

## MATCH-FIXING AWARENESS

### **Match-Fixing cancer that threatens the integrity of football cannot be ignored or under-estimated:**

“ One Saturday morning, a call came into the newspaper’s sports desk from Singapore. It was from a man claiming match-fixing was taking place in English football. The corruption, he said, was connected with gambling syndicates in the Far East, where millions of pounds are wagered on the sport. Not just on the Premier League, but on all football at ALL levels. To try and prove his legitimacy, the man, insisting on remaining anonymous, highlighted a game that afternoon. It was a low key League Two match on which, he said, there had been a considerable amount of money gambled. The most popular bet was for the match to finish 3-2 in favour of the away team. At 90 mins the game was level at two apiece. The visitors then scored an injury-time winner.” **Andy Dunn**

### **Non – League Chairman reveals more money was bet on Billericay than Barcelona:**

“Steve Kent believes football chiefs have known there was a problem in the game for some time. Billericay Town Chairman, Steve Kent, was shocked to learn vast sums of cash was being gambled on Asian exchanges to predict the result of a match watched by only 408 people in November 2012. His club, along with AFC Hornchurch and Chelmsford, all came under scrutiny from the FA after some bookmakers stopped taking bets on games involving their sides. He told the BBC: “It was a phenomenal amount of money. There was more money bet on our game than on the Barcelona game that night” “ I am calling for the authorities in this country to investigate the possibility of match-fixing at our level of football” **Alan Wilson**

### **Premier League? It can – and it HAS:**

“Match-fixing is coming to a stadium near you .... If it has not been there already. And ignore the predictable ‘ It can’t happen in the Premier League’ nonsense being trotted out by managers. It can. To my mind it has. We all remember Matt Le Tissier’s jolly tale of a betting scam gone wrong. His intention – having wagered a fair sum on the timing of the first throw-in (“we stood to win well into four figures”) – was to send the first kick of Southampton’s game at Wimbeldon in 1995, out of play. He didn’t kick it well enough and team-mate Neil Shipperly – not on the attempted coup – kept the ball in. That meant Le Tissier and his fellow punters stood to lose money. And Le Tissier was quick to excuse the ruse: “ I’d never have done anything that might have affected the outcome of the match”. That type of thing isn’t match-fixing, most would say. But it most certainly IS fixing something in a match. Le Tissier did not need the cash but could not resist because “there was a lot of money to be made by exploiting it ( the throw-in bet). Weakness for a fast buck is not necessarily index-linked to your wealth. And anyway there are players who earn five figures a week and still flirt with bankruptcy. Personal debt issues in football are often related to betting”. **Andy Dunn**

We come across a number of similar episodes and we become even more aware about the danger match-fixing constitutes to our game. We are not immune. I do not think that we have a special protective cover guarding us from the onslaught of bad people influencing football matches. It is as wrong and criminal, fixing matches for money, as it is for points. Absolutely no difference. **ft**