

## **.. AND THEN THERE IS THE FOOTBALL MATCH.**

*Sometimes we tend to forget this.*

*Football administration and organisation is a massive task which the fans and public do not get to see. The action behind the scenes is impressive and when compared, at times, to the actual fare offered on the sporting arena, does not reflect the process.*

*The scandals emanating from the highest football body, reflect a negativity which goes totally against the very spirit of sport. Playing fairly is the ultimate goal of any sporting activity and this includes its organisation. We are generally misled by the imposition and domination of individuals who are politically motivated, out to impose their standing and power.*

*Football is followed in every corner of the globe and is very often a medium for self exposure and a demonstration of national political strength. Propping it up is the strong pulling power of money and corruption in an ever changing section of society lacking any scruples.*

*Over these last few years, we have, unfortunately, been looking at our football from a very negative perspective, about which we have been trying our best to educate people within the game showing them the pitfalls associated with mismanagement and their lack of awareness to match manipulation. It is useless digging our heads further into the sand without listening to advice and carefully installing the necessary safeguards for the very existence of our football. Our reputation has been tarnished both locally and internationally.*

*We have so been derailed, that sometimes we forget that football is a competitive event taking place on a football ground where our efforts should be directed without reservation. The technical and physical abilities of our athletes is paramount, but this is not always considered conducive to success, and most of the energy is being sapped away at trying to outdo each other off the pitch, sometimes by breaking rules. Recent events are alarming and have done little to let us concentrate on the actual sporting environment we form part of and, perhaps, forgetting that we are ultimately responsible in defending the game.*

*Intruders into football's environment, who have no interest in the sporting aspect, should not be encouraged and all of us should be on the lookout. We need to repeat an excerpt from one of our previous newsletters: "nobody gives you anything for free, whether in football or in business". The problem has always been that money blinds those who are not confident of their abilities and who will succumb to wrongdoing to achieve their goals.*

*With the new season on the horizon we need to be optimistic and unite in our efforts to put up strong opposition against the corrupt persons circling us without reprieve. Competition sometimes tempts certain individuals into wrong practices. It is only the honest people in football who will ultimately save it from further damage which could eventually push the game towards self-destruction.*

*Remember, that a football match is played on the pitch, as this is sometimes the lowest of priorities, dominated by the strategic manoeuvres off the pitch and behind the scenes. It is up to the actors on the pitch, the players and referees, to come up with the goods and present a clean product to the passionate fans who follow the game and still want to believe in it. Only then, will all football stakeholders' future be guaranteed. ft*