



BSPL NEWS

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Chairman's Corner

As we move into the new year and with both divisions hotting up, I have to make a distinction between the first and second divisions. At this present time, I have to say that it is more pleasurable, both as a Chairman and a referee, to be involved with the second division.

This feeling corresponds with the thoughts of the other referees, in that they see second division games to be largely just as competitive, however the respect accorded to referees and the general standard of behaviour and discipline is superior to that in the first division.

When cautions for dissent are compared between the two divisions,

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RUSHLIGHT

RESIGN

BUT LATER WITHDRAW IT

2004 for the Belfast Sunday Premier League almost started off with controversy as Chairman Gabe Devlin received a call early last Friday evening from Joe Graham of Rushlight to day that his were pulling out of the League.

This would have been devastating for the First Division as they would have been reduced to just six teams, and despite the running of a First Division Knockout Trophy, all matches would have been completed very early in the season, or teams would most likely have been playing every other week or even longer. However just as the Chairman was re

scheduling all the fixtures, a second call came from Joe Graham to say that the team would remain in the League. However Joe has decided to call it a day and has resigned with immediate effect as the Rushlight Manager.

Rushlight player Sean O'Reilly will take over the Manager's reins from Joe.

Time will tell whether the Rushlight success story continues under Sean's guidance, but I would on behalf of the League takes this opportunity to thank Joe for his contribution in giving the League a more professional outlook through his exploits first of all Glenview and then Rushlight FC.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

The Player of the Month for November and December was Hugh Malone of Boca Seniors FC with three award during the two Months.

CHAIRMAN CROCKED (AGAIN)

Once again our Chairman Gabe Devlin has been restricted to Administrative duties due to pulling a fetlock again and catching a cold causing him to lose his voice, but only temporarily.

EDITORS COLUMN

This Months Column deals with an aspect of the game which I have noticed becomes more apparent every week in the BSPL - The Throw in. Without fail, players are constantly calling "Foul Throw" when it is clear many do not know what constitutes a "Foul Throw" Below is the text from this years FIFA Laws of the Game which relates to Throw ins.

A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

A throw-in is awarded:
When the whole of the ball passes over the touch line, either on the ground or in the air from the point where it crossed the touch line to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball

Procedure

At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower:

- Faces the field of play
- Has part of each foot either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line
- Uses both hands
- Delivers the ball from behind and over his head

The thrower may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.

The ball is in play immediately it enters the field of play.

It is very simple procedure and I hope that this article can be passed onto players for their information.

FAIR PLAY TABLE

Standings up to and including 4 January, 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
FORT FC	14		6		6	0.429
COLLINGWOOD SKUNKS FC	16		8		8	0.500
BOCA SENIORS FC	16		10	4	14	0.875
KNOCK FC	15		10	4	14	0.933
DUB FC	14		10	4	14	1.000
TURFLODGE STAR FC	15		12	8	20	1.333
C.F.A.N.I. FC	16		14	8	22	1.375
APOLLO ATHLETIC FC	13		14	4	18	1.385
BROOKVILLA FC	15		22	4	26	1.733
GLENCOLIN SWIFTS FC	15	5	20	4	29	1.933
RUSHLIGHT FC	13		18	8	26	2.000
MONA STAR FC	12		24		24	2.000
ST. MATTHEWS FC	15		16	16	32	2.133
ADELAIDE FC	16	5	26	4	35	2.188
TRINITY LODGE FC	15		30	4	34	2.267
S.A. RAMBLERS FC	13		22	8	30	2.308
ST. MICHAELS FC	14	15	14	4	33	2.357

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a ratio of 2:1 is the result with the first division receiving twice as many cautions.

I make no apology to the first division teams for my comments, but in a free week they should go and watch a second division match and see how behaviour, discipline and respect is accorded to referees and fellow players

Yours in Sport - *Gabe Derlin*

HAVE A GURN

Some teams are already not using either the BSPL Matchball which was given to them or a better quality one. Practice Balls such as the cheaper Mitre Calcio etc will not be deemed to be acceptable as Matchballs and clubs using them may be reported for not having a suitable ball available, with the subsequent £5 fine.

All Managers are reminded that full names must be entered on the left hand side of the match card and not an initial (eg. Joe Bloggs and not J. Bloggs) This speeds up administration and prevents mistaken identity in disciplinary matters. A £2.50 fine for all those who do not adhere to the rule.

Finally, as will be discussed in the January meeting, Referees have been instructed to issue yellow cards for the slightest dissent shown to a referee by a player.

They are also under strict instructions to initially warn Managers and Coaching staff for any Dissent from the line and send them from the line if Dissent continues. Managers are also reminded of their clubs responsibilities regarding abuse by spectators on their line.

A VIEW FROM THE MIDDLE

By Con Fox

The 2004 segment of the Sunday Premier League promises to be one of the best yet. The First Division will be close, but nothing compared to the Second Division which is turning out to be a real cracker. Unfortunately I am duplicating some of the Chairman's comments elsewhere in this newsletter, but no longer do referees strive to officiate top First Division games. Because of the abuse and stick they receive from certain teams in the top flight, they have indicated their unwillingness to officiate in games involving these teams.

Teams have started not to bring corner flags out at venues, citing the fact that there are none avail-



able. This is not so and if they ask reception or the groundsman, flags will be handed out. I will be informing referees that matches will not commence unless flags are out, and if a team does not have them in position by 1.45pm, they will suffer the consequences.

The BSPL Committee supplied all teams with a match ball. Whether this, or a better ball is used, it must be inflated properly or referees will report this to the Committee and a £5 matchball fine will be made. So take note.

Yours in Sport - *Con Fox*

FIRST DIVISION TROPHY

Once the results for the 21st December, 2003 were collected and scores updated to the First Division League Tables the Committee of the BSPL were able to decide on the two groups for the First Division trophy which would be played in the new year to make up for the shortfall of games experienced by the Division due to the withdrawal of St. James and Deanby FC.

At the time of decision, the league table was in this order: - Turf Lodge Star FC, Rushlight FC, Trinity Lodge FC, St. Michaels FC, St. Matthews FC, Mona Star FC and SA Ramblers FC. According to the rules the groups will therefore be as follows-

GROUP 1

**TURFLODGE STAR FC
TRINITY LODGE FC
ST. MATTHEWS FC
S.A. RAMBLERS FC**

GROUP 2

**RUSHLIGHT FC
ST. MICHAELS FC
MONA STAR FC**

Every team will play each other in their respective group once with the top two teams participating in the final. In the event of a tie in the group stages, Goal difference will apply, followed by most goals scored and then by the two teams result against one another. Should both teams still be tied, the Committee shall decide which way the finalist shall be decided.

LEAGUE TABLES

Standings up to and including 4 January, 2004

DIVISION 1					
	Pld.	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
TURFLODGE STAR FC	9	6	1	2	19
RUSHLIGHT FC	8	5	2	1	17
TRINITY LODGE FC	7	4	1	2	13
ST. MICHAELS FC	9	4	0	5	12
ST. MATTHEWS FC	8	6	1	1	11
MONA STAR FC	8	3	2	3	11
S.A. RAMBLERS FC	8	2	1	5	7

St. Matthews deducted 8 points for fielding ineligible player

DIVISION 2					
	Pld.	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
BOCA SENIORS FC	13	10	3	0	33
DUB FC	11	8	1	2	25
APOLLO ATHLETIC FC	9	7	0	2	21
KNOCK FC	11	6	2	3	20
ADELAIDE FC	11	5	2	4	17
BROOKVILLA FC	12	4	4	4	16
GLENCOLIN SWIFTS FC	11	4	2	6	14
FORT FC	11	3	2	6	11
C.F.A.N.I. FC	12	1	0	11	3
COLLINGWOOD SKUNKS FC	11	0	1	10	1

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