

**FOREIGN SPONSORS/INVESTORS**

*It is the time of the year when the surge by foreign sponsors/ investors, trying to find their way into our clubs, gathers momentum.*

*The offers and attractive plans proposed are, at times, too good to be true and very difficult to turn down. They promise a simple way out of the financial difficulties that the club would be facing, solving all operational problems.*

*This year we had some clubs initially seeking our advice, and we duly expressed our opinion. We suggested ways to proceed before signing any formal agreement. We guided the clubs to seek assurances from their prospective partners and ensure transparency. Following early interest by the clubs to seek our guidance, they apparently went along and signed agreements with their foreign partners. We do not know if due diligence tests were made or not.*

Good to know:

***The Malta Football Association is, presently, not empowered by regulations to stop or give clearance to clubs to go into any sort of partnership whether financial, technical or otherwise.***

*Our responsibility is to inform clubs to be aware of dubious business patterns being adopted by various "football" groups and guide them sensibly to safeguard their club and their own personal interest. It is completely up to them whether to listen to us or not. They have to be responsible enough to go into trustworthy partnerships and be accountable for their actions.*

*All clubs being offered such proposals should seek the Association's advice by contacting either Dr Chris Bonett or myself.ft*