

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 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.

Join In With Game 33!

Game 33 is the newest game of League Soccer. There are still one or two sides available to be managed, so if you'd like to take one of those on then get in touch with us as soon as possible. Teams are allocated at random from those available at the time you apply – but big name teams (the likes of Man United, AC Milan or Real Madrid) are only available to existing managers in the game who have to apply for jobs there telling us just why they would be the best manager for the job. Managers are also limited to just one team each in game 33. It's a fantastic game so far – just four games gone in the season – and certainly has by far the most managers in of all our games – so if you'd like to take part just let us know.

Game 33 News:

Chelsea Appoint Owls Man Rowe!

Just days after committing his future to Hillsborough, Mark Rowe has quit Sheffield Wednesday and been appointed the new manager of Chelsea. With their valuable squad having struggled since the start of the season, last weeks FA Cup defeat against West Ham proved to be the final straw for Roman Abramovic and David Crosby was dismissed. Now the club turns to Mark Rowe – a manager with experience of having won the Premiership before, and one with a clear vision of where he wants to take the club. His first challenge will be to ensure the Stamford Bridge side avoid relegation – going into this weeks games they were just three points above the drop zone. After that, well European qualification certainly remains a possibility, given a run of good form. Fans at Chelsea broadly welcomed the new manager, but those at Hillsborough were less happy. Only last week, Mark had told the press how happy he was with his relationship with the Wednesday fans, and there was real hope around the club that they could make it into the playoffs this season. Perhaps that'll still be the case – but Wednesday will need a new manager if they are to do it.

Elsewhere, Ajax appointed Andrew Latimer as their new boss. Latimer takes over a side in 6th place in Serie A, needing to keep a reasonable level of form up to avoid being dragged into the relegation spots, but only three points behind third place and in with a good chance of a high finish this season. Benfica also made a new appointment, going for the experienced Chris 'Cricky' McCausland. With the Portugese side currently occupying the final Serie B playoff place, Cricky will probably find the automatic places out of his reach but will no doubt be building up for that end of season lottery...

Necom News

This week incorporating Game 33's Professional Foul!

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Juve Win League But Udinese Take Cup!

GAME 41, Season End June 2007:

Juventus are game 41's Serie A champions, Brian M.Christie's side taking the title from John Morrison's Udinese by just two points in the end. Early on, the side from Turin seemed all conquering – winning their first nine games and establishing a seven point lead at the top before being held 0-0 by Paul Sketcher's Piacenza in week 10. Sketch's side, incidentally, formerly the dominant side in this game, struggled badly this season, losing seven games and finishing down in 6th place. However, stopping Juve's run was still a great achievement for them, but with Udinese held 1-1 by Robert Gatfield's Valencia that week, the gap remained at 7 points. A draw for Juve at home to Real Madrid in week 14 and the gap was down to 5, then the following week Udinese inflicted the first defeat of the season on the leaders – beating them 1-0 – and suddenly the gap was two points. Both teams won in weeks 16, 17 and 18 – before possibly the crucial results in week 19. Juve scraped a vital 3-2 away win at Jon Wisniewski's AC Milan, but Udinese were held 3-3 at home by Jamie Tate's Barcelona and the gap was back up to four points. In the same week, Udinese were dumped out of the Champions League in the semi finals 2-1 by Valencia and their season looked suddenly almost over. Juve kept on winning, and the title was secure when they beat Dortmund 3-2 away in week 21. The gap closed to 2 points in the final week as Juve – like Udinese before them – were held 3-3 at home by Barcelona in the last week of the season, but by then it was all over. The cups however proved more of a challenge for Brian's side. Barcelona knocked them out of the Champions League in the quarter finals, whilst they made it to the final of both the League Cup and FA Cup – losing both. The League Cup went to Robert Gatfield's Valencia side, thanks to a 3-2 victory, whilst the FA Cup proved sweet revenge for Udinese. They did keep going after their week 19 setback, winning all their remaining league fixtures, then Raul scoring a hat-trick in a 3-2 FA Cup semi final win over Piacenza. That set up the final against the champions and again Raul was the star. He scored three times as Udinese beat Juventus 4-3. Jamie Tate's Barcelona finished third in Serie A, nine points behind the champions (Juve finished on 57 pts, with Udinese on 55 and Barca on 48) but they also had a big consolation prize as they won the Champions League. Edmilson scored the only goal as Barca beat Valencia 1-0 in the final. Real Madrid finished fourth in Serie A, with 38 points.

The Premiership by contrast wasn't much of a challenge for Neil Overton's Arsenal side. They were the best side by some considerable distance, winning the league by 10 points - they

got 54 points compared to Lyn Harris' Chelsea who finished on 44. Norwich City were third with 31pts, Man United fourth also on 31pts. Arsenal also won the FA Cup, beating Sunderland 4-3 in the final, and the League Cup – Norwich the beaten finalists in that one, Thierry Henry scoring a hat full of goals in all competitions for the Gunners. The Champions League proved a step too far though for Arsenal, and Ronaldinho's brilliance for Barcelona saw them go out 4-2 in the semi final.

John Morrison's Scotland side won the World Cup, the final a magnificent 3-2 victory over Brazil.

A Necom Holiday...

I will be away from work between Friday 6th July and Tuesday 16th July – so please please try not to send emails asking questions during that time, as unfortunately I won't be able to reply to them.

For those who've asked about it, that also explains the slightly altered deadlines over the past couple of turns – they'll all get back to normal once my holidays are over. There are of course no turns next week, which means that there is a two week gap for weekly (Thursday) games.

Just remember to always check the deadline date on the front of your return sheet and you won't go wrong.

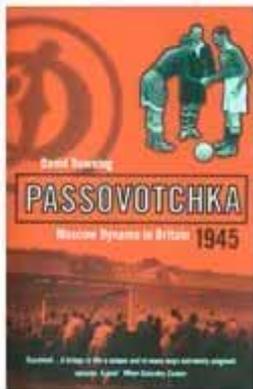
Game 82 Season End June 2007:

Reading Lose It On Final Day !

The battle for the game 82 Premiership title turned out to be a real thriller, with three clubs all in the running for pretty much all of the season. Paul Underwood's Reading side drew their opening game of the season 0-0 at Tottenham, but won 8 in a row after that and were top of the table pretty much all season long. Their first defeat came against Andrew Latimer's Rangers at Ibrox, Rangers winning 1-0 and at that point just two points separated the top three – Reading and Rangers on 25 points, and Gavin Syme's Hearts just behind on 23. The title then changed hands a couple of times – Reading winning six in a row to open up a three point lead but then seemingly handing it to Rangers by drawing at Newcastle and Man United. However, they then looked to have won the title when they beat Rangers 3-2 at home in week 19. Both sides won their games in week 20 and 21, Hearts dropping back slightly, leaving them going into the final game with Reading 2 points clear and with a better goal difference. A draw should be enough for Paul Underwood's side. Rangers had to travel to Chelsea, whilst Reading were away at Hearts – both difficult games. Rangers did their bit, winning 4-3 at Stamford Bridge, but Reading couldn't manage their part – and went down 3-2 at Hearts. Andrew Latimer's side won the league with 55 points, Reading second on 54, and Hearts finished third with 51 points. Fourth place went to Marc Nelson's Man United with 35 points. For Reading though, losing the league wasn't the end of their final day problems. Hard work through the season had brought them to the brink of the treble – they were in the Champions League final and the FA Cup final. The FA Cup saw another defeat, as Hearts beat them again – Gavin Syme's side 4-3 winners, but at least they picked up the Champions League crown, beating Andrew Latimer's Roma thanks 4-3 to a Raul hat-trick and a goal from Crespo.

James Nelson's Barcelona won Serie A, after a real thriller of a final week. Early on it looked a sure bet that the title was going to be won by Stephen's Valencia. The Spanish side held a six point lead at the half way point in the season, but defeat at Roma saw that cut to three points and by week 20 the lead was just two points. Valencia were still favourites though – they knocked Barca out of the FA Cup at the semi final stage to underline their title credentials, but slipped up in dramatic style in week 21. Away to Michael Hughes' AC Milan, the league leaders were battered 4-1. So at the end of week 21, four teams were in the running. Barcelona were top, Valencia a point behind, and then two points off the top were Roma and Milan. Anything could happen in the final day – but with the pressure on, James Nelson's side kept their nerve, Barca beating Nantes 3-2. They finished the season on 50 points, one ahead of Valencia with Milan and Roma a point further back. Roma beat Valencia 4-3 in the final to lift the FA Cup.

Competition - Book Winners



You may remember that we had a competition to win three copies of the book 'Passovotchka' last month, the fascinating story of how players from Moscow Dynamo travelled to Britain to play a series of matches against top British teams in November 1945. I'm pleased to say that we've drawn out the winners – and they are: **Joe Hughes**, **David Kelly** and **Aaron Winford**. Hearty congratulations to you all – your book should be on its way soon!

Sadly with holidays and what not, I've not had time to sort out a competition for you this week – rest assured there will definitely be one in next month's Necom News, and also hopefully in the next issue of the game 33 newsletter too.

Game 34 Season End June 2007:

Grand Slam Of Trophies For Stephanie's Millwall

Winning all the major trophies in one season is an impressive haul – particularly when you've been thrown in at the deep and have to take over from one of game 34's legendary managers, but that's what Stephanie did at Millwall. Nick Davenport – having built Millwall up into the top side in the game – was forced to take a back seat for health reasons and so Stephanie took over his beloved club, and promptly did an even better job than Nick had done! Millwall held off the challenge from Markie's Man United all season to win the Premiership – finishing with 54 points, ahead of United on 48, Michael G's Ipswich on 40 and Stuart Flight's Liverpool on 39. They beat United 1-0 in the League Cup final, Robin Van Persie scoring the only goal, and then beat Ipswich 3-2 in the FA Cup final – Van Persie again, a hat-trick this time. Finally, the Champions League final – and a 4-3 win over Man United. Van Persie only scored one this time, but two from Michael Essien and a late winner from Pirlo saw the Lions through. Serie A belonged to Mark Wheat's Barcelona, top of the table pretty much all season though in the end they only won it by two points. Barca finished on 52 points, Gary Cunningham's Bayern Munich second on 50, with Michael G's Borussia Dortmund third on 41 and then Sparta Prague in fourth way down on 29 points. Bayern took the League Cup, beating River Plate 3-0 in the final, Shevchenko scoring twice, but lost out in the FA Cup final as Barca completed the double – Barcelona winning 2-1, Thierry Henry scoring both.



Game 56 Season End June 2007:

League Double For Rose

Scott Rose led teams to both the Premiership and Serie A titles in game 56, his sides proving the best in both leagues. Real Madrid had no competition to speak of, and strolled home with 60 points, miles clear of Barcelona on 44, Roma on 42 and 4th placed Juventus on 36 points. They beat Galatasaray 3-2 in the final to win the FA Cup and a 3-1 final victory over Barcelona also gave them the League Cup. The season couldn't have gone much better for them really. In the Premiership on the other hand, Scott really had to work for the title. Scott Briggs' Celtic won their first five games before consecutive defeats at home to Carlisle and away to Man United saw them slip off the top. David Carney's Everton then took over top spot, holding on at the top until week 13 and a surprise 0-0 home draw against Middlesboro. The following week, Everton went to Old Trafford and lost 1-0 – and suddenly were five points behind. The gap increased to 8 points the following week as Everton lost at David Carney's other side, Carlisle. With just seven games to go, United were 8 points clear, Everton still second but Carlisle having joined them on the same points total. A draw for United saw the lead cut to 6 points, then they travelled to Carlisle themselves in week 19, losing a close game 1-0. With both sides then winning in weeks 20 and 21, the final week was decisive. Carlisle were three points behind but with a better goal difference. United just about held their nerve though, beating Tottenham 2-1 at Old Trafford and they lifted the championship. United finished on 50pts, with Carlisle on 47, Celtic on 43 and Everton fading on 41. Huddersfield won the FA Cup, beating Celtic 2-1 in the final whilst the League Cup was won by Carlisle thanks to a 1-0 victory over Liverpool. The Champions League went to Everton, David Carney's side making up for their poor form in the league run in to beat Man United in the final. Early goals from Raul, Milner and Dyer had Everton 3-0 up before an hour had been played – Lovenkrands pulled one back for United but Everton had this one in the bag.