



## THE UGLY TRUTH

Some erroneously believe that the continuous exposure of match-fixing may not be conducive to football's image. Others barefacedly reason that match-fixing has existed in football for ever and rate it as a passion related custom, practically condoning it in the process. That is a wrong belief and a very worrying and irresponsible stance.

Adopting a defensive approach whilst pushing the longstanding harm under the carpet, or worse still accepting it as a historical fact, will only compound matters and continue opening cracks to more wrongdoing and irreparable damage.

Taking football culture into context, match-fixing for betting purposes or sporting advantage, will always be difficult to curtail unless there is an unconditional commitment by honest people ready to tackle it seriously and make inroads towards a possible solution. The main barrier is the noncommittal attitude of certain individuals who prefer to voice their criticism without lifting a finger, expecting the football association to clean up the mess. Discussing within groups and not providing the incriminating elements to combat match-fixing is not the answer. Bad people hover around the football scene and will persevere in roping in recruits to their criminal match-fixing activity. Recruits are not scarce. The commitment to do the utmost and solely tackle the predominant situation of match-fixing, might appear, to some, as a futile exercise. Perseverance in educating and guiding all those who are genuinely interested in cleaning up football, goes on unabated. Everyone needs to be reminded that they too have the responsibility to confront a huge cancerous malpractice which unfortunately, at times, may be happening in their own back yard at every league level from top to bottom and beyond. They are the ones who have the real feel of football's inner circle. History keeps on demonstrating that football is not operating in a benign scenario. The message will persist and be consistent in repeating *the ugly truth* about the beautiful game for all to hear and hopefully listen.ft