

Necom News

18th April 2012

Volume 24, No. 7

Support Us At Relay For Life 2012!

Necom managers have signed up to this years Relay For Life Stockport – and we're asking for your help.

We will be walking around the track in Relay for a full 24 hours, as well as joining in fun necom and football based activities all day long – starting at 12 noon on Saturday 30th June and finishing at noon on Sunday 1st July.

All managers will be very welcome at the event at Stockport Rugby Club, Bramhall.

If you can make it then sign up for the event at the CRASH COKE BABIES team website (named after two League Soccer legends – Arthur 'Crash' Ticehurst and of course Ross Sharp who sadly lost his battle with cancer last year and in whose name we are entering this event.

If you can't make it, then we're looking to raise £500.00 for the team from our wonderful managers – again go to the link below and you can make a small donation. Every penny counts, thank you so much in advance if you can help. Every single penny raised goes to Cancer Research UK to help in their fight against the dreadful disease that has taken so many friends and family too early.

The web address you need to either join the Necom team (Crash Coke Babies) or make a donation is

www.tiny.cc/crashcokebabies

You can also find out more about the Relay event itself by going to www.RelayForLifeStockport.co.uk

Thanks again...



The Return Of Niall Quinn's Disco Pants...

Writing topically turns out to be quite hard to do when you've got to get your turn sent in every 10 days, so I've missed quite a few issues of the newsletter. Sorry. Over the course of the past month or so there have been some great developments at the top and bottom of the English Premier League, with – as predicted here – Manchester United having gone a long way towards the title and at the bottom a couple of great results from Wigan to get them in with a great chance of staying up.

Okay it had all changed before then, and the momentum was definitely with Man. United, but an incredibly impressive Sunderland performance at The Etihad put City in a tough position, as Sunderland became the first team not to be beaten at Manchester City. In truth we probably deserved to win the game, Sunderland were absolutely magnificent but a late comeback from City and a maybe marginal penalty decision when Dzeko went down quite easily saw City take a point. If we can put that sort of performance together on the last day of the season when we take on United at the Stadium of Light and there should be no reason why we can't, then the title race isn't yet over.

The luck has been with United this season, and in particular over the final few weeks, of that there is no doubt. Whether it's players sent off against them, penalties awarded to them or other dubious calls, United are definitely getting the breaks. I have a bit of a theory about this, nothing groundbreaking but an idea to discuss. Together with a couple of friends who happen to be supporters of Liverpool and Manchester United, we have often discussed over the years the thing that Patrick Viera commented on a week or so back, that the 'big teams' get the benefit of the decisions.' My Liverpool supporting friend backs me up on this, it's true that his side still get the breaks from the refs and have done over the years. We think it takes time for a club to build up this kind of attitude from officials and those Manchester City supporters who are currently complaining will find that after a few years at the top it is there team too who are benefiting. One further reason though that teams like United get more penalties and more sendings off and it isn't down to cheating. It's just that those teams have the ball far more, and have the ball in and around their opponents penalty area much more. United have apparently had nearly double the number of penalties this season to everyone else, but they are are going to get more just because they attack more and they run at the opposition in the box more. I'm not defending Ashley Young's behaviour here because that was just wrong, but it is definitely true that United are always going to get more decisions than say Blackburn because they're better, keep the ball better, get forward more, and try to score more often.

Anyway, enough of the top, it's quite exciting down at the bottom. At the start of the season I expected Sunderland to be in the relegation fight, we were that poor, but instead we have a six way battle for three places. Wolves must be all but relegated. They're awful and how stupid a decision was it to sack Mick McCarthy. They play Manchester City this week and defeat there coupled by a QPR win at home to Tottenham would mean they were relegated. Wigan's last two games are against Blackburn and Wolves and you would expect them to win one of those which will be enough to be safe. Villa play my team on Saturday and if they are as bad as they were against United will not beat us. However, I expect them to raise it a bit and beat us or Bolton which will be enough for them to stay up. It could come down to two from QPR, Bolton and Blackburn. Rangers have four tough games – Spurs and Stoke at home, Man. City and Chelsea away. Probably a maximum they could hope for would be six points, and that might just about be enough. Bolton face Swansea, Villa, Spurs and have Sunderland away – and will probably need to win three out of the four if they are to stay up. Blackburn should beat Norwich on Saturday and if they can also beat Wigan at home will then need one win from their away games at Spurs and Chelsea if they are to stay up. It's really tight still, and I'll probably be wrong, but my predictions are ... Wolves, QPR and Blackburn to go down.