



BSPL NEWS

Issue 5 - Feb - 2003 / 2004 Season

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Chairman's Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Marty Quinn on his generosity in presenting a new Shield to the Belfast Sunday Premier League in honour of his Father who died last year. The Shield is a fantastic gesture by Marty and the BSPL Shield shall now be known as "The Reggie Quinn Perpetual Shield."

The Committee has asked Marty to be Guest of Honour at the Shield Final at Allen Park on Sunday, 7th March, 2004, between Dub FC and Rushlight FC, when he will present the trophy to the winning team. Once again a big thank you Marty

Yours in Sport -

Gabe Devlin

ALL CHANGE

St. Matthews Points Re instated

The Committee of the BSPL met after last Month's meeting to hear St. Matthews FC appeal against the deduction of 8 points for fielding an ineligible player.

The original deduction had followed a written complaint that Nicky Mulvenna had signed for the markets team and played for them having already signed for Rushlight FC in the Summer.

A personal hearing was held at which St. Matthews management and the player involved attended to protest their innocence, alleging that the signature was a forgery.

Rushlight FC were written to by the Com-

mittee and asked to provide any evidence substantiating their claim, including witnesses present when Mulvenna allegedly signed for Rushlight.

Initial indications were that witnesses existed, but on the night of the appeal, none turned up, and the Committee were left to base their final decision on copies of Nicky Mulvenna's signature, as well as St. Matthews protestations of innocence.

It was decided that without Rushlight's witnesses or any other corroborating evidence, there was reasonable doubt as to the validity of the Mulvenna signature on the original Rushlight signing form. Therefore it would be unsafe to allow the eight point deduction to stand.

St. Matthews were therefore awarded the eight points and their £10 appeal fee was returned.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

With six players on one award each, and no disciplinary records, the Player of the Month for January is carried over to next month.

EDITORS COLUMN

With the semi finals of the new Reggie Quinn Perpetual Shield settled, it is nice to see a fresh face contesting the final in the form of Dub FC.

Although from the Second Division, Dub's recent results, (Especially against St. Matthews who were gracious in defeat) indicate that perhaps Rushlight FC will not have it all their own way. Dub have a very professional approach to the game, as can be seen from newly acquired tracksuits etc and a midweek training schedule which they are already using to prepare for the final.

Of course Rushlight FC are "Old hands" at contesting BSPL Finals and they must start out as favourites, seeking to bag at least one trophy this season, with the League now out of their hands and the cup still to come.

Let us hope that March, 7 at Allen Park will provide a good even game of football between two teams, fairly contested, and end up as a good advert for the BSPL. Let it also be a deserving fixture for Marty Quinn presenting the Inaugural Reggie Quinn Perpetual Shield on behalf of his late Father.

FAIR PLAY TABLE

Standings up to and including 1st February, 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
COLLINGWOOD SKUNKS FC	18		8		8	0.444
FORT FC	17		12		12	0.706
DUB FC	17		10	4	14	0.824
KNOCK FC	18		12	4	16	0.889
BOCA SENIORS FC	17		12	4	16	0.941
TURFLODGE STAR FC	16		12	8	20	1.250
C.F.A.N.I. FC	17		14	8	22	1.294
APOLLO ATHLETIC FC	16		16	8	24	1.500
BROOKVILLA FC	17		24	4	28	1.647
GLENCOLIN SWIFTS FC	17	5	22	4	31	1.824
S.A. RAMBLERS FC	15		22	8	30	2.000
ADELAIDE FC	18	5	30	4	39	2.167
ST. MICHAELS FC	16	15	16	4	35	2.188
MONA STAR FC	15		30	4	34	2.267
ST. MATTHEWS FC	18		22	20	42	2.333
TRINITY LODGE FC	17		32	8	40	2.353
RUSHLIGHT FC	16		30	12	42	2.625

As a new venture, we are starting an article where clubs within the BSPL can send me a history of their club (Along with a couple of Photos), and I will print it to give other teams an insight where they came from and what they have achieved through the years. This month we are starting off with BSPL Shield Finalists Dub FC with the intention that we feature the other finalist - Rushlight FC next Month.

DUB FC - A HISTORY

Dub FC joined the BSPL in September 2001, with the name originating because the club trains at the Dub Pavilion playing fields in Upper Malone on Wednesday nights.

The club was previously known as Belfast Telecom and played in the Dunmurry and District League for 12 years. Despite fielding some talented players over the years the club had very little success and failed to win any trophies.

The club were prompted to seek a new League, the biggest reasons being during the last season in the Dunmurry League, only a few pitches away from a match being played by Belfast Telecom, a 24 year old goalkeeper was killed in tragic circumstances after being kicked in the head by an opposing player.

This was the final straw after a number of years where Belfast Telecom felt cheated out of many games because of poor and biased refereeing, as well as a number of attacks on players during matches including an horrific tackle on Neal Ward which resulted in him ending up in hospital for a number of weeks. In one instance Cormac Kernan was punched by the referee - who just happened to be the Manager of the Seahill and the opposition!

The general consensus at the end of the 2000/2001

season was that the club needed to find a new League or to simply fold as a club as all players felt that the fun had gone completely out of the game. Having heard of its good reputation, and the fact that referees were guaranteed for all matches, the club contacted the BSPL about the possibility of joining in May 2001.

Fortuitous timing and a warm welcome from the League convinced Belfast Telecom that it was worth salvaging the club for another year. Seven players from the days as Belfast Telecom still play for the club. New management was introduced with the former club secretary, Cormac Kernan, taking over the reigns of General Manager following 5 years of excellent service from Liam McCollum; Cormac's brother Art took on the role of coach and club secretary.

The club was renamed Dub FC and sponsorship was gained from the Rose & Crown Bar on the Ormeau Road. In its first season the club were very impressed with the organisation of the BSPL and managed to finish fourth in the second division.

The following season Dub were ravaged by a number of long-term injuries and only managed to finish eighth.

At the end of the 2002/2003 season the Club Management decided to pull out all the stops and take things a bit more seriously to see if they could achieve the success they felt they deserved with the strong panel of players they had built up.

This season the club further developed its website, embarked on a preseason tour, purchased training gear for all players and began training twice a week. The club has retained the same squad as last year and has been boosted by the return from injury of Sean Mullan, Gareth Dickson and Art Kernan, all of whom missed the previous season. Dub has also signed a new goalkeeper, Neil Smyth, and a new midfielder, Peter McToal.

The 2003/2004 season has been the club's most successful ever. Having won every one of their matches at the group stage they went on to beat first division opposition in both the quarter and semi finals to reach the final of the BSPL shield. They are also in contention for the second division title and have high hopes of being promoted. Having won only four games last season the club has already exceeded its expectations for this season and treats every point as a bonus and is looking forward to a great day out in their first final on March 7th.

LEAGUE TABLES

Standings up to and including 4 January, 2004

DIVISION 1					
	Pld.	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
ST. MATTHEWS FC	9	7	1	1	22
RUSHLIGHT FC	9	5	2	2	17
TURFLODGE STAR FC	9	4	2	3	14
MONA STAR FC	9	3	3	3	12
TRINITY LODGE FC	8	3	2	3	11
S.A. RAMBLERS FC	9	2	1	6	7
ST. MICHAELS FC	11	2	1	8	7

DIVISION 2					
	Pld.	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
BOCA SENIORS FC	14	10	4	0	34
DUB FC	13	10	1	2	31
BROOKVILLA FC	15	6	5	5	23
APOLLO ATHLETIC FC	12	7	2	3	21
ADELAIDE FC	12	6	2	4	20
KNOCK FC	14	6	2	6	20
GLENCOLIN SWIFTS FC	14	4	3	7	15
FORT FC	13	4	2	7	14
C.F.A.N.I. FC	13	1	0	12	3
COLLINGWOOD SKUNKS FC	13	0	2	11	2

Apollo FC deducted 2 points for fielding ineligible player

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