

Brisbane's Football Magazine

# ExtraTime

Issue 25 September 2006

\$3.00 (inc GST)



**2006  
Final  
Tables**

including

**Kieran Cooper**

**Jan Molby**

**Sam Saif**

**A Month  
of Mouth**

plus!

**A League  
of Their Own**

views on the  
proposed new comp

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

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## comment

**THIS is the last issue of ExtraTime for the season and perhaps the final issue in its 3-year history. I can't say for certain that we will be around next season as that decision rests with the BMF committee and of course, the clubs themselves.**

Also thrown into the mix of variables is the future of the local administration structure. Will Football Brisbane finally unite the various bodies, or won't it? There is a lot that remains to be seen.

Either way, and no matter what happens to **ExtraTime**, I hope the hierarchy in clubland start to understand the value of publicity and what it can do. More importantly though, how it works. That is something that I honestly feel is escaping many clubs, their members and supporters.

Anyway, if we are no longer your source of hardcopy local material next season then I hope **ExtraTime** is at least replaced by an equivalent product, or preferably, one that is better than what we have managed to produce in our 25 issues. Suffice to say that we all did our best, often against the odds, and everyone involved can be rightly proud of their efforts.

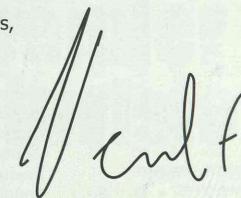
The idea of course was to promote the local game and I hope we did that. It's fair to say that we probably upset a few people on the way too, but that's part and parcel of having a free press and airing talking points that are relevant to all concerned. It's a pity that some at the various decision-making levels of Queensland football don't have a thicker skin though. What do they say about the heat and the kitchen?

To all those who have made written contributions to **ExtraTime** I offer my sincerest thanks, but especially to, Coops, Sharon Jackson, Monty, Joel Gould, Michelle Fowler, Micky Brock, Vitor Sobral, Chris Paine and Mike Bailey & Bruce Dinsdale from BMF, who have been regulars all season. They have once again been the backbone of the magazine and I hope I can convince them to come on board again next year if we get the green light.

Every month they earned my utmost respect and gratitude, putting up with my requests for early deadlines without complaint and they delivered every single time, without exception. An admirable effort in these busy times. Once again, my sincerest thanks to you all.

Well all that is left is for me to wish everyone well. If you're involved in finals games then good luck, if not, then you're in the majority and there's always next season. You'll be back even if **ExtraTime** isn't!!

Cheers,



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

Cover Pic: Toowoomba coach  
Sam Saif

Brisbane's Football Magazine

# ExtraTime

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# BRISBANE Premier League

## 2006 FINAL TABLES

Premier League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Strikers	22	17	3	2	55	16	54
Rochdale Rovers	22	15	2	5	51	29	47
Palm Beach	22	14	2	6	52	33	44
Pine Rivers	22	13	2	7	51	30	41
Taringa Rovers	22	12	3	7	52	41	39
Souths United	22	10	5	7	43	28	35
Brisbane Wolves	22	8	7	7	39	35	31
Mitchelton	22	9	1	12	33	38	28
Brisbane City	22	6	1	15	18	43	19
Mt Gravatt	22	6	0	16	25	43	18
Toowoomba	22	4	5	13	32	49	17
Eastern Suburbs	22	2	1	19	22	88	7

Premier League Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rochdale Rovers	22	20	1	1	87	18	61
Mitchelton	22	14	1	7	57	27	43
Brisbane City	22	13	3	6	50	30	42
Pine Rivers	22	13	1	8	46	31	40
Taringa Rovers	22	11	3	8	33	33	36
Souths United	22	11	1	10	50	39	34
Mt Gravatt	22	10	3	9	34	42	33
Brisbane Wolves	22	9	3	10	52	43	30
Palm Beach	22	8	3	11	40	48	27
Toowoomba Raiders	22	4	4	14	14	51	16
Brisbane Strikers	22	2	4	16	16	57	10
Eastern Suburbs	22	1	3	17	26	86	6

Premier Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich Knights	22	14	4	4	47	21	46
Peninsula Power	22	13	5	4	58	25	44
Brisbane Olympic	22	12	4	6	44	21	40
University of Qld	22	11	6	5	52	25	39
Beenleigh	22	10	5	7	44	37	35
Brisbane Force	22	9	7	6	45	30	34
Logan City	22	7	7	8	34	37	28
Rocklea United	22	7	6	9	29	52	27
Albany Creek	22	5	8	9	31	40	23
Capalaba	22	5	4	13	24	48	19
Redlands United	22	4	5	13	25	46	17
Western Spirit	22	1	7	14	14	65	10

Division 1 Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Force	22	19	1	2	79	18	58
Brisbane Olympic	22	14	5	3	53	24	47
Peninsula Power	22	14	4	4	44	23	46
Ipswich Knights	22	13	6	3	63	25	45
University of Qld	22	12	3	7	59	38	39
Redlands United	22	11	3	8	52	35	36
Albany Creek	22	9	2	11	38	47	29
Logan City	22	6	5	11	36	50	23
Western Spirit	22	4	5	13	23	51	17
Beenleigh	22	4	3	15	16	40	15
Rocklea United	22	2	5	15	18	76	11
Capalaba	22	3	0	19	17	71	9

Premier Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Pine	22	17	2	3	67	24	53
Southside Eagles	22	13	4	5	53	26	43
Pine Hills	22	12	4	6	45	24	40
Slacks Creek	22	12	3	7	54	37	39
Newmarket	22	10	2	10	41	41	32
Samford Rangers	22	9	3	10	36	57	30
Grange Thistle	22	9	2	11	41	40	29
Annerley	22	7	4	11	36	41	25
Acacia Ridge	22	7	2	13	45	78	23
The Gap	22	5	6	11	42	57	21
Moggill	22	6	3	13	33	50	21
Ipswich City	22	6	3	13	41	59	21

Division 2 Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grange Thistle	22	17	3	2	66	22	54
Ipswich City	22	13	5	4	52	22	44
North Pine	22	13	5	4	55	31	44
Newmarket	22	13	4	5	61	24	43
Slacks Creek	22	13	3	6	46	30	42
Annerley	22	12	2	8	45	26	38
Pine Hills	22	10	3	9	46	36	33
Southside Eagles	22	9	3	10	26	36	30
Moggill	22	6	3	13	30	41	21
The Gap	22	4	4	14	28	50	16
Samford Rangers	22	2	1	19	21	72	7
Acacia Ridge	22	2	0	20	19	105	6

Metro 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Regents Park	22	12	6	4	62	37	42
Bayside United*	22	13	3	6	42	27	42
Kangaroo Pt Rovers	22	12	5	5	49	29	41
Souths United	20	11	4	5	43	29	37
Oxley United	22	9	8	5	38	32	35
University of Qld	22	10	2	10	32	38	32
Old Bridge	20	8	5	7	37	38	29
Acacia Ridge	22	8	5	9	35	41	29
Clairvaux	21	6	5	10	30	37	23
Logan City	21	6	1	14	34	57	19
Wilston Athletic*	22	5	2	15	20	40	17
Taringa Rovers	22	4	4	14	31	48	16

\* Suspended from Competition

Metro 1 Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Taringa Rovers	22	15	3	4	62	29	48
Kangaroo Pt Rovers	22	12	4	6	54	32	40
Souths United	22	11	5	6	57	36	38
Clairvaux	22	11	5	6	43	34	38
University of Qld	22	9	6	7	42	32	33
Old Bridge	22	8	7	7	38	36	31
Bayside United	22	8	7	7	42	43	31
Acacia Ridge	22	8	3	11	33	44	27
Wilston Athletic	22	6	8	8	36	27	26
Oxley United	22	5	8	9	28	31	23
Logan City	22	6	2	14	40	65	20
Regents Park	22	3	2	16	21	87	11

Metro 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Park Ridge	22	19	3	0	85	17	60
Brisbane Strikers	21	15	5	1	65	23	50
Pine Rivers	22	14	2	6	55	34	44
Ridge Hills	22	13	0	9	48	33	39
Mitchelton	22	12	3	7	57	44	39
Brisbane Wolves	22	11	4	7	57	38	37
Grange Thistle	22	8	2	12	33	51	26
Brighton District	22	7	2	13	36	62	23
Annerley	22	6	4	12	30	45	22
Woodridge	21	4	5	12	41	54	17
Newmarket	22	3	3	16	23	58	12
Redcliffe PCYC	22	1	3	18	21	92	6

## 2006 FINAL TABLES

Metro 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
The Gap	22	15	2	5	57	24	47
Mooroonda	22	14	2	6	78	39	44
Eastern Suburbs	22	13	4	5	62	41	43
Western Spirit	22	13	4	5	55	36	43
Newmarket	22	13	2	7	74	40	41
Capalaba	22	12	4	6	65	39	40
Acacia Ridge	22	12	4	6	50	36	40
Peninsula Power	22	8	1	13	47	56	25
Westside Sports	22	6	5	11	47	48	23
Ipswich Knights	22	7	1	14	45	75	22
Moggill	22	4	1	17	41	78	13
North Pine	22	0	0	22	17	126	0

Metro 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slacks Creek	22	18	1	3	73	28	55
Brisbane Olympic	22	17	2	3	93	28	53
Park Ridge	22	15	1	6	54	28	46
University of Qld	22	13	1	8	59	39	40
Albany Creek	22	10	5	7	56	39	35
Brisbane Strikers	22	10	4	8	54	42	34
Ipswich City	22	10	3	9	36	43	33
Ridge Hills	22	6	6	10	40	49	24
Newmarket	22	5	3	14	33	70	18
Redlands United	22	4	4	14	37	86	16
Southside Eagles	22	1	7	13	21	59	10
Logan City	22	1	7	14	31	76	10

Metro 5	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Narangba	22	18	4	0	100	27	58
Mt Gravatt	22	18	2	2	64	19	56
Kangaroo Pt Rovers	22	13	5	4	53	30	44
Albany Creek	22	13	3	6	58	33	42
Logan Village	22	11	6	5	66	44	39
Jimboomba	22	11	3	8	50	48	36
Beenleigh	22	7	1	14	51	73	22
Slacks Creek	22	6	3	13	39	54	21
Clairvaux	22	5	5	12	43	61	20
Grange Thistle	22	4	6	12	31	57	18
Mooroonda	22	3	1	18	23	69	10
Annerley	22	3	1	18	17	80	10

Metro 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Pine	22	21	0	1	135	28	63
Narangba	22	13	5	4	44	20	44
Eastern Suburbs	22	14	1	7	47	23	43
Kangaroo Pt Rovers	22	10	6	6	44	22	36
Ridge Hills	22	11	3	8	47	34	36
Pine Hills	22	10	4	8	50	41	34
Annerley	22	9	4	9	31	47	31
Moggill	22	8	4	10	43	41	28
Oxley United	22	7	4	11	48	58	25
Brisbane Wolves	22	5	2	15	37	92	17
Regents Park	22	4	0	18	26	87	12
Park Ridge	22	2	3	17	29	88	9

Premier Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pine Rivers	22	21	1	0	82	18	64
Brisbane City	22	15	2	5	60	26	47
Brisbane Wolves	21	13	3	5	48	28	42
Queensland Lions	22	12	5	5	45	29	41
Rochdale Rovers	22	10	6	6	48	28	36
Brisbane Force	22	9	2	11	47	32	29
Brisbane Strikers	22	7	5	10	24	32	26
Palm Beach	22	7	3	12	24	44	24
Toowoomba Raiders	20	5	7	8	21	41	22
Mt Gravatt	22	3	7	12	30	51	16
Souths United	21	3	4	14	19	62	13
Mitchelton	22	1	3	18	14	71	6

Division 1 Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University Qld	22	16	6	0	56	14	54
Albany Creek	22	15	3	4	67	28	48
Narangba	22	14	1	7	73	46	43
Eastern Suburbs	22	13	3	6	40	23	42
Brisbane Olympic	22	12	4	6	52	38	40
Brisbane Wolves	22	8	3	11	40	48	27
Ipswich Knights	22	6	7	9	42	53	25
Capalaba	2						

# news desk



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## SOCCEROOS TO HIT BRISBANE - FINALLY

THE QUEENSLAND Government and Football Federation Australia (FFA) have announced the news that thousands of eager Sunshine State football fans have been waiting to hear.

On Saturday October 7th the Socceroos will take on fellow 2006 FIFA World Cup qualifiers Paraguay at Suncorp Stadium in the Powerade Cup. The match will be the first time that Brisbane has hosted the national team since 2000.

FFA have indicated that most of the Socceroos' top European-based players will be available for the game which will be held just days before the final Asian Cup qualifier against Bahrain in Sydney on October 11th. A near full strength Socceroos squad is expected for both games.

Queensland Roar FC Chairman, John Ribot, said it was fantastic news for football fans across the state and beyond.

"The Queensland Government have played a huge part in securing this match for Brisbane and they have shown great initiative in recognising what this will do for the code. This further enhances our relationship with the State Government and sporting events on this scale will encourage healthy lifestyles for men, women

and children, which is a great message," he said.

"The Socceroos achieved such tremendous success in the recent World Cup and captured the hearts and minds of everyone in the country with their heroic performances. This game at Suncorp Stadium against Paraguay is further evidence of the growth of the game and the Queensland Government should be commended for supporting it the way they have," he added.

Ranked 19th in the world, Paraguay finished 3rd in Group B of the FIFA 2006 World and will prove to be strong opposition for Graham Arnold's men. With many of the FIFA World Cup squad expected to be present, Ribot said it was a great chance for local fans to see a game of the highest order.

"Just to have the Socceroos here would be a boost on its own, but for local fans to see a full strength Socceroos side play against a strong South American outfit just makes it even better. Suncorp Stadium is a fitting venue for a match of this calibre against a side ranked in the top 20 in the world and I'm urging everyone to get behind this and enjoy what is set to be a fantastic event," said Ribot.

With tickets for the game sure to be in high demand, the Queensland football community can gain priority access to tickets by registering with the FFA's 'Football Family'. This can be done online through [www.myfootball.com.au](http://www.myfootball.com.au)

General sale of tickets is expected to commence in September following the priority sales period for the Football Family.

## ROAR OPEN WITH CONVINCING WIN

SIMON Lynch marked his Roar debut with a goal and Dario Vidovic announced his arrival on the professional stage as Miron Bleiberg's men got season two of the Hyundai A-League off to the best possible start with a 3-0 win.

Roar dominated much of the play, but Perth too had their moments in a game that swung Queensland's way with the introduction of young starlet Vidovic.

Sent on in the 63rd minute, Vidovic turned the game on its head with his clever movement and smart use of the ball as Roar looked for the breakthrough. His influence allowed Roar to exert continual pressure on the Perth goal in a crucial phase of the game and the opener finally came with just 10 minutes left on the clock.

The hardworking Ante Milicic was the creator when his robust challenge on the edge of the box forced the ball to Lynch who took one touch and fired hard and low past the dive of Vrteski in the Perth goal.

With the 20,000-plus in raptures Roar added a second 3 minutes later. Vidovic started the move with a sweeping ball out to the right where Lynch was lurking unmarked.

The Scotsman then returned the favour with a pin-point cross and the on-rushing Vidovic made no mistake with the finish.

Joy turned to delirium moments later when substitute Stuart McLaren stroked home a superb 20-metre shot after more great work by Milicic. ☺

# It's not cheating



AS WORN BY  
LIAM REDDY OF  
QUEENSLAND ROAR

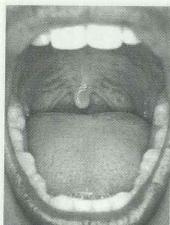
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# a month of mouth

with JOEL GOULD

*The coaches have their say on their side's season*

**SEPTEMBER is the month where the promotion and relegation hopes of sides across all divisions are decided with the first weekend set to provide a definitive answer to the make-up of the top divisions in 2007.**

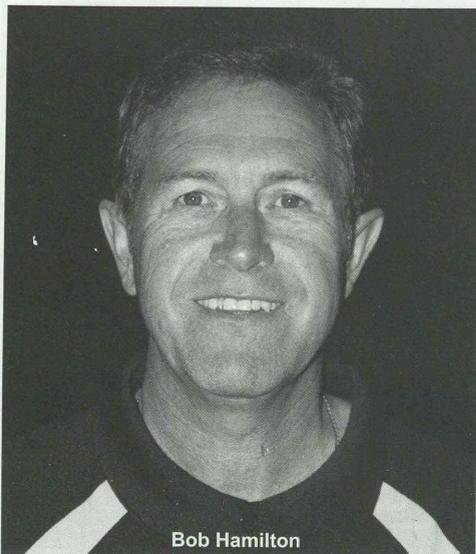
It was no surprise that Brisbane Strikers took out the Premier League title with Coach Bobby Hamilton at the helm of the most consistent team of the season. No-one could argue that the Strikers did not deserve the title although Kieran Cooper's Rochedale, in second spot, have the form to give the Strikers a real shake if the two sides meet in the Grand Final. Rochedale won the second round clash between the two clubs.

Easts will certainly be going back to Division 1 in 2007 after finishing in last spot but assistant top grade coach Laurence Harding said the club was determined to be back in Premier League as soon as possible.

Harding conceded that relegation was "never easy" on a club.

"It can happen to any club that has been around for a long time. There are going to be times when you are at the top and times when you are at the bottom," he said.

"It really is a rollercoaster but there is quite a lot of positive energy at the club. It's not all doom and gloom. We have been around for a long time and we are not just



Bob Hamilton

about to roll over."

The club's facility upgrades along with youth development and retention will all crank into gear immediately.

Harding said Easts would focus on being competitive in Division 1. The club has given Premier League exposure to an outstanding group of young players in 2006. Retaining those players for next season will be a priority.

Sixteen year old Michael 'Bubba' Atherton is a player who has really shone this year.

"He's had a number of games in Premier League and has gone from strength to strength," Harding said.

"He's played mainly in the mid-field and his skill level is as good as anyone."

Harding added that Atherton's ball control, balance and passing ability were first rate.

"With a bit more maturity and aggression he will be up there with the best. Anthony Mougan is another 17 or 18-year-old who can play sweeper or midfield. He's quite a tall boy and has a great ability to read the play, be involved and his talk is also good.

"Luke MacDonald is also a top class young goalkeeper," Harding continued. "He's been playing Youth and reserves this year and has also played some Premier League. He's only 16 and in Year 11 at school and we've seen him mature a lot this year. He will be one of the top goalkeepers going around I'm sure."

Easts started the season with Graeme Binney as coach but three quarters of the way through Binney was sacked and replaced by Cameron Bell.

While the position of coach for 2007 is yet to be decided by the Easts board Harding said Bell had done a good job with the squad in his limited opportunities at the end of the season.

"We are very happy with Cameron. He has done a good job and we are very happy with the way he treated the players," said Harding.

"Whether he wants to continue I'm not sure but he certainly has his foot in the door."

Meanwhile Ipswich Knights will go straight up to Premier League in 2007 after topping Division 1.

Coach Joe Fenech said the promotion to Premier League was a huge event for the club and the local community.

"It is absolutely of the utmost importance," Fenech said.

"Ipswich needs a Premier League team and the Knights represent the city's best hope of doing that. I started with the club this season and what I have noted is the great commitment of the players. A lot of them live in Ipswich

and there is a lot of pride in their performance because they are playing for the shirt. A lot of praise needs to go to the committee too because they have worked really hard but also given me autonomy when it comes to the football side of things."

Fenech said one of the keys to the club's success was the coaching program that had been put in place from the youngest competitors right through to seniors. The club certainly has a solid foundation to build on.

"We like to grow our own players rather than just being a club that spends money on attracting players from elsewhere. You always are looking for new talent but it is also nice to develop your own."

There have been many outstanding performers in 2006. Fenech praised the attacking work of forward Trent Griffiths as a standout.

"He is such a consistent player and an absolute professional," the Knights boss said.

"Trent just gets on with the business and is an absolute professional. He has great vision too."

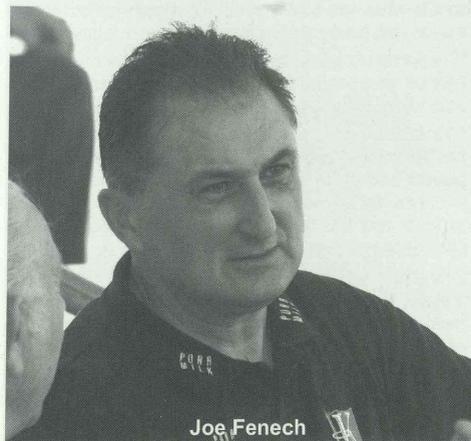
Griffiths great asset is his ability to play as either a striker or in the hole behind the strikers. He can also play a creative role in midfield. He holds the ball up well up front and also offers plenty in other facets of the game.

The Knights have also been rock solid in defence. After 21 matches Ipswich had conceded just 21 goals.

"Nick Parfitt, Danny Wilson and Andy Drager have been really consistent all year at the back," said Fenech, who has benefitted from some real talented youth at his disposal.

The Knights have been able to call on more than just a quality top 11 throughout the season. Fenech said that was vital in a 22-round competition plus cup games. His men have shown a steely side to their play that has enabled the Knights to win the crunch games.

"We've had 30 players who we could have chosen in the first team and we've still been able to bleed youth as well. Generally speaking, this year we've played at our best when our backs have been against the wall. The first game of the season we were down 2-nil against University and pulled it back to 2-all."



Joe Fenech

**I look back on the 1-nil away win at Peninsula Power and the win away against Olympic, also 1-nil. All games are important but those were two that we really had to win. We also won them with some style, despite the close scoreline**

JOE FENECH

Fenech said there were "two results that really stand out" as being crucial in winning the club promotion.

"I look back on the 1-nil away win at Peninsula Power and the win away against Olympic, also 1-nil. All games are important but those were two that we really had to win. We also won them with some style, despite the close scoreline."

The contrast between Ipswich Knights and the season of Western Spirit could not be more stark. Western Spirit will be demoted to Division 2 after finishing on the bottom of Division 1. A merry-go-round of coaches along with some unlucky losses have all conspired against the club. Jim McCabe started the season as coach and was in charge for the last two games. McCabe said he was confident the club would bounce back from the disappointment of 2006.

"It is a huge disappointment for us and personally as well," he said. "We are going to look at what went wrong and rectify it so we can hopefully bounce back stronger than ever. It was always our goal to play Premier League within five years. This has been a setback but we will be the stronger for it."

McCabe conceded the multitude of coaches the side had in 2006 was not ideal. McCabe was forced to relinquish the coaching job for nine or 10 weeks due to work commitments while his assistant Adrian Walker took over. When Walker went overseas for the World Cup Gary Barnes stepped into the breach before McCabe returned to look after the side for the final two weeks of the season. Jason Lucas will coach the side in 2007 while McCabe said he would be involved in some capacity. Nothing went right for the club at the start of the season. Postponed matches interrupted their preparation then three key players were injured in an inter-club trial.

"We had a really bad start to the season and never really recovered," McCabe said. "Once you get into that relegation zone it is very hard to get out."

A couple of cruel and controversial results hurt the club.

"We were 3-1 up against Logan and lost 4-3 in the ninth minute of injury time," he said.

McCabe said the fact that nine minutes was allowed was a travesty.

"And against Brisbane Force we were up 3-1 at half-time and they leveled at 3-all in the fifth minute of injury time when it should have been just three.

"When you are down at the bottom these are the kind of things that happen."

McCabe said there were some standout performers throughout the year.

**If there is to be an elite competition (in between the A-League and Premier League) then we'd love to give our players the opportunity to do that in their own back yard. We are well on the way**

**TREVOR ROHDMANN**

"One player who really stood out was our goalkeeper John Turner. He did exceptionally well and made some terrific saves. At times he was injured but he carried on regardless.

McCabe added that there was plenty to look forward to at Western Spirit with the club set to enter a Youth team in next year's competition. The club is located in one of the largest growth areas in Queensland.

"The Springfield area is a massive one and the influx of people to the area will only be good for the club," he said.

"Next year we are definitely putting a Youth team in and that will give us a solid junior base. There is a bright future for us. This year has been a bit of a hiccup for us but I am sure we can be better for it."

North Pine Gorillas can prepare for Division 1 in season 2007 after securing promotion from Division 2 with their 5-0 home win over Moggill back on July 13.

Coach Trevor Rohdmann said the club's aim was to reach the highest level possible and provide a pathway for juniors to the top.

Rohdmann also warned against taking anything for granted in Division 1.

"Our goal is to give our junior players coming through the opportunity to play at the highest level that they can and not have to leave the club," Rohdmann said.

"We've been in the semi-professional league before back in 2000 which is now the Division 1. We were there for two years.

"We had won the league and we thought we would go on and do great things but when you go up a level it is a tougher competition.

"We have got to improve our squad. Next year's planning starts now. But promotion does give a great avenue for our juniors to come through.

"Some of our 14 and 15-year-olds are among the best in the state so if they continue playing soccer and keep improving we have got a nursery in our own backyard. If we can keep improving then realistically I don't see why we can't be in the Premier League in the next two or three years."

Rohdmann said he was confident the Gorillas would retain 95 per cent of this year's squad for the 2007 season.

"The players enjoy each other's company and the way they've been treated here. All the conversations I've had at this early stage indicate that they should be back."

The facilities at North Pine's home base in Dakabin are first rate with a modern clubhouse and excellent playing

fields. The club is set up for a higher level.

"If there is to be an elite competition (in between the A-League and Premier League) then we'd love to give our players the opportunity to do that in their own back yard.

"We are well on the way."

Having proven players with Premier League experience such as Shane Coffey and Darren Bender helped the club in 2006.

"And to get guys like Michael Brockwell and Steve Melville here really made a difference," Rohdmann said.

"Michael started off as sweeper but we pushed him into the mid-field halfway through the season. Steve has given us real strength at the back. He used to be at North Star and Michael coached Easts last year and had been with them for a couple of years. He played NSL with Newcastle I think.

"That sort of experience that they bring on the park holds you in good stead but they set the highest standards at training. They drive the young blokes on."

Rohdmann said Jason Parks has also provided expert tuition for goalkeepers at the club and also as a player magnet. The Gorillas have also lifted the level of professionalism with the committee looking after the administration and allowing Rohdmann and his coaching staff to implement their plans.

"He came down as football manager and his job was to try and attract some players down here. He did that and he helped give the players a professional mentality.

"We've learned a lot from our mistakes in the past. When we last got promoted we'd sit on our hands and hope that four or five wonder players would just decide to walk in. But we have now put facilities in place and we have gone out of our way to attract the best players."

Meanwhile Division 2 second placed side Southside Eagles are locked in a battle for promotion to Division 1 with Redlands who finished second last in that Division.

Southside Eagles coach Dale Zimmerlie said he was looking for more consistency from his players in the promotion matches with Redlands and then the Division 2 finals series.

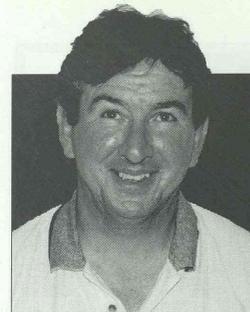
He conceded the Eagles did well to hang on to second spot in what was a difficult closing month of the regular season with plenty of players missing due to injury.

"I've spoken to a few physios and they say that hamstring injuries have been a big issue with all the hard grounds around due to the drought.

"Our last five or six weeks weren't all that good. No-one has been really that consistent. Hopefully I can get some players back from injury and on the paddock because we'll need to play well to beat Redlands. They have been in form and the talk is that they will be tough in a promotion/relegation game."

Zimmerlie said young defender Daniel Clements had been a player to "really step up" in 2006. Overall Clements has been one of the side's most consistent performers in the centre of defence.

"Any striker that he's been up against his one-on-one defence has been superb. There's not one of them who has got the better of him yet." ☺



# Opinion

with kieran cooper

**WITH this being the last *ExtraTime* for the season and with doubts about its future, I would like to make this final plea to its readers. Make sure you do everything in your power to keep it going - it's all we have.**

Now that the season is coming to a close, it's time for us all to look ahead. I thought I would touch on a few interesting events that will soon be upon us and give a final opinion for 2006.

Let's start with the A-League. Last year was truly a breath of fresh air to football in this country. The general standard of the league was terrific, the stadia were terrific and the crowds were good. The only real hiccup last season was the New Zealand Knights. This year is shaping as even better and I imagine crowd numbers will be up.

I expect the standard will improve and after the success of the Socceroos at the World Cup, sponsorship and marketing should also rise. This is all good for the game. One other pleasing aspect is the Asian Cup. I am led to believe that in most of the qualifiers Australia will be looking at local A-League players. This can only enhance the performances of players and therefore lift the standard of the A-League. Wouldn't it be great to see 20,000 spectators going to every game? Even the Knights have recruited well and should show a marked improvement on last year. Personally, I can't wait.

The local league will shut down at the end of

**To be selected in any representative side is an honour and if the players feel the same way us coaches will have some selection headaches**



**Paul Nevin: Can he get it right at the Knights?**

September and the State Cup will take over. Two teams will represent Brisbane Mens Football; one from the Premier League and one from Division 1. For players, this will be a great way to end the season. To be selected in any representative side is an honour and if the players feel the same way us coaches will have some selection headaches. This of course is how it should be and I have said time and time again how important it is for players to understand and appreciate being selected. This is an opportunity for players to represent their League. 18 players will be selected and I sincerely hope Clubs do not step in any player's way.

The new revamp was on the agenda last month. From feedback I understand that not many people were for it. Firstly, I should point out that this change will eventually happen as it has been recommended by the FFA. Secondly, I would ask people to have an open mind. We have spoken for many years now about clubs and organisations simply looking after themselves.

This of course is common sense as we all like to make sure our own back yard is tidy. However, one body, one set of rules, one office building seems smart to me. The only problem I see at the moment is the issue of volunteers. Many volunteers have worked their socks off over the years for clubs and associations and most of these people are pretty much set in their ways. It will be very hard now for these people to be under a governing body and told what to do. I can understand this and the important thing is to make sure that the volunteers remain important. I was

handed an article recently about this very subject. Some very interesting pieces came out of it.

**Treat Volunteers as you would a major donor**

It says, "A major Donor can give you the money you need and attract a lot of attention, but without the volunteers you can't do much with the money."

In this case it means we can employ the right people at the top, but if we don't respect and treat the volunteers well it will be pointless.

**People like to be asked**

By asking for volunteers in the first place you are recognising that they are of value and are needed. People like to feel valued and needed. By asking, you are showing that this person is seen as an individual and his/her expertise is required to make it all happen.

**Before asking you need to know just what needs to be done**

In other words, when selecting people to ask, look at what they will bring to the organisation. Make sure you are set to go and that the volunteer understands. It may be the smallest task but in the greater scheme of things it is important. Make your volunteer aware of their importance.

**Part of asking for help is having a relevant reason why you are asking this individual instead of another**

You must be able to answer this question. What does this person bring that another does not? Again, you must make sure that the volunteer is aware of why you chose them.

**Volunteer's needs**

Most volunteers get involved to satisfy their own needs in addition to yours. While they are satisfying your needs as well everything is fine. It's when the two no longer are mutually supporting one another that you have problems. Make sure you talk regularly to your volunteers. Make sure you keep track of the changing needs. The needs of a volunteer will not remain the same forever.

If you take the time to find out why somebody

**Make sure your volunteers are involved in areas that they are comfortable in. If possible, try and partner them with people they know or respect. Don't place them in situation that they will feel uncomfortable or embarrassed.**



became involved in the first place it will give you a better idea. This will also help you to motivate the person. Listen to the volunteer as they are the ones that have been in the front lines. They will no doubt have many ideas.

Make sure your volunteers are involved in areas that they are comfortable in. If possible, try and partner them with people they know or respect. Don't place them in situation that they will feel uncomfortable or embarrassed. As they settle in, you may have other tasks for them which will make them feel even more important.

Communication is also a huge part. Make sure you communicate regularly and be sure to let your volunteer know exactly how their role helps and how important they are. Make sure they know how many people rely on them. Don't hide information from them. Make them feel part of the team in every way.

Finally, and most importantly, make sure you use the personal touch. Phones, letters, email and faxes have many useful functions, but this is not one of them. Invest your personal time and effort into your volunteers. This will make them feel important, respected and needed, as they should be. It is easier to hold on to a volunteer than to find a replacement.

Maybe some good tips for the future. How many of us actually adhere to the above tips? How many of us simply get the volunteer and forget? I would like to say the above was all my doing but in truth, it was given to me. I just feel it needs to be out there. Hopefully it will help.

And finally, good luck to all teams participating in the finals this year. Thank you to Extra time Magazine for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion. Thank you to all the other contributors for giving me some local football issues to read and thank you to the Football community for your kind comments when we meet.

Remember, you don't know what you had until it is gone. ☺

The BMF Chairman on uniting the football community



**mikebailey**

**IT HAS been an interesting few weeks in Brisbane Football as we continue to inch towards the brave new world of becoming a united football community. And its been a time of obvious angst and anxiety as clubs try to make sense of the coming changes.**

For me though, it's been the glaring contrasts between the playing and the politics that have most stood out. I grow weary of the claims about "takeovers" and "hidden agendas" that people throw around without ever substantiating their statements.

I am tired of small minds worried about the various surpluses held by the five separate sectors of Brisbane football. I begin to question why am I doing this? Why am I putting in all this time? Will it all be for nothing if those of us who believe in the concept of one organisation to administer football in Brisbane somehow fail to convince our clubs of the need to do this?

The poet, TS Eliot, said that "Between the dream and the reality lies the shadow." I come out of the "shadow" of football politics when I watch a game.

Whether it's being at Oxley on a lovely winters day or looking around at the various junior games as the kids throw themselves with abandon into the point of all our debates; actually playing our beautiful game.

**I grow weary of the claims about "takeovers" and "hidden agendas" that people throw around without ever substantiating their statements**



**TS Eliot - had the odd smart thing to say. Perhaps he should have been a football administrator**

Or sitting on the sidelines as my daughter begins to show the first signs of skill taught to her by the wonderful young woman who coaches her Under 14 team with good humour and no little patience. It might be freezing at Slacks Creek as I am engrossed by a seesawing second division game between the home team and Pine Hills.

To know that I play a part in all these games taking place is when I know why I am involved and why I put up with the politics.

Anyway, on with the motley. What a great few weeks we have ahead of us with the A-League about to begin and a host of vitally important games due to be played in our local comp.

Congratulations to North Pine on being the first side to win promotion in 2006 yet who the other winners and losers will be is still much too hard to pick. It's becoming very hard to decide which games to go to as so many have so much at stake.

Still, it's the type of dilemma that's great for the local game. See you at one of them and of course at Suncorp throughout the A-League season. ☺

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

## finals diary

### METRO AND YOUTH FINALS - 1st Leg 1/2/3 September

Metro 6	4v1 Kangaroo Pt Rov	North Pine
	3v2 Eastern Suburbs	Narangba
Metro 5	4v1 Albany Creek	Narangba
	3v2 Kangaroo Pt Rov	Mt Gravatt
Metro 4	4v1 Uni of Qld	Slacks Creek
	3v2 Park Ridge	Brisbane Olympic
Metro 3	4v1 Western Spirit	The Gap
	3v2 Eastern Suburbs	Mooroonda
Metro 2	4v1 Ridge Hills	Park Ridge
	3v2 Pine Rivers	Brisbane Strikers
Metro 1 Res	4v1 Clairvaux	Taringa Rovers
	3v2 Souths United	Kangaroo Pt Rov
Metro 1	4v1 Oxley United	Regents Park
	3v2 Souths United	Kangaroo Pt Rov
Div 2 Youth	4v1 The Gap	Regents Park
	3v2 Taringa Rovers	Logan City
Division 1 Youth	4v1 Eastern Suburbs	Uni of Qld
	3v2 Narangba	Albany Creek
Premier Youth	4v1 Qld Lions	Pine Rivers
	3v2 Brisbane Wolves	Brisbane City

### METRO & YOUTH FINALS 2nd Leg 8/9/10 September

Metro 6	1v4 North Pine	Kangaroo Pt Rov
	2v3 Narangba	Eastern Suburbs
Metro 5	1v4 Narangba	Albany Creek
	2v3 Mt Gravatt	Kangaroo Pt Rov
Metro 4	1v4 Slacks Creek	Uni of Qld
	2v3 Brisbane Olympic	Park Ridge
Metro 3	1v4 The Gap	Western Spirit
	2v3 Mooroonda	Eastern Suburbs
Metro 2	1v4 Park Ridge	Ridge Hills
	2v3 Brisbane Strikers	Pine Rivers
Metro 1 Res	1v4 Taringa Rovers	Clairvaux
	2v3 Kangaroo Pt Rov	Souths United
Metro 1	1v4 Regents Park	Oxley United
	2v3 Kangaroo Pt Rov	Souths United
Div 2 Youth	1v4 Regents Park	The Gap
	2v3 Logan City	Taringa Rovers
Division 1 Youth	1v4 Uni of Qld	Eastern Suburbs
	2v3 Albany Creek	Narangba
Premier Youth	1v4 Pine Rivers	Qld Lions
	2v3 Brisbane City	Brisbane Wolves

### METRO & YOUTH GRAND FINALS 15/16/17 September

#### PREMIER DIVISION FINALS - 1st Leg 8/9/10 September

Premier League	4v1 Pine Rivers	Brisbane Strikers
	3v2 Palm Beach	Rochedale Rov
Premier Res	4v1 Pine Rivers	Rochedale Rov
	3v2 Brisbane City	Mitchelton
Division 1	4v1 Uni of Qld	Ipswich Knights
	3v2 Brisbane Olympic	Peninsula Power
Division 1 Res	4v1 Ipswich Knights	Brisbane Force
	3v2 Peninsula Power	Brisbane Olympic
Division 2	4v1 Slacks Creek	North Pine
	3v2 Pine Hills	Southside Eagles
Division 2 Res	4v1 Newmarket	Grange Thistle
	3v2 North Pine	Ipswich City

#### PREMIER DIVISION FINALS - 1st Leg 15/16/17 September

Premier League	1v4 Brisbane Strikers	Pine Rivers
	2v3 Rochedale Rov	Palm Beach
Premier Res	1v4 Rochedale Rov	Pine Rivers
	2v3 Mitchelton	Brisbane City
Division 1	1v4 Ipswich Knights	Uni of Qld
	2v3 Peninsula Power	Brisbane Olympic
Division 1 Res	1v4 Brisbane Force	Ipswich Knights
	2v3 Brisbane Olympic	Peninsula Power
Division 2	1v4 North Pine	Slacks Creek
	2v3 Southside Eagles	Pine Hills
Division 2 Res	1v4 Grange Thistle	Newmarket
	2v3 Ipswich City	North Pine

## metro round-up

with Alan Eedy

Some late season developments which saw the two top clubs (Wilston Athletic & Bayside Utd) suspended for playing ineligible players led to a last round showdown for the premiership of this division between Regents Park and Kangaroo Point Rovers. Regents went into the game needing only a draw to clinch the title in front of their home crowd. The game ended in a 3-3 thriller with Regents scoring just before the end to snare the premiership. The suspensions of Wilston & Bayside meant a surprise elevation to the semis for Souths Utd & Oxley Utd with Uni of Qld just missing out after a second round surge which saw them win 8 of the last 10 games.

In Metro 1 Reserves, Taringa Rovers after many years of threatening to win something in various divisions, finally did as they finished strongly to take the title after a couple of hiccups in the middle of the second round. Their nearest challengers were Kangaroo Point Rovers who they defeated 2-1 in Round 21 to wrap up the title. 3rd & 4th positions went to Souths Utd & Clairvaux.

Park Ridge claimed the Metro 2 premiership and ended up going through the season undefeated, although Brisbane Strikers made them work for it with their 2-1 loss to the Ridge at Hubner Park in Round 18 being the decisive game. Pine Rivers took 3rd position while Mitchelton slipped at the final hurdle allowing Ridge Hills to claim 4th spot.

Metro 3 was the tightest division of all with 7 teams in contention up until late in the season. In the end, The Gap got up by 3 points after recovering from a late season slump. Mooroonda, Eastern Suburbs & Western Spirit took out the other semi-final positions although these last three positions weren't decided until Round 22. The closeness of this competition is shown by the fact that the gap between 1st and 7th after 22 Rounds was only 7 points.

Slacks Creek were winners of the Metro 4 title, finishing 2 points in front of Brisbane Olympic. Olympic defeated the Creek in Round 22, but fell short in the end. Park Ridge came in third, while Uni of Qld held off the challenges of 3 other teams to claim the remaining semi-final spot.

There was a season long struggle between Narangba Utd and Mt Gravatt in Metro 5 with both teams clearing away from the rest of the field. Narangba (who ended up going through undefeated and scoring 100 goals) got home in the end with their 2-1 victory over Mt Gravatt in the Round 15 game proving the deciding factor. Kangaroo Point Rovers finished in 3rd spot while Albany Creek fought it out with newcomers Logan Village and Jimboomba for 4th. The Creek got home in the end.

Metro 6 was the first division decided with the "old boys" at North Pine streeting the field to win by 19 points scoring 135 goals in the process. Their only blemish was a loss in Round 15 to second placed Narangba which slightly delayed the inevitable. 3rd spot went to Eastern Suburbs and Kangaroo Point Rovers just edged Ridge Hills & Pine Hills for 4th.

A special mention goes to Kangaroo Point Rovers who got all their 4 teams into the semi-finals.

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# A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Speculation is rife surrounding the mooted format of the new elite competition in Brisbane. JOEL GOULD unearths a view from the sidelines



**ANY new elite football league for 2008 should have a promotion/relegation aspect to it and must get the full media treatment if it is to succeed.**

That was the view of Pine Rivers coach Clayton Koch when he was asked his view of the prospective new league that was referred to in last month's ExtraTime by BMF chairman Mike Bailey.

"As long as it is done in a professional manner like the A-League it can be a very positive thing," Koch said.

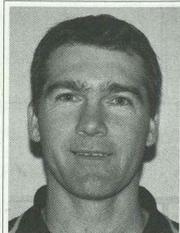
"The (Brisbane) Premier League is not too bad a standard but it has lost a lot of the publicity that it had. It is hard to get corporate support. You try, and as well as you can do locally, it is still a struggle.

"To get the atmosphere at games you need to have personalities and personalities need media attention.

"I played in the 1980s and I remember what it was like. There was so much attention given to the local game. The Sunday Mail, The Courier-Mail and Sun always had write-ups and columns during the week. The journo's would be out on Saturday nights in the dressing sheds after games doing their interviews and the reports would all be in the next day. It was constant attention and it was a lot more passionate. Granted, there wasn't much else to do then, but the publicity around the game was huge.

"There was a weekly football magazine back then and everyone looked forward to getting it on Thursdays. Guys like Tim Smits would have been constantly in people's faces. He would have been a star in Brisbane.

"It would be great if this new setup could get the coverage back to that."



CLAYTON KOCH

**The Premier League is not too bad a standard but it has lost a lot of the publicity that it had. It is hard to get corporate support.**

**You try, and as well as you can do locally, it is still a struggle**

ExtraTime understands that the new competition would likely have 8 to 10 teams from around Queensland, would likely be played in the winter of 2008 and would have a strict criteria to which clubs and possible new entities would have to meet. Entry to the competition would be on an application basis, similar to the way the eight A-League franchises were selected. Players will be paid and it is likely that there will be a salary cap.

Koch pointed to the competitions in Europe as evidence that promotion and relegation system was what kept players and fans enthralled right to the end of the season. He said promotion/relegation format would be essential in the new league.

"You don't want a situation where you tell the clubs who don't make it that they are shut out for at least three years. That would be a real kick in the teeth," Koch said.

"If it is based on a club system then it really needs to be promotion and relegation. It is an awesome format. That is why the end of each year is so entertaining. It is a system that works well and all teams are treated the same and on merit."

Koch remembers with some chagrin what happened to Pine Rivers back in 1996 before the elite XXXX League was formed in 1997. He warned that clubs can be set back years if shut out.

"We came sixth in the league and we were really on the way up. Then we were told we had to go and play in a northside Brisbane comp' for three years. It was a big let-down.

"I went to play with Rochedale in the new league and a lot of players left or retired."

For that reason Koch is adamant that clubs should be given an opportunity each year to move up into the elite league to give them all something worthwhile to aim for.

Koch said that if the new competition comes in to play in 2008 he could see a lot of clubs focusing more on off the field rather than on the field in the 2007 Brisbane Premier League in order to meet likely facility and administration criteria.

"And what do you say to the teams that don't get in (to the new elite league)? What are they going to do? And who is it that has to make the call for arguments sake whether it is Brisbane Wolves or Pine Rivers who gets in? It is going to be some official I guess but it is a big call and who is really credentialed to make it?"

As a final word of advice to organisers Koch said the key was to "be careful".

So far planning is in its embryonic stage with Brisbane Mens Football general manager Bruce Dinsdale confirming to ExtraTime that only one discussion meeting had so far taken place. Initial discussions were held between representatives of Football Queensland, BMF, Gold Coast Football and the chair of the state men's standing committee, Roland Starr.

"It has got to be done carefully and with good planning. You just can't jump into it," Dinsdale said.

The BMF general manager said the rationale behind the new competition was that there is a general consensus among the football community that "there needs to be a competition to bridge the gap between local competitions and the A-League."

Dinsdale said more discussions would be held over the next four or six weeks. At present the proposed competition is in the hands of a small group of officials but clubs and other entities will be consulted for viewpoints as part of the process.

He also confirmed that the competition would not be underway before 2008, saying that such issues as salary caps and the criteria for nomination in the new competition had been discussed. These relate to standards of playing facilities and administration.

Although no exact number of teams has been settled on it would be reasonable to assume that somewhere between eight and ten looks like being around the mark.

It is almost certain that the competition would be played in winter.

"Most people agree that winter is the best time," he said.

"People up north are not happy with playing summer soccer for a variety of reasons."

The competition will require significant corporate sponsorship and media coverage.

Who would run the competition?

That is yet to be decided but Dinsdale suggested that a completely new organization with representatives from Brisbane Mens Football, Football Queensland and other football bodies seemed reasonable.

The competition would likely involve clubs based in centres outside of Brisbane otherwise it would just be a glorified Premier League.

Dinsdale stressed the need to distinguish administration from governance. He said that while "governance would come under a different umbrella" he had no problem with Brisbane Mens Football playing an administrative role.

"We already run Premier League down to Metro 7 so the administration side would be no problem at all," he said.

Rochedale coach Kieran Cooper believes the new league would suit a summer competition. He pointed to the scope it provides for more extensive coverage. Running in conjunction with the A-League has its advantages, he said.

"There is no rugby league and no Aussie Rules in summer. What is the media going to write about? It does open up a window of opportunity for you.

"So I would lean towards summer in line with the A-League. I don't think that we've ever really given a summer competition a go. We tried it with the 21s and in the first couple of years it was very successful." Cooper is all for high standards but he stressed the need



KIERAN COOPER

**I'd rather see it based on re-election. If you finish bottom of the league you would have to apply for re-admission**

not to make the criteria unattainable for developing clubs. By keeping it achievable he said it was something club could build towards.

Cooper said he understood where Koch was coming from with regard to relegation and promotion. However, he favours a re-election system rather than a relegation/promotion format. With an elite competition in place there would be a series of strong local competitions around the state where up and coming clubs would be progressing from. It would not just be a Brisbane Premier League from where rising clubs would originate.

"My question is: Where are they going to be relegated to or promoted from?" Cooper said.

"I'd rather see it based on re-election. If you finish bottom of the league you would have to apply for re-admission." Cooper said he would not shut the door on clubs at the top of their local leagues beneath the elite competition.

"But up and coming clubs would also be able to apply and get in (if they meet the criteria). You don't want to shut them off. You've got to give them something to aim for."

As for the size of the competition Cooper recalled when the XXXX League was eight teams and there were three rounds. Playing the same teams over again became a bit monotonous. He favours more than eight sides but not if it dilutes quality.

"Ten or 12 sides would be ideal. But you just don't put teams in there to make up the numbers. They need to meet the criteria," he said.

Cooper, like Koch, would like to see a return to a more expansive media coverage of the local game. He pointed to a possible fixture such as Rochedale v Pine Rivers in the new elite league, with quality players competing on a Saturday night in summer on a true pitch as something to savour.

Cooper, like many in football circles, would love to see the metropolitan print and electronic media give more column centimeters and air time to the game.

Surely the readership numbers and viewers would be high enough to convince prospective corporate sponsors that they would get a return on their investment. Milton Rd, Norton St and Lygon Streets were all packed out for the last World Cup. You don't see that for the Rugby League World Cup.

Granted, a new elite Queensland league is not on the same level as the World Cup, but there is still a huge support base that may be just waiting to get right behind it. ☺

# the full MONTY

**Thanks for the time Jan I know this summer back home has been busy with the WC, did you have a media commitment and what games did you cover?**

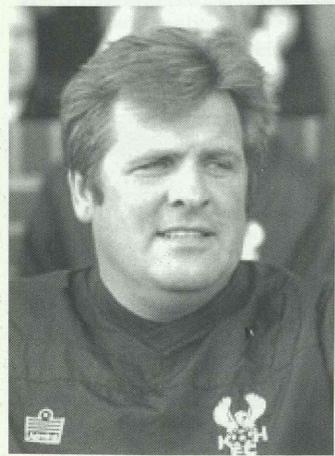
Yes I had TV commitments with Danish TV and covered 23 games in total including both semi-finals, the final and three of Australia's games.

**The WC was huge in Australia and while disappointed in the way that Australia went out against Italy the country came together in their support and we consider that the country has gained credibility at the top level. What are your observations from Australia's progress in the WC?**

Australia finally made their mark on the world stage in a way that won friends everywhere. Honest, committed, a fair bit of skill and above everything else spirit. Fantastic.

**Once again England made an exit via the penalty spot in a year that it was felt they had their best chance to perform. Personally I had reservations on the manager and I think the whole Walcott selection further emphasises this (if you are going to gamble then bloody well gamble!). This apart, the big guns really didn't perform, is this still a factor of playing far too many games in a season for English based players?**

Where do you start when you discuss England? The manager was a problem but not the reason. Sven is so set in his ways it was impossible for him to change. I don't think



taking Walcott to the World cup was that big a mistake. Taking Jenas was pointless because he was never going to play they should have taken another striker instead of him and kept Walcott there just in case and for experience.

The big guns didn't perform because they

**This month Monty takes time out with ex-Liverpool midfielder star and Danish international Jan Molby. Signed from Ajax by Joe Fagan back in 1984, Jan became the first foreign player to stay 10 years with one club in England. During this time he played 291 times for the Reds scoring 60 goals (42 penalties) and earned 33 caps for Denmark. Following Management stints with Swansea City and Kidderminster Harriers, the 'Great Dane' still calls Merseyside home**

were not given enough opportunity and by that I mean too many players didn't know their jobs and simply got in each others way. Great teams have balance but not always the best 11 players available to the coach should be in the starting 11.

Too many games is a problem that will never go away, but it does hamper England time and time again. The freshest and in the end the best England player was the one who had played the least games that season, Owen Hargreaves a player unfairly underrated.

**Talking of England's penalty woes you must have been curious too England's bleak performance from 12 yards. I know that your record was virtually unblemished scoring 42 from 43 penalties. Did you have a set strategy depending on the keeper or did you simply make the decision at the time?**

Taking penalties too some people is the easiest thing in the world and to other people the most daunting thing in football. The pressure you either enjoy or you don't, I did, although we shouldn't forget in a penalty shoot-out you do get people who are not used to taking penalties. Add tiredness and you have a recipe for a lot of missed penalties. Because I felt confident about taking penalties I would wait for the keeper to make his move and then go the other way. If they didn't move like Peter Shilton I would go low and hard to the keeper's right, always low.

I do believe you can become comfortable taking penalties through practice, although I never practiced!

**Your time at Liverpool saw you hailed as one of the most gifted midfield players of your generation (as quoted by Kenny Dalglish), having come through the Ajax youth academy with players such as Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard. What stands in your mind as the greatest influence during the Ajax Academy which helped determine your career?**

During my time at Ajax I played one season with a 37 year old Johan Cruyff and that was the highlight of my career. To play with one of the 5 greatest players of all-time shapes your career and mine was no different. His advice about how to play football was not for average players but designed for very talented players because he only knew how to play on a level that not many people could reach. A lot of his advice went to waste even at Ajax.

**Where does the 1986 Cup Final victory over Everton (3-1) stand among your playing highlights at Anfield?**

The best along with representing my country at one of the

greatest world cups of all time 1986 in Mexico.

The 1986 Cup Final was special for many reasons. My first final at Wembley which of course was a boyhood dream of mine. I would have loved to have been the first Dane to play in a FA Cup Final but Jesper Olsen got there first with Man Utd in 1985. The Final was also the second leg of us winning the double the only Liverpool team to do so and finally it capped a fine personally season for me having scored 21 goals that season.

**Australian Craig Johnston played and scored in that Final, what do you recall of 'Skippy's' contribution to the team during his time at the Club?**

Great character and a fantastic moment for him when he scored, not sure he could have done it without the pass, but all you could hear was Craig shouting "I've done it I've done it". He was a good player with a fantastic attitude; never gave up, scored vital goals, great in the dressing room, but impossible to shut up! Pleasure to have played in the same team as him.

**The Liverpool Old Boys still appears to be an extremely active group with you and past players having just completed a tour of Scandinavia. How good are some of the 'old legs'?**

You'd be surprised, the old legs are generally going well. We travel the world still to play mainly against Man Utd who since we have retired are still to beat us. The tour of Scandinavia was great, 3 games 3 wins plenty of strong beer and great spirit in the camp talking about old days.

**With the EPL about to restart and with cable TV down under we will take in at least 5 live games a**

## INTERNATIONAL BREAKTHROUGH FOR MCKAY

**HIS appearance on the pitch may have been short, but the taste of international football was still sweet for Roar midfielder and former Mount Gravatt junior, Matt McKay.**

McKay came on at Aussie Stadium as a last minute substitute for Steve Corica in last month's 2-0 win over Kuwait, a victory that guarantees Australia's passage into the 16-nation Asian Cup finals to be held next July.

"I'm very tired actually, more from the week I've had than my few minutes on the pitch," joked McKay.

"I'm on a big high at the moment. Obviously I would have liked to have had more time on the pitch but I'm extremely happy with the few minutes I got. It's given me the appetite to strive for selection even more and is a great boost for me," said McKay.

The 23-year-old will take away several souvenirs to mark the occasion of his first appearance for the senior national side and has set his sights on accumulating more caps.

"There was a small ceremony after the game and I was presented with my cap and that is something I'll always cherish. I managed to keep my shirt too so

**week. Obviously what has happened (financially) at Chelsea is starting to shape the game, do you see this as a real danger for the game as the pound can simply dominate or bury other club's interest in players?**

Yes and no. Chelsea have raised the bar but the rest are getting closer so don't despair!

**Obviously for me the answer has got to be Red but the Editor is a true Blue. Do you see anyone over and above Liverpool, Man Utd and Arsenal seriously challenging at the top this year?**

In this order I think: Chelsea; Liverpool; Arsenal and Man Utd but hopefully this will be the last time in this order!

**You have experienced club management twice. Do you have any desire to go back and manage a team and if so at what level?**

I wanted to be a Manager so one day I could manage at the level I played but that has not happened so management is over for me.

**I remember reading once when Robbie Fowler was asked what advice he could give a youngster what would it be and Robbie said along the lines "as a youngster I ran and boxed and that was the best training I could do to prepare myself". To any youngster out there what is the best advice you could pass on to an aspiring 10 - 13 year old player?**

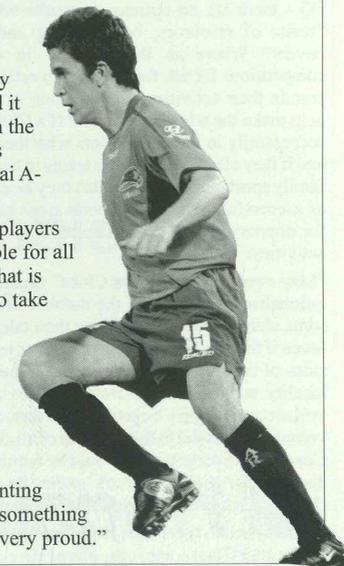
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that will be a great memento of the occasion.

"Being in the Asian Confederation gives us so many more games and it really does open the door for us guys from the Hyundai A-League.

"The European players won't be available for all the games and that is when we have to take our chance to play for the national team. I'll be very happy to take anything that comes my way because representing your country is something that makes you very proud."





Having read the statements given such prominence in Mike Bailey's Q&A article in the July issue my thoughts were how could the President of BMF demonstrate such condescension to his members by making statements which say "clubs must understand their respective places, clubs have to try to understand where their place in football is" and "one major responsibility at BMF is to look at the needs of football, rather than to look at the needs of footballs clubs?"

It is the Clubs, all of them, large or small, who drive and develop football and who elect people who are supposed to act without fear or favour to bring the whole process together for the good of all participants. From my long association with Clubs at all levels, I have always had the sense that their aims are to provide the opportunity for as many persons as possible to participate in football and for their teams to progress as far up the ladder as their ability allows. To do this they aim to provide as many fields and facilities as are necessary. Aren't these the basic aims which promote and grow the code to the highest levels?

As to whether BMF is part of a whole-of-zone operation or stand-alone operations, then I have to say the FQ has issued Competition Management Centre Licences to BMF, BWS, BND and BSD which ensure that each of them continues to conduct their previous activities under the umbrella of Football Brisbane. There are no stand-alone competitions, BMF is fulfilling the obligations of the Zone Men's Standing Committee under both the FQ Constitutional requirements and those of FBI in conducting one specific part of Brisbane Zone competitions.

Loved the question which started "Regardless of whether Football Brisbane goes ahead or not...". Football Brisbane is here to stay under the re-structure approved by FFA and FQ - there are no options. I wonder what the comment "waste of resources, both playing and capital works" covers? Where is the wastage in clubs providing competitions for all, for working to establish amenities to sustain their activities, for gathering in the volunteers to help make the wheels go round? If a Club works hard and successfully to develop juniors who then become seniors and if they also field women's teams to become a whole-of-family sport/club, why wouldn't they be expected to be just as successful in the senior men's arena rather than settling for improving their social facilities for social(not soccer) activities?

"May even need some new Clubs" apparently means let's rationalise (read reduce) the number of clubs by forcing some clubs to pool and combine their talents and resources (even if they are ten kilometres apart or maybe on opposite sides of the river). If the club base is moved outside their locality such a scheme would not be attractive to any volunteer and don't forget that the services of the unpaid volunteers are vital to the progress of all clubs and the code. Consider the parents who would be required to drive a fair distance for their children's games or would they just change sports to one which was locally based?

It also seems to have escaped Mike that the establishment of any inter-Zone comp is the prerogative of FQ not a Zone.

Some of Mike's views are clearly from a BMF perspective while others have an FBI flavour. In the first instance he make no effort to cater for the fact that the majority of Clubs now consist of Men, Women and Junior players except for one lonely sentence acknowledging that the inclusion of Women and Juniors is a means of securing sponsorship.

On Zone matters he has a poor appreciation of the status of a Zone as opposed to a CMC. The relevant Constitutions and By-Laws set out the Powers and Duties of a Zone (in part) as "to have the general control and management of the administration of the affairs, property and funds of the Zone" (note "general" not "specific" and "Zone" not "CMC"). I can find nothing which says that a Zone Council needs to have a CMC Licence to perform these duties.

At present it takes 9 Zone Councils and numerous CMC's to conduct football for 60% of FQ participants, so it makes sense for the five established CMC's to continue to run Brisbane's 40%. Each of them can be designated as the Zone Standing Committee as following facts should be noted: (1) The Members of the present Standing Committees for Men, Women and Juniors are the Clubs which have players registered in those categories. (2) This requirement is identical to that of the CMC'. (3) The electoral process for both is identical. (4) The only difference is in the titles of the top officials.

The Zone Council can give each the authority to manage their competitions, representative teams, finances, referee appointments (SARB) etc. This approach would mean a minimum of disruption, retention of volunteers, security of individual finances and assets and minimal expense to grass roots participants. It also means both BND and BSD would be entitled to seats on the Zone Council, a not unreasonable concept as they each control separate representative teams and about 5 times as many matches/players as either of the senior sectors.

Certainly, the establishment of a Zone HQ to house all the sectors of Brisbane Football under the one roof is an eminently desirable move. It would provide an identity for Football Brisbane and promote all aspects of the code from the Men's Premier League down. It would smooth the implementation of their separate operations and enable some elements of their activities to be generalised as Zone responsibilities (registrations, clearances, correspondence etc). It would also provide a focal point for meaningful sponsorship to benefit all concerned.

By the way, not only does the FQ Constitution stipulate Zones must establish various Standing Committees (so the Men/Women/Juniors can't be "all run by the one body") but FBI does not have the power to disband any incorporated association and absorb their assets. Advice from the Office of Fair Trading is that such decisions can only be made by the Members, so even if all Clubs are directed to affiliate only with FBI there will still be enough Office Bearers and Life Members in the CMC's to decide the futures of their Associations.

**Elaine Watson O.A.M**

Life Member WSQ, AWSA, FQ, Member FFA Hall of Honour

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## Sharon Jackson

Don't be fooled into thinking the Metro Comps are any less competitive than the divisions above them. Sharon Jackson gives an insight into the beautiful game at its roots

# Community Spirit

**FOOTBALL - what do people do for excitement if they're not football fans? I've asked several members of my football world who would be lucky to spell the word "soccer" never mind work out what offside is.**

I can say for certain that there is no way I would swap football for the latest in Desperate Housewives, Big Brother or (heaven forbid) Dancing on Ice. I might be tempted by Daniel Carter of the All-Blacks, but really, it's not the rugby I'm watching.

Surely it doesn't get any more exciting than The World Cup? A Sting concert, I'll grant you. Perhaps I'll ring up Sepp and ask for Sting to open in South Africa in 2010. We're a bit deflated returning from Germany. Swapping memories growing larger with each telling and eyeing the local scene wistfully at yet another botched pass. After a few matches though, we've realised that we're almost into the business end of our season and become conscious of what's building up in our local community scene.

Kangaroo Point Rovers, or KPR, are a 5-team Metro club based on the Southside and having only around 100 members. They are currently in the envious position of having all five teams in the top four of their respective divisions



The KPR Metro 6 Coach give Middlebro's Ugo Ehiogu a the benefit of his experience

and hope abounds in the air.

Unequaled achievements in the modern amateur comp and with only 5 matches to go there is palpable excitement pervading the clubhouse.

At the time of writing Metro One is tensed ready for a tough finals series with the top 5 of Bayside, Wilston, Regents Park and Souths all well known experienced teams in the running for the title and Grand Final honours. The reserves are generating as much anticipation in their ranks as Taringa try to hold out against a competitive KPR, Souths, Clairvaux, and Uni just outside the top four.

Narangba and Mt Gravatt have Metro 5 sewn up but KPR are there menacing in

fourth spot. In Metro 6, it's the North versus the South with Pine Hills having wrapped up the title. But then with Narangba and Pine Hills in second and third spot, there is likely to be a well fought derby campaign between KPR, Annerley and Easts.

The fifth team are the ladies, lying second in their BWS comp and very vocal in their excitement. Catching up with Coach Joey he says, "Joey's girls, as the club calls

them, are a mosaic-like team spanning all ages, backgrounds and experience that has made for the perfect mix. They play to win on the pitch and off the pitch enjoy many team social gatherings. The team spirit is the thing. The Metro comp's adding the fuel, they're not going to let the men get one over them. Good on 'em!"

With all teams in contention club pride is at stake and it's creating fiery in-house rivalry between them. No team wants to be the club wooden-spooner. Can they do it, how will they do it?

"Together," the President says.

They are determined, passionate and steadfast about the cause. These traits have shone through on and off the field and helped to build the club's never-say-die reputation and winning habit. It's the first time our small club has run 5 senior teams and the success (so far) is testament to the hard work and the team spirit the players have developed. The coaching team at the club are absolutely united in this. Metro One coach, Mitch Cattermole is typically laconic.

"It's the depth."

"What?" thinks I; "Where have they put the pool then?"

Cattermole Senior, Metro One reserves coach, smiles and explains.

"As Mitch adds players to his side in his team building then a number of quality players drop down and the trickle-down effect adds depth to all the teams."

Trickle down effect; I like that. A real technical term.

"That's it exactly," says Coach Leo of Metro 5. "We have a strong core of regulars who then coach new lads coming in. We're all playing for KPR, regardless."

The Metro 6 old boys are revelling in the play.

"I'm 38 years of age, if I wasn't bald I'd be grey and I still get butterflies when I'm about to play," said one.

Coach Jon is a coach of few words.

**Community football doesn't grab the headlines. It grabs the community and creates its own World Cup. Miniature in stature but all encompassing in nature. The people's game. Thrilling, heady stuff, every bit as entertaining as the big league**

"These guys have played together for years, they know without me saying where to be. They play for each other."

"Marty!" he yells suddenly. "Mark up!"

Marty, bent double having a breather, nods but does not move. The grin on his young opponent's face fades as Marty's sweeper comes to back him up

"See?" says the coach.

I see very clearly. It's a world away from the technical skill of the World Cup players but they have something the professional's lack; each other. Their enthusiasm and excitement is infectious, barely contained in a pixie-sized girl and thinly disguised in the sneer of a hulking reserves centre-back.

Community football doesn't grab the headlines. It grabs the community and creates its own World Cup. Miniature in stature but all encompassing in nature. The people's game. Thrilling, heady stuff, every bit as entertaining as the big league.

I'm wishing all players in the amateur leagues success in their finals series but more than this, I'm wishing a long and vigorous life to grass roots football. ☺

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Out with the old and in with the new

**WELL ladies and jelly spoons, the winter comps of Australia are all but over and the world leagues are about to start. Old rivalries stowed for another year and also about to be brought out, dusted off and renewed in far flung corners of the world. And isn't it a time when so many of us feel the adrenalin start to flow?**

The anticipation that this might just be the year rises within us and expectation of 9-months swearing, cat-kicking and whining the pitch was crap, the ref was on their pay book (which in Italy could well be true!), when hope springs eternal and despair is but 90-minutes away.

A time when fixture lists are scrutinized, dates are checked, double checked and checked once more as life is planned around them. Don't lie on your deathbed during a home fixture; don't plan a wedding, baptism, bar mitzvah, holiday or raging fever, one already exists within the rabid fan.

The biggest no-no known in the history of humankind is? Don't even contemplate, let alone mention, think, write or in any way utter anything whatsoever ever about anything human, foreign, alien, extra-terrestrial, subliminal or whatever until you ponder the very serious consequences of 'doing something' on 'derby' weekend!



"Just hang on for me love - I'll be there as soon as the match finishes"

No, no, no. Don't put your very existence at risk by suggesting visiting Granny, popping away for a few days (romantically or just to unwind) or even having that liver transplant you so badly need as I let you into a little secret....IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN!

From experience, nothing comes close to getting that list, checking when the 'derby' games are being played and sorting out where to meet the guys, what watering hole will have the pleasure of your company, best way to travel, when to leave, which areas to avoid and so on.

If further proof were needed, although I can hear the noise of nodding heads from here!, let me relate a true story about a Tottering Blotspur vs. Arsenal fixture I attended at White Fart Drain back in the last century albeit in the old League Cup and not a league match but it serves the purpose.

**Semi-final 1st leg, Highbury, 8 February 1987.**

The home side loses by a solitary offside goal.

**Semi-final 2nd1st leg, the Drain, 1 March 1987.**

The home side loses 1-2 thanks to goals from Viv Anderson and Niall Quinn to set up a replay as scores are locked at two apiece. The scummers win the toss and it is back to the Drain three days later.

**Replay, 4 March 1987.**

With the match going to a replay there was no time to print and sell tickets so it was a case of first in best dressed. A couple of lads and yours truly couldn't miss it. Though not the best trophy doing the rounds, it was against 'them after all! So it was that on a cold March evening we found ourselves heading off to the Drain with more than a little trepidation in our hearts. If we won would we get out alive? If we lost would we get

**Don't lie on your deathbed during a home fixture; don't plan a wedding, baptism, bar mitzvah, holiday or raging fever, one already exists within the rabid fan**

**He lunged at the chook but it trod on the scarf and did a neat little body swerve to the right sending the wooden top and the entire home crowd the other way before speeding off up the centre of the pitch**

out alive? If the unthinkable happened and we lost, would we ever hear the end of it? Not the best prospect for heading off to the nether regions of north London.

Sighting the floodlights is always a significant moment to the fan, a pivotal moment some suggest as it means the ground is a short distance away and without doubt you are now among the 'other lot'. It's scary, exciting, frightening and exhilarating all rolled into one. You're on their turf and hope before long, to be giving it the large one as the lads do the business on the pitch.

Anyway, nearing the turnstiles now and the local plod have erected little metal fences to filter through the supporters and direct set to their section of the ground. It's cold, bloody cold, and hands are thrust deeply into pockets, heads are down and eyes are darting to and fro checking out those around you.

We join the snaking line formed from the ticket window and huddle in to try and keep warm, eyes never really leaving the floor, checking out the shoes.....looking good, feeling fine. Shuffle forward first snaking this way then that. My God these shoes are mighty fine, you're a catch my son, no doubt about it. Snake forward again, shuffle this way and shuffle that, shoulders rubbing, bumping and pushing, the odd shove. Ensure the lads are still with you. Check. These shoes are so good it must be the laces, dead set chick magnet. In the queue for 20-minutes now. Will the ground be full? Will we get in? Shuffle, shuffle inching forward. Nearly there now. "One please." Money shunted through grill and replaced by match ticket. Yes, oh yes, oh friggin' YES! About turn, penguin waddles along with the rest to the gate. So far, so good. Into the ground, up the steps, glimpse the pitch and ready yourself for one big blast of noise.....when a hand grips you firmly around the mouth!

As we shuffled, snaked and waddled our way to the turnstiles we had somehow been separated from the Arsenal queue and nudged into the Spurz line. Horror of horrors, we now found ourselves firmly entrenched in their notorious section The Shelf. Never did like these bloody shoes, they're in the bin when I get

home! "Oh sugar," we exclaimed in unison at our little faux-pas and chuckled at how silly we had been. "Oops," was another utterance.

Here we were, three Gooners now surrounded by thousands of baying Neanderthals, dragging their knuckles as they lurched along as the realisation sunk in that if we attempted to leave we would be sussed and no doubt soon on the receiving end of a severe slapping. Try to get the plod to slip us into the Arsenal end and we would be sussed and on the end of a severe slapping or we could just front it out, keep quiet and pray for a miracle.

We stayed put, answering any questions asked with: "Je nais pa parlais Anglais monsieur," and any other foggy phrases we could remember from school (even then we were obviously years ahead of other Arsenal fans in that we could see where our future lay) and somehow we got away with it. How dumb were these fans? I cannot possibly describe the emotion of finding yourself in the wrong place but have to be honest and state the 'skiddies' went through the hot wash more than a few times after this.

Arsenal came out onto the pitch and the natural reaction for me was to shout aloud and jump about like a lunatic and just as I was going up a hand again clasped my mouth whilst two very large boots stomped my feet firmly to the terracing. I'd forgotten where I was already but thanks to the quick actions of my mates soon remembered. "What a silly chap," I said to myself lest we be sussed and on the end of a severe slapping.

The Arse are soon one down and the knuckle-draggers around are back slapping through the fur and grunting about going to 'Wumbelly' while these three French guys are saying nothing and just looking ahead. Strange that.

Shortly after the break a chicken is thrown over the fence from the Arsenal end with a red and white bar scarf firmly attached to the throat. It was all we could



Fowl play!

do to keep from laughing whilst the cavemen or cavewomen around, it is hard to distinguish you know, slobbered, foamed and threw things at the Arsenal crowd.

In keeping with the night, a couple of Arsenal strikers tried to kick the chook back over the fence and missed. Then a Police Sergeant, full of purpose, gusto and pomp strode the field.

He lunged at the chook but it trod on the scarf and did a neat little body swerve to the right sending the wooden top and the entire home crowd the other way before speeding off up the centre of the pitch. Eluding players, police and stewards alike, each evasion was greeted with a chorus of cheers from the red and white and grunts and much gesticulation from those around us.

Eventually, some minutes later, the Sarge finally lays the long arm of the law on the bemused fowl only because it had collapsed near the Arsenal end. 'Sarge' removed the scarf and threw it disdainfully to the ground with much vehemence as the little pullet lay motionless in his arms, head dangling limply over the sleeve.

He then proceeded to walk slowly around the side of the pitch, copping abuse and much spittle from the Gooners and applause and exultation from the Neanderthals who now had a new God to worship.

Slowly, ever so slowly he trod the cinders around the ground until he reached the tunnel and with one last flourish he turned to receive his last hurrah.

As we all know, life has a way of whacking you in the danglies at times and this was one of them. The chook wasn't dead and what 'Sarge' no doubt thought was Sunday dinner 'sorted' had other ideas.

It must have been comatose due to the scarf and now gained its second wind and with a flap, a flutter and much din, took off out of the coppers arms and onto the pitch once more. What ensued were another few minutes of hilarity, laughter and tears but it brightened up an otherwise scary evening.

Eventually the chook was recaptured and no doubts devoured later that week. Suffice to say it was certainly rated the 'best fowl' of the game.

Arsenal went on to nick the tie 2-1 for the second time that week and beat Liverpool in the final by the same score, which incidentally was the first time Ian Rush scored for 'Pool and they lost a match.

You cannot buy moments like these and no matter the odds, fears, trepidation, weather or bloody shoes, please don't ask as the verbal you receive will far outweigh the suggestion!

Until next time, follow your team (even Spurz) with pride and as ever; be lucky. ☺



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**Q&A**

**“The transition was a bit of a culture shock after working with academy players in the UK, but it was not difficult as I have lived and coached in the USA, which is a very similar set up to Australia**

**SAM SAIF**

Toowoomba Raiders Coach Sam Saif who took over the reins at Toowoomba following Round 7 when the Raiders were winless and looking like everyone's favourites for relegation, or at least the play off spot. Since then Sam has taken his side to third from bottom with notable victories against Rochedale (3-1 away); Brisbane City (3-1 home) and more recently a 2-1 result at Mitchy while holding competition leaders Brisbane Strikers to a 2-2 share of the spoils.

Interview: **MONTY**



**First of all welcome to ET Sam and thanks for your time. Just to background your past you are a UEFA 'A' License coach and FA Instructor and have been involved with coaching Youth Academies in the EPL and First Division for over 20 years. What was it that has seen you end up as coach of Toowoomba Raiders?**

Firstly my visa stipulated that I had to reside in some part of Qld. My wife decided after visiting Toowoomba with our good friends Gordon and Robyn Arrowsmith that it would be a good place to settle. Also it was not too far from Brisbane to visit other friends. I was first approached to take over the first 11 at Toowoomba Grammer School they in turn contacted the Raiders and the rest is history.

**Having come from the professional set up of the Academy at Sheffield United dealing with young lads whose whole life is football, how has the transition been in a culture which is dominated (media wise anyway) with Rugby League?**

The transition was a bit of a culture shock after working with academy players in the UK, but it was not difficult as I have lived and coached in the USA, which is a very similar set up to Australia. Media wise I have to say in Toowoomba the local paper (Chronicle), the radio network and T.V. fully support soccer each weekend with full reports of the pre-game and post game reports.

**You have been coming out to Australia for the past four years and worked in various coaching clinics. What do you see as the major difference**

**with young players in England and Queensland?**

With the really young players, 6 -11 years old, there is not much difference between the young players in both countries. The major difference comes after 10 years of age as in Europe it's part of the culture and way of life to play football. Also, there is a gap with coaching experience both in playing and coaching at the top level. So our best kids in Europe can play with and against the best players week in, week out. The same would apply in the UK with our cricket and rugby league; your coaches in Australia are far more experienced at the top level so the UK have employed the best coaches/players from Australia to coach our developing players and professionals. That's why we won the ashes! We employed an Australian bowling coach and Rodney Marsh to coach our under 19s.

**While the season still has a few weeks to run, you and the players have placed yourselves in a position which was not considered achievable some 3 months ago. What has impressed you with the application of your squad?**

The application of the first team squad has been first class. It has impressed me how much they are willing to listen and learn about the game. The team spirit is one of the best I have coached. They are all now understanding their roles and responsibilities when in possession and out of possession of the ball.

**You're working with a very small squad of players. Without wanting to ignore the fantastic team effort, is there one or two players that have shone who you believe can go further in the game?**

Every single player who has played every game or a small part, has contributed to the Raiders improvement in the last 12 games. Football is a team game with individual players in it; all the best teams in the world play as a team not as individuals. Once players understand the roles and responsibilities on the field they can go as far as their talents will allow them.

**One of your players is the popular Nathan Knox who actually trains with Brisbane City and plays for you on the weekend, is this an area that may be exploited further in 2007, where you may have a small group who are Brisbane based?**

Firstly, I would like to publicly thank the President (Bill) of Brisbane City for allowing Nathan Knox to train at the club twice a week. I have a great working relationship and personal relationship with Bill and we would reciprocate this arrangement to Brisbane City if needed. I think it is an area where the clubs could help each other, where players are concerned to promote the league and co-operation with each other instead of negative egos getting in the way of progress.

**I think everyone in Brisbane considers that a PL club from Toowoomba is an important component of the local league. If you stay in the PL how do you plan on the Raiders becoming a**

**force in the league as opposed to staving off relegation each season?**



Firstly, we have to stay in the league, once that is achieved we have to build or have a 5 year plan on and off the field to build a structure (professional) for the club which will include youth teams from 9s through to 15s. Hopefully within the next few years we will be playing at our own ground which would be a giant step for this club to move forward. The idea would be that if the Manager changes or the President moves on the Club will still be in a strong position to continue instead of what we have now.

**You have had the opportunity to see all the clubs in the PL, who has impressed you most?**

There are many good teams in the league but I felt that Strikers, Rochedale and Taringa to be the stand outs. Pine Rivers played a different style of football which was very effective and also caused us problems.

**Personally I have always felt that we have too many players in the PL, i.e. 3 grades. I believe a two tier competition (First and say Under 21s) would be more appropriate. Do you have any observations on the structure of the local league?**

I have no problems with the structure but looking at the academy structure back home the youths play more 15 to 18, the reserves would be an under 21 side with over age players, then the first team. This is just an idea from the UK.

**The lack of numbers watching PL is still a major disappointment and while I believe that we can 'dress' up the match day presentations we still need to get families to become ardent supporters at the top level. Regional teams such as Toowoomba and Palm Beach receive better media coverage than Brisbane-based teams. Do you have any thoughts on how the game can become more attractive and encourage higher spectator involvement?**

To attract most spectators you need the media on side like in Toowoomba. We are regularly getting over 200 fans to a game and we have been at the bottom 2 of the league all season and I believe this has a big part to play in the success of football.

**The A-League was a huge success last season and riding on the coat-tails of the World Cup we are all excited about the coming season. Have you had an opportunity to see Queensland Roar in any of the pre-season and have you been able**

to form an opinion of the level compared to the UK?

I have seen the Queensland Roar twice but both games have been pre-season friendlies so I really can't make an opinion on what level they are compared to the UK.

With the EPL restarted, us ex-pats are having trouble sleeping in anticipation. I see my beloved Reds play the Blades (Sheffield United) in the first game at Bramall Lane. How do you think United will adjust to the top flight and do they have any youngsters that could make their mark in the coming season?

Firstly, I would like everyone to know I am a Sheffield Wednesday fan and not United! I worked for United in a professional capacity. I think United will go straight back down as they do not have enough quality players to stay up. Regarding the youngsters, once a team goes into the Premier League it becomes a lot harder to play at that level because the gap is so big from the first division to the Premier League.

As a 'Painter & Decorator' by trade have you been able to fit in any 'strokes' outside all your involvement with the Raiders and Grammar?

Yes, I have fitted many 'strokes' but I do not wish to divulge anything further, haha.

I think the local league and in particular The

**The clubs could help each other where players are concerned to promote the league and co-operation with each other instead of negative egos getting in the way of progress**

Raiders are exceptionally lucky to have someone of your vast experience and we at ET can only hope your experience in SW Qld is memorable in all areas. Is there any one thing that you would like to see happen in the local league in 2007?

I would think it would be a great step if the powers that be would allow the best players in the PL to play for their respective zones in the State Cup. Is it right that rugby players can play for different clubs in different states yet still play in the state of origin which is one of the biggest sporting events in the country? I cannot see why it is good enough for rugby but not good enough for football. We need all the best players playing against each other in tournaments to raise the quality of the games and attract fans and also attract players who will want to play against the best. ☺

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