
Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 13-05-2008 12:06

Come on then. Player, club, manager, organisation, referee, administrator, pundit, or anyone else. Whose influence has been the most malign, whether directly or in terms of copyists?

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 13-05-2008 12:07

The Premiership wins this by about a furlong, surely?

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by ad hoc - 13-05-2008 12:09

So many candidates

Blatter?

Dave Richards?

Arsene Wenger?

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by And I am the Life - 13-05-2008 12:11

Roman Abramovich

Real Madrid/florentino perez

Malcolm glazer

Silvio Berlusconi

Blatter

If you think that the premiership is the worst in this respect you should take a closer look at the ins and outs of La Liga and Serie A.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by ursus arctos - 13-05-2008 12:15

In terms of the commercialisation of the sport, no league holds a candle to the Premiership.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by And I am the Life - 13-05-2008 12:17

I was thinking more in terms of structural unfairness to be honest.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by Nathan Helena Handcart - 13-05-2008 12:18

Richard Scudamore wins this by a country mile

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by George Weah's cousin - 13-05-2008 12:21

7 posts and no mention of Rupert 'satan' Murdoch?

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by And I am the Life - 13-05-2008 12:25

Scudamore is just an unspeakable cunt who should be dragged behind a truck. He doesn't have the impact or the power of some of the others.

Abramovich has stolen Billions and is involved in the running of a fascist state, he has also Completely bollocksed the PL as a commercial entity. Real Madrid stole several hundred million pounds of state money, turned football into Perez Hilton territory and with the assistance of Barcelona completely destroyed the integrity of the spanish league.

Malcolm Glazer managed to load arguably the biggest and best run club in europe with an unsustainable debt, which is greater than that of the entirety of the spanish league, opening the way for the LBO of Liverpool and Man City and eventually Arsenal.

Silvio Berlusconi uses football to rule a country to keep out of jail. The rest doesn't need going into.

And Sepp is sepp.

Scudamore just isn't in the same league as these people.

Murdoch did most of his damage before the last decade

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by Nathan Helena Handcart - 13-05-2008 12:33

Oh contraire. Every none of the people you mention is doing it for greed. Scudamore is a believer.

He's a free marketeer who belives he's creating a glorious global vision for football, liberated from regulation by vested interests, free to pursue the only thing that matters - profit.

He's been utterly central to neutralising New Labour's interest in football, keeping the FA in servility and packaging football for Sky. Sky pay the bill, but they can only buy what is being sold to them.

He has pushed for a conception of the club as thrusting neo-liberal business (in contrast to the essentially feudal conception of most other big club owners) and by promoting the Premiership in this vein, has helped it become the global behemoth that strangles the football clubs and leagues elsewhere and causes people doing the right thing, like the Bundesliga, to contemplate abandoning what makes them different and special in a race the bottom of corporate profiteering, greed and myopic hype and boosterism.

The rest are hucksters, bent bastards and greedy fucks doing what bent bastards, hucksters and greedy bastards do, and those who do what they do at club level are only able to do so because Scudamore has so assiduously created the framework for them and enabled it.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by And I am the Life - 13-05-2008 12:36

but that makes him a useful idiot rather than a real force for evil. it's the difference between bill o'reilly and Dick Cheney

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by ursus arctos - 13-05-2008 12:44

Berlusconi bought Milan more than 20 years ago and was first elected Prime Minister in '94, so he's at least as time-barred as Murdoch.

You've got a better argument with Perez and the Merengues (the training ground bailout was 2000 or 2001), but the commercial dominance of Real Madrid and Barca goes back much further than that (though it is fair to say that its impact was less nefarious because the sums needed to remain competitive were much smaller).

I still think the Premiership wins.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Hofzinsler - 13-05-2008 12:46

I know that ad hoc was being facetious above, and doing a bit of knowing anti-Arsenalness, but I think Arsene Wenger, rather than being the most damaging footballing entity of the last decade, is a strong candidate for the most positive footballing entity of the last decade, certainly as far as top level football goes (there would obviously be quite a few more candidates, some very close to home, if we were to go below the top level).

Perhap an idea for another thread. But first, lunch.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by And I am the Life - 13-05-2008 12:49

real and barca have each have a tv deal bigger than the rest of the league put together and have had for about a decade. They have launched an unsustainable financial arms race that has gutted most other spanish clubs, and the weird thing is that as member owned clubs they weren't doing it for profit. They were doing it because they are pure cunts.

Berlusconi has used football to gain political power again in the last couple of years. As leader of a G8 Country, He is a major geopolitical player. He's a cross between rupert murdoch and charlie Haughey. I think he counts. Berlusconi, moratti, and the agnellis have also negotiated individual television deals that have completely destroyed Serie A as a league.

While Murdoch definitely has a place on this list, he has been rather quiet since 1998.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 13-05-2008 14:44

And I am the Life wrote:

I was thinking more in terms of structural unfairness to be honest.I wasn't.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by E10 Rifle - 13-05-2008 15:07

Berlusconi's an unspeakable cunt, that goes without saying, but he's primarily someone who's used football to damage

politics (and indeed Italian public life in general). Yer Scudamores have used politics - or at least the prevalent political trends of the past 25 years - to damage football.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by And I am the Life - 13-05-2008 15:10

but isn't he the one that invented the champions league, been the driving force behind talk of a European super league, at one point tried to stockpile the best players in europe even though he could only play 3 foreigners at a time, and run the tv deals in italy despite owning a club. He was also a major driving force behind the individualisation of the Italian tv deals and somehow his team avoided relegation to Serie B over that whole match thingy.

He's had plenty of influence over football alright.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by ursus arctos - 13-05-2008 15:22

He actually just brought up the Super League thing again last week, going on about how demeaning it is for his team to have to play at piddly provincial grounds in front of less than 20,000 fans.

Berlusconi has certainly been a nefarious influence on Italian football, but his greater impact has been on virtually all other spheres of Italian life (starting with politics, "culture", the role of women and the judicial system).

I'm still voting for the Premiership, though.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by Ibn Pickthall - 13-05-2008 15:38

Which club was it that started the trend to move into those hideous, just-out-of-town identikit stadiums? I'm all for teams leaving dilapidated venues or if their grounds are constricting, but it doesn't have to mean replacing them with their polar opposites, and concreting out all character and accessibility.

Oh, and Ron Noades.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by E10 Rifle - 13-05-2008 15:41

Evil corporate behemoth Scunthorpe United started the soulless out of town breezeblock trend.

AIATL, yeah I agree with all that about Berlusconi but what I'm getting at is that, such is the man's multi-purpose all-round cuntishness, even his footballing evilness pales compared to what he's done in other spheres of public life.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by And I am the Life - 13-05-2008 16:14

That he's such an all pervading evil shouldn't detract from the monstrous way he's behaved within football. If anything it exacerbates it.

Forza Italia indeed.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by Eggchaser - 13-05-2008 16:20

SHAME ON YOU ALL FOR NOT WHACKING IN THE OPEN GOAL THAT IS MK DONS! HOW DARE YOU NOT GET STEAMED UP! SHAME!

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Etienne - 13-05-2008 16:33

Symptom rather than cause, innit.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Broken Clock - 13-05-2008 19:17

Melanie Sykes.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by NickSTFC - 13-05-2008 20:32

Fat 40 year olds wearing tight fitting replica shirts, face paint and a clueless bloke in a pub in Winchester circa 1998 complaining loudly that "Dwight Yorke never gets picked for Ingerland, it's a disgrace etc."

Oh, and Tim Lovejoy.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Phoebe Disco - 13-05-2008 20:52

The Sheffield Wednesday band.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by Fred Keenor - 13-05-2008 21:13

Who was the first "celebrity" (i.e. the football public/media in general actually knew who they were) chairman/owner? Bates? Sugar?

The fact that many, if not most, clubs are now viewed through the perspective of the repulsive types who own and/or control them is probably the most tiresome element to me.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by bckjags - 13-05-2008 21:23

The beast that was Robert Maxwell was an early celebrity owner.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by Bombanero - 13-05-2008 21:24

Phoebe Disco wrote:
The Sheffield Wednesday band.

Can you please stop calling them that?

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by Auntie Beryl - 13-05-2008 21:26

How soon we forget:

Peter Kenyon.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by ale - 13-05-2008 21:27

"The fact that many, if not most, clubs are now viewed through the perspective of the repulsive types who own and/or control them is probably the most tiresome element to me."

why?

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by ursus arctos - 13-05-2008 21:29

The shade of Silvio Berlusconi darkens the thread once again . . .

Fred, I think that football supporters knew who the Edwards/Moores/Mears, etc. were (or at least recognised the names), it was just that the only reason that they were known was because they controlled a major football club. Berlusconi, Maxwell, Sugar, Tapie, etc. were known for other reasons before they bought football clubs (though buying those clubs increased their public profile significantly)

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Fred Keenor - 13-05-2008 21:30

Because football to me is not about the owners of a club and the fact that we now have huge amounts of prominence and coverage given to them (see Abramovich, Madjeski, Sullivan & Gold in the last few days) is very, as I said, tiresome.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by Fred Keenor - 13-05-2008 21:38

ursus arctos wrote:
The shade of Silvio Berlusconi darkens the thread once again . . .

Fred, I think that football supporters knew who the Edwards/Moores/Mears, etc. were (or at least recognised the names), it was just that the only reason that they were known was because they controlled a major football club. Berlusconi, Maxwell, Sugar, Tapie, etc. were known for other reasons before they bought football clubs (though buying those clubs increased their public profile significantly)

Some supporters might have known their names (though mainly supporters of the clubs they owned) but we did not hear from and read about them every day as we now do. Not that I am kidding myself they weren't venal crooks as well.

But every time I see another article about "Liverpool's boardroom struggle", Mike Ashley, Shinawatra, or the thoughts of Jordan, Bates, Gaydamark, Ridsdale, Whelan or Fayed I die a little.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by ursus arctos - 13-05-2008 21:44

Agreed, though part of that is simply due to the explosion of football coverage in the UK over the period in question and the massive increase in the importance of transfer and contract dealings, etc. When each of the papers had a couple of pages (in season), it was easier to keep a low profile. The chairmen of "big" continental clubs were more widely known locally simply because the Gazzetta and its ilk have had to fill 4 to 6 pages a day with Inter (or Milan or Juve) news since the 50s.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by And I am the Life - 13-05-2008 21:50

Nah, the chairman of the italian club was always famous because he is the local prince, the local regional big man. Berlusconi, daddy moratti, agnelli, then cecchi gori, Tanzi, cragnotti, those parma crooks. It's just basically a cock-measuring contest for 20 century industrial warlords.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by ursus arctos - 13-05-2008 22:05

Referring to Berlusconi, Moratti or Agnelli as local regional big men is staggeringly ignorant, even for you.

Tanzi was the Parma crook, btw. And Cecchi Gori was from Brescia and lived and worked in Rome.

The guys I was talking about were people like Pirelli, Moratti pere, Pellegrini, etc, but I would imagine that you believe all of them to be budgie hearted defenders who would have been overrun by Man Utd's reserve team.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Kowalski - 13-05-2008 22:18

In Britain

1) Margaret Thatcher, the genius behind the re-introduction of liberal economic policies. This is surely the main reason why people were able to get very rich very quickly in the 80s.

Another, later, effect of the opening up of the economy was allowing foreign capital/individuals to take advantage of lower levels of regulation in Britain.

In time these nouveau riche / capitalist refugees could start to think about investing in clubs when the time was right. No Thatcher, no Ashby, Abramovich et al.

2) The people who first used "business-speak" to describe football

3) Whichever cunt started the idea that football was cool in the mid 1990s

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by mafu - 13-05-2008 22:31

gary lineker. slowly destroying MOTD like some nasty disease, and smug with it

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by E10 Rifle - 14-05-2008 00:30

I'm not sure it's such a bad thing that owners are so blatantly in the spotlight now. There's at least an honesty about it - these cunts dicate football after all.

It's healthy that it's much more common knowledge now that our major football clubs aren't, in actuality, "Communal Expressions of Local Camaraderie" but in fact playthings of scumwhores. It would be far more dishonest, for example, to depict next week's Moscow final as an honest battle of two finely matched teams of upstanding and canny sportsmen than to report it for what it is - a battle between one team funded by a repulsive Russian asset-stripper versus the forces of private equity.

The sports journalism of 20 years ago wouldn't have been able to cope with that, and would have only concentrated on the blandest, footballing angle. At least now, our knowledge of how ownership works, and how football works, helps feed a healthy cynicism.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by Rory Bunk - 14-05-2008 08:16

Fuck, me what nasty reading this thread makes. Real gritted teeth material. Post after post of high-profile bastardry of the highest order.

For me:

1. Premiership money
 2. the increased seepage of non-champions into the Champions League
 3. The hype
 4. The sheer cuntery of it all
- =====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by ian.64 - 14-05-2008 08:34

The sports journalism of 20 years ago wouldn't have been able to cope with that, and would have only concentrated on the blandest, footballing angle. At least now, our knowledge of how ownership works, and how football works, helps feed a healthy cynicism.

Well, how's about sports journalists - some qualities, most tabs) as possible candidates? Concentrating on perhaps the 20% of football that supposedly matters (Big Four and their managers, the CL, etc.) and looking with detached contempt/indifference at the rest, dealing with the rest of the Premiership clubs and all other leagues (and their probelms) with a range of lamely-expressed emotions ranging from patronising to pure hollow lip service, saving their partisan feelings for separate matters (Aren't Newcastle a wonderful club? That Harry Redknapp, he's a geezer and a half, ain't he? Ad nauseum)

They're just as palpable a threat to football as the entities described on here. Money, yep, chairmen, yep, Murdoch, yep,

but there's also damage when press hacks narrow their scope to the exclusion of all else. Ol' Oscar said that there's nothing worse than not being talked about. The nation's sports hacks prove him correct.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by dogbeak - 14-05-2008 09:23

hornby&
skinner&
baddiel

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by twohundredpercent - 14-05-2008 09:59

Skinner & Baddiel is maybe fair enough (though to say that they are bastards in the same league as Scudamore or Kenyon is pushing the envelope, I rather think), but Nick Hornby is a harsh selection.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by dogbeak - 14-05-2008 10:00

i know ;)

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by King Mob - 14-05-2008 10:04

You know what? This question should be set in the next issue of WSC. Or, draw up a longlist of a couple of dozen contenders and make it a poll. Then, when the results are in, get onto a news agency or whatever you do to make these polls into news stories - every other week there's a page on the BBC's site saying "Percy Thrower voted century's most hated gardener", or whatever. Nice publicity for WSC and it establishes its grassroots credentials.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Mr Shadrak - 14-05-2008 10:23

In the WSC Readers Awards of 1993, Graham Kelly was voted "person who has done the most damage to football" for his role in the creation of the Premier League.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Glass Half Empty - 14-05-2008 10:28

I know I might be re-inventing history here and it might be outside the decade central to the question, but the first time I can remember football being reported or commented on as anything other than a bankrupt embarrassment to the national identity was when the fanzines started to develop. There was a novelty angle to the reporting that football fans might, despite being violent, moronic, ne're do wells, be capable of writing at all and astonishment that they might possess a street wise, sophisticated sense of humour.

This realisation was undoubtedly at the heart of the growth in acceptability of football as a topic of dinner party conversation and it was only one small step from there to the full engagement of the media luvvies, chattering classes

and their monied exploiters.

So there you have it, step forward WSC as the most damaging football entity. Oh, and not forgetting Michael Knighton.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by The_Liquidator - 14-05-2008 11:18

3) Whichever cunt started the idea that football was cool in the mid 1990s

I hate this deliberate downward mobility that people 'who were there when it was shit' have about football being popular among the general public again. That's one of the few god things to have come in the last decade - attendances in the lower leagues of English football are generally very good and one of the trickle down effects of the popularity of the Premier League has been increased enthusiasm for the game at nearly every level. The problems with the Premier League and those who run it have been done to death by everyone on here over the years, but to say that people liking football is a bad thing is fucking balls.

Now I know that whoever said Hornby and Baddiel and Skinner wasn't the same person as the one I quoted, but they betray the same snobbery. First of all Fantasy Football was the sort of programme football needed - a fanzine style production hosted by two genuinely passionate fans of two (at that time) deeply unfashionable clubs. Having books written about the game like Fever Ptch isn't a bad thing, anymore than any book opening up a new subject to a wider audience is a bad thing. Intelligence isn't the sole preserve of the middle classes you know.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by dogbeak - 14-05-2008 12:12

myself, i was only being facetious. a light-hearted question got a light-hearted answer. if i'd had the presence of mind i'd have sliped in hunter davies and all.

i have no opinion at all about hornby, didn't like fantasy football much, and think anyone who wants to be a football fan should be.

funnily enough, i don't remember "when it was shit" - i was 8 in 1990, so you can accuse me of romanticism, but certainly not snobbery.

Intelligence isn't the sole preserve of the middle classes you know.
who are you referring to here?

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by And I am the Life - 14-05-2008 13:23

I'm not sure why people think that the commercialisation of the 90's is any worse than it was before. Having recently read Eamon Dunphy's a strange kind of Glory I suspect that there is a lot of nostalgia and rose tinted glasses going on here, and that football was much worse and a lot more unfair 100 years ago, and considerably more exploitative and bent 40 years ago. It's also less dangerous and no more exploitative than it was 20 years ago. Yes it is more expensive now, but most people are a lot richer than they were 20 years ago.

Referring to Berlusconi, Moratti or Agnelli as local regional big men is staggeringly ignorant, even for you

In the sense that the medicis and the borgias were.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Kowalski - 14-05-2008 17:27

The_Liquidator wrote:

3) Whichever cunt started the idea that football was cool in the mid 1990s

Now I know that whoever said Hornby and Baddiel and Skinner wasn't the same person as the one I quoted, but they betray the same snobbery. First of all Fantasy Football was the sort of programme football needed - a fanzine style production hosted by two genuinely passionate fans of two (at that time) deeply unfashionable clubs. Having books written about the game like Fever Pitch isn't a bad thing, anymore than any book opening up a new subject to a wider audience is a bad thing. Intelligence isn't the sole preserve of the middle classes you know.

I wasn't saying I was there in the bad old days and therefore I'm better, I wasn't there in the good old days. I only started to go to football regularly (more than 3 games a season) when I was about 15 (1992 ish).

I was referring to the process that some people I know seem to have gone through. In school some people never bothered with football but are now massive footy fans, in fact some of them even hated football. They seem to have become entranced by the hype of Sky et al. This trend becomes even more pronounced during tournaments.

For example someone who went to primary school with me didn't seem to that bothered about football, as we were in Wales he didn't seem that bothered about being English either, same thing in secondary school, then about 6 or 7 years after leaving school he suddenly discovers he's a massive England fan, and recently he's become a massive Liverpool fan too.

Maybe it's just people I know

I also hate the way football has become soooo important.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by SamLKelly - 15-05-2008 01:15

And I am the Life wrote:

If you think that the premiership is the worst in this respect you should take a closer look at the ins and outs of La Liga and Serie A.

And might I just add: if South America, its federations, leagues and clubs had so much as a quarter of the amount of money and global visibility there is in the European game, but exactly the same protagonists as they do have, none of those three leagues would get a mention even if this thread ran to 100 pages.

Boca (as a club); Blanquicelste (who are doing the biggest cock-up imaginable of running Racing, one of Argentina's Big Five); the Buenos Aires sporting security forces; River Plate's president José María Aguilar; River's and Boca's hooligan gangs... and I've only covered Buenos Aires, I've not even mentioned Gimnasia La Plata, Newell's Old Boys... or for that matter Julio Grondona, the bent-as-you-like head of the AFA and the man recently named by World Soccer as the fourth most influential figure in world football, despite not even being head of his confederation.

And even if I'd exhaustively gone through all the nominees I'm familiar with, I'd only have covered Argentina. The smaller, less visible countries of the continent are many times worse.

As it is, of course, South America doesn't have the visibility or money of Europe, and as such there's surely only one winner of this poll: Mr. Joseph S. Blatter.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by VTTBoscombe - 15-05-2008 08:30

I am old enough to have been around in the shitty old football era.

It is all rose tinted glasses though ,yes

I preferred standing at matches, I remember when a live game on the TV was an event, not just another filler between adverts ; but I enjoyed when football entered other areas of the media, 'cos football was always a great interest to me, so it meant more people were talking about it,more places to read about it etc - great not just "Shoot" and souless match

day programmes.

However, there is a bit of the old Townshend lyrics from ,I think , "5:15" from "Quadrophenia" - "Sadly estatic that your heroes are news" about this though, - get over it, life marches on.

As for this:

"I also hate the way football has become soooo important."

Football is far less important to me now than back in the shit days - it was more personal back then; but then music was better, young people respected their elders and you could buy three pints for less than a pound.

Still vote for The Premiership though as most damaging - mainly becasue of the lousy gaudy styleless trophy compared to the old one.

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by twohundredpercent - 15-05-2008 08:58

The periphery that surrounds the game is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, the vast amounts that one can read about the game is (for me, at least) a good thing. The flip side is the constantly being told how important the game is.

For me, this came to an apt head when I was watching "Match Of The Day" on the day of the Chelsea vs Manchester United match the other week. As the teams came out onto the pitch, Jonathan Pearce bellowed "there's an estimated global TV audience of over a billion people watching this match", and it struck me that this statement was very telling about modern football on many levels.

It sums up the hubris of the modern game perfectly. I did a bit of reading up on global TV audiences, and apparently the record for a football match was 650m-715m people for the 2006 World Cup final. Pearce was suggesting that over 50% more people were watching this match than the most-watched football match of all time. Never mind that, presuming the commentary to be live, no-one would be able to tell you anything like what the global TV audience would be. Never mind that I would doubt whether one in six people in Britain watched the match, let alone across the whole planet. It was reported by a journalist representing the BBC as being a fact, and didn't seem to be questioned by anyone at all.

This phrase me as summing up football: the hype, the hyperbole, the aspirations towards global domination, the, well, nonsense that surrounds it all pretty neatly. Football doesn't mean a great deal more to me than it did twenty years ago, it does to the media, and they're not shy about sharing that with me.

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Sir Bert Millichip - 15-05-2008 10:19

Mr Shadrak wrote:

In the WSC Readers Awards of 1993, Graham Kelly was voted "person who has done the most damage to football" for his role in the creation of the Premier League.

surely also for his brief dalliance with contact lenses and hair mousse around that time, too?

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 15-05-2008 10:46

Bates&
Ridsdale&
Hammam

We have two of the set

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decad

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 15-05-2008 10:57

Phoebe Disco wrote:

The Sheffield Wednesday band.Remove "The" and "band" and you have a winner.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Houdi Elbow - 15-05-2008 12:40

If that's true then it's only been self inflicted damage, GO. Mind you, some Rotherham fans probably do believe that.

And stop bloody calling it that for crissakes, PD!

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by harbinger of hope - 15-05-2008 13:43

David Platt at Forest, we have been in the doldrums since he left, and that's a long bloody time.

Agree with Glazer, although its not yet bearing fruit on the pitch. The day when Utd have to sell Ronaldo and Rooney to pay debts, is the day it really causes havoc

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Max Payne - 15-05-2008 14:45

Leicester City. For the way they took the piss with administration. The game hasn't been the same since. There's never a season starting now without some team on minus points.

That Bosman guy. Wages went from sky high to farcical afterwards and it's usually the supporter that pays, one way or another.

Will second Murdoch. Between Sky and the Tabs footy has turned into a circus.

=====

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Mr Kite - 15-05-2008 16:39

I hate the fact that when teams are relegated from the PL, commentators just go on about the financial consequences and the millions lost. The 'it's a £40/50/60 million pound game' intros to relegation games leave me sunk in a fuzzy depression.

Which also leads to the innane, servile, complacent mainstream media nominated elsewhere. It's one that allows Garth Crooks to sit on a sofa most saturday afternoons gradually mutating into the angriest man on television. Someone needs to remind him that he is getting good money to talk sh*te about football. Good gig.

But we still tune in, buy the season tickets etc. Goddamn the pusher man, to cite Neil in the Young One's Book.

Oh, and companies buying the rights to a stadium's name. The Abbey in Cambridge is now named after a recruitment company. Sigh.

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Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-05-2008 17:00

Welcome Mr. Kite.

And best of luck to you (and Janik, as well as to Max and Rogin) at Wembley. It's a shame that you can't both go up.

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by Mr Kite - 15-05-2008 20:12

Thanks Ursus

The natural pessimist in me has been predicting glorious playoff failure since February...

Re:Most damaging football entity of the last decade?

Posted by The Prodigal - 18-05-2008 15:48

Relevant to this thread (this is really a reply to The Liquidator), there's a clip on YouTube from BBC1 on the last day of the 86/87 season (which, as usual from then until Sky came along, went untelevised anywhere) where the once and future MOTD slot was being occupied by ... American basketball.

Football's great "revival" was only achieved by Americanising the game's presentation - even the way that analysts now play a much greater role in match commentary was lifted straight from Channel 4's coverage of American football and the role of the "colour commentator" in US sports coverage generally (watch any pre-Sky coverage, even after summarisers were introduced, and you'll notice that Motson/Davies/Moore speak for several minutes without interruption - the summariser just comes in from time to time in a more formal structure). And I think that's where much of the resentment over the changes comes from. I know full well that those changes had to happen to ensure that football survived the seismic shifts of the 1980s. It's just that some people feel that Britain would have been better off without those wider cultural changes of the 1980s happening.
