

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.

Postal Strike Problems!

You may well be aware that there have been postal strikes across the country over the past couple of weeks. Returns sent back to necom seem to have taken longer than expected to get here – sometimes up to a week, and sheets sent back to you aren't always getting there as expected. Unfortunately there's very little we can do about this – at least the strikes should be over this week – we'll all just have to be a bit patient! Remember you can download your turns from the website – write **EM(ON)** in the extra actions to turn this option on – for no extra charge. You can also send your changes back to us by email or by fax – just make sure they arrive at necom no later than 8am on the deadline date.

Game 3, Season End August 2007: Cov and Juve Dominant But Juve Win Showdown

Paul Davies' Coventry and David Smith's Juventus were totally dominant in their respective leagues in game 3 this season. Both sides went through the season unbeaten, Coventry dropping points in four games and Juve amazingly dropping them just once (though they were pushed pretty hard to the line too). Coventry finished on 58 points, well clear of Steve Cawley's Man United who amassed 42 points. Norwich were third on 38, with Chelsea fourth on the same total. Not surprisingly, Coventry won the FA Cup, beating Ryan Doyle's Gretna (feeder team for Inter Milan) 3-2 in the final and the League Cup (same opponents, same scoreline!) Juve won Serie A with 64 points, Ryan Doyle's Inter finished a close second with 58 points. Both of them beat pretty much everyone else, but the games between them proved key. Juventus won 1-0 at the San Siro in week 7 and then beat their rivals by the same score at their own ground in week 16. Those were Inter's only two defeats of the season. Juve's only dropped points came in a 0-0 draw at Valencia in week 14. Inter were second best in the FA Cup too – Juve beat them 3-2 in the final, and also in the League Cup - Juve beat them again, 3-1 this time. Valencia were third in Serie A with 34 pts, Nantes fourth on 31. So to the Champions League- where incredibly all of the big three were drawn together in the same group (along with Norwich City). Inter got off to a great start – beating Juventus on the opening day. Juve and Cov drew both their games against each other, and Cov were also held 0-0 by Norwich for the Canaries' only point in the group. Inter had a great chance to knock out one of their rivals, but lost both their away games and could only draw at home to the Sky Blues. As a result, Juventus topped the group with 11 points, and Coventry and Inter tied on 10 – but Cov went through thanks to a superior goal difference. After that, the route to the final was straightforward for both Juve and Coventry, and they met for the ultimate showdown. Goals from Joe Cole and Frank Lampard saw Juventus 2-0 up early on. Tacchinardi pulled one back for Coventry, Adriano made it 3-1 and Marcelo Salas scored a second for Coventry. Juventus lifted the trophy, 3-2 the final score. The draw for the new seasons Champions League again pits Coventry and Inter together – along with Milan and Man United, so there are more interesting battles ahead.

Necom News

This week incorporating Game 33's Professional Foul!

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Strong Finish Earns Saints Title!

GAME 75, Season End July 2007:

Once again game 75 served up a thrilling season, with the Premiership battle proving one of the tightest battles in a long time. A number of teams had great chances to lift the coveted trophy, but Wayne Sinclair's Southampton came from far behind – they were down in fifth place as late as week 14 – with a magnificent run of form just when it mattered. Saints run of six wins and a draw in the seven games from week 15 to week 21 saw them crowned champions with a game to spare. Last season was very much a race between just two teams – Chelsea and Grimsby – and those two were expected to feature strongly again. Grimsby did – and certainly had their chance to win the league. They were in the top four all season, but let themselves down pretty much every time the top spot beckoned. Chelsea lost two in a row early on and were always playing catch up from then on. They won 1-0 at Grimsby in week 19 to move into the top four for the first time, and it looked like they could put a late run together, but a draw at Arsenal in week 21 – coupled with Southampton's winning run – put paid to their hopes. Grimsby followed defeat at home to Chelsea with a 2-1 loss at Celtic and they too were out of it. John Rosie's Hearts were top of the table for the longest this season - they took top spot with a 1-0 win over Grimsby in week 8 and stayed there week 18. A 1-0 victory over Southampton in week 12 have them a five point lead and the title looked on the cards, but they were only able to hold until a 1-0 home defeat at the hands of Celtic in week 18. Two weeks later, a home defeat at the hands of Chelsea in week 20 left them three points behind Southampton and week 21 defeat to Celtic saw them out of it altogether. Alan Frame's Hamilton were another side in the running. They topped the table in weeks 6 and 7, and were always round about the top four but –like Grimsby – never quite took advantage of their opportunities to push for the title. Jamie Maycroft's Wolves were another side that could perhaps have done better - they were the closest challengers to Hearts at the halfway stage, but only managed to win three more games. With so many quality sides all capable of taking points off each other, it was always going to be a close season, and one where a low number of points won the title. In fact, Garysean Wilson's Celtic proved key to the title destination. Celtic started the season terribly and looked certain for relegation but suddenly turned things around in the latter stages, beat a number of the title contenders, and ended up safely in 8th place. Indeed, they finished up only three points from a European place, Wolves in seventh qualifying with 32 points, Celtic had 29. So to Wayne Sinclair's Southampton. Despite losing to Grimsby

In week 22, they won the title with 40 points. The key moment for them probably came in weeks 15, 16 and 17 where they recorded key home victories against their rivals Hamilton and Chelsea and also made the difficult away trip to Liverpool and won 1-0. Hamilton took second place with 38 points, with Hearts third on 37. Grimsby were fourth and Chelsea fifth, both on 34, a point ahead of Liverpool and two clear of last Euro qualifier Wolves. The sides relegated were Manchester City, Arsenal and Everton. Tank's Nottingham Forest were pretty dominant in division 1, winning it without losing a match, finishing ten points clear of Scott Rose's Middlesboro. Manchester United finished 4th but made it back to the top flight through the playoffs, beating Norwich (who finished third, nine points clear of the Old Trafford outfit) 2-0 in the playoff final. Both domestic cups were won by feeder teams, quite suprisingly. Jamie Maycroft's Southend were the League Cup winners, beating Man United 4-3 in the final, whilst the FA Cup final saw Southampton going for the double against their feeder side. As often happens in these situations, the feeder team won, Bournemouth lifting the cup 2-1 thanks to a brace from Cavenaghi. Incidentally, looking back at the European qualification – a win for Southampton here would have meant an extra European place for a Premiership side and Celtic would have got in – however, with Bournemouth winning the cup, they now make the Champions league (and have AC Milan, Hamilton and Paris St.Germain in their group).

Hearts had much consolation for their failure in the Premiership in the form of the Champions League title. They topped their group by a mile – and were the only side in the group stage with a 100% record. They then beat Celtic 4-3 in a thrilling quarter final, knocked out Bayern Munich in the semis and finally two goals from Mateja Kezman saw them come from a goal down to beat Lazio 2-1.

Stuart Robertson's Lazio were the top team in Serie A – as shown by their fine showing in the Champions League. They had a tough battle

Game 75 Continued:

with Jamie Maycroft's Juventus for most of it, but a run of just two points from four games for Juve between weeks 12 and 16 saw Lazio pull out a five point lead on the Old Lady and they were able to maintain – and even extend – that until the finish. Lazio won the league with 44 points, Juventus were second on 37, along with Joe Hughes' Paris St.Germain who finished the season strongly. Scott Rose's Ajax were fourth on 35 points. John Ferrier's Villareal pulled off the Houdini act of the season to go from relegation certainties to safety with seven wins and two draws in their last nine games. Iain Cunningham's Valencia were unluckily relegated as a result, with 23 points. Dortmund and Inter Milan the other two sides to go down. Ian Taplin's Werder Bremen won Serie B, narrowly ahead of Craig Rathey's Real Madrid side. Tank's River Plate finished third and won the playoffs, beating Joe Price's Lyon in the final. Juve beat Ajax 1-0 in the FA Cup final whilst Ajax beat Lazio 2-1 in the League Cup final.

Game 4, Season End August 2007:

Four For The Mighty Barça

An incredible season for Steven Wright's Barcelona saw them pick up four of the five trophies on offer. They lost the first final of the season, going down 1-0 in the Super Cup final to Adrian Wright's Real Madrid, but from then on Barca were unstoppable. Real offered the biggest challenge in the league, the top two neck and neck, level on points until Barca recorded a vital 4-3 win over their rivals at the Nou Camp in week 18. That pretty much ended Madrid's hopes and they faded to finish third as Barca stormed on. Enzo Misuraca's Roma nipped in to take second place with 47 points, eight behind the champions. Real dropped to third on 44 with Simon Rugg's PSV taking fourth place with 42. Other trophies followed into the Nou Camp cabinet. The League Cup was won with a 4-3 victory over Real, the FA Cup thanks to a single Ronaldinho strike against PSV Eindhoven and the Champions League-Barcelona beating Premiership champions Man United 3-2 to complete an impressive haul. Ryan Bird's United side in contrast had just the one trophy to show for their season. They were pushed all the way by Glen Pine's Newcastle side but just held on and clinched it in the final week of the season. United finished their season with 53 points, Newcastle were second on 49 with Wayne McQuistin's Chelsea third on 38 points, the same tally as fourth placed Rangers. United didn't have too much luck in the cups - they were beaten 3-1 by PSV Eindhoven's feeder side Nottingham Forest in the League Cup final, and failed to make it to the final of the FA Cup, losing 4-3 in the semis to Chelsea. The Stamford Bridge side went on to lift the trophy, with a 5-3 victory over Ashley Johnston's Liverpool. Brazil won the World Cup, beating France 3-2 in the final, Ronaldinho scoring twice.

Game 10, Season End August 2007:

Milan Pip Valencia

Joe Hughes' Milan have been the dominant force in game 10 for some time now, but they faced a real challenge this season and were incredibly lucky to take the title in a thrilling final round of fixtures. After a great season had seen the top three battling it out, going into the last match Jamie Maycroft's Valencia led by a point on 51 pts, with both AC Milan and Anthony Brockway's Barcelona a single point behind on 50. Valencia travelled to unmanaged Porto in their final match, whilst Barcelona would meet Milan in the San Siro. Amazingly, the Portugese side got the result nobody expected – beating the league leaders 1-0 (even more amazing - that was Valencia's only defeat of the season) so the winner of the game between Milan and Barcelona would take the title. Barca gave it their best shot, but were narrowly beaten 4-3. Milan win the title with 53 points, Valencia second on 51, Barca third on 50 with Dean Brockway's Real Madrid finishing fourth with 45 points. Milan had won the League Cup previously, beating Valencia 2-1 in the final, then they beat Barcelona 4-3 a second time to lift the FA Cup and take an impressive treble. Valencia ended the season without a trophy, losing the Champions League final too as a late goal from John O'Shea saw Manchester United win that 3-2. United didn't fare all that well in the Premiership, only finishing sixth as Stewart Megrath's Chelsea picked up the trophy. Chelsea finished on 45 points, with Arsenal second on 36, then Celtic on 34 and Blackburn 33. Hearts beat Swindon 2-1 to win the FA Cup, United beat Liverpool 2-1 for the League Cup. Stewart Megrath's Northern Ireland won the World Cup, beating France 3-2 in the final.

Game 138, Season End March 2007:

100% Record For Lazio

Patrick Lyons' Lazio won every game in Serie A, winning the league with 66 points. Real Madrid were second with 39, then Steaua on 37 and La Coruna on 32. Lazio also won the Champions League, beating Patrick's Man United 2-1 in the final, but lost to Inter 2-1 in the FA Cup final. The British league was well won by Mark Buchanan's Ayr United as they finished the season on 59 points, seven clear of Patrick's Man United. Craig Liggitt's Aston Villa were third with 47 points whilst Fulham were third on 31. Ayr also won the FA Cup, beating feeder side Stranraer 2-0 in the final. England beat Belgium 3-2 in the World Cup final.

Find The Premiership New Boys!

A proper competition this month – and a full **£50.00** worth of credit to the winner. It's a toughie – but well worth a guess at the answer. Look through the wordsearch grid and see if you can find the names of all the players we've hidden in there. All of them are players that have joined new Premiership clubs over the pre season and will no doubt be looking forward to making their debuts in the English top flight soon. When you've found as many of them as you can, fill in the coupon at the bottom of the page – and you're going to have to do a bit of maths. We want to know the total amount these players were transferred for (add up all their reported individual transfer fees). Fill that in on the form, and send that back before 31st August – the person who gets closest to our answer is the winner, so it's well worth having a guess). Best of luck...

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August Competition Entry Form...

Name : _____

Necom Acct. No. : _____

Total Transfer Amount : £ _____

Send this back with your return sheet (or email us the answer) before 31st August to be in with a chance of winning.