

# Necom News

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The Legends Game Is Coming!

After far too long in discussion and development, I'm delighted to say that the League Soccer Legends game is now ready for launch!

Have you ever wondered how the stars of the 80's would get on against a team of players from today? Wanted to pick your own favourites from the past 25 years against someone else's favourites? Well now you can – with League Soccer legends!

It already has a game number – 86 – and quite a few managers have said they want to join. If you do, then just send an email to me – [neil@necomgames.com](mailto:neil@necomgames.com) and I'll add you to the list.

The basic idea of the game is that you get to pick a squad of players from any time at all during the life of Necom Games – so that is pretty much anyone who has played professional football in the last 30 years. Take your pick – you might have Rinat Dasayev in goal, Paolo Maldini and Franco Baresi amongst your defenders, maybe Maradona, Zico and Danny Wallace working together at the top. It'll be totally up to you. You will be able to pick the players you want in our online draft – and then play them up against everyone else's dream legends XI on the usual League Soccer system.

For more information check out the Necom noticeboards or email me...

See Last Weeks Newsletter!

All the back issues of our newsletters are available on the Proboards section of the necom website – the direct link being here:

<http://necom.proboards.com/thread/5733/atst-newsletter-august-2014>

I say this particularly here because last weeks effort was only around for a few days!

## Ancient History, Part 2

The very first version of League Soccer was pretty simplistic. I didn't have a printer for a start, so I had to write squad sheets out by hand and give them out at school! Fixtures were played by inputting the team selections in to the computer individually, following which a result would be generated between the two teams with the computer deciding goal scorers, injuries and sendings off. I then would take that basic information and produce a hand written match report!

It was possible to save and load a certain amount of data from tape, but the Spectrum's small memory meant that I was still somewhat limited in what I could save. Eventually though I was able to store a database of 512 players. These were to be split amongst 32 teams – set up in four divisions of 8. Around the same time, my mum – a college teacher – was able to borrow an Amstrad PCW8256 word processing computer at weekends. She would lug this great big thing home on a Friday and I could then use it to store squad sheets – typed in manually to the word processor. The Spectrum would play the results, and the reports, league tables etc. could all be generated on the Amstrad. I had a functioning game, now I needed more players. A letter to Computer & Video Games magazine made them an offer they couldn't refuse – free starter packs in League Soccer – something they published in the December 1986 issue.

### The Wisdom Of Markie

Mark Wheat with his view on the the English Prem...

So this weekend was the start of the English Premiership which saw Louis Van Gaal manage his first Premiership game at Old Trafford against Swansea City. It didn't start well for United – they slumped to a 2-1 defeat. New boys Leicester came back twice against Everton at the King Power Stadium which finished 2-2. Arsenal left it late against unmanaged Crystal Palace which saw the Gunners earn 3pts thanks to a late winner from Welsh midfielder Aaron Ramsey who scored from 2 yards out following a parry from the Palace keeper. West Ham vs Tottenham ended in both sides having 10 men on the pitch at the end of the match. Kyle Naughton was sent off for Spurs for a hand ball which led to a West Ham penalty which Mark Noble missed. James Collins was sent off for West Ham just after the hour mark. The game ended 1-0 to Spurs when Tottenham's centre half Eric Dyer scored in the 90th minute. Two games on Sunday - Liverpool hosting Southampton and Newcastle hosting



The first promotion for League Soccer in Computer & Video Games!

champions Manchester City. Southampton travelled to Anfield with a new look team as so many players departed in the summer Transfer Window. Players like Shaw, Lovren, Lallana, Lambert etc all went to different Premiership clubs - Liverpool signing three of them, two of whom would feature here. The match was end to end which saw Liverpool come out winners 2-1 to continue from a great campaign last season. Goals from Raheem Sterling & Daniel Sturridge confirmed all 3pts. Southampton's scorer was Nathaniel Clyne with an unstoppable strike into the top corner which gave Liverpool's Simon Mignolet no chance. It might have finished 2-1 to Saints if new signing Shane Long had put his header away from 6 yards but he was obstructed by Liverpool's Glen Johnson. Champions Man City started the defence of their title with a 2-0 win over Newcastle at St James's Park. Goals from David Silva and Sergio Aguero made sure of all 3pts for the Champions. In other News: Manchester City have tied down new contracts for David Silva, Sergio Aguero and captain Vincent Kompany to ensure that their world class stars stay at The Etihad Stadium. Manchester United have been reported to attempt Di Maria away from Real Madrid but the European Cup winners could be reluctant on selling the Argentina star. Federico Fernandez could complete his move to the Premiership after completing his medical on Monday. Rumours flying around that Chelsea, Arsenal & Liverpool have all been put on red alert after PSG's contract talks with Ezequiel

Lavezzi have broken down. United will make another attempt to sign Kevin Strootman with Juventus confident they will hold onto Chile midfielder Vidal. Man City will offer Edin Dzeko a new 5 year contract this week. Atletico Madrid look to sign Tottenham's striker Roberto Soldado. Tim Sherwood has emerged favourite to take control at Crystal Palace.

Also reading on skysports.com the other day that David Moyes said he needed more time at Old Trafford? Is he for real? People will say Ferguson left a sinking ship but he left a title winning side. David Moyes lost a lot of respect in the dressing room, unsure if it's something Wayne Rooney said to his team mates or could of been the run of results or training or even man management but either way not getting United into the champions League or even Europe for that matter with a title winning team is beyond a joke.

Monday Night Football - With Gary Neville & Jamie Carragher. Burnley vs Chelsea. Premiership new boys Burnley host Jose Mourinho's Chelsea. Chelsea went into this match as favourite for the match and start the season campaign as title favourites. Being title favourites on day one means nothing. It's a 38 league game season and ANYTHING could happen. Chelsea started with Courtois in goal which could be a surprise to many fans with Cech not making any mistakes last season. Could Cech be asking to leave so they could gain first team football or will he stay on and fight for his place. Chelsea took all 3pts tonight with goals from Schurrle, Ivanovic and new boy Costa all scored for Chelsea to help start Mourinho's campaign with a win.

## Game 64 Chelsea invitational cup 5

Game 64 is something of a special game in Necom, being run to commemorate two former game 64 managers who are sadly no longer with us, Ross 'Cokebaby' Sharp and Arthur 'Crash' Ticehurst. It's online only, with turns taking place twice a week. Niall Cunningham has run his own tournament in that game - matches are played between teams using the free friendly action each turn. Niall has agreed to give us a run through of the tournaments progress each week in this newsletter so here we go with the first one....

This coming turn in game 64 will see the final round of group games in the 5<sup>th</sup> annual friendly cup sponsored by Necom Games.

In Group 1 Chris Quick's Tottenham have already qualified from their group, and need just a point to secure top spot. Their opponents, Bazz Wetton's Antwerp, are playing for pride as they look set to finish last. Meanwhile Richard Ladd's PSG and Glen Pine's Fc Basle will fight it out for the second place spot and a place in the quarter finals.

In Group 2 Marc Lewry's Man United have also qualified from their group, but will be looking to secure top spot when they face 2nd place Lazio, managed by the highly premier Richard Coupland, who trail United by 1 point. Jamie 'Kidrock' Maycroft's Dnipro will face competition hosts Chelsea who will be hoping to end a disappointing tournament that has seen them collect only 1 point from the 4 games played so far, but will face a stern test from Dnipro who need to take all 6 points from their remaining games, and hope Man United can do them a favour against Lazio.

In Group 3 Pat Lyons' holders Ajax require just a point to secure qualification, but with a 6 point lead, and a superior goal difference from the other teams in the group it would take extreme

circumstances to see Ajax eliminated from the competition. Their opponents - Mark Wheat's Juventus - will be hoping to win both games, as the battle for 2nd place is separated on goal difference. Psv who currently sit in 2nd place with a +2 goal difference will face Fiorentina. Marc Lewry's Fiorentina who have a - 5 goal difference will need to win both games to stand a chance of qualifying for the quarter finals.

Finally in Group 4 Gerard O'Brien's Bayern Munich will need just 1 win to secure a place in the quarter finals, and face James Bartaby's Bayer Leverkusen who will be playing for pride after taking just 1 point from their campaign so far. Rich Coupland's Wolves will play Glen Pine's Bournemouth needing to win both games to stand any chance of qualifying as they trail their opponents by 5 points.

It's going to be an exciting end to the group stage of this season's competition this Friday. Results and quarter final draw will be available in next week's report.

## The League Soccer Future – Some Words from Gerard

Lots and lots of you have really good ideas when it comes to pushing League Soccer forward - emails and notes with things you'd like to see added to the game are of course always welcome. I'm currently hard at work on new tactical options which should be quite interesting - but whilst I'm working on those I've also asked Gerard O'Brien to lead a debate on what else you want to see brought into the game. So here's Gerard with his bit of the newsletter...

Over the next couple of months there are lots of exciting changes planned for Necom: some minor, some considerable. In this section of Necom News these new additions will be detailed, with the more radical and significant ones being opened up for discussion on the boards - to gauge a more rounded reaction and in an effort to get the most widely held opinion of managers with which to move forward.

### WORLD CLUB FINAL

The first of these possible new changes is the addition of a World Club Cup Final.

For the last few seasons managed teams have been given a bye in the first round of their domestic League Cup (*in anticipation of potential schedule changes later*). In order to fill the void left in the current program Week 1 will, in future, host the first European final of the new season.

The World Club Final will comprise the Champions League and Europa League winners from the previous campaign. Although the winner of the match will receive the newest, and shiniest, club prize in Necom it will simply be reward for last seasons' successful endeavours, much like the European Super Cup.

### EUROPEAN QUALIFICATION

Another item that will be up for discussion is the current and potential qualification criteria for European places.

At present the winners of the Europa League do not qualify by right for European competition the following season, meaning their success isn't rewarded in the next campaign. The main issues with rewarding the Europa League winners with a place are (a) which competition they will enter - whether they'll defend the Europa League or get promoted to the Champions League - and (b) where that newfound place will be lost from. Of course (and not that it makes much of a difference) it has only been the last year or so that in real life the Europa League winner has qualified for the Champions league.

One proposal to solve this is as follows;

#### Champions League Qualifiers

Champions League Winners  
Super Cup Winners  
Europa League Winners  
Premier League Winners  
Serie A Winners  
British FA Cup Winners  
European FA Cup Winners  
League Runners-Up (*of the federation that the Europa League winners aren't part of*)

#### Europa League Qualifiers

British League Cup Winners  
European Lg. Cup Winners  
Best 3 Placed British Teams  
Best 3 Places Euro Teams

No matter what approach is taken if a place is to be awarded to the Europa League winner another place will have to be removed from elsewhere.

In the above illustration the winners of all the major trophies in a season gain qualification for Europe's top competition the following campaign. Moreover extra weight is added to the significance of the both the Europa League and Super Cup, the latter currently being disregarded by a certain percentage of managers in their season's thoughts. Also, with one less place awarded to teams through league standing more importance will have to be given to cup matches with a view to the following season.

*As always the discussion on the topics raised is open to all managers who wish to contribute constructive and helpful views, and can entered into on Suggestions section on the boards.*

## Thanks To All!

I just want to end this two page special with a big thank you to those that have contributed. Having not produced a new newsletter for some six months I did feel that it was time for one - but to send out three pages worth in the matter of a few days is down to the support of those who have helped out. Exciting times with the Legends game on the way, new tactical options and now a 'Retro Game' that could be coming your way in a couple of weeks! Look out for more from all our columnists next week - and as for the rest of you, if you've got anything you feel you need to say then I'd love to read it and I'm sure everyone else would too - send it in and we'll include it here in the pages of Necom News!