

HALF-TIME ORANGE

(February 2008)

UPDATE

Welcome one and all to the latest edition of the 'HTO'. I expect a few of you doubted it when we stated in the last edition that we wanted to make it at least a quarterly feature. Well you can't say we're off to a bad start.

The main focus of this edition is the results from IOTP survey. Though before we get to that we want to have some sort of quiz in the next edition. It's a little tricky, what with the internet, to come up with something which will test you. We will give it some serious thought and if anyone has any great ideas please don't be shy.

IOTP SURVEY RESULTS

We received 388 surveys and the results for the 5 multiple choice questions are as follows -

1 How many non EU players should be allowed per sixteen man match squad?

- a) 3 - 58 - 14.95%
- b) 4 - 88 - 22.70%
- c) 5 - 146 - 37.60%
- d) no limit - 96 - 24.75%

2 If lower rated players were to be made automatically available what ratings bracket should this include?

- a) <45 - 41 - 10.6%
- b) <50 - 128 - 33.0%
- c) <55 - 59 - 15.2%
- d) no change - 160 - 41.2%

3 What would you like the first team maximum squad size to be?

- a) 22 - 20 - 5.1%
- b) 24 - 60 - 16.0%
- c) 26 - 81 - 20.9%
- d) 28 - 225 - 58.0%

4 What would you like the youth team maximum squad size to be?

- a) 14 - 100 - 25.7%
- b) 16 - 107 - 27.6%
- c) 18 - 53 - 13.7%
- d) 20 - 128 - 33.0%

5 When a team becomes unmanaged how many turns should their players be unavailable for?

- a) 4 - 59 - 15.2%
- b) 6 - 57 - 14.7%
- c) 8 - 151 - 38.9%
- d) no change - 121 - 31.2%

We were a little shocked with the answers to the squad size questions. We were expecting a greater majority in favour of lower squads to help the battle against player hoarding. The squad limitations will remain the same at 28 first and 16 youth. The availability of lower rated players will also be untouched as there were more votes for this to remain unchanged.

The non euro limit will be changed to 5 and this will come into effect on the 3rd March. We will also bring in the 8 turn rule for players at newly unmanaged teams. This is a little more tricky to do so will not come into effect until the end of March.

We were very pleased with the response and would like to thank you for your time and effort. Some great ideas were raised, of which some will be looked at in greater detail. A big favourite was to make high rated players who don't play suffer a big decrease in their attitude. Rest assured we will come up with something along these lines.

The winner of the two free turns is Lee Chippendale - Who had the simple idea of having a signing limit per division eg Prem >65, Championship >60, League 1 >55 and league 2 >50. This would ensure leagues remained competitive for longer. Would also stop lower league managers flooding their team with high rated f/t's etc.

KIERONS RANT

Drafting this whilst watching a rather disappointing Carling Cup final. Though not half as disappointing as yet another Leicester City defeat. Still not worrying about relegation.....yet, unlike the Tiger who is fearing the worst for his beloved Pies (that's Notts County to us heathens).

Since my last rant the FA have chosen Fabio Capello to be the new England manager. Not the worst appointment in my eyes, I know he is renowned for dull football but at least we will be playing dull football and winning (a bit like Chelsea) than playing dull football and losing (a lot like Leicester).

This 39th game idea has narked me somewhat, though I'm not the least bit surprised. However being a Foxes fan I doubt it will ever affect us. I know a lot of fans take great pride in not having missed a game for 5 years etc now they will have to do some serious over time to go trekking around the globe. Another kick in the teeth for the indigenous football fan. Maybe the Premier League fear what is happening in cricket may one day happen in football.

Spurs have won, and deserved it! (iffy penalty in all fairness, was that ref at The Ricoh Arena yesterday??). Chelsea fans must be asking where this exciting football is they were promised. Avram Grant looks like he's straight out of the Kevin Keegan school of tactical awareness.

GAZZETTE HEADLINES

We have had a few managers take up our offer of creating your own headlines. We do our best to be creative but it's not too easy coming up with 70 odd fresh headlines a day. We do ask that the headlines you suggest are clean, though you are allowed to be jovial.

SENDING PAYMENT

When you send a payment please remember to fill in the payment section on your turnsheet. It staggers us that some of you still don't do this. This is for your benefit. If you don't make a note and no payment is added there is no way for us to check and your payment will be lost.

Can we also advise any of you who make large payments to do so by cheque, postal order or online. It's not often that cash payments go missing to be fair to the Royal Mail, though it's one thing risking a fiver but very recently we received a turnsheet with £150 enclosed!

TROPHIES

We would just like to reassure those who are waiting for a trophy that the next order will be placed at the beginning of April. The order normally takes 2-3 weeks to process.

As always we welcome your feedback.

Thankyou for your continued support.