

DO WE REALLY CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL?

It is quite worrying when you consider how some of our football clubs are administered. Club administrators work for the love of the game, with limited or non-existent managerial experience, and for no financial reward. It may be applicable in the lower divisions and for clubs which do not have any over ambitious aspirations. But when the ambition and competitiveness kicks in, all caution is thrown to the wind and it is at this stage when sensible people, with a professional mentality, are necessary.

"Do some Clubs operate within their means?" NO

Do they bite more than they can chew?" YES

Managing a professional football club is not the same as managing a Sunday League team. But some people are still stuck in that mentality. The financial implications that some clubs enter into, are quite alarming. They are led by people who are totally insensitive about the repercussions that their decisions might cause. Some club administrators' "skills" circle on their "expertise" in trying to outdo their opponents at whatever cost or means. This is not always based on the technical or tactical knowledge of football. Technical management and players' abilities are sometimes secondary, and are, at times, not considered a requisite on the football pitch.

The hunger for success and popularity quite simply BLINDS the most respectable of individuals forming part of a club committee. These will have a good public standing, but when discussing round a table at their club, a variety of strange decisions are allowed to be taken.

What do club negative financial balances provoke?

Even more trouble and errors of judgement. It will entice "sponsors" to step in and offer a helping hand, posing as the saviours of the beleaguered club. The club administrators would have put themselves in a very precarious cornered position, and will resort to clutching at any straw. They panic and go completely BLIND, endorsing any form of financial assistance in the process.

All this is the perfect setting for individuals or groups to step in and set their plan in motion. The plan may vary in its objective, but in most cases, in the short to medium term, to the detriment of the club. The proposal is invariably called an investment... Investment in what?!

The global apprehension in these scenarios, is the enticement of organized Match-Fixing rings.

The MFA offers its assistance in advising clubs about potential agreements. We will look at proposals with OPEN EYES which some club administrators, unfortunately, do not. We will look at the fine print, seek information and expert advice. After giving our views, it will still be the club's prerogative to decide. We do not, presently, have the powers to preclude clubs from signing any sort of agreement.

But it is our duty to make every imaginable effort in safeguarding the game from further decay.ft