

Reading Fall At Final Fence!

Game 82, Season End January 2007

The Premiership season in game 82 saw a great battle from start to finish between Andrew Williams' Man United and Paul Underwood's Reading. There was never more than a couple of points between the two all season – Reading holding an early two point lead before United beat them 3-1 in week 12 to move a point ahead. The following week, United lost at Arsenal whilst Reading drew at home to Chelsea – leaving them neck and neck at the top – and that's the way it stayed until week 21. United built up a slender goal difference advantage of four goals and that alone put them in the driving seat. Still, with the Reds facing a difficult game against Hearts, Reading were looking for a big win at Bolton to take the trophy. Sadly for them it wasn't to be – Bolton holding out for a draw whilst United beat the Edinburgh side by the only goal. So United are champions, finishing on 55 points, with Reading on 53 pts. Chelsea were third with 38 pts and Arsenal fourth with 35. Reading didn't have to wait long for revenge though – beating United 1-0 in the FA Cup final thanks to a goal from Hernan Crespo. United had the small consolation of the League Cup already in the trophy cabinet – winning that one in week 18 against Rangers, Et'o with the only goal.

The European league was a three way battle. Thomas McCubbin managed Real Madrid most of the season, and they held a narrow lead at the top up until the latter stages. They were top by two points in week 16 but then results started to go against the Spanish side and by week 20 they had slumped to third place ten points behind the leaders. At that point, McCubbin jumped ship and new manager Stephen came in. Inter Milan too faltered when their manager quit – Jason Agnew had them well in contention all season but resigned on week 20 and all but handed the title to Barcelona. James Nelson's Barsa though probably deserved the trophy. They were certainly the form team in the league at the time that mattered – after losing to Real in week 14 they reeled off 8 consecutive victories to finish up on 49 pts, five clear of nearest challengers Inter. Stephen's Real Madrid were five more points back on 39 with Nantes finishing fourth on 34 pts. Both domestic cups were won by Andrew Williams' PSV Eindhoven – lifting the FA Cup with a 1-0 win over Parma in the final and the League Cup thanks to a 1-0 win over Nantes.

PSV Eindhoven won the Super Cup, Chelsea their victims 1-0 in the final thanks to a goal from Gilardino. Despite having no manager, Inter Milan proved too strong for Tottenham in the Champions League final, beating them 2-0. Spurs had previously knocked out Man United in the semi final and Nantes in the quarters, whilst Inter had seen off Chelsea in the quarter final and then beaten Real Madrid in the semis.

Change To Loyalty Points System

The loyalty points system has been a big success, with managers regularly picking up rewards in the form of free turns for their teams and extra cash for their clubs. Having trialed the system for six months or so now, we're making a few modifications to the number of points given out and needed.

Collect loyalty points each turn you manage your club. Provided your account balance is in credit, you receive 100 loyalty points. You also receive loyalty points for paying larger amounts into your account in one go – pay in £25.00 and you'll get **1000** extra points (split evenly between all teams you manage). Pay in £50.00 and you'll get **3000** points extra.

You can use your loyalty points to get your chairman to invest more of his money in your club.

- For just **1000** loyalty points he'll give you £1 million extra to spend.
- For **3000** loyalty points he'll give you £5 million extra
- Save up **5000** loyalty points, and he'll give you £10 million.

To turn loyalty points into club cash use the extra action LP (CASH)

Alternatively, you can use your loyalty points to pay for turns in the game. Save up **2000** loyalty points and you can cash those in for £2.00 worth of credit – enough to pay for a free turn.

To turn loyalty points into turn credit use the extra action LP (TURN)

Loyalty points belong to your individual team and are not transferable. If you stop being manager of that particular team you lose any points you've saved up with them (you can't move them to a different team).

The number of loyalty points each team has is shown on the printout.

Necom News

April 2007

Vol.21, No.4

Liverpool Pinch It As Rivals Falter !

GAME 3 – Season Ending February 2007:

Paul Davies' Coventry started the season as favourites for the Premiership title – and for most of the season it looked to be going their way. The Sky Blues held a narrow lead of a couple of points for most of the season, with Justin Purdy's Arsenal always on their tail. By week 17, Coventry had 48 points with The Gunners second on 46 and Ryan Smethurst's Liverpool in third place, seemingly out of the race after an amazing 6-4 defeat to Coventry in week 14 left them five points behind. However, from that point it all seemed to go wrong for Coventry. In week 18, they were held at home 1-1 by Arsenal – a result which allowed Liverpool back to just three points behind. Week 19, and Coventry dropped points again when they were held 0-0 at Millwall. They were still top, but only on goal difference from the Gunners with Liverpool now only one point behind. All the top three won in week 20, but Coventry had to go to The Emirates in week 21 – and lost 1-0. Going into the final match, Justin Purdy's Arsenal led the table by a point from Liverpool, Coventry three points back – but with a better goal difference than either of the other two still wouldn't consider themselves out of it. So to the final game of the season. Coventry drew 0-0 at Huddersfield – they were out of it now. Arsenal could only draw 1-1 at Man United, so Liverpool from nowhere – and having not been top of the table all season – won the league thanks to a 1-0 home win over Millwall. Liverpool top with 58pts, then Arsenal on 57, Coventry on 54 and fourth Huddersfield on just 29 pts. Ryan Doyle's Inter Milan feeder side Gretna lifted the League Cup, beating Arsenal 1-0 in the final, whilst the FA Cup went to Coventry – they beat Tottenham 3-1 in the final. Cov also had their chance in the Champions League – coming up against David Smith's Juventus in the final, pushing them close but eventually going down to Der Vaart's only goal of the game 10 minutes from time. Ryan Doyle's Inter won Serie A fairly comfortably, with 61 pts, ahead of David Smith's Juventus who managed 55. Third were Glen Pine's Real Madrid on 41 with AC Milan fourth with 29 pts. Juventus won the FA Cup, beating Bayern Munich 1-0 in the final, Adriano their scorer whilst Red Star Belgrade – Justin Purdy's Arsenal feeder team – won the League Cup thanks to a 1-0 final victory over Piacenza.

Feeder Team Earns Euro Qualification!

GAME 64 – Season Ending Nov. 2006

Possibly a first, certainly extremely rare – Ross Sharp's Manchester United feeder team Antwerp made it into the Champions League in game 64 by virtue of their winning the FA Cup. Antwerp beat Red Star Belgrade 3-0 in the final, and Ross should be looking forward to extra income for the Old Trafford side next season. The money may come in handy, after United put in a disappointing season to finish down in 6th place in the Premiership. Winners by a country mile were David Knowles' Leeds, on 58 points, ahead of David's second team Everton on 45. Third with 44 pts were Ryan Doyle's Arsenal whilst Tottenham were fourth on 42 – coincidentally these two met in the FA Cup final, Ryan's side winning a thriller of a final, 4-3, thanks to four goals from Ruud Van Nistelrooy. Jamie Maycroft's Wolves won the League Cup, beating Everton 1-0 in the final. Antwerp won the Euro FA Cup, as already mentioned, but they also won the Euro League Cup – beating Lens 1-0 in the final of that one. Being a feeder club they can't win the league of course – but the Champions League next season? Who knows. Anyway, Serie A was won by Marc Lewry's AC Milan. They had a tough battle with Craig Rathey's Inter for the early part of the season - up to week 14 the two were tied at the top of the table – but then Craig quit and Inter managed only one more point from their last 8 games, dropping down to 4th place. Milan won the title with 57 pts then, well clear of D. Daniel's Bayern Munich on 48 pts and Darren Coyle's Real Madrid who got 40. Inter were fourth – and unmanaged at the end – on 36 pts. Gavin Cawley's Barcelona look set to provide a challenge to the top division next season – they won Serie B by 15 clear points.

Chelsea Snatch Prem Title!

Game 1, Season Ending March 2007:

Another great game 1 season came to an end with another tight finish. Going into the final game of the season, Mark Gordon's Bolton led Jamie Maycroft's Chelsea by two points – but the Stamford Bridge side overturned that in stunning fashion on the final day, battering third placed Portsmouth 5-1 whilst Sunderland beat Bolton at the Stadium Of Light 1-0. It's a disappointing end to the season for Wanderers, who led the way for a long time – and looked to have things wrapped up when held a five point lead with two games left. Defeat last week at Man City, followed by a loss this week at Sunderland and it's all gone pear shaped. The top side changed a fair few times over the course of the season –Adam Zielenski's Millwall led by a couple of points after six games, then shared that lead with Ian Taplin's Portsmouth for a few weeks before Pompey took it on in their own right. A run of two points from three games in weeks 14 – 16, including defeat at Old Trafford, dented the Fratton Park clubs hopes somewhat, and Bolton went top. They looked to have secured the Premiership with a 2-0 victory over Pompey at Fratton Park in week 19, and had virtually wrapped it up when Portsmouth lost 2-1 at Sam Smyth's Liverpool a week later whilst Bolton were winning 3-1 at Upton Park, home of defending champions West Ham. Chelsea though were just about still in contention, and those final two defeats for Bolton let in Jamie Maycroft's side to pick up the pieces. Chelsea finished on 44pts, with Bolton on 43 and Liverpool on 41. Millwall were fourth with 39 points, the same tally as Portsmouth and Sunderland. Liverpool won the League Cup, beating Millwall 1-0 in the final courtesy of Ronaldinho's first half goal, but the FA Cup went to the New Den – Millwall beating Ross Sharp's Man United 3-1 in the final with goals from Cafu (2) and Drobny. Chelsea ended Bolton's Champions League dreams too – beating them 1-0 in the semi final, but were themselves beaten in the final by Man United, 2-1 the final score, goals from Rooney and Heinze for United.

Ethan Bailey's Juventus won Serie A with 59 points. It was very much a two horse race, between Juve and Joe Hughes' Bayern Munich – certainly once Sam Smyth's Inter Milan had lost two games in a row in weeks 8 and 9 they were never going to be able to keep up with the top two sides who lost just one game each all season. Those defeats of course came against each other – Juve beating Bayern 3-1 in week 3, but the German side getting their revenge with a 1-0 win in week 13. Bayern were second on 57 points, with Inter third on 47 and Callum Williams' Barcelona taking fourth spot with 43 pts. Bolton feeder team Villareal won both cups – beating Inter Milan 1-0 in the League Cup final and then recording a 1-0 victory over Juventus in the FA Cup final.

Game 10, Season End Jan 2007:

Joe Hughes' AC Milan cleaned up in the European, finishing miles clear of Dean Brockways Real Madrid side – AC on 63 points, Real on 46. Milan didn't have it all their own way though – Real beat them in the first half of the season and were top in week 12 before they fell away spectacularly to pick up just 10 points from their last 10 games. Anthony Brockway's Atletico were third with 39 points and Inter Milan fourth on 35pts. AC Milan won the FA Cup, beating Nuremberg 3-1 in the final, and the Champions League courtesy of a 1-0 final win over Inter. The British league went to David Young's Celtic side, top with 48 points ahead of Jordan Greenfield's Liverpool on 44, Nick Davenport's Man United on 33 and Luke Holland's Newcastle on 32. Celtic beat Port Vale 1-0 to lift the FA Cup.

Game 2, Season End Sep'06:

The world belonged to Barcelona in game 2 – as Gerard O'Brien's side won the Champions League (beating Liverpool 4-3 in the final, FA Cup (beating Feyenoord 2-0) and Serie A titles – Barga on 59 points miles ahead of other Gerard side Ajax (47), Miles Caulfield's Real Madrid (41) and another of Gerard's teams Valencia (41) Jordan Ross' Celtic won the Premiership with 49 points, six clear of Brian O'Dwyer's Liverpool who themselves were three ahead of Craig Whitbread's Celtic and also Newcastle. Watford beat Arsenal 1-0 in the FA Cup final.

Game 138, Season End April '06

12 months late – but never mind. Patrick Lyons' Man United won the Prem with 57 points narrowly ahead of unmanaged Arsenal on 55. Scott Forster's Newcastle were third on 44 and Mark Osbourne's Fulham fourth with 38. Patrick also won Serie A, his Lazio side with a perfect 66 pts, miles ahead of JP Chorley's Barcelona who got 38. Steaua Bucharest were third, 31pts, and Juventus fourth with 29. Lazio won the Champions League, beating United 2-0 in the final thanks to two goals either side of half time from Ronaldinho. He bagged another two in the FA Cup final, and Wayne Rooney added a third as Lazio beat Borussia Moenchengladbach. United won their FA Cup final too – Shevchenko scoring the only goal as United beat Fulham 1-0.

Manage Your Reserve and Youth Teams

We've finally brought in the option to take charge of your reserve and youth sides – and select your players to compete against other reserve / youth teams in their very own reserve and youth leagues. You'll receive full match reports on the games they play and a return sheet to fill in, and league tables showing how your reserves are doing.

To start managing your reserves, write down in the extra actions

RT (ON)

It'll cost you 60p extra per turn. To stop managing them, just write down RT (OFF) and your assistant manager or coaching staff will take over again for you.

If you've any questions about reserve teams, ask them online and I'll post the answers there – and also list them next month in the newsletter for all those who don't have net access.

The Wordsearch Competition...

The closing date for the wordsearch competition printed in last months newsletter is **FRIDAY 30th MARCH**. I'm going to start allocating and sending out your teams over the next week so you should get those through the post soon (it's game number **33**). Remember, two lucky competition winners will get to play in game 33 for a whole season for **free** – and I'll be picking out the winners from all those who send in correct answers in early April.

If you haven't entered, then you need to get your entry in before the end of March – if you've lost the wordsearch then a copy of the newsletter can be found by looking on the necom noticeboards section of the website. You need to find which Premiership team is not hidden in the grid – so happy hunting!

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 following season.

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.

Necom Noticeboard Rules

The necom boards are incredibly popular – but we ask everyone to stick to some important rules in order that it remains a friendly place for all who visit.

There are
No swearing. This includes implied swearing or sticking asterisks in the middle of words.
No unsavoury, derogatory or anti-social comments.
Nothing offensive, racist, sexist, aggressive etc.
No bad mouthing of other members
No promoting or discussing other PBM or online management games

Do not disclose your password or login details to anyone. You are responsible for any messages posted under your account. The excuse 'my brother logged in to my account' will simply not be accepted. To protect your password make sure you always log off.

A warning system is in place which we will use to notify members of any transgressions. Severe or repeated misuse will result in suspension or complete cancellation of a members account.

All threads or comments which the administrators feel are unacceptable will be removed.

Only those who manage teams in League Soccer will be permitted to post on the boards. If you stop playing League Soccer, then we will suspend your account. All applications for accounts to post on here first need to be approved by Mr.Necom (it's a good idea to email when you apply to hurry the process along!)