

Game 20, formerly 205  
Season End November 2007

## United On Top!

Darren Potts' Man United side ran the show in game 205 – winning pretty much everything they entered. The one trophy to elude them was the Super Cup – Adam Slobodzian's Parma knocking United out in the semi finals but then losing out themselves in the final – James MacKenzie's Barcelona coming back from two goals down to win a real thriller 5-4. From that point on though, the season very much belonged to the team from Old Trafford – though they were pushed hard for everything by Paul Gibson's Tottenham. Spurs had actually been tied with United at the top of the table for 10 weeks – and with the two sides closely matched on goal difference the lead changed hands several times. However, by week 21 it looked like the White Hart Lane side had the edge. Both sides on the same points total, Spurs had finally built up a goal difference advantage of four goals. Incredibly though, in front of their own fans, Spurs couldn't get the ball over the line in their last match and drew 0-0 with Paul McKeown's Rangers. United were struggling too, but eventually took all three points with a 3-2 win over Everton at Goodison. So United were champions, with 56 points, and Spurs second on 54. Paul Gibson's Chelsea were third on 43 and Paul McKeown's Rangers finished fourth with 42 points. United beat Liverpool 2-0 in the League Cup final, compounded Tottenham's final week misery by beating them 3-1 in the FA Cup final, and then rounded it all off by taking the Champions League, 3-2 in the final against Serie A runners up Barcelona. The Euro league was won by Stuart Lees' Athletic Bilbao, finishing on 48 point, five ahead of James MacKenzie's Barcelona. Stuart Lees' AC Milan were third with 42 points and Adam's Parma fourth on 41. Barca beat Bilbao in the FA Cup final though, 3-2 the final score whilst Parma took the League Cup, thanks to a 2-1 win over Inter.



## Registering For The Necom Website

I make no apologies for keeping on mentioning the website in these newsletters – one reason is that I still get asked loads of questions about passwords and logging on so it seems many of you don't actually read this bit anyway....

So - 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](http://www.necomgames.com)). To do this you need to know your account number (on the front of your printout sheets) and password. If you haven't yet got a password, then get one like this :

Go to [www.necomgames.com](http://www.necomgames.com) and click 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.

You'll then be sent a password by email. If you don't get that email within a minute or so then check your mail provider hasn't filed it away as spam or something (we've heard lots of cases of hotmail and yahoo accounts doing this). If you're really struggling email neil and he'll be able to send you a password.

Now, log in using this password to watch the vidiprinter on match days and view your turn in PDF format. You can also now view your squad sheet in various different forms (including a nifty one where the computer works out the positional ratings of each player) and can also do your team changes online (see the front page of this newsletter for more details on that exciting development). You can also see your latest game turns 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.)

The Necom 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 [neil@necomgames.com](mailto:neil@necomgames.com) to speed things up) and you'll finally be allowed to use the noticeboards!

# Necom News

This week incorporating Game 33's Professional Foul!



Christmas 2007

Vol. 20, No. 13

## Lions Hold Off Liverpool Challenge

Game 34, Season End December 2007

Once again, Nick Davenport's Millwall are Premier League champions in game 34. After a thrilling season, the title came down to a two team battle – with Stuart Flight's Liverpool the rivals to the Lions. Liverpool kept the fight going right to the last, comfortably beating Millwall 3-0 at Anfield in week 21, but when it mattered in the final games of the season, Millwall were able to record a home 1-0 win over West Ham and take the title by three points – despite Liverpool again winning 3-0, this time against Chris Gibson's Tottenham. Millwall won the league with 56 points, Liverpool next on 53, then came Darren Coyle's Rangers on 43 and Markie Wheat's Man United on 40. Millwall made it a double, beating Liverpool's feeder team QPR in the final of the FA Cup 1-0, the Lions having lost the League Cup final to the same team by the same scoreline. Liverpool's one chance of glory came in the final of the Champions League – a Ronaldinho goal having led them to a 1-0 victory over Millwall in the semi final. Here they met Stuart's other side, Valencia, who themselves had a great season in Serie A. Again the league title went right to the wire – this time with just a point between Stuart's Valencia, on 54 points, and Gary Cunningham's runners up Bayern Munich on 53. Weeks 19 and 20 proved key to the final outcome – Nick Davenport's rejuvenated Sporting Lisbon beating Munich 1-0 in week 19 to allow Valencia to take top spot, but Lisbon were then unable to repeat the trick a week later, Valencia beating them 3-2. Lisbon finished in third place, on 45 points – level with Mark Wheat's Barcelona but with a better goal difference. Former champions Barca did in fact pick up one trophy this season, beating Porto 3-2 to lift the FA Cup – after the Portuguese side had sprung a shock in the semi final and beaten Valencia 1-0. Sporting Lisbon won the League Cup, beating Bayern Munich in the final. So to the Champions League final – Valencia against Liverpool. Both sides managed by Stuart Flight, so that must have been awkward in the dressing rooms beforehand! Anyway, it was a real thriller, seven goals, though the Spanish side always with the upper hand. Two from Beckham, one from Aurelio and one from Gabri clinched it for them 4-3. Nick Davenport's England side won the World Cup, beating Mark Wheat's Spain 1-0 in the final, Steven Gerrard the scorer.

## Christmas Post

As I mentioned last issue, we will be closed completely from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December up to Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – experience has shown that there's no real way to get anything through the post during that period. Turns for all games are due back on either Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> or Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2008 – check the front page of your printout to find out which applies to you.



Merry Christmas  
from Necom to all our  
managers – and a  
Happy New Year!



# Christmas Competition

Win Some Great Football Books!



I've got three copies of 'Brilliant Orange, the neurotic genius of Dutch football' to give away this month. Sadly too late for a Christmas present, but a fascinating read for early 2008 anyway.

The word search isn't particularly Dutch related – it's Italian – but still a tricky test. Find all the Italian teams hidden in the grid below, then try to find, or guess, how many times each has won Serie A. Add up the total – and that's the answer we're looking for. Fill it in on the coupon below and send it back before the end of January.

S	U	T	N	E	V	U	J	L	Y	O	N	D
F	F	I	O	R	E	N	T	I	N	A	N	Y
B	E	R	L	R	R	Y	A	C	A	R	A	N
O	I	Z	A	L	I	T	S	S	P	O	L	A
L	R	E	H	G	E	N	O	A	O	N	I	M
O	E	L	A	S	A	C	O	O	L	A	M	O
G	T	M	E	R	S	E	R	Y	I	R	C	R
N	N	O	O	D	S	S	P	E	Z	I	A	O
A	I	R	O	D	P	M	A	S	V	R	M	M
M	E	S	S	I	N	E	S	E	V	O	N	E
U	D	I	N	E	S	E	D	O	C	M	R	X
E	Q	A	R	I	R	A	I	L	G	A	C	P

My Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

No Of Serie A Titles : \_\_\_\_\_

## The Online Return Sheet

To use the online sheet, go to [www.necomgames.com](http://www.necomgames.com) and log in with your account number, game number, team number and password (if you haven't got a password yet, click on 'here' where it says "Forgotten your password? Click [here](#) to be sent a reminder!" and one will be sent out to you. From the options then presented to you, choose 'Online Return Sheet' and your current team selections will appear.

All you then have to do is alter this – change players and positions by selecting the box you wish to alter and typing in new values. Note that you don't need to enter player names – once you hit the SUBMIT button down at the bottom, the computer will put them in for you.

Do the same to change training, extra actions, staff actions and put in your transfers. Again with transfers, there's no need to put the player name in unless you want to – the computer will do that for you and over-write whatever you type in anyway. Regarding amounts – for transfers enter the number of millions (eg. if the deal or bid is for £500,000 you would type 0.5 in the box, if it was for 2 ½ million you would write 2.5) and for wage offers just write the amount you want to offer (1000 for an offer of £1000 per week, 100000 for an offer of £100,000 per week). When you've finished, click on 'SUBMIT' and your changes will be saved. The updated sheet will then be displayed and you should look through it carefully to make sure everything is as it should be – that you've put the correct player numbers in (the computer will put in the correct player name to help you) and all the correct values.

At any time before the next turn deadline you can return to your team changes and make additional changes – so if you agree a late transfer or decide to alter your tactics, it's easy to just go back and update your sheet.

The usual options of sending sheets in by fax and post will obviously still apply – but this is a helpful and quick way to submit your changes, and a sure fire way for you to be certain the team is as you want it to be. There are also a few other useful utilities on there for looking at your squad, and hopefully a few more things to be added over the coming months.

Game 75 Update:

## Celtic Off The Top!

The season isn't over, but the British league in game 75 always seems to throw up the most exciting title races of all – and this one is no exception. Early on it looked like Garysean Wilson's Celtic were going to run away with it – they had a five point lead at the top after just eight games, and even two matches ago were four points ahead of Scott Rose's surprise challengers Middlesboro, with fancied teams like Mark Pinder's Grimsby and Jamie Maycroft's Wolves seven and twelve points back respectively. A bad run for Celtic though – three games without a win in fact - and all that has now changed. Week 12 saw the Glasgow giants record a decent point with a 2-2 draw at John Rosie's Hearts – and with rivals also dropping points that wasn't too bad. Last week though, Celtic were held 1-1 by bottom of the table Liverpool – a result which allowed Middlesboro to close to within two points of them. This time out, defeat to Wolves – Celtic losing for only the second time this season. O'Dea was dismissed after just 7 minutes, goals from Villa and Zebina put Wolves 2-0 up and though Giuly pulled one back, the final score was 2-1 to the Molineux side. A 2-0 win away at Hearts for Middlesboro saw them jump to the top spot, a point clear. Grimsby Town – who looked out of the title race a few weeks back – are now up into third place, three points behind the leaders, after a third successive win. They beat Liverpool 3-2 at Anfield, Messi scoring twice for the Mariners. Man United are also in the hunt, Stuart Robertson's side beating Hamilton 1-0 this week thanks to Rodriguez' goal, and they too are three points behind Boro. Wolves have clawed their way into the reckoning too now – though they're still eight points behind Middlesboro and must travel to Grimsby next turn for what could be a vital game. Celtic must pick themselves up against Stuart Flight's Tottenham whilst bottom of the table Liverpool have a new manager this week, Kieran Hundal, and his first game in charge will be a real tester away to the new league leaders.

