

Brisbane's Football Magazine

Extra Time

Issue 20 April 2006
\$3.00 (inc GST)

including

2006 Tables

In the Hunt
The Hawks skipper

A Month of Mouth

plus!

Annerley to rise from the ashes
The ECCQ Cup



news ♦ articles ♦ features ♦ tables ♦ and much more...

Brisbane's Football Magazine
ExtraTime

Editor & Layout:
Neil Favager

Writers:
Kieran Cooper, Sharon Jackson, Marco Monteverde, Michelle Fowler, Chris Paine, Neil Favager, Mike Bailey, Micky Brock, Dennis O'Brien.

Thanks to:
Jan Letch, Bruce Dinsdale, Noel Walsh.

Pics:
Keith Eigeland, Daniel Buckley

Advertising & Subscriptions:
(07) 3285 6143

Postal:
PO Box 128, Petrie,
Qld 4502, Australia

Email:
extratime@aapt.net.au

Phone:
(07) 3285 6143 or 0407 843 544

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Print Approach,
10 Frawley Ave, Narangba.
Ph: 3888 2891

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Cover Pic: First round action from Brisbane Wolves' clash with the Strikers
Pic: Keith Eigeland

comment

WHERE do you think our local football will be in 20 years? What state will it be in and what direction will it be heading towards?

That question was asked of me the other day and I in turn asked for a week to come back with an answer. Although superficial responses are easy to come up with, it's a tough one to reply to in a considered or informed manner. We hardly have a history of getting it right, or a template for success that can just be applied to planning for the next couple of decades.

But in these bright new days for football it is almost our duty to be positive and hope that the business sense of FFA and their successful reinvention of the game will filter up to our state federation and eventually out to the clubs.

So again, what does the future hold? Many will have an opinion, as do I, but I don't intend to print mine here. However, I'd be interested to canvass the views and opinions of our readers. I would like some answers to a few questions though. Is there a plan for football and its development that covers all aspects of the game for the next decade? If so, can we see it?

At the moment I'm asking the question rhetorically on this page, but in the not too distant I intend to ask it of people that I would expect, or at least hope, to have an answer.

I guess the point I'm trying to get hold of is that, sure we have to have a plan, but what vision is driving that plan, whose vision is it and will there be a definitive moment when it all begins or will it be a slow evolutionary process that sneaks its way into everyday football life without us barely noticing?

In a public sense, what FFA did was to take the path of revolution rather than evolution, whereby a line was drawn under the past and the point was driven home with the mantra of 'that was how we used to do it, but this is how we do it now'.

We have a need for a mantra at state and local level too. There is still no shortage of cynics within our game let alone outside it, and they need a new message to listen to and absorb, backed up by innovative, robust actions. It's called marketing - one area of football in Queensland that is outrageously poor. If the plan is good then tell people about it and how they will benefit from this wonderful new venture. Once you've told them, tell them again, and again, and again. In essence, you can't sell a secret. State Cup anyone?

In subsequent issues of ExtraTime for this season, we'll ask the curly questions to governing bodies various. Stay tuned.

Just one final point aimed at one reader, the rest of you can go and put the kettle on or something, or better still, flick to the next page and read on.

Last month I received a letter from an irate reader who took exception to one of our articles. I would enlighten you all but this 'person' didn't have the spine to even sign the letter or give their name. As a result, 10 seconds after reading it the thing ended up nestling with the potato peelings and other trash in my kitchen bin. To happily use my name but not reveal your own is utterly gutless.

Happy reading everyone. ☺

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BRISBANE Premier League

Premier League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Strikers	4	3	1	0	12	3	10
Palm Beach	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
Taringa Rovers	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Rochedale Rovers	4	3	0	1	10	9	9
Pine Rivers	4	2	0	2	11	8	6
Souths United	3	2	0	1	8	6	6
Mitchelton	4	2	0	2	4	7	6
Brisbane Wolves	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
Mt Gravatt	4	1	0	3	5	8	3
Brisbane City	3	1	0	2	3	7	3
Toowoomba Raiders	4	0	0	4	6	13	0
Eastern Suburbs	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

Premier League Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rochedale Rovers	4	4	0	0	13	4	12
Palm Beach	3	3	0	1	9	2	9
Mitchelton	4	3	0	1	10	6	9
Pine Rivers	4	2	0	2	10	6	6
Souths United	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
Brisbane City	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Taringa Rovers	4	2	0	2	5	4	6
Toowoomba Raiders	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
Mt Gravatt	4	1	0	3	3	9	3
Brisbane Wolves	4	0	1	3	1	10	1
Brisbane Strikers	4	0	1	3	2	12	1
Eastern Suburbs	3	0	0	3	5	12	0

Premier Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University Qld	4	2	2	0	8	3	8
Ipswich Knights	4	2	1	1	12	8	7
Logan City	3	2	1	0	6	4	7
Capalaba	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Rocklea United	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Brisbane Olympic	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Peninsula Power	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Beenleigh	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Albany Creek	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Brisbane Force	3	0	2	1	3	7	2
Western Spirit	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
Redlands United	3	0	1	2	3	9	1

Division 1 Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Force	3	3	0	0	10	3	9
Ipswich Knights	4	2	2	0	9	2	8
Redlands United	3	2	1	0	7	0	7
Rocklea United	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Peninsula Power	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
University Qld	4	1	1	2	12	10	4
Brisbane Olympic	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Capalaba	3	1	0	2	2	7	3
Logan City	3	0	2	1	0	4	2
Western Spirit	3	0	1	2	0	3	1
Beenleigh	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
Albany Creek	3	0	1	2	4	14	1

TABLES TO 26th MARCH

Premier Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pine Hills	3	3	0	0	13	0	9
Slacks Creek	4	3	0	1	14	6	9
North Pine	3	3	0	0	10	2	9
Samford Rangers	4	3	0	1	12	11	9
Southside Eagles	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
The Gap	3	2	0	1	9	6	6
Ipswich City	4	2	0	2	3	8	6
Newmarket	3	1	0	2	4	9	3
Acacia Ridge	4	1	0	3	8	14	3
Annerley	4	1	0	3	4	12	3
Moggill	4	0	0	4	3	9	0
Grange Thistle	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

Division 2 Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Annerley	3	3	0	1	17	6	9
Grange Thistle	3	3	0	0	9	4	9
Newmarket	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Pine Hills	3	2	0	1	12	6	6
Ipswich City	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
North Pine	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Moggill	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
Southside Eagles	3	1	1	1	3	7	4
The Gap	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Acacia Ridge	4	1	0	3	6	13	3
Slacks Creek	4	0	2	2	5	8	2
Samford Rangers	4	0	1	3	6	16	1

Metro 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Logan City	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Souths United	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Bayside United	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Wilston Athletic	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Oxley United	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
Old Bridge	2	0	2	0	5	5	2
Acacia Ridge	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Clairvaux	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Taringa Rovers	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
Regents Park	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
University Qld	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Kangaroo Pt Rovers	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

Metro 1 Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Clairvaux	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
University Qld	2	2	0	0	8	3	6
Wilston Athletic	2	1	1	0	4	0	4
Old Bridge	2	1	1	0	6	3	4
Taringa Rovers	2	1	1	0	7	5	4
Bayside United	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Logan City	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
Kangaroo Pt Rovers	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Souths United	2	0	1	1	3	6	1
Acacia Ridge	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Oxley United	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Regents Park	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

Metro 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Park Ridge	4	4	0	0	22	2	12
Pine Rivers	4	3	1	0	14	2	10
Brisbane Wolves	4	3	0	1	18	8	9
Mitchelton	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
Brisbane Strikers	3	2	1	0	9	5	7
Grange Thistle	3	2	0	1	5	7	6
Annerley	4	2	0	2	7	10	6
Woodridge	4	1	1	2	9	6	4
Newmarket	4	0	2	2	5	12	2
Ridge Hills	3	0	0	3	2	8	0
Brighton Districts	4	0	0	4	4	19	0
Redcliffe PCYC	4	0	0	4	5	26	0

TABLES TO 26th MARCH

Metro 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Western Spirit	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Eastern Suburbs	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Mooroonda	3	2	0	1	12	7	6
Capalaba	3	2	0	1	6	6	6
Acacia Ridge	3	2	0	1	4	5	6
The Gap	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Westside Sports	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Newmarket	3	1	0	2	7	5	3
Peninsula Power	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Ipswich Knights	3	1	0	2	7	10	3
Moggill	3	1	0	2	3	9	3
North Pine	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

Metro 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Park Ridge	4	4	0	0	11	2	12
Slacks Creek	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
University Qld	4	3	0	1	11	4	9
Newmarket	3	2	0	1	9	10	6
Ipswich City	4	2	0	2	7	12	6
Brisbane Olympic	3	1	1	1	10	7	4
Ridge Hills	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Brisbane Strikers	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Redlands United	3	1	0	2	6	8	3
Albany Creek	4	0	1	3	6	9	1
Southside Eagles	3	0	1	2	2	9	1
Logan City	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

Metro 5	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Narangba	3	2	1	0	12	3	7
Jimboomba	3	2	1	0	7	4	7
Albany Creek	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Slacks Creek	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Logan Village	3	1	2	0	6	3	5
Clairvaux	3	1	2	0	8	6	5
Kangaroo Pt Rovers	3	1	1	1	6	9	4
Annerley	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Mt Gravatt	3	0	2	1	7	8	2
Grange Thistle	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Mooroonda	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Beenleigh	3	0	0	3	3	14	0

Metro 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Pine	3	3	0	0	22	5	9
Pine Hills	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
Kangaroo Pt Rovers	3	3	0	0	10	3	9
Moggill	3	1	1	1	13	6	4
Oxley United	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Annerley	3	1	1	1	4	7	4
Eastern Suburbs	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Ridge Hills	3	1	0	2	6	8	3
Regents Park	3	1	0	2	3	10	3
Park Ridge	3	0	2	1	5	13	2
Brisbane Wolves	3	0	1	2	4	17	1
Narangba	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

Premier Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Wolves	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
Pine Rivers	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
Brisbane City	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Palm Beach	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Toowoomba Raiders	4	1	2	1	2	2	5
Queensland Lions	4	1	2	1	3	6	5
Brisbane Strikers	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Rochedale Rovers	4	1	1	2	7	8	4
Brisbane Force	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
Souths United	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Mt Gravatt	4	0	2	2	4	8	2
Mitchelton	4	0	0	4	1	16	0

Division 1 Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University Qld	3	3	0	0	14	2	9
Brisbane Strikers	3	2	1	0	8	4	7
Brisbane Wolves	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Eastern Suburbs	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Narangba	3	2	0	1	8	8	6
Ipswich Knights	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Brisbane Olympic	3	1	1	1	5	7	4
Albany Creek	3	1	0	2	5	9	3
Redlands United	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Capalaba	3	0	1	2	5	8	1
Peninsula Power	3	0	1	2	3	8	1
Taringa Rovers	3	0	0	3	3	11	0

Division 2 Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Regents Park	4	3	1	0	11	2	10
Taringa Rovers	3	3	0	0	17	3	9
Redcliffe PCYC	4	2	1	1	6	7	7
Grange Thistle	3	2	0	1	13	3	6
The Gap	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
Logan City	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Slacks Creek	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Brighton District	3	1	0	2	6	8	3
Samford Rangers							

news desk



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PACKER SET FOR QLD RETURN

QUEENSLAND Roar FC have confirmed that they have signed Sydney FC midfielder Andrew Packer.

Packer, a Queenslander who was born in Ipswich and turned out for the Strikers, Taringa and Queensland Lions, played a starring role in the recent A-League Grand Final with his versatility and understanding of the game igniting interest from Roar Coach Miron Bleiberg.

Coupled with his exceptional work-rate Packer has plenty of experience despite his relatively tender age. According to Bleiberg it's these qualities that would make the former Australian Under 17 international a significant signing for Queensland Roar.

"We are looking for experience and you normally get that from players that are over 30 years-old. Lucky for us Andrew provides that experience at only 25 and he has played at the highest level of Australian football for a long time," Bleiberg said.

He added: "Andrew proved himself in every game he played last season. In the first half of the Grand Final against the Mariners he was clearly the best player on the field for Sydney. He can fill a lot of positions and he wanted to come back to Queensland so we are delighted that we have been able to sign him. He is a quality player."

In other Roar news, midfielder Warren Moon and strikers Royce Brownlie and Jonti Richter, have been told by the club that they are free to pursue contracts with other clubs.



WALSH: CONSOLIDATION IS OUR AIM

MT GRAVATT President Noel Walsh admitted that his club were not setting their sights too high in their first season back in the big time. The Hawks returned to Premier League in 2006 after securing the Division 1 Championship and the right of automatic promotion that goes with it.

"The return to the top league presents a major challenge for us to be competitive, as we have a young squad who will be guided by a couple of older players who have played previously at this level," said Walsh.

"Our aim for 2006 is to finish around mid-table which will give us a good foundation to build upon. In order to achieve this I believe we have appointed the best man for the job in Ken Swan, who performed a similar task whilst he was coach at North Star. Ken has recruited a strong team of coaches to assist him with Ken Lindsay, Alan Eustace, Graham Wallace and Steve Dolan who has come on board as an advisor to our youth team," he added.

Under the guidance of Swan, the Mounties will rely heavily on the experience of players like captain Cameron Hunt, Martin Kotte, Andrew Davidson and Stephen Bland, all important members of last year's winning side. They have added players with Premier League experience to the squad like Brad Stevens, Eli Gilfedder and Carl Giannangelo in an effort to stabilise their first season and create a platform for future success.

Swan was understandably enthusiastic about his new recruits.

"These young players have two years Premier League playing experience, after having previously played in the National Youth League. Eli also spent several years in the Australian Institute of Sport soccer program.

"Jesse Lindemann is another young and exciting prospect to join the club. He has recently been a member of the Queensland Academy of Sport program and has played at Queensland Lions previously. The emphasis on youth will help provide a strong future for the club."

PARTNERS ON BOARD AT CREEK

Slacks Creek, who have started the season in fine fashion with 2 wins, have had further good news with the announcement of a 3-way sponsorship that ties up the Premier Division 2 side and the Reserves for 2 years. Creek Secretary/Football manager, Bob Ford said that Classic Forklifts, Retravisision Stones Corner and State Professional Services had joined forces to sponsor them.

"All three Managing Directors have players at the club and have been impressed with the whole set up we have here," Ford said.

He continued: "They saw what we were trying to

achieve on a shoestring budget after 2 years of poor management and have agreed to come on board. Our goal is to make them a return on their investment."

Creek also managed to secure a sponsor to cover all match balls for the season. Local Personal Injury Lawyer, Colin Patino, was also impressed by the club's efforts to turn things around and jumped at the opportunity to gain some exposure to the 600 odd Creek members.

"The club is working damn hard to ensure a quick turnaround from 2 years of poor financial management and we couldn't be happier with the support we have received to date," Ford added.

The Creek administrator also paid tribute to John Sime of Queensland Roar for his help in creating an atmosphere of optimism around the club.

"John has been fantastic. He arranged a full training session at the club earlier in the year which gave the opportunity for hundreds of locals to watch then mix with their new idols. He has also committed to returning and also to send the full coaching compliment to the club for a 2 hour session in May."

OGSTON IMPRESSES FIFA

Queensland referee Tammy Ogston added another credit to her long list of achievements when she refereed the final of the prestigious Algarve Cup in Portugal last month.

Ogston controlled the match between women's football heavyweights USA and Germany that finished 0-0 after 120 minutes and was won 4-3 on penalties by Germany.

Tammy was selected by FIFA to attend a workshop and referee at the tournament that FIFA is using as part of their build up to the World Cup in 2007.

Seven of the top ten women's national teams and a total of eleven in all, were invited to compete at the tournament. With no World Cup or Olympics this year, the Algarve Cup is seen as the benchmark of women's international football for 2006.

FIFA invited many of the worlds leading female officials to the tournament and Tammy's appointment is a just reward for the hard work she has put in. Already a veteran of two World Cups she has her sights firmly focused on a place at the 2007 World Cup event in China.

ON THE GRAPEVINE...

OLYMPIC

Some interesting signings at Brisbane Olympic in their newly formed Metro 4 side with "names from the past" such as Steve Konstantinou, Harry and Phil Makridakis, Nick Contoudios and possibly John Brown putting their

name down to enjoy some lower division football.

PINE RIVERS

The club is establishing a fully fledged Supporters Club for the seniors in 2006. Current Reserve Grade coach and ex-first team player Noel Carroll is co-ordinating the push to have the club up and running and supporting the Predators.

BRISBANE WOLVES

Michael Van Moolenbroek is back at Wolves after playing last season back in his home town of Mackay. Van Moolenbroek was one of the leading goalscorers in the 2004 season and was rewarded with selection in the BMS Select team of that year.

TARINGA ROVERS

Reza Aysen didn't get to complete his holiday overseas after being expected to be away for the whole of the season and is back training at Jack Speare Park. In his first game back he managed to find the back of the net for the Metro 1 side.

WATCHING

Interested spectators at recent Premier League matches included David Williams (Pine Rivers v Mitchelton) and Miron Bleiberg (Wolves v Strikers).

NEWMARKET

Graham Ross helped out his old teammate Danny Cox and signed to play for Newmarket following the 3 match suspension to the first team's goalkeeper after the first match of the season. At least he won't be short of goalkeeping gloves with Rossy being the agent for the Sells brand.

GOALKEEPER BONUS

Three Premier League goalkeepers were a pair of Sells gloves better off after Graham Ross offered any keeper a pair of gloves who kept a clean sheet on the first week of the season. Adrian Ghidella (Wolves), Antony Hall (Strikers) and Troy Reed (Pine Rivers) all benefited.

BRISBANE OLYMPIC

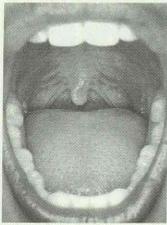
Players at Olympic will certainly know what Juan Cutillas wants from them at training. The club invested in a megaphone for him to help him conduct training without having to exert himself. Juan is back at Goodwin Park after a season off with health problems.

QAS

Plenty of interest around with a number of QAS scholarship holders, past and present, playing in the local competition this year. Shannon Lancini (Souths), Elliot Jones (Brisbane Force), Omar Hamid (Pine Rivers) and Blake Charity (Taringa Rovers) are all showing the benefits of their time in the program.

NORTH PINE

No shortage of experience in the Division 2 side out at Bob Brock Park with Darren Bender and Michael Brockwell now joining the ranks that already include Shane Coffey and Brett Jones. ☺



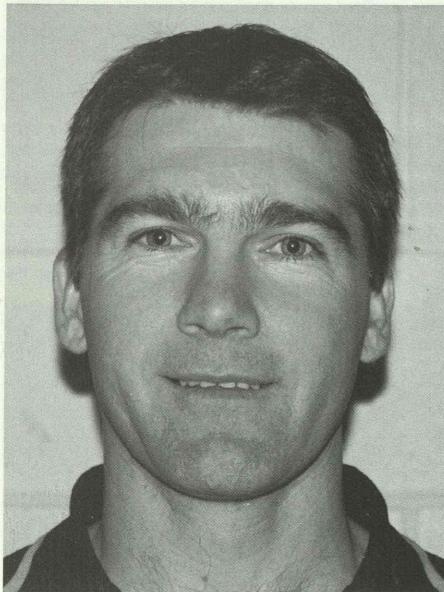
a month of mouth

ExtraTime has a quick(ish) chat with a few of the Premier League coaches about their prospects for the season. This month it's Clayton Koch, Peter Tokesi and Gordon Tulloch

CLAYTON Koch's Pine Rivers side have made another solid start to the season, but the 3-2 loss to the Brisbane Strikers at Wendy Allison Park in round 3 was reminiscent of how results went for his team in crucial '6-point' games last season. Koch poured cold water though on any suggestion that his side didn't have the 'big game' mentality.

"We've had a fairly good start and seem to be travelling quite nicely. Our game against the Strikers (3-2 loss) was the toughest we've had so far and although we lost I was happy with the performance. "It would have been nice to get a result in a big game like that because last year we only lost four games by the odd goal, but those games were big in terms of the opposition and the points we missed out on. Ultimately I think that probably cost us the chance of winning the league last season."

"We conceded a couple of soft goals (against the Strikers) and the penalty we gave away came at a very bad time in the match for us. A couple of lapses in concentration really cost us in that game and we have to handle sides better when they have good periods of possession."



"We've made three Grand Finals in a row so we've won semi-finals which are obviously big games because they are do or die. The crucial league games we lost last year were lost in the last 10 minutes by the odd goal, so we were very close, but that maybe was the difference between us winning the league and coming second."

Many local fans were licking their lips at the prospect of seeing Rivers old boy Josh Rose hook up once again with striking partner Tim Smits, but Rose opted for the Strikers after his stint in the A-League with the New Zealand Knights.

"Obviously we are a bit disappointed that Josh didn't return to us because he went well with us and he was enjoying his football here. The fact is that he probably had a bigger offer from the Strikers and that's something we couldn't compete with because we have a maximum amount that we offer to players and the last thing we want is for the club to over extend itself financially," Koch said.

Rose's move to the Strikers bolstered an already bulging squad and Koch believes their tag of premiership favourites is well deserved, but doesn't think Bobby Hamilton's troops will have it all their own way.

"If the Strikers keep all their senior players on the park then they are probably the favourites, but I don't necessarily think they will run away with it. Even though they are a strong team and a dangerous team who have quality all over the pitch, I don't see them as unbeatable.

"They not only have to become a solid unit, but they have to maintain that throughout the season. A couple of bad results and things could easily go haywire for them. Time will tell I guess but they certainly have enough firepower."

To put up a decent challenge for the title, the Rivers coach knows that consistency is the key. The Strathpine club have epitomised the term in recent years, but are they one ingredient short of having a team capable of winning the league?

"We're trying to go that extra yard and one of the things that we haven't quite had so far is a couple of guys that can really control the team. We have good players throughout the side and overall we are very consistent and hard to beat, but to win the league you have to dominate your opponents and perhaps we have lacked that experienced player that can really impose

himself on the game. To win premierships you have to be full of confidence and even be a little bit arrogant."

After consolidating themselves as a strong club in the last few seasons, Rivers have steadily introduced a string of young players into the side and this season is no exception.

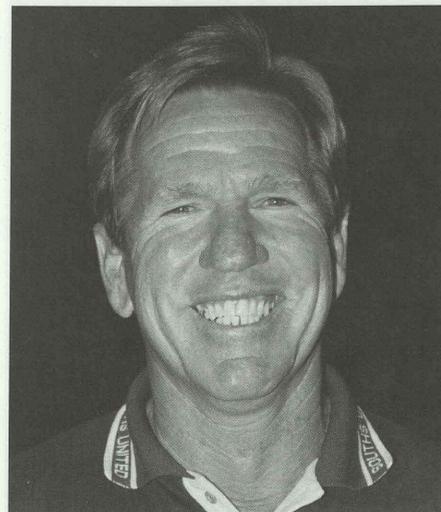
"Leon Dwyer in the midfield, who played the last half a dozen games at the tail end of last season, is getting sharper. He's a very good footballer with a good brain and is very consistent. He's picked up a yard of sharpness and his football is really starting to shine now. Another is Zac Tung, who has only just turned 17 and he has started really well."

"We've got some good young players and we are displaying a good brand of football at the moment. There are some who will disappear when the World Cup starts and I suppose most clubs will be affected in a similar way.

"If Tim Smits gets an A-League contract we could lose him too so there a lot of things that could happen in a season. We've tried to build with some quality youth players but we will just have to see how it goes throughout the year. Obviously we want to make the top four and we will give that a good crack again, but our aim is to build a solid squad that will stand us in good stead for the future. I guess we just want to be the best we can be as a club."

SOUTHS United coach, Peter Tokesi, is another who has every right to be positive about the season ahead. The highly regarded coach always produces sides to be wary of and this season is set to be no exception.

"I haven't been displeased with the start we have made and I've been happy with the effort that we've put in so far. I've been able to take a fair bit out of the games



and we've played some good football in patches. Beating Rochedale the way we did (5-2) has to make you happy at any time. They are a good side and that was a valuable win for us," Tokesi said.

"We were 3-0 up at half time and I believe we didn't allow Rochedale to play. They like to knock the ball around and we didn't let them hold possession.

"At this point in time I feel good about the team and sense that there is a little more team spirit than at any stage last year. I think this is down to the fact that we're all training together, whereas last season we weren't and that was detrimental in the long run," he added.

Never one to talk up his side's chances, Tokesi preferred to quash talk of Souths being title contenders this season, whilst remaining positive on his team's prospects.

"I think we are stronger all round than we were last year. We're probably the same as most clubs in that we don't have a lot of depth up front, or at least not as much as we'd like. We've brought in Royce Brownlie and Darren Sime who will both add a lot of quality to the team. Ben Griffin has come in as well so we're hoping to go well while we have those players available to us.

"We're looking at the top four like everyone else and we'll see what happens from there. Depth is an issue for a lot of clubs and I think that's why most coaches are reluctant to talk up their chances of winning the league."

Tokesi has quality youngsters coming through at Souths and he singled out his custodian for special praise after a commanding performance against Kieran Cooper's Rovers outfit.

"James Zammit, who is only 16 years-old, played in goal for us against Rochedale and was pretty close to man of the match. We had to bring him in because Shaun Falkenhagen wasn't available and he did really well against quality opposition. He looks to have a bright future."

The loss of the much travelled Craig Collins and Craig Slaughter from the roster looked on paper as if it would be a huge blow to the squad, but Tokesi's troops have already shown that they are more than capable of holding their own. Despite an offer from the club the pair opted for the Brisbane Strikers as their next port of call.

"We tried to sign them again but they decided to leave. I'm quite happy to coach once I know what I've got to work with. They decided to go elsewhere and that's fine by me," said Tokesi.

ONE coach who is certain to be pleased with his club's start to the season is Brisbane City's Gordon Tulloch.

Tulloch, along with Paul Edwards, guided City from the threat of relegation last season after

taking over mid-term. The managerial duo have quickly rebuilt the squad and City fans can look forward to a far more positive year this time out.

Tulloch said: "I wasn't all that happy with our first game because we lost, but I thought a draw would have been a fairer result in actual fact. We were controlling the game but didn't take our chances and conceded a stupid goal. We have a few injuries at the moment and when we get those players back we will be in better shape. Sharmen Lee and Nathan Walker were both injured before the start of the season and they were two major setbacks for the team."

"We are definitely stronger than last year and we certainly have more depth in the club. The youth and reserve teams are both good and we have a lot of youngsters in the first team. We've signed a boy from Perth, Simon Trinc, who was playing for Perth FC. He looks like a good player and we're very pleased with him so far.

"Also added to the squad are Matt Christensen and Jeremy Harris so we're hoping that we will have enough depth to keep improving. I think the league is much stronger this year overall so we will need that depth. There are at least nine or ten teams that can beat each other and there doesn't seem to be many weak links."

"You have to keep collecting points all the time in the Premier League and make sure that you have a good run of wins here and there. Everyone can beat everyone else and I think it's going to be an interesting



season from that point of view. Even the teams who are struggling for points at the moment are still playing good football and that has to be healthy for the game."

Like most coaches Tulloch is keen to see how his team fares in the opening rounds before setting targets for the season.

"Paul (Edwards) and I are just taking one game at a time and we will change our structure and system game by game. At the halfway mark we will assess how we are going and see what are goals are from there. There are so many strong teams it's impossible to say where you are going to finish." ❖

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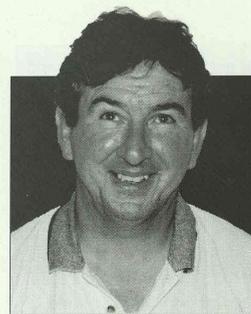
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Opinion

with kieran cooper

THE DREADED vote of confidence! The one thing a coach doesn't want to hear. When it comes, it's usually curtains.

I suppose in all team sports it eventually catches up with most. But why do we see it happen so often? Is there more than meets the eye? Maybe we are in the dark on most occasions and all we can do is guess. It certainly makes for some interesting debate and points of view.

I couldn't help but feel sorry recently for Sunderland Manager/Coach Mick McCarthy. Sure his results this season were poor. But the timing of his dismissal and the reasons for it simply leaves me gob-smacked. Here is a man, like him or not, who has taken Sunderland out of the First Division (Championship) and into the Premier League. I am sure he has been hailed a hero.

Now we all know that the step up is a big one, but is it totally his fault? If memory serves me right, Sunderland have had 2 or 3 coaches in the last few seasons. Most of them have been reasonably successful but they all fell on their sword.

I read something last week regarding this and the reporter had a point. He said that in all the time Sunderland were going up and down, and sacking coaches, the one thing that remained solid were the people on the Board. Maybe he had a point.

We then move on to Mr Eriksson. He has been told that he can take England to the World Cup but then he is gone. Again I cannot understand this. If this is

I wanted players to come for the right reasons. I wanted players to gel and have a good bond



Mick McCarthy in happier times

the right man for the job then leave him alone. If he has stepped out of line then sack him now. What if England win the World Cup, will he still go?

For me, it's all about sticking by the people you employ. Sure there are times when a coach needs to move on, but given time to build I am sure most can make a success out of it. People seem to want results now. If you look at the Premier League again two coaches come to mind; Alan Curbishley at Charlton and Sam Allardyce at Bolton.

These two mentors haven't exactly won the Premier League or the Champions League, but they seem to have the safest jobs in English Football. Why is this? Maybe the expectations of the Board are not as high. Maybe the supporters are happy to survive. Whatever the reason they seem to be safe. These are two people who appear to have been given the time to do their jobs; is there a message in this?

Which brings me to the local game. Now I am probably one of the lucky ones. Because I work for the club, and am also coach, I'm sure I'll know when my time is up and I will probably be able to step down gracefully.

But what I will say about my club is that they saw where we were and where we wanted to go. They

allowed me to rebuild the squad to get us back on track. Remember, we were nearly relegated a few seasons back and people at the time were calling for me to step down. It was a hard time for everyone at the club and personally I was very down.

But the Board believed, I believed, and we went from there. We are by no means the finished product and probably never will be, but we are certainly on the right track.

This is because I was allowed to get things the way I wanted them. I wanted players to come for the right reasons. I wanted players to gel and have a good bond. Sure, I will probably have upset a few people along the way, but at the end of the day it's the club that counts.

I believe our local game doesn't have enough patience. I remember reading last year about Ken Swan and how he was let go in the car park before training. Here is a man, like him or not, who was given a job to do. He was building something he believed in and was on the right track. It also happened to be at a club he loved which made him work even harder. Now the point here is if you give a man a job to do then give him time to do it.

Another friend of mine at a first division club asked

me last year how they could get out of the league and how they could keep players. I asked him how many different coaches they have had in the past few seasons and he mentioned about six. Therein lies his problem. No stability in the coaching ranks.

Players will always move on and players will always follow coaches. But players are not stupid. If they see a club is doing the right thing, and they like the environment, they are more than likely to stay. If the club lets the coach do his job the players will bond and the club will be all the better for it.

Now I know people will say I am saying all this because I am a coach. Sure, I have seen both sides. I have been on the wrong end of some hammerings. But what we have always had here over the past few seasons is stability in the coaching ranks. Tim Brown, Ken Armstrong, all loyal club people, all senior coaches who have been with us for a long time. If I go then not much has to change.

Maybe clubs need to have a bit more of a look at some of these issues. I am sure they would benefit in the long run.

PS: You notice I didn't even mention the Karl Herdle episode. Premiership winner, cup winner, Coach of the Year, SACKED. Enough said. ☺



Some are born into policies, some achieve policies, and some have policies thrust upon them. The BMF Chairman on the new age restrictions

mikebailey

SOME people claim that the only two certainties in life are death and taxes. As a football administrator I would like to add a third.... controversy!

As I write, the new Football Queensland Age Policy is generating much discussion at all levels of the game as we try to make sense of it. And more importantly as we struggle to implement practical policies and procedures that will make it work.

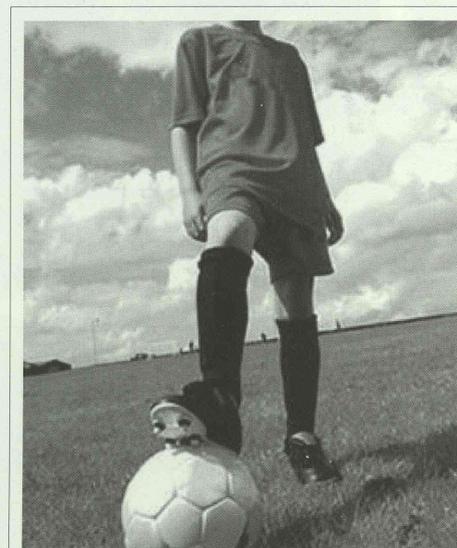
There is no doubt that the timing of this major change to past practices was diabolical and has caused plenty of angst in the football community. Football Queensland has still much to learn about proper consultation with the people who actually run the game before they just drop such 'bombshells' on us.

Having said that, it has to be admitted that there is a deal of sense and logic in the new policy. The reality is that it is time that we thought seriously about how we manage the many young players who now play Senior Football. The old attitude that 'if they're big enough or good enough then they're old enough' is no longer valid in 2006. We operate in a society where there is not only a moral expectation, but a legal expectation on us to ensure we take our duty of care very, very seriously.

I have had a number of phone calls in the past few weeks demanding BMF allow various 15 year-olds be allowed to play Senior Football. Some of the calls have been courteous and constructive, others have been less so. Most of the callers have emphasised ability and physical strength as the main criteria to justify their views. Very few have taken into account the fact that these players whatever their skills are still only 15 with all the implications that being 15 has.

At present we are working on new procedures which will set out and clarify BMS policy on Junior players

The reality is that it is time that we thought seriously about how we manage the many young players who now play Senior Football



It's no longer a case of if you're big enough you're old enough

seeking to play Senior Football. The consultation process is nearly over and it is hoped that the new 'rules' will operate from the start of the June registration window. In the meantime a myriad of opportunities exist for young people to play football within the various Brisbane CMCs including our own Youth Leagues.

On a different tack, I must mention the recent meeting of the State Mens Standing Committee which I attended on behalf of Football Brisbane. It was an extremely positive day in which a number of issues were discussed and agreed upon for the overall benefit of the game in our state. More details will be available soon and I am confident that they will be positively received.

Finally, the new season has begun and early results indicate that we are in for an exciting time in all our top divisions with the honours and the heartaches going right down to the wire.

See you at a game! ☺



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HYUK-SU SEO VOTED ROAR'S BEST FOR INUGURAL SEASON

AFTER a season in which many football pundits voted him the best foreign import in the Hyundai A-League, Korean midfielder, Hyuk-Su Seo, has walked away with the Gary Wilkins Gold Medal as the Queensland Roar FC Player of the Year.

At the Gala Awards night held in the Plaza Ballroom of the Brisbane Convention Centre, Seo also received an accolade from his fellow players, jointly taking out the Player's Player of the Year with Sydney-bound striker Alex Brosque.

Seo was a consistent performer for the Queensland side with his powerful frame and tough-tackling style making him one of the most difficult midfield opponents in the league. The former K-League star also chimed in with a couple of spectacular goals for good measure. A 25-metre drive against eventual Grand Finalists Central Coast Mariners in round seven and a dipping shot from even further out in New Zealand, caught the eye of spectators and commentators alike.

Queensland Roar FC Coach, Miron Bleiberg, said the likeable Korean had proved to be one of the finds of the season.

"Hyuk-Su has been a great asset for the team and his versatility has been very valuable to us. I have used him in midfield and at full-back and no matter where he played he was always reliable. He has adapted very well to Australia and both on and off the field he has been superb for us," he said.

In other awards, Queensland Roar FC members voted Alex Brosque as their Player of the Year and the striker's eight goals also earned him the Golden Boot prize for the highest goalscorer in Roar's inaugural season.

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in the HUNT

Mount Gravatt captain Cameron Hunt intends to lead by example as the Hawks look to consolidate their return to the Premier League

"I'M PROBABLY ONE OF THE last of the old school," Cameron Hunt exclaims as we chat about his football career.

The interview was supposed to take about five to ten minutes, but over half an hour passes and we're still at it. The column centimetres are rising faster than petrol prices and I know that RSJ is going to kick in when I transcribe the tape. But it's good fun; we're talking football. The Mount Gravatt striker and club captain could talk in wet cement, but unlike many who just dribble rhetoric, at least he has something to say. Er, make that plenty to say!

In fact, he's probably renowned for his straight-talking style, but in this day and age it makes a refreshing change. As his

current and former team-mates will no doubt profess, with Cameron Hunt what you see is what you get and you always know where you stand.

Born in Manchester, Hunt began his footballing odyssey at a young age, but after a 5-year spell in New Zealand he returned to the Old Dart determined to make his mark on the football scene. In the last year of school football his side made the quarter finals of English Schools Cup where he rubbed, or rather barged, shoulders with football luminaries such as Phil Neville, Nicky Butt and Danny Murphy.

He moved into senior football at 15 and eventually made his way into the semi-pro Northern Premier League with Hyde United. His

swashbuckling style caught the eye of a local agent and he was whisked away to try and secure a professional contract. Three to four month spells with Bolton Wanderers, Stoke and Manchester City, where he turned out a couple of times for the reserves, failed to result in a contract, but the big striker was not helped by the sacking of City manager, Alan Ball, while he was on trial.

With uncertainty looming, he decided to take an academic path and took off to university to study for a degree in Sports Science.

Now 29, Hunt came to these shores in 2001 and joined Eastern Suburbs for what proved to be one of the shortest stints of his career, playing only a handful of games for the Heath Park club. From there he

moved to Rochedale and finally started to settle down to life in the lucky country. By his own admission the cavalier centre-forward didn't show his best form when he first started playing his trade in Brisbane.

"To be quite honest I've spoken to a number of coaches about this and I think it comes down to the fact that in Brisbane they don't play with an old fashioned centre-forward. Shorter and quicker players seemed to be preferred and this didn't really suit my game as I was used to being a target man.

"I only really started to fit in when I went to Rochedale and I enjoyed it there. I don't think I struggled as such because I finished leading goalscorer at pretty much all the clubs I played for, but it did take me a while to adjust to the style of play," he said.

Now in his fourth year with the Hawks, Hunt has nailed down a place in the team and infected the club with his vivacious, out-going personality.

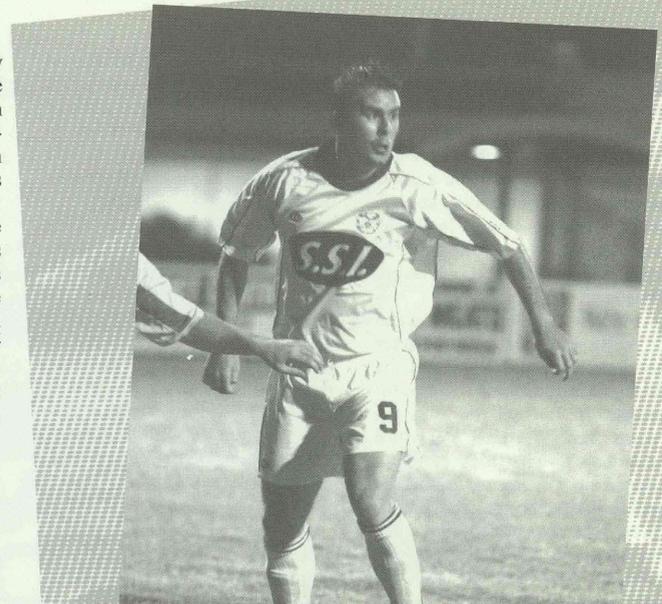
"When I came to Mt Gravatt Rossy (Graham Ross) played to my strengths and I was able to show my ability. I managed to get on the end of high balls and enjoyed that year because it suited my style.

"With Ken (Swan) we tend to play on the floor a bit more and I'm enjoying that too. I'm not too bad with my feet and I think the football is good to watch. I've never really had much pace but I think I make up for it other ways.

"I like it physical and enjoy the old-fashioned, centre-forward, back-to-goal style of play, but I think I've got a good football brain and there's a bit more to my play than just being the big lad up front who you can hit with long balls."

"I like to be comfortable with the coach and the players in the squad and here at Mount Gravatt I get that feeling every time I come to the club."

"The club is 110% behind the players and supports the first team very well. One of the reasons I respect Rossy so much is because he took a club that was floundering



in the dressing room I like to be vocal and get the banter going

in Division One and made it a professional club. He made sure that everyone was on time for training and there was no messing about with 'big time Charlies'. We all had a good training kit and good training gear and we were well looked after. That extra bit of effort makes players feel like players."

For the last 4½ years the Mount Gravatt captain has worked as the Corporate Health Manager for HealthWise Global where he looks after the health and well-being of Flight Centre employees in Queensland and the Northern Territory. His leadership qualities are given a workout in the workplace and he takes those virtues and lessons in man management into his captaincy of the Hawks.

Leading the side with passion and pride is part of his make-up; it's what makes him tick and he wouldn't have it any other way.

"I won the Hawk Achiever Award last season, which is awarded to the stand out performer who gives everything for the club.

It meant a lot to me and I think it's important that you are loyal and passionate for your club. You should be proud of your shirt and remember what it means to the people who come and watch or the kids that play for the club that are looking up to you as a senior player. I played with a lot of players like that in the UK and it's rubbed off on me for sure.

"It's just a shame that these qualities are becoming rarer every year. I don't want to share the pitch with any player that doesn't want to play with heart. I don't like players who go over too easy during a game and I generally have something to say about that," he laughed.

A livewire in the dressing room and not exactly shy when it comes to cracking a joke or two on the pitch or contesting a referee's decision, Hunt says he enjoys the relationship he has with the local men in black.

"I think I get on very well with the referees. Sure I'm vocal on the pitch, but I enjoy a bit of banter

I don't want to share the pitch with any player that doesn't want to play with heart



with the ref. I never call them by their first names out of respect but I expect to be treated like a human being because that's how I treat them. Over the years they have got to know me and we have a good rapport. If I'm complaining about a decision and it's tongue-in-cheek, then I always have a little smile to let them know I'm having a laugh. They're all good value.

"In the dressing room I like to be pretty vocal and get the banter going in there too. I love all the micky taking and think it's good for morale. In England the dressing rooms were just mad and you'd never know what was going to happen next. Someone brought a snake into the shower once and just threw it in amongst the boys. All the lads shit themselves; it was hilarious. That type of thing is all part of football as far as I'm concerned."

A qualified coach (UEFA 'B'), he spent a couple of years as assistant coach to Mike Mulvey

with the QAS Women's squad, but quit to concentrate on playing to his maximum for what remains of his playing days. A return to coaching is on the cards though, and surprise, surprise, he has views on that too!

"Becoming a UEFA 'B' qualified coach was probably the worst thing I could have done as a player! I look for a coach that understands all aspects of the game and what makes players tick. In my opinion, one of the problems we have here in Brisbane is that some coaches look good because they draft in all the best players and it doesn't come down to what they do on the training pitch or during a game.

"That's one of the reasons why I like Ken Swan because he doesn't want the 'big time' players; he wants younger players so that he can develop them. He's trying to create something that will last for five years or so. Between him and Rado Vidusic I'd say that they're

the best coaches I've had here, but in all honesty I don't think there are enough good coaches in Brisbane for the top level of football."

As our marathon interview draws to a close, Hunt signs off with a vote of confidence for Brisbane leagues and the leadership of BMF, albeit with a note of caution.

"Brisbane Mens Football are definitely moving in the right direction, particularly in the last couple of years, but we still need to have stricter criteria as far as the standard of grounds and facilities goes.

"The standard of play is pretty good, but as I said earlier we have to look at the quality of the coaches and fix the problems there. Things have improved and that's the main thing but to get people out to watch these games there has to be comfortable surroundings and good facilities."

He won't tell you again! ☺

MORE IMPROVEMENTS AT POWER

PENINSULA Power officials rubbed shoulders with the polities last month when they celebrated the opening of their new changing rooms and disability ramp at AJ Kelly field.

Queensland Government Members of Parliament Dean Wells and Terry Rodgers were present, as were Redcliffe Mayor Allan Sutherland and his Councillors Peter Houston, Rita Smith, James Houghton, Kolina Winchester and Rae Frawley.

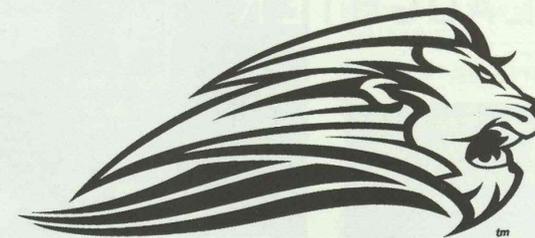
For Power President, Craig Feuerriegel, it had been a long and frustrating wait for the necessary funding.

"The construction of the ramp has been an issue at the club for over six years with applications for funding to the previous council falling on deaf ears. However, the club has been working very hard with the current council's Sport and Recreation Department to access Government funding and these facilities will now be a valuable community asset."

Member for Murrumba, Dean Wells, echoed the sentiments: "The new change-rooms will help clubs like Peninsula Power increase sporting and recreational opportunities within the local community."



Craig Feuerriegel (3rd from right) opens the ramp with members of the Redcliffe City Council



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OVER THE PHONE WITH... CRAIG SLAUGHTER

CLUB: Brisbane Strikers
POSITION: Central Midfielder

He may have been brought up on a strawberry farm, but these days he's more interested in bees; or to be more precise, honey. ET gets sticky with the 2002 Gold Medal winner and current Strikers' midfield schemer

Born: 23/2/80 in Bundaberg

Age: 26

Current Club: Brisbane Strikers

Previous clubs: Taringa Rovers, Queensland Lions, Souths Utd.

Strengths? Speed, strength, getting forward and scoring goals.

Weaknesses? Speed, strength, getting forward and scoring goals! My post-match meal.

Hobbies? Golf, movies.

Career highlight? Winning the Gold Medal in 2002 and making the Grand Final with Taringa and Lions

Career lowlight? Breaking my leg in 2004

Best player played with? Alex Brosque when training with Queensland Roar

Toughest opponent? Peter Grierson

Biggest joker in your side? Me and Chris Day

One to watch out for in your team next season? Alex Panic and Michael Butters

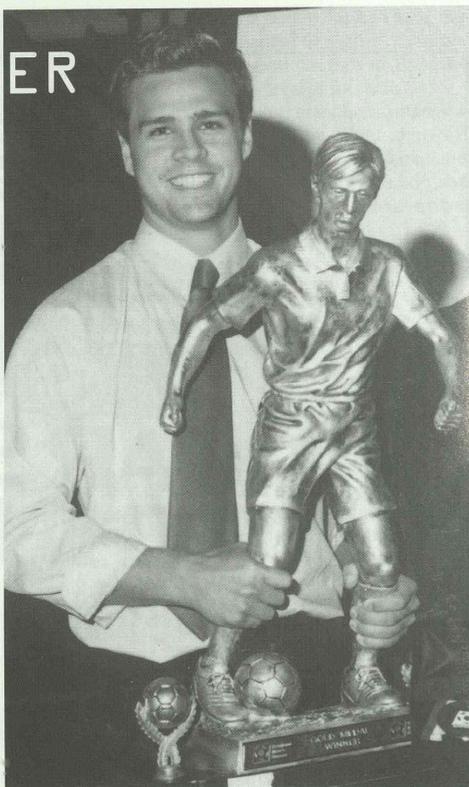
If you could change one rule in football what would it be? I think goalkeepers are a bit too protected so I'd like to see the rule changed so they don't get a free-kick every time you touch them. You can hardly challenge a keeper these days

If you could change one thing about Brisbane football what would it be? The standard of the grounds at some Premier League clubs is certainly a bit short of where it should be. I think we have to protect the fields of the Premier League teams so that we can see quality football played on them.

Best advice you've ever been given? Listen to everyone and take the best bits from all the advice you receive

Most embarrassing moment? I pretty much take everything with a grain of salt, but once after scoring goal a team mate jumped on my back and I injured my knee. I had to get subbed

Describe your club in one sentence? On the move



Did you model your game on anyone? Not really but I do admire attacking midfielders like Frank Lampard of Chelsea

Ambitions for the season? Obviously to win the league with the club. On a personal note I'd like to see if I can play at a higher level

How will Australia do in the World Cup Finals? We can get to the next round I think, but perhaps we won't go much further than that. Getting to the next round will still be a success though

Who will win the World Cup? Brazil will beat Italy 2-0 in the final

Any superstitions? Not really. I have my own preparations that I go through before a game, but they're not exactly superstitions

Any pets? Chooky Collins!

What do you think of the A-League? It's been a superb first season. The standard was good, the crowds excellent. With the World Cup coming up I think the A-League will get even stronger

Have you ever been on TV? Yes, a couple of times when I was playing football back in Bundaberg. It was match action footage and a couple of interviews

What about radio? I've done the same kind of thing for radio too.

Musical taste? I like the popular music of the time and laid back house music too

Pre-match munchies? I like to carbo load before a game and have a salad sandwich, a banana and lots of fluids

Any ambitions to coach once you finish playing? Not particularly because I see how stressed out Bobby (Hamilton) gets!

What's your favourite saying? If you can't be good, be good at it

What's your coach's favourite saying? One more set!

Funniest thing you have seen on the football field? Last year when we played at Palm Beach a guy jumped the fence and streaked across the pitch for \$100



Best hangover cure? A Gatorade and a big home-made burger from the local store

How much is 2 litres of milk? Normally 30 cents more than I have on me

What about a loaf of bread? 99 cents, but it's 3 days old!

Who in your squad would you not like to meet down a dark alley? They're all cats, but probably Jamie Lowndes

When did you last get drunk? Darren Sime's bucks night, about 2 months ago

When did you last break the law? There are laws!!!!???

Who's the loudest player in the dressing room? That's an easy one; Chris Day

It's the FA Cup Final... it's 0-0 in the last minute.... You're clean through on goal and have a 50% chance of scoring. A team-mate is in a slightly better position and has roughly a 75% chance of scoring. Do you pass to him or shoot yourself? I'd Shoot

That's greedy! What if you miss? It stays 0-0 and we go to extra time and penalties! I'd take one of them too!

What would it take for you to sell your soul to the devil? It would probably include the Sports Illustrated calendar girls, 3 tubs of honey and lots of Tequila ☘

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Sharon Jackson pulls out the crayons and sheds some light on what a splash of colour can do for your side

Colour Therapy

WELL, you know when football is really on the radar when the boffins have started to get in on the act. Recently published research from planet boffin claims your team has better chances of winning if they play in red. My arse! Did anyone think to tell Brazil about this?

Red, apparently sends signals to our brains that red food is good and to be fair, there is lots of evidence that red foods are good for us (eg tomatoes). But a red opponent sends signals of danger. Well, I suppose he might, if he's the Bloody Red Baron. Since the most successful team in the World plays in an insipid yellow colour, I think the pros need to go and research where the local opticians are!

How can you apply logic to the beautiful game? If there was any logic in it Greece should not be the European Champions nor should Liverpool be Champions League winners. They must have Spock himself on the panel giving them the full benefit of his Vulcan mindmeld. Why serious minded, very intelligent people would put their names to such bollocks defies logic in the first place. What's worse is how they get funding for it! Have the bean-counters got rose-coloured specs on as well?

Perhaps they're on the right lines as red is the colour of passion after all. Recalling the Korean sea of red at the 2002 World Cup, there were few more awesome sights in the comp. However, the theory did not hold up and the Koreans went out. If there's

any truth in it, why aren't the Welsh Rugby Union team thrashing the All-Blacks? If you extended this thought further, black stripes, I would think would be the worst colour to pick. I mean, when was the last time a ref won a game? But the All-Blacks have made short work of that, not to mention Juventus.

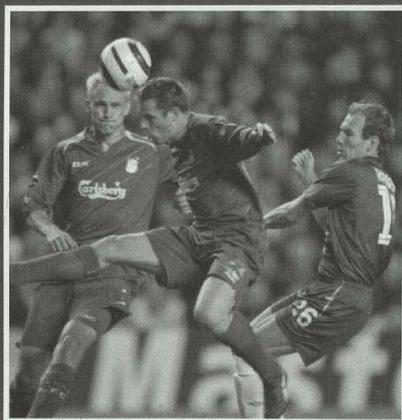
Maybe there's something in it, I'm thinking, when you consider the dominance of red teams in the UK of late, Man Utd, Arsenal, but then again, Chelsea have burst that little bubble nicely.

It doesn't seem to make much difference to the black & white striped Alan Shearer, now having become the highest ever goal scorer of his Newcastle side, nor the prolific Thierry Henry who whilst in his yellow (again) away shirt, scored his 201st league goal. I wonder if we should start stocking bananas in the clubhouse?

It's bananas to think there's any scientific basis at all in the colours of teams. Having undertaken some extensive research of my own - I was in the public bar - I'm tending to the belief that your team colours come down to that great footballing trait, superstition.

I did find one exception that made some sense before faithfully returning to hocus-pocus. There's many a team play in red & white stripes and this is because these teams were founded around the turn of the 20th Century when mattresses were made from red & white stripes.

It was easy then, and cheap, to run up stripes for the new



For those of you watching in black and white, Liverpool are in the red strip

fledgling sport. Ah, good thinking Batman, but then why is one of these, Sunderland FC, known as the Black Cats? The proper reason is that they were named from a nearby gun battery that had its resident black cat. But any supporter worth his salt knows that it is because a black kitten sat in 12 year old Billy Morris's pocket and watched their victory in the 1937 FA Cup Final right to the final whistle - a feat not seen again until 1973. 37-73, see what I mean?

Arsenal's strips this year are very reminiscent of the Qld Reds side and very un-Arsenal-like altogether I commented one day. The oracle of all things Arsenal next to me loftily informed me that these were Arsenal's original colours being worn in honour of the last season to be played at their hallowed home ground, Highbury.

"So how did they get to play in real red then?" say I, testing his patience and the new theory. It was nothing scientific at all. It's because, in the early days, Arsenal's fortunes weren't as good as they are now. Two new players having transferred from Nottingham Forest (pronounced Nottnum) had arrived to play but Arsenal did not have any shirts for them. Forest then gifted a full strip down to their player's new side and Arsenal's colours were born.

A question that is asked every World Cup is why do Italy play in blue when the national flag is Red, White & Green. Why indeed? Hardly the colour of passion the Italians are famed for. Is it because the refractive index of the hazy blue Italian skies at the western end of the stand makes them difficult to see? No such gobbledegook. Simply it's because it's the colour of the House of Savoia, who ruled Italy from 1861 to 1946. A royal connection. However, the point is that not playing in red has netted Italy at least 3 World Cups.

And again the name. The Italians are affectionately

"How can you apply logic to the beautiful game? If there was any logic in it Greece should not be the European Champions nor should Liverpool be Champions League winners"

known as the Azzuri, the Italian word for light blue, but those in the know say it's because of the light blue scooters that whizz about the place. Thinking this as all very appropriate, I looked to the Scots and naturally the team playing in blue & white with a blue & white national flag are not known as the blues. The Scots with no logic at all, are the tartan army!

The Irish have got it all worked out and there's more shades, designs and logos than Dulux would be proud of. Provided they're green. With that lateral sense of logic unique to the Irish, they have no trouble watching a team of green & white checks play green & white stripes whilst the rest of us are seeing stars. I was feeling for a poor ref one day until he stopped play after a tackle. He simply glared at the offender and said, "His ball!"

The Japanese with national colours of white & red play in blue because these colours, with typical eastern mysticism, symbolize youth & concentration. I think we're back to nonsensical logic again here since the keeper is 31 with blond hair.

True to form, us sporting Aussies could not help ourselves and having a national flag of red, white & blue, naturally we play in Green & Gold. This is apparently to symbolize the flora of our nation, the golden wattle. Oh really? I reckon we're a bit smarter than that; the wattle is an insipid yellow colour..... ☘

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mickybrock



Micky Brock shares some valuable advice gleaned from the one and only George Best

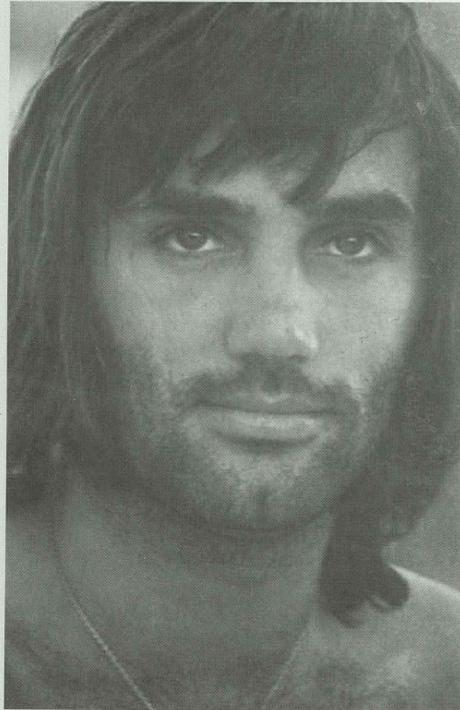
IT WAS with heavy heart that I heard of the passing of one of the games greatest exponents, George Best, as it meant another part of my childhood had been taken from me, but thankfully not the memories. Whilst recalling the many memorable moments he had supplied countless millions, the following one sprang to mind. It concerns the day I actually met him and he gave me the greatest advice of my life.

Back during the 1970/71 season, my family had moved to Banbury in Oxfordshire, from London. This was a number of years before my father transferred from the London Buses to the magnificently named Midland Red Omnibus Company which, if memory serves me correctly, had about three busses at the time, such was the magnitude of the market town we had moved to. However, I digress.

It was during this time that a coach-load of Man Utd fans from the area would travel up for games at Old Trafford and Dad asked me if I wanted to go. Is the Pope a Catholic? Of course I wanted to be there. Arsenal were heading for their first Double winning season and the option of seeing a real 'live' game with so many stars, for both teams, or staying in Banbury for the day an option not even considered.

So come the day we set off bright and early from the midlands to Manchester, my first ever visit north that I recall. It was cold, dark & dank and I hadn't slept in days knowing I was going to be there. No sleep on the coach, a rather draughty, rattling old rambler of a machine that never seemed to be going all that fast,

"Trying to describe the thronging mass around the ground is impossible if you have never experienced anything like it"



but to me, a 12-year old kid, every second drew me closer to what I must have prized as my own personal Holy Grail at that age.

I was going to see my beloved Arsenal playing away AND watch Bobby Charlton and co. also. Not forgetting the cherry on top of the cake, George Best! I presumed I would see him playing but the day turned out even better than that, with great hindsight.

Trying to describe the thronging mass around the ground is impossible if you have never experienced anything like it. It truly is a 'had to be there' moment, especially to a kid. It was incredible. I hadn't seen this many people in one place since we left the 'Smoke' so many years before. It was frightening but exhilarating, scary but wonderful, and here I was, little old me, a

nobody from a nowhere hick town at Old Trafford for the first time to see my boys play against one of the best teams in Europe. Excited or what!

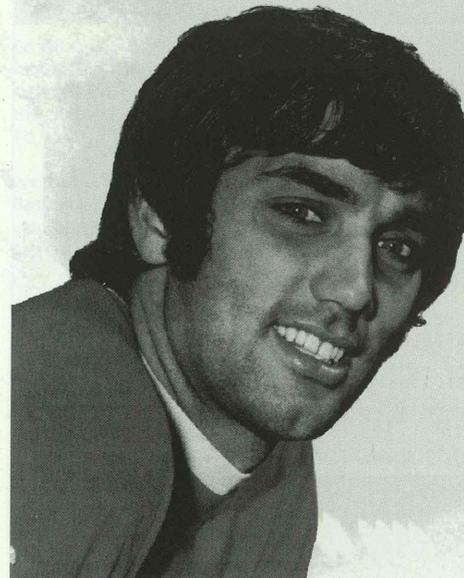
But that's when it all started to fall into the realm of fairy tale. One of the blokes Dad worked with knew someone at the ground, someone important though I never found out who, because here we were standing outside the players dressing rooms!

Seeing the players walk into the corridor and past us, I was in heaven. I had no idea about this whatsoever, as it was obvious to all and sundry that I was over the proverbial moon just to be at a real game and not watching the edited highlights on the box the following day, that Dad didn't tell me. God I love that man, may he rest in peace.

However, being a short-arsed little kid, who managed to grow up and become a short-arsed little man, I simply stood there open-mouthed with my programme in my hand and watched all this talent scuttle past me and disappear into the dressing rooms before I could even blink.

A shove in the back and a few reassuring words soon shook me out of my stunned inertia though and I remember as plain as day that I managed to collect the autographs of Jimmy Rimmer, the Man Utd goalkeeper before he came to Arsenal, and Frank McClintock, Arsenal captain and hero to me because I wanted to be him when I grew up.

I would have settled for taking the drinks on given the chance to be honest. And then it happened. The main



"And then it happened. The main man hove into view. Not only was I going to see George Best play, here he was less than five yards away from me"

man hove into view. Not only was I going to see George Best play, here he was less than five yards away from me. The aura that surrounded him was almost like being hit the kisser with a giant Cod. Unreal!

I was dressed in blue jeans and a green nylon bomber jacket, oh so trendy back then, with a little plastic Arsenal football figure hanging off the zipper. But this was George Best, the greatest footballer on the planet after Pele for mine. How could I ask him for his autograph?

He was the fifth Beatle, the first football superstar, a man with more eloquence in either foot than I had in my entire body. He chatted with a few onlookers and then came striding, I thought purposefully, toward the changing rooms. It was about 15-to-20-minutes before the kick-off and I knew it would have to be now or never.

I shuffled awkwardly in his direction, programme in one hand, pen in the other and mumbled something about an autograph with a scared, pleading look in my eye as I gazed up at him quite lovingly I suppose. He seemed like a giant to me, remembering I was a short-arsed little kid of course, and he looked down at me with a strange glint in his eye.

That was when he gave me the greatest advice I have ever been given, advice that I have passed on many times since as it was far too good not to share with the world.

He looked down as this scruffy little 12-year old before him proffering pen and programme and said in a voice that many years later I found out was doused in alcohol: "F**k off!"

To say I was a little bit taken aback would be an understatement as he disappeared into the dressing room. I stood there dumbstruck; bottom lip quivering greatly but I fought back the tears. I was honestly, genuinely, seriously upset. It was like the world had come to an end and I wished a hole would appear in

the ground and swallow me up.

It must have had an effect on me as I remember little about the game other than Arsenal won 3-1, the only time they have done so by that score at Old Trafford to this day. I don't even recall if George played, or Bobby, Kidd or anyone else.

I remember Bob Wilson stretching up and collecting a headed ball back by a Gunners defender but little else that day, other than hearing on the coach radio later that the Man Utd fans had supposedly overturned an Arsenal coach on the little bridge that is now the Sir Matt Busby Way, but as we were actually sitting in the very spot that this was supposed to have happened it seemed rather like the day in being so surreal.

I like to think that had I ever had the chance to meet George again and relate this story to him he would have another pearl of wisdom for me something along the lines of;

GB: "Did I really do that?"

MB: "Yes mate and it really upset me."

GB: "Sorry, are you over it now though?"

MB: "Yes, of course, thanks."

GB: "Good, well f**k off again then," as he saunters off into the sunset.

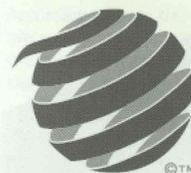
I feel very privileged and honored to have seen George Best so many times at the height of his footballing prowess. Likewise, I am honored to have met the man, even if it didn't go exactly the way one would have hoped and have to admit I really didn't like him too much after that for many years until I finally realized what the pressures of being the world's first football superstar had brought to bear on him and the terrible toll it was to exact.

I, like many, came around to loving him again, adoring his flicks, passes and cheekiness on the field of play and also as a man who walked the walk and talked the talk. He could do it all and often did.

He is truly a legend of the game and rightly so. What he did on the pitch has never been fully equaled. There have been a few pretenders to the throne but George Best remains the only one to have held and used the full tool kit. He was a master, an entertainer, a showman and one hell of a player.

He will be sorely missed and like my Dad, may he finally find rest in eternal peace.

To George, thank you for the good times and memories. And to my Dad, bigger thanks for giving me my love for the game. ☺



FOOTBALL QUEENSLAND

Football Queensland President Dennis O'Brien on the etiquette of football

IN MY LAST column I spoke of the importance of coach education, particularly for the large number of inexperienced coaches giving thousands of young players their first introduction to the game.

That begs the question of what the curriculum should be for a young player. It's easy to see that the typical 6 year old has few skills and its therefore easy to move into developing football skills; kicking left foot, kicking right foot, kicking inside, kicking outside, chesting, heading and passing the ball. But is that all that we should teach our young players?

I have just finished watching Rod Pampling win \$US1.36m in a golf game. That reminded me of the etiquette of golf. Young players are taught the etiquette of golf from the youngest age. You don't cheat, you respect your opponent and the game. You adhere to the values of your club in the way of dress, behaviour and manner. I was also unfortunate enough to see two disgraceful examples of crowd behaviour in rugby league and boxing and an on-field brawl in international football.

So what do we add to the curriculum of a young footballer and how do we ensure that these are included in what we teach. Two topics come to mind: the etiquette of the game and the values of the club. I'd like to examine each of these briefly.

Football is a very old game and its values have evolved. Basically, you are expected to respect the game and your opponents and let skill be the determinant of the game's outcome. So we need to teach our youngest players that you don't foul other players, that you dress well, and

that you respect the decisions of officials. And we need to teach our young players that you do these things because it's the right thing to do and not because you'll get penalised if you don't.

There are some of you who are already saying, "This guy's off with the fairies. The real games not like that." Yes, I know that they'll learn to tug shirts and make professional fouls but that's not a reason for neglecting what should be done.

What are the club values? Do clubs make sure that the parents of their new players know and understand those values? I know of some clubs that give all new parents a statement of how the club will develop their child and the values that they will instil. Things such as recognising and rewarding improvement as well as skill, providing equitable access to resources, ensuring that all players get similar opportunities in game play, and so on.

And how are these skills imparted to players? Not only is role modelling the most powerful mode of instruction but it is also an inevitable mode of instruction. That is, players will certainly learn by the behaviour of the coach even if they don't learn by what he or she says. Players need to see their coach treat all players equitably, they need to be there when the coach talks to parents about the season and listen to the coaches' expectation of parents. They need to see the coach accept referee's decisions with good grace and listen to the coach praise their opponents. The players in the Under 14C's need to see that the club respects them as much as the Under 14A's.

Football Queensland is currently examining its own curricula for coach education to make sure we have sufficient emphasis on the 'softer' elements of the game. We also hope that our staff can role model the values and attitudes that we hold dear. ☺



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Dreams up in smoke but spirit intact

Annerley Junior Soccer Club may have lost their clubhouse to an unforgiving fire, but they are determined to rise from the ashes. **Michelle Fowler** investigates.

WHILE the rest of Australia is supposedly entering 'football hysteria' the rest of us long time fans continue to devote our energy, time and enthusiasm to the world game.

However, no matter how loud we cheer for our team, how many games we watch or how often we train it will almost always pale in comparison to the hard work of volunteers.

At Annerley Junior Soccer Club every committee member, canteen worker and even the president is a volunteer, devoting their time to making sure the kids there have the best possible facilities and most importantly have fun.

The club which houses 420 juniors and 35 teams was recently devastated when fire gutted their clubhouse, destroying not only their canteen, toilet and storage facilities but claiming sentimental trophies and historic photos that adorned the now-crumbling walls. Shona Law, long-time member and wife of Annerley Junior SC president Tad Law, estimates the extent of the damage

could exceed \$300,000, this figure not even including lost trophies and other sentimental items that filled the clubhouse.

"It's going to cost about \$300,000 to rebuild the whole thing but we're never going to get that much from the insurance company. All the people that put their time in here are gutted, same as I am. It's a lot of volunteer work that has gone into the club and has just gone down the drain. Virtually the whole top floor was burnt out but thankfully the office survived and that's where the computer and photocopier and jerseys were so we were lucky in that respect."

However, while the preservation of registration forms and team kits means the teams will be able to keep on playing, there are still many immediate consequences that will directly affect the club and its junior members. The canteen is permanently closed as are the toilet facilities which the club has had to counteract by bringing in demountable toilets. These facilities must remain closed until the clubhouse is either demolished and rebuilt or renovated from the base up.

According to Law, this unfortunate fire, which the police are currently investigating, has brought out the best in the community with everyone from media, local businesses and even politicians getting involved.

"Terry from 97.3FM was riding past when it happened and they have been fantastic putting on a sausage sizzle and lots of stuff like that. We've got a lot of businesses in the area donating stuff for us to raffle and even politicians are helping out too. Kevin Rudd sent a bike for us to raffle, local pubs have given us cheques of \$1000 and of \$500 and they all found out through 97.3FM."

While money may be the primary need of the club at this time, the hands on approach of many parents and committee members all donating one of the most valuable commodities of all, time, has certainly not gone unnoticed.

"The kids and parents are all helping out and coming forward. Those that are engineers or architects have all come forward to give any help that they can and some of the mothers have washed the smoke out of the jerseys which luckily weren't lost in the fire. There are a lot of people coming in that are fundraising with their kids going to school and doing free dress days to raise money. That kind of help is so much appreciated."

With events planned for the future, there will be many opportunities for individuals or the community at large to help out.

"We're still in the process of talking about things like charity nights but the problem is we have nowhere to hold them so we'd have to look at that. The Greenslopes Bowls Club has been good enough to offer

"All the people that put their time in here are gutted, same as I am"

their halls so if we need any access we can use them. We've got a lot of bits and pieces to raffle like holidays and flights and stuff so we're going to have a major raffle after Easter where we put it all up."

Even though part of the club's history may never be reclaimed in the form of 20-year-old trophies or photos, the fire and the effects of it will of course become part of its history. Law believes that it has already inevitably brought the club a new sense of closeness.

"It has always been a family orientated club with all the committee being made up of volunteers that are all parents of the kids playing. But I think this has brought the club closer and we're all doing this stuff for the kids. It's all for the kids."

Law urged anyone who may have negatives of photos that may have been hanging in the Annerley Junior Soccer Club clubhouse to please get in contact with the club.

"Team photos that were up on the walls from many years ago such as representative teams and club championship teams are gone and as far as we know there aren't any negatives. However if anyone does have some we would appreciate them getting in touch with the club."

Anyone interested in making a donation or helping in anyway can get in contact with Shona on (07) 3848 0071. ☺



2006 ECCQ Cup set to break down cultural barriers...

THE COFFEE CLUB®

On this year's Labour Day holiday (Monday May 1st), Australia's rich cultural diversity will be on display in all its glory and united by the one true world game.

The Ethnic Community Council of Queensland (ECCQ) Cup will be held at the home of Brisbane Olympic United (Cansdale St, Yeronga) and will showcase sides comprised of football enthusiasts from all corners of the globe.

Already confirmed are teams from Sudan, Saudi Arabia, England, Vietnam, Bosnia, Africa, Croatia, Holland, Australia, Cyprus, Scotland, Lebanon, El Salvador, Greece, Fiji Indian and the Queensland Police.

Designed to create an opportunity for different communities to come together and socialise in the name of cultural exchange and sport, the ECCQ Cup has been put together by local referee and Queensland Police Cross Cultural Liaison Officer, Jim Bellos.

"It was suggested to me last year that we hold a football competition and we put together a trial tournament in 2005. This year we have a whole heap of sponsors who have come forward. The Coffee Club approached me and said that if I was prepared to make this an annual event they would sponsor it. Brisbane Olympic offered the venue and we took it from there. Since then it has just taken off," Bellos said.

He continued: "So many people have come on board to help because they see the value in this project. In particular I have to thank Steve

Keen from the Queensland Football website who has put a lot of work in to help make it all happen. He hasn't stopped and deserves a huge pat on the back."

Bellos reiterated that the theme of the day was to create awareness between the various cultural groups and promote understanding amongst all people.

"Our aim is to enhance relationships between the different communities in Brisbane through football. We all have to live together and events such as this help the various ethnic groups understand each other more and showcases the richness of each culture," he said.

The tournament is likely to unearth some hitherto hidden talent as well, and Bellos says local clubs should show up and take a look at some players whose only reason for not competing in the BMF competitions is purely financial.

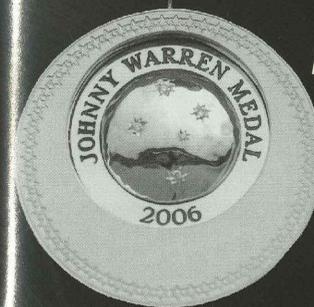
"There will be several players who just couldn't afford the registration fees associated with playing in the top leagues in Brisbane but are very skilful and talented. It would be nice if some of the clubs could take a more charitable view if they identify a gifted player and perhaps help out a little with registration fees if they are interested in taking him on," he said.

The games kick off at 9.00am and will continue all day until the final is played in the evening. Matches will be 20 minutes per half and the winners of the final will walk away with a cheque for \$500. Before the final there will be an exhibition game between a team of Muslim Women and a team of Australian Women.

The tournament is backed by a string of local businesses and government departments, including The Coffee Club, Qld Police Service, the Anti-Discrimination Commission of Qld, Ethnic Communities Council of Qld, Crime Stoppers, Brisbane City Council, the Queensland Football website, Soccerworld, 4EB radio, Paper Boys and Love to Ride Driving School.

Soccerworld have donated a signed Queensland Roar FC jersey that will be raffled on the day with the proceeds going to Annerley Junior Soccer Club, who recently lost their headquarters in a fire.

Make sure you head on down for what is shaping up as a great day out. For more information contact Jim Bellos on 0438 114 619 or email: Bellos.Dimitrios@police.qld.gov.au ☺



DESPOTOVSKI SNARES JOHNNY WARREN MEDAL

PERTH Glory striker, Bobby Despotovski took out the prestigious Johnny Warren Medal for the Hyundai A-League Players Player of the Year at new football's night of nights in Sydney last month.

The Glory hitman, who was at his lethal in the early rounds, edged out king of bling, Dwight Yorke, by just 11 votes. Queensland Roar's highest ranked player was Alex Brosque who came third, some 47 votes behind Yorke.

"This really took me by surprise and to everyone who voted for me, thank you very much. Thanks also to my team-mates for allowing me to play with you. At my age I was lucky to be playing with them," joked the 34-year-old.

"Deep down I knew the league was going to work, but I honestly didn't have great expectations about my own performances. I was just happy to play so I came in every day and worked hard," he continued.

The peer-driven poll is hailed by players as the award they'd most like to win and votes were cast on a 3-2-1 basis by all A-League players after rounds 7, 14 and 21 to decide the recipient of the medal cast in honour of the late, great Johnny Warren.

In addition to the night's major award, Despotovski was also one of four recipients of the Reebok Golden Boot Award having netted 8 goals along with Alex Brosque (Queensland Roar), Stewart Petrie (Central Coast Mariners) and Archie Thompson (Melbourne Victory).

Perth Glory continued to be amongst the awards with attacking midfielder Nick Ward collecting the Hyundai Rising Star Award for the most outstanding Under 20 player in the Hyundai A-League and the Western Australian club also collected the Fair Play Award for accruing the least number of yellow and red cards in the competition.

Central Coast Mariners coach, Lawrie McKinna, received the Hyundai A-League Coach of the Year Award as voted for by his peers, whilst Mark Shield was named the Zurich Referee of the Year.

The affable and popular McKinna said the award was some compensation for missing out on a Grand Final win.

"It means a lot to win this in the first season when you've got eight great teams and eight great coaches. At least we've achieved something after losing the Grand Final and I guess I must be doing something right. It's been a great year for the club," he said. ☺



HOW THEY VOTED

	NAME	CLUB	VOTES
1.	Bobby Despotovski	PG	237
2.	Dwight Yorke	SFC	226
3.	Alex Brosque	QR	179
4.	Fernando Rech	AU	170
5.	Archie Thompson	MV	158
6.	Andre Gumprecht	CCM	137
7.	Tom Pondeljak	CCM	107
8.	Dean Heffernan	CCM	96
9.	Noel Spencer	CCM	93
10.	Hyuk-Su Seo	QR	84
11.	Ross Aloisi	AU	81
12.	Shengqing Qu	AU	75
13.	David Carmey	SFC	72
14.	Damien Mori	PG	66
15.	Carl Veart	AU	54
16.	Angelo Costanzo	AU	49
17.	John Hutchinson	CCM	49
18.	Richard Kitzbichler	MV	48
19.	Alvin Ceccoli	SFC	46
20.	Ante Milicic	NUJ	45



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