



FOOTBALL FEDERATION
TASMANIA

FROM THE DESK OF THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

2 JULY, 2010

There is about a week or so left in the World Cup and it is about to get really interesting.

Brazil v the Netherlands and Argentina v Germany certainly whets the appetite.

Sad to see Australia journeying home, but at least its participation ended on a high note and congratulations to New Zealand, who did not lose a game.

As for my native England. That was a shameful display and yet another example of a lack of technical and tactical ability. Against virtually every other team in the competition, England looked pedestrian in their approach play, creativity and confidence. I would not bet money on them beating my other mother country, Canada, let alone Australia!

In other news, nominations from clubs for selection into the southern and northern under 20 teams closed this week.

The 16 players for each squad will be announced when I return from next week's under 15 and under 17 females national championships in Coffs Harbour.

The south versus north game will be the curtain raiser for the A-League match between Melbourne Victory and Central Coast Mariners in Launceston, July 25.

All the Premier league teams in the north and south will be represented in the under 20 line-ups, part of a conscious effort by FFT to embrace the total football community.

FFT's southern development officer, Anthony Alexander, is back from South Africa. Within hours of his return he was running a coaching clinic at a local school.

Hopefully Anthony will soon be able to operate without the deafening noise of vuvuzellas still ringing in his head. He brought one of the noisy instruments back with him.

Anthony says he had a fantastic experience in South Africa and was thrilled with the way the population had embraced the World Cup and the fans who had journeyed there from all corners of the globe.

That is certainly the impression given from the television coverage. By the way, the official World Cup music album, Listen Up, is great. I recommend it.

Back here in Tasmania, a Level One course for goalkeeper coaches will take place Sunday August 8.

The one-day course, the second of its kind this year, will include some theory aspects in the Tasmania Institute of Sport offices in Howrah and practical work on the field opposite at Clarence High School.

The course, details and registration are on the FFT website, will be run by Dean May, a national goalkeeping coach and Head Coach of the male football programme at the National Training Centre (NTC) for Tasmania.

Dean conducted the successful Level One course earlier in the year.

There are plans to hold further general coaching courses, details of which will be announced once they are finalized, in a continued effort to get as many people on the coaching ladder as possible.

The more qualified coaches we have from Grassroots up, the better it will be for our young players.

Now if only we could emulate the street and playground games so apparent in the television coverage of the World Cup. That's where kids get their best footballing education. That one young boy who heads a cross down into the bottom corner of a goal marked on a concrete wall gets me off my feet every time. He could get in the England team no problem.

FOOTNOTES: Trevor Brooking, formerly of West Ham and England, was a stylish midfield player with abundant technique. He is now the England Football Association's youth development officer. In an interview this week he said: "The old days when I played informally around the corner with my mates, developing my skills base, are not going to happen anymore. An 11-year-old youngster in this country isn't good enough technically so we have to play more short-sided games and do more ball work. The way the game is going is pretty clear. Teams are keeping the ball on the floor more. In the back four, you want all players to be technically comfortable. It all starts at the back and we want to encourage the grass roots this is the way to play."

Talking of street football, Brazil's Robinho honed his skills dribbling around gravestones in a cemetery. No wonder he leaves opponents for dead.

Lastly, on South Hobart Football Club's website there is an interview with Head Coach Ken Morton. He is asked what he would do at FFT and replies: "I would try and implement a state league in Tasmania."

Such a league, in my opinion, is a must, and I have said so. A State wide league would promote and further improve football at the senior level and provide an extra incentive to serious players. Not only that, as a small state, Tasmania has the opportunity to make it work.