

Free LP's When You Get Friends To Join League Soccer!

We're looking for new managers in League Soccer – and so we would like you to send in details of any friends you have that might want a free starter pack in your game. All you need to do is send in either on paper with your turn or by email a list of the names and address of these people. We'll send them out a totally free starter pack in the game – and we'll also give you **500 loyalty points** for each person ... please remember to include you name, account number and game number at the top of the sheet so we know who to give the LP's to.

A Fiver For A Country!

Those of you who use the necom noticeboards will no doubt know 'Deci' from there - well this one is his idea, so if you take it up, that's where thanks is due...

The cost of running a country along with your club side has now been reduced again – to just **FIVE POUNDS** for a whole season! The charge will be deducted from your account on the first turn you take over the team – and you won't be charged again for them until the first week of the following season. You can now manage more than one national side if you so desire – they cost £5 each of course (unfortunately if you cancel them part way through the season we can't give you any refund)

To take on a national team, just write down APPLY (team) in the extra actions box.

It just goes to show that we do take your ideas seriously as we're always looking to improve the League Soccer experience. If you've any suggestions at all then there's a space on the website for you to post them. We're currently working on ways to improve the national teams side of the game even more – and there is plenty of info on the website about that too.

Word Search Competition

The word search competition last month proved a popular one – with lots of you getting very close to our 'official' answer indeed. The figure we came up with for the total transfer fee was £144.95 million (I'll list the players in a minute and you can add up the amounts yourself and see if you agree!) and the closest attempt was game 33 manager Reggie Moffatt who suggested £142.5 million as his answer. Others that came very close to scooping the prize were James Crump (£135m), Adam Slobodzian (£134.58m) and Stephen Bennett (£133m). The players hidden in the grid were as follows – Nordtveit and Sagna (Arsenal), Lichaj (Aston Villa), Kapo (Birmingham), Santa Cruz (Blackburn), Braaten and Cid (Bolton), Malouda (Chelsea), Price (Derby), Torres, Lucas and Babel (Liverpool), Elano, Bianchi, Petrov and Bojinov (Manchester City), Nani (Man. United), Rozenhal (Newcastle), Utaka and Mvuemba (Portsmouth), Fae and Cisse (Reading), Kaboul and Rose (Tottenham), Faubert (West Ham)

Necom Meet

A Necom managers meet is being suggested between now and the end of the year. The usual meeting point is Bromsgrove – though if it means a few new faces come along we may well change that. Anyway, if you're interested, information can be found on the necom noticeboards – so go and have a look there. The meet is a great place to meet up with your fellow bosses, there's usually a quiz, some sort of tournament and perhaps even a game of footie!

Necom News

This week incorporating Game 33's Professional Foul!

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Double Glory For Millwall!

GAME 1, Season End September 2007:

Adam Zielenski's Millwall made it a Premiership and Champions League double this season. A 1-0 final day victory at Bolton was enough to see off Chelsea's late challenge - though in the end it didn't matter as Jamie Maycroft's team were beaten 2-0 at home by Ross Sharp's Man United. Over the course of the season, few could say that Millwall didn't deserve their title - they led for pretty much all of the season and looked ready to tie things up early, leading by six points in week 16. A few dropped points - including a 0-0 draw at home to United in week 20 - saw the gap shrink to just two points, and Millwall expected to need maximum points at the Reebok in their final game. Chelsea's loss though meant that wasn't the case. Millwall finished the season on 53 points, Chelsea were second with 48, whilst Ross Sharp's Man United side took third place on 43 points and David Smith's West Ham were fourth with 40 points. The League Cup final was Chelsea's – they beat West Ham 1-0 in the final, but the Hammers got their hands on silverware in the end, winning the FA Cup with a 2-1 win over Man United.

Sam Smyth's Inter Milan got the point they needed in the final week of the season to secure the Serie A crown - Inter drawing 3-3 at home to AC Milan, so Joe Hughes' Bayern Munich recording a 3-2 win at Lyon was all in vain. The top two had battled it out all season until Bayern went three games without a win in weeks 18, 19 and 20 to leave Inter five points clear with two games to go. Sam Smyth's side were held 3-3 by Barca last week, meaning a draw this time around would be good enough - and they just about managed it. Juve were 4th with 35 points, Tom Coupland's Real Madrid third on 37pts, Bayern second on 50 behind the champions who finished on 51 points. They added both domestic cups too – in the FA Cup they beat Porto 3-2 in the final whilst the League Cup final saw them see off Valencia by the same scoreline. Inter then had the chance of the grand slam – facing Millwall in a clash of the titans. Fittingly, the Champions league saw the champions of the British league this season up against the Euro champs, but Adam Zielenski's side from the British league came out on top. Gerardo Torrado fired the Lions ahead on 17 minutes from the penalty spot. Ruud Van Nistelrooy levelled for Inter Milan. Evra then put Millwall back in front, but again Van Nistelrooy equalised. Finally, though, Robin Van Persie put Millwall 3-2 ahead and this time there was no coming back for the Italian side. England won the World Cup, goals from Ferdinand and Campbell as Italy were beaten 2-1.

Important Postal News

Next week, Royal Mail workers will be taking a four day strike on October 5th – 6th, and October 8th – 9th. As the 7th is a Sunday anyway, that's effectively five days. This will probably affect lots of turns – in particular the length of time it takes mail to reach you. I am told that I should be able to collect mail on Friday 5th October so turns on that date will go ahead as normal (games 1, 5, 6, 7 and 10) but I would urge managers in those games to post as early as possible. However, turns in those five games, as well as the weekly games posted out on Thursday 4th October (games 2, 3, 4, 25, 34, 41, 64, 82 and 138) may not be delivered back to you until Thursday 11th October – almost a week later unfortunately. Of course PDF versions of your turns will be uploaded to the necom website as usual on the afternoon of the deadline – if you haven't registered to get your turn by email just use the extra action EM (ON) on your next turn to do so. Turns processed on 28th September (that's games 75, 81, 100, 205, 213) will not be due back until Friday 12th October as a result of this (again though – post them early, or better still use fax or email to get them to us). Those processed on 3rd October (games 13, 15, 33, 35, 56) will hopefully make it back to managers before the strike action, and the next deadlines for those games will be on Monday 15th October.

Game 138, Season End Sept 2007:

Ayr United Dominate

Mark Buchanan's Ayr United were without doubt the team that stood head and shoulders above the rest of game 138 this season, their dominance so severe that their feeder team made it to both the Champions League and FA Cup finals – in both of which they met their first team of course, and were beaten. Ayr took the Champions league 4-3, Thierry Henry with a hat-trick, Shevchenko scoring the other one (Obi Mikel 2 and Kahvechi Nihat for the feeder team), whilst they won the FA Cup 4-2 (Henry bagging another hat-trick there too). The Premiership was won comfortably, Ayr finishing on 62 points, ten clear of Craig Liggett's Aston Villa who took second place. Swindon were third with 32 points and Norwich fourth with 31 pts. The European league saw similar dominance, this time from Patrick Lyons' Lazio. They won the Serie A with months to spare, recording 58 points, nineteen more than second placed Hamburg, with Parma third on 34 and Steaua Bucharest fourth on 33. I notice from last months Necom News that Lazio had won every single game the season before, so dropping eight points over the season must have been a major disappointment for them! Mark Buchanan's Inter Milan side won Serie B, and provided a test to Lazio in the FA Cup final – but Patrick's team did eventually run out 3-2 winners, Messi with two goals. The Czech Republic won the World Cup, beating Bulgaria 4-2 in the final.

Game 5, Season End June 2007:

Cooper's Chelsea Crowned Champions

Andy Cooper's Chelsea side were top of the Premiership after one game this season – and they held on to that place for the next 21 weeks, being crowned officially as champions a week before the season ended with a 4-3 victory at Southampton. Billy Thompson's Newcastle pushed the Stamford Bridge side all the way to the end though, finishing just six points behind. They were three behind by week two when Chelsea beat them at Stamford Bridge, and when the other game between the big two finished level 1-1 at St.James' Park in week 12, the writing was already on the wall. Chelsea did lose one game over the season – going down 1-0 at David Burton's Man United in week 16, as The Old Trafford side finished the season strongly, eventually finishing third. Chelsea won the title with 55 points, Newcastle amassed 49 and United were some way behind on 41 but United won 10 of their last 12 games and look likely to provide a sterner challenge to Chelsea next season. The Red Devils also won the League Cup, beating Everton 1-0 in the final. They also made it all the way to the Champions League final, where goals from Nesta and a late one from Trezeguet saw Chelsea beat them 2-1, Carrick scoring for United. Rangers finished fourth in the Premiership table with 36 points. Rob Overfield's Hull City won the 1st division and will test themselves out in the Premiership next season. Leeds won the FA Cup, beating Doncaster 2-1 in the final. Feyenoord won Serie A in an incredibly tight finish, recording a 2-1 victory at Bayern Munich on the final day of the season to finish on 36 points, three points clear of Parma, Inter Milan and Steaua Bucharest. AC Milan were fifth with 30 points. The Euro League Cup was won by Inter Milan, 1-0 winners over Dusseldorf in the final, whilst the FA Cup went to Barcelona – 3-2 victors over Torino. In truth though, this was a season dominated by the British league teams, as was the case as early as the Super Cup in week 12 where Newcastle beat Chelsea 1-0, Michael Owen scoring. A week later, the Champions League group stage saw Man United, Portsmouth, Liverpool and Chelsea top their groups, Leeds and Newcastle also go through and from the European League only Real Madrid and Inter make it through. Finally, the World Cup – Germany beat France in a topsy turvy classic of a final, coming from behind late on to win 4-3, Albertz getting the winner eleven minutes from time.

Game 35, Season End September 2007:

Chelsea Pip Liverpool To Prem Title

It went right down to the final game, but David Smith's Chelsea held on to take the game 35 Premier league title. They could have wrapped it up a week earlier, but were held 3-3 at Aston Villa, so – as Gareth Howes' Liverpool closed the gap to just two points with a 3-2 victory over Tottenham, Chelsea needed all three points in their final game at home to Rangers. They got them – but only just, Chelsea running out 4-3 winners. They finished the season on 54 points, two ahead of Liverpool. Arsenal were third with 41 points, Richard James' Man United trailing in fourth on 33 points. The cups all followed for Chelsea – in the FA Cup final they beat Blackburn 3-0 whilst in the Champions League final, Serie A runners up Atletico Madrid were vanquished 2-1 – Thierry Henry scoring all five goals for the Stamford Bridge outfit in those two games. Chelsea had also earlier won the League Cup, beating Liverpool 2-1 in the final of that competition. Serie A was won by Peter Bennett's Barcelona, finishing on 54 points, twelve clear of Steve Bennett's Atletico who got 42, Real Madrid also finishing on 42 and John Reeson's AC Milan on 41. Barcelona lifted the FA Cup with a 4-2 victory over Paris St. Germain and beat Lyon 2-1 in the League Cup final. Perhaps the biggest shock of the season in all competitions came in the Champions League quarter finals – Atletico knocking out Barcelona 3-2 at that stage, thus preventing them from a grand slam showdown with Chelsea.

Game 13, Season End August 2007:

Barcelona Are All Powerful

James Teager's Barcelona won everything there was to be won in game 13, starting with a 3-1 Super Cup final win over Stephen Mallard's Arsenal, following it with a 3-2 win over Parma in the League Cup final, a 4-3 victory over the mighty Grasshoppers of Zurich in the FA Cup final and then finally coming from behind to beat Paul Gibson's Man. United side in the Champions League final. As far as Serie A goes, there was no challenge at all for the Spanish side, they won twenty and drew two of their twenty two games, and finished several marathon distances clear of the rest. For the record, Barca got 62 points, Kiev were second with 35, then came Juve on 30, and fourth Milan on 29. More managers and more of a challenge in the British league, but Paul Gibson's Man United still managed to dominate things in a similar way to Barcelona – obviously though they lost that Champions league final. They won the League cup though, beating Stephen Mallard's Wigan 3-2 in the final, then the FA Cup – Daniel Gormley's Chelsea the defeated outfit in that one, 3-1 the final score. The Premiership they took with 57 points, ahead of Stephen Mallard's Arsenal who got 50, Daniel Gormley's Chelsea who got 44 and Stephen Mallard again with Wigan – on 34.

Registering For The Necom Website

I make no apologies for keeping on mentioning the website in these newsletters – it's a great place for all managers of League Soccer teams. However, there are a few things that need clearing up. Firstly, you can download your turn in PDF format from the main necom website (www.necomgames.com). To do this you need to know your account number (on the front of your printout sheets) and password. You get the password by going to www.necomgames.com and clicking on where it says "Forgotten your password? Click [here](#) to be sent a reminder!" It's on the left side of the screen, you may have to scroll down a little bit to see it. Click on the word 'here' and then enter your details and you'll be sent a password by email. Use this to watch the vidprinter on match days and view your turn in PDF format. In order that your turn is there to be viewed you must have written down EM (ON) in the extra actions section of your return sheet. That's the necom bit.

Now the noticeboards are run by a company called 'Proboards' and require separate registration. At the top of the screen, where it says 'Welcome Guest. Please [Login](#) or [Register](#). click on the 'Register'. Here you'll need to give details to prove that you're a sane and sensible person, fit to post on a postal football website. However, you won't be able to actually post anything on the boards until you are authorised by necom too. They need to know you are a legitimate League Soccer manager, and so you'll probably get an email through in a day or two asking to confirm your account number. Reply with this info (or email it beforehand to speed things up) and you'll finally be allowed to use the noticeboards!