

HALF-TIME ORANGE

(DECEMBER 2008)

UPDATE

Well Christmas is here once again, I'm sure the years get shorter and shorter, and the winters get longer and longer. My usual appeal for ideas, articles and quizzes seems to have fallen on deaf ears. We would love to have a football quiz in the next 'HTO' but it is tricky to come up with something that will be a real test. It needs to have questions where the answers can't be discovered in two minutes on the internet. If anyone has any ideas please get in touch. You will get a mention in the next 'HTO' and maybe, if your idea is used, we could add a few free turns to your account for your efforts.

FORUM

Please remember to adhere to the forum rules at all times. Lately there have been the odd one or two testing the boundaries. If anyone is caught swearing they will receive a one week ban from the forum. It is also not acceptable for offensive remarks to be made about the mother of another forumer or to air racist views. We would rather not ban anyone from the forum but sometimes we are left with no other option.

Can we please stop bickering about who got what player added to the database too. If a player is on SA then anyone can get that player added to the IOTP database. This does not give that person exclusive rights to sign him. The player is already on our system he is just waiting to be allocated a three letter code. We added them.

GAZZETTE HEADLINES

A fair few managers have taken us up on our offer to create their own headlines, which is great. It is not easy coming up with current and creative headlines on a daily basis, and the trap of repeating yourself is an easy one to fall into. If anyone has any one liners or specific headlines for their set up/s they would like us to use, please let us know.

FAXING IN YOUR TURN SHEET

Please remember to call the office after you have faxed your turn sheets to check they have arrived and can be read. People still, on the odd occasion fax the wrong side and sometimes they are a bit patchy and can be tricky to make out.

TROPHIES

Just to remind you that the trophies are now ordered twice a year, April and October. There were two winners in the October batch that have not been sent their trophies. This was due to a spelling mistake by the engravers. I am still waiting for them to send new plaques so I can attach and send. Hopefully this will be before the Christmas break.

KIERONS RANT

So the Foxes were relegated, a travesty of justice to many of you I know. I didn't mind the relegation but was gutted as I knew it was the end of the road for Ian Holloway, the lunch box legend (those of you who listen to fighting talk will get that). Now we have the mercurial Nigel Pearson at the helm, and I'm sure we will bounce straight back, beating Leeds (the 2nd biggest club in league 1) twice on the way.

I discovered something in the summer that I have never done before and thought I would spread the word. No not a holiday, non league football! The Foxes had a friendly against my local team (Ilkeston Town). It was nothing like I expected. Only £2 to get in, you got a free programme and were able to sit or stand where you liked. There was a pub on the half way line where a pint was a very reasonable £2. The pitch was in perfect condition. I remember

standing by the half way line (yes the pub), pint in hand watching the Ilkeston Town forwards terrorising Harry Worley, going 2-0 down at half time, and not even caring. If anyone out there hasn't tried non league, please do, and Ilkeston Town is a pretty good place to start.

It looks like a pretty gloomy Christmas for Sunderland fans. I didn't think they would be in the top half this season but I never thought, what with the money they've spent, that they would be floundering near the bottom. My money is on Keane to be out by the New Year, it's easy money as they say. He should be sacked for that beard alone, looks like he has a skunk stuck on his face. I wouldn't get too comfortable if I were a Blackburn fan either, Paul Ince looks like another nearing the dreaded vote of confidence.

Since my rough draft there have been unconfirmed reports that Keane is to leave Sunderland, told you easy money (3rd draft - He has now gone!). If I didn't know any better I would say he is trying to sabotage my 'HTO'. Oh and get a few bags on Ince quick!!

Is it just me or does anyone else wish Brian Paddock would get a grip. My jaw has yet to leave the floor watching 'I'm a celebrity'. This man was a high ranking police officer (a gay one don't you know....yes Brian we know) and ran for Mayor of London. He epitomises everything that is wrong with the civil service in this country. Too afraid to be confrontational, trying so desperately not to upset anyone and ending up pleasing nobody. It is no wonder crime is rife in this country with people like that in positions of power. He would mince about making a cup of tea - is that hot enough, sweet enough, strong enough, can the handle take the weight of the drink, did they want coffee.....bullet, gun, thank you.

COMPLEX DEALS

Please remember to specify the terms of any complex deal clearly in the question and comments section. We get quite a few that are a bit vague. Only put the amount to be paid up front in the cash box and then the rest to be explained in the Q&C section. If you put 10m in the cash box and 4m on turn 1 in the Q&C section we will take that as 10m up front with a 4m complex not 6m with a 4m complex. Remember the GM's have to be able to understand your instructions.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

As you know we are currently working towards creating a new game engine. Which will also enable us to make some changes to the turn sheet. Having three substitutions would be a possibility and we wondered whether you have any thoughts on how we can add this to the turn sheet, and if you can think of anything else which would be a good addition. Are the winning/drawing/losing subs still the way to go, or is there another better way to do the substitutions on the turn sheet. Remember all the info has to be able to fit onto the sheet and be easy enough for people to fill out.

SENDING PAYMENT

When you send a payment, please remember to fill in the payment section on your turn sheet. This is a must for your benefit. If you don't make a note in the cash box and it is not entered by us there is no way for you to prove a payment has been made. It only takes a second and will give you peace of mind in the event of any query. We have also noticed a few envelopes being delivered to us open. The self seal envelopes we send out seem ok glue wise. Perhaps putting a strip of sellotape across the back might be a good idea.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

The last working day will be Friday 19th December and we will re-open on Friday 2nd January 2009. Remember to post those turns off a little earlier than usual during the Christmas period. If you are worried your turn will not arrive you can IM, email, fax or phone your changes through. You may wish to consider having your turns sent via email too. 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.**