



VACATING THE HOT SEAT

Little did I suspect way back in 2011, when I started off as the pioneer Malta FA Integrity Officer, that my life would change so drastically.

The role itself requires consistency, dedication and commitment, having all senses permanently switched on wherever you may be. My tenure lasted close to 3500 days and it grabbed a massive amount of hours of my time.

Some people used to ask me if I enjoyed my work. My sense of duty and responsibility was instrumental to have a positive mind-set, and that is why I liked what I was doing, otherwise it would have been a futile exercise for my association and myself. But it definitely was not a smooth ride.

Tackling corruption in any shape or form is no easy task. Match-fixing is football's scourge and I continuously pleaded, on various platforms and at numerous fora, for stakeholders to unite and join us in our endeavours.

It is to my satisfaction that I managed to create a role profile which is now widely recognized both locally and internationally. My topmost achievement being the education of thousands across the Maltese islands and overseas at every level.

I will now be handing over the baton to my successor, who will surely bring in a different dimension to the role, and I am confident that he will be discovering ways to make inroads in a scenario which is proving to be so problematic to world sport.

I thank all those who helped me along the way and also those who were my adversaries in the battle, I learnt from them as well. I appreciate the unconditional and unwavering support I had from my association's officials, past and present, with an important mention going to my dear colleague Dr Adrian Camilleri with whom I struck a special bond which helped us, in no small way, when we were faced with difficult and highly sensitive situations. But a special appreciation goes to all my family for their support and for having suffered in silence whilst I was devoting every single minute to the cause.

Many thanks for the collaboration of local and international police, global colleagues, regulatory bodies, UEFA, FIFA and others who know who they are.

I will be around to share my knowledge and also assist anyone if so requested.

Wishing the new Integrity Officer every success.

Long Live Football.ft