



BSPL NEWS

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Chairman's Corner

It was predicted a while ago at one of our meetings that some team will end up forfeiting a fixture because they did not have the required seven players on the pitch by 1.45pm.

The team in question was St. Michaels, at Ormeau Park on Sunday, 19 October, 2003. At 1.45pm, they had only three players on the park, and therefore the referee, as instructed by the Committee, abandoned the match, a forwarded a report to the Committee that St. Michaels failed to field. The St. Michaels team were not happy with the decision, with one player verbally abusing the referee as he walked away, and several others joining in in the changing room corridor once all the games had finished. This
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DECISION TIME

Football Must Be Top Of The Agenda

A recent study of the disciplinary records of the Belfast Sunday Premier League has confirmed that Dissent and Violent Conduct are on the increase within our League.

Since the start of the 2003/04 season, a total of 13 Red Cards have been dished out, and of these, almost 50% (6 Cards) were for the offence of violent conduct, with another 3 Cards being issued for "Serious Foul Play" where a tackle was seen to be so bad as to justify a sending off. It could be expected that most sendings off would be as a result of a player receiving a second yellow card
PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Hugh Malone of Boca Seniors is the player of the Month for October with two awards. He beat Paul Mc Manus of Monagh Star whose two yellow cards relegated him to second place.

low card, but this has featured only once.

It is not only physical abuse that features highly, but also verbal abuse is on the increase. As can be seen from the charts on page 4, Foul and Abusive or Insulting Language came third in the list of red cards, whilst Dissent accounted for 46% of the 77 yellow cards issued up to 2nd November, 2003. Football is a contact sport and there will be rash tackles as well as mistimed ones. However it is a sad reflection on football today that players do not know what constitutes dissent or Foul and Abusive Language. It is about time that they learnt that referees will not stand for it and the Committee of the BSPL are determined to stamp it out.

It is time for players to start playing football with their feet and not with their mouths or hands.

EDITORS COLUMN

Every now and again some simple thing happens that makes the running of a League such as ourselves all worthwhile. After yesterday's game, a fella walked into the referees room and quite simply stated that he wanted to join a football team. After a brief conversation, he was told to call into any of the changing rooms and ask to speak to a manager and they could give him further details (Although unfortunately he had to be told that he could not sign until January.)

Simple as this may seem, it shows that people watch our matches, appreciate the standard of play and want to become involved. That is a testament to how far the Belfast Sunday Premier League has evolved since its inception almost ten years ago, not only from an organisational and administrative point of view, but also the way that teams turn out, with decent kits and play well enough that a complete stranger walks in and wants to get involved.

Everyone from Chairman to player should be proud of this. They should strive to better themselves either as a player improving his skills and standard of behaviour on the pitch or officials continuing to streamline the internal workings of the League so that more time is spent on the pitch and less time at meetings.

FAIR PLAY TABLE

Standings up to and including 2 November, 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
APOLLO ATHLETIC FC	7		2		2	0.286
BOCA SENIORS FC	8		4		4	0.500
FORT FC	7		4		4	0.571
C/WOOD SKUNKS FC	9		8		8	0.889
ST. MATTHEWS FC	8		8		8	1.000
BROOKVILLA FC	7		8		8	1.143
TURFLODGE STAR FC	9		8	4	12	1.333
KNOCK FC	9		8	4	12	1.333
DUB FC	6		4	4	8	1.333
MONA STAR FC	7		10		10	1.429
ST. MICHAELS FC	7	5	5		10	1.429
GLENCOLIN SWIFTS FC	7		12		12	1.714
C.F.A.N.I. FC	8		10	4	14	1.750
RUSHLIGHT FC	9		12	8	20	2.222
TRINITY LODGE FC	8		14	4	18	2.250
S.A. RAMBLERS FC	7		12	4	16	2.286
ST. JAMES FC	8	5	12	4	21	2.625
ADELAIDE FC	8	5	14	4	23	2.875

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Any Correspondence should be sent to: -

Mr. Colin Johnston

The Editor, BSPL Newsletter

120 Beechgrove Avenue, Belfast. BT6 ONF

Tel. 02890 228406 - Mobile 07793 074825

E Mail - colin.johnston9@ntlworld.com

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of course has been reported and will be dealt with by the Committee as a separate issue.

At Ormeau Park on that date, I was approached by a St. Michaels player, in an appropriate manner I may add, asking me, "Why we were not given a couple of minutes leniency." My answer to that player was simple. All matches are meant to kick off at 1.30pm, and there is a 15 minute period of grace allowing games to kick off at 1.45pm at the latest.

Can I please ask all teams to take this on board because referees will not start games after 1.45pm, unless there are seven players on the pitch at that time.

On a happier note, the league Committee has decided to award every team in the League with a matchball. This means that if any team turns up without a proper matchball PROPERLY INFLATED, after the 2nd November, 2003, they will be fined £5 by the League as per Rule 6J of the BSPL Rules.

Yours in Sport - *Gabe Devlin*

A VIEW FROM THE MIDDLE

By Con Fox



During a recent match, a referees decision did not go down well with the supporters of one of the teams involved. They verbally abused the referee (Calling his parentage into question). This will not be tolerated by anybody and if the person or persons had been identified, and they had been a registered player, they would have been brought before the Committee. If it was a spectator, then the club would be fined, as the rules state that all clubs are responsible for the conduct of their supporters on the line.

I would ask everyone, players, managers, coaches and supporters to remember that foul, abusive or insulting language will not be tolerated.

Another unsavoury incident occurred recently when a player

was allegedly assaulted by one of the opposing team behind the referee's back. The matter is in the hands of the Police and further comment cannot be made except that the referee is trying to keep up with play and

cannot possibly see everything that goes on. He cannot be held accountable for things that occur outside his control. Unfortunately some players take advantage of this situation. In this case there was no match observer due to injuries and incidents such as this is always liable to happen as some participants take a simple game of football far too seriously. Let us try and get back to playing football for fun. More fair play is what the referees would say.

Yours in Sport - *Con Fox*

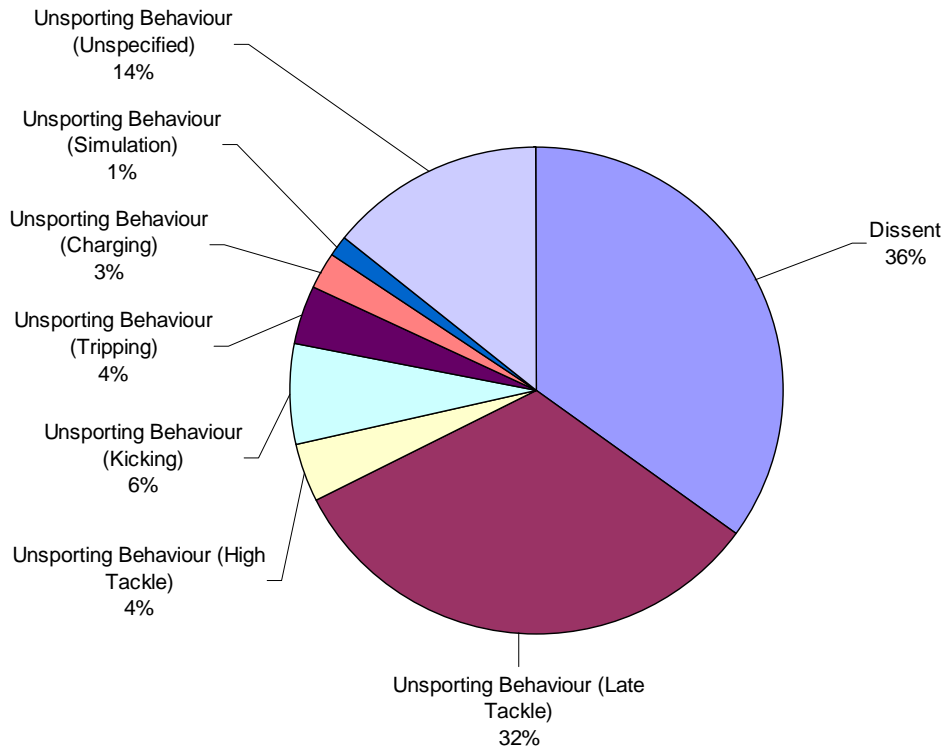
LEAGUE TABLES

Standings up to and including 2 November, 2003

DIVISION 1					
	Pld.	W on	Drw	Lst	Pts
RUSHLIGHT FC	5	3	1	1	10
ST. MATTHEWS FC	3	3	0	0	9
ST. MICHAELS FC	5	3	0	2	9
TURFLODGE STAR FC	4	2	1	1	7
MONA STAR FC	3	2	0	1	6
TRINITY LODGE FC	3	2	0	1	6
S.A. RAMBLERS FC	4	1	0	3	3
ST. JAMES FC	5	1	0	4	3

DIVISION 2					
	Pld.	W on	Drw	Lst	Pts
KNOCK FC	6	4	2	0	14
BOCA SENIORS FC	5	4	1	0	13
DUB FC	3	3	0	0	9
APOLLO ATHLETIC FC	3	3	0	0	9
BROOKVILLA FC	5	1	2	2	5
FORT FC	4	1	1	2	4
ADELAIDE FC	3	1	0	2	3
GLENCOLIN SWIFTS FC	4	0	1	3	1
C.F.A.N.I. FC	4	0	0	4	0
C/WOOD SKUNKS FC	4	0	0	4	0

Yellow Cards - 2003/04 Season



Red Cards 2003/04 Season

