

Half-Time Orange

(December 2006)

UPDATE

The end of the year is nigh and what an eventful year we have at IOTP towers. After years of searching for new premises we finally found a new home. The big move happened early in the year and went without a hitch, which was nice. Not as nice as the central heating though, this will be our first festive period with such a luxury. It has taken us a while to settle in, hence this being the first HTO since November 2005. But now we are settled we hope to make the HTO a more regular feature. It is always a struggle to know what to write, so if you have any ideas, quizzes or articles you would like added please let us know.

STAFF

After six years of loyal service, Nathan, our resident Doncaster Rovers fan has left the towers. Six years of the daily 100+ miles commute has taken it's toll and Nathan decided to look for work closer to home. I'm sure you, along with us, wish him all the best in his future endeavours. We have taken on a new GM, John (another Liverpool fan), as a replacement. Please be gentle with him whilst he settles in. Nathan didn't leave us empty handed, leaving behind his personalised Doncaster Rovers ruler, key fob and 'Paul Barnes is God' coffee mug, cheers for that Nathan. If anyone wants this memorabilia lets start the bidding, don't be shy!

ADVERTISING AND RECRUITMENT

You may have seen IOTP adverts in Match, Shoot and World Soccer magazines. Sadly the response to these adverts isn't what it once was. We are open to any ideas on how you think we could or should be advertising the game. Remember we are a small business so ideas need to be effective but financially achievable.

One of the best methods is still word of mouth so why not encourage your friends or work colleagues to join in the fun. If they are interested get them to give us a call or stick their details on your turnsheet. If a completely new member that you introduce sends an initial payment of £20 or more with their first turn you will be rewarded with two FREE turns. If they send a payment of between £10 and £20 you will receive one FREE turn.

If you have a personal email account why not stick down the website address in your signature. If you regularly go on the many football forums on the net, why not drop IOTP into the conversation.

SOCCERASSOCIATION.COM

At 50p a week for a 'basic' subscription this is a must for all IOTP managers and football fanatics in general. Stats, stats and more stats to help you improve your team. Scour the continents for the next big star or check up on the stats of the players you have already signed. See <http://www.soccerassociation.com> for more details.

THE FORUM

The forum is an excellent vehicle for managers to interact – set up transfer deals, question ratings and have some general banter. We do insist however, that you adhere to the forum rules at all times. Things have been pretty good as of late, but we have noticed the odd one or two going astray. We would rather not ban managers from using the forum but on occasion are left with no other option. No excuses will be accepted for bad language, not even "I'd just come back from the pub and didn't know what I was saying", which believe me managers have used. Just be considerate and if someone is getting your back up, even on purpose, move away from the computer, have a cup of tea, relax but don't retaliate. If you have an issue with another manager on the forum please contact us with the relevant information.

PLAYER RATINGS

We are trying to devote more time each day to ratings. We understand that this is a very important part of the game, which the majority of managers look forward too. If you have a ratings query just let us know via your turnsheet, IM or put a comment on the forum. All comments will be looked at and no one section is favoured over another.

Remember though that your opinion may not be shared by IOTP, we will only ever alter a rating if we feel the change is fair and just.

FAXING IN YOUR TURNSHEET

Please remember to call the office after you have faxed your turnsheets to check that they have arrived and can be read. People have been known to fax the wrong side and sometimes they are a bit patchy and the changes can be hard to make out.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

We are currently making changes to the online section of the game. You may have noticed a few little things change on the website. We want to make sure everything is perfect before we fully implement the new changes but are mindful of the fact that time is of the essence. We are open to any suggestions for improvement you may have, please send them to us, your input is invaluable.

Although once completed it may only look like a re-design it will actually be the first step towards a completely new game. Perhaps the only major change initially will be the incorporation of a direct link to SoccerAssociation.com. So for example, from a player search or squad list you can click the player link to go directly to the SA player page (presuming you are a subscriber of course!). This should make your scouting more streamlined.

Once the changes have occurred and everything is working smoothly it will be the time to attack the game engine and to look at incorporating new features, such as - signing on fees, paying off contracts, wage negotiations, increased tactical options etc. To this end it may be a good idea to have some sort of IOTP committee to meet up at IOTP towers one weekend to discuss the direction of the game and what our customer's want to see improve or added to the game. It's always useful for us to have input from different angles.

SENDING PAYMENT

When you send payment, please remember to fill in the payment section on your turnsheet. This is a must for your benefit not ours. If you send in a payment and do not note it in the cash box and it is not entered by us there is no way for you to prove a payment has been made. Please always, without exception, fill out the cash box. When sending payment separately from your turn please let us know who the payment is from and what clubs the money is going to. We still get managers just sending in payments with no instructions, so we have no idea who has sent the payment in or where the money should go!

CHRISTMAS BREAK & POST

The last working day will be Wednesday 20th December & we will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2007. As soon as we hit December it is important that you return your postal turns a bit earlier than normal as the post soon comes to a halt. You may wish to consider having your turns sent to by email as well. This costs only an extra 10p per club.

As always we welcome your feedback.

Thanks for your continued support.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all the IOTP staff.