

# SITTER!

The NZ soccer fanzine

Just  
drink it!

No 59  
Dec 03-Jan 04  
\$3

## Cheers, Nike

Ryan Nelsen: All White - All Nike

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## Feedback

**PLAYER RATINGS:** We stupidly forgot to include Russell Duncan's Player Ratings from the Confederations Cup in the last issue. Promise you'll find them in there somewhere this time. All complaints to the usual address.

**THE MILTS FILES:** Sitter! has sponsored 12 interviews by Simon Milton, with Euro-based Kiwi players, to screen on Soccer Central, to the tune of \$2700. Getting greater profile for New Zealand players in the electronic media is one of the key challenges the game faces at present.

**WINNER:** Sitter! deputy Grant Stantiall has won the annual NZ Soccer Media Association "**Straight Shooter**" award in recognition of his behind-the-scenes work to get the NZ Soccer Annual re-launched.

Congratulations also to long-time Sitter! subscriber Simon Kay, who was named NZ Soccer **Writer of the Year**. Kay's column's for NZ Truth have been essential reading this year.

Sitter! contributor **Gordon Glen Watson** was a finalist for the second successful year. And Sitter! snapper and all-round good guy **Kevin Clarke** was a finalist in Photographer of the Year.

**DON'T TOUCH THAT PHOTOCOPIER:** If you like something you see in Sitter!, write and ask for more copies (at discount rates), rather than xerox it for all your mates. We don't do this to make money, and haven't raised our prices in eight years, but we do need the odd bit of coin.

**Disclaimer:** Sitter! is published pretty irregularly these days, having been in existence since 1995. It is a fanzine for serious fans, not puddings and tosspots. It is a non profit-making venture kept alive by the passions of a few hardy fans and is largely fuelled by too much alcohol. There is no copyright on anything in Sitter! and in the true fanzine ethos, stuff should be considered fair game for use elsewhere, though it would be nice to see the source acknowledged. Incidentally we'd be interested to hear if anybody still reads this small print. Drop us a line if you do.

## Up front



# The sponsorship gravy train

In her compelling treatise on global resistance to multinational marketing, “No Logo” author Naomi Klein noted how most switched-on brand builders these days begin by seeking out “authentic scenes” and important causes” to infuse their brands with meaning.

Listening to Nike Pacific managing director Tony Balfour -- against a backdrop of the NZS logo alongside the famous “swoosh” -- at the announcement of New Zealand Soccer’s new multi-million dollar sponsorship reminded me of Klein’s precis of

what a good branding template was.

In a marketing sense, soccer in New Zealand is the archetypical snapshot of an “authentic scene”, an “important cause”. The game is growing exponentially here at the final frontier, but we’re short on facilities, expertise, and often suffocating horribly under the dominance of rugby on the corporate-mediascape.

If ever there was a sporting cause in New Zealand waiting to be recognised and championed, it is soccer. And Nike, in a New Zealand cultural sense, has just become infused with meaning.

Balfour indirectly touched on this in a rambling answer to why Nike chose to sponsor NZS. Rather than note the All Whites battling efforts in making it onto the world stage, he said: “Some amazing things are happening down at the local park. That is the start of the journey.”

Balfour, who played for Dunedin Technical as an 11-year-old, said it was impossible to ignore the potential for soccer in New Zealand as it continued to mushroom at grass roots level, with an estimated 130,000 players. (Incidentally, why is it we can’t ever get an authoritative figure, rather than relying on government quango estimates?) “The game is globalising in a way that no other sport can,” Balfour said. “Soccer is going in one direction, and that is up... Why can’t the Fifa player of the year in 2013 be a Kiwi? We believe it can. It comes down to youth programmes.”

In other words, Nike are far more atuned to the future of soccer in New Zealand than to the present-day state of it, where we have a mass-recreation game but only a thin veneer of players struggling with the challenges of elitism.

Klein went on to argue that such sponsorship-branding gestures (as we are seeing in Nike’s championing of New Zealand Soccer) usually originate from genuine admiration and generosity. It is only much later in the piece the expansive nature of the branding actually brings fans like us a sense of alienation from once-cherished links, and a lose-lose situation inevitably evolves.

We’ll get back to you on that one -- and the inevitable flag-waving about Nike’s shabby record with the sweatshops of Asia. But in the meantime, let’s celebrate New Zealand soccer finally climbing about the sponsorship gravy train with everybody else in world football.

Balfour’s message on our soccer potential should appeal to the mindset of Sitter! readers. But more importantly, Nike’s commitment perhaps represents a “coming of age” for soccer in New Zealand: we are a sport now seen to be worth chasing.

Incidentally, Balfour described NZS as “one of the most professional bodies I have

ever dealt with". While that could be disregarded as par-for-the-course in sponsorship launch back-slapping, it is still a worthy endorsement. It's reassuring to know our leaders are doing a good job in the eyes of the corporates.

The launch itself was another slick, well choreographed presentation, the sort of thing sponsors/corporates love. In my experience, such NZS promotions are on a par with, if not better than, anything you get from other major national sports bodies.

Bill MacGowan never missed a trick, using the launch occasion to tell us "the game has never looked back" since imposing its regional federation structure, which has drawn so much criticism and anguish from around the country. Everyone is overly coy with quantifying the exact worth of the deal, but the bottom line is it is a hell of a lot better than the deal it replaces. MacGowan said adidas had the chance to match Nike's offer and remain incumbent sponsor, but was pleased they hadn't.

"We are now with an apparel company that is focused on football. Because of their investment in rugby, our previous supplier (adidas) was focused on rugby."

It remains to be seen how this Nike deal will affect the levy-burdened parents shelling out for coaching schemes around the regions, but it sure as hell can't do any harm. The next challenge will be to do justice to the Nike support with some international results.

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At the end of the rugby World Cup John Mitchell justified his almost total control over All Black operations by arguing *the coach* was the "main driver of performance".

Despite the abortive results of his approach in Australia, and his subsequent dumping, Mitchell's comments got me thinking about our coaching chain of command with the All Whites and New Zealand Soccer.

All Whites coach Mick Waitt is a part-timer (he otherwise works for Capital Soccer federation, where he is highly regarded).

It must be said Waitt is the complete opposite of Mitchell, in that he's direct, open, relatively accessible, and doesn't mangle the English language. But whereas Waitt used to be answerable to chief executive Bill MacGowan, he now works under the direction of national director of football Paul Smalley, who has played an increasingly pro-active role with the All Whites.

This has led to an increasing number of fans (and players) being puzzled by Smalley's influence over international teams as distinct from his role in directing development programmes for players and coaches, judging by our mailbox. It seems we've got "The Smalley Whites".

Waitt is contracted through until the All Whites bow out of the 2006 World Cup, but there is now considerable overlap between director of football and All Whites coach.

As a result it is by not always clear to us punters on the terrace who the "main driver" of performance is any more.

It's not so long ago that development programmes were considered a completely separate role. But on the evidence of the All Whites most recent outing in Iran, Smalley not only takes responsibility for contacting players and making squad announcements, but has also increasingly taken charge of coaching sessions -- though Waitt has quite fairly pointed out, Smalley only took the sessions in Iran because he was ill, and doing pre-tour stuff makes sense, seeing he is the full-timer.

Harder to explain is why Smalley cast New Zealand's vote in the global poll of

national team coaches to find the World Player of the Year (and why he should vote for Marcel Desailly as the third best player in the world is even more of a mystery).

In theory there should be no problem with a technical director overseeing an international team. Surely no country should be dependent on a single man to make a national team successful.

So, what's the problem? The problem is you fans/players are starting to chatter. While Waitt is well-respected, it seems that is not necessarily the case with the director of football.

I briefly ran some of the comments passed onto Sitter! past Ryan Nelsen at the NZ awards dinner. I explained that Sitter! readers were becoming increasingly anxious about what was going on in the All Whites, as regards coaching.

Nelsen would not be drawn on his personal views on Smalley, Waitt, and their overlap, but said: "I want to know as well. Your readers seem to know the players' feelings well."

As to the conspiracy theory about Smalley "doing a Joe McGrath", and seeking to take over the All White reins, Nelsen went on to say: "There is no way I would put up with a Joe McGrath-type situation. I think this issue has been addressed now."

Meanwhile Waitt said it was making a mountain out of a molehill to suggest there was an issue over the running of the All Whites. "I am still head coach," he said. "I select the team." Waitt said he shared many of Smalley's football philosophies and had no problem working with him. He would not comment on views (forwarded to Sitter!) on the quality of Smalley's sessions in Iran.

And while Waitt did not directly have a say in the appointment of another Notts County Old Boy, Mick Leonard, as national goalkeeping coach – he also has no problem with him. (Leonard went to Iran with the All Whites, in advance of his national appointment. He replaced Clint Gosling who served at the Confed Cup, but, according to one senior player, was "too bloody negative".)

So, there you go. Waitt has no problems, but Nelsen empathises with fans who are worried there may be a problem.

In defence of Smalley, it must be said he is nothing like Joe McGrath. He has displayed a great work ethic (even if his moves to stop using federation tournaments as "identification" avenues and scuttle the presence of national academy teams at them are causing plenty of head-scratching) on the coaching programme front -- and somehow always found the time to be on-hand when the All Whites are in action.

And coping flak seems to be an occupational hazard for a New Zealand technical director. From Barrie Truman to Allan Jones, Doug Moore, Kevin Fallon, Joe McGrath, Roger Wilkinson, has there ever been one somebody hasn't grizzled about? Anyway, keep sending us your views -- particularly if you are prepared to go on the record.

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It's interesting to note New Zealand Tennis recently changed their name to Tennis New Zealand – a flip-flop the complete opposite of what we've had in fooball, where we've gone from Soccer New Zealand to New Zealand Soccer.

Asked to explain the reasons for the change, tennis CEO Mark Graham told me it was a common-sense thing to do during a big organisational overhaul. Putting the code before the "NZ" underlined that they were foremost concerned with tennis. And the name made it easier search-wise for people looking to contact them -- and it was less confusing in conversation. Hmmm.

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It probably seems a bit premature to start finding picky little faults with the rejigged national league before it has even been properly conceived, but a Sitter! contact has made a keen observation which I reckon deserves more discussion....

*The National League proposal that says a player registered with any club can play in the National league -- which is contrary to the FIFA rule that says a player can only play for the club with which he is registered.*

*Under the National League manual it seems that the new licence holders will not be clubs as such, but be categorised as "special category clubs" in direct membership with NZS. Contrary to FIFA their players, even though they have to be under contract, stay registered with their "winter clubs". This means(a) how can you contract a player that is not registered with you?(b) FIFA rules a player can only be registered and play for one club at a time.*

*This could lead to further complications. How can NZS, which is a party to a contract with a licence-holder, be the arbitrator in the event of a dispute between the parties?*

*NZS are no strangers to breaking Fifa rules of course -- they were in breach of FIFA membership rules by having appointed people (in advance of new rules that have just been adopted by FIFA and come in to effect on Jan 1).*

*There is provision for elected and appointed people BUT the appointment process has to be independent from the game. On that basis it could be argued NZS still would not comply because the Selection Committee is not independent - it has its President, Past President and major sponsor as members.*

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I was mightily impressed with the few clips of action I caught on TV from the Women's World Cup. The sheer athleticism and speed of the players was memorable, if only because it provided such a contrast with the football from our National Women's league.

On the domestic front I've been equally astonished at the general lack of athleticism, or, not to put too fine a point on it, how chunky a fair chunk of our players are (weight to height ratio).

Women play to the same rules as men, but apart from Paul Bunbury (who has an excuse -- eating the profits of his Subway franchise) I can't think of a genuinely fat national league men's player since Paul Steffe rolled over -- and he got heaps.

So why is it we have so many endomorphs and players of pyknic build in the women's game, but not in the men's game? The difference may be that far fewer New Zealand women players take the game seriously, compared to men. The range of playing standards in the women's national league was almost embarrassing.

I was also left wondering after watching some women's matches how many of the players have any sort of ambition. Were they just there for social purposes in our showcase league?

And does it detract from the league that it is cluttered with players who have no realistic chance of making the national squad, simply because of their lack of athleticism, while under 17 players were barred from selection? Am I being unfair? I'd love to hear other people's viewpoint on this.

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I was disappointed to see Peter O'Leary never even made the finals for Referee of the Year. The West Auckland schoolteacher was the best referee I saw this season --

good man-management, top decision-making, and as a bonus he even looks like a player.

At least he got reward of sorts by recently being added to the Australian national league panel, even if he's way down the pecking order in this country. Anyway, watch for him next season – I've got a feeling he'll be the next big thing in New Zealand refereeing, if it's not the kiss of death by actually publicly saying so.

Another ref who doesn't always get the credit he deserves is Stephen Fletcher. A lot of coaches and players complain he's too trigger-happy with the cards, but I saw him three times this winter, and every time I thought his decision-making was impeccable. He's the ideal ref for those niggly matches when players are trying to be arseholes and get away with all sorts of sly professional fouls, because he sees what's going on when others often don't.

The disappointment of the season had to be the standard of linesmanship. So often it was simply dreadful, and a real frustration to players, coaches and fans.

The flag work needs serious attention. My sympathies lie with attacking teams here. If there is any doubt, for God's sake please give the benefit to the attacking team.

At this point it is probably timely to also criticise you fans. So often when you're standing on the sideline and pontificate on the merits of the offside flagging and criticising a decision as "diabolical" one of your mates will add: "And it was late, too!"

Well, I don't mind "late" decisions. In fact, given the current standard "late" decisions should become mandatory. Personally I,m far happier for these assistants to take an extra 2-3 seconds, think very hard and give a correct decision rather than an early incorrect one.

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Here's an email I recently received from a soccer parent: *"On the whole, you are lucky Steven (Holloway) never had to suffer through the IPDP (International Player Development Programme) -- it is even worse than the federation. Now it seems the aim is to get as many kids there as parents will pay, and the coaches are meant to cope with 30+ boys each, all of staggeringly huge differences in skills, experience, fitness, etc..."*

I was interested to hear this, because it mirrored the views of Mark Youngjohns, who resigned as Force Three director of football in October, under pressure from management. I have previously outlined in Sitter! a number of problems with Youngjohns' style. But when he comes out and says the new programmes cater for mediocrity, it's newsworthy, if only because he was the bloke charged with implementing them for 18 months (though it should of course also be noted, in leaving the system he has his own axe to grind and his own coaching courses to sell).

Youngjohns on IPDP: "What we will get is coaches working to the lowest common denominator. Top players won't get extended and it doesn't fit well with me. IPDP is what we were several years ago, before we had a federation Centre of Excellence."

I'm not well positioned to comment, having not observed these things first hand. But this feedback does suggest there is a real soccer issue here.

Further, here's a quote from the NZ Soccer IPDP brochure: "Importantly, the programme is the only means by which any player will be able to participate at international level for New Zealand."

Surely that's complete bollocks? But here's a (forwarded) federation response to an unconvinced soccer parent: "I am concerned that you feel you may not be involved in IPDP next year as in 2004, unless you are apart of IPDP you will not be eligible for

federation teams or national academies etc.”

It sounds like classic soccer blackmail to me, right through. One of the problems in our soccer set-up is it is all “state controlled”. There is no room to recognise “boutique” or “specialist” coaching outfits such as those run by former All Whites Wynnton Rufer or Michael Groom.

Indeed, NZ Soccer recently moved to stop kids getting gaming trust money to go on Wynrs courses. They’ve been successful, and it means Shane Rufer is no longer employed by Wynrs. And yet everyone I have spoken to who have kids at Wynrs have been highly impressed.

(To a certain extent the Rufers are reaping what they sowed – if you piss off absolutely everyone in the game, it can come back to bite you.)

The big problem in the game is our narrow outlook. We see it in the rigid formations enforced at age group level. There is only one correct way to play: (4-3-3). There is only one correct way to be coached: (through the IPDP). We desperately need to widen player horizons, not reduce them.

At the Waikato Centre Circle Awards Michael Groom spoke about his Brazilian Samba Style coaching syllabus. His message: “You can’t dispense soccer skills like a prescription... I dream about the day when schoolkids will talk about New Zealand soccer players in the playground as they do about Carlos Spencer and Joe Rokocoko. We want players to dance like Denilson. It is not about a ball, but a feeling, a spirit.”

Groom said he wasn’t trying to turn New Zealand kids into Brazilians, just to “take the innovative Kiwi thing” and fertilise it. Sometimes it doesn’t hurt to have an alternative path. Asked how he felt about being on the outer of the game, and officially shunned, he said: “To have no enemies, is to believe in nothing.”

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While many clubs mull their attitude to the proposed new summer league, it’s sad to see national league pioneers Gisborne City have decided not to even enter a team in the Central Federation premier league next season. But club secretary-treasurer Andy Ducat made a good point in explaining how costs had gnawed away at the relatively isolated club for years.

“This season the club has done well thanks to accessing funding from pub charities and other trusts, but that has been the primary source of our income which is not a healthy way to run a club.”

Financial instability is an ongoing problem for major NZ clubs, and reliance on pokie money is likely to become increasingly prevalent for our major soccer entities, given NZ Soccer is recommending the Canterbury United model for those aspiring to the new national league. But even Canterbury depend on gaming machine proceeds for the majority of their income, and with the new league costs having risen again from the previous regime, it must be said the game is again being built on a deck of cards.

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To all you fans out there who can’t be stuffed going to Kingz matches any more, the very least you could do is tune in your digital Sky TV when their games are being broadcast. The Kingz pay Sky TV the production cost of broadcasting their matches, but in return give sponsorship related to how many viewers watch the matches (they can register this number through decoders). Kingz general manager Peter Cox told me they should be doing far better than they are with this. “It is an interesting arrangement,” he said. “It is not a flat fee and it should be making us a lot of money.” -- **Bruce Holloway.**

# The New Zealand Horror

## KINGZ IN 'NO DISASTERS' SHOCK

### Normal week outrages soccer community

The Football Kingz rocked the soccer world to its foundations today when they failed to make a single cock-up, release hints of pending financial collapse, report sackings or resignations, or have a single off-field drama threaten to overshadow their season.

Kingz fans were in shock as they turned to the sports pages and found other clubs and codes in the headlines.

Ashen-faced Kingz coach Tommy Mason admitted: "It's true - all we have done this week is a spot of training and played a couple of matches."

Gutted Sunday paper hacks were seen to weep into their expense account whiskies while even supporters struggled with the news.

"What is going on?" one fan asked outside Ericsson Stadium.

"I didn't refuse to buy a season ticket for this. I demand the Kingz

get back to screwing things up now!"

Blame was being squarely laid at the door of new chief executive Peter Cox, who is alleged to have told staff: "Can we please stop fucking around and start being a proper football club?"

Journalists were stunned when they were unable to get Chris Turner to refuse to speculate on the cause of this strange new development.

"Usually you only have to put a microphone in front of Chris and you're away," said a NZ Horror reporter. "He's just not doing his job."

However a Kingz spokesman warned this outbreak of competence was only temporary.

"Give us a week to sign a few more dodgy Scandanavian imports, or release some details about our finances, and normal cock-up service will be resumed," he said.

# A Proposal for World Cup Qualifying: Asia and Oceania

By Simon Milton

Bearing in mind the current state of the Oceania Confederation — in both an administration and playing standards sense — I propose the following amendments, involving the Asian Confederation (AFC), for a more competitive and ultimately beneficial World Cup qualifying system. Many of these ideas are not earth-shatteringly original, but hopefully they might stimulate some debate and, shock horror, even action.....

The major feature is to split the AFC geographically in two, and incorporate the nations of Oceania into one of these groups. For the sake of convenience (and for want of better labels), the two new confederations would be named ***Middle East-Continent***, and ***Asia-Pacific***. The potential memberships of each are listed below:

## ***Middle East-Continent***

Syria  
Lebanon  
Jordan  
Iraq  
Saudi Arabia  
Yemen  
Oman  
UAE  
Qatar  
Bahrain  
Kuwait  
Iran  
Turkmenistan  
Tajikistan  
Uzbekistan  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Afghanistan  
Pakistan  
India  
Nepal  
Bangladesh  
Sri Lanka  
Maldives  
Bhutan  
Palestine

## ***Asia-Pacific***

China  
Mongolia  
North Korea  
South Korea  
Japan  
Taiwan  
Macao  
Burma  
Thailand  
VietNam  
Laos  
Cambodia  
Philippines  
Malaysia  
Singapore  
Brunei  
Indonesia  
New Zealand  
Australia  
Papua-New Guinea  
Solomon Islands  
Fiji  
Vanuatu  
Tonga  
Samoa  
Cook Islands  
Tahiti  
American Samoa

*[For the sake of convenience, I will apply the idea to the Asia-Pacific Confederation, but the same would apply to Middle East-Continent.]*

For World Cup qualifying, there would initially be 6 groups of 4 teams each. Each group would have one seeded team, based on the top 6 countries from the Confederation on FIFA's ranking list. If this was applied as of this month, the six seeds would be Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, and China. The next 16 teams in the FIFA rankings would then be drawn randomly to fill in other group spaces, with the other remaining teams (ie those lowest in the FIFA rankings) to play-off for the remaining two spots in the group structure. So initially, it would look something like this:

**Phase 1: Pre-Qualifying Tournament**

Approximately 4-5 teams (depending on entries and status), to establish which two countries progress to Phase 2.

**Phase 2: Group Stage**

Six groups of four teams, with one seed in each hosting a group tournament (like current Oceania group qualifying). An example could look like this:

**Group 1:**

Japan  
Mongolia  
Papua-New Guinea  
Laos

**Group 2:**

South Korea  
Solomon Islands  
Taiwan  
Indonesia

**Group 3:**

Australia  
Fiji  
Burma  
Singapore

**Group 4:**

New Zealand  
VietNam  
Vanuatu  
(+ 1 qualifier from Phase 1)

**Group 5:**

Thailand  
North Korea  
Malaysia  
Samoa

**Group 6:**

China  
Cambodia  
Tahiti  
(+ 1 qualifier from Phase 1)

**Phase 3: Final Group Stage**

The winners of each of the six groups would progress to a final group, playing each other on a round robin basis home and away, to find the World Cup qualifiers.

**(Cont P38)**

# Appraising the Kingz

**By Marsupio**

The hardest thing about completing a fair appraisal of the 2004 Football Kingz, is in actually finding someone who went to the games. (*You could always do the appraisal yourself, marsupio -- Ed.*) Then once having achieved this suddenly discover that few fans can readily recognise the newer players with any ease. Naming them proves equally difficult. It certainly doesn't help when quite a few of the players seem to resemble one another, being of short stature, dark hair, plain face. Perhaps it has something to do with a certain movie trilogy being filmed in NZ recently?

This season instead of the players having their surnames spelled out between their shoulder blades, a gaudy yellow rectangle beams the lettering of 'Regency Duty Free' at you, one of the few loyal and hardy sponsors of the club remaining. To be fair, great products and service is offered by Regency, every time I pass through the airport, good on them. Maybe they should offer the players \$1,000 to score from halfway!

Now down to brass tacks, my unenviable task is to grade each player out of 10 points. The basic elements tested being: performance, with a sprinkle of character, style, fan worship and even grooming thrown in for good measure. One can add their relevance to the NSL, and comparison of ability to one another.

Burts, being absent so long, not only does he need to get a note from his mother, but his doctor too. Follicly-challenged, he appears with a steadily thinning thatch, in so much as Jacko emerges with a new style, cut and colour as regularly. So well groomed is the latter, that one would swear that he'd been subject to an episode of Queer Eye for the Straight Guy. Armani would do well to give him a call.

- 1) **Michael Utting**    **6**        Same as, just a newly hued jersey, steady so far. Considerable 6 years younger/thinner than Premiership playing David Seaman.
- 2) **David Rayner**        **5**        A few appearances to season's start. And that's about it. Allegedly conceived during Duran Duran's 'Girl's on Film' like many others.
- 3) **Aleksander Midtsian**    **6**        Regular forward who flatters to deceive. Slow. (*Makes Jeremy Christie look like Roadrunner -- Ed.*) Much hype, little actual proof. But then again JRR Tolkien was a late bloomer also. Can be

better.

- 4) **Glen Collins**                      **5**            Like similar namesake was beaten to lunar immortality by Armstrong. At the moment a bit like a Ford Edsel, but may become a future collectors item.
- 5) **John Tambouras**                **7**            Ever present and deservedly so. Star defender, beautifully handsome. Would make Ricky Martin blush with embarrassment. Deceptively rugged.
- 6) **Chris Jackson**                    **6**            Kingz's very own Stephen Fleming. May not currently be at his best. But who else could take out a player at 40 yards? Runner-up in good looks stakes..
- 7) **Mark Burton**                        **5**            Much like Lazarus, has returned. Adequate re-emergence. Rumoured to have played piano on British Sitcom "It ain't half hot mum".
- 8) **Jeremy Christie**                   **4**            If his mum's an actress named Julie, I'd like to meet his sister. Lacking the natural rhythm of Nesian Mystik. Must come to terms with self. (What does that mean, Marsupio? -- Ed.)
- 9) **Invisible man?**                      **0**            Perhaps lost in the confines of Mr Gordy's Laundromat. However that would conflict with the usual excellent, fast, and efficient service there.
- 10) **Jeff Campbell**                    **5**            Played in most games, some as sub. Unfortunately plays more like Gazpacho than Hot Tamale Soup. Like a novice stripper needs to show a bit more.
- 11) **???**                                      **0**            Nobody seems to be wearing this shirt either, perhaps Andy Vlahos ate it. Non-selection of a player in this number proves as puzzling as Matrix sequels.
- 12) **Heremaia Ngata**                 **8**            The chosen one. Should be NZ's first President of the new Republic. Strong, talented and determined, despite being played out of position.
- 13) **XXX**                                      **0**            Right so nobody's wearing this due to superstition, so where is the bad luck coming from? Perhaps 3-leaf clover picking on day's off should be banned.

- 14) Jason Rowley**            **6**            Same Christian name as Sean Connery's son. Apart from a brief stint as a replacement as TV's Robin of Sherwood, has achieved little else. OK. (*Fallon reckons he's the pick of the Kingz defence -- Ed.*)
- 15) Mauro Donoso**            **6**            The baby maker. An enigma ravelled in a puzzle, ravelled in a Poncho. Advances forward well and provides good crosses, but so did Christopher Lee.
- 16) Darren Young**            **4**            Just 2 matches to start out of 6. Perhaps really Samantha's first husband on Bewitched. Stints so far have failed to conjure any spells.
- 17) Brad Scott**                **3**            I'd much rather prefer Scott Tracey. At least he provided thrust and power, timed with rapid acceleration and he had one heck of a shot. Stroppy.
- 18) Chad Coombes**            **4**            If this guy threw ping-pong balls at me from close range, I still wouldn't recognise him. Anonymous, only one run out as a replacement.
- 19) Espen Schjerven**        **4**            This kids got a lot to learn, but so do baby ducklings. I do believe that his Kiwi experience will hold him in good stead. Prone to costly errors.
- 20) Ross Nicholson**         **6**            Four seasons past his best. Makes bad decisions such as when to punch or not, when to come out or not, when to catch... Otherwise steady.
- 21) Riki Van Steeden**        **2**            Only in squad due to much maligned, yet little known Dutch-Antipodean football pact of 1878. At least it brought us Fred de Jong. Funny how both work for SKY TV.
- 22) Paul Harries**             **5**            Featured in most matches. Injury-prone journeyman. Means well, but needs to buy Billy's Boots. Resemblance to Greg Brady just a rumour.
- 23) Tallan Martin**            **6**            Perpetual substitute. Perhaps named after Estonian Capital. Both share an intrinsic allure of undefinable quality. Talent there to be nurtured. Aussie.

**24) Paul Seaman 5** Must cringe every time he introduces himself to some wag. More out than in, a future Black Cap then? A midfielder of apparent Welsh origin.

**25) Mark Beldham 9** Much lauded pretty-boy. As cocky as a randy Cockatoo. Runs like Steve Austin speeded up. Brave, daring, crazy, ill-disciplined. Creates havoc, a natural goal-scorer (*When? -- Ed*) must start every match for Kingz to ever be successful.

**26) Campbell Banks 4** Long-lost nephew of Auckland's Mayor. (Did I say that out aloud?) Needs a run or two, before he converts to long jump or even surfing.

**27) Kaz Townsend 5** Father's agency as evidenced in Charlie's Angels film 'Full Throttle'. Back up keeper often on bench, shows determination to advance, deserves shot.

**28) Craig Wylie 4** No matches yet like above, & #21. Though once listed as reserve goalie. Must be more inventive. Better application will see improvement. Beckham-double.

**# Marsupio is a Bloc 5 regular. We believe he may have been experimenting with Mescaline when he wrote this. It was forwarded before the Kingz first home win -- after which he suggested readers add an average of two points to each player. Complaints to the usual address.**

## Counting the cost \*

### A breakdown of soccer coaching/playing costs for a 13-year-old Force Three lad (excluding club or school fees):

IPDP @ \$80 per term (only 2 this year) = \$160

Elite School @ \$150 per term = \$600

National Academy @ \$338 per term (3 this year normally 4) = \$1014

Federation Tournament = \$500

Total = \$2274

\* As supplied by a Sitter! subscriber

## Sitter! Interview: Bill MacGowan

*The following is the transcript of an interview with NZ Soccer chief executive Bill MacGowan which was started (in person) back in September, and which I sought to add further questions to by email in early December. The delay means a lot happened inbetween in most of the spheres covered. Indeed, in subsequent correspondence NZ Soccer media liaison officer Andrew Dewhurst suggested the majority of the material was so far out of date that printing it "may not be the best course of action". Further, on MacGowan's behalf, Dewhurst gave the following emailed response to my supplementary questions in an exchange of emails over a 72-hour period in December: "Unfortunately time does not allow any further comment to your added questions, that and the fact that some are deemed either irrelevant or of a personal nature that would not elicit comment in any circumstances." So that readers can make up their own mind on all points, I have included these questions and left them with the supplied asterisked answer. When I explained my intentions, Dewhurst requested that the "on the record response" should read: "Time did not permit further questions to be answered." Dewhurst also asked that an addendum of comments be added at the bottom of the interview. It was tempting to respond that time did not permit, but this request has been actioned. -- **Bruce Holloway**.*

S: Let's start at the top and work down. Can you outline NZ Soccer's attitude towards Oceania?

BM: Do you mean the Oceania executive?

S: Yes, specifically the loose units of the political wing. What can be done about them?

BM: All we have been pleading for is stability. I'm not getting into personalities but what we've said is we need a stable Oceania... and to concentrate on footballing issues.

We have had four changes in Fifa representative in four years. On the other side of the football world, they must be looking down here and going "what's going on?".

S: Is it worth even bothering with Oceania? Would it be more productive to be lobbying behind the scenes to get into Asia?

BM: I think we need to see where Oceania is going, but Peter Velappen, general secretary of Asia, has already

stated he won't take New Zealand and Australia – particularly Australia, because they see them as a threat for one of their World Cup places.

S: But you lobby in soccer politics all the time. There must be a way around people like Velappen.

BM: I'm not that close to it. I'm not a political person with Asia. Blatter has said in a newspaper article that if Oceania continues to carry on the way it is, it could face a disbanding situation.

S: If it's disbanded, isn't that a situation where some good could come out of it?

BM: There might be a long-term outcome, but there are short-term issues.

S: In his report on the seven federations, Chris Ineson said only two were working properly. Has there been any improvement since then?

BM: I think so.

S: Can you identify those improvements?

BM: The Ineson report was requested

by the board because the federations had been running since the vote was taken in 1999. I don't think anybody, including myself, would stand up and say every federation is working effectively – that would be ludicrous.

Whether it be financials, staffing issues, logistical issues, we certainly wouldn't say they're all 10 out of 10, but there are a couple that can be used as benchmarks; Fed 1 and 5. Chris has, since that report was put out, been working on everything from governance assistance and directors training, through to establishing standard sets of accounts. It's a real broad scope of work that he is doing, with communications strategies and standard websites. There's a huge amount of work going on.

S: Why wasn't the report made public?

BM: Because it was an internal review.

S: The question then is why was it an internal review, when the mandate from the 1999 vote on federations very much

suggested it was to be an open review?

BM: I don't know, I wasn't here in 1999.

S: But the meeting which took on the federation structure said it would be reviewed after three years. There was no suggestion it would be an internal review.

BM: I don't know about that, can't comment on it.

S: But wasn't that the whole rationale for doing it – that it was part of the general mandate.

BM: No, not at all. I suggested to bring Chris Ineson in to review the federation structure.

S: But even at the time, wasn't that a question of that "meeting the mandate"?

BM: I can't comment on it, I wasn't there. Ineson came about because I felt he was an ideal person to review the governance of the sport and the issues.

S: So why didn't he speak to the people who had real issues?

BM: Like clubs, or...?

S: People who had fundamental grievances to raise about federation structures and shortcomings, for starters.

BM: I think we all knew what the grievances were.

S: Ineson said in his report he spoke to all the directors of coaching, all chief executives and all federation chairmen and they all agreed it was a good system.

But he didn't actually speak to anyone who didn't have a vested interest in being "a good system" in the first place. Can you see that was the entry point for a lot of criticism about the Ineson Report? He didn't consider the people who had bitches.

BM: It was a review of federations operations.

S: So were the terms of reference too narrow.

BM: Could be, but we know what the issues were, or are.

S: What's your view towards the emergence of the Soccer Reform group? What do you make of that as a phenomenon?

BM: We've offered Soccer Reform a meeting with the sub-committee of the board if they wish to take that up.

S: I understand they've tried to make submissions on several developments within the game and these have not been accepted. Why is that?

BM: They're not affiliated.

S: If it's just a question of recognition, is that not a little bit too formal for people

***"... if you listen to  
120,000 members out  
there plus their  
mothers, fathers,  
uncles, aunties, we'd  
be listening to people  
all the time."***

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who may be able to have valuable input?

BM: Not from where the board viewed it. The board will take submissions from members of New Zealand Soccer. It would be a situation where if you listen to 120,000 members out there plus their mothers, fathers, uncles, aunties, we'd be listening to people all the time. There is a structure to go through.

S: Is there any substance in their views?

BM: I don't know. I don't know their views. I know their incorporated society document said their purpose is to change the governance of the game.

S: Does that alarm you that you have an active ginger group so dissatisfied with the system that they've taken to organise themselves to improve things?

BM: We've searched through their original membership and it is quite limited. But we're happy to listen to them.

S: Federation 4 seems to be a bigger mess than ever, judging by recent correspondence. Why, in the wake of the Ineson Review and everything else, are things no better?

Andrew Dewhurst (on behalf of Bill MacGowan): *Time did not permit further questions to be answered.* \*

S: Is there a case for the number of federations to be increased to avoid the geographic nonsense of trying to combine New Plymouth and Gisborne?

AD: *Time did not permit further questions to be answered.* \*

S: Why were federations set up as branches rather than as autonomous entities?

AD: *Time did not permit further questions to be answered.* \*

S: Is there a case for allowing federations more autonomy?

AD: *Time did not permit further questions to be answered.* \*

S: Why have our federations (with a couple of exceptions) got such crap

names?

AD: *Time did not permit further questions to be answered.* \*

S: Can you explain the bizarre pay shit-fight between NZS and the All Whites.

BM: You have to go way back to when we negotiated the deal before the Oceania Nations Cup. With the first meeting of players and management in regard to the split of money we had a signed letter from every player that 40 per cent of the money would go to the playing squad. That included the players in Auckland and the players who ended up in Paris because there was obviously going to be some changes.

The next situation was a schedule was sent out to players and agreed to by them. We then got to Birmingham and the first item on the agenda was to confirm the schedule, which was rejected. We then had another meeting of those players when they were in camp before the Scotland game...

S: Hang on, why was there a need to reconfirm?

BM: We had another meeting and got a third agreement on a schedule before Scotland. It was democratically voted on and majority wins. When I left Scotland as far as I was concerned, the payment deal was finished. There was then approach made by a group of players before the French game.

S: Is this the infamous group of nine?

BM: I can't remember how many were there, but they were again unhappy with the payments that had been agreed, so after the French game we had yet another team meeting. Two issues were voted on: A, stick with the schedule agreed before the Scotland game, or B, a new negotiating committee of three players would start negotiations fresh. That vote took place with all the players in France, and the players who weren't in France,

because they were a key part of it. Again the majority agreed the schedule struck before Scotland would stay in place, and that was what has been paid out.

S: Do you have any outstanding financial-legal issues with any players?

BM: I haven't had an approach by any lawyers or agents of any players.

S: Would you agree it's been horribly messy for the game having this pay spat?

BM: It's human nature when money is involved that people will haggle.

S: Are you relaxed about the way the whole thing was handled.

BM: Not at all. I let the players know my feelings the morning after the French game, because I certainly wasn't happy. I can't get my head around the attitude of some of the players, but it is gone, it's history.

S: Looking at the Kingz, you recently told a press conference you weren't in a position to get involved at board level. But is it not correct we have previously had NZS representation on that board? So what's changed?

BM: There are two or three levels of involvement. We are not in a position to get financially involved with a limited liability company. Yes, we had two seats of the board when Sky owned it, and the original Heads of Agreement we had with the Kingz was we had the right to have a board member and an observer. With the change of ownership, with Chris (Turner) they had been going a long time and there was no real need for us to sit on it, so both parties agreed we would back off.

S: Does it disturb you to see an entity like that steadily going down the gurgler while you look on?

BM: I don't know if it is going down the gurgler.

S: Okay, as a follower of the game, looking at a Kingz team that seems exceptionally weak and financially stretched, are you concerned?

BM: You should talk to the coach about that mate, not me. I don't have information on the Kingz.

S: Like it or not, you must recognise they've become an important part of the game here.

BM: They're a critical part of the sport. They bring profile to the game, live television for 32 weeks and a huge amount of media focus. My personal opinion, I'd rather see them give positive media comment than negative media comment. There has been a significant amount of negative comment, but that's Chris Turner, Ted Midlane, and they need to run their club.

S: I get the impression you're distancing yourself from the Kingz entity as we know it.

BM: No we're not. What we are saying is we met with the Fifa people, we know how to go forward on a renewal process between now and the end of the season. We have advised Chris of the information we require to go to Fifa and that this board needs to be satisfied on. His position is he will give us the information when he is ready.

S: Looking at the national league, in 1995-96 you led the line in telling everyone you wouldn't accept feeder-type provincial teams. Your words were "pick a club and get behind it". What has changed for you since then that we now see you heralding the complete opposite of regional one-team entities around the provinces?

BM: You've got to get it clear... I've heard all this stuff around the media that Bill MacGowan is on a one-man crusade...

S: No, the point I'm trying to make is the opposite: that you've actually given up on your crusade and accepted the very structure you weren't prepared to allow anybody to pursue seven or eight years ago.

BM: I don't make all the decisions for New Zealand football. I can certainly lead or suggest to the board...

S: You're not trying to play down your own influence are you?

BM (affecting an accent): I'm just the chief executive, I've got to report to the board. (In serious voice): But to get back to your question, I introduced the summer league in 1995-96. I think the first couple of years of that league were pretty successful. When I left it lasted for another year. I came back and introduced a national league again. Very clearly, we said we would review the league in three years. If anybody can argue with the current situation, whereby we're saying the current national league club scene is healthy, then I haven't heard the argument.

S: Surely the cost structure has always been the problem with the league? It costs so much more to run it than can ever be recouped through gate-takings or sponsorship.

BM: I think there are some key issues. You have got clubs that are financially struggling for all the wrong reasons. They're paying players, not enough crowds, not enough promotion. You've then got a situation where you've got promotion-relegation. We are the only sport in New Zealand that has national league, club-based promotion-relegation as their No 1 competition.

I'll give you an example. Glenfield are striving like hell to get to national league level, spending a huge amount of money... And then the team that falls out of the national league, nine times out of ten is hugely, hugely in debt. Is it good for the national body to allow that to

continue?

S: In absolute terms, perhaps not, but at a micro level, clubs are driven by having a sense of their own vision.

BM: If we were to enforce the absolute criteria for national league, last season we wouldn't have had one. I'm not going to hang out the dirty linen in public, but we wouldn't have had one. If we let it just go on, without changing the structure, or breaking the cycle, we won't get any improvement.

S: What happened for you, that you now embrace the Canterbury United concept as an ideal after years of fighting it? Have you had a Road-to-Damascus experience?

BM (laughs): I wish I had. You have to change. The only way the world gets better is by change. Looking at the Team Canterbury thing back 1995-96 I was with the masses, saying soccer is a club-based sport. But coming back and reviewing it really hard – it was an in-

depth review – we weren't just talking money.

S: What's changed?

BM: When I was playing and coaching national league we were net importers of players. Our playing strength was quite good. We are now a net exporter of players. The better players in our country – our philosophy now is to get them offshore. If we are going to beat Australia, it will be with players outside the domestic scene. Part of the review was having a look at the playing strength. The Canterbury United model now allows free movement of the best players. The other thing is we have players of national league calibre not playing in it because the clubs that are trying to get up – and

***"If we are going to beat Australia, it will be with players outside the domestic scene..."***

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## Talking bollocks

### The art of crowd counting

*Perhaps due to the suffocating nature of rugby in our own back yard, the soccer community takes great pride in the round-ball code being a bigger deal internationally.*

*It's understandable, but at the same time, when claims are made, it should equally be acknowledged when they are wrong.*

*The following chronology of quotes illustrates how our soccer-reporting community got it wrong with crowd numbers in the All Whites-Iran match. The crowd was overstated by 65,000-85,000, depending on who you believed as to the stadium capacity.*

*This is not an attack on the journalists who filed these stories – they were only reflecting what Kiwi officials and the rest of us were cheerily saying among ourselves and taking as gospel in other forums. But there's probably a lesson in there somewhere, all the same...*

**Terry Maddaford, NZ Herald, October 11:  
Round ball wins crowd count**

Even if Telstra Dome in Melbourne is packed for the All Blacks' World Cup opener today, it won't be the biggest crowd watching a New Zealand team in action this weekend.

Two days before the All Whites and Iran meet in Tehran for their Asia-Oceania Challenge, more than 90,000 tickets have been sold for the game.

By kick-off, at 1.35am Monday NZT, the 100,000-seat Azadi Stadium should be sold out.

**October 12, Geoff Young, Sunday Star-Times:**

The All Whites can expect a hostile sell-out crowd of 120,000 when they take on Iran in Tehran in the second Fifa Asia-Oceania winners' match tomorrow (NZ time). New Zealand Soccer chief executive, Bill MacGowan, said all indications from the Asia federation, whose champion is Iran, were that the Teheran stadium had sold out.

"When we said some weeks ago that we may not be able to play the October 12 match, the Iranians were saying we must because they'd sold out the ground."

**New Zealand Press Association, October 13:**

"...The game was played in front of a partisan crowd of about 60,000 at the Azadi Stadium, overnight NZ time."

**Press Association (updated corrected report), October 13:**

"... The game was played in front of a 35,000 crowd at Tehran's 100,000 seater Azadi stadium."

Grant

Grant

# Christchurch Ramblings

By Ron Griffiths

The volunteer's role in sport generally, and in NZ Soccer especially, cannot be overlooked. Most decent types around the game, at some time or other, wish to put something back into the game or be rewarded by developing players or helping to administrate clubs...the list is endless.

In New Zealand soccer, put your hand up to do almost anything and the jobs yours!

So what to choose? When Canterbury United ran out on to the pitch at the newly refurbished English Park last season to stone cold silence, something stirred in my soccer supporting bones.

The link between music and soccer fandom goes back generations, and is an integral part of your match day experience.

Let's consider Liverpool FC and 'You'll Never Walk Alone', West Ham and 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles', and Spurs 'Glory, Glory, Tottenham Hotspur' (which doesn't quite cut it for them these days).

Even at my beloved Leyton Orient, when the new chairman, Barry Hearn, tried to remove Tijuana Taxi by Herb Alpert from the pre match routine, in favour of Queen's 'We Will Rock You', there was outrage and disgust.

So when I asked Canterbury United's chairman, David Cox, if I could have a go at being the match day announcer-music man, he said 'I've got all these soccer tunes ready to play but I can't find any bugger to play 'em!'

So I became that 'bugger' and the 'voice of English Park'.

The first thing to consider was a suitable theme tune for United. A tune that

fans can take to their hearts, to be played whenever the Red and Blacks ran out (it took days of careful thought...oh, all right a five minute chat with my wife!). We came up with 'Tubthumping' by Chumba Wumba which was both apt and rousing.

Announcing names can be tricky, players like "Thierry Thew" for instance. Just read them out quickly if you're not sure, was someone's advice!

In your most commanding and imperious voice, you must tell kids to get off the pitch before they pull down the goal netting etc, announce substitutions and score checks.

When your team score, you must shout it from the rafters into the mike, when the other team score, just announce it in a slightly fed up voice!

If your team win, you play 'We are the Champions' at the end (which Central United hated, when Canterbury beat them as they were the real league champions).

If your team lose, play 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life' by Monty Python, which includes the line 'so your team's losing 11-0 at home to Barnet, it's not the end of the world, is it?'

So plenty of fun to be had, until some old codgers come up to you and say 'music has no part to play in the modern game'. You must rise above this and say 'old codgers have no part to play in the modern game!'

If your club's ground is regularly used by NASA to train astronauts because it has no atmosphere, you know what to do. Play the right music, get behind the mike and help make your beloved football ground rock!

# And the winner is....

Who is Andy Boyens?

That's what I imagine a number of soccer fans will be asking after the tall Caversham centreback was named Southern Trust National League Player of the Year.

At just 20, the Dunedin student is perhaps the youngest player to have been honoured at this level.

To northerners at least, his selection came as a surprise, considering his lack of profile and the fact his team were undistinguished in finishing eighth in the table, having won just five matches.

But he has played for the New Zealand Under 20 team and has now turned out for three seasons of national league. Ironically he was not even a finalist for young (U21) player of the year. The award winners were selected by media and NZS technical staff.

National League winners Miramar missed out on so much as a finalist for club of the year, player of the year or young player, while coach Ken Cresswell was pipped by Chris Milicich for coach of the year.

Miramar did however win the Fair Play, which ain't bad for league winners.

Les Coffman, in his 50<sup>th</sup> year of involvement in refereeing, was a popular recipient of the Jim McMullan Trophy (used to be Personality award).

Ryan Nelsen was always going to be a shoo-in for International Player. Nelsen is head and shoulders above any other Kiwi player at present.

It would be easy to raise quibbles with details concerning the awards evening itself – for example, if you have to have a charity auction, please do it at the end of the night, not in the middle of proceedings.

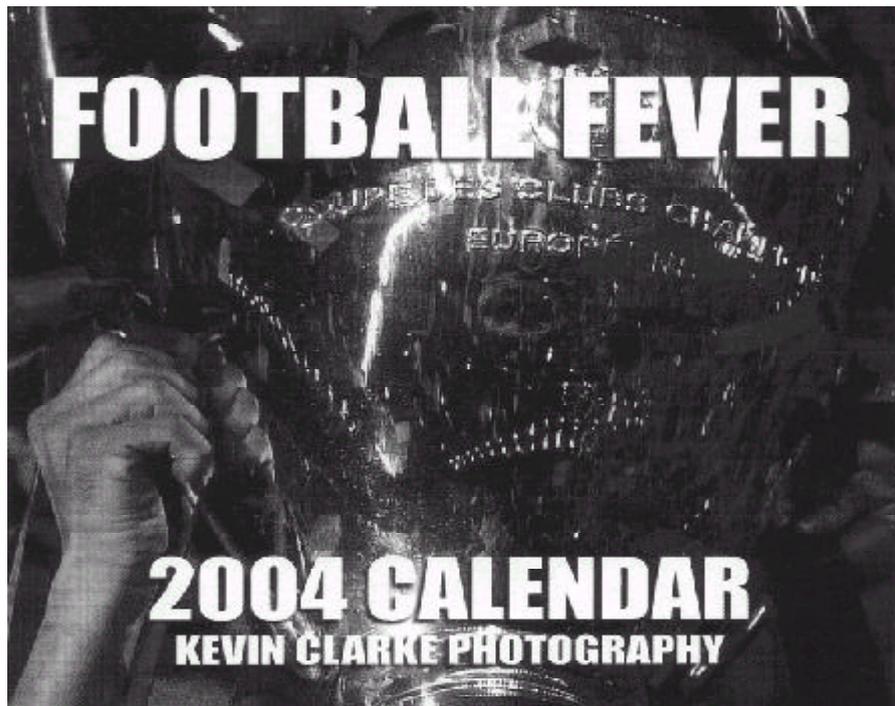
But it's important not to lose sight of the big picture, and generally NZ Soccer should be congratulated for a bold attempt in taking the awards upmarket, even if it means a lot of you readers are going to be priced out of attending. It's the sort of thing you have to do if you want to smooch with the big-noting corporates like, er, Nike.

Despite the ultimately unsatisfactory nature of a recorded interview with Bryan Robson (who had little of interest to say) as a package, the evening was a high-class awards function which would compare with events in other codes. Andrew Dewhurst did a good job in making it tick (though personally I'd like to hear a bit more from award winners during their 15 seconds of fame rather than rushign them through in time for the auction). Meanwhile on the question of guest speakers, forget the overseas luminaries – I'd settle for an address, or question and answer session with Ryan Nelsen. That could be really interesting.

– **Bruce Holloway**

**Award winners:** Programme: Lower Hutt City. Publication: Canterbury Centenary (John Small). Writer: Simon Kay (NZ Truth). Broadcaster: Michelle Pickles (TV3). Photographer: Shane Wenzlick (Stuff). Overall media winner: Jason Pine (Newstalk ZB). Assistant referee: John Berry. Referee: Ian Walker. Golden Boot (male): Graham Little (Miramar). Golden Boot (female): Ella Wiebe & Emma Boyack (Central Region). Young Player: Stuart Hogg (East Auckland) Player: Andy Boyens (Dunedin Tech). Coach: Chris Milicich (East Auckland). Fair Play: Miramar Rangers. Club: Canterbury United. Jim McMullan service to soccer: Les Coffman. Women's national league player of the year: Amber Hearn (Auckland). Women's international young player: Priscilla Duncan.

Women's international player of the year: Nicky Smith. International young player: Steven Old.  
 Men's international player: Ryan Nelsen. National League All-Stars: Mark Paston (Napier), Sean Dowling (East Auckland), Sanjay Singh (Manawatu), Andy Boyens (Dunedin), Kara Waetford (East Auckland), Ben Sigmund (Canterbury), Sean Douglas (East Auckland), Craig Smith (Dunedin), Tim Butterfield (Miramar), Andy Essler (Caversham), Chris McIvor (Napier), Miro Major (Central), Graham Little (Miramar), Rupert Ryan (Miramar), Davis Haule (North Shore).



**Kevin Clarke's superb 2004 desktop soccer calendars are now available from Sitter! Merchandising PO Box 10284, Hamilton, for \$20 incl postage.**

- January features a photo of the All Whites Lineup v Scotland
- February features a shot of Old Trafford; Champions League final
- March shows the All Whites celebrating a goal v Columbia
- April features Inzaghi shooting for goal in the Champions League final
- May features a shot from the All Whites v Scotland game
- July features New Zealand v Columbia
- July is a picture of Thierry Henry and Ryan Nelson
- August features Stu Watene reeling away after scoring for Melville Utd v Uni Mount in the Cup final
- September is a shot from the Celtic v Porto UEFA Cup final
- October is a shot from Rangers v Dunfermline
- November is a pic of Danny Halligan
- December is a behind the goal pic of Celtics fans at the UEFA Cup final

## Confederations Cup

# How the Fifa experts saw us

The following are excerpts from the official Confederations Cup report....

### **Technical and Tactical Analysis**

New Zealand could not repeat their wonderful achievement (defeating Australia) and went home without a win to their name. A defeat in their opening match against Japan proved to be fatal. France and Columbia, although the latter needed an hour to break down a resolute Kiwi defence, also proved too strong. The New Zealanders need much more match practise before they will be able to live with the major powers in world football.

### **Statistics - Team Data and Analysis**

This was New Zealand's second appearance at the Confederations Cup and the team travelled to France via the USA and Scotland. Coach Mick Waitt wanted a positive start in the opening match against Japan, but Zico's team was stronger than the Kiwis and won 3-0. New Zealand's confidence suffered as a result.

De Gregorio scored a wonderful goal against Columbia, and the whole team played wonderful football for an hour.

The Kiwi's tried to launch quick counter-attacks from their compact defence. But in the closing stages of the match, they were again caught cold, and their powers soon waned. Finally, they were clearly outclassed by European Champions France, with the team enduring a torrid time.

Tactically, New Zealand employed a 4-4-2 formation (*so much for their technical analysis -- Ed*) with each player assigned a pre-defined role. In central defence, captain Zoricich and Nelsen combined well and constantly tried to support their team-mates. In midfield, Elliott tried to dictate play. Elliott and Burton hoped their technique would shine through, but Burton and Killen did not receive enough support to enable them to reach their goals.

So, despite all of their efforts, the New Zealanders still await their first victory in the Confederations Cup. Rank: 8 out of 8.

**Strengths:** Dangerous at set pieces, defenders good in the air, extraordinary team spirit.

**Weaknesses:** Poor technique at times, ball lost too easily in attack, not

enough individually outstanding players.

**Outstanding players:** Utting, Nelsen & De Gregorio.

**Other stats:**

New Zealand's All-Time ranking at the Confederations Cup is **24 out of 24**. They are headed by: Brazil, France, Mexico, Australia, USA, Cameroon, Japan, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Uruguay, Denmark, Czech Republic, Turkey, Columbia, Korea Republic, Nigeria, Germany, UAE, Bolivia, Egypt, South Africa, Canada and Cote d'Ivoire.

**Spectators at Confederations Cups:**

1999 Mexico 970,000 16 matches  
average per match 60, 625

2003 France 491,000 16 matches  
average per match 30, 731

**Spectators at NZ games:**

NZ v Japan: 36, 038

NZ v Columbia: 22, 811

NZ v France: 36, 842

# How the Russ the Muss saw us:



This is the ratings guide by All Whites fan Russell Duncan (inadvertently left out of the last issue)...

*This is just as I saw it in the stands, without the aid of replays and the like. Scores out of 10...*

**MICHAEL UTTING:** Pretty average against Japan, again showed he is no good in dealing with crosses. Raised his game a lot against the Colombians, making a number of fine saves, none of the goals were his fault. Let down by his defence against France, and they swarmed all over him. Overall: 7

**DUNCAN OUGHTON:** Very poor, I thought. Floundered against the Japanese and Colombians, flailing blindly and getting caught out of position. Why not bring on David Mulligan? Overall: 3

**GERARD DAVIS:** Rubbish against

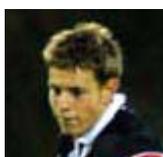
Japan, very good against Colombia and average up against the Frogs. But that can be said about most players. Overall: 5

**CHRIS ZORICICH:** Poor. At fault for at least 2 of the 3 Japan goals and was turned inside out against France. Surely he must be dropped from the national team now. Overall: 2

**DANNY HAY:** Did very well against Colombia considering it was his first match in four months. Obviously knackered, but Waitt didn't sub him... why? Outplayed Nelsen versus the French, which says a lot. Very good positionally.

Overall: 7

**RYAN NELSEN:** Man of the tournament for the AWs. Only reason we didn't get a real wallop against Japan, and a



**Davis**

standout against Colombia. Struggled against the French though. Overall: 8

**SCOTT SMITH:** Err...well, he turned up. Played a bit against France, never noticed him. Overall: 3

**IVAN VICELICH:** The big disappointment of the tour. Completely missing in action in his two games, obviously feeling the pressure. I remember he used to put himself about a bit when he played for Central, Kingz and AWs, but since joining Roda he seems to be a periphery player. Why is that? I would give him 1/10, but I'm not that mean. Overall: 2

**RAF de GREGORIO:** Didn't play against Japan, and you have to wonder why in hindsight. Recovered from his Minties moment against Colombia to score a peach of a goal. Put in hard yards in his two matches, though was not so effective against the French. Overall: 7

**SIMON ELLIOTT:** The only player who improved with every game. Absolutely ran his bollocks off when those around him were giving up, but didn't seem to do a lot when he had the ball. Surely the worst corner/free-kick taker I have seen since Arran Lines. Overall: 6

**CHRIS JACKSON:** Done well when came on against Japan, but nothing outstanding and never noticed him against France. Overall: 5

**MARK BURTON:** There was a time when Burts was the man for the AWs. This is not that time. Great guy, but has only shown glimpses of his form for almost two years now. Like Elliott, didn't do a lot with the ball. Overall: 5

**AARAN LINES:** Provided width in the Japan match, but didn't do much. Not seen again. Injured? Overall: 3

**NOAH HICKEY:** Quick and willing to take on opponents, Noah also did a lot of work off the ball. Just that he goes through periods where he doesn't look interested. Overall: 5

**VAUGHAN COVENY:** Played out of

position, and showed that he isn't a wide midfielder. Done well battling up-front on his own against France, really should have scored. Would have rated higher if played in proper position all the time. Overall: 5

**KRIS BOOKENHOOGHE:** Played up front as a sub against Japan, and the full match (I think) in midfield against France. Didn't shine out in either, though was better in his natural position. Why must Waitt put players in positions that they are not equipped for? Overall: 4.

**CHRIS KILLEN:** Showed that he hasn't recovered from his injuries. Worked hard up front, but didn't trouble opposition defenders, and got sent off against Colombia. He really needed support up front, and this 4-5-1 (*I think it was meant to be 4-3-3, Russ – Ed*) formation doesn't help him. Change to 4-4-2 Mick, and we'll see the best of Killen. Overall: 4

**SHANE SMELTZ:** Done well when coming off the bench against Colombia. Direct and aggressive, he put the Colombian defence under a bit of pressure. Not seen again. Overall: 5

**MICK WAITT:** Tactically, we were poor. 4-5-1 doesn't put defences under pressure, and our midfield is basically made up of people who can defend. In the Colombian match, we came out at half-time defending a 1-0 lead, which just can't be done, and more subs should have been made, though bringing Smeltz on was effective. Overall: 2

**SOCCER NZ:** They let us back to the hotel the AWs were staying at in Lyon, which was really good, but that can't disguise the fact that most of NZS treated this tour as a junket and shafted the fans who paid big money to go over there. Not an apology or a word of thanks....or even any words, there were no speeches in the hotel to acknowledge anyone. Overall: 1. (*Harsh call Russ. It's Fifa rather than NZS*)



**IT WASN'T ALL 3s & 4s: de Gregorio scored a classic, after fooling everybody with his initial whisky shot.**

*that should take the rap. Sure, the All Whites weren't quite the happy camp of Mexico, but what other international team can you think of where fans can go and take over a hotel lobby and have a natter with the players mid-tournament? – Ed).*

**NZ FANS:** Well, we tried. A lot of people came from London, and that really swelled the numbers. Quiet against Japan, much better against Colombia and

outsung/chanted the French. No fights, no argy-bargy. some of the London based guys really need to learn the difference between supporting your team and putting down the opposition.

Big ups to those who made it over from NZ, especially those who don't normally go to Kingz matches. I met a number of them, they are really good people. Overall: 8.

## Federation-watch

*We present the following correspondence from Soccer Hawke's Bay chairman Milene Haakman, without comment.*

# Can this federation be saved?

**October 17:**

To the board of Central Soccer and all Central Federation members

I would like to advise the board and its members that I have been investigating the board's ability to function within the rules of our federation. I have grave concerns in the ability of this board to do the job it has been elected to do. Having spoken to the Companies office I have been informed that it is up to the members to address all internal matters in regards to the rules of our society with the board we have elected.

I am sending this letter to all our federation members in an effort to make them fully aware of the rules the board is currently not abiding by and to try and establish a new grounding for 2003/04.

Until recently I was on the board after being co-opted when Jim Malone was removed from the board.

My short time on the board has given me an insight on how badly the board functions and how it does not follow the rules which govern this federation.

I have grave concerns on the future of soccer in the federation, not only on constitution issues but also re budgeting and all financial aspects & communication with branches and clubs.

Most clubs will not be attending the AGM due to the large spread within our federation however accounts plus the Chair report and any other reports tabled should have been available to all clubs prior to the AGM.

The issues I have listed below need to be dealt with. I would like the board to address these issues at board level first. Once a plan has been established to address these issues I suggest the chairman plus any other available board members meet with the branch chairs. The plan needs to be outlined and followed for the year. A budget and a realistic strategic plan should be presented for 2003/04. This will give each branch a good overview on how the board will function and give us confidence in the development of soccer within our region. The board should be open to some input where necessary from branches. This will lead to greater co-operation between branches and the board.

The Mens, Womans, Referees and Youth committees should have a greater role in the running of soccer within our region. The board should receive tabled reports on recommendations made by these committees and pass them at board meetings. Too often the board has made decisions without discussion to the relevant committees within our region. The youth committee in particular needs to be resurrected and should have a greater working relationship with the DOF so that decisions are made in unison. Regular meetings with the DOF to plan the year ahead will achieve this.

The board should really only have an overview and ensure the strategic plan is implemented and that finances are sound and available to implement the strategic plan. They should be directing the relevant committees / branches into areas where discussion and/or action is required.

**Issues in regards to our Incorporated rules**

Rule 13.1 — states there needs to be at least 8 scheduled meetings per year either in person or by modern communication systems. *This does not happen*

Rule 13.12 — states that the board shall annually notify clubs of the date and time of the regular scheduled board meeting and if this is changed then to notify clubs. *This does not happen and yet it is an important rule so the clubs can put in written submissions to the board on any issues*

Rule 14.5.13 - Clubs should receive annually a copy of the audited accounts, report of proceedings during year plus copy of proceedings at last AGM *Have we received this? We should not have to go to the AGM to receive this.*

Rule 14.7 & 14.8 — Major transactions shall only be entered on authority of a resolution of the board. A major transaction is any amount over \$1000 ( assets or liability) or an obligation of term longer than 1 year. *This means that approval to sign any cheques over \$1000 must be done by resolution at board meetings. No financials for payment were ever discussed at any board meeting while I was on the board.*

19.1 — Registered Office has not been updated to the companies office nor have our financials been registered with the companies office

23.1.1 — AGM shall be held once every year no later than 5 months after the year end nor later than 31<sup>st</sup> August in each year. *Our AGM was first held in May. 2<sup>nd</sup> try at the AGM should have been before 31<sup>st</sup> August not October*

Rule 23.1.3 — 2 months notice shall be given to all clubs re AGM. *Not done for current AGM. More importantly notice was not given to clubs that the first AGM was cancelled.*

These are only some of the many rules currently not being followed.

The following are issues I feel clubs should be aware of. Financially the federation is in trouble. While making resolutions at board meetings to charge branches a central levy this was not communicated to branches. However we were all invoiced recently and expected to pay. Most if not all regions have not complied. The 2003 budget has never been finalised by the board and yet we are now at the end of our season. When I left in May I had yet to see any profit or loss statements, aged receivables, reconciliations and we never approved purchase of any goods or liabilities. In fact financially I had no idea on how the federation was doing.

Why — time was being spent on previous years accounts (done by our ex CEO) which were not up to standard for auditing. We could not find an auditor initially as we were in too much debt.

Communication and support have not been forthcoming from the board. New branch regulations were sent out to each association and somehow we were to orchestrate our own branches. The board has not communicated with branches to see how they were going. Initial problems with GST took too long to solve, no accounting packages yet received. No reporting structures and no real compliance by most

regions.

The board moved its central office to Palmerston North leaving large debts in Napier for the office which are still unpaid. This has resulted in the confiscation of all assets in the office including federation strip and player gear. More money lost.

Do you think soccer is going ahead in our federation? Our biggest problem is the apathy within our region. Each region has its own problems but we need to work together and to help each other to sort out the bigger picture. Regular meetings scheduled early will help achieve this. Regular board meetings and communication on all aspects of soccer within our region will also help.

I urge the board to take on my challenge and sort themselves out. I urge all branches to start being pro-active and support scheduled meetings. Our apathy has resulted in us electing basically the same board for another couple of years.

We need people with vision and the business aptitude to get things done. This federation will not grow unless we are governed by a board which has a strong aptitude in governing correctly, achieving its goals and communicating with its members.

Federation members if you agree or disagree with my proposal or have your own concerns then please communicate directly with the board. It is time our concerns were heard after all we and Soccer New Zealand elected the board to work for us.

**Milene Haakman, Soccer Hawkes Bay Branch Chairman**

## **Soccer HB Newsletter, December:**

I would like to advise clubs that my letter has been seen in most parts of New Zealand including Soccer New Zealand but as yet has enlisted no response from our board. Considering it was the board who set up branches to represent the clubs it basically means that the Central soccer board is in fact ignoring all Hawkes Bay clubs, considering we make up a very large number of the clubs within our region and have a both a very functional and financial base it shows they really do not care what clubs or their branches think at all.

There is a fair amount of disinformation floating around put about by the central board in an effort to discredit us.

The facts are Soccer Hawkes Bay has in fact paid the SNZ levy (\$25,725) to Central board who as of yet have not paid it on to SNZ.

We (Soccer Hawkes Bay) have not paid our central soccer levy (\$13,820).

Reasons for that are:

1. We have never received official notification that a levy was to be charged this year. (I had prior knowledge as a board member only)
2. We have only ever received an invoice with a total sum on it, showing no breakdown. On requesting breakdown 2 months ago by letter we have had no reply.
3. We have found out the Manawatu Soccer have paid a levy but figures are based ~~on lower amounts per team for youth teams, and no levy for any teams under 10<sup>th</sup> grade.~~ This would amount to a considerable saving for us. (\$5,400.00)

4. Manawatu juniors have also been exempted from paying their 2002 levy which we did pay.
5. Wanganui Soccer have paid.
6. Taranaki Senior Women are the only one's paid in Taranaki.
7. Gisborne do not intend to pay as due to no notification they did not pass the cost onto their clubs.

Soccer Hawkes Bay is looking after the interests of its clubs and feel that it would not be fair for us to pay the levy as invoiced at this stage. When and if the Central Board sort them selves out and have the courtesy of replying to our letters and ensuring that the levy is fairly put on all branches then we will consider paying.

It was recommended at the November meeting and voted on by clubs present that we hold the money in trust until the Soccer Hawkes Bay decides that the levy should be paid.



## Charlie's view

*"I'd put money on it that the winners from Oceania won't automatically play off against South America's fifth-placed team. I'm so confident I'd even put your life on it."*

**Charlie Dempsey, interviewed by England's Daily Telegraph, September 25, predicting Oceania would be spared a South American playoff when Fifa determined their path to the 2006 World Cup in Germany at the finals draw in Frankfurt on December 5. He was wrong.**

### **Sitter! can be purchased at the following outlets:**

The Soccer Locker, Howick; Soccer Scene, Pt Chevalier;  
 Accent Magazines, Hamilton & Hamilton Airport Shoppe  
 Magnetix, Wellington  
 Canterbury Mags, Armagh Bookshop, Edgeware Books (all Christchurch)  
**and... Mr Gordon's Laundry Service 115 Valley Rd, Mt Eden**

## MacGowan Interview (Continued from P19)

they'll deny it – are paying players.

S: What size national league would you like to see?

BM: Personally I don't think there are enough players for any more than eight teams.

S: But some of those players who are good enough, aren't going to travel great distances to play if their regions aren't represented.

BM: We're not going to satisfy every player in the country, but look at what we are trying to achieve. The success of the sport is dependent on international success. With the greatest respect, when Eketahuna plays Wairarapa, people don't really care. When the All Whites draw with Scotland, that's a big, big news item. This national league is going to have coaches who will be the biggest influences on our young international players.

S: Talking of young internationals, we've had some horror results --

BM: We haven't.

S: We were beaten by Fiji at the U20s -- that is a nightmare -- and at U17 level we are informally ranked fifth in Oceania. What is the problem?

BM: The problem is we have to beat Australia every time.

S: But with the U20s we didn't even earn the right to meet Australia, we've gone backwards.

BM: Getting beaten by Fiji is unacceptable. The latest U17 side that went to Australia, if you look at the activity it had versus the activity that is now in place for international players, and the size of the pools for international players at the latest academies where we are now looking at about 1400 players versus going back when we would historically pick 25 players at the age of 14 – I'd say that was a mistake.

The other point that we recognise is we need to tour young players earlier. The first international experience historically for a young New Zealand boy is the U17 Oceania World Cup. It's hopeless. Okay, we had a hiccup against Fiji, and they'll always do that if you play in 40 degree heat in a 1pm kick-off up there. That was a blip. But our policy now is to have bigger pools of talent.

S: Whatever happened to (women's development officer) Michelle Andersen? Is it correct her qualifications did not scrub up?

AD: *Time did not permit further questions to be answered. \**

S: Is Paul Smalley's increasing role with the All Whites the result of policy decisions?

AD: *Time did not permit further questions to be answered. \**

S: Why did NZS use its influence to stop gaming machine trust funds from being used to finance player attendance at Wynyrs academy programmes?

AD: *Time did not permit further questions to be answered. \**

S: What conclusions were drawn from the NZS review of the disappointing U20s qualifying campaign in Fiji?

AD: *Time did not permit further questions to be answered. \**

S: Why did NZS register a new set of rules in October? Is this an acknowledgement that the previous NZS rules regarding appointed board members transgressed Fifa statutes? As there was no general meeting of NZS members, what process was used to change the rules and why weren't they publicised?

BM (*who did find time to respond to these personally with a collective answer*): The rules were changed to clarify the election process in consultation with FIFA. The changes were approved by all federations who are the members of NZS and have the voting power to amend

rules. The changes will be seen clearly for the next Board election process.

**Andrew Dewhurst requested the following addendum be inserted....**

BM: Given this interview took place some months ago, I feel it important to add the following comments:

Planning for the new National Men's Competition is now well advanced, as is the planning by many potential Licence Holders. After initial submissions were received (20 only), the message has been made loud and clear that change needed to be effected if the national league was to survive (and clubs with it).

Once the draft Licence and Manuals were produced, NZS received a further 5 submissions only, all suggesting minor changes to the draft documents.

NZS is more than ever convinced that the changes are the right ones for the national competition.

Many areas are already planning to make applications, with Otago United for the first time in my memory, Canterbury

United, Manawatu, Napier, Wellington, Waikatoa/BOP and Auckland regions all likely to post one or more bids to enter the league.

It is my firm belief that we will receive between 8 and 14 applications, the quality of which will be decided by the selection panel. It should be noted that the Australians are now headed down a similar (if more elite) path with their own competition.

Our only concern at NZS is what is right for the game now and in the immediate future. If some choose to dwell on what individuals did or didn't say 10 years ago, good luck to them.

**Final word:** *there are some big issues touched on here which the soccer community needs to debate further. MacGowan's views could help direct that debate. It's just a shame he received such dreadful media advice in the interim ("Time did not permit...") after initially promising full and frank answers to anything asked when agreeing to the interview. -- Bruce Holloway.*

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## Short passes

Southern federation has changed it's name to **Soccersouth**. Good on them. It's a start, but still leaves us with the awful, widely ridiculed United Soccer 1, Soccer2 and Force Three.

Anybody who caught the end of **Soccer Central** a few weeks ago and was staggered to be bored by an endless clip comparing soccer in Jamiaca with cricket. This, remember, was a few days after the big Napier Tournament. The word from Sky is the show was canned because it was not performing ratings-wise. Well, perhaps they need to look more closely at their target market. There ain't that many homesick Jamaicans here, are there?

Speaking of **Napier**, it was another well run tournament at Labour Weekend. It's a pity there was no New Zealand team playing this year – though it was their loss as much as anyone's.

Uni-Mt Wellington looked the best, most well-balanced team there. Players to stand out were Daniel Ellensohn and Geoffrey Charman, wonderful attacking, creative talents (though Charman will quickly draw a fanny-dancer tag if he continues to wear gloves). But they were knocked out in the semis by eventual winners **Waitakere City** (the next best) in a cracker of a match. The standard was such it was hard to believe both teams had already played six 25-each-way matches that weekend.

Elliot Stead settled it with a brilliant diving header in extra time. Both teams had a man sent off in the second spell of ordniary time, within a couple of minutes of each other, as the occasion got the better of referee Santi Vega. Waitakere (coached by Tommy Mason) beat Napier 4-1 in the final, with guest player **Kris Bright** (son of Dave Bright, step-son of Chris Turner) netting a hat trick.

Overall I thought Auckland clubs were a step ahead of the rest of the country. Metro creamed everybody in the satellite tournament, as we knew they would. It was easy to empathise with the frustration of Roger Woolmer when he saw the likes of Wainuiomata in the main draw while his lot players slumped it.

Waitakere had earlier beaten Manawatu 1-0 in the quarterfinals thanks to a snappy late strike from Lewis Chaloner. Waitakere squad members included Kaz Townsend, Hone Fowler (NZ schoolboys), Craig Wylie (Kingz) Naveen Prasad (1999 Junior All Whites) and Davindar Singh.

**Napier** did well to make the final. The population of Napier is just 56,000, so on a per capita basis they're boxing above their weight. Dale Stringer (guest player) caught the eye up front.

Biggest disappointment was Albany. They didn't score a goal all tournament. Of the Wellington clubs, Western Suburbs made the final but lost 1-0 to a rather ho-hum East Coast Bays.

Here's a couple of **suggestions** for next year: Please, in your \$2 programme, allow a grid for writing in match results for those of us who like to keep records. And list the coaches of teams as well as players. Coaches are important at youth level, you know.

**Andy "Fat-boy" Vlahos** has made the big breakthrough in Belgian football with two goals in a big upset in the Belgian Cup. Vlahos, who didn't know what a goal looked like when with the Kingz, netted one in each half to give the unheralded Cercle Brugge a 2-0 win over high-riding Standard Liege.

-- **Cordwainer Bull**

## **A proposal for World Cup qualifying (continued from page 11)**

### **Note on World Cup Place Allocation**

Previously, Asia has been designated between 4 and 5 places in a 32 team tournament, Oceania 0.5 of a place. For the sake of this exercise, I have designated each of the new Confederations 2.5 places.

In other words, the top team two teams in the final group stage in each Confederation would automatically go through to the World Cup, with the third place team in each Confederation group playing off for the final spot.

If allocations were ever adjusted, then perhaps this number would rise to 3.5 places per Confederation.

### **Aim of this whole Anorak Exercise.....**

The point of this has been to try and find a workable solution for the disaster that currently is Oceania.

I think redrawing these Confederation's lines is absolutely vital for the development of the game in our region (and not just at senior men's level — I would envisage these changes applying also to Women's and age group internationals).

While the first group stages would still be relatively one-sided, there would at least be a final group stage where very meaningful competition would occur (a la the 1981 series). Also, it would give Oceania countries access to automatic qualifying spots without all the usual four-yearly waltzes.

Hopefully, the Asian countries would see the benefits to themselves of regular guaranteed places, without the competition of strong Middle Eastern teams. No doubt they would initially see Australia as the only real threat coming out of Oceania!

In the long run, it would best aid Oceania's development, and ally it to a relatively well-structured and financially viable organisation. In return, hopefully, Oceania would not be seen as a drain on the Asian resources, nor too much of a threat to "their" World Cup places!

I write this as a fan who would love to see meaningful qualifying matches against the likes of South Korea and Japan, rather than Tahiti and Tonga, and see my country with a viable route to try and access the world's greatest sporting tournament.

## More talking bollocks

### **John Bannatyne**

*“Arguably the best goalkeeper within the national league and very unlucky to miss selection in the All Whites...”*

**-- National League Final programme. We wonder if he’s any relation to James Bannatyne? You’d have to agree, though, Bannatyne is indeed unlucky. Even his club (Miramar) can’t get his name right for a league final programme.**

*“The Kingz began smartly, ignoring their last position on the table, and rocked Olympic with a third minute goal.”*

**-- AAP report out of Sydney, November 17 on match v Sydney Olympic. Why do journalists write this shit? What did they bloody well expect -- the Kingz to be standing around muttering to each other: “Well lads, it’s a waste of time trying to score today, we’re last on the table, you know.”**

*“The second half introduction of Troy Halpin, after a stint in Malaysia, sparked extra life into Olympic resulting in a flurry of attacks.”*

**- Same AAP report. What a supersub huh? One minute Halpin’s doing the business in Malaysia, the next he’s jetted to Jubilee Oval to catch the second half.”**

*“And changes have also been rung at the Soccer Kingz...”*

**-- Richard Boock, NZ Herald December 1. They mightn’t be very good, but that doesn’t justify journalists still getting the Football Kingz name wrong in their fifth season.**

### **Bargains for Kiwi collectors**

NZ Soccer Annuals 1972, 1987 \$4 each

1986 programme: NZ v Newcastle United \$3

Outside the Area (Best NZ Soccer Writing 1970-95) \$5. (Excellent reading)

**Orders to Bruce Holloway, 11 Thames St, Hamilton  
(bhollow@iconz.co.nz). Add \$1 post & packaging.**

## New offside interpretations

New guidelines on the offside rule issued by Fifa in late October should give greater advantage to forwards -- and put an end to the debate about what constitutes "interfering with play".

The guidelines were issued in a recent circular to national football federations and while they are not a rule change they will now change the handling of offside decisions.

In effect they end offside for players who do not touch the ball or directly block the vision or movement of an opponent. The guideline should mean the end of a player not directly involved in a move being flagged for offside. The laws of the game state that a player can only be penalised for offside if he is "involved in active play by: interfering with play, interfering with an opponent or gaining an advantage by being in that position".

The new guidelines are more precise saying that offside for "interfering with play" means "playing or touching a ball passed or touched by a team mate".

"Interfering with an opponent" is defined as "preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball, for example, by clearly obstructing the goalkeeper's line of vision or movements" or "making a gesture or movement while standing in the path of the ball to deceive or distract an opponent".

The tricky issue of whether a player is "gaining an advantage" by his position is explained as "playing a ball that rebounds off a post or the crossbar having been in an offside position" and "playing a ball that rebounds off an opponent having been in an offside position".

The Fifa circular said the aim of the new interpretation "is to respect the laws of the game and to protect attacking play intended to result in a goal, which is the ultimate objective in football".

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Official OFC (and Sitter!) photographer **Kevin Bridle** has a new website offering images of the recent 2002 OFC Nations Cup for sale. Check out his site and follow the instructions if you are interested in purchasing images.

**[www.onlinefotos.com/kevinbridle](http://www.onlinefotos.com/kevinbridle)**

## Reviews

**Canterbury Soccer (the centennial history) by John Small. Clerestory Press, \$25 (& \$2 P & P). Reviewed by Barry Smith.**

Writing a history book is both a craft and an art. The craft comes in the gathering of information and the subsequent transposition of facts. The art is the style in which the writer fits the various parts together to form a moving and understandable whole. Craftsmen are many, artists are few. And artists are not always acknowledged for their skills.

These thoughts came into my mind as I applied myself to the task of reviewing *Canterbury Soccer* - John Small's history of what was the Canterbury Football Association..

The book is not one that immediately reflects meticulous research - indeed there is conspicuous absence of the detail that fills pages in works of similar nature. Although much of that detail was available by way of research carried out by the late George Cox in his unpublished *"History of the Canterbury Football Association"* and updated by Trevor Gottermeyer, author Small has chosen to present "an overview of the game focusing on major club successes, personalities past and present, performances of provincial teams and administration decision making". In doing so he allows me to apply my classic test as to a good history - does it extend my knowledge of the subject. I have to say it most certainly does.

Through my own research, a decade or so back, for the NZFA centennial history, I know something of the early days of Canterbury soccer and the role of Thomas Maude in establishing the first club there.

But I was unaware of the two year enquiry into the financial affairs of the law firm in which Maude was a partner and the fallout therefrom. Having read *"Canterbury Soccer"* I can see why it was that the sport did not forge ahead in Christchurch as it did elsewhere in New Zealand in the 1890s.

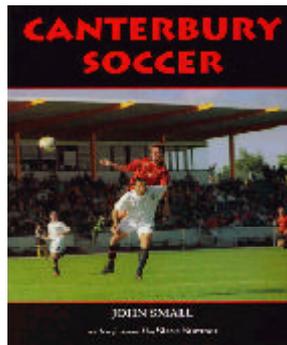
Some of the best parts of *"Canterbury Soccer"* are the cameos of personalities like Maude, Alex Bisset and Robert English where the author provides far more than a simple account of football involvement and I would have liked to read more of these.

Indeed the author's best work is arguably the chapters covering the years up World War II whereas in later chapters it seems to have been harder for him to escape a chronological treatment of subjects.

Nevertheless there are fascinating accounts throughout *"Canterbury Soccer"* such as how Canterbury forfeited the prestigious Football Association Trophy for using an ineligible player, how Tom Finney's professional

footballers were not allowed to play on Lancaster Park, how a city journalist became the catalyst for a Christchurch entering the National league.

Not surprisingly a chapter is devoted to the involvement of Canterbury teams in the Chatham Cup. There is even a piece on the All Blacks from the coal mining township of Millerton who reached the Cup final in 1932 and 1933. Given that Millerton is in the Buller district across the Southern Alps from Canterbury, the Cup coverage seems to be somewhat out of context. But it is a good story and the inclusion can be



justified on the basis that Buller and Westland were deemed part of Canterbury for Trophy match purposes in the years from 1926-1953.

Elsewhere there is the expected coverage of Southern League, National League and international football along with pieces on junior and women's football and an explanation of the drastic organisational changes resulting in the dissolution of the old Canterbury Association and the establishment of a new Mainland Federation.

As Small says in his last words, "it remains to be seen whether administrators can develop growth (in numbers) into the kind of culture that will lead to more international success for New Zealand soccer - the mission of the reformers". He concludes with the hope that the reformers are equally intent on ensuring that

participants continue to enjoy the game.

~~While~~ *Canterbury Soccer* is something of a scholarly work, reflecting the academic background of author John Small (a retired reader of education at the University of Canterbury), the narrative will interest a wide range of readers. The book has ample illustrations relevant to the time periods and is a quality production, albeit with a soft cover. Buy a copy, you won't be disappointed.

*#Barry Smith is honorary historian for New Zealand Soccer, editor of the New Zealand Soccer Annual and a major contributor to a number of New Zealand football histories.*

**# Canterbury Soccer is available from Mainland Soccer, PO Box 21-122, Christchurch. (\$25 & \$2 P & P) All proceeds will go to Mainland Soccer.**

### **Dynamo Defending the Honour of Kiev by Andy Dougan (4<sup>th</sup> Estate, \$21.95). reviewed by Tony Sasso.**

There are some stories that make you happy to live in New Zealand and realise that our problems are often insignificant in comparison to others. Andy Dougan's account of the men of Dynamo Kiev during the Nazi invasion and occupation of Ukraine is one such story. It is also a story that reinforces how football and politics are mercilessly connected.

A heroic tale of struggle, survival and resistance is intertwined with the history of one of the Soviet Union's greatest teams. Dynamo Kiev players that hadn't been killed, sent to camps or joined the Resistance were assembled by a football fanatic chosen by the Germans to run a bakery. In a case of mistaken judgement by the occupying power, it was felt that a football competition could help win "hearts and minds".

Under the name FC Start, the remaining Dynamo players conquered a league that included a nationalist team, a Luftwaffe team, and various garrison teams. Dynamo

was undefeated on the pitch — the results meaning so much more than just finishing top of the league.

This book can make for depressing reading as Man's inhumanity to Man is personified through Nazi genocidal oppression. Of course what makes it worse is that the population of Ukraine then had to endure Soviet oppression for another 40-odd years.

Although the team's exploits on the field provided a somewhat satisfying conclusion, a real happy ending for the people of Ukraine was still a long way off.

I thoroughly recommend this book and suggest watching the movie [Enemy at the Gates](#) when finished as I coincidentally did. For "visual" Generation X types such as myself, it really brought home just what these men had achieved and the horrendous circumstances in which they found themselves. Football really is the sport of the Revolution!



# In off the post

**The mailbag which really should be bigger....**

Dear Bruce,

Thank you for your great summary of the Force Three AGM.

It's a pity you can't get a report like that of all the federation AGMs. I'm sure the knowledge they were being scrutinised to the extent you have done here would prove to have quite a civilising effect on our administrators.

I particularly congratulate you on having the courage to comment so bluntly on Dave Parry's leadership of Force Three, when everyone else was defending him.

If there is a problem we have in soccer, it is the unwillingness of people to tell it like it really is. Have you ever thought of getting into soccer administration?

Enclosed is my renewed subscription.

**Name withheld by request, Tauranga.**

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-- Tommy Smyth, irritating ESPN commentator, Inter v Real, Champions League 26.11.98.

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