

WFFL THE BOOK

edited by Darrell Whitehead
22. Aug. 2007



Table of Contents

WFFL 2007/2008 Season.....	2
By PC 5/8/07.....	2
by SO 29/7/07.....	4
WFFL 2006/2007 Season.....	6
By SO 14/05/07.....	6
By MT 14/05/07.....	6
By DW 15/05/07.....	6
By MT 28/01/07.....	6
WFFL 2005/2006 Season.....	8
By SO 14/5/06.....	8
By SO 2/1/06.....	11
WFFL Season 2004/2005.....	12
By SO 31/10/04.....	12
by VP 20/10/04.....	15
By VP 29/7/04.....	17
WFFL 2003/2004 Season.....	19
By VP 7/5/03.....	19

WFFL 2007/2008 Season

By PC 5/8/07

was the ibs irritable? did you come out of it as well as you'd hoped? are you now a contender? here's PC's (probably shite) analysis of the ibs.

First start with viv. A strong contender prior to the bidding, indeed many people's favourite following his double last season. however how would he fare given the time pressure under which he was to operate? well, he went in big for some assets and came away with a comfortable mixture of solid performers and superstar signings. viv is relying on frank lampard's broken toe not to be a cause for concern and didier drogba reproducing his scintillating form of last year but should those 2 bastions of wffl points perform to their capabilities, viv will be a strong contender for the title. a lingering doubt remains over his squad size and ability to cope with injuries as well as the lack of back up keeper for the reliably dodgy spurs. still, maybe with a bit of wheeler dealing viv can once again stamp his authority on wffl and prove the cup is his, for keeps.

Now, to perennial runner up mr t. went gung ho for cristiano ronaldo, will be relying strongly on him scoring another 18 goals from midfield. perhaps this style of bidding suggests a more risk taking approach to wffl from the usually cautious mr t. will this slight sea change bring about what has surely been on the cards for a number of years now? not unsurprisingly leaving his money until the very end, mr t managed to snap up some incredible bargains to solidify his team. a definite title contender, maybe this year will finally be his.

Last year's third placed finish PC came away from the bidding in a better position than he had in recent years. is this an ominous sign given his recent form? probably not as he's bound to fuck his team up in a deal along the way. however some calculated gambles in nani and rotating keepers to get a strong outfield which should not be short of goals from both midfield and up front, paul will be hoping that gerrard rediscovers his best form as liverpool look to make this year a title push. solid in every area this is a team which could be a title contender with perhaps a few canny deals to assist.

Big things were expected of the next candidate stuart. a few years of poor form by his standards looked set to be eradicated with a solid defence of terry and agger plus a top 4 keeper to boot. sadly the enthusiastic spending early on cost him in the latter stages of the bidding and he was unable to pick up the bargains which are likely to score big points. another season of mid table mediocrity beckons, unless he can pull off some real transfer coups in deals which we all know this man has the talent to do.

Next to follow is mark. not really a contender since the early years although with clearly the talent and dedication in research to be so. left plenty of money for the end of the session and used it well with some smart buys, notably gael glichy for 0.1m and benni mccarthy, who if he produces last season's stunning goals tally will be an astounding purchase for mark. perhaps slightly lacking in superstar wffl performer to use in a deal or just for points but making up for this with solidity at the back and in goal. will this be enough to top the table come may? only time will tell. a definite contender.

and, the conundrum. daz. has followed the sensational route of 8 strikers and each one of

quality, although there's no doubting who will be his first 3. has potentially made the inspired signing of the season in arjen robben, if he stays in the country, and has some quality throughout midfield with solidity in defence. and with the foresight to leave money aside for further signings daz could be a real contender this year. but with such a large squad, he'll have a tough time picking who to play each week, but with the names he has at his disposal and some hard graft, this year could be the year for daz.

and finally, to the superstar. singlehandedly ruined any chances of winning the title by a late night drinking session which left him vomiting whilst other competitors were bidding. unfortunately the wooden spoon really does have his name on.

post bidding odds may look something like this:

viv: 7/1

mr t: 6/1

paul: 6/1

daz: 7/1

mark: 6/1

stuart: 15/1

superstar: 250/1

a very close season seems to be in the offing. 3 favourites with 2 others so close behind. who will prevail to lift the trophy at ibs 2008? let the games begin....

By SO 29/7/07

Its going to be an interesting season thats for sure. Rule changes and potential new stars entering the fray. The only thing for certain is that the winner is uncertain. Could be any 1 of 8, but who's going into the season with form? who's expected to challenge? who's under pressure? Who will triumph?

Vivek - Viv is Manchester United. Long time domination yet usurped in recent seasons by a from nowhere fairytale of Currie. Victory last year was built on a blend of fantastic signings and good old fashioned street savvy. One of the big favourites, if not the favourite. A WFFL legend, no-one will ever top what this team has in the recent past.

Matt - Matt is Liverpool, perenial runner up. Has a strong WFFL pedigree and cup tradition however title success has so far eluded him. Some big investment should help Liverpool finally live up to the hype, will Matt live up to his? Consistency is Matt's key, will he risk his sure fire 'contender' tactics in a win or bust move? Time will tell.

Paul - Paul is Chelsea. Recent success after previously flattering to deceive. A more consistent challenger nowadays and has proven he can handle the big names. Transfer dealings will make and break the season for Paul - will he return to Success Street of Loser Lane? With the special one, we never can tell although recent evidence suggests a taming of the beast.

Stuart - Dreadful recent history verging on the disgraceful for this once proud member of the WFFL elite. Lack of passion and skill has seen a fall from grace the likes of which WFFL has not before known. Can the fallen ex-champion claw himself of the canvas for one last Rocky-esque moment of Glory? Spurs are unfortunately my parallel team, potential yet always seeming to find shit in a field of gold. Cannot be considered a contender given recent history.

Mark - A skilful player who once was as consistent as we see Matt is today. On his day there are few better, other days he can get beaten by anyone with a bit of passion. A WFFL veteran, Mark has a sharp analytical mind and employs sound tactics. What will the most thoughtful planner of WFFL make of the new rules. Will he have figured out how to beat the system? Like Arsenal has lost the mainstay of his team, Henry. Plays a nice game, can he reclaim the top ground though?

Daz - Complete nut case. The one man no-one can predict, could win it at a canter or do a Sunderland and finish miles adrift. About as un-predictable as life gets, predicting Darrell's WFFL performance is more difficult than predicting the tour de france winner. A likeable rogue of the game, he's never far from the news and will hope some innovative methods will help him maximize his potential. Daz is Newcastle.

Sammo - Deep down there is some massive talent here, deep down. A talent spotter to match any in the game he will no doubt pull a rabbit out the hat and find the 20 goal a season nobody. Can he back this up with solid buys? Depends how long he can stay serious and resist the idiot inside. Transfer dealings have in the past gone tits up, if he can halt this mid table beckons. If he is in sufficiently inspired mood come August 4th then he's once again a dark horse. Sammo is Boro.

Trev - Is he in? Who's pulling his strings? A complete WFFL unknown, a virtual new squad

is starting here. Will he do a curbishley and buy everyone in sight or a Roeder and flop?
With West Ham I personally never know, they are the good, bad and Ugly of football. I
don't know how either Trev or West Ham will do.

Oxton's odds therefore are:

Viv 2/1f

Matt 5/2

Currie 7/1

Stu 9/1

Mark 14/1

Trev 20/1

Sammo 40/1

Daz 66/1

WFFL 2006/2007 Season

Position	Competitor	Premiership Points
1	VP	335
2	MT	290
3	PC	255
4	SO	230
5	JH	209
6	MK	192
7	DW	179
8	RS	140

By SO 14/05/07

Another awful performance from Oxtonovic United. Sources close to the club believe manager Stuvart Oxtonovic will be made to retire by the board due to the shocking downturn in recent years. Some say that the magic has just gone from Oxtonovic's management.

By MT 14/05/07

Meanwhile, Temple City manager and perennial runner-up Matthew Temple is feeling the pressure. After finishing 2nd for the third time in four seasons, Temple was said to be "concerned" amid speculation that the Temple City board were reviewing his position. Rumours persist that outgoing Oxtonovic United manager Stuart Oxton is being considered for the role, due to his proven track record and ability to deliver the title. The club has, thus far, refused to comment.

By DW 15/05/07

Despite poor league performance and pre-season financial scandal, Daz is to remain as manager for next season, the board of directors have stated. Supporters put this down to managing the team to the 2007 cup finals. Critics accuse Daz of honeymooning on World Cup triumph last year.

By MT 28/01/07

After another frantic weekend of FA Cup action, several of the WFFL Cup Quarter-Final ties remain in the balance. The Semi-Finalists will be known after the 4th Round Replays.

DW 28-28 PC

It's all square, these two just cannot be separated. Daz, however, is surely in the driving seat. He has Arsenal DF and Adebayor to play, with Hleb almost certainly out injured. However, a Bolton victory could swing the tie Paul's way.

MK 31-35 RS

Ruwan has extended his slender lead and, with Rosicky and Fabregas to play, must fancy his chances. Don't write off Mark, however. He has Stelios and the indomitable Henry.

JH 43-39 MT

I was resigned to defeat after the events of the 3rd Round but, somehow, I'm back in with a shout. I'll need performances from both Yakubu and Arsenal, however.

SO 21-36 VP

Stu needs a minor miracle to turn this around. Still, with Arsenal GK, Baptista, Nolan and Anelka to perhaps feature again, all things are possible.

WFFL 2005/2006 Season

Position	Competitor	Premiership Points
1	PC	418
2	MT	367
3	DW	322
4	VP	317
5	MK	310
6	SO	305
7	RS	122

Position	Competitor	FA Cup Points
1	MT	73
2	SO	65
3	DW	60
4	MK	41
5	PC	40
6	VP	27
7	RS	27

Position	Competitor	World Cup 2006 Points
1	DW	145
2	MT	128
3	VP	126
4	PC	76
5	SO	65

By SO 14/5/06

Firstly, congratulations to Currie and Temple for their respective WFFL championship and WFFL cup triumphs - the two best managers all year deserve to share the 2 titles available. Special mention goes to Daz however, for what is a great breakthrough season, if all is fair in love and WFFL he will win the World Cup WFFL title.

Personally this has been an awful season and completed the most spectacular fall from

grace since Hugh Grant 'hooked up' with a Devine being in LA. These types of seasons can make or break a career, either you come back with a bang or spiral into a pit of doom. Time will tell but pit of doom looks more likely.

Viv had an 'ok' season by his high standards. Not a cup man by nature, its his all or nothing WFFL approach to the title that will probably make this season a disaster in his personal opinion. However a top 4 finish and a few deals in which he returned to his old 'raping of your friends team' way of WFFL'ing indicates the bitch may well be back and roaring into the new season. One to watch for 06/07.

Kingsenko Hotspurs spent the season in 6th with a big margin to the 3 way battle for 3rd. However a storming end to the season saw Mark claw his way up to 5th and thus ending the season on a slightly more positive note. A big name in WFFL, Mark will surely come back for one last hurrah at the title soon. Will it be next season? There's definately a chance.

Matt was unfortunate that Paul took such a huge initial lead and that his season only really took shape in November. It'd be interesting to see a points table going from December - May, my feeling is that Matt would be very close to 1st. Another solid season for Templinho City, however I dont think this will be acceptable to our very own 'nearly man'. Expect a strong challenge from Bebington's own Matthew Temple next season.

Darrell Whitehead is the ultimate WFFL enigma, with an often puzzling bidding style and team selection. But it works, it really does. I hold my hands up to calling Daz and a lot of the things he does 'crazy' as its sometimes difficult to put your finger on the word needed to describe them. However the consistent success he has had this season leads me to think he has a method to his madness. For me new rules come and go, some improve the game some don't. But the single best thing to happen to WFFL in the last few years is DW's participation - certainly livens it up for me. Congratulations Daz, keep it going for next season.

Sammo had, to be fair zero chance for this season as circumstances conspired against him. Last place, and the dreaded wooden spoon always had his name on it for 05/06. Kudos must go to Ruwan though for his participation and in particular his spots on Harewood and Benayoun, though I suspect PC's enthusiasm for anything WFFL was the reason we saw a Sammorano Rovers team put out this season. A write off for him, I wouldnt take this as a sign when pondering potential challengers for last season, when he cares Ruwan is a class act. Would love to see him come to the bidding, donning his shades and suit and get a team capable of winning - I think we'd then see a more prominent Sri Lankan presence on the WFFL boards and transfer market.

And last but not least we have our champion Paul Currie, the dedicated and passionate leader of Di Currio Rovers. I digress at this point to discuss Paul's team name. Has he ever had a city,rovers,united etc after Di Currio? We all seem to have them but I couldnt think of one for him. Di Currio if shortend to DC could link up well with United, but I think in honour of Paul's unique passion for the game we have to look stateside. Names such as metrostars and glory are common in the MLS - think we need one of them for Di Currio. Suggestions on a postcard please gentlemen.

Anyway, few could argue that more than anyone Paul deserves this title due to his continued commitment and lets face it - sadness. The 2 essential parts of a WFFL champion, and Paul oozes these from every pore and from every breath he breathes. His picks of Pedersen and, in the early season - Arsenal Defence combined with his

persistence and skill in the transfer market made him the champion that he has become.

Each year the champion has his 'main man' and MGP (as we now all know him) is most definitely Paul's main man, so much so its become a bit of an obsession and a Saturday afternoon love affair between Paul, Geoff and MGP. Anyone who's witnessed Paul in front of Soccer Saturday will know what I mean when I say its quite scary how much he cares.

And its with that that I nominate Morten Gamst Pedersen as WFFL's MVP - the man who won the title.

Other players worthy of mention are the usual crew of Henry , Van Nistelrooy , Lampard and Chelsea defence and keeper who once again scored highly and consistently. However their high prices counter their effectiveness and eligibility for star man awards. Therefore I nominate Steve Gerrard, Didier Drogba, Robbie Keane and Joe Cole as runners up to MGP due to their relative low cost and high scoring.

Young or breakthrough player of the year is a tie between Marlon Harewood and Darren Bent from coming out of obscurity to scale the heights of the WFFL cost to points ratio. Bent probably shades this though for me.

The flops of the year are Shaun Wright Phillips , Freddie Ljungberg , Damian Duff , Arjen Robben and Jermain Defoe who all came into the season with big price tags and failed to deliver.

Now for the part of the show where I make pointless comparisons between the respective seasons of the managers and premiership teams.

Paul is Chelsea for obvious reasons.

Matt is Man Utd for leading the chase and for his continued presence in the top 3 of the WFFL hierarchy.

Daz is Spurs for being the surprise package of the year.

Viv is Arsenal as he hung on to a credible finish despite being in transition.

Mark is Newcastle as the late season surges got both onto the brink of the big time but ultimately flattered to deceive.

I am West Ham for a good but ultimately fruitless cup campaign and a premiership campaign that faltered towards a unsatisfactory conclusion when you consider that a much higher placing was definitely on.

Ruwan is Sunderland as they were always out of the hunt, never really got started and having a team of players who just couldnt cut it in this standard of competition.

Odds for next season? On the basis of recent dominance I'd have Paul as favourite with Mark 2nd. Matt and Viv joint 3rd with myself 5th, Daz 6th and Sammo an outside bet.

Will Matt be able to shake off his nearly man tag?

Will Viv or myself roar back to glory?

Will Daz be able to sustain and build on his great season?

And, just how will a fully fit Sammo fare in the lions den of WFFL?

How many times have I said WFFL in this waste of an hour report?

Answer - 17!

In conclusion another funny season with several highs and a few lows for all of us but ultimately a pleaseure to be involved in. Long may it continue, see you all next season.

By SO 2/1/06

The usual turn of the year analysis...

Where else can you start but with the uber dominant [Paolo Di Currio](#). He set off like a train and despite a slight dip in form and lower scoring his lead is still intact and very impressive. The clear favourite, it will take something incredible for Mr C to lose. Di Currio rovers have been twinned with Chelsea. Could we be seeing this in May?..

The chase is being led by a resurgent [Mr Temple](#). Clearly the second best team in the league this year, this really is Matt's chance to win the elusive title. His solid all round team and appetite for victory has ensured he has charged up the table in the past few months. Will require a slip up from PC or a storming last few months to be lifting the trophy in May, then again wouldn't put it past him. Matt is, of course... Liverpool. Watch out for the charge!

3rd place is pretty much up for grabs now, with the slight favourite the reigning champs [Vivaldo City](#). A masterstroke of a deal recently has seen Vivek emerge as an outside title hopeful but more likely a solid 3rd place finish. Fans won't appreciate thoughts drifting to next season, but Vivaldo City are definitely re-building and possibly settling for 3rd. If the team gels then who knows...

Viv is Manchester United (haha bet he'll love that

Next up is [Oxtonovic Utd](#). A poor season really but still in the hunt for 3rd. The team is missing an inspirational leader and can no longer rely on a solid backbone, in fact it's been a bit of a miss match season. A good run and 3rd is possible, a fading 2nd half of the season could lead to the unimaginable - missing out on Europe all together. I am Arsenal.

[Daz](#). What can we say about the Crazy Gang Dazarazu Rovers?! Well, he has the best outfield in the game in my opinion, his season was always going to depend on how his defence and keeper fared such was the risky game he plays. Everton's dodgy form has definitely held him back and Boro's tendency to concede even if winning is the main reason he's fighting for 3rd not 1st. I can't tell how Daz will fare in the second half of the season, he could win it or come 6th, if Everton start grinding out 1-0's there should be no stopping him...

Daz is Spurs, a genuine outside bet!

[Mark](#) is a bit of a sleeping giant in WFFL terms, so close so many times and no premiership success. A strong outfield and defence, many thought his keeper could be his downfall but the team has mainly suffered from inconsistency. Saying that he's a strong candidate for 3rd, if a few of his big players start scoring consistently then who knows. The chase for 3rd is just so close this year with Mark, myself, Daz and Viv, and with the other teams already taken I couldn't really think of a team for Mark, he should be a Liverpool, but as that's been taken I'll go for.. Newcastle on the basis they're the only ones who've previously gone close. Sorry dude!

Last but not least it's [Sammorano Rovers](#), a late starter, is it too late to avoid the dreaded wooden spoon? Who knows, a January spending spree could well save him. All over the field he's just not got the strength to push further instead relying on grinding out results. He's not a no hoper so that rules out Sunderland(!) so Sammorano is.. Birmingham

WFFL Season 2004/2005

Position	Competitor	Premiership Points
1	VP	434
2	MK	391
3	MT	326
4	DW	312
5	PC	294
6	SO	271
7	RS	240

Position	Competitor	FA Cup Points
1	SO	77
2	MT	71
3	MK	64
4	PC	29
5	VP	26
6	DW	23
7	RS	11

By SO 31/10/04

At the moment it looks like a 4 way battle for the title and a 3 way battle for the wooden spoon. Can anyone bridge the ever widening gap between 4th and 5th? Will anyone tragically fall from grace? Who will pull off that killer, winning deal? Will January transfer window swing the title in someones direction?

Who has the best...

Goalkeeper

Vivek / Chelsea - the meanest defence, most clean sheets - clear winner IMO. Whilst Arsenal and Man Utd have very good Goalkeepers and defences they tend to play more open football and tend to win 4-1, 5-1 rather than solid 2-0 chelsea wins.

Defence

Vivek - Chelsea

Once again, meanest defence, most clean sheets etc. Add to this the goal threat of Terry & Gallas in particular aswell as Wayne Bridges assists. The combination of the two is risky though.

Midfield

Matt - Ronaldo , Berger , Ljungberg , Robert , Murphy

Big goal threat and assists aswell as depth gives Matt the edge over Darrell's star studded midfield. The midfield is the engine room of a sustained challenge, Matt will definately be there or thereabouts this year.

Strikers

Tie : Mark & Stuart - Henry , Angel / Anelka , Drogba

This was too close for me to call without bias. Henry is worth 2 class strikers on his own due to goals and assists aplenty, but the back up is limited in light of Forsell & Vassell's injuries. My strikeforce has 5 'quality' forwards but none in Henry's league.

Team by Team analysis

Paul

Keeper - 4.5/10 - weak point of his team. Birmingham and Villa tend not to concede many but often concede 1. Could cost him the title.

Defence - 5/10 - like his keeper will let him down with lack of clean sheets. Goal threats will be occasional.

Midfield - 8.5/10 - plenty of goals and assists in his first 3, one quality sub and he'd be 9 or 10'ing this one.

Strikers - 8/10 - doing well at the moment but the goal threat of Smith & Rooney won't compare to that of an Henry or Drogba. Good, very good in fact but lacking that one 25 goal a season man. Good depth of strikers though. **Total - 26**

Mark

Keeper - 7.5/10 - Best team in the land. Unfortunately for Mark they have a tendency to concede 1 often due to an attacking policy. Potentially can keep any team out if needed.

Defence - 8/5/10 - Good defensively and in Heinze and Silvestre pose a big goal scoring threat. Score lowered by their attacking play and 3/4/5-1 victories not clean sheets.

Midfield - 4/10 - In Wright-Phillips Mark has one of the bargains of the season and a potential big FF scorer with goals and assists. Unfortunately the rest of his midfield isn't. Still a GOTM win and January purchases could change that. The one area that could let him down title wise.

Strikers - 9/10 - Henry. Says it all. **Total - 29**

Matt

Keeper - 8/10 - Solid but not sure on how many clean sheets they'll get compared to Chelsea.

Defence - 7.5/10 - Brilliant team but seem to concede often. No real goal threat from defence either and a tendency to be red carded.

Midfield - 9/10 - Great set of midfielders FF wise. Could be the reason behind a succesful season.

Strikers - 8.5/10 - Close to being the best strikeforce. Reyes has been amazing this year and Yakubu will continue to score as will Shearer. Still if 1 of these 3 picks up an injury the back up isnt as good as others. **Total - 33**

Ruwan

Keeper - 6.5/10 - Not quite solid enough yet to be a title contender and have a tendency to concede. Good amount of clean sheets counters this to a degree though.

Defence - 8/10 - Riise & Finnan classed as defenders and playing as wingers signals

happy days for 'The One True Superstar' or TOTS as he's sometimes known.
Midfield - 7/10 - Scholes will surely start firing and is well capable of 10-15 a season.
Backup seems consistent enough.
Strikers - 6.5/10 - Cisse is a huge loss to TOTS, still he has Horse man so its not all bad
FF wise. How long AJ keeps up his form and how long Fowler can keep off the burgers will
hold the key to TOTS's season. **Total - 28**

Stuart

Keeper - 3/10 - Awful, lacks clean sheets - loses points. Hopes clinging to Villa.
Defence - 5.5/10 - Concede lots but score and assist so counters it to a degree. This
combo of keeper and defence mean I'm more likely to be fighting for the wooden spoon
than title and final placing will depend on how Souness does with the defence.
Midfield - 7/10 - Huge amount of faith in Robben being amazing. Needs 1 more quality
midfielder to score consistently high enough to challenge.
Strikers - 9/10 - Drogba and Anelka should both score 20+ and JFH should get 15 + lots of
assists. Add to that the back up of Kezman who should start firing at some point and the
reliable Bergkamp as reserve. **Total - 24.5**

Vivek

Keeper - 9/10 - Tight defensively, clean sheets - bonus.
Defence - 9.5/10 - Best asset in the game, as near to the 10/10 as there is . Potentially a
title winning combo.
Midfield - 6.5/10 - Does the job it needs to. Depends on how Stevie G's future plays out in
January.
Strikers - 7.5/10 - All great players but may not play often enough. A January move for
Saha could clinch the FF title. **Total - 32.5**

Darrell

Keeper - 3.5/10 - Will suffer in the same way Paul and I will. Gambled on the big name
midfield, paid for it here.
Defence - 5/10 - Clever defence switching could make or break the season for Darrell. If
he can alternate the defences succesfully then he could start challenging the big 4.
Midfield - 8.5/10 - Only thing keeping the score low is the lack of backup. 1 injury here
could condem Darrell to the wooden spoon, a lucky season injury wise and he'll be 5th.
Strikers - 4/10 - Gudjohnson is not a 20 a season striker and Pederson will score 10 if he
has a good season. Lack of depth again should proove costly. **Total - 21**

So, who will win then?

Well Matt and Viv will fight it out right to the end with Matt a narrow winner by 10 or so
points. The final table should end up something like this :

Matt [33] - **475**
Vivek [32.5] - **465**
Mark [29] - **440**
Ruwan [28] - **400**
Paul [26] - **390**
Stuart [24.5] - **330**
Darrell [21] - **310**

by VP 20/10/04

Comparison between the two years

The standings at the end of week eight in the 2003/04 season were as follows:

Templinho - 107
Oxtonovic - 92
Kingsenko - 63
Vivaldo - 54
Sammorano - 49
Di Currio - 42

The standings at the end of week eight in the 2004/05 season are currently:

Pos. Manager Total

1 .. Di Currio ... 98
2 .. Templinho ...93
3 .. Vivaldo 92
4 .. Kingsenko ...90
5 .. Oxtonovic ... 63
6 .. Sammorano ...46
7 .. Dazarazu 45

The final standings at the end of the 2003/04 season were:

Oxtonovic | 402 (c)
Templinho | 372
Kingsenko | 359
Vivaldo | 291
Sammorano | 203
Di Currio | 183

The Seventh Player

I think we are already seeing the effects of the addition of the seventh player to the established six. With the good players in The Premiership now shared between 7 and not 6 teams, each team has fewer good players per team and hence the points total of the top teams is less this year than last, and there is less difference on average between the points of each team.

In 03/04, at this stage a total of 407 points had been scored, an average of 67.8 points per team.

In 04/05, we note that 527 points have been scored at an average of 75.3 points per team.

Now it must be said that I am unsure as to whether or not the same amount of games have been played in The Premiership at this stage in either season, but still, it seems to suggest that the managers of WFFL are on the whole IMPROVING their performances. This astonishing fact has severe ramifications, as shall be discussed below in greater detail. Oxtonovic is the only one who has significantly fallen from grace, and though Templinho and Sammorano have fewer points their positions in the league between the two years are not greatly affected. Kingsenko, Vivaldo and Di Currio have shown a

tremendous increase in their points totals if we compare the two years; though interestingly Kings' team is in a worse position in the league table at this stage this year than he was last year.

Who Will Win?

If we interpolate the results to estimate the final position working on the (somewhat loose) assumption that we are currently 2/9'ths of the way through the season, the final league table would work out as follows:

- 1 .. Di Currio ... 441
- 2 .. Templinho ... 419
- 3 .. Vivaldo 414
- 4 .. Kingsenko ... 405
- 5 .. Oxtonovic ... 285
- 6 .. Sammorano ... 207
- 7 .. Dazarazu 203

This is misleading however, since if we considered last years results, Temple should have ended up on 481 points, over one hundred points fewer than he actually obtained. In addition, Viv and Kings made huge gains as the season wound on, beating their projected scores by great margins. I personally feel that a points haul in the region of 400 would be enough to win this years title - and that in itself poses certain problems for certain managers.

A Failed Gameplan?

In particular, my personal gameplan was to aim for a total in the region of 330 points, which, given the fact that there are more players this year than in the past, I had felt would lessen the amount of points needed to win from the previous year. This was the reason i went all out for the best defence and keeper in the league; i had gambled on 20-25 clean sheets generating me 180-225 points and be 2/3 of the way to victory. However;it now seems that the needed winning total will actually be GREATER, not less, than the previous year and thus it seems more suited to a team that has outstanding outfield players - for as i have indicated, even the best defence and keeper can only realistically get you half way to the winning post. My outfielders could thus fall short at the final hurdle, and for this reason i now make Temple the outstanding favourite for the title, followed by Di Currio and myself and Kings equal third.

By VP 29/7/04

Main Features: Chelsea provides the most players in our game as it commences. Their high profile players, their status as one of the favourites for the league and the fact that no one knows who Mourinho will play perhaps mean this was to be expected. Somewhat surprisingly, Tottenham provide 6 players and Manchester City 4 – the WFFL managers clearly expect the poor seasons these teams suffered last year to be mere blips. Arsenal, the best team in the country by a mile last year, surprisingly only offers the 5th most players in the league. However, though their assets are relatively few they are expensive – the goalkeeper, Pires, and Henry being the most expensive in their respective positions, and their defence being the second most expensive. The most expensive assets in the game, somewhat unsurprisingly, were Henry, Van Nistelrooy, Pires and the Chelsea defence.

You in the shirt!: Credit goes to Kings for buying two players called Davi(e)s, both from Tottenham, both midfielders, both for 1.2 million. (did someone say both shit?).

Slowly but surely: Oxton's tactic evidently was one of patience: he bought only two players in the first 40 deals, but then proceeded to buy 10 of the next 20 players available, and in doing so had the longest run of 4 consecutive purchases.

Star piece of bidding? Currie with the Aston Villa Defence. By going for his trump card immediately when no-one else knew what the going rate for a defence would be he managed to pick up a potential bargain. (Starting a spell with a slower ball).

Minimum highest purchase price: The player that paid the minimum highest purchase price for any asset was Currie, whose main man was Drogba at 11.0 million. It may be unfair of me to suggest that his method of bidding is akin to going into an expensive high street shop and immediately heading towards the sale/damaged goods section – but I'll do it anyway. What does seem different to previous years however is the fact if we only consider outfield players, it is Temple who paid the least for any one player by some considerable margin – his main man being Ljungberg at 7.4 million. In the past his tactic has always seemed to be purchasing a few high profile players no matter what their cost – perhaps this signals a new approach to his tactic for the coming year. It must be said though that his team still contains some big names in every department, so this could just be down to shrewd bidding on his part.

Allegiance to the clubs supported: Oxton and Kings clearly have faith in their chosen teams as they have the maximum allotted amount of players from Newcastle and Tottenham respectively. Viv and Temple on the other hand have limited their Liverpool intake to merely one apiece. Currie has also included Koumas in his team for the Tranmere connection – it is interesting that no one manager seems to have paid over the odds for any one of their favourite players (with the possible exception of Koumas at 6.0).

Prices paid for unknown premiership players: Viv's team is by far the most over-laden with players who are yet to have experienced English football. Kezman looks way over-priced at 14 million, Rommedahl a risk perhaps at 3.3, but Kluivert seems a more assured purchase at 4.7. Temple and Kings have both gone for the tried and tested and purchased no new players whatsoever, whilst Oxton and Sammo have one each for what look to be bargains, Robben at 7.2 and Cisse at 10.0.

Longest word spelt by the initials of the managers bidding: STOCK – from Emerton to Davies. Unfortunately COCKS didn't feature, though we did get COCS, which somewhat aptly included Ruud Van Nistelrooy as one of the players involved.

WFFL 2003/2004 Season

Position	Competitor	Premiership Points
1	SO	402
2	MT	372
3	MK	359
4	VP	291
5	RS	203
6	PC	183

Position	Competitor	Euro 2004 Points
1	RS	87
2	MK	69
3	PC	66
4	MT	65
5	VP	52

By VP 7/5/03

A pre-season form guide, looking back on the highs and lows of Fantasy Football:
Going on our history of FFL, which premiership team are each of us most like?

The leadership table i feel goes like this

No.1) Oxton - Manchester United 10 points

Latecomer to the game but with an exemplary record in the years he has joined. His dedication to FFL knows no bounds, quite possibly the saddest one of all of us
Expertly managed to join the game late and with less money and still wind up winning - a feat that Mr Shit tried to repeat with less spectacular results.

Why Man U? Well they are regrettably good, and if one word could sum up their personnel it would be twat.

Therefore Oxton is Man United.

No.2) Viv - Arsenal 9 points

Without wishing to blow my own trumpet, I was the one who not only instigated FFL amongst us but I also revolutionised FFL as we know it with my dodgy dealings and crafty scams, always just the right side of the rules. I took the game to a whole new level and in the early years was untouchable. However, have lost the obsession i once had and now

pretenders to the crown have temporarily usurped my position.

Why Arsenal? Well they are as Arsene Wenger said, still the best, they just hit bad form at the wrong time.

No.3) Kings - Blackburn 7.5 points

The earliest winner of a "full" game when he won the 1998 world cup despite originally not wanting to join in the game. He joined late, after the initial bidding at lunchtime (during Ms Jessett's English i think) but his policy of backing French players paid dividends as he stormed to the title. This early form was never quite reciprocated in the full season long games that followed France 98 and his star has waned somewhat in recent years.

However, always liable to get a good deal off currie and not to be written off.

Why Blackburn? The only ever winner of the Premiership besides Arsenal and United.

No. 3) Temple - Liverpool 7 points

The winner of Euro 2000 and a consistent player in the league. His now legendary policy of buying fuck all players and never doing any deals proved infuriating to those wishing to trade with him, but like Gerard Houillier, is a strong believer in his players. Like Liverpool he often has the biggest stars in the game but just somehow flatters to deceive when push comes to shove in the long version of the game. However - this was the label many attached to Arsenal before their resurgence in recent years. A dangerous contender.

No. 4) Mike Thelwall - Leeds 6 points GD +10

Where is he now? Anybody know? A one time innovator of FFL he has recently fallen by the wayside (given that i dont know him anymore) but was not to be taken lightly in his pursuit of the early titles. One of only three participators in the first ever FFL generated in Ms Jones history class in year 10, alongside myself and...

No. 5) Paul Sweeney - West Ham 6 points GD + 8

Sweeneys Shop of Shite is arguably the most famous trading place of our Room 2 Fantasy Football competitions. Who can forget it? His tactic of buying both a shit load and a load of shit players surprisingly saw him lose the first full league narrowly to myself on only the last day of the season. He promptly left a lesson i think to go and buy a paper and see if he could scam any more points but it wasnt to be. A genius for the simple fact i think he once had 5 newcastle players when they were bottom of the league, and the rules state you are only allowed 3 anyway!!

No. 6) Currie - Aston Villa 6 points GD + 2

A real contender in the early years, but soon obtained a reputation for being too judgemental and liable to do really shitty deals on the basis that he was bored and that there was nothing else to do. Could this be the year that he resurfaces from the ashes? Often obtained really really good players before almost anyone else saw their potential, but traded them for really really bad ones as soon as everyone else DID see their potential. A strong backer of players he thinks can do the business despite what public opinion suggests - but those questions of "magic money" and taking bungs never quite fail to go away...

No. 7) Daz - Bolton 4 points

One of the few actual winners of the game when he inherited my team after i quit whilst 70 points ahead with more money than anyone else in one early game.

Never really got into the spirit of FFL - but he has the winning knack - will it display itself once more when this summer comes around?

No. 8) Matty Richards - Sunderland 3 points

Despite actually possessing quite good teams and being fairly adept in the first few games we played, he later decided he was too cool for the game and boycotted it, once almost ruining an entire game by giving his players away for free.