FOOTBALL AT ITS FINEST

We, football lovers are so fortunate to have recently lived the spectacle of the beautiful game. The UEFA U17 Championship 2014 gave us all the opportunity to watch football at its best. It does not only have to do with the skills and personal capabilities of the players, but it was more about real fully fledged commitment and a happy environment on the stands.The message was very clear for all to see. The atmosphere at the stadiums was of a festive nature with fans, especially children, portraying an impeccable image to the game which has recently been passing through so much turmoil.

All of us involved in football administration need to realise that it is our social responsibility to do everything within our control and power to safeguard the game from the onslaught of irresponsible short sighted individuals who infiltrate our clubs and stadiums to achieve their crooked aims. We cannot keep turning an eye and hoping for the best. Unless we stand up to be counted there is no way that our children will keep savouring similar enjoyable moments witnessed last month.

The U17 Championship was splashed all over the world and it made us so proud and patriotic watching the organisation and keen football matches being played in our country. The lovely image we managed to put on display has given us a much deserved international standing. We have shown our sincere love for football and it has now given us added responsibility to maintain the momentum. The legacy from the championship should go a long way, and be capitalised upon by the clubs in trying their best to attract more children and families to our matches.

How can this be achieved? The answer is very simple. The clean honest football played at nurseries and junior level is to be mirrored all the way up to the senior teams at the clubs. The ball is now in our half of the pitch and we need to implement the perfect strategy to bypass and eradicate the negative elements which have been inflicting untold harm to our passion for football.ft