

....AND THE OSCAR GOES TO

Newsletter 15 caused quite some concern and more people were shocked and finally alerted about our football's cancerous condition. I was surprised about the strong reaction because I had been saying the same things for a whole year through preceding newsletters. I imagined that following the shock and surprise we had managed to transmit our difficulties and pleas for assistance. Nothing has changed, and in some ways we have seen continued deterioration and heard more allegations.

Through the course of my work I have met a number of people who declared their unconditional love for football and are prepared to help us save the game from its precarious situation. Then in the same breath, these same people barefacedly say that they are prepared to do anything to see their team win, and by anything, I mean resorting to corruption because it is the culture in football. But in reality there are also others who will do anything to see their own team lose. Now, that is interesting. Who would like to see his team lose? Those with no honest love for football who pose as football lovers and only look at the big easy cash on offer.

I am now looking at the possibility of contacting Stephen Spielberg to relocate his studios from Hollywood to Malta where I can lead him to a lot of potential Oscar winners. The high level of acting and art of persuasion that I have come across is unbelievable. At times I need to pinch myself to check if I am dreaming or have a look in the mirror to see if I look that stupid to have somebody imagining that I am being impressed, and believing their sales talk. Probably if I was much younger and hadn't attended life's university yet, they might have had a chance to impress me.

Honest people militating in football, who do not really know how the local game operates, are at times naïve about the smooth talking people surrounding them. They will see everything at face value and do not have the knowledge or even imagine how the underworld is operating. Sometimes I pity individuals who have all the right intentions of carrying out a good job, but are basically out of control when others are going along with their own secret and corrupt agenda. Some succumb to the system and conveniently turn an eye when their team is successful and are drowned in the euphoria.

Dishonesty in football is present in all leagues in varying degrees. Teams from lower divisions go about it in different manner but cannot yet reap large dividends from online betting. Their main and tempting target is now the two topmost divisions which are offering all the honey associated with online betting. The criminals will chase club administrators and especially the players, without reprieve, they will show them the rainbow and promise a pot of gold. The opportunity is tempting for criminally minded individuals to craftily infiltrate clubs and be in a better influencing position. They will manipulate matches irrespective whether "their" team wins or loses as long as they line their pockets with cash. They will convince the club administrators that their actions will assist the club's financial operation. They do not care that in the process they are further ruining the game for generations to come.

They are criminals after all, why should they care? ft