	7	15	7
ROCHEDALE	5	1	2	2	8	12	5
TOOWOOMBA	4	1	1	2	2	5	4
NORTH STAR	5	1	1	3	3	8	4
BRISBANE WOLVES	4	1	0	3	5	12	3
TARINGA ROVERS	5	0	1	4	6	11	1

Premier Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EASTERN SUBURBS	5	4	1	0	21	7	13
PALM BEACH	5	4	1	0	11	5	13
ROCHEDALE ROV	5	3	1	1	20	10	10
QUEENSLAND LIONS	5	3	1	1	15	5	10
SOUTHS UTD	5	3	0	2	14	9	9
BRISBANE CITY	5	2	1	2	11	8	7
BRISBANE WOLVES	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
NORTH STAR	5	2	0	3	10	14	6
MITCHELTON	5	1	2	2	9	11	5
PINE RIVERS UTD	5	1	1	3	10	22	4
T'WMBA RAIDERS	4	0	0	4	5	17	0
TARINGA ROVERS	5	0	0	5	3	20	0

Premier Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	5	5	0	0	25	7	15
ROCHEDALE ROV	5	4	0	1	15	8	12
TARINGA ROVERS	5	3	1	1	10	9	10
NORTH STAR	5	3	0	2	16	10	9
PALM BEACH	5	3	0	2	15	10	9
MITCHELTON	5	3	0	2	10	7	9
BRISBANE CITY	5	2	1	2	16	8	7
T'WMBA RAIDERS	4	2	1	1	9	6	7
SOUTHS UTD	5	1	1	3	9	13	4
EASTERN SUBURBS	5	1	0	4	4	21	3
PINE RIVERS UTD	5	0	0	5	3	16	0
BRISBANE WOLVES	4	0	0	4	3	20	0

Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	5	5	0	0	10	0	15
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	5	4	0	1	11	5	12
PENINSULA POWER	5	3	1	1	10	6	10
BEENLEIGH	5	2	2	1	11	5	8
UNI OF QLD	5	2	2	1	13	7	8
REDLANDS UTD	5	2	1	2	10	6	7
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	5	2	1	2	9	7	7
THE GAP	5	1	3	1	9	10	6
MT GRAVATT	5	1	1	3	5	9	4
CAPALABA	4	1	0	3	2	12	3
ROCKLEA UTD	5	0	1	4	3	17	1
ALBANY CREEK	4	0	0	4	7	16	0

Div 1 Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
REDLANDS UTD	5	4	1	0	13	3	13
UNI OF QLD	5	4	1	0	12	3	13
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	5	3	1	1	9	7	10
MT GRAVATT	5	3	0	2	13	5	9
PENINSULA POWER	5	2	3	0	9	3	9
ALBANY CREEK	4	2	1	1	9	7	7
THE GAP	5	2	0	3	9	8	6
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	5	1	2	2	9	11	5
BEENLEIGH	5	1	1	3	8	14	4
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	5	1	0	4	9	15	3
ROCKLEA UTD	5	1	0	4	2	15	3
CAPALABA	4	0	0	4	0	11	0

Div 1 Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PENINSULA POWER	5	4	1	0	23	5	13
UNI OF QLD	5	4	0	1	15	5	12
ALBANY CREEK	5	3	2	0	23	6	11
MT GRAVATT	5	3	1	1	19	6	10
REDLANDS UTD	5	3	0	2	14	7	9
BEENLEIGH	5	2	3	0	14	9	9
CAPALABA	5	2	1	2	19	10	7
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	5	2	0	3	8	10	6
THE GAP	5	1	1	3	10	14	4
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	5	1	1	3	6	14	4
ROCKLEA UTD	5	0	0	5	2	26	0
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	5	0	0	5	0	41	0

Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GOODNA & DIST	5	4	1	0	11	2	13
IPSWICH CITY	5	4	1	0	11	3	13
NEWMARKET	5	3	1	1	14	7	10
BETHANIA RAMS	5	3	1	1	14	9	10
BRISBANE FORCE	5	3	0	2	10	5	9
ANERLEY	5	1	2	2	11	10	5
GRANGE THISTLE	5	1	2	2	7	8	5
SAMFORD	5	1	2	2	3	6	5
SLACKS CREEK	5	1	1	3	7	8	4
NORTH PINE	5	1	1	3	9	19	4
MOGGILL UTD	5	1	0	4	2	14	3
OXLEY UTD	5	0	2	3	4	12	2

Div 2 Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NEWMARKET	5	3	2	0	12	2	11
BRISBANE FORCE	5	3	2	0	11	3	11
NORTH PINE	5	3	1	1	17	8	10
IPSWICH CITY	5	3	1	1	9	9	10
GRANGE THISTLE	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
GOODNA & DIST	5	2	1	2	12	8	7
BETHANIA RAMS	5	1	3	1	8	7	6
ANERLEY	5	1	2	2	8	11	5
SAMFORD	5	1	2	2	3	13	5
OXLEY UTD	5	1	1	3	2	6	4
SLACKS CREEK	5	1	1	3	6	12	4
MOGILL UTD	5	0	0	5	5	16	0

Metro Div 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DARRA LIONS	5	5	0	0	22	5	15
TARINGA R	5	3	2	0	8	5	11
SOUTHS UTD	5	3	0	2	12	8	9
ACACIA RIDGE	5	3	0	2	11	13	9
BRISBANE WLVS	4	2	1	1	10	8	7
UNI OF QLD	5	2	1	2	8	10	7
MITCHELTON	5	2	0	3	11	16	6
WILSTON	5	1	2	2	13	13	5
PINEAPPLE R	5	1	2	2	10	11	5
CLAIRVAUX	5	1	1	3	10	10	4
PARKRIDGE	5	1	1	3	5	13	4
BAYSIDE UTD	4	0	0	4	3	11	0

Metro Div 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PINE RIVERS	3	3	0	0	17	6	9
BRISBANE TORO	3	3	0	0	12	5	9
LOGAN CITY K	3	2	0	1	18	7	6
THE GAP	3	1	1	1	7	6	4
PINE HILLS	3	1	1	1	11	11	4
MOOROONDU	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
NEWMARKET	3	1	1	1	10	11	4
RIDGE HILLS	3	0	1	2	3	9	1
BRIGHTON DIST	3	0	1	2	4	14	1
REDCLIFFE PCYC	3	0	0	3	2	15	0

Metro Div 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CLAIRVAUX	5	5	0	0	24	6	15
EASTERN SUBS	5	5	0	0	18	4	15
BAYSIDE UTD	5	3	0	2	9	8	9
DARRA LIONS	5	2	2	1	12	7	8
PINEAPPLE R	5	2	2	1	9	4	8
UNI OF QLD	5	1	3	1	7	7	6
ACACIA RIDGE	5	2	0	3	8	18	6
NEWMARKET	5	1	2	2	8	10	5
GRANGE THISTLE	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
PINE HILLS	5	1	0	4	8	16	3
NORTH PINE	5	1	0	4	6	15	3
SOUTHS UTD	5	0	1	4	6	18	1

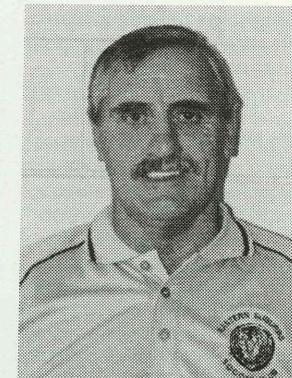
Metro Div 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
REGENTS PARK	5	5	0	0	34	4	15
OLD BRIDGE SPORTS	5	5	0	0	25	2	15
BRISBANE FORCE	5	3	1	1	19	8	10
BRISBANE CITY	4	3	1	0	11	5	10
TARINGA ROVERS	4	3	0	1	4	5	9
SLACKS CREEK	5	2	1	2	8	9	7
NEWMARKET	4	2	0	2	9	5	6
ACACIA RIDGE	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
THE GAP	5	1	0	4	3	21	3
BEENLEIGH	5	0	1	4	14	30	1
MT GRAVATT	5	0	0	5	3	20	0
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	4	0	0	4	0	20	0

Metro Div 5	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTH STAR	4	4	0	0	19	2	11
ANERLEY	5	4	0	1	22	7	11
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	5	4	0	1	22	8	11
SLACKS CREEK	3	3	0	0	9	4	9
NEWMARKET	5	2	1	2	12	11	7
BRIGHTON DIST	5	2	0	3	12	15	6
RIDGE HILLS	5	2	0	3	4	15	6
ALBANY CREEK	5	1	2	2	9	14	5
IPSWICH CITY	5	1	1	3	4	11	4
REDLANDS UTD	4	0	2	2	4	10	2
CLAIRVAUX	5	0	2	3	8	16	2
EASTERN SUBS	5	0	2	3	4	16	2

Metro Div 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ALBANY CREEK	4	4	0	0	8	0	12
CAMIRA	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
MT GRAVATT	3	2	0	1	10	5	6
GOODNA	4	2	0	2	13	12	6
MOOROONDU	3	1	0	2	10	8	3
PARK RIDGE	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
REGENTS PARK	4	1	0	3	7	21	3
BRISBANE WOLVES	3	0	0	3	4	8	0

Open Youth Div	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRISBANE FORCE	3	2	1	0	11	1	7
QUEENSLAND LIONS	2	2	0	0	29	1	6
ROCHEDALE ROV	3	2	0	1	13	7	6
BETHANIA	3	2	0	1	9	9	6
TOOWOOMBA	3	1	1	1	8	7	4
SOUTHS UTD	3	0	2	1	4	6	2
NORTH PINE	3	0	0	3	3	15	0
SLACKS CREEK	2	0	0	2	0	31	0

LOCAL news



Easts' Col Bennett

Lions) and Brockwell (from North Star) have helped and we still have Cory Baldock to come into the side. Our aim all along in the first 6 games before we play the big boys was to get 15 points out of 18. If we can do that it will give us a hell of a lot of confidence.

The early-season Premier League table already has a familiar look about it with Queensland Lions flexing their muscles with a goal-drenched start to the 2004 campaign. Even at this stage it's hard to see anyone really challenging the Richlands club for supremacy in the Premier League and would-be challengers will have to be on their toes to prevent Lions from opening an unassailable lead at the top.

Newly-promoted Eastern Suburbs have shown good form despite an opening day loss to a strong Brisbane City, as have the other promoted side, Mitchelton, who appear to have adjusted well to Premier League football both on and off the field. One suspects there are a few sides who are yet to hit their straps so the battle for finals places is sure to hot up in the coming weeks.

ExtraTime spoke to all the Premier League coaches to find out what they thought of their team's form in the early rounds.

A MONTH OF MOUTH

Brisbane Wolves: Kevin Meacock

We got off to a good start against North Star and showed signs that we might go pretty well. We've demonstrated a few errors of judgement at the back and we need to show improvement if we want to be challengers. There are a few things that we have to get right that aren't right at the moment and we are looking to strengthen our squad to help with that improvement.

Eastern Suburbs: Col Bennett

We expected to start strong because we have a strong squad. The additions of Flaskas (from

Mitchelton: Greg Brown

I'm pretty happy overall. We didn't play particularly well in the first game for a number of reasons but we've put that right now. We should have taken all 3 points against Rochedale because it was a good performance and the equaliser was as late as you can possibly get in a game. We showed against Souths that we can battle when we need to and we matched them physically. There are a couple of players still to come back into the side from the Strikers Youth Team but we've pretty much got all the players we're going to get. We're moving quite steadily and I'm happy with the players I've got.

Palm Beach: Karl Herdle

We are scoring goals which is pleasing. Before the season started I would've taken the results we've had so far, but with the way we are playing I'm a bit disappointed that we haven't done better. We've let teams off the hook and lost concentration in the last 20 minutes and drawn games we should have won. We are playing good, attacking football and everyone tells us that we were the better side but we have to turn that into wins. The average age of our defence is only 19 and you can't put old heads on young shoulders. They're doing alright though and as young players they will improve as they gain experience. I think we will be ok - the results will come.

Rochedale Rovers: Kieran Cooper

We haven't performed yet. I've been very disappointed with the general play and we are a lot better side than our form has suggested. We did come back from 3-0 down against Palm Beach with only 15 minutes to go so I'm hoping that will give us a bit of confidence to kick off our

season. We can't wait until we're behind in a match before we start playing and I'm expecting better things from the squad in the coming weeks.

Toowoomba: Gordon McBain

We had a very bad build up to the season because the weather in Toowoomba has been very poor. Consequently we had a pre-season where for 8 weeks we were unable to train on grass which forced us to come into the season only half fit. We lost our first game at home to Rochedale and I thought we were a little hard done by. The Souths match could have gone our way with a bit more luck so I was looking for a lot from the team against Brisbane City and I got it. Teams will only walk over you if you're already lying down and we didn't lie down against City.

Pine Rivers: Clayton Koch

We've had a very slow start but I expected that. To play Qld Lions in your first match is a big ask and we probably fielded the weakest team we'll have all season. Not being as fit as them played a big part in our defeat and it's been a case of trying to pick the confidence up after that. Our squad has improved immensely since then and I expect us to be tough to beat from here on in. Koji Kanagawa is back in first team action now and that will help us in the coming months.

Souths United: Peter Bannon

We've started far better than last year so we're reasonably happy at this stage but there's plenty of room for improvement. The aim is to try and be a little more consistent than we have been. We let ourselves down a bit in our loss at home

to Mitchelton because we played poorly, but credit to Mitchy, they did well. We weren't very controlled and that's not how we like to play. We're looking to comfortably avoid relegation and try and build on what we achieved last season. Consistency is the key because if you don't do the business each week then teams in this league will beat you.

Taringa Rovers: Alan Waller

We've lost quite a few players from last year's squad so basically we're rebuilding. The club don't want to spend oodles of money so obviously we've been limited on who we could sign. Having said that I've been happy with the squad who are basically young boys. The oldest is about 24 and the youngest is only 16. We've still been competitive but just haven't picked up the points. We've been a bit unlucky with injuries and some other things have gone against us, once we get up and running I'm sure we can consolidate in the middle of the table and build on that next season.

Queensland Lions: Miron Bleiberg

From our point of view the first few weeks couldn't have gone better and I'm very happy. The ladder flatters us a bit as we are grinding out wins with hard work; we certainly aren't cruising that's for sure. If the Strikers players go to the other Premier League clubs then the competition will become more even and although that will make it harder for us it will be good for the league. Other results have helped us too, for example Rochedale drawing with Palm Beach etc, so if we can sneak a win when other teams don't pick up 3

points we can hopefully continue to do well.

Brisbane City: Frank Pimblett

The result at home to Toowoomba (1-0 loss) was shocking. We were strolling and had too many non-performers. Prior to that we had done ok. The opening win against Easts was a big result for us, then we beat Taringa and probably should've beaten North Star but we missed our chances. I'm fairly happy overall because we are defending well and that should make us hard to beat.

North Star: Ken Swan

We're probably where I expected us to be because we have a very young team, 7 or 8 of our players are only 17 years of age. Despite our current position we're very confident that we have good young kids and there is plenty of competition for spots in the team. They're learning about Premier League football very quickly and I'm hopeful we can put a run together now like we did this time last year. The only disappointing thing is that I've lost the only 3 players who had experience in Brockwell, Blackman and Tune. Our most experienced player now has only spent 2 years in this league. The boys are working very hard at training and I'm confident we can turn it around.

In **Division 1** the early pace-setters have been Brisbane Olympic and Peninsula Power. Olympic have set their sights on promotion to the Premier League at the end of the season and their form at this stage suggests they will be there or thereabouts at the business end of the year.

Club spokesman Dimitri Mavricakis said the club was very happy with progress so far but was taking one game at a time.

"We're not taking anything for granted, just thinking about the game that is immediately in front of us. It's been a real team effort so far and the fact that a lot of the boys played together last year has helped us gel so quickly this season." He added the club is in a stable financial position and can cope comfortably with the rigours of being in the Premier League.

Over at Peninsula, coach John Daye was

upbeat about the performance of his charges so far, but like Olympic, is reluctant to do anything more than take each game as it comes.

"It's been a good opening month but we feel we haven't played our best football yet. I'm pretty happy with the team, we've been training well and performing well but it's a long season and a tough league. We're not looking at the table at the moment just concentrating on playing well for 90 minutes."

Division 1 is traditionally a tremendously competitive and exciting league with the tantalising prize of promotion for the champions. Look out for increasingly impressive results from the likes of Mount Gravatt, Ipswich Knights and Redlands in the coming weeks which is sure to put pressure on both Olympic and Peninsula. At the other end of the table it looks like it could be a long season for Rocklea Utd and Albany Creek. Rocklea have been shipping goals at an alarming rate and will be looking to reverse the trend as soon as possible.

At this point in time perhaps the tightest of the Premier Competitions is **Division 2**. Bethania, Newmarket, Ipswich City and Goodna have all set their stall out for the season and have hit the ground running. Brisbane Force have stuttered slightly early on but at the time of writing have started to string a few results together and will be expected to figure in the final wash-up. Oxley will have to awaken from their current slumber if they are to avoid a repeat of last year's disappointing results and there will be a number of other clubs keen to get away from the bottom of the league and the threat of relegation to the Metro Comp.

In **Metro Division 1** Frank Byrne's Darra Lions have roared out of the blocks and amassed an impressive goals tally in the process. The rest of the division is pretty tight at this juncture, but one can expect perennial challengers Pineapple Rovers to start their push for the top in the coming months. Traditionally strong Metro performers like Souths, Taringa, University and Mitchelton should also be in the mix.

A round-up of the rest of the Metro Divisions will be included in coming editions of ExtraTime.

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ExtraTime

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Email: soccershow@optusnet.com.au

Opinion

Kieran Cooper on the state within the State

One of my pet hates over the past few years has been the lack of effort put into our State side. The blame for this should not be placed solely on the administrators, the players need to wise up as well. There are many reasons for the decline of the state team; here are a few.

I first played for Queensland in 1986 in the annual interstate clash with NSW. I was in the middle of my first season with Brisbane City at the time and really didn't know what to expect. I remember the lead up to the final selection. Lions and City were both in the NSL at the time and it was no secret that most of the players in the final squad would come from these two clubs. To be honest, the build up was very exciting. We had a fair bit of media coverage back then and the papers weren't short of opinions on who should be in the side. The players didn't really know who would be in and who wouldn't. This led to great excitement and anticipation. Eventually the squad was announced in the newspaper, and I can promise you the players were probably the first people at the news stands. I can't tell you the feeling I had seeing my name in the squad.

I was phoning players on the day of a game to ask them if they would like to play for Queensland

Training commenced and then it was action. The media once again were right behind it, they would send reporters and photographers to our club training sessions as well as Queensland sessions. It made us players feel a million dollars, we couldn't wait for the big day. If memory serves me right, we had a very good crowd at Perry Park and we managed to send them home happy with a 1-0 win.

Over the next few years, we managed to play some New Zealand sides, toured Fiji and went on a two week tour of America. We also hosted Fiji at Perry Park again, and also hosted a number of teams from New Zealand. There was also a year when we brought out former Manchester United and England captain Bryan Robson as a guest player. Those were the days.



Gradually I have witnessed a decline in our attitude towards the State team. The media as usual have a lot to answer for. The administrators should never have let it happen, and the players themselves need to once again start to feel the same excitement as we did in the old days.

So how do we fix it? A couple of years ago Miron Blieberg was put in charge of the Qld team. Miron called on myself and Frank Mengotti to assist. Part of our roles I believe was to try and help to kick start the State side again.

I couldn't believe what happened when I was involved. I was phoning players on the day of a game to ask them if they would like to play for Queensland. I had players declining because they were up or down the coast. I had players withdrawing from the squad because they either had other commitments or just couldn't be bothered.

Where was the passion? My belief is that the players themselves have witnessed the decline therefore it was no big deal or just another game. What we need here is to set a State program in place early in the year. Set the coach in place, announce what day the squad will be released and get the media back involved. We need to set training dates and times and we need to make sure clubs make players available. We also need to get the State under 19's or 21's involved. We need to get the

passion back. We need to advertise. We need to keep the costs for entry down until such time as supporters are addicted. We need to look at our neighbours overseas, Japan, Korea, New Zealand or wherever. We need to tap into their passion and resources. This will give the State players something to aim for at the end of the season. Just imagine, our State team going on tour to one of these countries.

Let's see then how many players will not take it seriously. And if a player does pull out or decline an invitation to be part of the squad forget about

him forever (unless he has a very good excuse). In my day if you were unavailable for the State team then you could not play the following club game unless you officially retired from representative football. This will show who the serious players are.

At the present moment I feel very sorry for the man in charge. He should not have to chase players. Players should be on the edge of their seats before selection. They should strive to achieve the highest honour they can, and in Queensland that must be State selection. ■

JOHN O'NEILL WINS SPORT EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Australian Soccer's newly appointed Chief Executive, John O'Neill, has again been recognised as Australia's leading sports' manager by winning the Australian Sport Awards 2003 Sport Executive of the Year - for the second consecutive year.

O'Neill was announced as the winner of the prestigious award at a gala function held at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre. The award has recognised the work of John O'Neill as Managing Director & CEO of the Australian Rugby Union during 2003, in particular the success of the Rugby World Cup held in Australia at the end of last year that was generally received as the best-ever Rugby World Cup.

Following his appointment as CEO of the

Australian Soccer, the award is further recognition of John O'Neill as the premier sports executive in Australia and why he was the man chosen by ASA Chairman Frank Lowy to oversee the revitalisation of soccer in Australia.

ASA Women's match official, Brisbane-based Tammy Ogston, was also recognised for her outstanding year in 2003 by being nominated in the Official of the Year category. Tammy Ogston, as well as assistant referee's Airlie Keen and Jacqueline Leleu, represented Oceania at the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup in the United States in September/October 2003.

The trio were rewarded for their impressive displays at the tournament with appointment for the third place play-off match after earlier controlling two group matches.



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Andy PASCHALIDIS

One of Australia's most respected soccer journalists pens a few lines for ExtraTime

IS IT TIME FOR CHANGE AT MANCHESTER UNITED?

Most Premier League clubs would be content with a top three finish which would propel them into the lucrative Champions League competition, but not Manchester United. The current campaign has been a disaster, judging by the high standards set by Sir Alex Ferguson.

The exit from the Champions League in the round of 16 to Portuguese side Porto was a bitter pill to swallow - particularly after only drawing the second leg 1-1 at Old Trafford. Worse still, United's league campaign has been stilted. By mid-March, England's most dominant team of the last decade was sitting in third position on 58 points - 12 behind unbeaten leaders Arsenal.

Ferguson has plenty of headaches both on and off the pitch but he is well paid to cope with these. Manchester United is a big business. One only has to venture to Old Trafford, like I did last month, to realise how big an operation it is.

On Match Days, the club hosts around 6,000 corporate visitors, which provides a huge percentage of match day takings. More importantly, United is one of the richest sporting clubs in the world and shareholders demand the best results.

Sir Alex Ferguson has been a revelation. He has turned the club around ever since the new Premier League began in 1992. However, along the way he has certainly ruffled numerous feathers.

Publicly he'll say the loss of David Beckham to Real Madrid hasn't been a major distraction this season but one suspects it has. The infamous dressing room spat last year, in which Beckham required a couple of stitches to a cut above the eye, underlines a growing trend.

Put simply, if you don't get along with Sir Alex your number is up. Just ask the likes of Beckham, Fabian Barthez, Jaap Staam, Andy Cole, Dwight Yorke, Henning Berg and Mark Bosnich.

There's no doubt Ferguson had the squad to do well this season but a good run in the FA Cup is not regarded as a successful campaign. United are always expected to go further than the round of 16 in the Champions League.

There can be no denying the influence the Scotsman has had at the club. However, the tougher question would be, is there a capable replacement who can step in and achieve similar results?

NEW-LOOK NSL WILL NEED TO BE PREMIUM QUALITY

Having returned from my third European Supporters Tour in just 12 months I am finding it difficult to be excited by our local game.

Don't get me wrong, I have always been a strong supporter of the NSL ever since I started my media career in 1983. In fact, I would like to think I played a key role in the promotion of the league during its glory days in the 1980's.

Put it this way, when one watches Barcelona play Atletico Madrid in front of 85,000 fans at the Nou Camp and Espanyol given a football lesson by Real Madrid at the Olympic Stadium, you should get my drift. (I won't make mention of the five big Premier League games I also watched!!)

Within days of my return I was asked by a mate whether I'd like to travel from Sydney to

I wonder what the NRL, ARL and Super 12's would be like if 186 of their players were not involved in those competitions?

Wollongong to watch the Wolves take on Newcastle United. Normally I would have jumped at the chance but I lacked motivation.

We all know our NSL will never compete with La Liga, Serie A or the Premier League but let's not kid ourselves into believing the NSL will become a premium competition in this country. Rugby League, AFL and more recently Super 12 rugby union are well entrenched.

New Soccer Australia boss John O'Neill has indicated a minimum eight-team NSL is quite possible with one team from Sydney and Melbourne. It does have merit.

One key fact will always hold us back. We have - at last count - 186 Australians playing overseas. This figure will not reduce, if anything, it will increase.

I wonder what the NRL, ARL and Super 12's would be like if 186 of their players were not involved in those competitions? ■



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YOUNG TALENT TIME

When former Easts and QAS keeper Jamie Young took off to England to pursue his dream of becoming a professional footballer, little did he know how dramatically his life was about to change. He's now firmly established in the Reserve Team of Division 1 side Reading FC and as the England Youth keeper. A Brisbane legend in the making? Quite possibly.

So how did it all begin?

I started playing soccer for Pine Hills aged 4 with my brother's team in the U/7's. I stayed until about U/11's where I played out in the field as well as goalkeeping. I then moved to Albany Creek and played in their Under 12

to 14 teams as a goalkeeper only. During this time I represented Brisbane North and was subsequently selected to play for Queensland going to the national titles between ages U13-15. I moved to the seniors when I was 14 playing for Eastern Suburbs in the Reserves as a goalkeeper and the Junior Colts in the outfield. During this period I was also lucky enough to be offered a scholarship with the QAS (Queensland Academy of Sport). During my first season in the National Youth League I was offered a trial with an English Second Division club, Reading FC (now First Division) which I took up in February 2001. I was subsequently offered a three year scholarship which I commenced in June 2001. I initially played in their Under 17 Academy team, moving to the Under 19's last season and the start of this year. I currently play in the reserves having signed a two year professional deal in October last year. I also sit on the bench for the First Team.



How did your transfer to Reading come about?

I was playing in the National Youth League in my first season with the QAS. The coach at the time was Gary Phillips who is good friends with former Socceroo and ex-Reading player, Andy Bernal, who was then my agent. One thing led to another and as soon as I knew it I had a trial at Reading and signed a scholarship (which is the equivalent of being an apprentice in other trades).

Are you enjoying life in England?

When I first went to England I was only 15 and I guess at times I was a bit homesick. However the Academy set up at Reading is excellent and the coaches and backroom staff made me feel welcome. Playing soccer for a living is a great way to live but it is extremely competitive so I have to be on my toes constantly. Naturally in football and life in general (the weather for example) England is different to Australia. It has a totally different culture and the trends are different, so getting used to it has been a challenge. None-the-less the experience has been great. Every single day I feel I am learning something new. Life at the moment is excellent,

it's mostly busy but it's the life of a footballer. One day I could be training and the next I could be in the north of England at a hotel preparing for a game or even at an England training camp. As I am learning and developing my skills I find that everyday has something new and interesting in it. A drawback I suppose is that my accent has faded. In England I get stick for sounding Aussie but in Australia I sound so English and get stick for that too. I also miss my family and friends. On the whole though life in England at the moment is great!

Where are you living and who with?

I stay in digs (lodgings) at the moment until I can afford to buy a house. I have stayed with several families who have all been great. One family though reckoned I ate too much, so I had to move! The people I presently stay with are lovely people which makes life easier especially for someone like me living away from my family.

Have you met any other ex-Brisbane players over there?

An interesting coincidence relates to an Arsenal Academy player who I met here called Neil Kilkenny. Neil was born in England but moved to Brisbane when he was very young. Amazingly, I played against him when I was playing for Brisbane North and he was playing for Brisbane South when we were youngsters. Much to my astonishment I met him again when we were both in an England Camp. We had a good chat and had a good laugh. I will see him again at England U/19's training camps. Another player I met with a Brisbane connection is Danny Invincible who comes from The Gap. I played with his brother Gino at the QAS. He was playing for Swindon at the time and scored a goal against Reading in the first team game! On another occasion Australia played Jamaica at Madejski Stadium, the home ground of Reading. As I went in through the player's entrance I bumped into John McKain whom I knew from the QAS. John currently plays in Romania and had been called up for the game. He asked me what I was doing there! I told him he was in my territory now and not to panic about anything else!

How did the England call-up happen?

When I was in my first year at Reading I was asked to attend an England Youth Team training camp after having a good spell of 6 straight

clean sheets. Things moved on from there.

Who have you trained and played with in the England set-up?

There are many up and coming players who I have made contact with in the English Youth set up, including when I was just coming into the scene, none other than Wayne Rooney! On the coaching side the head goalkeeping coach is Ray Clemence who is regarded as a goalkeeping legend in the UK.

Who have you seen in the Youth League or whilst playing for England that you think will be a star of the future?

Well since England's National Youth ranking is number 2 in Europe, there are always going to be some young stars emerging. David Bentley who recently made his first team Arsenal debut is definitely one. Michael Chopra is another great prospect. He's tipped to be the next Alan Shearer at Newcastle and he is only 20. Also, Michael Dawson is a regular in Nottingham Forest's first team. He's a defender who is in the England under-21's.

Who is the best striker you've faced?

Well that's a tough one. When I played against Arsenal in a Reserve Team fixture they had Dennis Bergkamp, Kanu and Francis Jeffers in their team! Also at Reading, Shaun Goater formerly of Manchester City is another great striker I face everyday at training.

What has been the highlight of your time in England so far?

One of the big highlights for me was being in the VIP room when Australia beat England 3-1 at Upton Park. I would hasten to add that the reason I was there was at the invitation of my agent who represented some Australian players. A major bonus was not only meeting Harry Kewell but during the game sitting next to his lovely wife who is an English 'soap star'.

Another highlight I guess was being selected as a substitute against Chelsea in the Carling Cup. Chelsea had a strong side that night and it was a brilliant occasion for me.

On another occasion I had my photo taken with Sven Goran Erickson as part of a Pepsi Cola promotion. The photo and an article were

shown in the mass publication the Daily Mirror. Playing for Reading and being selected for England has also opened several interesting travel opportunities for me and allowed me to visit countries such as Tunisia, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, and when in Egypt I visited the pyramids.

I also always feel good when I get visitors from Australia and it was great when a soccer team from my old school coached by none other than Brisbane legend Gordon Arrowsmith came to Reading for a training session as part of their soccer tour.

Being involved in the Reading set up has also been important to me. Their stadium is state of the art and although not a very fashionable club, they are well run and the Academy set up is very professional.

In general I'd have to say I've had many ups and downs in my time here and you have to take the good with the bad but I can't really say what has been the highlight of my career to date. Sure I have achieved things that I thought I would've never have done but to me everyday here is a highlight. It's something I've always wanted to do and to be living that dream everyday is such a great feeling.

It does have its draw backs of course. One of them is living away from home at the age of 15

which can be tricky but being 18 now and looking back at what I have done since then, I'd have to say I don't regret one thing, in fact I'd probably do it again if I had to!

Any other business?

Part of the scholarship means that as well as football I must also study. I have completed an advanced course in Sports Leisure and Recreation which allows me to enter University should my football career stall. I also study Spanish. I think it's important to know another language, you never know I might end up there! It's also widely spoken throughout the world so it's not a bad thing to have. ■

.. STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... ..

On the 13th March Jamie made his First Team debut for Reading FC when he replaced the injured Marcus Hahnemann in the 0 - 0 home draw with Stoke City, in front of over 14,000 people. Jamie made a spectacular save from Stoke striker Carl Asaba which was described by the Reading TV commentator as the best he had seen all season. Reading are currently lying just outside the promotion play-off positions in the English First Division.

Felonious Unlawful Carnal Knowledge



Long-time soccer sage Eric Sinclair gets lyrical on overuse of the mouth, the disciplinary committee and Norman Staines!

The heading of this piece is the short title of an ancient Anglo-Saxon criminal charge which when written into charge books was contracted to only the initial letters of the wording of the short title. No prizes for working out what they were, nor, the commonly used word they now go to make up.

When I was a lad, half way through the last century, it was a word seldom heard in polite company. Of course there were words when used in certain context could be just as objectionable. This was about the time that my involvement with the beautiful game began, not in this country but in England where the Strine to which I have now become accustomed was not used. Where is all this going one might ask?

During the half century (plus some) that I've been involved in the sport in this city, the word, and variations of it, usually in an adjectival form preceding various parts of the human anatomy (male & female), have slowly crept into fairly common usage. Like it or not it is now part of the language. One can sit in the living room and hear it blasted in stereophonic hi-fi intensity right at you with no escape other than to change channels, only to hear or see it in the sub text on other stations. If one is adept at lip reading one can see it, usually with several replays, being uttered by footballers from other codes, since we don't get much television time.

Over this period in which the use of this type of language has become common, usually through an appalling lack of vocabulary skills by the users, the powers that be within our code have tried several times to stamp it out by using sanctions against offending players.

This was once tried in another arena by the Queensland Police Force some time ago against an actor named Norman Staines, who had used the word in the dialogue of a live play staged at Her Majesty's Theatre in Brisbane. After complaints by wowsers of the day, Staines was charged before a court for having used obscene language in a public place. The charge was later thrown out.

At the beginning of season 2003 the afore-

mentioned powers that be instructed that a 'No Tolerance' policy was to be instituted against offenders. For the BMS Disciplinary Committee this became the subject of much discussion, controversy and hair pulling (God knows I had little enough to start with). The committee, were bound by the directions issued as were referees and players, who gained an automatic suspension of one week, and in some cases longer depending on the context in which the language was used. They were charged with having used 'offensive language'...In by far the majority of cases the language was used in frustration by the players against themselves or at a failed effort on their part. Legally, this does not constitute 'offensive' language. Since the legal definition of offensive is 'Used for the Purpose of Attack', the question arises, who were they attacking? Answer, nobody.

By the same token there were cases when players did verbally attack others using a variation of the word as an adjective followed by lewd descriptions various. In these cases the more vile the description the more intense the penalty as these verbal attacks were offensive (in the legal sense) and were obscene, as defined by the Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act.

Bearing this in mind when putting the new Disciplinary Code together the word offensive was left out and the word objectionable inserted in its stead when referring to language. Hence the two levels of standard suspension.

Though it may well be said that perhaps the players should be protected from the language issuing from spectators, club officials, women and sometimes children, the question is who protects others from these offenders? Very seldom do club officials step in to curb this type of behaviour and if they don't then who will?

It's about time we all have a closer look at where we are heading with this issue. We each have a part to play and if we don't accept that responsibility we cannot expect those who give of their time to run the 'beautiful game' to be the protectors of public morals which seem to be becoming less rigid with each passing day. ■

MAIL



Write to: ExtraTime, 10 Bordeau Crescent, Petrie Qld 4502
Email: extratime@odyssey.com.au

Dear Extra Time,

I bought a copy of your magazine, Issue 3 March 2004, and though enjoying the articles and information you gave on all the Men's fixtures, I was quite disappointed when I didn't see anything about the Women's fixtures for this year.

The article on Tammy Ogston was however an inspirational story and I was glad to see a woman achieve that level in the sport. I play for Newmarket Soccer Club, this being my third year, and I feel the women's competitions do not get granted the same opportunities as the men's, and would like to see more stories and information concerning them.

The Matilda's played last month in the Australian Cup. This was not advertised at all, except on the internet, and one small article in the Saturday Courier Mail.

Is there anything you can do, so both Male and

Female players will enjoy your magazine.

Regards,

Female Newmarket Player

This is a more than valid point you raise. The concept of this publication and it's associated radio entity, the ExtraTime SoccerShow, is to publicise, promote and generate interest in all facets of the sport. A balanced view is our aim but while the magazine is in it's infancy it has been difficult to cater for all interested parties. However, our plans to broaden the content and appeal of the publication does include a desire to introduce news and features on the Women's game, along with Junior news and articles on other less publicised, but no less interesting, areas of the sport. It may be an oft used phrase but watch this space, we'll be working on it. In the meantime I hope you continue to enjoy the magazine. Ed.

FORCE FIELD



Rarely in local soccer circles has a club received so much publicity over a name change. The controversy generated by Inala City's decision to reinvent themselves as Brisbane Force has given birth to rumour after rumour. Phil Latheron spoke to Secretary and Vice-President Wayne Spence and Press Officer Jeff Sangster to put the record straight.

Why the name change from Inala City?

JS... Well there's actually 2 parts to the name change. We wanted the club to address a larger player base rather than jut the Inala/Western Suburbs area. We did originally toy with the idea of incorporating the word 'western' into the name somewhere, but we thought the Brisbane area, where we were drawing a lot of our players from, should be represented in the clubs name.

The 'Force' part of the name came about when we were looking for some sort of soccer connotation, something like the 'strikers' etc. We want to be a force in the soccer community and it seemed a natural choice. I'm pleased to say that there has been a very good acceptance of it now and we have overcome some initial hurdles. Some people wanted to preserve some of the links with the past by naming the club Brisbane Bulldogs for example, but we've chosen to go for a fresh name and the feedback has been very good.

Although we've gone in a new direction, have a new vision and a new name, we haven't disregarded the past and said that Inala City is dead and gone. It's still a very big part of our club and will always have its place in our history.

WS... The members have accepted it with open arms. They realised that using the name Inala City limited us to the area we live in. As soon as it was explained to them that we wanted to stretch our wings further they just took it on board.

You've brought in John and Andy Ogden as coaches. How are the players responding to the new regime?

WS... John and Andy have a massive influence here at the club with some of the players they've brought here and with their coaching experience. We were going through the numbers for the First Team and the Reserve squad recently and the coaches have brought with them in excess of 20 new players. That's without including players

who will be in the Metro League or the Youth team, so we can definitely say that John and Andy have already strengthened the club.

JS... One of the things we need to acknowledge too is that it's not just John and Andy. They are an integral part of a senior coaching regime that is made up of the likes of Steve Murray, Mal Gillett and Roddie McKenzie. Combined together they have a massive drawing power and that has been reflected by our registrations this year.

Who in the current squad do you expect to shine this year?

WS... I believe Brian Heslop will be a player who will have the best brought out of him by the coaches.

What are you aiming for in the near future?

WS... Unfortunately we were relegated to Div 2 last year, but we see that as just a minor setback, so our immediate aim is to regain our 1st Division place as soon as possible, but our ultimate goal is to enter the Premier League. In some ways being in Div 2 this year is a blessing in disguise because it takes the pressure off and we can consolidate in the first year. We know that we will regain our Div 1 place as soon as we can and then go on from there.

Everybody knows that Queensland Lions are on your doorstep. Does this help or hinder the club?

JS... I believe that in some cases it helps, and in some cases it hinders us. In the past we have produced some good young players through our junior system and when they got to a certain level they believed they needed to make the move to a higher league and with Lions so close the easy choice was to just drive down the road resulting in us losing those players. Conversely, we have picked up players who didn't make the grade in the Premier League because we are the

next team in the area.

WS... There is room for both clubs in the area as we both cater for a certain market. Our focus is on being financially viable and looking after our players. We have been picking up a number of players who became disenchanting with their previous clubs, lost their focus and needed to refocus on football again.

We've also inherited players who have been offered opportunities in the higher league and have chosen to come to Brisbane Force for the positive environment that we are trying to set and the coaching facilities we're able to provide.

So there is no truth in the rumour that Qld Lions were trying to get involved in the club?

JS... No, there is definitely no truth in that. The rumour was that we were in talks with Darra. Darra were in talks with Lions and if we had amalgamated with Darra then we would have come under the Lions umbrella. The reality of the situation is that there was never a deal put on the table by either party and as it

turned out we are fortunate now that we have gained the support of the Blue Fin Fishing Club as our major sponsor and we are the master of our own destiny. They support us financially and in other ways as well, but there is absolutely no interference whatsoever from the Blue Fin as far as how we run the club or the football operations, which is a blessing for everybody.

Who do you think will be your main rivals for promotion?

WS... I believe that Ipswich City and Bethania will be tough teams to beat.

JS... I really couldn't comment at this stage because I look after the communications side of things and leave football matters to Wayne.

Who is your tip to win the Premier League?

WS... I think Qld Lions will win it but I'd like to see a fresh, new team be amongst it and give it a good nudge. Someone like Mitchelton or Pine Rivers for instance. ■

Happy Birthday to a Living Legend



HARRY LINNING, a legend in Queensland Soccer, especially schoolboy and junior, celebrated his ninety-second birthday on Sunday 4th April.

Best known for his Harry Linning Cup competition for under 12's, the Cup is a much sought after trophy by junior teams representing six southern zones- Brisbane South, Brisbane North, Wide Bay, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and South West. Instituted in the early 70's it is competed for annually.

In 1956 Harry was instrumental in the formation of the Gino Paris Cup which at one time was played for by teams from all over Queensland, but with the enormous growth of junior soccer was restructured to be played for by teams representing the central and northern zones of our State.

As a special gesture to Harry, last year the Queensland Junior Soccer Council generously allocated the competition to Brisbane South where it was played on Annerley Junior Soccer Club's fields- Harry's home Club. This year Gympie will host the Harry Linning Cup in the first week of the June school

holidays, and as in all previous times, Harry will be in attendance speaking to and encouraging every player and official and presenting the medals and trophy at the end of what will once again be a wonderful week of football.

Harry Linning's interest in football began with his appointment to the Deaf School as a pupil-teacher in 1927. On his retirement in 1977, he could look back on 50 years involvement in soccer as a coach, team manager and administrator.

Harry is very proud to be a Life Member of the Queensland State Primary Schools Sports Association, Queensland State Primary Schools Soccer Football Association, Brisbane Southern Districts Junior Soccer Association, the Annerley Recreation Club and the Queensland Junior Soccer Council. He is a former Patron of both the Annerley Recreation Club and BSDJSA. He is currently vice-Patron of BSDJSA.

Harry and his wonderful wife May have lived in their home at Annerley for all 64 years of their married life.

ASA Chief Announces New National League Structure

The new national competition will start in 2005 with eight teams - one team each from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Newcastle and New Zealand (Auckland), with the final team to be selected from the best remaining expressions of interest.

The Expressions of Interest document for the new competition will be released by ASA in mid-April, with the submission period open for six weeks until the end of May, followed by an evaluation period of a further six weeks before the eight teams are announced in mid-July.

While the formal commencement of the competition proper will not kick off until mid-winter 2005, the association plans to introduce the participating teams months earlier, holding a 10-week pre-season tournament in February and March next year.

The new Australian Premier League will run for 26 weeks, including a top-four finals series to run for a month.

This will be the first stage in the development of the new national competition and will provide the basic structure for further expansion. In the second stage, ASA will actively work towards evolving a truly national competition embracing teams from all major Australian cities and regions. These could include Canberra, Hobart, Wollongong, Darwin, North Queensland and others. Commercial interests have already indicated a willingness to explore these options.

The third stage will involve further strengthening the game by seeking additional international club tournament opportunities such as a Pacific Rim tournament - in Australia with regional clubs from Asia, USA and Africa from early 2006 onwards. In time, ASA hopes to build its international relationships where member clubs of Australia's premier domestic competition will receive tournament or continental cup invitations from regional neighbours.

ASA has held a series of meetings with potential broadcasters and sponsors who have shown keen interest in the new competition but have

been awaiting further detail. The announcement of the structure and timing of the new league will enable negotiations to begin in earnest and ASA expects to finalise these arrangements in due course.

The ASA board praised the work of the NSL Task Force which provided the framework for the new competition and will adopt many of the key NSL Task Force report recommendations, including:

- The criteria and benchmarks required to be achieved by clubs.
- The minimum funding required by a club.
- The method of selecting clubs.
- The process of transition to the new competition.
- Guaranteed five year tenure for clubs.
- Guaranteed five year exclusive territorial rights in all centres outside Sydney and Melbourne.
- The measures designed to stem the outflow of players and to attract overseas players back to Australia.

For financial, structural and efficiency reasons, the board of ASA will also serve as the board of the new national competition for the first three years. In addition, ASA will establish an Advisory Council in conjunction with the new domestic competition to liaise regularly with the national body. The Council will comprise of people chosen from members of the NSL Task Force and the Implementation Team and will include people experienced in the Australian soccer community.

With only one side to be admitted from Brisbane the topic is sure to be debated from one corner of the city to the other as to who it will be. In a press release, Strikers chairman Clem Jones said he expects the Brisbane Strikers to be the Queensland team playing in the revamped league.

"We will have top players, top coaches, and the finance necessary, whatever the requirements of the Expression of Interest document", he said

Over at Richlands, Queensland Lions CEO

Lawrence Oudendyk confirmed the club's aspirations despite the small size of the proposed new competition.

"Certainly we intend to apply. We were hoping for more than an eight team league because in our view two teams from Brisbane would be sustainable. Queensland has the second biggest registration base in Australia and I believe there are enough quality players to go around. Two local derbies a year in Brisbane could have worked well", he said.

If the new APL is to succeed as we all hope it will, then the ASA must ensure that the very best applicants are chosen from each state. All the talk at the moment is about money and who has the most, etc. There is far more to running a successful National League club than just having access to a seemingly bottomless financial pit. One hopes the selection process looks very closely at the ability of each applicant to promote, market and develop the game in their state and operate as a sustainable business. If the ASA fails to do this, then despite the bells and whistles, little will have changed in Australian Soccer.

NEW VP FOR THE OFC

Ron Harvey has been elected Vice President of the Oceania Football Confederation, resulting in him being appointed to the FIFA Executive Committee, and being one of only eight FIFA Vice Presidents. This is the first time an Australian has been appointed to this important position and furthers ASA's goal of elevating the standing of OFC and Australia in the world soccer community.

ASA ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH NIKE

The Australian Soccer Association has announced that it has formed a significant new partnership with Nike which will have a positive impact on the future of soccer in Australia. As the new official supplier of apparel, footwear

and balls to ASA, Nike will provide all the national soccer teams with the most innovative product on the market.

ASA Chief Executive John O'Neill was delighted with the partnership agreement reached with leading sportswear giant Nike, highlighting the close association of Nike with the global soccer world.

"ASA is proud to announce that we have secured Nike as our official supplier of apparel, footwear and balls to all our national soccer teams, both men's and women's," he said

"As we begin to re-vitalise our organisation to lead the whole of soccer in Australia and help the Socceroos qualify for the FIFA World Cup in Germany 2006, it is appropriate that we establish strategic partnerships with leading global companies, especially when they are so closely associated with our sport around the world, with some of the most famous soccer countries and clubs.

Nike Pacific Managing Director Tony Balfour said: "This is an era of change which Nike is excited to be a part of. We have been keen to have an association with soccer in Australia due to our global commitment to the game and the enormous popularity of the sport at a grassroots level. The opportunity arose and the timing is perfect for us to help the game fulfil its potential in Australia. This partnership is significantly more than a traditional sponsorship arrangement. Nike and Australian Soccer will be working with a shared sense of purpose and a united vision for the game which includes the development of a grassroots program."

Australia national soccer teams will join an illustrious group of Nike teams, including World Champions Brazil, English Champions Manchester United, Premiership giants Arsenal, Spanish legends Barcelona, Juventus, Inter Milan, and European glamour team Holland. They also join an emerging powerhouse of soccer nations including the USA and Korea.



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THE FULL MONTY

Premiers or Champions?
Top 4 or Top 5? Monty puts
a case for an expanded
Finals Series

At last we are underway despite the continuation of summer conditions. Thank goodness that the majority of clubs play night football with only City, Lions and Taringa spoiling the mix.

Early days yet but one can already get a feel that the predictable stranglehold of Queensland Lions will be evident although it must be said that Brisbane City certainly look to have the goods to mount a serious Premiership challenge.

With me hailing from the old dart, the Premiership winners have always been in the pole position of the Premier League (for us Reds supporters we would rather reference the mighty First Division!) while the romance of the FA Cup will always be special and this season may well see a fairytale finish for one of the minnows. I would like to expand on our local cup competition which appears to have been driven into a secondary oblivion with many clubs treating it with contempt by either withdrawing following 'unfavourable' draws or simply using it as an opportunity to run out non-first team regulars.

However at the time of thumping the keyboard the format of the competitions has not been fully ratified by BMS, so stay tuned for the May edition. I will turn my attention to the Final Series and the relegation/promotion battles. With the latter, I believe the 2 leg home and away basis is the best format possible and recent results would suggest that it is more difficult for a team struggling in second last position in the PL to raise themselves against a club riding high in the First Division.

The most contentious issue is the actual Final Series with specific attention to the qualification for the semis, or should I say Final Series as 'semis' by definition is four, which is what we currently have in local leagues. This is in fact 'Un-Australian' in that AFL has a top eight as does Basketball, NRL and of course the NSL with a top 6. In fact, I am reasonably confident that only the Super 12's (Union) has a top four

at seasons end. Why is it that these other competitions breed mediocrity by having such a voluminous Finals Series? I suppose the reasons are many including TV and associated marketing but the added association is that it helps keep the interest of these clubs alive and regardless of how we may perceive the weaknesses of such a format it does keep players, coaches and supporters active and enthused for the dream of Finals football.

Regardless of what our original culture of overseas football may be, the simple fact is that the Australian culture does recognise 'Finals' football more so than even the 'flag' or the shocking title of 'Minor Premiers'. So with our current format of a top four do we have the Final Series mix right? I say 'No' and we need to change it ASAP. The vote is with the clubs, so at

with our current format
of a top four do we
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the end of the day whatever we end up with we deserve, however if you ask the players and coaches (who are the most important component of our game) then I would be surprised if they didn't think an expansion to a top five would be a good move.

Why a top five? - firstly because I don't think it breeds mediocrity and most of all it will help add real interest to the mid-table battles throughout the season. Furthermore, the battle to keep away from the foot and second last will continue to add spice during the season. This format also rewards the Premiers with a weeks rest and please don't tell me formatting and time restraints overpower such a scenario as we have plenty of time by utilising mid-week Finals football or even a mid-week round during the season. I don't believe it is too late to bring these changes in now for a far more interesting run-in and Finals Series - what do you think? ■



**Brisbane
Men's
Soccer**

PREMIER CUP 2004

This year Brisbane Mens Soccer will conduct a revised format for the BMS Premier Cup (previously called SEQ Cup).

The 36 Premier Competition clubs will all enter the Premier Cup with prize money allocated to the eight teams that make the quarter finals dependent on their final placing. There will be no play off for third place, with both teams receiving an equal share of prize money.

The main purpose of this cup competition is to create a monthly event with a random draw and knockout style competition. It will create publicity, local interest and enthusiasm for the competition, relying heavily on the romantic notion of 'Giant Killing', with the opportunity to play teams outside of the regular division.

All matches will be played on specified 'Cup Weekends' as double headers with the 'home team' being allocated the main kick off time. This will give fans the opportunity of seeing four teams play at one venue.

The first round draw was conducted at Heath Park during the Premier League match between Eastern Suburbs and North Star.

Format: 36 teams:

All clubs enter and 8 were drawn randomly to play 4 games to even the number of teams out. All remaining clubs were balloted through to Round 2.

The allocated dates for the competition are as follows:

Qualifying Round 1: Wed 31st March

Round 2: Sat 1st May / Sun 2nd May

Round 3: Sat 5th June / Sun 6th June

1/4 Finals: Sat 3rd July / Sun 4th July

Semi Finals: Sat 31st July / Sun 1st Aug

Final: Sunday 5th September

THE FULL DRAW

Qualifying Round 1

*Match 1 Southside Eagles v Brisbane City
Match 2 Rocklea United v Toowoomba Raiders
Match 3 Mitchelton v Queensland Lions
Match 4 Mt Gravatt v Peninsula Power
First named team will be home team.*

Round 2

*Bethania Rams v Newmarket
Moggill United v Winner Match 2
Both matches to be played at Bethania*

*Winner Match 1 v Grange Thistle
Souths v Uni of Qld*

To be played at home ground of Match 1 winners

*Samford v Brisbane Force
Winner Match 4 v Taringa Rovers
Both matches to be played at Samford*

*Rochdale Rovers v The Gap
Slacks Creek v Ipswich Knights
Both matches to be played at Rochdale*

*Palm Beach v Annerley
Beenteigh v Goodna
Both matches to be played at Palm Beach*

*Ipswich City v Redlands
Easts v Pine Rivers
Both matches to be played at Ipswich City*

*Capalaba v North Pine
Albany Creek v North Star
Both matches to be played at Capalaba*

*Brisbane Olympic v Brisbane Wolves
Oxley v Winner Match 3
Both matches to be played at Brisbane Olympic*

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Reading Kieran's wise words (ET Issue 2) put me to thinking about money, or more properly, the lack of it. Or is it money or something else? Or lots of something elses? Perhaps money may be the root of all evil, although I can tell you my ex runs a close second. (Keep root in the back of your mind, we'll come back to it)

To be of note in this world you just have to have money. Witness the rise and rise of Queensland Lions. Soccer is synonymous with money - just not Australian soccer. Why is this? We know the problems backwards, the big end of town aren't interested, there's no support, there's even less media coverage blah, blah, but why should this be so? And what's the solution? I think it may be something quite simple and almost as popular as soccer itself.

Considering money by itself for the moment, soccer generates huge sums. Japan/Korea 2002 raised \$340 million from marketing alone. To bring that point home, the National Australia Bank recently lost this amount in fraudulent trading. The big end of town certainly took an interest in this and it cost the CEO his job. Perhaps we should get the new suit to trade in Man Utd shares?

As for support, it's not as meagre as the media would like to portray. In a recent survey, 5.5% of us watched a soccer match last year. This doesn't look too good til you see that the next sport along watched by 6% of us was...cricket. Yes, cricket, if you haven't heard of Steve Waugh's retirement this summer, you've been living on Mars. By contrast, unless you live on planet soccer, most people would be hard pressed to know who Johnny Warren is. Shame on you, Mr Murdoch. Funnily enough, in the same survey the most popular pastime was visiting botanical gardens. Well that's fine, I'll be on the phone straight away to Mr Burke and ask that he don's a soccer strip in his backyard. At the least, the dog might wear a scarf.

A big feature is what you're brought up on. Ask the average brainwashed Victorian AFL fan about soccer and he'll say "Boring, ninety minutes just to win one nil." Whereas, its just the opposite for a dyed-in-the-wool soccer fan. After 20 minutes and 8 goals scored it's, "They're in again, boring. Who's getting the pies in?" Although, the muscle on display almost makes up for it (note, rooting again)

It's not the game that's important when you're young, it's the belonging to a team that everyone else is wrapped up in and this never leaves you. But if this is true; why is the most popular sport of Australian youth the least followed into adulthood? The media definitely plays a big part here now, as when late teens are reached there are no local heroes to emulate or lifestyles to aspire to. Imagine, aspiring to be Wendell Sailor in Inter Milan country (more muscle and you can guess the rest).

Lack of support from within is a definite problem and not just for soccer. In rugby league land in the North West of England, supporters of Wigan will not go to watch Warrington because it's eight and half miles away. And we wonder that Sydney Olympic doesn't get along with Sydney Utd? After all, we're only 3rd generation these days. This brings me neatly to perception as against reality. The perception is that soccer is a minority sport played by migrants who bring an un-Australian violence to sport. Reality is that these days, soccer is the most widely participated sport across the land for youth, women and men, generational change having worked to diminish racial and cultural division and create the bond of soccer. Strange that in a State of Origin match punch ups are perceived as a brilliant addition whereas the same in soccer is "I told you so". Neither bad press nor big business disinterest can stop the groundswell of support when it is the populus' game of choice. So the solution is maybe quite simple and I would think, a very popular one. As the Bible says, "Go forth and multiply." Lets root for soccer!

Sharon Jackson comes up with a novel idea to help the game

rooting for soccer

root, root, (orig. US) v.i. to shout, to applaud, to support or encourage (a contestant, etc)

straight RED

Referee Dave Ogston reaches for the top pocket



Just as the game of football is forever in an embryonic state, becoming faster and more skilful at the higher levels, so too the laws of the game must continually change to facilitate the attacking game. One law change that has undergone a metamorphosis in recent times is the offside rule.

Whether it be the attackers taking the step just at the right moment to catch a defence out and give themselves an advantage of a couple of yards, or an effective defence letting the attack stay on the edge and then stepping up just at the right time to catch them in the trap, offside plays an important part in the ebb and flow of a football match.

In the past few years Law 11, Offside has gone from something that gave defending teams a huge advantage to now being a tool of the attacking side, to aid in the scoring of goals and enable the game a far more exciting spectator sport.

Previously, no matter who the attacking player or his position on the field, if the ball was played forward into their attacking half and there were not two people between him or her and the goal line (except during a goal kick, corner or throw in), the player was deemed offside.

Nowadays FIFA have included several defining words to completely reverse the situation:

OFFSIDE POSITION:

It is not an offence in itself to be in an offside position.

A player is in an offside position if:

...he is nearer to his opponents goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent

A player is not in an offside position if:

...he is in his own half of the field... OR...he is

level with the second last opponent... OR... he is level with the last two opponents.

OFFENCE

A player in an offside position is only penalised if; at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by... *interfering with play... OR... interfering with an opponent... OR... gaining an advantage by being in that position.*

NO OFFENCE

There is no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from... *a goal kick... OR... a throw-in... OR... a corner kick.*

INFRINGEMENTS/SANCTIONS

For any offside offence, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

FIFA over the last few years were aiming at the idea of the active player and not an active zone therefore making the rule a far more attack-friendly law. The active player is the player that is without doubt going to touch the ball next. The active player is in quite a small area, probably in real terms 2m square, and therefore only attracts the attention of the assistant or referee in that area. So it's generally pointless and should bring the referee to warn a defence that attempts to cheat by constantly calling for offside. It's not the referee's position to coach the rules and constant call equates to dissent, and dissent is a cautionable offence.

This consequently gives rise to the late flag by an assistant referee as well as giving the referee the right to wave down an assistant they believe to be incorrect, or due to conditions, too quick with their offside signal.

The late flag! How often do you see a ball

passed forward, the defence scrambling to cover the territory and then just as one of the fleet footed attackers takes control of the ball the assistant's flag is raised to the heavens? The normal sequence of events then goes: - the whistle is blown - the player shouts at the assistant - the coach shouts at the assistant - the player shouts a bit more and gets a yellow.

Boring but predictable even at premier league level. Sorry to say (because of the ignorance of some players and coaches), the assistant is 110% correct and just following the FIFA requirements. It's better to be late and right than too quick and wrong. Now this may not sit right with some people involved with coaching or playing but it is the way FIFA, the ASA, Soccer Qld and BMS do it, therefore accept it and leave the official to do their job.

If a referee does on the other hand wave down an assistant and a goal is the result, the assistant has the right to draw the attention of the referee and inform him of his beliefs if he vehemently disagrees with the referees call. Ultimately though the final decision lies solely

with the referee

This then leads us on to the professionalism of the benches including the coaches, officials and substitutes. The coach is there to coach the team, not to pass judgement or otherwise on the laws or refereeing standard currently on display. Referees have a fully qualified inspectors panel that judge them on their law interpretation and all other aspects of the match.

Yes, it must be difficult, but you are supposed to be professional, and when was the last time you saw a referee tell a coach that his 3-4-3 tactics were terrible on the night and a 4-4-2 formation would have been far more effective and abuse him in the process? Quite simply, concentrate on your job and not at commenting on the performance of the officials, and this goes for Premier League down to the Metro Divisions.

If the question of offside is still not clear, referees don't bite too often, so ask a senior member of our body, they will be more than happy to discuss it with you. Remember a referee is out there to enjoy their football too! ▣

Aussies Abroad - The Top Marksmen

NAME	CLUB	GOALS	NAME	CLUB	GOALS
ALLSOPP Danny	Hull City	13	HOLMAN Brett	Excelsior	4
KEWELL Harry	Liverpool	11	INVINCIBLE Danny	Kilmarnock	4
CAHILL Tim	Millwall	10	PORTER Joel	Hartlepool United	4
VIDUKA Mark	Leeds United	8	TEINERT Christophe	FSV Mainz 05	4
BLACK Sharon	Fortuna Hjorring	8	EMERTON Brett	Blackburn Rovers	3
MAISANO John	Greenock Morton	8	SKOKO Josip	Genclerbirligi	3
ALOISI John	Athletico Osasuna	7	COYNE Chris	Luton Town	3
GRIFFITHS Joel	Neuchatel Xamax	7	MAISANO Marco	Greenock Morton	3
RADULOVIC Saso	RW Oberhausen	7	WILKSHIRE Luke	Bristol City	3
BRESCIANO Marco	Parma	6	CORICA Steve	Walsall	2
CHIPPERFIELD Scott	FC Basel	5	LAZARIDIS Stan	Birmingham City	2
VLAHOS Andy	Cercle Brugge	5	MILICEVIC Ljubo	FC Thun	2
THOMPSON Archie	Lierse	5	ZANE Clayton	Anderlecht	2
ZDRILIC David	Aberdeen	5	RIZZO Nick	Prato	2

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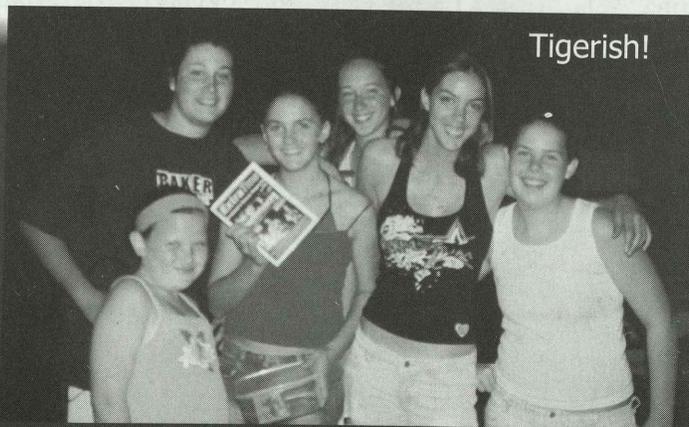
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Tigerish!

Eastern Suburbs got proactive in their promotion of ExtraTime magazine by sending these 6 young ladies out into the crowd against Brisbane City in Round 1. Sales are going well at Easts and hopefully other clubs will follow their example. Our thanks to all at Heath Park.

NEXT MONTH in *ExtraTime*....

BMS 2004 Tables... The Local News... **Club Profiles...** Player Profiles... **Interviews...** A Blast From the Past... **All the regular features (plus a few new ones)** and much more!

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