

FIFTEEN MEN AND A FANTASY

Edited By Ross Peggs

The only official newsletter of the 1997-1998 Super Fantasy Premiership and First Division

Volume Two

Issue One

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS

It is a long way back since the first issue of *Fifteen Men and a Fantasy* when the first immortal paragraph read, 'Saturday the thirteenth of July and a small army of male teenagers are gathered in a garden. These fourteen people, there is one to join them later, are in St. James to spend millions of pounds on world class footballers. It must be a dream, not quite, more of a fantasy'. So what happened then?

For some of us the season has ended with nothing to show for our efforts except a pile of mud on the boot room floor. For others glory came, was welcomed into the dressing room with open arms and given first use of the showers. But for whoever you are, whatever you done and wherever you finished another chance beckons as the 1997-1998 Super Fantasy Premiership and First Division is about to begin.

But before we get too far ahead of ourselves we should check the mirror, indicate clearly and turn back down the road to the 1996-1997 Super Fantasy Premiership. It was, without a doubt, the biggest and best season ever and, with the promise of the two divisions for this year, the excitement carried on through until the very last kick of the season.

Team: Alan Hansen's Scar

Manager: Ian Brown

Final Position: 15th

Total Points: 107

Yet again Ian's philosophy of buying less quality players than Robert Chase failed to pay off. From the very first week onwards Ian did not leave the bottom three and spent a massive twenty-six weeks at the bottom of the pile. When Ian did buy big he left the players out of his first team as the £6.5m Patrick Berger and the £3.8m Steve Clarke found out when they did not make an appearance all season. Next season looks a little more promising as a partnership with Craig could blossom but there is more chance of Jason Lee making the England team than those two making the top five.

Team: Slimmer Than Peter Definitely

Manager: Regan Peggs

Final Position: 14th

Total Points: 121

Regan found that his team seemed to be happiest at the bottom of the table as they managed only four double figure scores all season. But it could have been a different story had Ian Rush and Rod Wallace formed a lethal partnership at Leeds, instead they managed just twenty points between them, or had Darren Anderton been the inspiration behind Tottenham's title challenge, instead he spent ninety-five percent of the season on the sidelines as the Spurs stopped playing in March, or had..... In the end Chris Sutton could not save Regan and he will face First Division fantasies next season. Regan, like Ian, has employed a partner for the future as Phil will take joint control of the squad and hope that he can turn this club around so that it is not just counting the 'if only's'.

Lawrence Baynes. Someone has to stop him.

the super fantasy premiership & division one 1997 / 98

Team: Wigger's Tranny Gods
Manager: Stuart Wigby
Final Position: 13th
Total Points: 124

The pressure has become too intense for Wiggers as he resigned at the end of the season after months of speculation. The problem for the Tranny Gods was the lack of a big name player, especially highlighted after Andrei Kanchelskis left the smog, smell and skinflints of Everton to go to the sun, sea and sand of Fiorentina, whatever for? From the moment Kanchelskis left Wigger's season went downhill faster than a rolling Crockford. From being among the action in a healthy tenth the Tranny Gods quickly found themselves in last position until they managed to rescue themselves at the end of the season.

Team: Spartak Cheese
Manager: Michael Lucchesi
Final Position: 12th
Total Points: 161

Many people's pre-season tip to have some form of success was, without a shadow of a doubt, the season's most disappointing team. At the auction Michael followed the way of the great Ruud Gullit and bought Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo for £8.0m, the biggest buy of the auction, and £3.0m respectively. Di Matteo did not last long until he was sold and then bought back again but Vialli managed to get Michael thirty-seven points during the course of the season. Later on in the year another Italian, Benito Carbone, was to join Spartak Cheese but by the end of the Christmas period Michael's fate was already decided.

Team: Orange Squash Purified
Manager: Adam Pritchard
Final Position: 11th
Total Points: 168

Another disappointing season for Adam especially when he had Robbie Fowler for most of the season and then transferred him for Alan Shearer. Fowler managed fifty-six points and Shearer thirteen. Unfortunately there were no other quality players in the squad to back these up as the arrivals of Faustino Asprillia and Pierre Van Hooijdonk were too late to save Adam.

Team: Apples And Pears II
Manager: Andrew Prior
Final Position: 10th
Total Points: 190

Apples and Pears II were the Middlesbrough of the Super Fantasy Premiership due to them having a whole crop of quality players and finishing low down in the table. Nick Barnby, Kevin Campbell, Keith Gillespie, David Beckham and Dean Holdsworth featured in Andrew's side during the season but failed to impress. Somehow Andrew managed to win a playoff place and a strong finish to the season means he will be in the top division next year, under the caretaker management of Eddie.

Team: The Demented Ferrets
Manager: Craig Hunting
Final Position: 9th
Total Points: 195

There was no surprise at the auction when Craig swooped for the Man Utd duo of Peter Schmeichel and Eric Cantona. Along with Rob Lee and Ugo Ehiogu it looked like he was in for a decent season but it was not to be. An eternal mid-table team The Demented Ferrets may have benefited from the expertise of Nigel Spackman in midfield but for some reason Craig turned him down at the auction. Next season Craig will be joint manager of Ian's team.

Lawrence Baynes. Someone has to stop him.

the super fantasy premiership & division one 1997 / 98

Team: Hot Hot Hot
Manager: Aaron Fenn
Final Position: 8th
Total Points: 202

A great season for the team that annoys the spell-check but they would have done a whole lot better except for the start to the season. Eighth position was not expected by anyone but Aaron managed that and also picked up the Inter-Shield along the way. People who claimed that Aaron knew nothing about football were wrong as he bought quality players such as David Platt, Roy Keane, Marcus Gayle, Teddy Sheringham, Dennis Bergkamp and the great Duncan Ferguson during the year. Aaron also eased through the playoffs into the Super Fantasy Premiership but the pressure is on. Can he repeat this year's success?

Team: Pritchard's Perfect Players Probably
Manager: Scott Pritchard
Final Position: 7th
Total Points: 233

The season ended in disappointment for Scott as he missed out on a Premiership place after scoring dismally in the playoffs. The lack of a big star was highlighted after Fabrizio Ravanelli was sold half way through the season and Steve McManaman failed to shine. John Hartson's turn of form was too late as Scott's season went in a perfect curve down the table. Next season he will have to do better than a forward line of Tony Cottee, Ashley Ward and Mark Robins.

Team: Jimmy Hill's Chin
Manager: Ross Peggs
Final Position: 6th
Total Points: 257

A lot was expected of Ross after finishing second in the European Championships and he just missed out on the money by nine points. He also got to the final of the Super Fantasy Cup but was thrashed by Peter. The claim that Ryan Giggs, Faustino Asprillia and Jason McAteer would score two hundred points between them was a bit bold especially when they only managed forty-three, beaten by the solitary Ole Gunner Solskjaer, a shrewd purchase from Matt, who scored a half-century. Do not worry - the Chin will be back next year with vengeance.

Team: Cheese And Onion Biscuits United The Original Flavour
Manager: Nick Jermy
Final Position: 5th
Total Points: 266

Bargain buys were the order of the auction for Nick as he picked up Juninho, Karel Poborsky, David Ginola, Ian Wright, Stan Collymore, Ruel Fox, Peter Beardsley and Egil Ostenstadt during the season for a total of £23.5m and two hundred and fifty three points. Not bad! Maybe with all these star players Nick did not pay enough attention to his defence and if he had would have figured higher up in the table.

Team: Crockford's Crackers Take Two
Manager: Peter Crockford
Final Position: 4th
Total Points: 288

Nobody expected Peter to finish in the money but he did and picked up the Super Fantasy Cup along the way. The return to form of Andy Cole and the impact of Gianfranco Zola helped Peter to his success but collective responsibility was the key as the whole squad chipped in with the points. The question remains that with people wary of the big man next year will he be able to repeat the success? We shall wait and see.

Lawrence Baynes. Someone has to stop him.

the super fantasy premiership & division one 1997 / 98

Team: Magicmen Go Fourth

Manager: Matthew Jermy

Final Position: 3rd

Total Points: 295

The safest bet at the auction was that of who would buy Sir Matthew Le Tissier (G.O.D.) and, of course, Matt opened up his wallet and splashed out £4.2m on the Saint's Superstar. Unfortunately a disappointing season meant only forty-one points for Le Tiss. Not that I mean to rub it in but the sale of Ole Gunner Solskjaer was maybe the worst transfer of the season. Although Matt won the European Cup the ultimate prize of the Super Fantasy Premiership still eludes him since the very first season and he wants it bad so watch out next season.

Team: Bushall FSC

Manager: Colin Brown

Final Position: 2nd

Total Points: 330

Rated at 9-1 pre-season Chubby had a point to prove and, had he been challenging anyone but Lawrence, he would have achieved this. He looked favourite when he bought Fabrizio Ravanelli but his partnership with Dwight Yorke did not blossom. Second place is an achievement and the prospect of European football is a worthy prize but the title is the ultimate goal and next year Chubby will be determined to go one better.

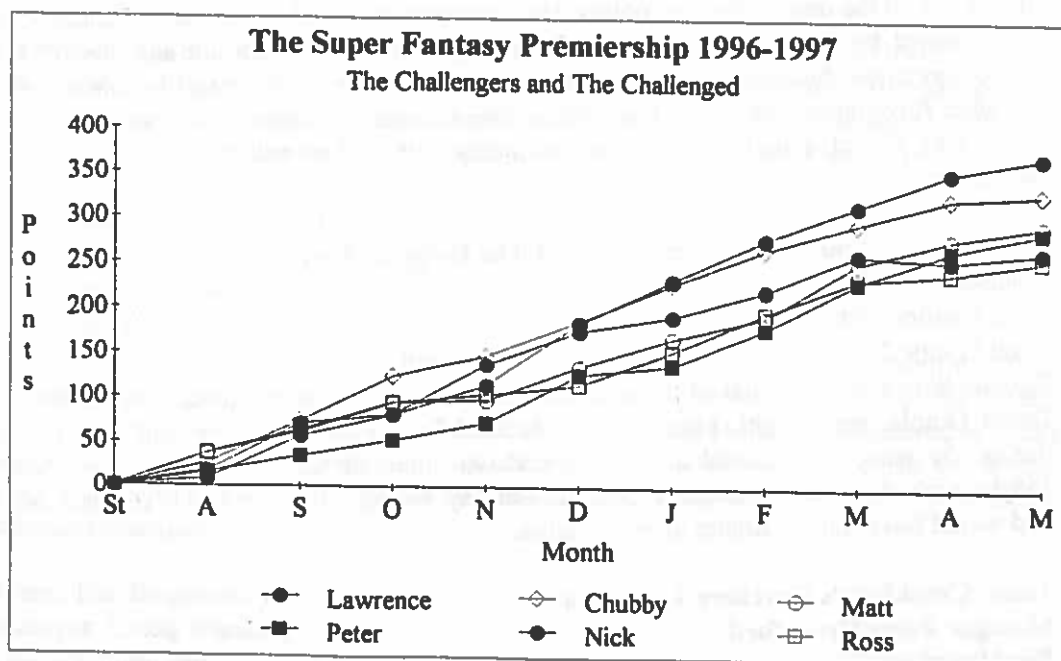
Team: Buttickers III

Manager: Lawrence Baynes

Final Position: 1st

Total Points: 371

The hat-trick. What else is there to say apart from brilliant, fantastic, magnificent, tremendous, fabulous.....?! A worthy champion and still the man to beat - here's how he done it:



No matter how you done last year there is another chance to impress this season. Learn from your mistakes, sort out your tactics and, whatever you do, don't pick a Leeds forward. The new and improved sixteen teamed 1997-1998 Super Fantasy Premiership and Super Fantasy First Division is just around the corner or, if you like to look at it in a different way, just over the page.

Lawrence Baynes. Someone has to stop him.

WINNING IS EASY - JUST FINISH ABOVE LAWRENCE

(or alternative title: **HAVE I SEEN THIS BEFORE SOMEWHERE?**)

This season, we're now in the present tense, is going to be the biggest and best Super Fantasy Premiership season ever. Do you know why? Because now there are two - yes, two - leagues, the Super Fantasy Premiership and the brand new and exciting Super Fantasy First Division. There are also a record number of teams and a record number of managers as sixteen sides will be guided down the rocky road to Fantasy success by twenty hopeful coaches.

The Super Fantasy Premiership

- Lawrence Baynes - the Alex Ferguson of the league, he completed his hat-trick last season and still wants more. Although, obviously, we do not know what type of squad he, or anyone, will have, Lawrence must be the pre-season favourite.
- Colin Brown - finished second last year after signing Fabrizio Ravanelli and being installed as favourite. Being a founder member but with no honours to his name it might be the year for Chubby.
- Matthew Jermy - the happiest person that Southampton stayed up and is the obvious guess as to who will sign Sir Matt. Won in the league's debut season and also captured the European Cup last season but will want his hands around the big one this year - no dirty jokes please.
- Peter Crockford - this time around people will be more wary of the big man. Strange last season that he managed to creep up the table unnoticed, you can usually spot him a mile off.
- Nick Jermy - forever the underachiever he will be looking to rectify his disappointing form - and he will have my full support as long as he doesn't have such a long team name I have blisters on my fingers by the time I've finished typing it.
- Ross Peggs - a man for the big stage, won the World Cup and second in Euro '96 but has been disappointing in all of his seasons in the Super Fantasy Premiership. Knowledge is there but has found the standards hard in the past few years.
- Aaron Fenn - had a great season last time but the pressure is on for him to repeat it. Is also in Europe so we all wait with expectancy. Without a shadow of a doubt will bid for big Duncan Ferguson.
- Andrew Prior and Eddie - whilst Andrew goes off to university Eddie will be in charge. Omens don't look good as the two of them know less about football than Jason Lee.

The Super Fantasy First Division

- Michael Lucchesi - will be delighted if the Italian imports continue to come and could have the first Latin squad. Claims to have learnt from last year but we shall wait and see.
- Scott Pritchard - hotly tipped to do well last season but failed to impress when it mattered in the playoffs. Will want to beat his brother no matter what.
- Adam Pritchard - in two seasons he has failed to make an impact and will want to this year. Will either do brilliantly or rubbish.
- Regan Peggs and Phil Peggs - although Regan is going to the auction the brains behind this team is the senior Peggs. Depending upon what happens at the auction Phil could turn Regan's career around, although someone should tell him Peter Osgood retired a while back.
- Ian Brown and Craig Hunting - both disappointed last season although this was not completely unexpected. Pre-season tip to stay bottom of the pile for most of the season.
- Charlotte Jermy and Wendy - the first 'girlie' team and they will be looking to get rid of the myth that women should be allowed into the church but should stay away from football.
- Giles Harrison - could go either way. Has had a little experience in other leagues but may not be ready for the challenge of the Super Fantasy Premiership and First Division yet.
- Paul Cooper - do I need to say anything?

GOOD LUCK TO ALL

Fantasy Focus: Ross Peggs

'ENCYCLOPAEDIA' CONFIDENT BUT NOT COMPLACENT

Chin a regular fixture at the top of the table but Ross sure not to let it go to his head

On the evening of Saturday the 23rd of August a new team is declared top of the Super Fantasy Premiership. Eleven weeks on Ross Peggs is still there. As of yet no other manager has come close to knocking Ross off of the top of the pile and he has sat there quite content as his players bring in the points on a weekly basis. It is this regular income of points that Ross gives as the reason to his success, "I always thought that to win the title I would have to average ten points each week of the season", he explains, "So far I am averaging just that and therefore I am top of the league".

As always Ross has been busy in the transfer market, rearranging his squad almost every week, to try and find the ultimate formula for success. But, as he explains, "It is the group of players that I have had for the majority of the season that have been the consistent scorers for my team. I knew that I had to have a good auction and get the players that I wanted. I done this and I am now seeing the benefits". These players that Ross talks about include Eyal Berkovic with nineteen points, Matt Elliott with thirteen points, Emile Heskey with fifteen points and Ian Wright with thirty-three points.

But the manager who has been described as an 'encyclopaedia of football' is also pleased with his signings during the season, "Before I have bought in players who have not done their transfer fees justice but this season I have bought well. I picked up Paolo Wanchope for six million and he has fifteen points, I also bought Frank Sinclair and he has sixteen points for no money".

This is the first time ever that Ross has been top for a period of time and he is trying hard not to get carried away because, "It is when you boast and brag that people get annoyed and try even harder to beat you". And his prediction for the season, "Of course I am confident of winning the league, Lawrence is good but not good enough, I just mustn't get complacent during the season and let him catch me". Wise words.

FIFTEEN MEN AND A FANTASY

Edited By Ross Peggs

The only official newsletter of the 1997-1998 Super Fantasy Premiership and Division One

Volume Two

Issue Two

THE SUPER FANTASY PREMIERSHIP

Includes all games played up to and including 1st August 1997

Pos.	Team	Manager	Points
1	Jimmy Hill's Chin	Ross Peggs	42
2	Crockford's Crackers Take III	Peter Crockford	40
3	Too Hot	Aaron Fenn	38
4	Buttkicker's IV	Lawrence Baynes	35
5	Apples And Pears Tree	Andrew Prior	32
6	COBUWIF	Nick Jermy	31
7	Matt's Magicmen; The Final Assault?	Matthew Jermy	22
8	Bushall; Fight To The Finish	Colin Brown	8

ROSS SETS THE EARLY PACE AS CHUBBY GETS LEFT BEHIND

With almost a month of the Super Fantasy Premiership gone the story is the same as last year as Ross is leading the charge for the title. The main contributor to Ross' success has been Ian Wright with eleven points, three goals and an assist, who was signed at the auction for £9.1m. As always Ross has been busy in the transfer market with the swapping of his central defenders which involved Chelsea's Michael Duberry being replaced by team-mate Frank Sinclair and likewise happening with the arrival of Alessandro Pistone for his Newcastle companion Steve Howey.

Just behind Ross is Peter whose defence has taken him within two points of the leader. Chris Sutton helped Peter to a thirty-four point total last week, nearly a record. Dennis Bergkamp has been the star of Aaron's squad as he bangs in the goals and in fourth Lawrence is ready to make his move. Andrew, soon to depart to Durham, has had a good start and is one point ahead of Nick. Two of the biggest managers have had disappointing starts because Matt is only on twenty-two and Chubby is in last place with a total of just eight points.

THE SUPER FANTASY DIVISION ONE

Includes all games played up to and including 1st August 1997

Pos.	Team	Manager	Pts.
1	The Flying Pigs	Adam Pritchard	46
2	The Wig Billies	Craig Hunting and Ian Brown	44
3	You Took Your Eggs And You Left	Giles Harrison	30
4	P.P.P.P. Part Deux	Scott Pritchard	22
5	The Greek Gods	Paul Cooper	18
6	Spartak Cheese's Vengeance	Michael Lucchesi	14
7	If Only.....	Phil and Regan Peggs	8
8	The Three Amigos	C. Jermy, N. Hunting & W. Harvey	5

PETRESCU SAVES THREE AMIGOS FROM EMBARRASSING DEBUT

It is not often, apart from in the case of Southampton, that you can justifiably label a side a 'one man team'. But if there was ever a better example than the Three Amigos I have not witnessed it because had Dan Petrescu, the Chelsea full-back, not scored a record seventeen

points last week then the team managed by Charlotte Jermy, Nicola Hunting and Wendy Harvey would have had a worst start to the season than our beloved Norwich.

The Romanian international still qualifies as a defender, even though he has been converted into a right midfielder, and has benefited from the new position as three goals and two clean-sheets from three games helped him to his record breaking total. Surely though he will not be able to keep this up all season and, unless the three managers quickly put their heads together and come up with a miraculous plan, he will witness his team fall into dire straits.

Fantasy Focus: Adam Pritchard
FLYING PIGS REACH NEW HEIGHTS

Change of direction offers fresh fortunes for Adam and allows judgements to surface
"I was bored with the Orange Squash series so I chose to change my team name", Adam Pritchard, manager of the Flying Pigs, informed me. This change, even though it is probably not directly linked, has brought a previously unseen journey to the top of the Super Fantasy First Division and, even though he is in the lower league, Adam has more points than any other manager.

The Flying Pigs, sponsored by the Spice Girls so that they now have a nice blend of brains and beauty, are currently on forty-six points and lead The Wig Billies by two. Adam's previous best finish was sixth place in the 1994-1995 season and he can easily do better than that this time (alliteration or what?).

Peter Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, has the most points in his squad with five clean sheets, achieved against Tottenham Hotspur, Southampton, Leicester City, Everton and Coventry City, making a total of twenty points. Adam also names the Great Dane's United team-mate Nicky Butt as one of his stars. The central midfielder can now be safely mentioned as one of the top five players in the Premiership for that position, the others being (in no particular order) Paul Ince of Liverpool, David Batty of Newcastle, Patrick Vieira of Arsenal and, also of United, Roy Keane. Yet the advantage that Butt has over the aforementioned quartet is that he is a much better attacker and will pick up a lot of assists as well as scoring a few goals.

Alongside Butt in the Flying Pig's midfield is Roberto Di Matteo, one of Chelsea's three Italians, who will benefit from the Londoner's new goal-scoring spree, if not from Ruud Gullit's rotational squad system. Adam also names Mark Wright, the Liverpool central defender, and Duncan Ferguson, Everton's giant striker, as his other key players. He is looking to improve his squad, probably bringing in Tottenham's Jose Dominguez for Andy Sinton, his fellow Spur.

On his journey towards the title Adam sees Craig and Ian's Wig Billies, Matt's Magicmen and Andrew's Apples And Pears as his main rivals. Of these three the latter, Adam says, will improve when Andrew goes off to Durham University because, "Eddie is a much better manager", although he quickly adds, "Andrew is a very dedicated manager and has already surpassed expectations for the season".

Maybe Adam has always been this way, or the new-found success has just turned him like this, but he is not shy from passing judgements on others. About his brother Adam says that, "He is a good manager, very dedicated, but he should spend more time on improving his squad rather than designing stuff for it". He is also critical of Michael's squad saying that, "He should buy a few non-Italians".

There are three managers that Adam laughs about when they are mentioned to him. Paul, he says, "Should trust his own instincts rather than listen to others. Look at the Vialli incident

when he listened to some others, better they remain nameless, and dropped him only for the Italian to score four against Barnsley". According to Adam, "Aaron is only in the league for fun, he wont win anything and if he does it will be a fluke. He hasn't tried to buy Ferguson yet, because he always has him, but he seems content with Bergkamp at the moment". Whilst Peter is simply, "A pain who I wont say too much about for risk of being rude".

The top two from last season also come under scrutiny, "Chubby fancies himself, I suppose someone has to, and it is good, if not unexpected, that he is doing badly. Lawrence always seems to get extra money from somewhere. He wont dominate but stands a good chance this year again because of his forward line". He also adds that, "Giles has done well, much better than expected".

Adam Pritchard is the biggest scorer of the season so far and so is allowed to cast judgements on other managers. How long he will last is the big question, but if he does fail sometime in the season then I am sure others will not hesitate to judge him.

A FEW THINGS OF INTEREST

- Next issue: Updates on the leagues, information on the cups and another Fantasy focus.
- Interviews for tapes are needed last week - do them now or face missing the recording.

FIFTEEN MEN AND A FANTASY

Edited By Ross Peggs

The only official newsletter of the 1997-1998 Super Fantasy Premiership and Division One

Volume Two

Issue Two

THE SUPER FANTASY PREMIERSHIP

Includes all games played up to and including 28th September 1997

Pos.	Team	Manager	Pts.
1	Jimmy Hill's Chin	Ross Peggs	110
2	Buttkickers IV	Lawrence Baynes	90
3	Crockford's Crackers Take III	Peter Crockford	64
4	Apples And Pears Tree	Andrew Prior	57
5	Matt's Magiemen; The Final Assault?	Matthew Jermy	55
6	Too Hot	Aaron Fenn	53
7	COBUWIF	Nick Jermy	51
8	Bushall; Fight To The Finish	Martin Edwards	42

ROSS MAKES A CENTURY AS RELEGATION BATTLE HEATS UP

Since the start of this glorious season there have only been eight weeks, and just seven with matches played during them, of Fantasy Football and already Ross is past the one hundred points mark. Finishing off his tremendous feat (he equalled the record held by Lawrence for the least number of playing weeks to reach the century) with a thirty-nine pointer, Ross owes his success to a fantastic squad including the double-figured quintet of Frank Sinclair, Eyal Berkovic, Emile Heskey, Matt Elliott and Paul Warhurst, as well as the thirty point Ian Wright. But Ross is not one to be easily satisfied and this week he has sold the whinging Patrick Blondeau to Andrew for £1.3m, the out of favour Jimmy Hasselbaink to Adam for £5.0m and the injury-prone Darren Anderton. To replace this threesome Ross has bought Rob Jones from Andrew for £2.3m, Paolo Wanchope for £6.0m and Ruel Fox. Only Lawrence looks like he has it in him to catch Bungay's very own Football encyclopaedia.

Yet Ross' milestone could almost go unnoticed due to the pending relegation this weekend. There are five teams that will be waiting anxiously come Monday night, and two of these will find themselves having second-rate Fantasies in the near future. Following the sacking of Chubby, Martin Edwards has taken over the bottom placed team and has his work cut-out trying to survive. The former manager did not choose his team wisely, leaving Blackburn's Tim Flowers on the bench for Barnsley's Dave Watson was just one instance of this, and Martin has already rearranged his side and dipped into the transfer market. The key players for Martin appear to be Michael Owen, Keith Gillespie, Rod Wallace and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer who are all capable of having big weeks, Martin must hope that they choose this week to do it.

THE SUPER FANTASY DIVISION ONE

Includes all games played up to and including 28th September 1997

Pos.	Team	Manager	Pts.
1	The Wig Billies	Matthew Earl and Peter Fuller	60
2	You Took Your Eggs And You Left	Giles Harrison	52
3	The Flying Pigs	Adam Pritchard	51
	Spartak Cheese's Vengeance	Michael Lucchesi	51
5	If Only.....	Phil and Regan Peggs	37
6	P.P.P.P. Part Deux	Scott Pritchard	36
7	The Greek Gods	Paul Cooper	32
8	The Three Amigos	C. Jermy, N. Hunting & W. Harvey	7

CHEESEY BREAKS RECORD AS PROMOTION RACE GETS EXCITING

With the fight for Premiership status getting tense Michael received a timely boost and flew up the table as he scored forty-two points last week. The main contributors to this were Leeds fullback Gary Kelly with twelve points, Derby forward Franchesco Baiano with eleven points and his team-mate Stephano Eranio, a full-back, with nine points. Yet this was still not enough to lift Michael into the top two and on Monday four other managers of three other teams will be waiting with baited breath to find out how they have done. Next week you will find new managers Matthew Earl and Peter Fuller, as well as Giles, Adam and Michael, either over the moon or as sick as a parrot.

Fantasy Focus: Michael Lucchesi

CHEESEY JUBILANT AS SPARTAK FINALLY GEL

Foreigners help Michael to record week and offer chance of Premiership Fantasies
"It took time but we finally gelled," explained Michael Lucchesi, manager of Spartak Cheese, to me earlier this week when we spoke. And gel they did as the patriotic Italian steered his side to a record breaking forty-two points week and shot up the table to joint third place from eighth, only one point out of the promotion places.

Before that eventful seven days Michael had been in last place struggling on a measly nine points. This was partly due to him being on holiday for the majority of the season and leaving his side in the care of a caretaker who was unable to swap his players around. Yet when Michael got back from his journey abroad he swapped around his team and he has finally found the right formula. He was upset with the taunts he received for being at the bottom of the table and is now pleased to be able to give those who were dishing out the taunts a taste of their own medicine, "They were all calling me 'rubbish' before but now it is them who are best described by that word".

Obviously, being a relative foreigner compared to the Suffolk Yokels, Michael is very much the Fantasy version of a Ruud Gullit or Arsene Wenger and like these he has brought in a number of foreign imports. Four Italians, two Norwegians and one from each of Iceland, Belgium, Switzerland, Portugal, France and South Africa must make Spartak Cheese the most cosmopolitan team in the leagues. But why so many foreigners so that he only has three British players? "I have nothing against your English football", explained Michael, "You play beautiful attacking football. But your players are too overpriced, for example although I would love to buy players such as Alan Shearer or Robbie Fowler they are far too expensive and I can get just as good foreign imports such as Franchesco Baiano or Paolo Di Canio for a couple of million compared to the ten or eleven that I would have to spend on Shearer or Fowler".

As far as the promotion race is concerned Michael is extremely confident, "I predict myself to finish first and Adam to finish just behind. This will also set me up nicely for the Premiership and I should be fifth or sixth when I go up". Michael also has a few transfers up his sleeve but was not prepared to share them, although he would like a new goalkeeper and a top forward, preferably foreign.

And for the rest of the season? "I honestly do not think that I will win the Premiership and will be happy with a top three position and a passport into Europe next season. Lawrence has somehow managed to do well again and Ross, flukily, has got too great a lead that I don't think anyone will catch him now". If his foreign imports continue to keep up their scoring records then Michael can be sure that, come next season, he will be taking his international team along a European journey.

their respective squads, Matt Le Tissier (ten points last week) for the former and Andy Cole (ten million last week) for the latter.

THE SUPER FANTASY DIVISION ONE

Includes all games played up to and including 8th November 1997

Pos.	Team	Manager	Pts.
1	You Took Your Eggs And Left	Giles Harrison	88
2	COBUWIF	Nick Jermy	70
	If Only.....	Phil and Regan Peggs	70
4	The Facts Of Life; The Shocking Truth	Martin Edwards	63
5	Greek Gods	Paul Cooper	59
6	The Flying Pigs	Adam Pritchard	52
7	P.P.P.P. Part Deux	Scott Pritchard	32
	The Three Amigos	C. Jermy, N. Hunting & W. Harvey	47

GILES PULLS AWAY AS THREE AMIGOS CATCH UP

After narrowly missing out on promotion last time around, Giles Harrison is virtually assured of achieving his goal this time. Since that decisive day he has scored twenty-nine points and is now eighteen ahead of the rest of the field. The main contributors to his scoring have been Steve McManaman with ten points and Dion Dublin with eleven. The last of Dublin's goals produced a moment of magic on the Danny Baker show on Talk Radio, his unrehearsed conversation with Danny Kelly went as follows:

DK: "I suppose you've heard about Dion Dublin's goal by now."

DB: "No, describe it to me."

DK: "Dublin ran off the pitch after a cross was collected by the goalkeeper as he couldn't stop. He turned around to see the 'keeper rolling the ball along the floor ready to kick it and so ran out from behind the 'keeper and booted the ball into the empty net!"

DB: "Was it given?"

DK: "Yes, Shay Given."

Completely irrelevant but a little entertaining.

With Giles almost certainly awarded promotion, two managers will find themselves battling it out for the other spot over the next few weeks. Nick Jermy and Phil Peggs are both currently on seventy points after contrasting starts to the season. The former started off in the top league and reached the dizzy heights of third before slumping into the relegation slots. The latter has so far been anonymous in the second league but has had a recent turn of form and could now be set to achieve his ambition.

The form guide shows that Phil is favourite to be promoted with twenty-four points in the last four weeks, in the same time Nick has only managed twenty, and if this is achieved the oldest manager in the league will surely have to thank John Hartson who has twenty-seven points recorded so far this season. However, Nick will be trying his best to stop him.

Perhaps the most exciting news this week is that The Three Amigos have finally caught Scott Pritchard up and are now set to remove themselves from the bottom spot for the first time this season. Forty-two points in the last four weeks tell their own story when compared to Scott's six and this is due to the efforts of Tim Sherwood, Dan Petrescu and Dean Sturridge. With Gianfranco Zola ready to turn on the form for the girls, Scott may well find himself bottom before long.

FIFTEEN MEN AND A FANTASY

an unofficial edition of the only newsletter of the super fantasy leagues 1997 /98 – an edition to bring you bang up to date with the latest facts and hype to make the next five weeks very exciting.

THE MOST EXCITING RACE EVER!!

the super fantasy premiership 1997 / 98				
		points	£ team	£ spend
1	BUTT KICKERS IV	185	38.5	8.6
2	JIMMY HILLS CHIN	181	41.9	6.5
3	SPARTAK CHEESE'S AVENGENCE	171	51.0	26.6
4	CROCKFORDS CRACKERS TAKE III	171	29.0	5.9
5	YOU TOOK YOUR EGGS AND YOU LEFT	165	22.0	10.8
6	MAGICMEN; the final assault?	140	43.3	16.6
7	BUD & ELI SUPREME	139	45.8	9.3
8	THE 3 AMIGOS	132	25.2	13.3

For the last 3 seasons the championship has nearly always been decided upon by late January. In 1995 on 28th January, Lawrence continued to lead the table as he had done since day one - and would finish 41 pts clear of 2nd place. In 1996 on January 27th Lawrence was again top this time by 19 points and like the previous year that is where he stayed - finishing 59 pts clear of 2nd place. At the same time last year on 25th January 1997 Lawrence had again taken control of the league and although it seemed to be a 2 horse race at the time, Bushall never caught up again and the Butt Kickers finished 41 pts clear again.

27th January 1995 / 96	
1. Butt Kickers	244
2. Wiggers Sex Gods	225
3. Bushall	215
4. Orange Squash Utd	212
5. C.O.B.U.O.O.A.	199

28th January 1994 / 95	
1. Butt Kickers	282
2. Bushall	250
3. Magicmen	232
4. Browns Boys	209
5. C.O.B.U.A.	196

25th January 1996 / 97	
1. Butt Kickers	233
2. Bushall F.S.C.	229
3. C.O.B.U.T.O.F	193
4. Magicmen IV	168
5. Jimmy Hills Chin	154

This year however it is alot different. Although Lawrence is top yet again, I personally feel that his team this year are not as consistent as previous years. For example, he went to 1st place for the first time this year on Boxing Day. But since then he has only got 1 point in 1998 to strengthen his lead with. The fact that he remains top just shows that the other run away leader also has a weak team of late with Jimmy Hills Chin failing to capitalise on Butt Kickers misfortune with -3 points since Boxing Day.

Because of the stumbles made by the leaders the race for the title has become wide open. Just 20 points separate the top 5, with Spartak Cheese (20 points in 1998), Crockfords Crackers (22 points in 1998) and You took your eggs and you left (34 points in 1998) becoming better and stronger with every week. I personally think that Ross's fire is more or less out (but I hope he proves me wrong!) but I do think that Peter (if he tries a bit harder) and Michael can both challenge a 'wobbly' Butt Kickers. I'd also like to see myself up there but I have firstly got to survive a relegation scare before I can plan my own strategy to claiming back the Championship, because I feel it could go all the way this time if the top lot continue as they are. Let's hope so - to make this season the most exciting race ever!!

MARTIN PLANS HIS OWN CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGE

the super fantasy division one 1997 / 98				
		points	£ team	£ spend
1	THE FACTS OF LIFE - the shocking truth.	143	52.5	2.8
2	APPLES & PEARS TREE	127	23.2	12.3
3	THE FLYING PIGS	126	26.4	17.2
4	TOO HOT	114	24.3	16.7
5	P.P.P.P. PART DEUX	107	24.5	14.9
6	COBUWIF	103	33.5	1.5
7	IF ONLY	98	21.0	14.3
8	GREEK GODS	86	26.9	9.7

When we first created the 'super fantasy division one' we hoped it would give the managers that spend most of the season in the bottom half of the league the opportunity to have their own exciting battle amongst themselves. However it seems that those who have been stuck in division one have plodded a long at the same pace, not really bothered that everyone else around them are just as bad and that a couple of players later they could be challenging with Martin to get up into the premiership. For Martin Edward's has worked wonders since he took the reigns after Chubby's disappearance.

Although he has sold the players that have cumulated 76 of his 143 points (that's just over half) and has taken alot of stick because of it, he has also bought alot of quality players to fill these enormous gaps. Teddy Sheringham, Leonardsen, Di Matteo and Michael Owen have taken the places of Le Tissier, Di Canio, Wallace, Solskjaer, Gillespie, Dixon, Hasslebaink, Riberio, Flowers and Redfern. I personally would have happily settled for that team of ex players but Martin has 3 more points than me so who am I to comment? Chubby left the team in a precarious position but Martin happily took over facing relegation right in the face. After all these transfers the team settled down and soon topped division one. If it wasn't for a freak week when the 3 Amigos got 20 odd points when everyone else was lucky to get above 3, The Facts of Life the Shocking Truth would have re joined the premiership at the first attempt. However he was left stuck in the lower league.

Since then Martin seems to have secured a promotion place while the hopeful few challenge almost 20 points below him. So now all he has to do is continue to improve his team and build a secure platform for which to start his championship challenge when he returns to the premiership.

From the rest of the challengers there aren't many to choose from. Apples & Pears continue to annoy everyone but I think Eddie has killed off any chances they had of winning anything by selling their 2 best players and not replacing them. The Flying Pigs have picked up form but this is mainly due to Duncan Fergusons run of form, proving my point about only needing a couple of star players to do well in division one. Although Too Hot are still there the sale of Pallester a few weeks ago has meant that only Bergkamp is left to hold the team together. The only other team I fancy is C.O.B.U.W.I.F. Relegated the first time round with Martin, Nick has dropped down to the murky depths of division one. With an average of 3 points per week for the last 18 weeks C.O.B.U.W.I.F. have lost the sparkle they used to have. However, the purchase of Redfern, Yorke and Ferdinand should see a difference in results, although the latter 2 haven't scored any points for several weeks. A return for Dominic Matteo has also boosted his hopes.

FIFTEEN MEN AND A FANTASY

Edited By Ross Peggs

The only official newsletter of the 1997-1998 Super Fantasy Premiership and Division One

Volume Two

Issue Five

THE SUPER FANTASY PREMIERSHIP

Includes all games played up to and including 1st February 1998

Pos.	Team	Manager	Pts.
1	Jimmy Hill's Chin	Ross Peggs	197
2	Buttkickers IV	Lawrence Baynes	196
3	Spartak Cheese's Avengence	Michael Lucchesi	187
4	Crockfords Crackers Take III	Peter Crockford	186
5	You Took Your Eggs And You Left	Giles Harrison	175
6	Magicmen; The Final Assault?	Matthew Jermy	155
7	Bud & Eli Supreme	Peter Fuller & Matthew Earl	153
8	The 3 Amigos	C. Jermy, N. Hunting & W. Harvey	141

PREMIERSHIP OPEN TO ALL COMERS AS CHASING PACK CLOSE GAP

As Ross Peggs moves back to the top of the table and joins the one thousand club, he will not be as happy as he might be when he looks back over his shoulder. For the chasing pack, led by Lawrence Baynes, have made sure that winning the Premiership will not be as easy a task for Ross to complete as it looked earlier in the season. The man in front was once twenty-five points up on his nearest rival but that has now been trimmed to one solitary point, and there are three teams within eleven points of Ross.

As well as Ross and Lawrence there are three, possibly four, teams in with a chance of success this season. Yet Ross stays as confident as he has been all season and maintains his argument that either himself or the three times previous winner are the only people who can win the Championship. The leader has been through a rough patch of late but has dipped into the transfer market and believes that he has come out of his mid-season lapse of form, as he explains, "Look at Manchester United. Their form has dropped recently but the majority of people still wouldn't bet otherwise than them winning the Premier League. I've had my bad period but at least I've come out of it top of the league, albeit not as well as I was doing before, but I think I am in for a good month and should pull away". The recent double signing of the Everton forward pairing of Mikael Madar and Nick Barmby seems to have paid off as they combine with the outstanding Eyal Berkovic. However, to pull away from the rest of the contenders, Ross will have to hope that Emile Heskey starts scoring soon and that Ian Wright and Jurgen Klinsmann both have quick returns from injury.

Lawrence, top for a few weeks, has made a tremendous surge of late but, just as Ross finishes his sticky patch, he seems to be entering a difficult period. The omens do not look good as Robbie Fowler, one of the Buttkicker's most potent weapons over the years, is struggling to score the goals that he has become so famous for. The deal with Michael Lucchesi involving the Italian parting company with one of his fellow countrymen Benito Carbone and gaining Mark Overmars, does not appear to be good business on Lawrence's behalf. Carbone has struggled lately, strangely coinciding with the news that he has learnt how to ask for a, "Short back and sides please Barber", and Overmars, who has already scored an incredible ten goals this season, looks as if he is going to carry on and match the magnificent feats of his fellow Arsenal countryman, Dennis Bergkamp.

In third Michael Lucchesi has shot up the table and, as a deadly rival of Ross', he has more reason than most to beat the firm English patriot. The leader has been known to say the odd

few words about his dislike of the Italians where football is concerned and Michael would love to put him in his place by beating him this season. Although he has parted company with Carbone he still has the Latin flair of Paolo Di Canio, Francesco Baiano and Stefano Eranio in his squad and these three have continued to impress everyone this season as they have helped raise Michael's Fantasy stature. The only down side to this trio is that as well as having all the skill that you would expect them to have, they have the Latin temperament to match and are all on the verge of serving suspensions. Infact Di Canio is just about to begin another period in the stands, however with the Spartak defence arguably being the best in the league the points should keep on coming. However, his recent business involving Jason McAteer has come out of the George Graham / Terry Venables / Brian Clough book of bungs and this behaviour should be noted by the Super Fantasy board.

Peter Crockford is only one point behind Michael and has been there or thereabouts all season. This is mainly due to the points scoring of Chris Sutton and Keith Gillespie who have been outstanding this year. The former, obviously a great favourite in this area, was undoubtedly the unluckiest person to miss out on the inclusion in the full England squad. The only suitable explanation to this is that Glenn Hoddle wants to try out Andy Cole with Teddy Sheringham on the international stage and Sutton, arguably the third front man in pecking order on form behind Alan Shearer and Cole respectively, is to start in the newly formed 'A' team, if he decides to put in an appearance, possibly with another local hero Darren Eadie in support.

Meanwhile Gillespie, who has been terrorising full backs all season, looks set to score even more points in the way of assists with the return of Shearer and the recent signing Andreas Andersson, very impressive against Villa on Sunday, a mean threat up front for the Magpies. Gillespie is one of the few players from the other British national teams that would be included in the English squad, the others being Ryan Giggs, Colin Hendry, Kevin Gallacher, Paul Lambert, Jason McAteer and Roy Keane, and the Irishman and Sutton will give Peter an excellent opportunity to win something this year if they carry on like they have been doing.

In fifth the amazing form of Dion Dublin has been the main reason why Giles Harrison has surprised many of us and is in with a chance of glory this season. Bertie Belfast has thoroughly deserved his call up to the full England squad and, with his capability to play in defence as well, should expect to be in France this summer. Giles is the subject of this issue's Fantasy Focus so naturally not too much can be said here but the sale of McAteer to Michael one day before he broke his leg in such a horrific way was a touch of genius.

Although a fair way behind the top five, Matthew Jermey should not be ruled out for success this season. Astute business has seen Matt pick up some key players in the last few weeks, notably the newly formed partnership of Shearer and Andersson up front not just for Newcastle but also for the Magicmen. Dennis Irwin and Gary Neville have also found their way onto the team sheet for The Final Assault, as has Nicola Anelka who has been a more than adequate replacement for Wright at Arsenal scoring two goals in as many games. Whether he will keep his place when the Legend returns will be a key factor, especially with Wright currently playing for Jimmy Hill's Chin.

Relegation looks a forgone conclusion excluding a miraculous escape by either Peter Fuller and Matthew Earl or Charlotte Jermey, Nicola Hunting and Wendy Harvey. This state of affairs does not give a good outlook on management partnerships and the former pair will be hoping that Jimmy Floyd Hasslebank carries on his magnificent run whilst the latter trio are sure to be hoping that their Continental contingent of Dan Petrescu, Gianfranco Zola and David Ginola start to score points along with Dean Sturridge, some good old British beef.

THE SUPER FANTASY DIVISION ONE

Includes all games played up to and including 1st February 1998

Pos.	Team	Manager	Pts.
1	The Facts Of Life	Martin Edwards	145
2	The Flying Pigs	Adam Pritchard	140
3	Apples And Pears Tree	Andrew Prior & Eddie Lynch	138
4	P.P.P.P. Part Deux	Scott Pritchard	118
5	Too Hot	Aaron Fenn	116
	COBUWIF	Nick Jermy	116
7	If Only.....	Phil & Regan Peggs	114
8	Greek Gods	Paul Cooper	97

THREE HORSE RACE OUT OF A LEAGUE FULL OF ONE MAN TEAMS

With only four Saturdays to go until promotion to the Premiership, Martin Edwards leads the race with two other serious contenders involved. The Division One leader has become known as transfer mad but two players have stuck out amid the comings and goings of the rest of the squad. Teddy Sheringham and Oyvind Leonhardsen, themselves involved in transfers during the summer, have been the main reason why Martin is top of the pile. The former has, not unexpectedly, been outstanding this season and is surely the main reason why Andy Cole has become one of the country's top forwards, it is also no coincidence that in the last two weeks when Martin has struggled Sheringham has been out injured. Leonhardsen, meanwhile, has been one of the most consistent players in the Premiership and has scored plenty of points from assists when he crosses in from the left flank and goals when he cuts inside and uses his fantastic finishing to full effect.

In second Adam Pritchard has benefited from the return to form of Duncan Ferguson who has been scoring and making goals with ease in the last few weeks. The big Everton forward has also been given the Captaincy and this has resulted in him increasing his effort for the team's benefit, an area that has not always been like it is now. The form of the Scottish giant has not just been a boost to the Toffees but has also given Adam a major push in his bid for promotion.

Currently in third are Andrew Prior and Eddie Lynch, maybe the most unlikely combination since Glenn Hoddle and Chris Waddle tried to become pop stars with 'Diamond Lights'. Their defence has been the main reason why they are pushing for promotion but as always a team who rely on their back five for points are going to be wobblier than Thomas Brodin in a skin tight lycra suit on an exercise bike.

With only the top three serious contenders for the step up in class, one has to wonder why this league is not as closely fought as the top division? The reason may be one of the oldest in the book because, with the exception of Nick's rebuilt squad, the other four managers have undoubtedly got one man teams.

Like Georgi Kinkladze at Manchester City, Ryan Giggs in the Welsh team and, although not anymore, Matt Le Tissier (G.O.D.) at Southampton, there are four prominent players in four teams. Scott Pritchard has been relying on Darren Huckerby for the last month and without the Coventry forward who knows where the junior Pritchard may now be? The same can be said of Aaron Fenn with Dennis Bergkamp and Phil Peggs with John Hartson. But perhaps the best example of this is Paul Cooper with Kevin Gallacher, the Blackburn forward has almost half of the Greek Gods' total and if the Scot has a bad week so does Paul. One also has to wonder how Adam will get on in the top division, if he gets promoted, due to his team being built around Ferguson.

The Fantasy Tape is almost complete. However, Matt still needs Paul Cooper's song: 'Lime in the Coconut' (?) - if anyone has a copy of this can they get it to Matt because every time we ask Paul we never seem to receive it. Alternatively, just give Paul a kick up the jacksie.

THE SUPER FANTASY CUP

Second Round Draw

You Took Your Eggs And You Left	v	Spartak Cheese's Avengence
The Facts Of Life; The Shocking Truth	v	The Flying Pigs
Bud & Eli Supreme	v	Greek Gods
Magicians; The Final Assault	v	Crockford's Crackers Take III

The First Round produced its fair share of interesting ties when the names were pulled out of the hat, and its fair share of shock results as well. Ross Peggs was unceremoniously dumped out of the competition by Giles Harrison, who now goes on to face Michael Lucchesi, the victor of Andrew Prior and Eddie Lynch. These are the two form teams and it is unfortunate that the two that now have to be the favourites face each other this early on, however this gives the lesser teams a chance and Giles is confident that, "Dublin, Scholes and McManaman will do the business", whilst Michael quite simply states that, "I'm going to win".

Martin Edwards, who would have lost every other tie in the First Round with an aggregate score of just eight points, goes on to face Adam Pritchard. The former beat Aaron Fenn and the latter was victorious over his brother, Scott, and Adam believes he now has a, "Real chance for success", but first he must beat his promotion rival.

The surprise of the First Round was that of Peter Fuller and Matthew Earl narrowly beating Lawrence Baynes, those two now go on to face Paul Cooper who beat the Girls in the earlier matches. Neither were available for comment but both must now know that, if they are to win anything this season, the Super Fantasy Cup is not just their best chance but also their only chance.

When Matthew High and Andrew Balls came to draw out the last pair of balls, everyone already knew what was in store. Matthew Jermy against Peter Crockford is the tie of the Round and it would be no surprise to see Rupert Murdoch banging on their doors to get the T.V coverage for Sky. This game is a hard one to call but Matt, who beat his brother, must be the favourite over Peter, the winner against Phil & Regan Peggs, although anything can happen in this pairing. Watch this space!

Super Fantasy Cup Betting Odds	Championship Betting Odds	Promotion Betting Odds
4/1 Michael Lucchesi	8/1 Ross Peggs	6/1 Martin Edwards
5/1 Giles Harrison	9/1 Lawrence Baynes	8/1 Adam Pritchard
9/1 Matthew Jermy	12/1 Michael Lucchesi	A. Prior & E. Lynch
11/1 Peter Crockford	20/1 Peter Crockford	15/1 Nick Jermy
20/1 Peter Fuller & Matthew Earl	25/1 Giles Harrison	25/1 Aaron Fenn
30/1 Martin Edwards	30/1 Matthew Jermy	30/1 Scott Pritchard
38/1 Adam Pritchard		40/1 Phil & Regan Peggs
50/1 Paul Cooper		

Only teams quoted at 50/1 or better shown - Odds supplied by Merson & Gillespie Ltd.

Fantasy Focus: Giles Harrison

NEW BOY DOES GOOD AS HE BECOMES SERIOUS TITLE CONTENDER

Five-a-side team is enough to see Giles in the Championship race along with his Friends
Throughout the course of this season we have welcomed ten new managers and five new teams into the Super Fantasy Leagues, shaken their hands, given them a pat on the back and wished them luck; all the time thinking that they would be destined to spend their time at the bottom of the league and only worry us when we tried to remember whose team was whose.

For nine of those managers and for four of those teams this has been the case for most of the season, but there has been one exception to the rule. Giles Harrison, manager of You Took Your Eggs And You Left (classic 'Friends' line), finds himself with almost two thirds of the season gone in fifth place in the Super Fantasy Premiership, twenty-two points behind the leader, in the second round of the Super Fantasy Cup, fifteen million pounds in the bank and a team whose name just puts fear into the managers around him.

As if all this was not enough, the worst part of this is that Giles does not, or at least we thought not, have a clue about football. Yet if this is to be the case, how do you explain the brilliance of the deal which saw Jason McAteer, the Liverpool full-back, leave Giles' team the day before he broke his leg? How does it explain that Giles has just been named Manager Of The Month for January? How also does this explain that Giles is in this position with a squad that only four of his players are gaining any points? And how does it explain how Giles managed to pick up these four international superstars for little more than fifteen million pounds?

Not surprisingly Giles does not know the answer to these questions either, so was it more luck than judgement that saw him pick up Alfie Haaland for £3m and 14 points, Paul Scholes for £3.7m and 18 points, the spittingly departed Savo Milosevic for £1.2m and also 18 points, Steve McManaman for £4.2m and 38 points and Dion Dublin for £4.8m and 49 points? "I suppose so, although I knew that they were quality players when I bought them. Looking at my squad they would be good in a five-a-side competition or even a basketball team". And how does he explain the strange phenomenon of Bertie Belfast scoring a half century and getting called into the England squad for the forthcoming international against Chile? "I just told him to think of Louise when he went out each week. I might tell Gareth Farrelly to do the same and anything could happen".

But it has not all been good news for Giles this season, the recent spitting incident involving Milosevic will soon see him leaving these shores for somewhere with plenty of spittoons to do his duty in. "That's disappointing news, he's been a good buy. But that is disgraceful what he did, he should be sold. I'm going to have to sell him, if I was Michael I would probably flog him to Ely, and buy a replacement for him. I've got plenty of money in the bank so this should not be a problem".

This money has just been topped up with a healthy bit of cash from the Manager Of The Month award for January, an achievement which Giles finds hard to believe. "When I joined this league I did so for a joke. I had no visions of this happening at all. I wanted to get world wide recognition but did not expect it so quickly". In the league he is not as confident as you would think he would be in his current situation, "I think that I've got a slim chance of coming top, but there is some pretty hard competition out there. Notably Ross and Lawrence, although that was my ambition to beat Lawrence". In the cup he thinks that he has the best chance for success, "I've told the players to concentrate on the cup, it is definitely my priority now. I stuffed Ross and think I can do the same to Michael in the next round".

Any other comments? Of course he did, "I would like to thank the academy and my producers to, and all those who voted for me. Oh, and Liz Mann". The way that he is going this season, it will probably not be the last time that Giles will have to write a victory speech.

FIFTEEN MEN AND A FANTASY

Edited By Ross Peggs

The only official newsletter of the 1997-1998 Super Fantasy Premiership and Division One

Volume Two

Issue Six

THE SUPER FANTASY PREMIERSHIP

Includes all games played up to and including 7th March 1998

Pos.	Team	Manager	Pts.
1	Jimmy Hill's Chin	Ross Peggs	237
2	Buttkickers IV	Lawrence Baynes	208
3	Crockfords Crackers Take III	Peter Crockford	203
4	Spartak Cheese's Avengence	Michael Lucchesi	201
5	You Took Your Eggs And You Left	Giles Harrison	200
6	The Facts Of Life	Martin Edwards	193
7	Magicmen; The Final Assault?	Matthew Jermy	187
8	The Flying Pigs	Adam Pritchard	165

CLOSEST EVER TITLE RACE SEES SIX TEAMS CHASE ROSS FOR GLORY

Since the last session of promotion and relegation is behind us the time has come to concentrate our thoughts and efforts on those teams who are competing for the ultimate prize, to be crowned the Champions of the 1997-1998 Super Fantasy Premiership. Nine weeks remain for eight teams, although more likely seven, to pit their wits mentally, tactically and, if things get out of hand, physically against each other as they strive towards their supreme ambition. It has never been this close before in the history of our sacred Fantasy League and unfortunately probably never will be again. So cancel all holidays for the next two months and enjoy what will be an event as amazingly entertaining as Newcastle United once were.

The reason for it being only seven teams competing for the trophy is that Adam Pritchard's likelihood of winning went the same way as Chris Sutton's chances of playing for England or Dennis Wise's of being given the fair play award at the end of the season. Still, the way things are going this season, it is not completely impossible for Adam to win the league but this would only happen should a leprechaun turn up on his doorstep with a horseshoe bracelet, rabbit's foot necklace and a lamp under his arm containing a wish granting genie. Sadly he is destined to stay bottom of the Premiership for some time to come although not because his team is bad but due to the strong squads that currently hold the positions above him.

In the league we like to be positive at all times, for example we encourage attacking play and teams not doing this are subjected to the same kind of abuse that a £15m rated defender would suffer, and due to this it must be said that the forward lines of the seven teams are going to play an enormous part in the last segment of the season. It is well known that towards the end of the year defenders seem to be struck down with some sort of virus that makes them concede an amazing number of goals, if I remember rightly two years ago thirty-seven goals were let in on the last day of the season. Obviously this means minus points to the boys at the back and plenty of plusses for the guys up front, especially with them trying to impress their international managers to earn a summer vacation in France.

Injuries seemed to have plagued the attackers in Ross Peggs' team as Nick Barmby, Jurgen Klinsmann, Mikael Madar and Ian Wright have all been receiving treatment lately, rumours are that Ross has appointed Kelly Brooks as his physio. However, the first three are all back playing and Wright is not that far behind so it could soon be goals galore for Jimmy Hill's Chin. Add this quartet to the talents of Eyal Berkovic, Emile Heskey and Paolo Wanchope and a formidable line up is formed. Ross has laid down the challenge to the rest of the Premiership

and is waiting to see if anyone will take up the invitation and attempt to close the thirty point gap that he has opened up.

With Wright on his way back it looks like Nicolas Anelka will soon be back on the bench and this will not please Matthew Jerny. Strangely this could be a blessing in disguise as it means that Matt does not have the headache, if this is the appropriate terminology, of selecting between the Frenchman and his other three quality strikers. Recent acquisition Darren Huckerby has been brought in to play along side the Newcastle pairing of Alan Shearer and Andreas Andersson, this should see that goals are no problem to come by for the Magicmen. Matt Le Tissier is obviously in the team and the rebirth of a Saint has been witnessed by many this season as the Messiah has started to arouse calls for his inclusion in the England squad again.

Another player who could be in this squad is Bertie Belfast and he has lead the line superbly for Giles Harisson all year. The swap of Steve McManaman for Paul Ince was a shrewd deal in favour of the Friend's fanatic and the Guvnor has been scoring points freely in the last few weeks. Another player rated highly by Glenn Hoddle is little Paul Scholes and the Manchester United forward scored a goal against West Ham to show why he is acknowledged as the best finisher at Old Trafford, it would be a big surprise if Scholes did not go to France. Someone who does not seem to know whether they are coming or going is Savo Milosevic and the longer the fastest spitter this side of the Atlantic stays in England the better for Giles.

The manager that was involved in the Ince and McManaman exchange was none other than Lawrence Baynes, three times winner of the Super Fantasy Premiership but currently slowly losing ground on Ross. Robbie Fowler, McManaman's fellow Spice Boy, is out for the rest of the season and this has left a gap in the team that Lawrence has attempted to patch up with Karl Heinz Riedle, also now injured. This leaves a massive weight on the little shoulders of Benito Carbone and the injury-prone Chris Armstrong and if Lawrence is to make it four in a row and make the rest of us feel like the metaphorical Celtic to his Rangers he will surely have to enter the transfer market before the deadline.

Two of the more successful Liverpool forwards are playing in Martin Edwards' newly promoted squad. Michael Owen and Oyvind Leonhardsen can't stop scoring points and this pairing combined with the newly signed Ole Gunner Solskjaer spells danger for the rest of the Premiership. In contrast to these big names, Peter Crockford seems to have opted for those that play for smaller clubs. Top guy Jan Aage Fjortoft of Barnsley, Nathan Blake of Bolton and Palace's Bruce Dyer will gain just as much points as players at the top end of the table as they fight the relegation issue out. Young phenomena Harry Kewell and the unpatriotic Sutton are on red hot form at the moment and the Big Man could be the one to put in the biggest challenge to Ross.

The attacking stars are shining so bright they could light up the bottom of the Mariner's Trench, however none of their previous form matters if they fail to deliver the goods when it counts: in the run in to decide the winner of the ultimate prize, the Super Fantasy Premiership.

FIFTEEN MEN AND A FANTASY PREDICTED PREMIERSHIP FINISH

Please not that this was not done with any biased but is infact the product of many hours of research
1st: Ross Peggs; 2nd: Peter Crockford; 3rd: Matthew Jerny; 4th: Michael Lucchesi; 5th: Lawrence Baynes; 6th: Giles Harisson; 7th: Martin Edwards; 8th: Adam Pritchard

TRANSFER DEADLINE

This is to be the same week as that in the F.A. Carling (second rate)Premiership. Get out your cash and spend, spend, spend and then spend some more.

THE SUPER FANTASY LEAGUE CUP 1998

For the last 3 years our league has joined forces with the St. James Fantasy Football League. However this year their league has grinded to a halt through lack of interest and after starting the cup back in September, it is now impossible to get both the points and money from members of that league. So instead we have started our own cup which costs every manager an additional 50 pence to the £2 everyone still owes me. Below are the matches and the results after the first legs...

GREEK GODS	7	2	THE 3 AMIGOS
-------------------	---	---	---------------------

Home advantage helps the division one side to victory over the troubled premiership side. Gallaghers hat-trick against Aston Villa was the main talking point giving Paul 9 points to add to Winterburns -2 while Nelson consequently got -5 because of a rampant Blackburn. I still fancy the 3 Amigos in the 2nd leg.

TOO HOT	-3	6	THE FACTS OF LIFE
----------------	----	---	--------------------------

The all division one clash sees Martin go away and win convincingly. I expect Martin to comfortably win the home leg aswell because Too Hot's problem has been their leaky defence since the departure of Gary Pallester.

SPARTAK CHEESE	8	3	APPLES & PEARS TREE
-----------------------	---	---	--------------------------------

Spartak Cheese (my tip for the premiership title) continue to climb the ladder of success. However Andrews team have an annoying habit of coming back from the dead so I won't right them off yet. With 2 Newcastle defenders it would only take one clean sheet for them to back in it with Ryan Giggs on form in midfield aswell.

THE FLYING PIGS	9	10	P.P.P.P.P. DEUX
------------------------	---	----	------------------------

In the first of 2 local derbies in the 1st round, Scott Pritchard has the edge in this exciting tie. Both teams had good weeks and I can't predict who will win between these 2 unpredictable teams.

IF ONLY.....	-5	3	CROCKFORDS CRACKERS III
---------------------	----	---	--------------------------------

Peter's poor week is bettered by Phil's as the premiership side takes the advantage. Unless Hartson can rescue Phil, Crackers should have a comfortable home leg.

BUD & ELI SUPREME	1	1	BUTT KICKERS IV
------------------------------	---	---	------------------------

Premiership strugglers hold premiership leaders to a draw at home. Although the experienced Butt Kickers should win the home leg, recent form might suggest otherwise. Probably the most exciting 2nd leg of the round.

MAGICMEN V	8	7	COBUWIF
-------------------	---	---	----------------

Magicmen take a thin lead to their local derby rivals at 'Onion Road'. In the past there have been 2 other derby matches between these two teams with each winning one match each. This is the tightest match between the teams but the premiership team should win through - especially with new signings Gary Neville and Dennis Irwin strengthening their defence.

JIMMY HILLS CHIN	-2	11	YOU TOOK YOUR EGGS ...
-------------------------	----	----	-------------------------------

A clean sheet for both Jason McAtter and Colin Calderwood plus a goal from Dion Dublin could have seen off any chance Ross has of winning this cup. Again current form suggests that he should receive a thrashing away from home aswell, giving Giles a ticket to the Quarter Finals.

The Super Fantasy Cup 1997-1998

1st Round - 1st Leg

Includes all games on 8th, 9th and 10th of November

GREEK GODS THE THREE AMIGOS

Paul Cooper Charlotte Jermy, Wendy Harvey & Nicola Hunting

TOO HOT THE FACTS OF LIFE - THE SHOCKING TRUTH
Aaron Fenn Martin Edwards

SPARTAK CHEESE'S VENGEANCE APPLES & PEARS TREE
Michael Lucchesi Andrew Prior & Eddie Lynch

THE FLYING PIGS P.P.P.P. PART DEUX
Adam Pritchard Scott Pritchard

IF ONLY..... CROCKFORD'S CRACKERS TAKE III
Phil & Regan Peggs Peter Crockford

BUD & ELI SUPREME BUTTKICKERS IV
Peter Fuller & Matthew Earl Lawrence Baynes

MAGICMEN; THE FINAL ASSAULT? COBUWIF
Matthew Jermy Nick Jermy

JIMMY HILL'S CHIN YOU TOOK YOUR EGGS AND YOU LEFT
Ross Peggs Giles Harrison

THE SUPER FANTASY LEAGUE CUP 1998

QUARTER FINALS ~ 1ST LEG

The excitement is boiling over as we continue with the league cup Quarter final stages. All ties show that the home teams have made good use of the home advantage with all four sides leading after the 1st leg. But have the away teams given themselves a good chance or have they given themselves too much to do in the 2nd legs. You decide...

18 7

YOU TOOK YOUR EGGS ...	9	2	SPARTAK CHEESE
------------------------	---	---	----------------

Dion Dublin does it again for Giles with his five points against Barnsley. A goal from new signing Paul Ince has also helped Giles to open up a seven point gap between himself and Michael's Spartak Cheese. With both teams placed 3rd and 4th in the premiership the tie is far from over - but "You Took Your Eggs and You Left" seem to be a strong cup team (just ask premiership leader Ross).

THE FACTS OF LIFE ...	✓ 13	10	THE FLYING PIGS
-----------------------	------	----	-----------------

These teams are the two dead-certs for promotion to the premiership this coming weekend. Martin heads the tie through a rare goal from Mr Ketsbia of Newcastle. However with The Flying Pigs having the home advantage in the 2nd league and with them being one of the form teams at the moment, Martin will find there is a lot of hard work left to do if he is to reach the semi finals.

15 15

GOAL ADVANTAGE ?

BUD & ELI SUPREME	9	4	GREEK GODS
-------------------	---	---	------------

One team is fighting to stay off the bottom of division one while the other is fighting to stay in the premiership. Bud & Eli Supreme and the Greek Gods are both very unpredictable. They both seem to take one step forward and then two back. The key players for both teams are Hasslebaink and Gallagher although it was Ostenstad double strike against Blackburn that gives Paul a fighting chance for the second league.

15 3

MAGICMEN V	12	+1	CROCKFORDS CRACKERS
------------	----	----	---------------------

Perhaps a surprise result after the first leg, what with Crockfords Crackers challenging for the title and Magicmen desperately trying to avoid the drop. Rumour has it that Crackers are the current holders of this trophy so they will need to put home advantage into good use in the second league if they are to successfully defend this prize.

(In the event of a tie the games will be decided by the number of goals a team has scored. As it stands; Giles = 1, Michael = 1; Martin = 1, Adam = 2; Bud & Eli = 0, Paul = 2; Matthew = 1, Peter = 0)

the super fantasy premiership league cup

SEMI FINALS 1st LEG

on Saturday 28th March

GREEK GODS

VS

MAGICMEN V

"The way we are playing at the moment there's nothing to worry about" - (Paul Cooper)

"Looking at their recent form, I'm very scared" - (Matt Jeremy)

YOU TOOK YOUR EGGS VS THE FACTS OF LIFE

"It's a tough draw, but I'll slaughter him. Tell Martin to hire a hearse ready!!" - (Giles Harrison)

I WILL WIN.
"Yeah good one"