



BSPL NEWS

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Chairman's Corner

It has been a very quiet Month regarding Dismissals and it always pleasant for me to report on a more positive aspect rather than always having a good "Gurn". This is especially the case as we have had a spate of several sendings offs for violent conduct.

Can I make all teams, old and new, aware of the League rules in relation to using cancellation forms to postpone matches. Teams may only cancel one match and must use the appropriate form rather than sending me in letters asking for a cancellation which are not acceptable.

TURFLODGE STAR RESIGN

First Casualty of the season

Turflodge Star's participation in this season's Belfast Sunday Premier Football League ended when they resigned from the League last night.

Manager Colm Lennon cited various difficulties within the team when tendering Turflodge's resignation to the Chairman Gabe Devlin. Despite holding their own in the First Division, it was apparent that with Colm having to take on the role of Player Manager for yesterday's match against Boca Seniors and only the basic eleven players fielding the team was struggling manpower wise.

However the wrapping

up of the team has been handled in a professional manner, with Colm attending this evenings meeting to pay up all costs. This permits all currently signed players to be signed by other clubs come the transfer window in January as new signings.

It would appear likely that there will be a virtual amalgamation between Turflodge Star and Trinity Lodge under the Trinity banner. But with the two teams coming into existence by virtue of a falling out between them, whether all the Turflodge players sign for Trinity remains to be seen.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Two players stand out during November for our player of the Month. Jim Mc Menamin of Trinity Lodge and Neil Quinn of Fitzgeralds both received two Man of the Match awards for the Month and split the prize between them.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Referees should be anonymous.

After officiating in my game yesterday I looked back on it to analyse how it had went, and I must admit that I was very pleased in the way that I handled it.

In a game that was well contested, the two teams involved made it relatively easy for me in the way they played the game. Nevertheless I felt that I made the right decisions, didn't cause any player or manager to feel he had to verbally abuse me and kept control of the game therefore not letting tempers or frustration cause any unnecessary rash challenges or violent conducts. In fact I was relatively anonymous during the game and let the teams play football and get on with the game. If only life was like that all the time. I would agree that a bad decision can get players frustrated, but referees are human. Most refs agree that they just like to get on with the game and it is only when players decide to raise the stakes through arguing, committing rash tackles etc. that everyone becomes aware of the man in the middle because of the decisions he has to make.

FAIR PLAY TABLE

Standings up to and including 5th December, 2004

TEAM	No. of Matches	Additional Disciplinary Points	Total Points from Yellow Cards (2 Pts per Card)	Total Points from Red Cards (4 Pts per Card)	Total Points	Average Points per Match
CFANI	11		4		4	0.364
DUB FC	11		4		4	0.364
COLLINGWOOD SKUNKS FC	10		6		6	0.600
FORT FC	12		4	4	8	0.667
ST. MATTHEWS FC	10		8		8	0.800
NEWHILL FC	12		10		10	0.833
MONA STAR FC	12		4	8	12	1.000
KNOCK FC	12		8	4	12	1.000
RUSHLIGHT FC	14		16		16	1.143
CLIFTON STAR FC	10		12		12	1.200
BOCA SENIORS FC	11		14		14	1.273
ADELAIDE FC	11		18		18	1.636
PARK INN FC	12		18	4	22	1.833
APOLLO ATHLETIC FC	13		20	4	24	1.846
TRINITY LODGE FC	9	5	12		17	1.889
S.A. RAMBLERS FC	11		14	8	22	2.000
BROOKVILLA FC	10	5	16		21	2.100
FITZGERALDS FC	12		18	8	26	2.167
MORNINGTON FC	12		24	4	28	2.333
CARRICK HILL FC	11		18	8	26	2.364
ST. MICHAELS FC	10		20	16	36	3.600

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

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Finally, I would like to thank Stevie Looney, the Manager of Boca Seniors for providing another referee for the league. I am currently out of action for a couple of weeks and things were getting a bit on the tight side, with the League having to draft in referees who could help out occasionally but could not officiate on a regular basis.

However through thick and thin we have been able to maintain the BSPL's proud record of a referee for every match. Long may it continue

Yours in Sport,

Gabe Devlin

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Contd. From Page 1 Col. 4

If teams can stick to playing the football then we can look forward to having many matches where the referee can maintain his anonymity.

One aspect of refereeing that I definitely do not like happening on any pitch is to see an ambulance driving on to treat an injured player.

Over the past two weeks whilst officiating at Cherryvale (*Gabe - that's the big green pitches up the Ravenhill Road*) it has been necessary to summon ambulances on two occasions when first of all a Collingwood player dislocated a knee and yesterday a Mornington player had a suspected broken collar bone. We hope that both players will be back playing as soon as possible.

It only remains for me to wish everyone on behalf of the BSPL, seasons greetings and hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a happy and successful New Year

A VIEW FROM THE MIDDLE

By Con Fox

Sunday, 21st November, 2004, I had the honour of witnessing what was probably the fastest goal in the Belfast Sunday Premier League since it's inception. Trinity Lodge took the lead after Mona Star had kicked off, passed the ball back to the keeper and when the ball stuck in the mud, the forward beat the keeper to the ball and scored. Time taken from kick off - 10 seconds.



Recently there have been some altercations and unsavoury incidents when matches have finished and teams are on their way back to the changing rooms. These have not been witnessed by the referees and because of the difficulties that this causes, I have instructed all our referees that they must be the last person off the field of play and into the changing rooms so that they can see what is going on in front of them. Any misdemeanours can then be reported to the Committee for their further action. remember that players and management are un-

der the control of the referee right up until they enter the changing room, and they are liable to be reported to the Committee or sent off if the referee feels that the situation merits it. This would almost certainly be the case for anyone who thinks they can verbally abuse the referee when the match is over and get away with it.

As you are aware by now, the issue of corner flags are being dealt with by the Committee and when we have none, it makes the referees job even harder, trying to watch the byline and the side line. In a recent match this nearly caused a row. Please cut the referees a bit of slack as he can only give what he sees and is impartial in his decision making. Shouting at him will only make him more determined to get on top of this, which is sometimes not easy.

In closing, can I wish on behalf of the referees all the best for the festive season and wish everyone a happy new year.

Con Fox

JEWELLERY WARNING

Some may have read recently about a junior soccer match which got out of hand and a player had an earring ripped from his ear, causing serious injury.

Law 4 of the latest Laws of Association Football which we all abide by states: -

"A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewellery)."

With immediate effect all referees will enforce this rule rigidly for

their own protection against civil action and for the purpose of ensuring players' safety. Necklaces must be removed and rings and earring studs taped up unless they are so large that they may still cause injury, in which case they must be removed. All hoop earrings must be removed. Any player found on the field of play with jewellery will be told to leave it immediately until the problem has been rectified. This rule is for your own safety and the protection of the referee.

LEAGUE TABLES

Standings up to and including 5th December, 2004

DIVISION 1						
		Pld.	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
Rushlight FC		7	5	1	1	16
St. Matthews FC		5	5	0	0	15
Mona Star FC		5	4	0	1	12
Dub FC		5	2	1	2	7
S.A. Ramblers FC		6	2	1	3	7
Adelaide FC		6	2	0	4	6
St. Michaels FC		6	2	0	4	6
Trinity Lodge FC		5	1	2	2	5
Boca Seniors FC		7	0	1	6	1
DIVISION 2						
		Pld.	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
Newhill FC		6	6	0	0	18
Fitzgeralds FC		7	5	0	2	15
Clifton Star FC		6	4	1	1	13
Mornington FC		8	4	1	3	13
Park Inn FC		8	3	2	3	11
Brookvilla FC		6	3	0	3	9
Fort FC		7	3	0	4	9
Apollo Athletic FC		7	2	3	2	9
Carrick Hill FC		7	2	1	4	7
C.F.A.N.I. FC		7	2	1	4	7
Knock FC		7	2	1	4	7
Collingwood Skunks FC		6	0	0	6	0