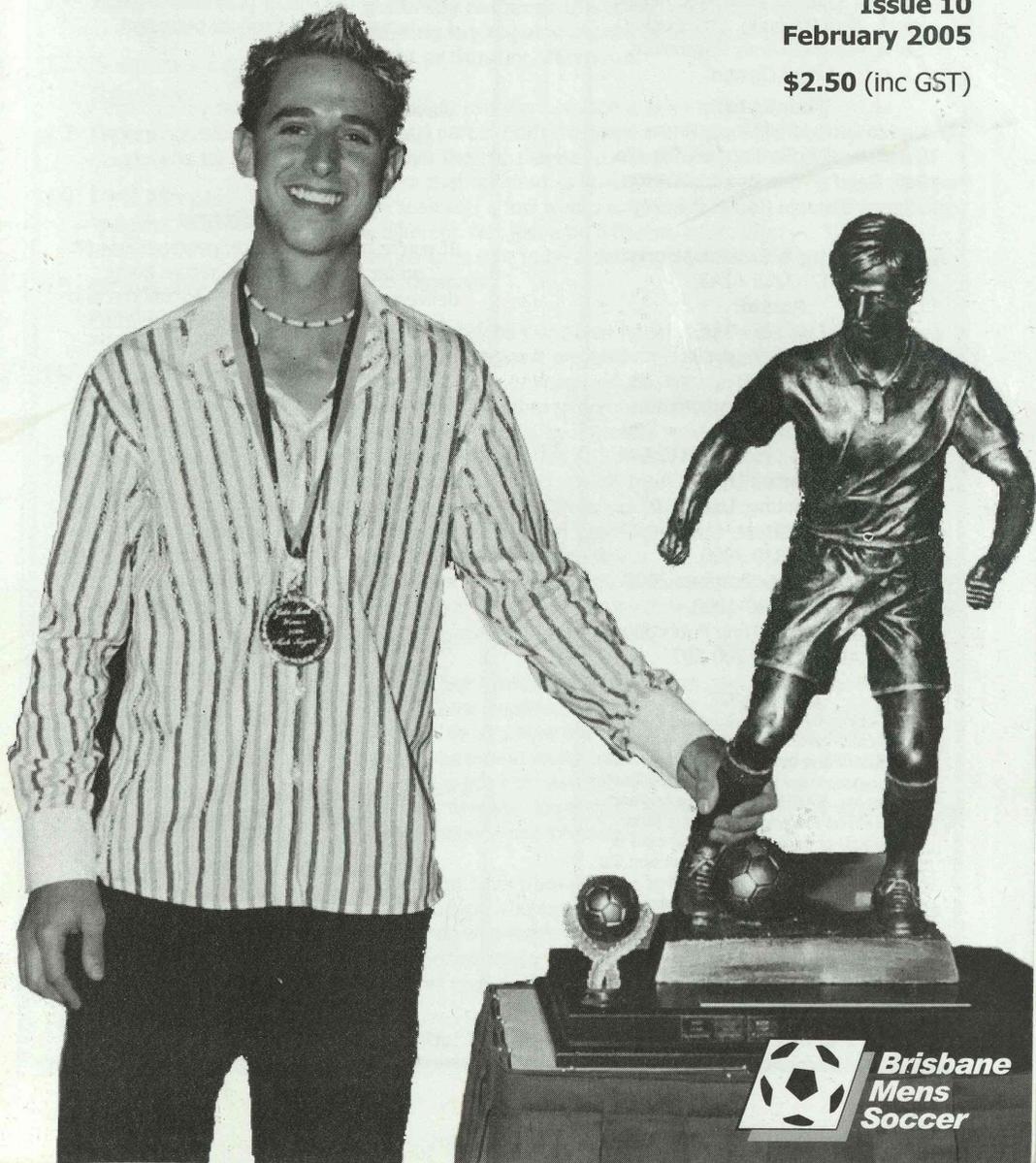


# Extra Time

## Brisbane's Soccer Magazine

Issue 10  
February 2005

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**Brisbane  
Mens  
Soccer**

## ExtraTime

Brisbane's Soccer Magazine

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## editor's Comment

**W**here does the time go? Here we are in February already and on the cusp of a new season. Not that I'm complaining, the off-season is good for a few weeks to just take a breath, look back and generally recharge the batteries, but pretty soon I'm missing my regular jaunts to the local clubs on a Saturday night or Sunday afternoon.

Just about every pre-season is filled with optimism; it's an integral part of both the game and the psyche of those involved, whether they be players, coaches or supporters. Quite often of course that optimism is misplaced but we only discover that when the season is a few weeks old! However, this season the situation is different. Not just a bit different, a lot different. The 2005 campaign is sure to be a defining period for the sport both locally and nationally.

With Queensland Lions now having taken their place in the new Hyundai A-League it presents a great opportunity for the remaining Premier League clubs. We can surely look forward to a more exciting and even competition which, in theory at least, should be bolstered by a greater spread of playing talent amongst the clubs. It's no secret that the game had suffered in the last decade or so, mainly from some ghastly administration and a tendency to both air our dirty laundry in public and shoot ourselves in the foot at seemingly every turn. Happily though, in my humble view, we are now on the upward curve and can see light at the end of what only a couple of years ago felt like a dark and endless tunnel. Let's enjoy it because for once we have much to look forward to.

As far as our modest publication goes, we are hopeful that you will see some improvements from last year. Already we have increased to 32 pages from 28 and will look to introduce even more features and stories. As ever your views are welcomed. If you have a point to make on any football issue or indeed a comment to make about the magazine, then please write to us as correspondence and interaction is encouraged.

So welcome back from all of us at ExtraTime, and thanks again for the support you have shown. Endless appreciation also goes to all those who made their valuable contributions to the magazine last season and have committed their time to do so again this year. Football is back. It's our time, and it's about time!

*Cover Pic: 2004 BMS Gold Medal winner Nick Kuyper of Mitchelton receives his award at the Gala Dinner.*

# LOCAL news

## KUYPER SELECTED AS BRISBANE'S BEST



**Nick Kuyper from Mitchelton (left) capped off a memorable year when he won the Gold Medal award for the best player in the Brisbane Mens Soccer 2004 Premier League at the Gala Awards dinner. He was instrumental in helping his club reach the semi-**

**finals of the Premier League in their first ever season in the competition.**

The revealing of the votes during the night saw Kuyper in contention from the start of the competition along with Joel Hale (Pine Rivers) and Greg Di-Losa (Qld Lions). Russell Miner (Palm Beach) and Nick Maas (Rochedale) also came into contention by the end of the first round of fixtures before Stu McLaren (North Star) and Josh Rose (Pine Rivers) also started to poll well.

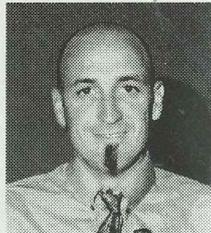
Kuyper's consistent form over the final part of the season enabled him to hold off all challengers and win the award with 25 votes, although it was not confirmed until after the final round of votes. Joël Hale (22 votes) finished as runner up followed by Stu McLaren (20 votes) and Josh Rose (20 votes). Earlier in the night Josh Rose from Pine Rivers

was announced as the winner of the Golden Boot award, presented to the leading Premier League goalscorer, with 20 goals just ahead of Daniel Fung (Palm Beach 19 goals) and Michael Van Moolenbroek (Brisbane Wolves 18 goals).

The Gala Awards night also saw the presentation of all the divisional champions and club championship awards along with the Referee of the Year and the inaugural Brisbane Select Team of the Year.

## PENINSULA CAPTAIN TAKES AWARD

Steven Forshaw (right), captain of Peninsula Power, won the Player of the Year award for Premier Division 1. Forshaw (19 votes) skipped away to a commanding lead at the end of the first round with Will Sommerville (University of Queensland) his closest rival and Shane Barnes (Beenleigh) and Peter McKendrick (Ipswich Knights) a little further behind.

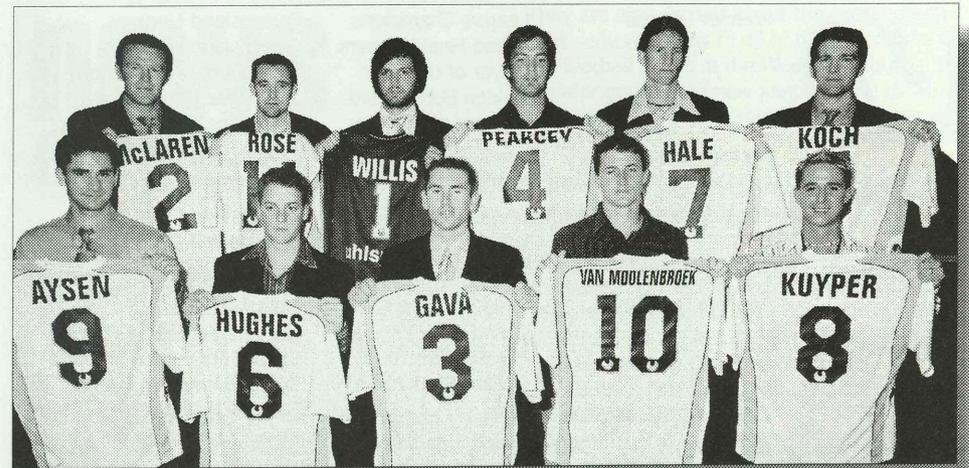


However, injuries to both leaders during the early stages of the second round gave some chasers the chance to close in and it wasn't until the last few games when Forshaw was able to win some more votes and hold off all challengers and win the award with 30 votes. Steven Unsworth (Uni of Qld) finished runner up on 29 votes, followed by Craig Hawkins (Mt Gravatt) on 23 votes. Peninsula forward Steven Cleary finished fourth on 19 votes.

Steven Unsworth was awarded the Golden Boot award for the leading Division 1 goalscorer, with 18 goals just ahead of Cameron Hunt (Mt Gravatt 17 goals) and Matt Hughes (Uni of Queensland 17 goals).

## BRISBANE SELECT TEAM OF THE YEAR

The Brisbane Select Team of the Year was selected by the players and coaches of the Premier League, rewarding those players and coach who are judged by their peers to be the best in their position in the Premier League season.



The team selected was:

- Tom Willis:** Brisbane City
- Stuart McLaren:** North Star
- Todd Gava:** Qld Lions
- Tony Pearcey:** Rochedale
- Clayton Koch:** Pine Rivers
- Terry Hughes:** Qld Lions
- Joel Hale:** Pine Rivers
- Nick Kuyper:** Mitchelton
- Reza Aysen:** Taringa Rovers
- Michael Van Moolenbroek:** Brisbane Wolves
- Josh Rose:** Pine Rivers
- Coach **Greg Brown:** Mitchelton

## REFEREES SHARE HONOUR

The Referee of the Year award was shared for the first time as top whistle-blowers Jim Bellos and John Peacock (pictured below) polled equal votes. Both were consistent performers during 2004 and thoroughly deserved their recognition. A typically modest Bellos said; "I owe this to several people, particularly our coach Ted Kearney for all the work he puts in preparing us physically and mentally for the games. Also thanks must go to Bruce Dinsdale and BMS for providing such a good competition. Last but not least I'd like to thank the players because we have built friendships with them over the years and it's much more than a referee/player relationship. Above all, it's that friendship with the players that I enjoy most about refereeing."

Bruce Dinsdale, General Manager of Brisbane Mens Soccer, was delighted with the introduction of the new prize.

"The award will mean a lot to players as it is judged by their peers. To have your fellow players give you credit and acknowledge your capabilities and effort for the year is very prestigious."

The players were presented with specially commissioned Uhlisport jerseys and plaques honouring their selection.



# 2004 AWARDS

Premier League	League Champions Grand Final Winners Player of the Year Golden Boot Award Referee of the Year	Queensland Lions Queensland Lions Nick Kuyper (Mitchelton) Josh Rose (Pine Rivers) Jim Bellos / John Peacock
Premier League Res	League Champions Grand Final Winners	Queensland Lions Queensland Lions
Premier League Youth	League Champions Grand Final Winners	Queensland Lions Queensland Lions
Premier League Premier Division 1	Club Champions League Champions Grand Final Winners Player of the Year Golden Boot Award	Queensland Lions Uni of Queensland Uni of Queensland Steven Forshaw (Peninsula) Steven Unsworth (Uni of Qld)
Premier Division 1 Res	League Champions Grand Final Winners	Uni of Queensland Mt Gravatt
Premier Division 1 Youth	League Champions Grand Final Winners	Peninsula Power Albany Creek
Premier Division 1 Premier Division 2	Club Champions League Champions Grand Final Winners Player of the Year Golden Boot Award	Uni of Queensland Goodna Brisbane Force Joe Morris (Bethania) Joe Morris (Bethania)
Premier Division 2 Res	League Champions Grand Final Winners	Brisbane Force Grange Thistle
Premier Division 2 Premier Open Youth	Club Champions League Champions Grand Final Winners	Brisbane Force Queensland Lions Queensland Lions
Premier Divisions	Premier Cup	Brisbane City
Metro 1	League Champions Grand Final Winners	Darra Lions Darra Lions
Metro 2	League Champions Grand Final Winners	Logan City Kings Pine Rivers
Metro 3	League Champions Grand Final Winners	Clairvaux Eastern Suburbs
Metro 4	League Champions Grand Final Winners	Old Bridge Old Bridge
Metro 5	League Champions Grand Final Winners	North Star North Star
Metro 6	League Champions Grand Final Winners	Albany Creek Albany Creek
Metro Divisions	Metro Cup	Darra Lions



**Brisbane  
Mens  
Soccer**

## news desk



Media releases  
from our  
local clubs

### STRIKERS ANNOUNCE AN ALLIANCE WITH NORTH STAR

The Brisbane Strikers have announced an alliance with Premier League Soccer Club, North Star. This alliance will see senior teams competing in the Premier League and Premier Youth competitions next year as the Brisbane Strikers, with the junior teams playing as North Star Strikers.

Strikers Director, Rob Gibson, said it was a natural progression to strengthen an alliance that existed between the Clubs for part of the 2004 season, when North Star used Perry Park as their home base.

He added, "North Star is a club focused on player development, which compliments the philosophies of the Strikers. This alliance will provide the players an opportunity to benefit from the Strikers' National League experience and facilities; we aim to provide the most modern technology and latest coaching practices available."

The President of the Strikers, Mrs Dell Townsend, said the Strikers Board was pleased to be participating in the local competition, and expect the new team will attract strong support from both Strikers and North Star supporters.

### FORCE & DARRA UNITE

The Presidents of Brisbane Force and Darra Utd Soccer Clubs are pleased to announce a new Joint Venture. As from the start of the 2005 season the clubs will field joint teams in the BMS competitions under the name of Brisbane Force. The two Boards have been in discussion for several months regarding pooling their resources and working towards building a stronger club.

They are also excited about the prospects this joint venture brings to all of their members and the football public in the Western Suburbs. It is a major goal of the new joint venture to win promotion into the Premier League by the year 2007.

### CAPTAIN FORSHAW TO LACE UP BOOTS AGAIN IN 2005

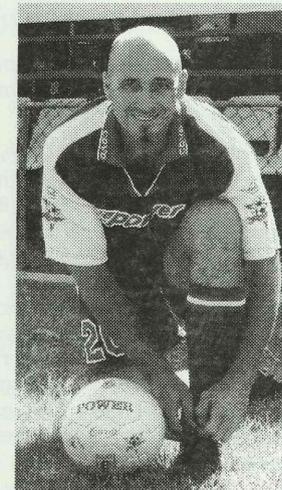
Former National League player with Wollongong and winner of the Qld Premier League as Captain of Wynnum, Steve Forshaw (below) has led Power for the last three seasons which included winning the 2002 Division 2 Premiership, Promotion into Division 1 and 2004 Grand Final Runners-Up.

Since joining the Peninsula side, his leadership and experience has played a major part in developing the up and coming younger players who now play at senior level. Forshaw's all round qualities and presence on the field throughout the 2004 season were capped by winning several awards including the Brisbane Mens Soccer Division 1 Player of the Year, Division 1 Grand Final Man of the Match and Player of the Year at Peninsula Power.

When asked about his ambitions for the 2005 season he beamed, "We have so many talented soccer players here on the Peninsula, watching these players represent their local club and strive for success is why I continue to enjoy playing the game."

### ALL SYSTEMS GO AT BEENLEIGH

Beenleigh has been busy preparing for the 2005 season with a number of initiatives developed over the past few months for the year ahead. Division 1 senior assistant coach, David Illif has developed a 3-year plan that aims to take



Beenleigh back into the Premier League by 2007 aiming for a top 4 finish in Division 1 this year.

Steve Dolan (below) has been appointed as the senior coach for 2005. Steve returns to



Beenleigh after having taken the club into the XXXX League in 1991 and coached at Beenleigh until 1997. Steve brings a wealth of soccer knowledge to the club, having coached a number of

Premier league sides in Brisbane and he is also currently the Brisbane north junior representative coach.

A significant number of players have already been signed on contracts for the 2005 season, including a number of former Beenleigh junior players who have spent the last few seasons playing in the Premier League competition with other Brisbane clubs.

Some of these key signings include Mark Cruse, Grant Marshall and Chris Burley who will play under the leadership of former Queensland player and 2005 Beenleigh captain Roy Huth. Roy has captained Beenleigh over the past 2 seasons and brings his experience and leadership to the senior side.

This year is the club's 25-year anniversary and a number of events are planned in celebration. A pre-season competition called the 'Tony Jessop-Beenleigh Cup' will be played at Beenleigh with invited teams from both Brisbane and the Gold coast.

The 8-team knockout competition kicks off on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th Feb. Major sponsorship for this exciting new event will provide prize money of \$1500, \$1000 and \$500 for the top 3 teams in the competition which will continue to run over the next 3 years.

Junior player development is also undergoing a revival with Junior director of coaching, Peter Merefield, working furiously in the off-season recruiting coaching staff and players for the upcoming campaign. Peter aims to field Beenleigh teams in the Division 1 and 2 BSDJSA

competition in 2005 for the more competitive players, along with teams in other divisions for the more socially orientated players.

The aim is to provide a platform for local soccer talent to remain with the Beenleigh club and further their soccer playing careers and skills in the local area.

### **THAT'S THE SPIRIT! GOODNA & CAMIRA MERGER CONFIRMED**

Football in Ipswich's eastern suburbs has undergone a major facelift with clubs Goodna and Camira combining.

After thirty years of existence Goodna and Districts Soccer and Sports Club members voted for a name change to 'Western Spirit Football Club'.

Outgoing Goodna President Craig Reimers said the merger was the perfect way to end his leadership at Kippen Park.

Goodna and Camira will each have separate committees next year and keep their respective colours. But come Season 2006, one committee will run the Western Spirit and one strip combining colours of current Goodna (Green and Gold) and Camira (Dark Blue and Light Blue) jerseys, will be worn by the Western Spirit's Senior, Ladies and Junior Teams.

Teams from Under 14's upwards, including Western Spirit's Ladies, Youth and Premier Division One sides, will play at the New Kippen Park Complex.

As part of the revamp, the clubhouse at Kippen Park has been knocked down, with the new building set to be ready for a Grand Opening in early July.

Western Spirit's campaign in Premier Division One will be lead by Senior Coach, Jim McCabe and Assistant Coach, Frank Byrne. Jim and Frank are excited with the new challenge of leading the club in a new direction and also the fact of the local derbies that now exist with all three Ipswich teams being in the one division.

Priscilla Thomas has replaced Reimers as the Western Spirit's Club President and Mark Beaven has taken the responsibility of being Senior President. Priscilla and Mark believe season 2005 will bring some trying times for the new entity but the end result will be an exciting new club venture for all involved within the eastern suburbs of the Springfield area.

The new Western Spirit's first outing will be in the Silver Boot pre-season competition run by Queensland Lions where they will compete in Group F along with Rochedale Rovers and Toowoomba Raiders.

### **BUFFALO SECURE COAST DEAL**

Buffalo Sports (Qld) and Gold Coast Soccer Inc. have announced a 4 year business partnership. The Buffalo Sports (Qld) sponsorship is believed to be worth approximately \$100,000.00 including a sizeable cash prize for the grand final winners.

The Gold Coast Premier League competition will be called 'The Buffalo Sports Premier League' and is set to hold the richest soccer prize anywhere in Queensland. The partnership is sure to increase the profile of the Gold Coast Premier League which is already held in high regard throughout the region.

Mike Hayes, the Managing Director of Buffalo Sports (Qld), hailed the deal as exciting and beneficial for both parties which can only be a win-win situation for Gold Coast Soccer and Buffalo Sports (Qld). "Peter (Peter Gray, Gold Coast Soccer Chairman) and myself sat down 3 months ago and proceeded to map out a plan to improve football in the Gold Coast Zone which I believe has the potential to be at the top of all other football codes within 5 years."

"We are delighted to be involved as business partners with Peter Gray who is vastly experienced and passionate, with great vision to improve this magnificent team sport to the highest levels for both seniors and juniors," he added.

Buffalo Sports (Qld) consists of an experienced team who have supplied and serviced the Queensland soccer market for over 20 years. They employ more than a dozen highly trained staff at their warehouse in Geebung and their football focus philosophy appears to be bearing fruit. In the recent State League 6 out of the 10 teams were using the Buffalo products and in this year's Premier League 8 of the 12 teams will be wearing the Buffalo brand.

Hayes said "It's simple. We give a good quality, guaranteed product for a fair price with great service. Exactly what our clubs want and deserve. From the juniors to the seniors we all have the same thing in common - a passion for

the game. I think it's great that we're moving into this new era for Australian soccer and correctly changing the name to football. After all soccer is the only true football!"

Gold Coast Soccer Inc. Chairman, Peter Gray is obviously very pleased with the arrangement. "We have a very close relationship with Buffalo and we are delighted with this sponsorship, but I must say that we are also delighted with the service and the friendship we receive from Buffalo," he said.

"The winners of the 2005 Gold Coast Premier League will receive a \$10,000 package which is a great incentive for all the clubs involved and a great reward for the winners," Gray added.

### **McLAREN OFF TO MALAYSIA**

Former Brisbane Strikers Player/Coach Stuart McLaren has accepted an offer to join Malaysian club Sarawak where he will be coached by former Australian international David Mitchell.



McLaren, who would have preferred to have continued his career in the upcoming A-League, joins a number of other high profile Queensland products in plying their trade outside their home state. Despite being overlooked by the A-League clubs McLaren said that he is excited by the prospect of playing league football in yet another country, having previously played in Scotland, Hong Kong as well as the NSL.

He also made a point of thanking his former club for the part they have played in his career. "The Chairman and the Board of Directors gave me a fantastic opportunity to play, captain and coach the club which represented my home state in the NSL and for that I am extremely grateful. I would also like to acknowledge the massive impact the supporters and team-mates have had on my memorable time with the Strikers," he said. ■

All clubs are welcome to send in your media releases.  
Email to: [extratime@odyssey.com.au](mailto:extratime@odyssey.com.au)

## AUSTRALIAN REFEREES SHORT-LISTED FOR 2006 WORLD CUP

Two of Australia's leading referees, Mark Shield and Matthew Breeze, have been short-listed for the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany. The Australian duo have been selected by FIFA to participate in a 5-day workshop in Frankfurt next month that will feature 46 international referees who will compete for the final 30 positions at the 2006 World Cup.

The candidates will also participate as match officials in various FIFA competitions throughout 2005 and will be observed and assessed on their performances at international and domestic level. The final list of World Cup referees is scheduled to be announced in the first quarter of 2006.

Brisbane-based Shield was the only Australian to officiate at the 2002 World Cup where he was the youngest referee appointed at the tournament. The 31-year-old also refereed at the 2003 FIFA Confederations Cup in France and the 2004 Asian Cup in China. Shield has also been the Australian referee of the year in each of the last 3 years.

Meanwhile ACT referee Ben Williams plus assistant referees Jason Power and Hakan Anaz are the new additions to feature on the FIFA international panel of match officials for 2005.

The full list of Australian FIFA match officials is:

### Men's Referees:

Matthew Breeze, Con Diomis, Simon Micallef, Mark Shield, Ben Williams

### Men's Assistant Referees:

Hakan Anaz, Matthew Cream, Paul Eldridge, Nathan Gibson, Jim Ouliaris, John Peacock, Jason Power, Jonathan Streater, Peter Vrtkovski, Ben Wilson.

### Women's Referees:

Jacqui Melksham, Tammy Ogston, Krystyna Szokolai.

### Women's Assistant Referees:

Sarah Ho, Airlie Keen, Jacqueline Leleu, Michelle Treloar.

### Futsal Referees:

Lyle Hudson, Robert Porritt

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# Summer UNDER21 League

GROUP A	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rochdale	6	5	1	0	28	3	16
Brisbane Force	6	4	1	1	24	7	13
Nth Coast Suns	6	2	0	4	10	14	6
Slacks Creek	6	0	0	6	3	41	0

GROUP B	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qld Lions	6	5	1	0	20	4	16
Sunshine Coast	6	3	2	1	17	10	7
Sth West Qld	6	2	1	3	12	16	7
Peninsula P	6	0	0	6	2	21	0

GROUP C	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palm Beach	5	5	0	0	23	4	15
North Star	5	3	0	2	11	9	9
QAS	5	2	0	3	25	9	6
Moggill Utd	5	0	0	5	2	39	0

### QUARTER FINALS

Rochdale	0
North Star	1 (Hicks)
Qld Lions	2 (Vidosic, Suleau)
QAS	4 (Williams 2, Davidson, Cernak)
Sunshine Coast	1 (Bragg)
Brisbane Force	0
Palm Beach	3 (Nicholls 2, Robinson)
South West Qld	2 (Daly 2) (AET)

### SEMI FINALS

QAS	1 (Davidson)
North Star	0
Sunshine Coast	1 (Bennett)
Palm Beach	1 (Gosper) (AET)
Sunshine Coast won 4-3 on penalties	

### FINAL

Sunshine Coast	2 (Bennet, Knight)
QAS	1 (Zeeno)

Never has the commonly used football term 'a game of two halves' been more appropriate than in this hard-fought Grand Final.

In balmy conditions and in front of a large crowd at Maroochydore, QAS started strongly and took the game to the home side. Just 7 minutes in Morgan Zeeno latched on to a through ball and gave QAS the lead when he slotted home under the Sunshine Coast keeper Rob Lenssen with a composed finish.

The Academy kept the pressure on for the rest of the first period with Zeeno again going close from a Robbie Kruse cross and Wade Davidson inches over with a fine header. Sunshine Coast were failing to make an impression and it seemed only a matter of time before QAS increased their advantage. Kruse almost did just that when he forced Lenssen to tip his shot onto the bar after a superb series of passes from the young Academy side.

In the closing minutes of the first half Sunshine Coast finally began to flex their muscles and give the home crowd a hint of what was to come after the break. With only one meaningful attempt on goal to speak of, Coast Coach Shaun DeCourcy must have known that he had to deliver the half-time teamtalk to end all teamtalks, and that's just what he did. Within seconds of the restart his side were level. Matt Wesley fired in a low cross to Sam Bennett who controlled and turned sharply before gleefully firing home.

QAS were clearly rattled as Sunshine Coast turned on the pressure. Ben Knight was a different player after an ineffective first half and caused all sorts of problems for the Academy defence with his strong running and clever touches. Wide on the left Matt Wesley was also proving a handful, finding space that had been denied him early on.

QAS had a good opportunity to restore their lead when Zeeno fired a header goalwards but Rob Eagleson was on hand to clear off the line and keep it at 1-1. Parity only lasted until 15 minutes from time though when Sunshine Coast finally turned their second half dominance into a winning margin. Striker Ben Knight capped off a tremendous 45 minutes when he steered a speculative long drive into the net with a deft header to send the home crowd into raptures.

# opinion

Kieran Cooper on the new A-League

# W

**Well now that the dust has settled, and we all know that Queensland Lions will be our representatives in the New A-League, what does the future hold?**

In my view, if any club in Brisbane can make it work, then that club is Lions. As far as I'm concerned the jury is still out on the eight team league but I am willing to wait and see how it goes.

First things first. The new name. By the time you read this a new name may have already been picked, and I may look like a goose. However, being the person I am, it won't be the first time!

I'm hearing all these names being put forward, Qld Roar, Qld United, Qld this, Brisbane that - all put forward with good intentions. Unfortunately I am probably from the old school and I really hate the Americanisation of names. The Socceroos, Matildas, Hockeyroos, Kangaroos, etc, etc. I know we are in Australia but I still

## There is no doubt that the new league will be quality

can't get my lips around supporting a team with a name like the ones mentioned. No big deal I suppose, after all it's only a name. For me I like something simple. The more I think about it, the more I like Brisbane FC or FC Brisbane. I wouldn't use the name Qld. That's only my opinion and I may be way off the mark.

The next step is deciding on players. There is no doubt that the new league will be quality. If you look at the numbers you will work it out. Eight

teams with squads of twenty. Three of that twenty have to be under 21. Two of that twenty will have to be goalkeepers. That leaves us with 15 senior players. Multiply that by eight and you get 120. That's 120 places available in all of Australia. If you take into account the overseas players returning, the new overseas players and maybe some big name stars, you will see that the opportunities for players within Australia are limited. This may look bad but in fact it will make for a stronger National League as only a very few elite players will get through. Lions need a good mix. In the formative years they need to be competitive as Australians love winners. They need plenty of hardened, experienced players and they need some Queenslanders. Sure they have some very good talent at Lions but will that talent alone bring in the crowds?

No matter what they do they will be criticised but I'm sure if they start winning people will soon jump on board.

The next step is marketing. I will not attempt to give advice on this as there are much smarter men at Lions than me. All I will say is that I am sure they will have this area covered.

Support for the team is very important. I don't for a minute expect them to fill Suncorp Stadium but what I fear most is 3 or 4 thousand people turning up which will make it look like an empty stadium. I have said it a million times, atmosphere creates atmosphere. If you go to a stadium that is full you are more likely to get caught up in the occasion and return. The first thing I would do is to issue every senior registered player in the state a season pass to all games. I would then make sure that the families and kids were looked after with reasonable prices (this I believe has been done). I hear people arguing now about my free passes to senior players. Why should they get free



passes? Well it's really out of generosity, and looking after our own. We are all in the same game after all. This is what was done where I came from and it worked very well. To be a senior player at a club gave you a privilege. It

## So far Lions are trying to do the right things

also may help break down some barriers that remain. It may even help with the negative comments going around the traps. Again, maybe I'm wrong, maybe I'm asking too much.

It is also important that we try as much as possible to leave the A-League game as the only game on at a particular time. This will mean clubs may have to move some of their fixtures or better still play curtain raisers. Again this is being looked after. (Geez, and I said I wouldn't touch the marketing side of things, I'm apologise, I just can't help myself).

Last but not least lets go back to the squads. To be honest, a squad of just 20 players is not

enough. The idea of a shadow squad is a good one provided the players that play in the local comp are 100% committed to the club they play for. The youth team is also OK but to have two Youth teams is a bit over the top. (The second Youth team is not confirmed and only a rumour at this stage).

Lions must be careful not to ruin the local comp. If they had two Youth teams playing one would imagine that to equate to 30 or so players. I'm pretty sure they would win the leagues hands down but I'm not sure if that would be right for the players' preparations. Would the players of this age not be better served playing good competitive games week in, week out?

Anyway, I'm sure before it all starts we will have plenty of debate. I honestly hope it is a success and I wish Lions the very best of luck. We all have our bones to pick with them over some decisions they have made over the years and we all have passion for our own clubs.

But at the end of the day, this may be our last chance. So far Lions are trying to do the right things, so at least from my point of view I am willing to start with a clean slate..... Will you? ■



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# Phil MOYE

The BMS President on what awaits us in 2005



**W**elcome back to all players and supporters. The new season holds tremendous promise as the restructure of the senior men's competitions enters its final stage. The inaugural season for the restructured youth competition will see the final piece of the puzzle develop.

It is with great interest we watch the combining of clubs to form new, stronger and competitive alliances that hopefully will drive the game to new heights. Brisbane Strikers (aka North Star) and Brisbane Force (aka Inala) are two examples of building strength by combining resources.

I expect that more strategic alliances (combinations) will be developed during this and future seasons. The reduction of the number of clubs into stronger, more viable new entities is I believe a logical and welcome development that will power the game into the future. Clubs must continue to offer players and supporters better facilities and often the best way to achieve this is to integrate with a compatible neighbour.

On the field, the elevation of Queensland Lions to the Hyundai A-League presents a great opportunity to all the remaining clubs to not only recruit quality players but by performance to take a strong position as a leading club in Brisbane. It will be interesting to see who is committed to becoming the next big thing.

Off the field, the reforms started by the Crawford Report will start to take hold at the local level. The recent elections to form the

Brisbane Zone executive and the formation of the associated representatives will present a great opportunity to review and improve the administration of the game. As the chairman of this new group I assure all parties will be consulted during this process.

I would hope that people would look at the record of the BMS over the past three years and approach the process of revitalisation with confidence that we can change the game for the better. Change is often frightening as the 'old, comfortable' ways are replaced. But staying in the past is not an option. The management of the process will be open and transparent with ample opportunity for all sectors of the game to assist with development.

It is clear that the majority of players and supporters expect things to improve and it is the task of management to make good on the faith shown by these people. If we don't deliver a better, more efficient, cost effective administration system a great opportunity will have been wasted. I for one have no intention of letting anyone down.

Anyone interested in discussing these issues with me is welcome to contact me. I will ensure consultation at all levels is open and widespread. I look forward to an exciting and challenging year and hope that you too will be excited about the development of the game. Best of luck and safe playing to all competitors. Best wishes to all supporters and club administrators.

So sit back, fasten your seat belt, chew your barley sugar; we are about to take off into the big, wide, unknown but enjoyable world of football - Brisbane style. ■

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# Bring Yer BOOTS



**I**t's not often that we in Brisbane can boast of having in our midst a man who has truly influenced the game on a global level.

When we talk about 'influence' in these terms it's natural to assume that such a person would be a top international player, or perhaps a power-broker with one of the international federations. But as we all know, football is not just a sport; it's a worldwide business generating almost incomprehensible amounts of money for players, managers, agents and marketers alike.

For sportswear companies with a good soccer foothold, a revolutionary product is like manna from heaven and if anyone is qualified to speak on that subject it's Simon Skirrow, the former Senior Vice-President of sportswear giant Adidas. If you wear, have worn, or have heard of Adidas' best-selling boot, the Predator, then you have first hand knowledge of the work of renowned designer Simon Skirrow. Along with Aussie soccer legend Craig Johnstone, Skirrow developed the Predator range which sold a staggering 90 million pairs worldwide. Worn by some of the world's top stars and laced up by amateurs every weekend, the Predator has cloggers everywhere trying to bend it like Beckham - and with that boot some of them even managed it.

Now relocated to Brisbane, 42 year-old Skirrow has another surprise up his sleeve for players looking to find that extra edge with their choice of footwear. His new range of boots

manufactured under his own brand name of **Nomis**, is set to cause a stir and Skirrow is justly proud of his new shoe which actually provides the wearer with more grip on the ball whatever the weather...furthermore the actual kangaroo leather for the range is manufactured at Packer Leather in Narangba.

Simon Skirrow was born in Leeds (UK) and began working for Adidas at the age of 17. Starting out as a sales clerk he worked his way to the very top of this monster of a company and spent a total of 21 years there before moving on.

"The greatest thing about working for an international company is being given the opportunity to go places, and being a young kid who grew up through the company gave me the chance to meet and become friends with the parents of the company - the Dassler family." "Adidas suddenly went from being a non-parochial distribution company to this massive international organisation where when on a buying trip you would rub shoulders with people from all over Europe. As a 17 or 18 year-old kid who had never been abroad before I couldn't understand the concept of the globe and what it offered. I think I just got driven by the travel

  
**NOMIS™**

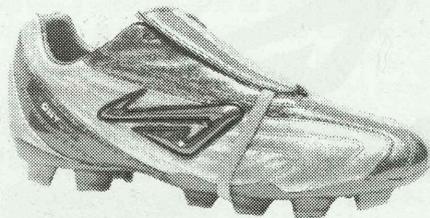
thing early on and then of course with football being played in every part of the world the job took me to tournaments and retailers and I got to network with people who I could respect enough to be honest with me and say either this product is really good, or it's really bad, etc."

"When Craig (Johnstone) and I had finished and launched the Predator concept I then got headhunted to go and run a licence company in America for 5 years. The problem was that I was travelling 160 days a year around the world and you get burned out very quickly. So after that my wife Beth and I went back to England and I started working on my own project. The question I kept asking myself was simply, 'is there really that much clever stuff being done with footwear or is it all about people at the top trying to make money out of the game?' What I love and have the passion for is developing a product and having people open that box for the first time and going; Wow, how have they done that?"

Whilst enjoying the Skirrow's hospitality and tea-making skills at their home on Brisbane's northside, the first thing that hits you is just how fervent he is about developing those products. For someone who has fraternised with the upper echelons of the game, Skirrow is refreshingly down to earth and although I'm keen to hear names being dropped (his friends and associates in the game reads like a FIFA guest list) he remains largely reticent on the subject and never once displayed the ego you could expect from someone who developed a boot that was truly revolutionary in its own right. After all, I was there to talk about his new Nomis range, not David Beckham's private life.

So if the market is so big in Europe why develop the product in Australia?

"I saw Australia as another continent that I hadn't really tried to make a success in up to



now. I was up for the challenge of moving and I really respect just how technically brilliant the coaches want to be in this country - in all sports, not just soccer. So I thought if I came here with this new product then I was bound to get some well-informed feedback and be able to refine it, whereas in Europe it's all about the commercial viability," he said.

An added bonus, by virtue of our geographical location, is that Skirrow has been able to tweak the Nomis range well away from the scheming gaze of Europe's industry spies. "I'd been working on the project for about 18 months before we came over here and the suppliers in the UK had been very helpful, but I couldn't find anyone who could take the grip concept and integrate it into the surface of the boot, rather than have the gripping surface sort of 'bolted' on to it. In the end I realised that the answer was to use leather and I knew that a lot of the great leathers came from Australia."

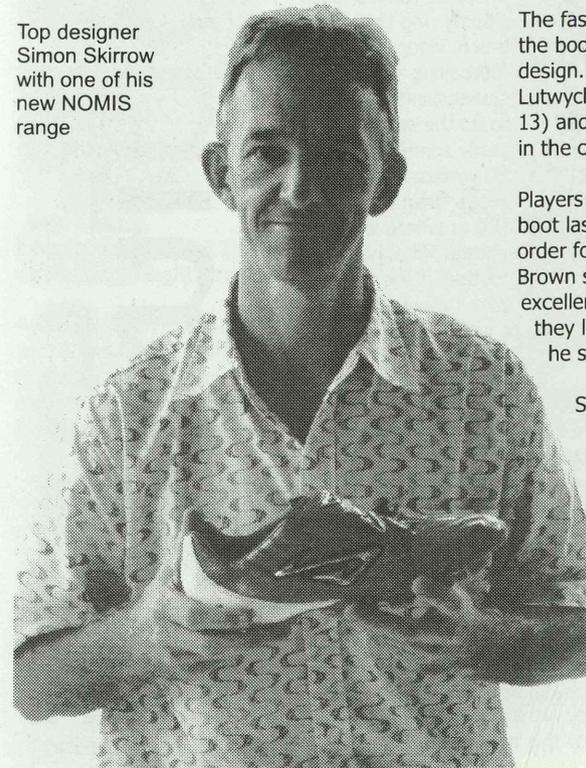
With much of the necessary ground work complete, the designing of the boots began in July '04 with a projected launch date of February this year. A tighter timeframe is hard to imagine but Skirrow has the track record to achieve his goal and the project is well on schedule. "Normally you would allow an extra year for a project like this," he said. "Prototypes would be made and tested every couple of months before arriving at the final design, but because I've got the shoemaker who took the Predator boots to Asia on board, our combined experience has helped us to get there much quicker," he added.

"When I saw the 16 prototypes for the first time I was totally overwhelmed. After that I was able to come back and actually start showing people the range for the first time. I have to say that the response has been fantastic and is probably the best response I've ever had to one of my shoes. I think people are still big fans of leather and although a lot of boots are going down the synthetic route I much prefer the look and feel of leather. The technology integrated into the boot is subtle but it's there and I think we have come up with a range that potentially can give every young player a different dimension to buying a shoe rather than having their choice made on price or colour."

"Our boots offer superb comfort because we've

built them more like a running shoe, so you've got this wonderful cushioning underneath combined with the technological advancements on the outside. With normal boots, even the Predator, the presence of any moisture causes the ball to just aquaplane off the boot and you can't get any grip. Even in Queensland, training and games take place when the pitch is wet, whether it be from rain or from dew at night, etc, and the Nomis boots actually give you more grip in the wet. In fact, the wetter it gets the more grip you get. Unlike other boots the 'gripping' technology is applied to the whole surface so it doesn't matter what part of the boot makes contact with the ball, you still get that extra traction. With the Nomis Wet Grip boot the important thing for players to remember is that although the shoe uses water to advance the grip on the ball, it doesn't actually absorb the water and get heavier. Unlike most other boots it rejects the water. Our leather absorbs just 1% of the weight of the boot,

Top designer  
Simon Skirrow  
with one of his  
new NOMIS  
range



whereas other major boots we tested absorb up to 20% of its weight."

Skirrow sees his new boot as the natural evolution of the Predator concept. "When Craig and I both left Adidas there was a feeling that nobody remained who had really embraced the concept right from the beginning. Consequently the Predator hasn't really moved on from the original design." The Nomis range isn't exclusive to soccer either. Senior AFL players like Alistair Lynch have also embraced the project and this season 22 Brisbane Lions players will have Nomis boots on their feet.

Price wise the boots are more than competitive with the top Nomis boot being priced around \$225.00 - almost \$75.00 less than the Adidas equivalent. They also come with their own shoe-bag, sock liners, spare laces and spare studs. They're user friendly too, requiring only water to clean them - no need for messy detergents and the like. The next boot in the range is a bargain at \$165.00 and it too comes with all the extras.

The fashion conscious will be delighted too as the boots look fantastic with a modern, slick design. They're available now at Soccerworld in Lutwyche and Mt Gravatt (see advert on page 13) and Soccerworld will be the first retail outlet in the country to receive them.

Players at Mitchelton and North Star trialed the boot last season and as a result have placed an order for more this year. Mitchy coach Greg Brown said the feedback from the players was excellent. "The boys liked them and thought they looked good and were very comfortable," he said.

Skirrow is already working on improvements in the boot that will continue to evolve in the coming years. With the 'Wet Grip' boot and the 'Dry Boot' concept players can ease away from having separate boots that have moulded or screw in studs.

"All I would say to players is go into the Soccerworld stores and try them on. The Dry Boot gives the player 14 times more grip than any other boot on the market and that has got to make you a better player." ■

**F**ootball, can you believe it, we're really going to be calling it 'Football.' 'Soccer' is to be banished back to the Americanism it should have stayed and we get to talk about Football, you know the one with the proper shaped ball. Soccer Australia have announced that it is to step up to the mark and become Football Federation Australia. Soccer will be cease to be a part of our vocabulary and Football will emerge to claim the title. I can't wait to see all my Rugby League mates who will now have to say League and not Football. That's our name now; go away with your handball pretenders to the title! To hell with your umpires, sin bins and ovals, THIS IS FOOTBALL.

Names are very evocative things. There's a lot of work ahead of the FFA but simply by changing to the proper name, straightaway, we are psychologically up there with the big codes in Australian Football. The name of something creates a picture of the entity you are dealing with. You would far rather listen to Elton John for example than Reg Dwight or watch John Wayne rather than Marion Morrison. Think of Canterbury Bulldogs and you'll understand why a name change is being considered at this club. Consider recently on our local Brisbane scene, Inala have become Brisbane Force,

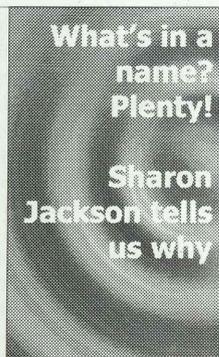
## Straightaway, we are psychologically up there with the big codes in Australian Football

Wynnum Wolves, Brisbane Wolves, both sides giving their clubs a much wider Brisbane footballing appeal. With Queensland Lions ready to do the same, it'll be really something to see FC written beside Tree Frogs Town or Canetoads Utd or whatever is chosen. Changing to football is the big thing and it means we are

ready to become a part of the world game and not just a bit player on the Australian footy scene.

The AFL fraternity are disgruntled about this apparently and are jabbering away like patent lawyers in a John Grisham bestseller. How they consider they have exclusive rights to the name football is as skewed as the Rules ball itself. There is no claim to originality as James Cook was playing football long before he was a sailor. There is possibly even a counter claim under the Trades Practices Act since there is a suspicious amount of handball. And the scoring system, it's like one of those IQ tests where you have to crack the code and work out the next number in the sequence!

However, on reflection, **real** football from which today's game emerged is still played in the UK. Originating in the dark ages, (not to be confused with Margaret Thatcher's regime) an unruly mob get together with a pig's bladder and run as far they can before they are kicked, bashed, gouged and grounded by the opposition fighting for this bladder like their lives



# Renaming's

depend on it. Whoever's got it at the end wins and I presume gets to roast it. There is no set pitch or numbers and no rules; it's a vicious free-for-all from one side of the village to the other. So, in fairness, you can clearly see the similarity to the modern AFL game and have some sympathy for them in this season of goodwill.

Having said this, the League, Union & AFL fans are our brothers in sport and in true football commentary you will hear them say, "You can't under estimate these guys," when speaking of the Solomon Islands football team or West Tigers league side. I think all footballers must be made to learn this before they learn to lace up their boots. Still, it's a good idea to instil some stock answers as foot in mouth happens as often as foot on ball; "Sometimes in football you



O'Neill - It's football, but not as he used to know it!

have to score goals," Thierry Henry says, giving us amazing insight into how to win a game.

Football! Really? It's fantastic and a great credit to the Frank Lowy/John O'Neill team that had the belief and determination to get us here. It's a breath of fresh air coming at this time of year; it infuses us with great excitement and gives us

## the giant is up and demanding his breakfast

some much needed ammunition to take to our sponsors.

They are an elusive breed aren't they, sponsors? Our Scarlet Pimpernel, for example, is a really good bloke who is found at every gathering of the people. Being an advocate of the work hard - play hard school, you might reasonably expect to see him at the next Christmas party but this is not so. His sponsorship is up for renewal and like a petulant genie he has disappeared without granting our three wishes. This may sound ungrateful, and we're not, believe me but for an anxious few weeks I'm convinced the fairies have got him and turned him in to Scrooge. The treasurer sweats and mutters about bridging loans until Santa-like, Scarlet turns up with his big smile and sponsorship sack.

Being the underdog of Australian football for so long, we have gained a sympathy vote and have been content to get the scraps behind the big guys; after all it's only soccer not real football. Ha! Not any more. As someone recently said, "If I hear anymore about the sleeping giant that's soccer in this country, I'll scream." Well, I should think he'll be hoarse by now as the giant is up and demanding his breakfast. If we lose our underdog status, great, let's jump up and down and become **the** code in Australian football and maybe we'll be able to sponsor the new underdog. "Never happen in my life time," as someone else said. It's here says I. ■

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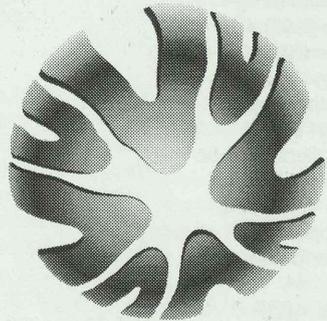
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## K-LEAGUE STAR EYES OFF A-LEAGUE

**Korean International and K-League star Tae Yong Shin has arrived in Brisbane.**

Shin will play in two exhibition games with the Lions in the pre-season Luxury Paints Silver Boot competition and a friendly against visiting Korean team Kon Kuk University.

With his family, Shin will use the visit to gain an overall impression of the city while eyeing off Brisbane's Hyundai A-League club set up.

The international midfielder has scored 99 K-League goals, played in Korea's last two World Cup campaigns and will add much experience to

the Lions side for these three games.

The club is also in communication with other top quality K-League players and while Bleiberg is not in a position to disclose names at this stage, the other K-League players under consideration are well experienced at international level.

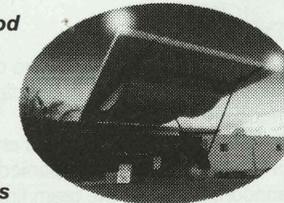
It is hoped that another top quality Korean player, with whom the Club is talking, may join Shin in Brisbane for the three games.

Also on board is Lions' latest signing Chad Gibson (ex-Marconi Sweeper), who will play against the visiting Kon Kuk University side.



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# bruce DINSDALE



The BMS General Manager on match day presentation

**W**ell it's one of the best times of the year right now. The weather makes you glad you live in this country, everyone is full of optimism for the New Year, and of course the football season is just around the corner!

I guess we say this every year but this year looks like being a beauty. There's a fresh wind blowing through the national association and they have been thoroughly professional in their approach to reforming the game, the administration and the way it is perceived by the public. Surely we can all do our part to help.

Last year we set out to improve our communication to those involved in the game and to those outside which was achieved by many people getting involved and contributing their time, opinions and effort. This year our focus will shift to improving the match day presentation. Again there is a role for everyone to play.

From the groundsman who gets the pitch and the facilities looking good to the teams who actually are the reason everyone turns up, all efforts add up to creating atmosphere. And surely that's what the object of the exercise should be...to create atmosphere at the matches. Ask any player and I am sure they will tell you they thrive on the atmosphere created.

So what sort of things can be done at club level to show a more professional face to those attending the game?

## BEFORE THE MATCH

**Facilities Presentation:** Check that fields are marked properly, nets secure, toilets and dressing rooms clean.

**Ground Official:** Ensure the ground official is clearly identified and knows his duties.

**Signage:** Make sure there are plenty of signs

to ensure everyone knows where the facilities are located, admission prices etc.

**Welcome:** Try to welcome sponsors, spectators, players, officials and referees and point them in the right direction.

**Programme:** Ensure adequate copies of the match day programme are readily available to all attending as well as making your copies of ExtraTime clearly visible for sale to the public.

## THE MATCH

**Administration:** Make sure that all the necessary paperwork is completed by team managers.

**Entrance:** Have the teams enter the pitch in a professional way, accompanied by the announcement of the team line ups and referees perhaps to some background music.

**Announcements:** Announce all Club Sponsors, substitutions, scorers.

**Facilities:** Check that the scoreboard is up to date at all times, use junior teams as ball boys.

**Half time:** Ensure the spectators know what facilities are available.

## AFTER THE MATCH

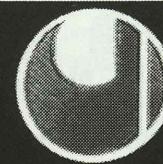
**Announcements:** Announce the final scores and scorers, thank all sponsors and spectators, the next fixture venue and time and encourage people to stay and socialise.

**Media:** Ring scores to BMS and have someone always available to comment to the media.

This is by no means a full list of things that can be done, it's a start and there are plenty of other initiatives that can be added. Many clubs already do these and add entertainment and other initiatives. I guarantee that these are the grounds that do have the best atmosphere. Now some will accuse me of being obvious or that some of these things can't be done because of not enough volunteers or money or lack of resources but I say do what you can and build from there. Aim high!! ■

# uhlsport

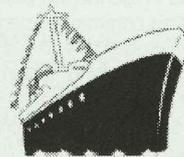
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# SOCCER QUEENSLAND

**Soccer Queensland President, Geoff Foster gives an insight into recent developments at State level**

## SOCCKER REFORM

Well it has been 20 months now since the release of David Crawford's report into the governance of soccer and almost 12 months since Soccer Queensland (SQ) has reported on progress to players, parents and associates. You could be forgiven for thinking that no, or little progress has been made in Queensland, but this could not be further from the truth. David Crawford identified that the game was administered quite well at grass roots level, but was scathing in his assessment of the division and lack of uniformity at State and National management levels.

In Queensland, we moved swiftly to appoint a steering committee, with representation from all sectors of the game, to determine how we could unify our State structure. This group achieved significant results, with a new State Constitution adopted 22nd February 2004. It was obvious to all that bringing together the governance roles previously managed by SQ, QJSC, WSQ, and the State Referees Commission would require the wisdom, co-operation, and goodwill of the various bodies with a common vision and determination that collectively, we needed to leave a single structure capable of handling the finance and administrative duties previously unprecedented, and a Company with the ability to exploit the commercial opportunities of a group boasting player participation of over 60,000.

A new working party was established, with representation of



**Queensland Government**  
Getting more people active through sport and recreation

The Department of Sport & Recreation, the Australian Soccer Association (now Football Federation Australia) and our State representatives to create a workable business and strategic development plan and an operational structure. A commercial consultant, Michael Collins was engaged, with funding assistance from Sport & Rec Qld, and after many months of investigation, a model was put forward and adopted. The result identifies that SQ would need 10 Regional Zones, to administer the game on it's behalf, under licence, and be supported with strategic development and business plans.

Establishing the new 10 zones has proved to be an exhaustive process in identifying Zone executives and standing committee members, but is now almost complete. This paves the way for a SQ Annual General Meeting, where Zone representatives and Standing Committee Chairs, will elect an independent group of Directors to drive the game forward. The Board acknowledge the efforts of all of the Working Group, and the financial assistance of the State Government.

The changes to date guarantee a 'whole of game management process' with juniors, women, men and referees sitting around a common table to govern the game. 2005 will see the introduction of both Coaches and Futsal to the table.

## TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

Last year, SQ commissioned a review of all activities relating to player development. Serious deficiencies were identified in lack of uniformity across the State, and in some instances, the absence of programs for senior male and female players. Costs of programs and number of contacts leading to player burn out were also significant. The Board has appointed George

**Board has appointed George Cowie to head the Technical Department with an extensive brief to reconstruct a development program which is fair, equitable, and commercially attractive**

Cowie to head the Technical Department with an extensive brief to reconstruct a development program which is fair and equitable, and commercially attractive so that we may seek corporate support. SQ has recently received confirmation of Government support for player development initiatives, and is currently appointing Development Officers throughout the State, to deliver its programs.

SQ has also taken responsibility for employment and on-costs for this program, which will significantly reduce the cost push of maintaining the Coaching Directorate. Discussions have been held recently with Dr. Clem Jones and Strikers Football where an 'in principle' partnership has been agreed to offer affordable development program to our teen and youth players into the future. We expect this initiative to be the most exciting opportunity ever offered in the State and look forward to significant announcements over the coming months.

## HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

Soccer Queensland is delighted to announce the successful application into the new National Premier League of Queensland Lions. Although we await an imminent name change, the co-operative links between the two give confidence that they will be adopted as our State team and

the Board looks forward to a repeat of those wonderful times where some 40,000 Queenslanders got behind their team and broke all previous attendance records.

## 2005 PLAYER COSTS

The various State bodies have historically borne the brunt of criticism for driving participation costs to unacceptable levels. Truth is, we exercise considerable restraint in setting of fees, and are proud to offer the services we do at reasonable costs. Our levies this year include the National Registration Fee, Public Liability Insurance, Directors and Officers Insurance, Sports Injury Insurance, Technical Department Levy and GST.

Fees and Levies are;

All ages under 18 regardless of sex or competition....\$26.00

Over 18 Amateur-Regional Male....\$68.00

Over 18 Amateur Brisbane Male....\$83.00

Over 18 Contract Brisbane Male....\$109.00

Over 18 Amateur Women - Regional and Brisbane....\$83.00

Last year, we distributed more than \$150,000 back into the game through the marketing program.

## THE NEW YEAR

The 2005 season promises to be challenging as we fine tune our restructure. Whilst we slap our backs and applaud our healthy participation numbers, we need to be mindful of our member satisfaction levels and the opportunities that lay ahead. Numbers exceeding 100,000 are not impossible providing we all think outside of the square. Consider lower introduction fees, inviting a neighbour to play, selling the benefits of a healthy team sport, supporting our State team. Your State representatives will continue to introduce new initiatives but at the end of the day, you are the games ambassadors and are in the strongest position to sell our great game. Whilst achievement motivates many, enjoyment will motivate many more.

Yours in Soccer,

**Geoff Foster**  
PRESIDENT  
Soccer Queensland

[www.qldsoccer.com.au](http://www.qldsoccer.com.au)

**Monty takes a peek at the upcoming Hyundai A-League and likes what he sees**

**H**appy New Year and good luck to all for the upcoming season of football as I'm sure that it promises to be a new beginning for the Premier League in particular.

It's great to be back following a hectic off-season in the garden and in front of my Foxtel, with the latter being the more enjoyable pastime. One of my final comments in the last 2004 edition of ET was hoping that Qld Lions would be admitted to the new 'A' League as I believe that this will not only be a positive for the new national competition but will have a positive rub off effect on the local scene.

Personally I think that FFA (Football Federation Australia) have got the mix wrong with only eight teams and believe that 10 would have been the more appropriate number. This though is a worn out point of contention which should be further investigated once the season is over. What is critical is that all teams receive excellent local support and a number of centres have some work to do; in particular Sydney, Central Coast, Auckland and Brisbane.

Lets take a good look at the plight of Lions ('Pride', 'Pumas', 'Courage', 'Cats'....probably not!) prospects of attracting minimum crowds of 10,000 to Suncorp. This is my estimation of what will be needed to make the competition a legitimate success for the footballing public and those neutral observers that the game needs to win over.

Let me break it down into the following categories:

**• THE TEAM**

I am convinced that there will be enough local content to ensure a strong relationship of 'Lions' being a Queensland team, any players brought from overseas or interstate will no doubt add experience and provide a strong nucleus for the local players to expand their game.

**the full MONTY**

**• VENUE**

Suncorp - second to none undoubtedly the best venue in the country, I just hope that they finally get the surface right and that any other 'football' codes use also does not compromise the surface; to me this is still a real concern. With the top tier being closed off the new capacity of 23,000 will rarely be tested unfortunately; however I would like to think that a crowd of 10,000+ is a realistic average.

**• MARKETING**

With coverage on my beloved Foxtel, and the marketing knowhow of Lowy, O'Neill at a national level coupled with 'Lions' own vast resources we should be able to look forward to a new era of coverage for 'Football' in Oz.

**• COST**

I believe that the cost for individuals is cheap in Oz and even if it was \$20 a game (I have no idea what the proposed costs are at this stage) I have seen many an individual spill more than this in a couple of hours at the local! What I do hope is that there is a 'family section' which will encourage Mum, Dad and kids at a reasonable level which will encourage the public in its numbers.

**• SUPPORTERS**

Last but certainly not least what I firmly believe will make or break the whole competition. Quite interestingly one hot December day prior to Xmas I was driving along Gympie Rd and the heat (despite being in an air-conditioned car) drove me to the local TAB at Strathpine for a can of diet Coke! While in the confines of this air conditioned premises watching some live action I bumped into some fellow journeymen. All individuals had called in separately for the same intention of mine, these included a 'young lad' we will call 'Darren' from Pine Rivers, ex-PL

Coach 'Ashley' from The Gap and an elder gentleman (Dutch origin) who had played for Lions in the 'good old days'. Well the conversation bounced around for nearly one hour (the cost of the diet Cokes had become astronomical by the end of this hour!) but the consensus was 3 to 1 that we would attend 'Lions' games at Suncorp.

The reasoning is obvious in that we want to go and see the best footballers in the country play in a great stadium regardless who the local team is representing Brisbane or Queensland. The odd one out was the 'lad' from Amsterdam! Without going into his rationale my point to him and everyone else is bury your biases and get out there and support the local team. Help to ensure that the players have a stage and atmosphere which will



Suncorp: The best venue in the country? If not then it's pretty close.

make it a motivating experience and guarantee that all other teams fear a trip to 'The Den'.

If the earlier points have been addressed with professionalism then it's up to you and me to support the game, ensure that it grows and does become a challenge to the other codes. You

can be certain that some of the other codes would love the new A-League to fall flat on its face - it's up to us to make sure it doesn't.

I'll touch on the local scene in the next edition when things will have started to take shape.

With the Silver Boot commencing and the usual transfer roundabout of local players sure to take

place it promises to be an interesting month ahead. Bring it on! ■

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# ROSE LOOKS TO BLOSSOM IN A-LEAGUE

ExtraTime reporter Anthony Kidd took time out to talk with 2004 Golden Boot winner & former Brisbane Striker Josh Rose about his career so far and his thoughts on the up and coming Hyundai A-League.

**If you were playing soccer in Central Queensland in the 90's then chances are you knew the name Josh Rose, as it was so often heard on the lips of scouts at talent identification carnivals.**

Before long the talented youngster moved south to pursue his soccer career and almost inevitably his dreams became a reality. He began his debut Premier League season at Wynnum Wolves with instant success scoring 12 goals and taking out Rookie of the Year honours in 2000 under the guidance of mentor Peter Tokesi. Rose had already made a name for himself at Wynnum before joining club side Brisbane Toro in the National Youth League.

At Toro he plundered 13 goals in the NYL where he was again coached by the influential Tokesi. "My move down south was largely down to Stuart McClaren who spoke to Peter Tokesi, the coach of Wynnum at the time," Rose said. "Peter helped me heaps and shaped me as a player. He pushed me and got me to the level I needed to get to and I'll always be grateful to him for that," he added.

After a brief second season at Wynnum, Rose signed with the Brisbane Strikers, beginning his NSL career in February 2001. Upon arriving at the Strikers Rose teamed up with Michael Baird and almost instantly the dynamic duo were experiencing finals football in their first year.

"Michael Baird and I stuck together and helped each other out a fair bit. I played a handful of games for the Strikers and then found myself involved in semi finals football," Rose said.

The exciting left footer was used by Brisbane Strikers Coach John Kosmina as an attacking wide left midfielder and later an outright striker. "John Kosmina was my coach at the time; he was good for my game because he was a striker as well so he had plenty of tips for me." Rose scored a further six goals in as many games as he continued his prolific goal scoring record in the Premier League, before returning to the Strikers the following season.

"I only started about four games that second season, I was used as an impact player off the bench pretty much," he said.

After an off season break Rose returned to the Brisbane Strikers under new coach Stuart McClaren for the 2003/04 season. "That year we finished sixth and went in to the semis. We played Adelaide and ended up drawing four-all on aggregate but they won on the away goals rule. The second leg at Perry Park was a tremendous game and we were probably a bit unlucky not to go through," Rose said.

The forward continued his golden boot success, this time with the Brisbane Strikers, taking out the award with six goals before returning to the Brisbane Premier League.

"I went to Pine Rivers and talked to Clayton Koch, they had a good squad and I lived out that side of town so it was a good move for me."

The Rivers striker formed a lethal striking partnership with Australian under 20's representative Tim Smits, with the pair scoring over 30 goals between them.



Tim Smits - formed match winning partnership with Rose at Pine Rivers last season.

The Strathpine-based club finished second in the league and took on the mighty Queensland Lions in the 2004 final at Perry Park. Despite losing the match 4-2, Rose slotted Rivers' two goals despite suffering intense marking from the Lions defence who were widely regarded as the best in the Premier League.

"We made a few silly mistakes and we got punished for them. That's what happens when you play against top sides," Rose explained.

The two goals saw Rose clinch the Premier League Golden Boot Award for the 2004 season,

# I set myself a goal of being in the top three scorers at the start of the season, so to win it was great

something the striker is making a habit of.

"I set myself a goal of being in the top three scorers at the start of the season, so to win it was great," Rose said.

With the Hyundai A-League fast approaching Rose is excited about its prospects and the future of the domestic game.

"I'm doing the Silver Boot with Rivers and hopefully looking forward to playing A-league this season. Ideally I would like to play my football in Brisbane, but if the chance doesn't come up here I may be forced to look elsewhere. I think the league definitely needed a change, it will be a much tougher competition so you have to perform in every game or you'll get beaten," Rose said.

Rose tips Adelaide and Newcastle to be two top sides, "I think they are the two teams to beat, obviously the others will also be competitive, and there won't be any easy games," he said. "The coverage will be better and the reputation of Australian Soccer will build, I think it's an exciting time for everyone who loves their soccer here in Australia.

In 2004 and 2005 the game has already undergone many changes. The game we all love, which is now rightly and officially known as football, has been revolutionised so now is the time that we all need to involve ourselves in Brisbane football and support it. I hope that people get out there this season and support the local clubs. The standard is good and improving all the time so newcomers may be pleasantly surprised with what they see."

We agree! ■



Queensland's premier pre-season comp, the Luxury Paints Silver Boot is on again and it's expanding. This year 18 teams will contest the tournament, six more than last season. All games are held at Luxury Paints Stadium, Richlands.

**GROUP A**  
BRISBANE OLYMPIC  
LIONS ORANGE  
EASTERN SUBURBS

**GROUP B**  
UNIVERSITY OF QLD  
LIONS WHITE  
BRISBANE WOLVES

**GROUP C**  
MITCHELTON  
IPSWICH KNIGHTS  
BRISBANE STRIKERS

**GROUP D**  
PINE RIVERS  
TARINGA ROVERS  
PENINSULA POWER

**GROUP E**  
BRISBANE CITY  
SOUTHS UTD  
PALM BEACH

**GROUP F**  
TOOWOOMBA  
ROCHEDALE ROVERS  
WESTERN SPIRIT

#### GROUP STAGE

Friday 28th January 2005  
UNI OF QLD v LIONS WHITE 6.30pm  
BRISBANE OLYMPIC v LIONS ORANGE 8.30pm

Saturday 29th January 2005  
MITCHELTON v IPSWICH KNIGHTS 5.00pm  
PINE RIVERS v TARINGA ROVERS 7.00pm

Sunday 30th January 2005  
TOOWOOMBA v ROCHEDALE ROVERS 5.00pm  
BRISBANE CITY v SOUTHS UTD 7.00pm

Wednesday 2nd February 2005  
BRISBANE OLYMPIC v EASTS 6.30pm  
UNI OF QLD v BRISBANE WOLVES 8.30pm

Friday 4th February 2005  
MITCHELTON v BRISBANE STRIKERS 6.30pm  
PINE RIVERS v PENINSULA POWER 8.30pm

Saturday 5th February 2005  
TOOWOOMBA v WESTERN SPIRIT 5.00pm  
BRISBANE CITY v PALM BEACH 7.00pm

Sunday 6th February 2005  
LIONS ORANGE v EASTS 5.00pm  
LIONS WHITE v BRISBANE WOLVES 7.00pm

Tuesday 8th February 2005  
IPSWICH KNIGHTS v BRISBANE STRIKERS 6.30pm  
TARINGA ROV v PENINSULA POWER 8.30pm

Wednesday 9th February 2005  
ROCHEDALE ROV v WESTERN SPIRIT 6.30pm  
SOUTHS UTD v PALM BEACH 8.30pm

#### QUARTER FINALS

Saturday 12th February 2005  
QF1 WINNER Group A v WINNER Group C 5.00pm  
QF2 WINNER Group B v WINNER Group D 7.00pm

Sunday 13th February 2005  
QF3 WINNER Group E v Best 2nd place 5.00pm  
QF4 WINNER Group F v Next best 2nd place 7.00pm

#### SEMI FINALS

Wednesday 16th February 2005  
Winner of QF1 v Winner of QF2 6.30pm  
Winner of QF3 v Winner of QF4 8.30pm

#### 3rd/4th PLACE PLAYOFF

Saturday 19th February 2005  
Loser 1st Semi-Final v Loser 2nd Semi-Final 5.00pm

#### SILVER BOOT FINAL

Saturday 19th February 2005 @ 7.00pm  
WINNER 1st Semi-Final  
v  
WINNER 2nd Semi-Final



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