Programme notes

By TREVOR ROWSE

One of the bright features of the 2002 season was the revival of the club programme. Or perhaps the revival of entering a club's programme in the annual Soccer Media competition.

As judge, I spent a long time pondering over the entries (with at least three separate copies from each club to make sure that a one-off edition did not snap up the award).

What are the headings to look at? These are mine, but someone else will be doing it this season.

In 2001 I included the "keep factor". Would the programme still be kept by a club fan in a few years' time. Rab Smith, the editor of the admirable Otago publication included some of the most dubious printed jokes I have seen since I last read a copy of Penthouse. Actually they were probably worse.

So no one would be keeping those issues on their coffee table, or handing them out to young fans. Rab disagrees. He states they were for over-35 grade players.

It was a wonderful programme, so visual, but no award. Rab declined to enter in 2002. Pity that.

Back to 2002. Using a differing marking ratio (typical teacher you might say), I rated the programmes on the cover being topical and bright, the illustrations/ photos and extras, local content versus overseas add-ons, local humour v overseas, information which included tables and scorers, an editorial, club information with index of officials, feature writing, and the "keep factor", the cost, was it a half-time read and chuck, simple throwaway or take home to finish reading (then perhaps keep) and the quality of the advertisements (but with no marks off if there were none).

Sounds a bit complicated and the marking was not easy as they were often quite different.

The top group came down to Napier, Island Bay (last year's winner), Fencibles, Capital Soccer, Federation 6, Lower Hutt City, Ferrymead Bays, Three Kings, the Kingz, Uni-Mount and the programme of the NZ Women's tournament.

Jeremy Ruane had a major role. The soccer writing factory that he is, was responsible for the Kingz, Uni-Mount, Three Kings and the women's tournament. He was so close with Three Kings which contained solid reading, comments of the women's teams of the club and the only programme with committee members contact numbers.

Napier, for a long time the perennial winner, once again set the standard and it was good from cover to cover, with current photos, great stats, a referees and young comment area, an editorial column, coaches and the Lawnmower Man space (subtle humour there) and little junior comment.

Every Lower Hutt City programme had a different coloured action shot, all stylish and outstanding. There were many team reports, and all would be kept because there were the names included, careful writing, a decent player profile and a yellow team list insert. A fine publication. My mind wavered between these and the Island Bay effort.

That included a double page of photos from a club member, many team reports, some news from overseas, full lists and recent history, humour in local team reports and overseas humour, with

some good piss taking. There were keen but impartial columns and just a tiny edge over Lower Hutt and Napier.

Fencibles effort was obviously put together by a Celtic fan and with far too much Scottish football, plenty of information and a call for even more junior information.

The Kingz programme was fine for $3 with a new sparkling cover each week, fine team history and results, with team news, some contact phone numbers, a good coach's column and many other details.

Next year there will be a different judge and hopefully even more entries of the same quality as those mentioned here. Try again Rab. Your photos and crafted copy is top quality and there are some good football jokes (apart from moving to the Arctic Circle and back to the Kingz).

 # Trevor Rowse is a life member of the New Zealand Soccer Media Association.

 # Rab Smith responds: Trev the Rowse did comment on some programme content that was too risque for his puritan tastes. I explained that our Juniors were offered a 'share' of the programme operation - had they taken this up, the programme content would have been adjusted... Perhaps Trev might want to explain in advance what his 'criteria' are, then we will all have a 'style' to aim at... Happily the Mag is being backed by our juniors this year, so the jokes are more Steve Wright than Mike King. When we stop having a laugh or two, I'll take up golf.

Programmes scene

Who is the national league player who never showers after games because of his penchant for wearing women's undergarments?

– East Auckland v North Shore February 2.

Last week the call went out for match day volunteers. I am sorry to report that not one person came forward. Thanks for giving it some thought and if you have any concerns about match day, don't tell me. **– Ouch. Unattributed column, In Range (Miramar home programme v Tauranga, February 9.**

Last week marked the first home game of the new East Auckland national league team. But amazingly, 50 years ago another team named East Auckland featured in the very first soccer match played on Bill McKinlay Park.

And the team was drawn from two of the four clubs in the present consortium, Eastern Suburbs, then the leading club in New Zealand, and Ellerslie.

Mt Wellington had yet to acquire senior teams and soccer had not yet been established on the other side of the Panmure Bridge.

This was in 1953 and the young Mt Wellington AFC organised an exhibition match, plus money-raising stalls as part of the War Memorial Appeal which established the Dunkirk Rd sports grounds.

The opposition for the purposes of the day was obviously West Auckland. It was before Mount had acquired regular weekend use of what was then the Mt Wellington Domain.

I recall that it was no problem to put out two teams of near representative

standard, but preparations for the game led me into my craziest ever effort to assit the club.

There were no soccer goalposts available anywhere in the district, and I had to borrow a set from Waikaraka Park.

With limited time I could not find a carrier willing to transport them to Panmure and back, so decided to shift them in my car. This was a Humber 10, about equivalent to the Honda Civic which I now drive.

With the crossbars being 24 feet in the old measurments, there must have been about 12 feet hanging out the front passenger's side window, and eight feet out the rear driver's side.

A similar exploit today would have a dozen cell phones dialling 111 in the first minutes and myself carted off to the slammer, but there was little traffic then, not a single light between Panmure and Onehunga, and by choosing a quiet time in early evening, I got away with shifting them both ways. But I never tried to repeat the effort.

– Round of applause, please for Neville Haydon, writing in the East Auckland v Canterbury programme, February 9.

Let me set the scene. It's a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon as you make your way up to Centennial Park (Sounds a bit far-fetched so far – Ed.) You experience a small tingle of anticipation at the thought of watching 22 young men give their all, while you cheer and/or groan as you witness the contest.

Then you arrive at the ticket box and have to stand behind some absolute tosser who is complaining bitterly and loudly at having to pay the exorbitant fee of $5 admission – somehow the shine goes off the occasion.

What is it with these people? They are perfectly aware what the admission price is and yet the hapless person in the ticket box has to sit there and suffer these fools bleating on about it.

If these anoraks find that dipping into their moth-infested pockets is such torture, why in hell do they bother turning up?

It seems to me that 90 minutes of National league football, a complimentary programme and a chance to exercise your lungs while out in the fresh air is a damned good return of a $5 outlay.

My message to the above-mentioned tight-fisted misery guts, is that they should stay at home and amuse themselves by counting clothes pegs or reading the phone book...

An unnamed columnist, Miramar v Caversham, March 9, does his best to encourage Miramar fans to stay away from home matches.

Can a referee tell a player to tuck his shirt inside his shorts?

There is nothing to stop players wearing their shirts outside of their shorts. Referees cannot (and should not) tell a player to tuck his shirt in.

– Miramar Rangers v Manawatu, April 6. (Hmmm. John "tuck your shirt in, lad" Cameron, you owe thousands of schoolboys a letter of explanation, if that is the case.)

Goalnet Mailing List posting of the month

Every issue we give a highly sought after prize to the best posting of the month on New Zealand's leading soccer forum...

I wandered out to watch the NZ academy sides at Kings College this morning. The teams taking part were the younger of the age groups, 11, 12 and 13's I think, but I may have that slightly out.

I watched Keith Pritchett run a session which involves the entire team in a set passing play which starts at half way and culminates in a shot on goal. I had watched Keith attempt this particular drill with the Under 17s when they prepared for the recent World Cup qualifiers. The failure rate of this move with the under 17's was pretty high due to a lack of technique and ability to pass and receive correctly.

The 12-year-olds I watched him run this drill with did it perfectly first time, not only that but they were able to complete the drill with a far higher success rate than the under 17s could. These are kids who over the last 4-6 years have been getting quality coaching somewhere. I can't wait till they hit their 20's, some of them are just brilliant.

If NZS can keep the momentum that is building right now then the future to me looks very very bright for 10 years down the track. I'm going out to watch them tomorrow. If the Kingz management had any brains they would be doing the same.

Mike (Stack) Stephen wins himself a Kaikohe AFC ribbon.

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Orders to Bruce Holloway, 11 Thames St, Hamilton (bhollow@iconz.co.nz). Add $1 post & packaging .