



BSPL NEWS

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Chairman's Corner

I have two very important pieces of information for teams concerning forthcoming fixtures which following an emergency Committee Meeting, the Committee of the BSPL have decided is necessary to assist in completion of all BSPL Competitions.

1. All fixture cancellations will no longer be able to be used after tonight's meeting, 10th January, 2005. Any forms that have already been submitted will be honoured.

2. To complete the Second Division programme we will employ six point games, ie. any

FIXTURES CRISIS

Radical Changes to Ensure Completion

The worst fears of the BSPL Committee have been realised with the first weeks matches of the new year cancelled due to the weather.

With the fixtures situation already tight due to the number of teams in the League, the cancellation of matches due to be played on Sunday, 9th January, 2005 comes as a severe body blow, and as can be seen from the Chairman's corner elsewhere in this issue, drastic steps have had to be taken to ensure completion of the two League Divisions as well as the remainder of the Shield and all the BSPL Cup matches.

Even taking these measures into account, any further cancellations will have further serious consequences on the League's ability to have everything wrapped up by the Cup Final in early May.

If further postponements occur, and with the way the weather is at the moment there is every likelihood, then it is almost inconceivable that we will be able to avoid stretching the season further into May. However the Committee of the BSPL are determined that this will not happen and their current position is that it must end on time.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

With only three matches having been played during the month of December, 2004, and no one having received more than one man of the match nomination, there will be a double prize handed out next month covering December and January.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Much is being made of the current fixture crisis and rightly so. However my thoughts and those of the Committee are not only concerned with this season, but also how to alleviate a similar situation occurring next season.

At the beginning of the 2004/2005 season, the Committee of the Belfast Sunday Premier League bent over backwards to admit as many teams as possible into the League, such is the popularity of the BSPL. However hindsight is a wonderful thing and had we known then what we do now, there is no way that we would have implemented a ten team First Division and an eleven team Second Division.

Therefore come next season, it will have to be decided, in the interests of keeping the League as professional as possible and not implementing emergency rules half way through the season to ensure competitions are completed, whether we should revert back to a twenty team League of two Divisions of ten teams in each. This obviously provides a problem in that we already have twenty one teams who look

FAIR PLAY TABLE

Standings up to and including 9th January, 2005

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	12		4		4	0.333
DUB FC	12		4		4	0.333
COLLINGWOOD SKUNKS FC	12		6		6	0.500
FORT FC	13		4	4	8	0.615
KNOCK FC	14		8	4	12	0.857
MONA STAR FC	13		4	8	12	0.923
CLIFTON STAR FC	11		12		12	1.091
BOCA SENIORS FC	12		14		14	1.167
RUSHLIGHT FC	15		18		18	1.200
ST. MATTHEWS FC	12		16		16	1.333
NEWHILL FC	13		14	4	18	1.385
ADELAIDE FC	12		18		18	1.500
PARK INN FC	13		18	4	22	1.692
TRINITY LODGE FC	10	5	12		17	1.700
BROOKVILLA FC	12	5	16		21	1.750
APOLLO ATHLETIC FC	14		22	4	26	1.857
S.A. RAMBLERS FC	12		16	8	24	2.000
CARRICK HILL FC	12		18	8	26	2.167
FITZGERALDS FC	13		20	12	32	2.462
MORNINGTON FC	14		32	4	36	2.571
ST. MICHAELS FC	11		20	16	36	3.273

The BSPL Newsletter is produced courtesy of : -
The Belfast Sunday Premier League (Estd. 1994)

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

fixtures that are outstanding where neither of the two teams have played each other in the League, then they will only play one fixture. The winning team will receive six points, and if it is a draw, then each team will receive two points each as though two matches were actually played.

Teams will obviously only be charged for one pitch and one referee. In addition, any team having to participate in such a fixture will receive £5 compensation for each six point game they are involved in and this will be calculated at the end of the season and refunded at next season's registration meeting.

I realise that these measures are extreme but in order to complete all League fixtures, we will have to operate this system. At present I calculate that there are fourteen Second Division fixtures to be played on a six point basis with all teams being notified well in advance of these games.

Yours in Sport,

Gabe Deulin

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Contd. From Page 1 Col. 4

as though they will go the distance and will not fold between now and May. How therefore do we dispense with one team for next season. As Disciplinary Co ordinator I see the perfect solution. Whoever is bottom of the Fair play League do not get offered a position in the League next season. Whilst the Committee may or may not decide that this is the most fitting method of reducing the League, I for one would be ensuring that I was not the worst behaved team in the League.

A VIEW FROM THE MIDDLE

By Con Fox

With the start of the New Year, the referees are hoping that they have better luck than last year. Never before has there been so many of the referees injured or ill during the course of the season, making it hard to ensure that there is referee cover for every match and that none have to be cancelled. Unfortunately on a couple of occasions so far this season was unavoidable.

With no matches over the Christmas and New Year and the prospect of further postponements due to the weather, almost everyone should be ready to go, with Gabe well on the mend following his operation and Dennis Campbell also due to officiate again before the end of the season. It will be good to have him back in the fold, there has not been as much banter while he has been away.

On a positive note the referees have, over the past five or six weeks commented on how the behaviour of teams on the pitch and on the sidelines has to a

greater extent improved greatly. In fact our disciplinary co ordinator,

Colin Johnston has also noted a marked decrease in the number of players being suspended for receiving three yellow cards. Whilst this has happened on a few occasions, the players in question have gone at least four matches between cards and therefore the

older ones have been expunged. Having said that, we will always find something to complain about or try to have improved. The one thing that sticks out at the moment is players trying to get their opponents cautioned or sent off after an offence occurs. Some referees would deem this as unsporting behaviour and players are not helping themselves in adopting this course of action. Simply put, let the referees referee and the players and managers can stick to the football.

In closing can I wish on behalf of the referees, a Happy New Year and hope that all teams enjoy the rest of the season

Yours in Sport

Con Fox

FOUL WEATHER DRILL

The Chairman of the BSPL has commented on an increase in the number of teams contacting him to enquire as to whether matches are on or not.

Following a recent changeover within the Belfast City Council, the responsibility for pitches now rests with the Parks Department. As a result, the telephone number for checking if pitches are waterlogged or unplayable has changed and is now

02890 270677

Callers should select option 3 to

take them straight through to the pitches hotline.

Following representation from the Belfast Sunday Premier League, the hotline is now more regularly updated to take into account Sunday Matches and the latest new on Sunday pitch conditions is usually available from around 11am on a Saturday.

Team Managers should note the new number, and whilst the Chairman has no problem with teams ringing him up, the pitches hotline is usually the quickest method of checking.

LEAGUE TABLES

Standings up to and including 9th January, 2005

DIVISION 1						
		Pld.	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
Rushlight FC		9	7	1	1	22
St. Matthews FC		8	6	0	2	18
Mona Star FC		8	4	2	1	14
S.A. Ramblers FC		8	3	3	2	12
St. Michaels FC		9	3	0	5	9
Adelaide FC		8	2	2	4	8
Dub FC		5	2	1	2	7
Trinity Lodge FC		7	1	4	2	7
Boca Seniors FC		9	0	1	8	1
Mona Star v St. Michaels 31/10/2004 - Fixture Null and Void						
2 - 0 Victory Awarded to SA Ramblers v St. Michaels - 7/11/2004						
DIVISION 2						
		Pld.	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
Newhill FC		7	7	0	0	21
Fitzgeralds FC		9	7	0	2	21
Clifton Star FC		8	6	1	1	19
Park Inn FC		10	5	2	3	17
Mornington FC		11	5	1	5	16
Apollo Athletic FC		9	4	3	2	15
Brookvilla FC		9	4	0	5	12
Fort FC		8	3	1	4	10
Carrick Hill FC		8	3	1	4	10
Knock FC		10	2	2	6	8
C.F.A.N.I. FC		9	2	1	6	7
Collingwood Skunks FC		8	0	0	8	0