

Half-Time Orange

(September 2007)

Well it's that time of year again, the new football season is under way, the nights are drawing in, the heating system is flicked on by the SA boys upstairs and Tony (our resident ratings guru) is up-to his eyeballs in requests. Whilst Gordon Brown debates whether to hold an autumn election or have a referendum, IOTP continue to debate the major issues. Is Fabregas the worlds best midfielder? Why doesn't Rafa shave that goatie? Will Megson last till Christmas? Is Messi Simply the best?

POSTAL STRIKES

Recently we have had to deal with a series of postal strikes. These strikes look set to continue for some time to come. We have just received the dates for the next strikes. These will be two 48 hour strikes! The first will be Friday 5th and Saturday 6th October and the second will be Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th October. This will be followed by an unspecified programme of weekly strikes, starting the week of October 15th.

We will be playing the turns as normal and will do all we can to assist you submit your turns during this and future strike periods. Some suggested ways to beat the postman are -

- you may wish to consider having your turns sent by email aswell, this costs only an extra 10p per club.
- if you have access to a fax machine we are more than willing to fax you your turns before posting.
- you can send your next turn sheet instructions on a separate piece of paper (like a holiday turn sheet). Just make a clear note of the set up and turn number.
- you can email or IM your turn instructions or you can contact us by phone (0115) 941 5132.

SENDING PAYMENT

When you send a payment please remember to fill in the payment section on your turnsheet. When sending payment separately from your turn please let us know who the payment is from and what clubs the monies are to be distributed to. We still get managers who send payments in with no instructions. We are no longer able to accept card payments via the phone. Our new system is online only so card payments are available to online users and those who receive email turns.

ONLINE DEVELOPMENT

We have added a reserve facility to the online games club availability section. You are now able to reserve a team for half an hour. This will give you enough time to make a top up payment or create a new account. We have tried to make this process as user friendly as possible. Whilst on the club availability page just select your club, enter your email address and click on the 'reserve a club' button. Then select either make a top up payment or create a new user account. This will take you to the correct payment page.

The new online games pages are almost finished and should have been sorted

by now but have been delayed due to Mrs.Webmaster being in hospital for a couple of weeks. Hopefully all the online games will have the new look pages by the end of October at the latest. There's still just a few areas to tidy up. If you want to have an early peek they should be available for the online EF1 setup via the 'new design' link. Once complete a new online and then PBeM turnsheet will follow.

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 can be a bit patchy and hard to make out.

TROPHIES

The next trophy order will go out before the Christmas break. We would like to apologise to the managers who are currently waiting for their prize(s) and thank you for your continued understanding and patience. In future we will run two orders a year, one in October and the other in April. This way all managers will have a good idea when their prized trophy will arrive.

IOTP SURVEY

We intend to send out an IOTP survey before the end of year asking all managers opinions and thoughts on a number of IOTP issues such as the recently debated 3 non-Europeans rule. Should it be 3, 4, 5 or any? If you can think of any issues which you'd like to see addressed then please let us know and we'll look to add them onto the survey so that all the managers can give their views.

ADVERTISING

We are still exploring new avenues for advertising as the old advert in a football magazine fails to do the trick these days. If you have any views or ideas of cheap but effective advertising please let us know.

KIERON'S RANT

I was personally gutted that Mourinho got the sack, this man has made football interesting for the last few years. Even more gutted that his sacking came just a week after the Foxes appointed Megson!!! What could have been!

The season so far has been a little flat with only the gunners looking like title challengers. Man Utd have been poor, Chelsea are...well just Chelsea and the Reds will surely struggle with Rafa's rotation system.

If you need cheering up the you can always watch 'Soccer Saturday' and have a giggle at Merson trying to speak or Peter Beagrie trying to sound interesting.

As always we welcome your feedback.

Thank you for your continued support.