



BSPL NEWS

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Chairman's Corner

The contentious issue of referees and the mistakes they make has been on-going for a while now. I have recently been challenged by certain people in the League who hold positions of responsibility within their respective clubs about referees not being reprimanded for these errors and the poor games they have. I would like to clear this up once and for all and the stand that the Committee takes in relation to this.

1. Referees will be reprimanded and guided by letters from the Committee. Once such letter which was sent to all referees is reproduced in this magazine
2. All the referees in this League are grade 3

SHIELD FINAL POSTPONED

But Finalists Play their Cup Quarter Final Instead

The BSPL's luck in running their major Cup and Shield Finals on time ran out when an unplayable Allen Park forced the postponement of the BSPL Shield Final on Sunday, 2 March, 2003.

St. Matts and Rushlight Celtic were informed on Saturday that the groundsman at Chimney Corner had deemed an already doubtful pitch unplayable due to heavy rain on Thursday.

However all was not lost and both teams were able to play a hastily arranged Cup Quarter Final at Ormeau Park instead.

On what was a poor pitch, little flowing football was

played and a tight match was always on the cards. The odd goal won the game for a hungrier St. Matts, when a 26th minute free kicked took a deflection to beat the Rushlight keeper in the top corner.

Final Score
St. Matts 1 Rushlight 0

The re arranged BSPL Shield Final will be played, weather permitting, at Allen Park on Sunday, 9 March, 2003, with a 2.00pm kick off. Spectators are reminded that no alcohol will be permitted to be carried into Allen Park, but that full bar facilities will be available in the ground.

BEST WISHES

As you will have perhaps noticed, we have no "View From The Middle" article in this month's magazine from referees representative, Con Fox. Unfortunately Con's good lady wife recently suffered a heart attack



and Con's BSPL duties have understandably been put on the back burner. I understand Mrs. Fox is well on the mend and we wish her all the best and look forward to Con's early return to his BSPL duties

EDITORS COLUMN

It seems that some people just cannot take good advice these days. Only last Month A.T. Milan were up in front of the Committee for no less than seven different disciplinary problems.

We spoke to them openly and as we would do with any new team in the League, attempted to give them good advice which if they acted upon would ensure their continued participation in it.

It would appear that some teams just fail to grasp how well this League is run. When advice is given to them they fail to take it on board and do not appreciate what the consequences are of not fully reading the rules and abiding by them. Such was the case with A.T. Milan. Within two weeks of the meeting, A.T. Milan failed to have seven players on the pitch by 1.45pm. This was then deemed to be a failure to field, and as it was their third one, they were automatically expelled from the League.

So again I would say to all teams, read your rules, and conduct yourselves in a proper manner. Failure to do so could end up with you suffering a similar fate as A.T. Milan

FAIR PLAY TABLE

Standings up to and including 2 March, 2003

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
LINENHALL	18		8	4	12	0.667
FORT	19		20	0	20	1.053
GLENCOLIN SWIFTS	15		16	0	16	1.067
S.A. RAMBLERS	16		14	8	22	1.375
KNOCK	19		20	8	28	1.474
MONAGH STAR	17		22	4	26	1.529
ST. MATTS	19		24	8	32	1.684
DUB	19		30	4	34	1.789
ADELAIDE	21		32	12	44	2.095
BOCA SENIORS	20		38	4	42	2.100
ST. JAMES	18		18	20	38	2.111
TURFLODGE STAR	19		32	12	44	2.316
ST. MICHAELS	19		38	8	46	2.421
DEANBY SWIFTS	20		44	8	52	2.600
TRINITY LODGE	19		38	12	50	2.632
BROOKVILLA	20	15	34	4	53	2.650
RUSHLIGHT CELTIC	17		38	8	46	2.706

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standard, including myself, and therefore no referees are in a position to criticise another.

3. We should be very grateful that we have referees for every game as other Amateur Leagues do not have this privilege.

4. Every referee is equal and no preference should be given to teams for so called big games or for first or second division games.

5. To have a fair and decent league, you need referees. At present we have eleven referees which is the lowest total for a number of years, and a worrying situation.

I realise that referees do have poor games, and make mistakes, but by the same token, players and managers make mistakes and have poor games.

We are only human and although some of you may feel different about this, we do try our best and are not biased, trying to be as fair as possible at all times and do the job to the best of our ability.

I know referees get paid a good fee

in this League and realise that teams are not happy with some referees, but as I have said before, it is better to have someone neutral in the middle rather than having no one, with teams having to toss to see who does referee.

Hopefully this League will never come to that

Yours in sport -

Gabe Derlin

CHANGING ROOM SECURITY

Over recent weeks there have been a spate of thefts from changing rooms at the Ormeau Park venue. Teams must be careful, especially if a substitute has gone to get changed early and goes into get showered leaving the door of the changing room unlocked. It is thought that this is when this opportunist thief will strike. Please look after your valuables as the BSPL are not responsible for making good any losses.

BSPL QUARTER FINAL CUP MATCHES

The following remaining Quarter Finals of the BSPL Cup will be played on Sunday, 9 March, 2003 at Ormeau Park playing fields, with a 1.30pm kick off.

Linenhall Athletic v S.A. Ramblers
Trinity Lodge v Monagh Star
Turflodge v Deanby Swifts

All Matches shall be played to a finish with 10 minutes each way extra time being played in the case of a draw after normal time and the golden goal rule applies. Penalty kicks will be taken if teams are still even after extra time.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

The BSPL Player of the Month for February 2003 goes to John Paul Morgan of Division Two Leaders Deanby Swifts.

John Paul was the only player in the League with two man of the Match awards for the month, he truly deserves the £10 prize.

Well Done.

League Tables up to and including 2 March, 2003

D I V I S I O N 1						
	P l d .	W o n	D r a w n	L o s t	P o i n t s	
R u s h l i g h t C e l t i c F . C .	11	10	0	1	30	
S t . M a t t s F . C .	9	7	2	0	23	
M o n a g h S t a r F . C .	9	5	2	2	17	
S t . J a m e s F . C .	10	4	0	6	12	
T r i n i t y L o d g e F . C .	11	3	0	8	9	
S . A . R a m b l e r s F . C .	9	2	2	5	8	
G l e n c o l i n S w i f t s F . C .	8	0	2	6	2	

D I V I S I O N 2						
	P l d .	W o n	D r a w n	L o s t	P o i n t s	
D e a n b y S w i f t s F . C .	15	12	1	2	37	
T u r f l o d g e S t a r F . C .	13	9	3	1	30	
S t . M i c h a e l s F . C .	14	9	3	2	30	
K n o c k F . C .	15	7	4	4	25	
L i n e n h a l l A t h l e t i c F . C .	14	7	3	4	24	
A d e l a i d e F . C .	14	6	5	3	23	
B o c a S e n i o r s F . C .	15	5	3	7	18	
D u b F . C .	14	4	3	7	15	
B r o o k v i l l a F . C .	14	5	0	9	15	
F o r t F . C .	14	2	1	11	7	

This is a copy of a letter forwarded to all referees on 16th February, 2003, and is reprinted in conjunction with the Chairman's Column on page 1 of the magazine.

For the attention of all Referees - From the Committee, Belfast Sunday Premier League

Please note the following points for your strictest attention and compliance.

- Ensure that when writing match reports after sending offs, full details of the incident including names and teams of all players involved are contained in the report.

E.g. - If Foul and Abusive Language has been used, include what was said and not merely "I was verbally abused." Failure to complete detailed reports may cause the case to be lost at disciplinary hearing as teams are contesting every allegation against them.

- AT Milan have been severely warned about drinking on the sideline. In future any referee officiating at one of their games who sees drinking on their sideline shall take the following action: -

Instruct the Manager that he has fifteen minutes for the alcohol to be disposed of and that if this does not occur the match will be abandoned. After fifteen minutes if there is any evidence of alcohol on the line, the referee **must** abandon the match. All instances of drinking on the sideline must be reported to the Committee whether or not the match has been abandoned.

- There appears to be a lack of consistency from referees regarding kick off times.

Rule 6 of the BSPL Rules states: -

- a) All matches will be played promptly at the appointed time of 1.30pm (Cup Finals excluded).
- b) The match official will allow each team a maximum of 15 minutes to be on the pitch after the designated starting time.
- c) If seven players are not on the pitch within that designated time, the referee shall report this on the team card and does not have to offer a choice of whether or not the game shall be played.
- d) A match card containing at least seven signatures from the team fielding will be deemed sufficient for the awarding of points and the team claiming the points does not have to take the field of play.

The Committee are **instructing** all referees that if a team does not have seven players on the pitch at 1.45pm, he **must** abandon the match and report the failure to field to the Committee. Teams are complaining of a lack of consistency in that some referees abandon the match whilst others kick off after 1.45pm.

We must be consistent – No kick offs after 1.45pm.

- There have been recent complaints from teams of referees failing to deal with players and Managers using threatening behaviour to opponents during matches and at half time intervals

Referees must not ignore this and action as follows must be taken where appropriate within the Laws of the game.

If the threats do not appear serious, initially consider warning the Manager / Player that if there is any further threats they may be cautioned or sent from the field of play and reported to the Committee.

If it is deemed serious enough, caution the player or in extreme cases send him from the field of play. A full report to the Committee is required for any instance of this type of behaviour occurring.