

If you're into grass roots football. Then don't miss out! Get your copy today.

GRASS ROOTS

MONTHLY

Bumper
Issue



INSIDE

Q&A WITH **KELLY SIMMONS**

COUNTY CUP MATCH REPORTS

NICKY JOHNS FEATURE

REF'S VIEW WITH **EDDIE EVANS**

LEAGUE & CLUB HISTORIES



Dolby's Blag

(...Er I mean Blog)

Welcome to Grass Roots Monthly Issue 5 – we have a bumper issue in store for you this month.

We have club features on Pudsey Juniors of West Yorkshire and London Falcons of the GFSN League. And we have some great league features on the Sheffield & District Junior League, Cherry Red Books Middlesex County Football League, and the Kent Girls and Ladies League.

Millwall's Darren Ward talks about the art of defending, and there are two great articles – The Diary of a Substitute, written by Joseph Edwards and Splitting Hairs, written by Jason Mckoy.

Ref's View examines the opinions of one of the youngest referees around – Eddie Evans – who is just 16 years old! There's also an interesting interview with ex Charlton and Millwall goalkeeper Nicky Johns.

In addition, you can follow the story of Jonjo Heuerman, who recently completed his second 27 mile 3 day walk in memory of Bobby Moore, and Jonjo's grandmother Lyn.

Plus, Kelly Simmons, Head of the National Game at the Football Association, took valuable time out to answer our questions and give her thoughts on some interesting topics.

Finally, there are great match reports from the LFA Intermediate and Challenge Finals with Eltham Town and Yalova – the newly crowned champions.

Thanks for your continued support, and enjoy the read!

Marc Dolby

Marc Dolby
Editor of Grass Roots Monthly

"The main objective of this online magazine is to promote the great game we all love"

I want to be captain
I want to score the winner
I want to play at Wembley
I want the crowd to chant my name
I want Dad to stop shouting at me.



Respect

See our free parent guide at TheFA.com/Respect

follow us on [twitter](https://twitter.com/grmonthly) @grmonthly

'Age is just a number'

Gordon Boateng is a man way ahead of schedule. Having cut short his playing days to concentrate on management in his early 20s, the north Londoner has recently become English football's youngest chief executive after stepping up to board room level at Blue Square Bet North side Histon.

"Age is just a number," said the 30-year-old, founder of The Empire, a specialised consultancy service giving advice and direction to football players. "I have proved my credentials in other capacities at non-league level before, and I'm ready to do it as a chief executive. This is a massive challenge and something that I'm relishing."

Timing has been crucial in Boateng's career to date. Following spells as a player at a number of clubs including Bristol City, Leyton Orient and Norwegian side Kvinesdal IL, the promising striker decided to take a different path.

Taking up his inaugural first-team coaching position at then Ryman League Division Two team Clapton, Boateng assumed further managerial roles in non-league with Bishop's Stortford, Dagenham & Redbridge, Brimsdown Rovers, Harlow Town, Cheshunt, and Leyton thereafter.

"I moved around around the non league circuit," admitted Boateng, the winner of numerous league titles and trophies during his period as a manager.

"I needed to do this, in order to gain experience, which is everything in the football world. It may appear that I haven't really settled anywhere, but



if I hadn't have done that, I wouldn't be where I am now. The position I am in at Histon is the right one for me at this stage in my career. I'm here for the long-term, there's no rush to go anywhere.

"The most important thing is to see the club run properly and professionally, with the correct football infrastructure, from top to bottom. We have implemented an academy and scholarship programme, and there is a real focus on the grassroots element in everything we do at the club. Everybody is singing from the same hymn sheet, and the foundations are being put in place to eventually turn us into a Football League side in due course."

Sharp focus has been drawn upon the shortage of black faces in the board room in recent years, something which makes Boateng's emergence all the more impressive. It comes as no surprise to the man himself though. Having battled against the odds throughout his life, he has never let anything

deter him from reaching his goals.

"I've had a lot of knockbacks to deal with and that's what has really driven me on and made who I am today. I had an interview for various managerial roles before and was told 'your face doesn't fit'. A lesser person would have given up there and then, but I wouldn't ever allow barriers to prevent me from getting to where I want to be or believe I deserve to be. My skills and ability define me, not the colour of my skin. At some point I will get to the very top that is a fact – I'll make it to the Premier League."

Having to juggle business interests with duties at Histon means Boateng rarely has a minute to spare. Yet, he always finds time to incorporate his faith into everything he does. "Christianity has always guided me," revealed Boateng, who points to God as the reason for his survival in a near fateful car crash in 2009. "It was said in the All Souls Pentecostal Church in Angel Islington by the Deaconess Auntie Janet Asare that I will make it in the world of football, become a household name and make a difference."

Boateng hasn't relied upon faith alone in helping him to get to where he is today. Despite previously working under well-renowned managers such as Tony Pulis, Tommy Taylor and John Still, it's three lesser-known figures that have been most influential in his development, including Kick It Out's very own Troy Townsend. "Troy, Rudy Geohagen and Errol McKellar have all been key in my football career. They've always given me words of encouragement, helped me to maintain my focus and most importantly, believed in me as a leader. The support I've had from my mum and brother, my close friends and the rest of my family has also helped me to strive to do better."

Boateng is now keen to make a difference himself. Having gained heaps of experience throughout his own footballing journey, he feels as though he is in a position to aid the next generation of youngsters looking to make their way in the industry. "I want to give people the confidence and belief that they can be whatever they want to be," commented Boateng, a nominated mentor for Kick It Out's 'Leading the Way' conference in March.



"We all have places we want to be, and places we aspire to get to, and you need to box clever and back yourself in order to make that happen. There are always hurdles to overcome, but you have to take the initiative. It's not about waiting around for a miracle - you have to get out there, make things happen, meet people and sell yourself. Believe in yourself, keep networking and keep moving forward. Everybody has their own niche, it's crucial that we put this on display."

Boateng's story would make one hell of a book some day. You can guarantee there's still a fair few chapters to be written yet though....



www.kickitout.org

THINK YOU KNOW FOOTBALL?

TEST YOURSELF WITH THESE....

Question 1

Which England international keeper has kept the most clean sheets for the national team?

Question 2

How many clubs outside the top flight have won the League (Carling) Cup?

Question 3

Can you name the 3 goalkeepers England took to the 1970 World Cup Finals in Mexico?

Question 4

How many times have Arsenal won the FA Cup under Arsene Wenger?

Question 5

Which team have lost all 4 FA Cup Finals they have appeared in?

Question 6

Who is the most subbed player in Premier League history?

Question 7

Since the start of the Champions League, 10 different teams from the Premiership have played in it.
How many can you name?

Question 8

Which is the only club to avoid relegation from the Premier League despite being bottom on Christmas Day?

Question 9

How much did Everton pay Rangers for Nikica Jelavic in January?

Question 10

Who scored Wigan's goal in their recent 1-0 win over Man Utd?

Question 11

Which player became the first sub to score twice in an FA Cup Final?

Question 12

Name the teams Chelsea have beaten on the way to this year's FA Cup Final?

Question 13

Name the 3 clubs that have won the FA Cup and League (Carling) Cup in the same season?

Question 14

Name the 3 post-war England players with 3 letter o in their surname?

(1) Peter Shilton (66 clean sheets in his 125 full England appearances) (2) Five (Norwich Div 2 1962, QPR Div 3 1967, Swindon Div 3 1969, Aston Villa Div 2 1975, Sheff Wed Div 2 1991) (3) Gordon Banks, Peter Bonetti and Alex Stepney (4) Four (1998, 2002, 2003 and 2005) (5) Leicester City (6) Nolberto Solano (132 times with West Ham, Newcastle and Aston Villa) (7) Arsenal, Man Utd, Leeds Utd, Blackburn, Newcastle, Chelsea, Liverpool, Spurs, Man City and Everton (qualifying phase) (8) West Brom 2004/5 (9) 5million (10) Shaun Maloney (11) Stuart McCall (Everton 1989) (12) Pompey, QPR, Birmingham, Leicester City and Spurs (13) Arsenal 1993, Liverpool 2001 and Chelsea 2007 (14) Peter Osgood, Tony Woodcock, Ian-Storey-Moore

KNOW THE SCORE

AND HELP TACKLE BOWEL CANCER

Football stands up against the disease

England's top footballers from past and present came together during April to raise awareness of bowel cancer.

Current England midfielder James Milner, World Cup winner Martin Peters, women's captain Faye White and former striker Les Ferdinand supported and helped to promote 'Know the Score' in a national newspaper campaign.

The campaign was backed by leading bowel cancer charities who aim to raise awareness of key symptoms through football. These include the Bobby Moore Fund, the Adam Stansfield Foundation, Beating Bowel Cancer, Bowel Cancer UK, the Men's Health Forum and the founding charity of 'Know the Score', the Mr Brightside Project.

A new silver 'Star of Hope' badge was launched as the National bowel cancer symbol in conjunction with the Professional Footballers Association. The campaign was also being supported by the League Managers Association and Professional Game Match Officials Limited.

On the busy 2012 Easter period, match officials throughout the Premier League and Football League, and players at selected Football League clubs, also wore 'Know the Score' t-shirts as they warmed up for games.

Know your body!

Get to know your body and if you notice any of the following and they last longer than three weeks, make an appointment to see your GP:

- **Bleeding from the bottom without any obvious reason**
- **A persistent change in bowel habit to looser or more frequent bowel movements**
- **A lump in your tummy or tummy pain, especially if it's severe**
- **The chances are it won't be cancer, but it's better to play safe**

For more information on the campaign and for your "Star of Hope" badge please visit www.knowthescore.org.uk

2012 Mr Brightside Project 5 a-side Tournament

The annual Mr Brightside project 5 a-side tournament will take place at Eltham Town FC on Sunday 3rd June 12. For further information and enter your team into the tournament, please contact Alison Johns on 01689 813541 or visit the Mr Brightside Project web site: www.mrbrightsideproject.co.uk

Football Trophies & Awards

Supplied & Engraved by

Supreme Engraving

Based in Bexleyheath, Supreme Engraving specialise in the supply of good quality Football Awards, Cups, Trophies, Shields & Medals for all levels of the game. We offer a great selection to choose from and as our workshop is not on the high street, we are keenly competitive.

We always keep good stock levels but for the biggest selection in the UK please see our website catalogue section

www.supremeengraving.co.uk

We supply Cups, Shields, Medals, Plaques, and Salvers for Clubs, Leagues & Associations with Man of the Match, End of Season Presentation, Tournament, Five-a-side, Match Official, Commemorative & Memorial Awards

**Free friendly and helpful advice
just call Martin or Steve on**

01322 402082 or 07921 282009 anytime.

Featured League



Middlesex County Football League

The Middlesex County Football League was formed in 1984 by the Middlesex County FA to bridge the gap between men's junior football and men's senior football. We were created as one of the first 'intermediate leagues' leagues in the country. The idea was to get clubs used to having three officials, providing match day refreshments and match programmes, and having grounds beyond the local park pitch, and then ease them into the concept of senior men's football.

When the league was initially formed and with the clubs being predominantly based in Middlesex, the league was a feeder league into the Spartan South Midlands, Combined Counties and at the time Isthmian/Ryman Division 2. For the first 16 years of the league's existence we were running with anything from one to three divisions, and while being the senior Middlesex league in playing standards we were certainly the baby in league size. But during this time we had teams ranging from Cockfosters FC, Brimsdown FC and Enfield FC in the east, and Amersham FC out to the west.

Following discussions with the London Football Association when they were looking at folding the London Intermediate League, we agreed to offer their clubs football. So we suddenly found ourselves operating again from Heathrow Airport in the west to Walthamstow and East Ham in the east. The league therefore made a decision to operate within the north side of the M25.

At this time the Football Association was undertaking a restructure and we found ourselves part of the National League system. And while Ryman 2 had been folded, we now found ourselves as a feeder into the Combined Counties, Spartan South Midlands, and now the Hellenic and Essex Senior leagues, which as one of 42 step 7 leagues, is still unique due to the geographic area we still cover.

In the past 12 years we have fed over 20 teams into the various leagues: from North Greenford and Hanworth Villa, CB Hounslow and Bedfont Sports into the Combined Counties; Bethnal Green and Mauritius Sports into the Essex Senior, Sport London e Benfica into the Spartan and South Kilburn into the Hellenic to name but a few.

In our recent history we have also absorbed the West Middlesex Football Combination and the Hounslow & District League. Additionally, last season we jumped in to save the Hayes & District Sunday Football League following the sudden death of Greg Ward. And due to their lack of league officers for this season we found ourselves effectively with a Sunday section.

With Saturdays and Sundays, we now have over 100 clubs, nearly 5,000 players, 300 hundred referees playing in 13 divisions through out London with Sundays confined to West London.

Because of our status within the national league system and our ability to offer such varied types of football, our referees find our league easy to work with. And for them, once they have gained promotion it's a valued stepping stone to the step 5 leagues we feed into.



BM Photography
Capturing your precious moments

Apart from Weddings, Christenings and all other Social Occasions I also cover sporting events and in particular football matches.

You would have seen my work in the first issue of Grass Roots.

Special Offer

My normal rate is £100 per game with all photographs edited and put on disk. These are copyright free therefore your club can sell copies of them to the players and you keep all the profit!

If you book two matches I am offering a Special rate of £165 for the two.

Call now

Barry Maxted

bm.photos@btinternet.com

07961 423407

GET INVOLVED!

Do You Have a Team That Want to Play Saturday Youth Football?

If so why not enter the

London County Saturday Youth Football League

In the following sections:-

Mini-Soccer (7-a-side) Section: - Under 7's; 8's; 9's; 10's and 11's

11-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

JUNIOR SECTION: - Under 11's; 12; 13's

YOUTH SECTION: - Under 14's; 15's

COLTS SECTION: - Under 16's; 17's; 18's;

INTERMEDIATE SECTION: - Under 19's; 21's

Simple and easy join and registration a team

Check-out the Website at: - www.TheFA.com/Full-Time/LCSYFL

Or E-mail:- LCSYFL@btinternet.com

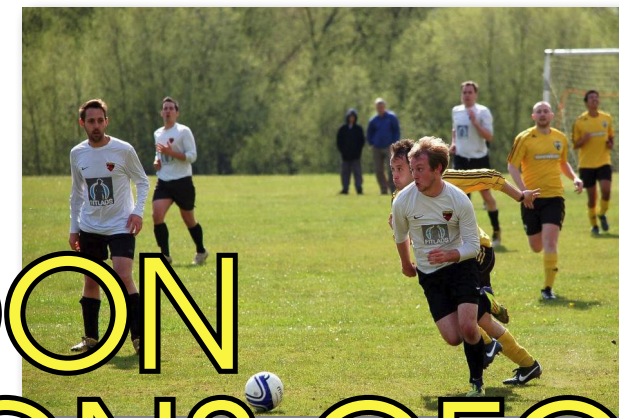
THE LEAGUE IS RUN IN FOUR REGIONS ACROSS LONDON

SW; SE; NE; NW



Club Focus

LONDON FALCONS GFC



London Falcons GFC, currently based in Richmond and sponsored by Fitlads.net, was formed in 2006 and quickly became one of the most successful gay football teams in the UK.

In the 2007/08 season, their first full competitive season, London Falcons FC won the GFSN National League and the London Unity League (LUL). They also finished third in the London IGLFA World Championships in 2008.

In early 2009, as part of a re-organisation of the club, Falcons' GFSN side changed their name to London Falcons GFC. Under the new organisation, they were once again crowned GFSN League Champions in 2009/10, with an unbeaten record in the league.

Last season, they came agonisingly close to a first GFSN National Cup victory, losing in a penalty shoot-out after a thrilling 4-4 draw after extra time with Newcastle Panthers. They soon bounced back though to clinch the LUL title, and then in June – with an equally thrilling last-minute victory against Barcelona – the final of the Division 2 section of the inaugural IGLFA European Championships in Manchester.

They are currently sitting in second place in the 2011/12 GFSN League standings, and in June are taking part in the 2012 EuroGames in Budapest.

Falcons' first team competes in the GFSN National League, with two sides taking part in the LUL.

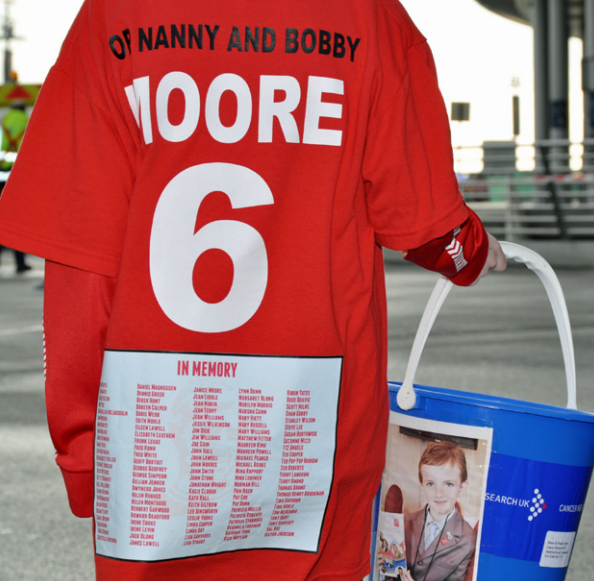
They also regularly compete in national and international tournaments and aim to provide people with the opportunity to play competitive football at different levels regardless of their sexuality, in addition to providing an enjoyable social scene for both playing and social members.

The club also runs a very popular 5-a-side evening every Wednesday in Raynes Park. Most home

games are currently played at Old Deer Park in Richmond, and social events are regularly organised at the Richmond Arms, the Two Brewers (Clapham) and in central London.

New members are always welcome and anyone interested in getting involved in any aspect is encouraged to email falconsgfc@live.co.uk London Falcons GFC can also be found on Facebook and Twitter @falconsgfc





Jonjo THE HEROIC HAMMER

Heroic Hammer Jonjo Heuerman, just 10 years old, has recently completed his second mammoth 27-mile, 3-day walk, for the Bobby Moore Fund for Cancer Research UK.

More than 150 people accompanied Jonjo as he walked from Wembley Stadium to West Ham United. His walk started on 22nd February with Sir Trevor Brooking and Stephanie Moore, widow of Bobby, waving him off.

He returned to a hero's welcome at West Ham United's Upton Park stadium just before the Championship game with Crystal Palace where he completed a lap of honour in front of 35,000 supporters.

Jonjo has now raised over £62,000 for the fund. His walk, first held last year, was completed in memory of the former England captain and his grandmother, Lyn. Both died

from bowel cancer. He also walked in memory of 120 other cancer victims who were listed on his walk T-shirt and held a special memorial ceremony on the last day of his walk where each name was read out and a wreath was laid.

His proud mother Donna said his achievements only sunk in when they reached Bobby Moore's statue at Upton Park.

She said: "I started shaking with emotion at the thought of how we got to this point again."

"There were some amazing stories from the people who came with us. We had one fan who'd had two strokes, a QPR supporter who walked barefoot the whole way, and a man with a heart condition."

"My friend, who is a West Ham fan, saw a young man walking up and down outside Upton

Park last week. He said he came from Ukraine to walk with Jonjo. My friend took him in."

"There is an awful lot of interest in walking next year. Jonjo woke up this morning and said can we do it again?"

"I said no, I'm still aching."

Jonjo is already planning his 2013 walk which will mark the 20th anniversary of Bobby Moore's passing. Jonjo is planning a tag team walk covering all 92 professional football clubs and finishing at Wembley Stadium. For more information please visit Jonjo's website.

www.fornannyandbobby.moonfruit.com

To donate, please visit
www.justgiving.com/fornannyandbobby
or Text **WALK66 £?** to 70070.



Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League



From small beginnings the Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League, as it is now known, has become the biggest junior football league in the country and, we believe, in Europe! We now have 860 teams playing football across all age groups from Under 7 to Under 16, with over 11,000 registered players.

Today, more than 40 years, on we still remain true to the original values of our first committee. The League covers an area within 20 miles of Sheffield Cathedral, and is still run by volunteers. The rules are agreed by the member clubs at each AGM, subject to FA rules governing the playing of the game, and we charge the minimum amount required to provide the funds we need to run the League.

As you can appreciate, our organisation is complicated to say the least, so we embraced modern technology early on. We now have separate registrars for each age group, and though we designed our own computer programme to administer the League, we soon outgrew it. We now use the FA's 'Full time' programme, which enables us to continue expanding; and we have introduced another division at certain age groups to cope with demand. We have a team of League welfare officers who help clubs when needed. The League was awarded FA Charter Standard in February 2010.

This season the League has introduced a new-look weekly e-newsletter that goes to 950 subscribers. The links clicked on are tracked, so that we can see which news items people most want to read. The newsletter and website this season have contained details of over 60 funding grants that clubs could apply for. The website has had over 600 news items on it, with news items appearing on most days.

The main focus this season has been on development. All the clubs have achieved or are working towards Charter Standard, with regular news items circulated and support sessions put on to help them. We conducted a survey with the results fed into an updated League development plan. This was a real opportunity for clubs, players and parents to have a say on League issues. One thing to come out of the survey was the desire to have more League officials at matches. As most officials are already involved with clubs on Sundays, this has always proved difficult. The League has therefore created a Match Watchers team and recruited former managers, members of clubs and former

referees, for example, to attend matches on the League's behalf. This is helping to reduce poor behaviour as clubs do not always know when they will be watched and by whom.

The survey results were used in a comprehensive report over 30 pages long, with responses to all open-ended questions. The League also put together 'You Said – We Did', a document focusing on key survey themes, and what the League is doing (and intends to do) to address them. Furthermore, we updated the League development plan using the FA enablers and goals, with suggestions from the survey respondents fed into that document. Clubs and the County FA were able to review and comment on the development plan before it was finalised. Further ideas from the survey include mock County FA personal hearings and exploring futsal as part of the mid-season break.

The League uses Full Time and is ranked number one with the hits to that site. All information is online using email and we have used social media more and more throughout the season.

The League has promoted the newly formed youth forum and the League Secretary has asked to attend in order to seek players' views on how they want the League to develop, after all it is all about young players playing in a safe and enjoyable environment.



twitter 
@grmonthly

London Sunday Intermediate Cup Final

Venue: Dulwich Hamlet FC, London SE22

Sunday 1st April 2012

YALOVA 3
(TCFF)
V
PHOENIX 2
(CAMDEN SUNDAY LEAGUE)

Yalova finally landed their elusive London FA Intermediate Cup at the third time of asking. The Yellow Ones came from behind to score two late goals and claim the prestigious county trophy running since 1962.

Yalova reached their first LFA Intermediate Cup (LFA IC) final in 1996-97 season where they went down 1-0 to Dees United. They returned to the final again in 2000-01 and were in front for much of the game but ended up 2-1 losers to fellow TCFF side Yesilada.

Having come so close twice before, Yalova were not prepared to let another opportunity slip. The day started early with players, committee and supporters meeting at 7:30am to board their private coach to make the trip to Dulwich Hamlet FC Stadium.

The party arrived at the venue promptly at 9:00am and from that moment on, the entire focus was on winning the club's first ever LFA IC to follow on their LFA Junior Cup success last season.

Yalova could not have dreamed of a better start and were a goal up inside 6 minutes. Ahmet Adalier's goal-kick was helped on to Clifton via Whitely's shoulder-pass, the twosome exchanged smart passes before Clifton buried a right-foot shot inside the far post from the edge of the penalty area.

The Yellow Ones controlled the game until the half-hour mark coming close to scoring on a couple of occasions, but after this point they seemingly took their foot off the gas and this allowed Phoenix back into the match. In the 34th minute a Phoenix freekick bounced back off Adalier and the oncoming forward turned the ball in for the equaliser.

Whitely hit the post just 2 minutes later and then smacked the crossbar on 47 minutes with Yalova agains assuming control of the possession. However, a counterattack thwarted by the foot of Adalier saw the ball somehow ricochet off his own defender and end up in the back of his net in the 50th minute.

This misfortune changed the balance of play and suddenly it was Yalova chasing the game. Chances came and went until the 72nd minute when Kevin Krans switched play to Whitely who found Clifton inside the area and Yalova's talisman got his and his team's second. Despite another County Cup final brace, Clifton was still not finished. With 8 minutes remaining he collected the ball from the left, skipped passed three defenders before squaring to Huseyin Djemal to turned the ball home and claim Yalova the trophy, but not without a late spectacular save from Ahmet to ensure the result stayed in tact.

Man-of-the-Match: Adrain Clifton

By Jem Djemal

“A blast from the past”

Nicky Johns takes time out to answer a few questions for Grass Roots Monthly.



What was the first club you ever played for and at what age did you start?

I played for Bedminster Down Boys club at the age of 12 then progressed to the senior team at the age of 14. I was lucky that a lot of people were prepared to give me the opportunity even at a young age.

Did you always want to be a keeper, and if so, why?

Always played in goal. Would spend hours with my Grandad, Dad and Brother taking shots at me, just loved diving around.

What advice would you give any young player hoping to make a pro career?

Listen to the advice given to you, Keep believing in your self and work as hard as you can. If you are good enough you will make it.

At what age did you make your professional debut? And who was it for and who against?

I made my Millwall debut at 19 away to Colchester in the league cup winning on penalties, I cant remember anything about the evening except we won 4-3 on penalties.

Do you have any particular rituals before facing penalties?

Take as long as possible to get back on to the line. In my day you were not allowed to move before the ball was struck, so I would make my self as big as possible.

If you could, which one rule would you change for keepers and why?

I would change the pass back rule, at times it puts the keeper under undue pressure with the ball just hit forward, for young keepers developing the art of keeping they have enough pressure on them kicking the ball from their hands and from goal kicks.

Who is the best striker you've faced in your career so far?

I was lucky enough to play against George Best, Kevin Keegan, Kenny Dalglish, Ian Rush and with Trevor Fancies all great players.

As a pure out and out finisher there wasn't any better than Charlton striker Derek Hales.

What are the high and low points of your career so far?

I was very lucky in my career winning promotions and player of the year awards and setting clean sheet records at Charlton, but being promoted to the old 1st Division was the pinnacle.

The low was coming to the end of my career.

If you weren't a pro keeper, what other career would you have chosen?

I came into football late, and was doing an engineering apprenticeship when Millwall asked me to sign. Gordon Jago organised for me to finish the apprenticeship with Stones in Charlton when I came to London.

Have you noticed many changes in grass roots football since you started playing?

The introduction of mini soccer has been a positive step forward with players now playing on pitches relevant to their age.

What changes would you make to the grass roots game if you could?

I would like to see more emphasis on developing the players and not results based, although I believe there always needs to be the competitive edge.

When you went to play in the North American Soccer League, what was the standard of football like?

It was a very high standard with lots of top players playing such as George Best, Rodney Marsh, Trevor Frances, Franz Beckenbaur and Carlos Alberto to name a few.

Did you think the American fans embraced the game in the same way the English fans do?

There were selected cities where soccer was fully embraced Tampa was one of the best places to play with a great stadium and good attendances for games. The Cosmos had world-class players Carlos Alberto, Franz Beckenbaur with large crowds.

Have you had any connection with grass roots football since turning pro?

My sons played for the local River Cray club from u7 through to u16 and I coached their teams. I then coached the teams that my sons played for in adult football.

Do you think parents/coaches do enough to help/encourage young keepers at grass roots level?

The problem is that the coach has to look after the whole team when coaching and the goalkeepers tend not to be coached. Although there are more courses that they can now go on. Being such a specialist position its important that the advice they are given is correct.



Do you ever get the chance to watch local grass roots football nowadays?

Not now. I just don't have the time.

Do you think it's harder for keepers to be named 'player of the year' as opposed to the outfield players?

No, I received the award 3 times at Charlton, if your side are up against it you have more chance to shine and when they are doing well the one save you make tends to win the game.

Pudsey Juniors was formed in the early 60s and it's understood that it became a feeder team to Leeds United and had the likes of Stuart McCall come through the ranks. The club was formed by the Head Teacher of Waterloo Primary School, and was created for the enjoyment of local children to play football.

Here is some anecdotal evidence, a recent submission to our website from Alan Richardson, a former member and player:

"Hello from Montreal, Canada. My name is Alan Richardson. I played for Pudsey Juniors in the early sixties and was captain of the team. We would win games 10-0 – we were awesome.

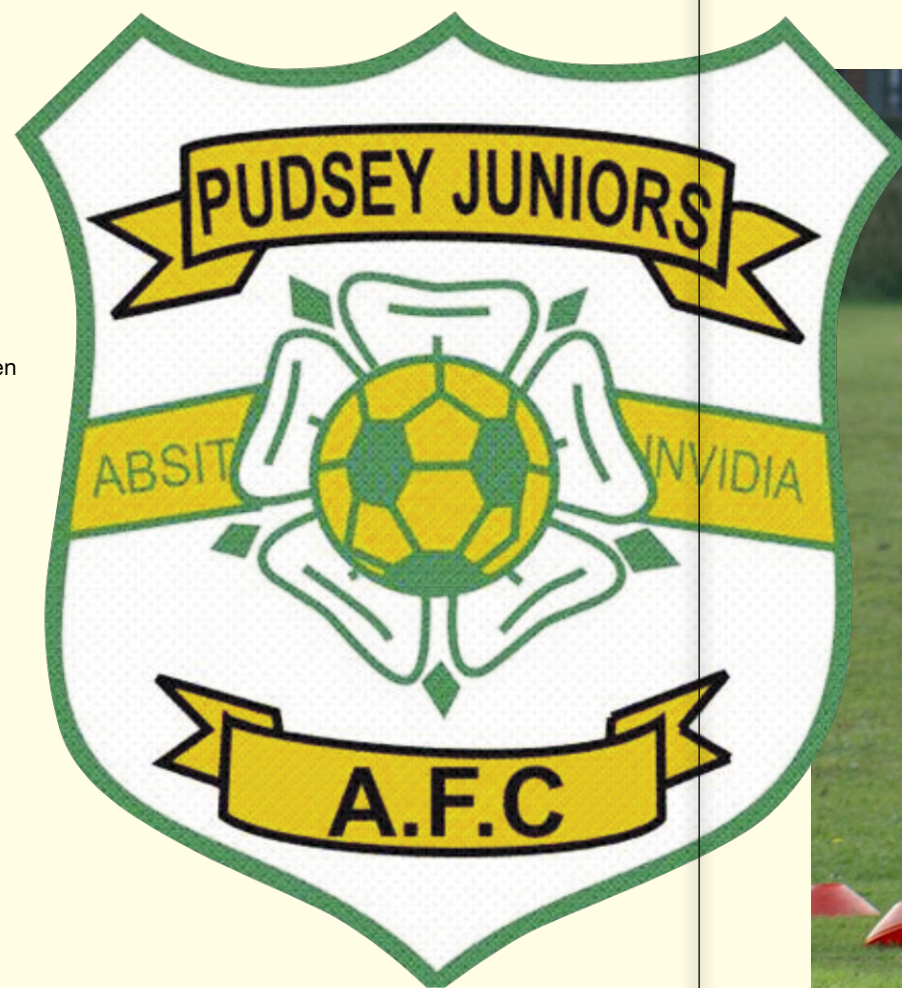
Now I can wipe the tears away – what memories, you gave me so much joy and now you give it to others. Please forgive the spelling, I'm in shock here. I am 3,000 miles away reading something that takes me right back to my childhood. And pudsey juniors still exist. Awesome.

I'm almost 60, so the memories are a little hazy, please give me a little time to recover from the shock. I will attempt to reply with names of fellow players at that time and a summary of my exploits in soccer after Pudsey Juniors.

God bless you for giving so much to the young and talented, it meant so much to me, may it go on forever. Alan Richardson"

Not much is known about the club throughout the 70s and 80s but in the 90s the first girls' teams were formed and the club began to expand under the Chairmanship of Ron Downs. Ian Dent took over as Chairman in 1998 and we are now in our current position, with the first Academy team that we are aware of being formed in 2010.

We have 27 teams involved in a number of leagues throughout the West Yorkshire region. We have our Footy Tots, which is our Development Squad made up of boys and girls under 6 and was formed in February 2009. The Development squad is for children aged 3-6 who are starting to learn football skills and do not play competitive football.



Our Under 7s play non-competitive football and we have four teams. All our mini soccer teams are ably supported by Karl Parkin, our fully qualified UEFA B coach.

We are currently looking to build a facility at a local primary school that will benefit not only Pudsey Juniors but the community as a whole, by providing two or three mini pitches, with a tea cabin fenced off into a safe environment.

We have six teams playing junior football, from under 11 to Under 16, in various leagues throughout West Yorkshire.

We have four senior teams where players are aged over 16. This includes our under 17s, two Sunday football teams and our recently formed Under 21 Academy team, who play in the West Riding County FA Under 21 Midweek Floodlit league.

Our Academy aims to take the best players of



Pudsey Juniors coming through the ranks and forming a joint team, playing in the WRCFA U21 Midweek Floodlit League. This league has been created by the West Riding County FA to bridge the gap between Junior and Open Age football. All games are played at a central venue on state of the art 3G pitches, and are played midweek under floodlights.

More recently Pudsey Juniors has formed an alliance with Old Headingley AFC, who currently ply their trade in the West Yorkshire League, with a number of the young Pudsey Juniors players turning out regularly for the Old Headingley 3rd team, which is currently in the premier division of the Leeds Red Triangle Invitation League. This will allow a football path for youngsters who wish to do so, from the age of six, to progress right through to quality, football pyramid at step 11 to 13, for those wishing and capable of doing so.

Our next ambition is to create a facility that we can be proud of that will allow the movement to higher levels of football for both Pudsey Juniors and Old Headingley and work is underway to progress the plans for this.





Kelly Simmons is FA's Head of National Game.

She is currently leading the implementation of the FA National Game Strategy which will invest £200 million into grassroots football over the next 4-year period.

How long have you been involved with the women's game?

For over 20 years playing, coaching and working in development.

What are the goals of the UEFA Grassroots Panel?

To promote and support federations in the establishment and development of grassroots programmes. UEFA have developed a star system to accredit federations work in this area, with the 6th star currently being the highest level of accreditation. I'm pleased to say England were one of the first recipients of the 6th star.

The FA intends to invest approx. £200m into grassroots football. How do you envisage this money to be spent?

We have set out the FA National Game Strategy (NGS) to 2015 which was developed in consultation with all stakeholders in the grassroots game. Areas for investment include children's coaching including the FA Skills Programme, schools competitions, club links with schools creating new junior teams, coach and referee recruitment and development and facilities. We publish a report year on year tracking our progress as I think it's really important that we are accountable for the investment and the impact it is making.

As a member of both UEFA and FIFA committees do you see a commitment from both organisations to further grassroots and women's football?

Yes definitely, UEFA are investing significantly in supporting federations and have launched a new investment programme for women's football. FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany last year was a landmark moment in the development of women's football – with record crowds and broadcast coverage. It was probably the biggest ever female team sports event.

This season sees the launch of the 2nd season of FAWSL. What are your hopes for this new season?

To build on year one. We were really pleased with the competitiveness and standard of the league, the support from commercial partners, ESPN and the fans. Attendances averaged between 5-600 but after the World Cup many games were over 1000. We have the Olympics to help build awareness and profile this year.

What, in your opinion, would constitute a successful FAWSL season?

Another competitive season with close fought matches – and a last day title decider would be nice too! Maintaining and building on our fan base – both attendances and those watching on ESPN. Over half a million tuned in to watch the live games on ESPN.

Do you believe that the women's game gets enough media coverage in this country?

Women's sport receives less than 5% coverage from the national media – in hoping the WSL and the Olympics can push this figure up. In an era where there are so many concerns regarding obesity, body image, alcohol etc there are some wonderful female role models out there in sport who could inspire the next generation but they don't get the coverage they deserve.

You obviously see a lot of world football. How do you feel the GB team will fare in the up coming Olympics?

It's difficult to predict as it's the first time we will have had a GB squad but it's a great opportunity to promote the game and on the women's side raise the profile of the female players. Ok, ducked that one!

In which areas do you feel money could best be invested by the FA at grassroots level?

For me the biggest areas are facilities and coaching. We set a target in the last NGS to secure total investment of £300m into facilities which we achieved. We have a target of another £150m to 2015. It's really tough out there with public sector cuts, pitch price increases and potential threats to our facility stock.

What initiatives do you feel can be undertaken to try and encourage more female officials to come into the game?

As part of the last NGS we invested in Referee Development Officers in every CFA. They have transformed referee recruitment by recruiting, training and retaining over 4000 additional referees. They also have targets for female referees and the number is growing year on year. With all referees it's really important we provide appropriate appointments whilst they are learning the trade and offer ongoing training, development and mentoring. And we all have a commitment to ensure via the Respect campaign that we treat them with respect or we will lose them – and no one wants to try and play without an independent referee.

What are the goals of the FIFA Women's Committee?

To promote and develop women's football across the globe and oversee the Women's World Cup. Women's football is growing at an incredible global pace with 29 million female players playing across the world. England are currently ranked 9th in the world.

In your opinion, which nations have the strongest women's teams and which nations could be described as 'up and coming'?

The top sides are Japan who are world champions, USA, Germany and Sweden. Brazil are fantastic to watch and Marta from Brazil is regarded as the best player in the world and is the winner of FIFA's Ballon Dor. People in the UK have a one off opportunity to see the world's best women's football during the Olympics – I would strongly advise people to go and see it.

Which 3 things do you believe could aid the development of the women's game in general?

More broadcast and media coverage, sponsorship to invest back into the game at all levels.

twitter 
@grmonthly

From a caravan site to a venue fit for World Cup stars



How Grendon Sapphires swapped their old caravan for a brand new changing pavilion unveiled by World Cup hero Sir Geoff Hurst

Northamptonshire-based Grendon Sapphires Youth FC were formed in 1994 by Eileen Wilmin and Robert Luck. What began as ad hoc football training sessions for about nine local youngsters quickly developed into a full Saturday League club, after regulars in the local pub, The Crown Inn, put their change in a whiskey bottle left on the bar to pay for the club's starting costs.

Now the Sapphires have grown to many teams, including a senior section. In 2006 they were successful in applying for a Foundation grant of £209,090, with the help of the Northamptonshire County FA. This has helped provide them with a fantastic changing pavilion and has meant the teams no longer have to use the old caravan to get changed in.

As you can see in the gallery, the youngsters enjoyed a exciting day when it was unveiled by 1966 World Cup hat trick scorer, Sir Geoff Hurst.



**BESPOKE
TROPHIES**



**FOOTBALL
EQUIPMENT**

**BEST PRICES
ONLINE**



www.proteam-sport.com

OR CALL US NOW ON 01305 750898

mitre

SKINS

reusch

The art of defending

Grassroots recently caught up with Millwall's Darren Ward, to give us his viewpoint into the art of defending.



Did you always want to be a defender?

Yes!! I figured at an early age that my height would be useful in this position and my Dad used to play as a defender which rubbed off on me.

When defending is it better to keep your eye on the ball or on the attacker or a combination of the two?

As a defender there are a number of things you have to be aware of. The two above are very important along with keeping a good line and a lot of talking.

How often do you in Training work on defending Corners and Set Pieces?

I would say that you normally work on defending in every session you have in some way which would be four times a week on most weeks but a Thursday/Friday are probably the main days before a Saturday game.

Do you always look to play from the back?

If and when it is right to I would but it depends on what type of game it is, the score and if players around you want to receive the ball or not.

Would you say defending is an art and involves more than just tackling?

Defending is for sure and you have to keep practising. As mentioned previously, there are many things to think about and to get better at these you need to work at them.

What do you think of Zonal Marking?

I think it has a place in football but this can depend on the players you have and different types of games you play in with regards to the opposition.

If a player is not a great Header of the ball but has many other attributes can he still be a good defender?

You can be but this is where it is important to work at your weaknesses to become a better player.

When defending corners, etc. is it always a good idea to have men on both posts?

Usually I feel that this is important so that you make it harder for the opposition to score. Again this can depend on the players you have and the team you are up against.

What do you think of the rule that sees a defender sent off for conceding a penalty when he is deemed the last man?

It is not good for a defender but I can't disagree that if a player has a chance to score and is prevented that something has to give.

Would you describe yourself as a 'stay on your feet' defender?

I would say so and my record over the years has probably shown that with only receiving a handful of yellow cards in nearly five hundred games.

Goalkeeper and defenders are a unit but who calls the shots when the unit is under pressure?

I think that the keeper has a very important view of the game which can help if he communicates well but if you all pull together and contribute to the cause then than can help even more.

Do you as a defender get as much satisfaction from a clean sheet as a forward does finding the back of the net?

I would say it is not far off!! Keeping clean sheets take a lot of hard work and you should always take pride with trying to achieve this.

Do you think it's as important that teams defend from the front i.e Attackers and Wingers?

I think in the modern game that this is vital and shows a good team ethic.

Stoke have a very effective style which is very hard to defend against how would you coach a defence to deal with there style and set pieces?

When you play a team like Stoke I think you have to be hard to beat and stay compact which would help to defend their style of play.

Who do you think is the best central defender in the Current Professional game and why?

I would say that when he is on his game it would have to be Rio Ferdinand as he makes the game look so easy at times which is very difficult to do in the best league in the world.

HALL FOR HIRE

ALL OCCASIONS CATERED FOR

Eltham Town FC
Starbuck Close,
Cnr of Green Lane/Footscray Rd
Eltham SE9 2TD

Or

Butterfly Lane Club,
Butterfly Lane,
(off Bexley Road)
Eltham SE9 2NY

call:

Tony 07921 319 070

Brian 07773959970

Ref's view

A chat with Eddie Evans
(Level 9 Referee)



How old are you and when did you start refereeing?

I am currently 16 years old, and I started a referee course this time last year but the first match I officiated was in September 2011.

Did you always want to become a ref or did it happen 'by accident'?

I wouldn't say I became a referee by 'accident', although I never intended to become a referee as I had never thought about it. The reason I participated in the course was for part of my Duke of Edinburgh bronze award and then it took off from there.

What was the reaction of your footballing friends when they knew you were becoming a ref?

My friends didn't really mind about it, in fact some of them want to become a ref after I had told them about it.

Were your parents supportive of you becoming a ref at such an early age?

Yes, my parents were supportive about me becoming a ref, mainly because it would give me something to do on a Saturday and so I could earn some money. Another reason why I think they were supportive is because refereeing gave me the chance to be a leader.

What age groups or level of games do you referee?

I have refereed a variety of age groups and level of games. I have refereed from age groups under 8 to under 14 matches. I have also refereed a number of cup matches and run the line for a county cup semi-final.

How far would you like your refereeing 'career' to go?

I don't know at the moment seeing as I haven't left the educational system yet, I'll take one step at a time, but personally I would enjoy a career as a ref.

To date what has been the biggest game you've taken charge of?

That's a hard one, all games are big for me but I'll say the biggest match I have officiated was a semi final of the county cup between Lambeth All Stars and Southwark Tigers under 13. This was a big match on both halves – official side and player side – as one wrong decision would have ruined a team's chances of winning a trophy.

Are you affiliated to any leagues/football associations and, if so, which?

I am currently affiliated with the London Saturday Youth League; the locations are usually in Tooting or Clapham.

What level of referee have you achieved and how long did it take?

I am currently a level 9 ref, but I only have to ref one more 11 a side to become a level 7 ref. I achieved the level 9 badge by attending a course which was nine weeks long in which I had to do a two hour session one night a week, the course finished with a written assessment.

Are any other members of your family involved in football either as player or ref?

Yes, I have two brothers who play for different sides (Westside under 12 and AFC Wandsworth under 9). Both play every Saturday and I have reffed one of

them a couple of times. I also play on a Sunday for Sheen Lions as a goalkeeper.

Who in the pro game would you say is your role model as a ref?

I don't really have a role model as a ref, but when watching football I do watch what they are doing and see if I can pick up any techniques from them, I also look at their positioning for set pieces, etc.

We all know refs get a 'lot of stick'. Have you experienced this and how do you deal with it?

Yes I have got a lot of stick; this isn't really from the players, but mainly the parents and they don't really know anything about the 'laws of the game.' A lot of the time it is annoying because the game doesn't really concern them. But I have learnt to ignore them or if it gets serious send them away from the pitch.

Do you think enough is done to encourage more youngsters to become refs?

Personally I do not think enough is done to encourage youngsters to become refs as there isn't enough information given to become one. For example, I didn't know how to become a ref until my friend showed me on the internet.

When you decided to become a ref, how easy was it to get help and advice?

I decided to become a ref to complete the Duke of Edinburgh for the skills section. It was easy to get advice as during the course you can get advice from the person running the course, and you can also get mentors to guide you through matches and say what you have done right and what you can improve.

As a young ref do you feel you get enough respect and co-operation from players, managers and spectators?

I have mixed feelings over that question as you can get respect from some people, but there is none from some others. From the players I always get respect as I'm in charge and they can relate to me as I am around their age and I know what it feels like. I rarely get disrespect from players as they concentrate on the game. I think managers are the

same, but there are some who I think spoil things. Parents are usually alright, but there are some who spoil the atmosphere as they are consistently saying that you're doing everything wrong and I find that disrespectful.

You've made a decision that afterwards you feel may have been wrong do you then try to 'even things up'?

No, I wouldn't do that as if you get a decision wrong than the players and myself should get on with the game, you should never balance anything out as you could cause controversy.

Do you think that refs are given enough scope to use their discretion during games?

I do feel that refs have enough freedom as you don't get criticised for much, unless players and spectators feel that you have made a terrible decision. But parents don't mind if you give players a warning or talk.

When watching other games do you find yourself criticising the officials for certain decisions?

No, I actually don't criticise refs because I know how hard the job is and they are only human. The only time I found myself criticising a ref at a match was Howard Webb when he gifted Manchester

United two penalties against Chelsea.



If you could change any one law of the game which one would that be?

I don't think I would change a law as they are all reasonable and they all allow a game to be played safely and fairly. For example, the off-side rule prevents players from goal hanging and being sent off in a match would hopefully prevent players from making the same mistake in football.

Eltham Town travelled to north london to contest the london F.A senior challenge cup against F.C Tripimeni. On arriving at Wingate and Finchley's ground, the team walked onto the pitch to find that what a fantastic condition the pitch was in to play football on. After getting changed and going through the pre-match formalities, the game got underway, with F.C Tripimeni starting stronger than Eltham Town. To be fair they should've been two or three goals up within the first twenty minutes. But with some poor finishing and a fantastic save from Nicky Blue in goal prevented them from taking a lead. Eltham Town started to create some chances of their own and on 30 minutes Callum Comerford rose at the far post to connect with a cross to fire Eltham Town into the lead. Eltham Town continued pressing for the rest of the half, but didn't extend their lead. Half time: 1-0

The second half started at a frantic pace with Eltham Town taking the attendancy in the game and were looking to extend their 1-0 lead and were unlucky not to. A quick counter attack by F.C Tripimeni Lead to their equalizer after sixty-minutes. After this setback, Eltham Town's heads never dropped and continued to press and their work rate was extradonary and they never let F.C Tripimeni take advantage

FC TRIPIMENI 1
(KOPA CYPRIOT LEAGUE)

V

ELTHAM TOWN 2
(OBDSFL)

of their equalizer. Ten minutes later Ted Catchpole rose at the far post to head home to what turned out to be the winning goal. Eltham Town controlled the game thereafter with some fantastic defending and counter attacking and were unlucky not to extend their lead. But deep into extra time, F.C Tripimeni appealed for what they belived was a deliberated handball. Credit must go to every player for their will to win, tenacious tackling, and immense work rate. Make no mistake Eltham Town beat a very good F.C Tripimeni side and credit to them for making it such a good cup final. Final score: 2-1
Man of the match: Nicky Blue
By Ben Bryant

London Sunday Challenge Cup Final

Venue: Wingate & Finchley, London N12

Sunday 14th April 2012



The Secret Diary of a Substitute

A semi-autobiographical tale from the bench

A sub, super or otherwise, is a very distinct experience. Squad player, bench warmer, plan B. Always the bridesmaid, never the bride. Kit carrier, first-aid fetcher, linesman. Jack of all trades, except football.

The usual routine: arrive early, sit close to the gaffer. Initiate small talk, converse about the week's football results while looking for clues in his body language. No eye contact, no play; the lesser known B-side to No Woman, No Cry. Yearning to ask the question, "Am I starting today, Boss?" However, fear of the truth often prevails, so I bite my tongue.

Once in the changing room, the ritualistic shirt ceremony takes place. Like a Christmas nightmare, the big man reaches into his muddy sack and hands out gifts of chocolate (1-11) and coal (12-18). Shirt numbers are the football equivalent of a cross on your door during the Plague. Anything upwards of 11 is a silent assassin (assuming your team doesn't have a 'character' who insists on wearing a higher number to express their personality; the numeric sister of the white boot). An unspoken signal to put another layer on, it's going to be a long and cold morning.

Still no official word, but armed with a high numeral, I take the hint. The pre-match stretch is not a necessity for a bench warmer (it's painfully ironic that there seldom is a bench), so I take my time getting changed. An extra layer of Deep Heat should make standing, lifeless, on the fro-

zen terrain a little more bearable. Consequently, last out of the changing room and stung by a moral obligation to carry the festering kitbag, lined with odd socks and damp bibs. By the time I drag my crestfallen body, complete with personal belongings and team bag to pitch 17, invariably the furthest one from the changing room, I've already missed the team talk and everyone (but me) officially knows I'm a sub.

Seeking fellow subs, I take refuge. Power in numbers. But you get two kinds of substitute. The sulkers and the try-hards. Neither is particularly cool but then again being a sub isn't particularly cool. Unless of course you come on to score the winner. Every sub's wet dream. Personally, I'm probably a try-hard. Even my kitbag-carrying was a shameless last-ditch attempt to show the manager I'm a 'good egg' and worthy of a starting berth. Needless to say the sulkers will sulk, occasionally dribbling the ball solemnly back and forth along the sideline. Looking up, periodically, to question the ability of the charlatan who has wrongfully stolen their place in the team.

Conversely, the try-hards will do anything to get noticed. Running the line is a good way to score Brownie points. The proverbial taking one for the team. However, a favourite of mine is warming up in the manager's personal space. Wherever he goes, I go. Jumping up and down like an impetuous child, striving to be noticed. Stopping short of rolling his cigarette, I can't make my presence

any more obvious – and we're only mid-way through the first half.

With 10 minutes left before half time, having sidestepped the pre-match routine, I embark on my 'proper' warm up. By the time half time arrives, I fear I may have peaked too soon and am quietly relieved to hear he's "keeping things as they are for 10" (coaching manual, rule 101). Breath caught; I return to my first half routine. The pattern is cyclical. However, mid-way through the second half, I find myself feeling the most curious feeling. A controversial feeling only other substitutes will understand. I almost want the other team to score. Terrible I know, but it often accelerates the substitution process, forcing the gaffer's hand. As a forward, you are more likely to be sent on in desperation than anything else. I'm not too proud to be a Sunday morning booty call.

Having essentially irritated the boss for an hour, I finally get the nod. Unlike our Premier League counterparts, a grass roots sub is ready to enter the fray with immediate effect. Armed with tacti-

cal insight such as "Go get us a goal!" ringing in my ear, the first thing I do is check with the referee how long is left. Like clockwork, he replies "twenty". The boss has Benitez-like consistency, if nothing else.

Like in an episode of 24, I hear the clock ticking. Desperate to make an impression, I try too hard. Touches ricochet, passes go astray. This wasn't the plan. This isn't how I imagined it. With time against me, I acknowledge that if I don't do something soon, I'm likely to be warming the bench next week too. The worst thing I could do is score an own goal...

The game is over, I've certainly made an impact but scoring the winning goal for the opposition was not in the script. My team mates can barely look at me. Those who can, insist it wasn't my fault, but I can see through their thinly veiled attempts at compassion.

At least I don't need a shower.

By Joseph Edwards



Splitting Hairs...

The great Messi/Ronaldo debate

Not since the years between 1984 – when Michel Platini guided France to becoming European Champions – and the World Cup in 1986, that saw Maradona single-handedly lift a limited Argentinean side to the status of World Champions, has such a division of opinion existed as to who was the best footballer on the planet.

Throughout the history of our wonderful game, there have been few occasions when two players have genuinely vied for the crown of the world's greatest footballer. The fact that one player craves that recognition, while the other appears completely indifferent to it, probably says much about the difference between Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

Over the last few years, Messi and Ronaldo have ignited European football in a manner few can recall being bettered. That Lionel Messi has won the Ballon d'Or three times already in his short career, is a testimony to the alchemy produced by a left foot capable of the sublime, bordering on impossible. Ronaldo too was bestowed the game's ultimate individual crown in 2008; however, since then it's been Messi's personal property. From pubs and bars to the chirping of Twitter, the debate rages. Who is the better player? I'm not about to provide a definitive answer to that question. Merely add fuel to the fire and maybe outline the parameters that need to be met, the level reached, the ultimate accomplishment achieved, for one to finally have the other metaphorically kneel before him.

Magical Messi

The path of describing the wonderful ability that is possessed by Lionel Messi is a well-worn one. Even the most casual observer of the game over the last few years will be aware of his brilliance and the esteem he is held in. Many see Messi as the better player. A conclusion easily reached when put into the perspective of the achievements of his club side Barcelona. But is it because of Messi, or in spite of him, that Barcelona is seen as the greatest club side of all time? The answer is somewhere in

between.

Messi's success can also be attributed to two of the greatest attacking midfielders to grace the modern game: Xavier Hernandez and Andrés Iniesta. As a trio, their understanding, technique and execution mean Messi is often played into areas of the field where his speed, quickness of thought and sleight of surgical foot can be at their most devastating: relentlessly, due to the greed and gusto with which his talented Barcelona team mates dominate possession during 90 minutes. An extraordinary team that helps make possible the player we know as Messi. Don't believe me? Ask yourself if his Barcelona displays are replicated when playing for his national side Argentina? Here he draws frustrated criticism from the nation's fervent football supporters who watch a god in Catalonia and his shadow in Buenos Aires.

Also worth a second's thought: What would the abilities of Ronaldo make of such a team like Barcelona?

CR7

Cristiano Ronaldo couldn't be more different; a typical hot-blooded Iberian who, during the course of a game, wears his emotions on his sleeve for all to see, like a captain's armband. It is his petulance, brooding demeanour and often visibly irritable state, which some observers mark out as to why he is inferior to the placid, emotionless assassin that is Messi. Where Ronaldo is frustrated by cumbersome mortal attempts to stop his super-human efforts, Messi simply gets up and carries on. His temperament aside, there is a very strong case for his footballing arsenal to be more potent than that of his Argentinean counterpart.

Possessing two feet to Messi's one, his stealth without the ball is equalled with it. His dance is a more intricate one, displaying step-overs and flicks that have become his hallmark. He has a basketballer's leap allied to his six feet plus frame and uses both to good measure in the opponent's penalty area, often demonstrating a bravery that betrays his metro sexual appearance. In the hurly-



MAGICAL
MESSI



CR7

burly of a frantic Premier League and the more technically astute La Liga, he has excelled, along the way developing a bespoke method of executing free kicks that propel the ball in directions as difficult to predict as he is as a player. Put simply, without Messi, Ronaldo wears the crown. Barcelona's continued successes add to Messi's accession. The head to heads help him too. Whenever Real Madrid and before them Manchester United faced Barcelona, the games were about which player of the two would win the day. The spoils have generally gone to Barcelona, and hence Lionel Messi. Without reducing an amazing Real Madrid squad to a collection of journeymen, which they most certainly are not, the question again raises its head. If Ronaldo wore the stripes of the Catalans and Messi the white of Madrid, would the outcomes we have seen, with the spoils going to Barca, be reversed? I very much think not. Barcelona is the sum of its parts in a superior way to Madrid. They are rightly described as one of the best club sides the world has ever seen. The special component parts of Ronaldo and Messi are simply interchangeable and without effect. Both football machines would function as they do if those parts were swapped.

As the current season unfolds, their statistics are phenomenal. At the time of writing, in La Liga, Messi has netted 39 goals in 31 appearances with 13 assists. Overall he's scored 66 goals in 61 appearances. Including six hat-tricks! Ronaldo has netted 40 goals in 32 games with 11 assists. His overall tally stands at 63 goals in 59 appearances with a mere seven hat-tricks! Last season he notched 40 La Liga goals to Messi's 31. Ronaldo also scored 40 goals in a season while a Manchester United player too. It's all quite remarkable in the modern game.

Can one be conclusively described as being more talented than the other? Each raises the bar with their displays of brilliance and innovation. At present my answer is no. What is certain is they are both players who can ultimately and single-handedly change the course of a move, a game, a season.

There are no other players that currently tick all those boxes with such regularity. Where do they rank?

There is one common thread that runs through the cloth of those players, who throughout history, are described as the greats. Think of the greatest players of modern times and you see players who have manipulated and won World Cups. Very few, such as Cruyff or Best were never to own one of FIFA's gold medals but the rest can boast at least one.

For either Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo to join this illustrious list, surely the plateau of a World Cup must be dazzled by their talent. In two attempts thus far... fails!

As the mouth-watering prospect of a Brazilian World Cup looms ever closer, could it be that the country whose football has been synonymous with the 'Beautiful Game', will provide the background for the crowning of its current most beautiful player? That remains to be seen. Though surely, should either of these two once-in-a-lifetime talents hold aloft the World Cup in Rio, this debate will cease to be one.

Ronaldo... Messi... over to you.

Written by Jason Mckoy

Jason is a UEFA qualified coach, sports fan, commentator and former player - who now runs Mercurial Sports, providing team wear, sports apparel and equipment to semi-professional football teams, amateur clubs and educational institutions, including colleges and universities. Jason's career has taken him from playing for professional clubs' youth teams and semi-professionally, through to leading roles in sport development and education programmes for various companies, including FIFA recognised award-winning charities. To contact Jason, or for more information about Mercurial Sports, go to www.mercurialsports.com you can also follow Jason on Twitter@mercurialsports

They're off! How Ascot Utd replaced their rotting wooden hut with a stunning new pavilion

We would wager that if there was a prize for changing rooms, Ascot United Football Club's old portacabins wouldn't have won by a length.

However, after years of hard work by their volunteers, and the help of £388,609 from the Football Foundation, the club's 68 teams and 800 registered players now enjoy a far more comfortable matchday experience.

Lots of other local groups also get to enjoy the new sports facilities and function rooms too, so it has become a real community hub.

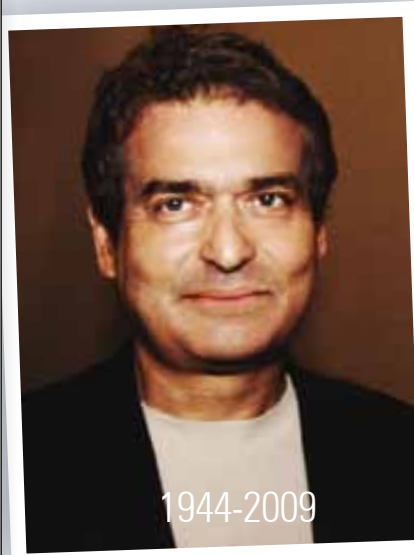
Check out the gallery of images below to see how the site has been transformed.



GUY MASCOLO FOOTBALL CHARITY



UK REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER- 1143483



1944-2009

GUY MASCOLO

Guy Mascolo, one of the founders of the successful TONI & GUY hairdressing group spent his teenage years in Clapham. An avid football fan, he spent most of his free time playing in the local parks with various teams. Sadly Guy passed away just over 2 years ago. In his memory the Mascolo family have created The Guy Mascolo Football Charity to encourage young people to play the sport, get active and have lots of fun.

THE CHARITY

The Guy Mascolo Football Charity is dedicated to providing quality football coaching to all children in the local community through schemes and projects that provide affordable (and sometimes free) sessions for children of any background. We also try to promote a sense of community spirit by working in state schools, running after-school activities and educating young people.

The Trustees

Anthony Mascolo
Guy's brother

Flora Mascolo
The wife of Guy Mascolo

Edward Cadogan
Viscount Chelsea

Phil Pennington
Director of Sports at Eaton Square



IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH FOOTBALL



BED HEAD FOOTBALL

A FOOTBALL HISTORY

Bed Head Football Club arrived on the local (Battersea) scene in February 2007. It was the result of an idea conceived by Anthony Mascolo (above), International Creative Director of TIGI Bed Head and Laurence Batty, ex-professional footballer and coach. The goal was to create a local under 11's football team to play in organised league matches and provide professional, quality coaching for all. On our first night we had 15 boys aged 10-11.

Over the years the club has grown, and in September 2011 Bed Head FC had over 200 boys ready to enter the London Saturday Youth League, playing in the Under 7 to Under 15 age groups.



Laurence Batty
Director Bed Head FC

Adam Hines
Director Bed Head FC

WORKING TOGETHER

Bed Head Football Club will run and organise projects and schemes for The Guy Mascolo Football Charity, like the Goal-Getter Project, In-School Programme and Street FC. The support of GMFC enables BHFC to keep its prices affordable to any player with the ability to play in a structured set up. It also gives the opportunity to those people who can afford the fees to donate to the Charity and let BHFC offer places to children who cannot afford or do not have access to quality coaching and enjoy playing the beautiful game.



OUR PROJECTS AND SCHEMES

GOAL GETTER



A project for any local boy aged between 14 and 16. The boys can train 3 nights a week and play in a league team on Saturdays. We currently have over 40 boys in the project. The players showing the best ability, commitment and behaviour are selected for the Saturday League match. The rest will play on Sundays in a friendly league for player development. The boys in the project pay only £2 per week and get full match kit on match days. We have a link with a local college that provides

a classroom, when needed, for workshops on various social issues and provides further education for the boys. The aim of the Goal-Getter Project is to provide a pathway to a better future, helping achieve goals and make positive choices as they grow up. We also provide a training opportunity so young people can become coaches, placing them on mentoring schemes, where they learn from senior coaches and assist in sessions.

STREET FC

A friday night fun/development centre for all local children aged between 3 and 13. It runs from 4.30-6.00pm on Battersea Park All Weather Pitches. The cost is only £2 per session and every child's first night is free. This provides another outlet for children of all backgrounds to

play football, develop their skills and have fun. Boys showing advanced ability are offered a trial for Bed Head FC, providing a pathway to play in a competitive structure. When boys become too old for Street FC they can join the Goal-Getter Project continuing his relationship with the Charity.



IN SCHOOL PROGRAMME

We started a pilot 8-week scheme offering local state primary schools 2 free coaching sessions per week. 16 schools took up the offer in 3 local boroughs. During 1 week the charity coached over 500 children aged between 6 and 11 by covering the wages of

the BHFC coaches.

We are in need of more funding to continue with this scheme.



Support and help us provide local children with the opportunity to play football.

All projects/schemes are only possible because of the initial funding by GMFC and the Mascolo family.

We are making a positive affect on over 900 children per week. Bed Head FC plays a huge role in the running of these projects/schemes.

The aim is to run Bed Head FC as an all-inclusive club, available to all children with the ability, commitment and behavior to participate in a team structure. We aim to keep fees affordable to everyone, asking those from a more fortunate background to donate what they think appropriate to GMFC to help those less fortunate.

WITHOUT FUNDING WE CANNOT CARRY ON!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Donation with Gift Aid
- Sponsor a team
- Sponsor a school
- Donate prizes
- Organize a fund raising event
- Donate kit or equipment
- Advertise on our website
- Volunteer to help



CONTACT DETAILS

Charity Address:
North Flat, Ransomes Dock, 35-37 Parkgate Road, London SW11 4NP

Laurence Batty
Director Bed Head FC
Project Manager GMFC
07723 499 766

Adam Hines
Director Bed Head FC
Project Manager GMFC
07518 921 619

Errol Bignall
Goal-Getter
Head Coach
07830 648 011

Check out the website WWW.BEDHEADFC.COM
E-MAIL US bedheadfc2007@gmail.com

Kent Girls & Ladies Football League



The Kent Girls and Ladies football League (KGLFL) was established in 1995, as an option for females to participate in a female only football league, whilst offering a fun and safe environment for them to enjoy the game. The KGLFL is an FA Charter Standard League, due to its commitment on improving player retention and growth, setting standards in regard to child protection and administration. Due to its exceptional work in these areas the league is the current FA Charter Standard League of the year for 2011 in Kent, which is the 1st time a female only league has achieved this in Kent. We currently have 37 member clubs, who provide 92 teams into our league, which is around 1000 players. The league covers the majority of Kent and the South East London border, covering age groups between U10's-U18's Season runs between September - March (weather permitting) Has two cup competitions per season Runs an annual cup final day for the finalist of each age groups cup competitions, which attracts up to 1500 people over the course of the day and is highlight of the season. In season 2012-13. The league has plans to hold monthly festivals in conjunction with Kent FA to promote U8s football across varying locations in Kent.

www.KGLFL.org

Kent Girls and Ladies Football League Cup Final Day 2012

Age	League Cup Final	Tina Marshall Trophy
Under 10	Maidstone United v Long Lane	Castle Colts v Anchorian Angels
Under 11	Gravesham v Long Lane	Swale Ladies v Meridian Girls
Under 12	Long Lane v Ebbsfleet United	Petts Wood v Sevenoaks Town
Under 13	Gravesham v Phoenix Sports	Long Lane v Walderslade
Under 14	Ridgeway v Meridian Girls	Long Lane v Walderslade
Under 15	Long Lane v Lordwood	Swale Ladies v Castle Colts
Under 16	Long Lane v Maidstone	Ebbsfleet Utd v Swale Ladies
Under 18	Ridgeway v Meridian	Long Lane v Aylesford

ORPINGTON & BROMLEY DISTRICT SUNDAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Founded in 1948 by Charlie Gibbons
www.obdsfl.com



This season has seen another one of excellent football which for once has been played in good weather unlike the past few with us losing only two Sundays in February to snow & ice, although there have been the odd one or two other weather related postponements. Success in the County Cups has been terrific with (as we write) Eltham Town being successful in the LFA Sunday Senior Challenge Cup beating FC Tripi-meni 2-1 to bring home some LFA silverware to the clubhouse yet again. We hope that another of our Senior Division teams, Hatcham, will be successful against Quedstedt in the KCFA Sunday Premier Cup – a double like this would be most welcome to yet again demonstrate the success and quality of the football within the top flight of the OBDSFL. Continually to go from strength to strength and attracting good quality, well disciplined clubs is a hallmark of our League and one that the clubs, players and officials can be rightly proud of across our divisions – we are not just the “usual” Sunday morning football league.

With a view to the future we are, with the assistance of the KCFA, wishing to enhance and promote the good name of football within the league by announcing our decision to apply for the coveted FA Charter Standard League award. This can only be good for the clubs as they join with us in achieving this by ensuring they are in turn Charter Standard clubs proving they are well run and consistently showing that they meet criteria set down by the FA to play good quality, meaningful football within a good environment. We are hoping that when we are successful it will also attract further teams and Match Officials to the league knowing that we are the league in this area of NW Kent / SE London to offer such good competitive football.

We are also using our contact with the Tandridge and District Junior League to be an accepted channel for Youth players / teams from that

League to “move up” into Adult football knowing that they will be moving from a Junior Charter Standard environment into a recognised Adult league Charter Standard format. It can only be good for the players and the game to encourage growth and retention. We in turn recommend the Tandridge League as an accredited Charter Standard league for children of our adult players.

Our four Cup Finals will this year be played at Bromley FC, Hayes Lane, Bromley with whom we have had a happy partnership for many, many years for such events and gives our finalists a chance to show their skills on a Blue Square football stadium – it is a great day out for all concerned. This year the finals will be between – Eltham Town ‘A’ and VS Bexley on Sunday 29th April, the Jack Standen Cup Final k.o. 10.30 am with officials Mike Sullivan (Referee), Brian Cobbold and Rob Williams (Assistant Referees) and Brian Salter (Fourth Official) and in the afternoon the Paul Picard Cup Final Eden Park Rangers & Groundhoppers, k.o 3.00 pm with officials Paul Chick (Referee), Ray Perry and Tony Williams (Assistant Referees) and Adam Bakalarz (Fourth Official). On Sunday 6th May, 2012 k.o 10.30 am we have the Smales Trophy Final between Barnet Wood & Eden Park Rangers ‘A’ with officials Okenchukwu Chima (Referee), Tadeusz Kluszczynski and David Bird (Assistant Referees) and Leslie Mariller (Fourth Official) and in the afternoon at 3.00 pm our “premier” cup final, President’s Charity Cup between Centresports United & Kenningwell United with officials Peter Killip (Referee), John Baigan and Terry Spittles (Assistant Referees) and Alexis Stacchini (Fourth Official).

As is usual, the league has a nominated charity this year which is Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. Raffles at all our Cup Finals, the gate money at the Presidents Charity Cup Final, money donated by clubs and Match officials on matches

in each round of that cup, and our Golf Day all contribute to give the nominated charity a good donation from the League. We are rightly proud of having donated successfully too many local charities over the years.

In addition to these cup finals the good weather has allowed us to run a Junior League Cup for invited sides from lower divisions who had finished their fixtures early and this final will held at Cray Valley PM’s ground at Badger Sports in Eltham on 13th May. The teams are still battling it out for the right to be the finalists as we write but the match officials will be Bob Potts (Referee), Trevor Bailey and Cecil Carr (Assistant Referees) and Adam Cordery (Fourth Official) the k.o is at 10.30.

Turning to the “bread and butter” of the League competition this year the Senior Division has been won already by Centresports United who only suffered two defeats in the Senior Division all season and they were on the run in during the past few weeks. Eden Park Rangers are runners up at the moment. The Premier Division is far from certain but seems to be a finely balanced contest between Groundhoppers, who narrowly missed out last season and Baldon Sports who are in their first season with the League. Lounge another newcomer have also enjoyed their first season and are looking at probably coming third.

But, as they say, it all depends on those final results and with the top 4 sides all playing each other on the run in anything can happen. First Division champions are Valtaro Wasteels who have immensely enjoyed their first season with us have grabbed the silverware whilst in the Second Division Beckenham Imps are top at the moment but looking nervously over their shoulder as Shortlands Athletic could pip them at the post. Lullingstone in the Third Division and Kingsdale in the Fourth Division both wrapped up their titles a few weeks ago after thrilling football throughout the season with the lead swapping hands many times in Lullingstone’s case. Finally, the Division Five title has gone to another new club, Juno United after a comfortable win in the playoff game against Orpington Rovers Reserves who gain promotion as runners-up.

Our Referees Panel has also enjoyed success with several promotions to Levels 6 and 5 and others entering the promotion system to progress to Level 4.

Finally, the League has learnt that our affiliated county, the KCFA, nominated the OBDSFL to receive a RESPECT award for its recognition and promotion of its commitment to the FA RESPECT programme and we now are proud to receive the FA RESPECT Bronze award. A fantastic end to a great season.



Eltham Town LFA Senior Challenge Champions 2011-12

PITCH HIRE AT CHARLTON ATHLETIC

MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE

The Valley can be hired for a corporate event, an inter-company match with colleagues, or a charity day – and you can also hire the pitch to live the dream by staging a game with your friends!

The cost of pitch hire includes:

- Full use of the Valley pitch
- Full use of the home and away changing rooms and dugouts
 - Use of the west stand for spectators
- Complimentary function-room hire for up to 500 people
 - Private bars and catering facilities
- Three complimentary footballs to use and keep

Discounted daily rates are also available

For more information on pitch hire at The Valley, or to make a booking, call 020-8333 4040 or email sales@cafc.co.uk

www.thevalleythevenue.co.uk



GET **TWO SQUADS** OF **16** AND PLAY **ANY MONDAY TO THURSDAY MORNING** FOR ONLY **£55** PER PLAYER

