

Issue 10

touchline

The journal of sport, leisure & risk with an international perspective



Sport Profile: Ringball

**Feature:
Barcelona - Greatest
Team In The World?**

**Legal Focus:
Bar Room Blitz**

**Interview With Scott Munn
- Melbourne Heart CEO**

Injury Focus - Concussions

Image: Badmintonphoto.com

Sportscover appointed Official Insurance Partner for the Yonex BWF World Badminton Championships



Sportscover was the Official Insurance Partner for the Yonex BWF World Badminton Championships. The event, staged by Badminton England, took place at Wembley Arena, London, between the 8th and 14th August 2011.

Peter Nash, founder and group chairman of Sportscover, explained the reasons for partnering with the Yonex BWF World Badminton Championships: "Badminton is a major global sport with over 250

million people playing it on a regular basis. Sportscover is a specialist sports insurer with a global presence, and when the opportunity arose to partner the Yonex BWF World Badminton Championships we had to take it. We are delighted to be able to support the game at the premier badminton championships."

Mr Nash added, "The World Badminton Championships will provide us with an opportunity to further develop the presence of Sportscover in the global badminton marketplace. We already do business in many countries around the world and are actively developing commercial relations, but this will be a significant step in the evolution of our brand in other territories. To be associated with one of the most prestigious sporting events at Wembley Arena, London, the official Olympic venue for badminton next year is very special".

Sportscover's branding appeared courtside when the best badminton players from all corners of the globe did battle in front of the crowds at Wembley Arena and worldwide television audience in over 25 countries, Adrian Christy, Chief Executive of Badminton England said of the relationship, "Sportscover has a long tradition of supporting sports and sports people so we are delighted to welcome this global business as the latest partner for the Yonex BWF World Championships."

See Badminton World Championships round up on page 21 for more details...

Images: Badmintonphoto.com



SPORTSCOVER SPONSORSHIP FUND!

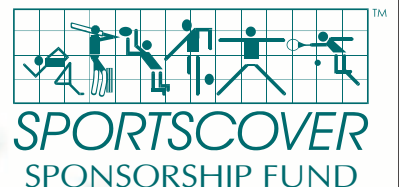
Now accepting applications for Round Three

20 x US\$750

Sporting Grants Available

To Grassroots Sporting Organisations Worldwide

Apply online at sportscover.com/ssf



sportscover.com

touchline

The journal of sport, leisure & risk with an international perspective

Contents

Editor's Comment • 3

Insight

- 2 • Sportscover appointed official insurance partner for the Yonex BWF Badminton Championships
- 4 • 2011 Touch World Cup in Review
- 7 • How Sun Yang Won
- 8 • Victoria Uni opens state-of-the-art sport and learning precinct
- 9 • The Missing Link - Defibrillation
- 17 • The Streets to the Stadia - World Freestyle Day 2011
- 18 • Hyundai A-League's battle to win Hearts and minds
- 19 • The aftermath of the death of Wouter Weylandt
- 21 • Badminton Championships - a huge success
- 25 • A Wheely Good Result

Sport Profile

- 10 • Ringball

Feature Articles

- 12 • Barcelona: Perhaps the greatest team in the world
- 24 • Injury Focus: Concussions

Focus on Risk Management

- 22 • Part V - Governance issues in focus for sports and recreation organisations

Legal Focus

- 14 • Bar Room Blitz
- 23 • Bribery Act 2011 (UK)

On Track • 6 - 7

World Sports News Roundup • 20 - 21

Sports Shorts • 26 - 27

Photo on cover: Imogen Bankier at the 2011 Badminton World Championships

London Riots Cast a Shadow over 2012 Olympics

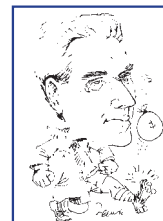
At the end of July, London was celebrating the clock ticking down to a year until the opening ceremony for the 2012 Olympic Games. On target with all new venues completed and under budget, the organisers were rightly delighted with their progress.

What a difference a week can make. The London Riots sparked a nationwide crisis, where five people died and at least 16 others were injured as a direct result of the violence. Hundreds of millions of pounds worth of damage was inflicted by gangs, with security stretched to the limit. Sport was also a victim with several events cancelled including the international football friendly at Wembley between England and The Netherlands. Even before the riots were quelled, British tourism and sport officials were attempting to salvage the nation's security image.

But images of burning cars and looted shops will haunt organisers and could mean the loss of millions of pounds in revenue should the negative publicity not be countered effectively.

Foreign news sources were quick to link the riots to the up-coming Olympics. A CBS news piece began in this vein: "less than a year before London hosts the 2012 Games, scenes of rioting and looting a few miles from the main Olympic site have raised concerns about security and policing for the event".

The negative consequences of stories such as these are not lost on tourism operators. Mary Rance, chief executive of UK Inbound, which represents Britain's inbound tourism businesses, said: "The riots of the past few days, particularly in London, are most unfortunate for the global image of the UK – and not just ahead of the Olympics but for the country's short term and long term inbound tourism industry. London is still one of the greatest cities in the world with an enviable record of safety and it's important we stress that these developments are not typical."



Steve Boucher
touchline@sportscover.com

Others, such as Tom Jenkins, spokesperson for the European Tour Operators Association (ETOA), said that the riots would have no impact on tourism a year from now.

The Olympic Games places a strain on the security forces of any host city. The logistics of organising the swollen numbers of people using public transport and the influx of tourists means that security for the Games themselves become something of a headache.

What will play on the minds of the IOC and others in control in London is the fact that even in a normal period, police took days to get the rioting under control. Add the strain of hosting a major sporting event and any further unrest will be exponentially difficult to contain. As a test run for British security forces, the riots could not have been more challenging, but let's hope that lessons have been learned.

What is good to see is the authorities taking a tough line with the thousands of thugs who perpetrated or were involved in inciting the riots. Hopefully severe sentences will act as a deterrent.

But what will have even more impact in preventing a repeat of the chaos is the strength of feeling demonstrated by the vast majority of people in London who are disgusted by the actions of these mindless hooligans. Being named and shamed and turned in by neighbours and, in some cases, family members, is more likely to have the desired effect. The community is saying enough is enough.

Regards,

August 2011

2011 Touch World Cup in Review

Report by Dennis Coffey, Federation of International Touch Secretary General

The Federation of International Touch delivered the seventh Touch World Cup in Edinburgh, United Kingdom during 20-26th June 2011. The largest international Touch event in the 25-year history of the global sport was managed by a three-way partnership between the Federation, the City of Edinburgh Council and Event Scotland. Teams from 27 countries participated in Men's, Women's and Mixed divisions for the Open World Cup and in Men's 30s, Women's 30s, Mixed Senior's, Men's 35s and Men's 40s divisions for the Senior World Cup.

Teams from smaller and developing countries like Luxembourg, Belgium, Hungary and Catalonia competed with the 'Powerhouses' of Touch Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Country representative teams travelled from Cook Islands, Niue, Japan, USA and Singapore to compete. The total number of player participants exceeded 1,800 and there were 97 referees involved, in addition to the large referee coaching and management group. Although some 50% of the match officials called Australia home, other referees came from all over the world and the referee contingent was proudly supported by Sportscover.

The Scottish weather was a little unkind at the front end of the tournament and following a couple of days of 'heavy drizzle' the Opening Ceremony had to be postponed and Day 1 of the competition was delivered under a very grey sky. The event was conducted at the Peffermill playing fields and ten pitches were in regular use over five full days of competition. Almost 450 international test matches were delivered and the early start schedule saw matches begin at 7:40 am and the last round conclude after 8:00 pm each night.

The Scottish weather gradually improved over the tournament although the social and cultural experiences were always at a high. Most teams were accommodated and

fed at the one venue of Pollock Halls, just a ten minute stroll to the playing fields. The grounds had been prepared for months to withstand the significant workout and after four long days the main pitch remained in excellent condition. Day 4 and the first half of Day 5, at the back end of the event, saw the completion of quarter and semi final matches as teams jostled for the coveted Grand Final positions.

There were several highlights in the tournament results including, Singapore Women's Open achieving a Bronze Medal, Austria Men's Open winning a Bronze Medal, South Africa finishing third in Men's Open and Mixed Open and France securing a Bronze in men's 30s. For only the second time in World Cup history, teams other than Australia and New Zealand achieved a Grand Final appearance. England was credited with a Grand Final in the Men's 30s and South Africa made the Grand Final in the Men's 35s. New Zealand won the Men's 40s, beating Australia by one touchdown as did the New Zealand Mixed Senior division.

The other Senior division Grand Finals were won by Australia, who also secured the Senior Division Touch World Cup. The three Open division finals were won by Australia, defeating New Zealand in each and in doing so securing the Open Division Touch World Cup for another four years – Australia has not lost the World Cup since inception back in 1988.

For all match by match results see: www.touchworldcup2011.co.uk





Celebrating Singapore Girl's - 3rd in the World!

Writes Bryan O'Connor, Director, Touch Football Singapore

Singapore has been emerging as a respected touch playing nation for a number of years by committing to technical development; active participation at a wide range of tournaments and events at home and abroad and having participated in world cup championships in Australia (Sydney) 1999; Japan 2003 and South Africa 2007.

Four Singapore representative teams toured to Edinburgh Scotland in June - the largest international touring group to date - to again take on the best in the World. And in the case of the Women's Open team especially - take them on they did!

Singapore girls (pictured bottom right) won bronze and positioned 3rd in the world rankings, defeating all that stood between them and victory - advancing past their more fancied western opposition as the championships progressed - a remarkable feat and well deserved.

The win comes as a culmination of many years hard work by many people and not just as players. A large number of Singaporeans and expatriates alike have genuinely put their heart and soul into the sport over the past 8 years since the Japan world cup and this result is due reward.

A key factor, Singaporean enthusiasts as players have also taken on coaching and refereeing roles – learning the game and honing their skills and knowledge. They have then gone out to their local schools and communities and introduced their game to peers and young people who have enthusiastically adopted 'Touch' as their team sport.

These local enthusiasts have created a healthy Touch culture and allowed for a foundation for future development.

Expatriates have eagerly participated and supported this development and with a healthy mix of local and expatriate zeal,

the combined effort has allowed for this team of young women to bring home a rare world championships medal in a team sport for an Asian country.

The women's team was all Singaporean bar two junior expatriate school girls with a healthy mix of young Singaporean girls that have been developed through youth programmes as age team representatives and older, more experienced players that have gained experience at the elite level of the game.

They trained for 12 months as a squad - toured as a representative group and performed to their best as a team - congratulations to all 15 players the 2 coaches and manager - and the entire Singapore Touch community - all of whom should be very proud.

For further information on Singapore Touch Football please contact:

E-mail: bryan@touchsingapore.org
 URL: www.touchsingapore.org

on track

QUICK NEWS TO KEEP YOU IN THE FAST LANE

South Korea chosen for 2018 Winter Olympics

The South Korean city of Pyeongchang has been chosen to host the 2018 Winter Olympic Games at the 123rd International Olympic Committee session in Durban, South Africa – defeating Munich of Germany, and Annecy of France.

Pyeongchang received a majority 63 out of 95 votes, with Munich on 25, and Annecy gaining just 7 votes.

For the South Korean city it was third time lucky, having previously lost to Vancouver for the 2010 Games, and Sochi for the Games in 2014.

IOC president Jacques Rogge announced Pyeongchang's victory – marking the first time a Korean city will stage the Winter Games.

Successful bid chief Cho Yang-ho said: 'This is one of the happiest days for our country, our people and millions of youth dreaming of winter sport'.

Pyeongchang has a population of 47,000 and is situated near South Korea's east coast.



Cadel Evans wins Tour de France

Congratulations to Cadel Evans on the extraordinary achievement of winning the Tour de France this year.

Evans becomes the first Southern Hemisphere rider to ever win the tour and only the 3rd non-European to win it. Widely regarded as the toughest event in sport, with this year's race generally considered to be one of the best ever, Evans won it in the style and manner that will endear him to all in the cycling and wider sporting community. Already a national sporting hero, Evans is now on track to become an Australian sporting legend.

British F1 GP attracts record crowds

A record 315,000-strong crowd attended the F1 Santander British Grand Prix at Silverstone over the three days of racing.

Of that figure, more than 22,000 fans stayed behind after the F1 race on Sunday to continue the post-race celebrations and hear from the drivers at the Grand Prix Party, which was free to all ticket holders.

Silverstone managing director Richard Phillips hailed this year's event as one of the biggest and best British Grand Prix in years, attracting record crowds on all three days of the circuit's flagship event.

A record, sell-out crowd of 122,000 were at Silverstone for the big race on Sunday, with attendances of 88,000 and 105,000 for practice on Friday and qualifying on Saturday respectively.

European Games a possibility

Irish International Olympic Committee member Patrick Hickey, has put forward proposals for a European Games – an event that would incorporate all the main Olympic sports.

The proposal is now reported to be undergoing a feasibility study by Deloitte and is likely to be put to a vote in November.

If the proposed idea was to go ahead, the Games could either be in addition to events such as the European Athletics Championships and European Swimming Championships, or even replace them altogether.

Hickey, the president of the European Olympic Committees, has stated that he has the support of 47 of the 49 European National Olympic Committees, which will make the final decision.

The idea of a continent's independent Games has already worked elsewhere - later this year the Pan American Games will be held in Mexico, the Pan Arab Games in Qatar and the All-Africa Games in Mozambique, while the Asian Games took place last year in China.

World Athletics Championships bid by London

UK Athletics has announced it will make a bid to host the 2017 IAAF World Athletics Championships at the Olympic Stadium in London.

The bid has the full backing of the UK Government and Mayor of London and will be led by Lord Sebastian Coe.

Lord Coe said: 'The IAAF and the athletics family have been unwavering in their support for an Olympic legacy and played a crucial role in securing it. A successful bid will be our opportunity to say thank you for that constant support by delivering a fantastic IAAF World Championships in London that will help drive more young people in to the sport'.

A decision on the bid is expected on 11th November 2011.

IOC welcomes cricket Olympic bid

Jacques Rogge, International Olympic Committee President, has welcomed a bid from cricket to become part of future Olympic Games, most likely in Twenty20 format.

Rogge said: 'We would welcome an application. It's an important, popular sport and very powerful on television. It's a sport with a great tradition where mostly you have a respect of the ethics.'

In the Olympics, it will not be Test cricket, of course'.

If the bid is successful, Twenty20 cricket could debut at the 2020 Olympic Games.

The sport has appeared at the Olympics in the past, featuring in the 1900 Paris Games - Britain beat France to take the gold in a competition that featured only two teams.

on track

CONTINUED...

Record 21-race plan for F1 calendar

The FIA has confirmed the 2012 Formula One World Championship calendar, with an unprecedented 21 races scheduled. The plan includes the new US Grand Prix which appears in the calendar for the first time since 2007.

Next season's championship will open with back-to-back races in Bahrain on March 11 and Australia on March 18. That's followed two weeks later by races in Malaysia and China on consecutive weekends.

2012 calendar in full:

March 11 - Bahrain	July 15 - Great Britain
March 18 - Australia	July 29 - Germany
April 1 - Malaysia	August 5 - Hungary
April 8 - China	September 2 - Belgium
April 22 - Korea	September 9 - Italy
May 6 - Turkey *	September 30 - Singapore
May 20 - Spain	October 14 - Japan
May 27 - Monaco	October 28 - India
June 10 - Canada	November 11 - Abu Dhabi
June 17 - United States	November 25 - Brazil
July 1 - Valencia, Spain	

* Subject to confirmation

Breeze launched to get women cycling

British Cycling has launched Breeze, a programme focused on getting more women into riding bikes. It is designed to create a network of fun, local and flexible bike rides to introduce over 80,000 new women to bike riding.

Led by women for women, Breeze bike rides are local, friendly and informal, with the short, traffic-free rides ideal for busy mums and anyone who hasn't been on a bike for a while and would like to go for a bike ride with a small group of women from their local area.

Breeze is British Cycling's response to the growing gap between the number of men and women riding their bikes - currently three times as many men take part in cycling regularly and the gap is growing, yet research suggests that nearly one million British women would like to ride a bike more often.

In 2011 British Cycling surveyed over 1,000 women to find out what was discouraging them from riding, and the results showed that safety concerns, lack of knowledge of routes and having no-one to cycle with were the key barriers to getting involved.

Breeze addresses these concerns and offers women flexible, safe, accessible and fun opportunities to ride a bike as well as training and support.

The rides are organised by British Cycling trained local Breeze champions and fit around busy work and family lives. The first Breeze bike rides started in June and are being rolled out in towns and cities across England.



How Sun Yang Won

In many ways, the 11th Fina World Aquatics Championships in Shanghai are the dawn of a new era.

The controversial swimsuit period is over, but it will be years before the records set by swimmers buoyed by those suits will be overtaken.

One record that survived that time was Grant Hackett's 1500m freestyle result, clocked in 2001 at the world titles in Fukuoka, Japan. His record, which stood for almost exactly 10 years, of 14:34.56 was beaten by Sun Yang's swim of 14:34.14.

Sun's victory not only brings an end to one of swimming's longest-held records, but ends Australia's hold of the record for the 1500m. Kieren Perkins began the trend in 1992.

People inside swimming acknowledged that Sun would inevitably break the record. Comparisons to Hackett are obvious, not least the fact that he is currently coached by Hackett's former coach Denis Cotterill.

He stands even taller than Hackett's formidable 198cm, and swims with a similarly controlled, smooth stroke.

After Sun's win, Hackett claimed that Sun had the size, strength and intellectual property to beat the record.

One major difference in Sun's approach was his tactics. Rather than start powerfully as Hackett did in 2001, Sun offered a more controlled swim in the early stages of the race.

Once he established his pace, his training and talent diverged to create a mesmerizing scene. Each lap had a metronomic quality, the middle laps incredibly consistent. This was clearly the event he had been training for.

His approach was lost on some experts. Towards the final lap, he was 2 seconds off the pace and written off by some.

Sun's not-so-secret weapon, beyond his smooth stroke, is an incredibly powerful kick.

The plan hatched on the Gold Coast and practised for months prior to the Championships came together at the 1400m point. He was to use the conserved energy from the almost languid swimming up to this point to blast home in the final lap.

He used his kick to mow down Hackett's record, swimming the final 100m in an astonishing 54.22 seconds.

The swim was testimony to wonderful natural ability, superhuman determination and quality coaching. His strategy on the day harked back to Hackett's race in 2001, but involved an added twist.

When questioned on Sun's approach, Hackett said "That was the way I thought he would do it."

The Australian champion was resigned to losing the record but appreciated the manner in which Sun beat it. Even before the race, he knew that his record was in jeopardy. "He's trained with my coach. He knows exactly what I did to get there. The way I prepared and the way I executed that race."

Sun Yang, meanwhile, claims he was "very happy" with his record-breaking win.

It is heartening to see swimming emerge from the muddy years of the suit controversy. While its legacy will continue to distort records, at least we can look to the 1500m freestyle as an example of technique and power coming together to produce a memorable sporting moment.

Victoria Uni opens state-of-the-art sport and learning precinct

On the 24th of June 2011 Victoria University (VU) celebrated the opening of its A\$68.5 million state-of-the-art Sport and Learning Precinct at its Footscray campus in Melbourne, Australia. This cutting edge facility is the home of the new Institute of Sport, Exercise and Active Living (ISEAL), which itself was established in February 2010, with a simple but focused vision of being a global leader in sports, exercise and active living research.

The facilities at ISEAL are highly impressive and would be coveted by any athlete, coach, researcher or sports bureaucrat. They consist of a sport and learning precinct that houses 29 new laboratories which include motor learning and skilled performance labs, exercise physiology labs, motor control and bio feedback labs, sport and exercise biochemistry and molecular biology labs and finally biomechanics labs.

ISEAL is led by its two directors, Professor Hans Westerbeek (Professor in Sport Business) and Professor Mike McKenna (Professor in Exercise Physiology) with research being led by the latter. Within ISEAL research programmes of Sport, Exercise and Active Living are coordinated by Research Leading Professors David Bishop (sport), Glenn McConell (exercise science), and Remco Polman (active living). This concentration of human and capital resources delivers a critical mass that allows the University to produce world leading research and teaching programmes in sport, exercise science and active living, putting them in an enviable position to achieve their original vision of being a global leader in the industry.

ISEAL has been at the forefront of thinking about the whole life cycle of participation, active living and high performance and the role research has to play in the sports, exercise and active living landscape.

ISEAL understands the true value of partnerships and has established links with a wide range of national and international sports organisations, research facilities, governments and universities. These partners have been quick to realise the

potential value that ISEAL can offer to them in respect of achieving their own targets. An example of this is the recent partnership with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and the world renowned Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). VU is the only Australian University with a formal partnership with these bodies. The partnership includes research, joint projects, appointment of joint professorial and research staff and AIS use of VU sport science laboratories.

ISEAL's work includes basic research for organisations such as the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Association and applied and consulting research for government agencies, NGOs, international sporting bodies, national sporting bodies, professional sporting teams and non-profit organisations in the sport and health industries.

Therefore ISEAL aims to provide services and products to its customers based on a robust foundation of data, innovative thinking, high-quality analysis and collaborative relationships that deliver technological and ground breaking mutually advantageous outcomes. Because this is a whole University ideology, ISEAL has an organisational structure that can permeate through multi faculty disciplines to deliver a research scope resulting in World Class outcomes and offers a value position that is hard to replicate.

For more information on the work of ISEAL contact Chris Rawlinson, Marketing Manager at Institute Of Sport, Exercise & Active Living (ISEAL) Victoria University.

Mob: +61 0478 401548; Tel: +61 3 9919 9172
 E: chris.rawlinson@vu.edu.au W: vu.edu.au/iseal



The Missing Link - Defibrillation

Article by Andrew White, Founding Director, Defib Your Club For Life!

Sudden cardiac arrest does not discriminate, it affects all age groups, races and genders. 1 in every 1000 people has an undiagnosed heart complaint, and a cardiac arrest can occur without prior warning signs or symptoms. These can be otherwise active and fit people.

Sadly, this affects the young. Some in the prime of their lives playing the sport they love. "Defib Your Club, For Life", a non for profit organization was established following the sudden death of Stephen Buckman, a 19 year old Australian rules footballer at Rupertswood Football Club near Melbourne. Stephen collapsed suffering a cardiac arrest after training and despite the great efforts of club medical staff, was unable to be revived.

Off duty that day, Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic, Andrew White was one of the people who was at the club when Stephen suffered his cardiac arrest. Sadly he had seen the circumstances before. Well trained, knowledgeable medical staff executing Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), waiting for the Paramedic support to arrive, but with no ready access to an Automatic Defibrillator. Andrew established Defib Your Club, For Life to address this issue of early access to Automatic Defibrillators.

When a person suffers a cardiac arrest it is critical that:

- Help is called
- CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) is commenced
- Defibrillation is applied
- Advanced Medical Care is applied

This is referred to as the "Chain of Survival".

Early intervention is what saves lives. For every one minute following a cardiac arrest there is a 10% less chance of survival, by 10 minutes there is only a very remote chance of survival.

The earlier a person receives defibrillation, the higher the chance of survival, therefore ideally defibrillation in less than five minutes is more likely to have the best outcome.

The month of May 2010 saw several young football players lose their lives in similar circumstances to that of Stephen. Heath was 30, he left behind a wife and two children - he also collapsed at training. Nathan, he was the youngest at 17, he collapsed just minutes before the final siren, and Jason, 33 died whilst playing in a game in memory of his grandfather who had been a legend of the club and had only passed away two weeks earlier.

Victims of cardiac arrest can be saved if a defibrillator is immediately available. None of these players had a defibrillator immediately available. If we are to see any improvement in the survival rates from these events, there is a need for access to community defibrillators. At the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) there is a survival rate of 85% of people who experience a sudden cardiac arrest. Compare this to only a 7% chance elsewhere in our communities. Automatic defibrillators are available at the MCG.

Early defibrillation is by far the most vital component in the chain of survival, but it still remains to be the weakest link in Australian sporting clubs, and more often than not a missing link.

Recently a boy of 13 playing Australian rules football suffered a cardiac arrest during a game. He was successfully resuscitated

Join the drive to save lives at your club!

No one should have to suffer the pain of suddenly losing a family member. To assist us in reducing the risks of this happening to you please support Defib Your Club, For Life!

We have a simple goal; to reduce the number of heart attack related deaths at sporting venues.

We aim to empower your club to react to its own life-threatening emergency with the understanding, skill and equipment to do so prior to ambulance arrival.

We are about providing safer venues for players, officials and spectators of your community.

The experience of losing a Son, Brother best friend and team mate have driven us to ensure the same doesn't happen to your club.

We have tailored a comprehensive defibrillator package with sports clubs in mind. The level of sponsorship required is minimal in comparison to losing a life.

Put your club first and contact us today.

Visit us at www.defibforlife.org.au where you can register your club to apply for a Defibrillator to be installed. Alternatively you can contact our organisation by emailing us with your Club Name and Contact: info@defibforlife.org.au

www.defibforlife.org.au



**Defib Your Club,
For Life!**

survived his cardiac arrest following effective CPR from his club trainers, early defibrillation from Paramedic's who arrived soon after the collapse, and subsequent defibrillation whilst he was being rushed to hospital. He underwent what was described as simple cardio-thoracic surgery and is expected to fully recover.

Defibrillators are very simple to use and require little training. They are reliable, relatively cost effective and most countries have clear regulations to protect the layperson from liability. Defib Your Club For Life is seeking to get this message of survival out to the community. To provide sporting clubs with automatic defibrillators and an education program arming them with vital survival tools when an emergency occurs.

We urge responsible governments and ruling sporting bodies to strengthen the chain of survival by putting Automatic Defibrillators in clubs. By having the tools in the community, at places where people congregate, we can reduce the number of heart attack related deaths that occur at sporting venues. The more defibrillators out there, the more lives we will save.

You can help by donating to Defib Your Club For Life at www.defibforlife.org.au

Sport Profile: Ringball

All too often weekend sports divide families along gender lines. One sport that is geared to bring the family together for fun on the weekend is Ringball, one of South Africa's lesser known exports.

While comparisons to netball are inevitable, Ringball has its own unique character and a long history. It attracts people of all types because of its fun and fast-paced action. The sport is beginning to raise its profile outside of South Africa, and given its enormous appeal, it should only be a matter of time before there are associations in countries around the globe.

Touchline caught up with spokesperson for Ringball South Africa, Zonja Labuschagne.

First up, can you describe the basic rules of Ringball?

Ringball (also known as Korfbal) is played with nine players, three in each block. One team consists of three goal shooters, three Middle players and three defenders. The players are not allowed to move over the whole court, you just play in your own third. You are not allowed to make a pass through the middle third and you are not allowed to obstruct a player to pass the ball.

It has a long history in South Africa. Where did the sport come from?

One hundred and three years ago basketball was introduced at South African Teachers' Colleges as a game for ladies. Over a period of time the rules were adapted to be more suitable for ladies to compete and a new game was born called Korfbal. During 1907-1916 the games were played under the banner of the South African Basketball Union after which the then Transvaal Korfbal Board came into existence.

Korfbal was introduced as an official school sports at traditional Afrikaans schools and remained a school sport until the 1980's.

What kinds of people play the sport?

Every one that loves interaction with other people and making of friends.

Men were mainly administrators, referees and selectors for the sport, but could not resist the game and in 1970 at the annual National Championships in Messina two teams comprised of referees played the first men's game in the lunch hour. This paved the way for men's teams to partake on a National level for the first time in 1971.

The sport continued over the years with clubs competing for various trophies. After club competitions are completed, provincial teams are selected to partake at National level, to be crowned as the top South African provincial team. Around 2500 players represent the 16 different Provinces annually.

Because husbands and wives can play Korfbal this has become a popular family sport with children playing socially whilst their

Around 2500 players represent the 16 different provinces annually.

Pictured here and over page: highlights from Ringball/Korfbal matches at the 2009 World Games in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.



Images: KOC-CNA

parents were training. The executive committee realized in order to keep the children interested a competition must be introduced. Currently the age groups partaking in Korfbal varies from 0/11 boys and girls to master men's and ladies.

How is the administration of the sport run in South Africa?

In SA the sport is run by the Executive Committee that consists of the following President, Secretary General, Treasurer, Assistant Vice-President: Associations, Assistant-Vice President: Development, Vice-President Assistant-Vice-President: Organisation Players Association, Assistant-Vice President: Tertiary And Schools Liaison Officer. Each Province also has a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and other



At Guardrisk, it's all about delivery...

Rugby is all about delivery; getting the ball across the try line is all that counts.

At Guardrisk, we have the same commitment to delivery: designing tailor-made, cost-effective solutions that provide the type of insurance cover you need.

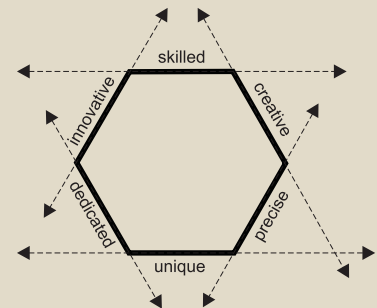
Our highly-skilled team has the technical expertise and know-how, supported by world-class systems and technology, to provide risk management and insurance solutions that work for you.

Find out more about Guardrisk on our website at www.guardrisk.com or call +27 11 669-1000.



Guardrisk
FINANCING RISK EFFICIENTLY.

An Authorised Financial Services Provider.



people that help with the day to day tasks.

What prompted the change of name from Korfball in 2007?

Various factors over the years prompted administrators to consider a name change in order to be recognized by all the sport governing bodies in South Africa as a unique sport code and during the centenary celebrations in 2007 the name was officially changed from Korfball to Ringball.

The first 3 years in the history of Ringball saw many changes and development, and probably the biggest historic event took place on 27 November 2010 during a Gala Event. An announcement was made with regards to the newly formed International Ringball Federation. This posed the great challenge to the executive committee and all participating players to extend the game to all corners of the world.



Is it played internationally? What is your vision for taking the sport global? Where do you see it flourishing?

This development was started in New Zealand where there were two clubs. In 2010 we took the sport to the Netherlands, Western Australia and Namibia in Africa. It is our aim to get a lot of countries to play Ringball in order to give our SA teams more exposure and competition.

What kinds of risks do players run in this sport? What are the most common kinds of injuries that Ringball players suffer?

Knee and ankle injuries are the most common. In South Africa the courts are the same as outdoor tennis courts or tar surfaces. So when you fall, you normally get hurt because of the rough surface.

What message would you like to send to people who are curious about the sport? How can they

discover more about Ringball?

This is a wonderful sport because you make many friends worldwide. In South Africa the players become a family and will stand together no matter what.

It is very good relaxation and a very nice way to get fit and look after your body. It is a great family sport, there are lots of families that play together. I still play and coach, my husband plays, coaches and is a referee, and our children aged 13 & 15 both play. This year was an exciting year for our family, because my husband and son played in one team, while I played in another team with my daughter.

Barcelona: Perhaps the Greatest Team in the World.

Anyone who has a pulse knows that Barcelona is the greatest team in the world right now. What they possibly do not realise is that they are living in a time of giants.

What we are seeing every weekend coming out of Spain is pure, oozing, unadulterated brilliance. In pubs all around the world, people who know about football are desperately trying to think of a team, present or past, that could beat Pep Guardiola's gang. Failing that, they are making up international dream teams in the hope that they could find a combination to beat Barcelona.

Despite their best efforts, there remains a sense that Barcelona would take all comers. They are just that good.

Last season underlined just how good we are talking here. First there was the quadruple-header *Classico*. Barcelona vs. arch nemesis Real Madrid. A couple of Champions League semi-finals, one *Copa del Rey* final and a Spanish First Division match. In those four games, they only lost once, failing to get their hands on the King's Cup. In the games that mattered, they found their way to the Champions League final and finally dispatched Madrid as serious title contenders.

But it wasn't merely the results: it was that way they made them happen.

Jose Mourinho, the Real manager and self-styled "Special One" played each match with up to nine men behind the ball. He employed a band of 3 holding midfielders and relied on break-aways for their goals. These are tactics more generally associated with clubs from the lower half of the leagues when they encounter one of the big boys. Soak up pressure and snatch a goal. You don't expect such negative tactics from The Greatest Manager Alive at a club that can pay over 100 million euros for Cristiano Ronaldo. And despite this humbling, his side still lost.

Globally, though, the jewel in Barca's crown was the Champions League Final itself.

Sir Alex Ferguson cannot stop winning in England, in a league that is arguably more competitive than Spain. Twelve Premier League wins in the course of his magisterial reign not only highlight his incredible ability as a coach but underline Manchester United's dominance as a football force.


And aside from one moment of brilliance from Wayne Rooney, Manchester United was taken to school. 3-1 was the score line on paper, but the goals conceded do not tell the true story. Barcelona dominated United in a truly epic sense. They made the Champions of England look baffled, frustrated and

very, very ordinary.

The most telling picture from the match comes from Sir Alex. When the game was into its final 15 minutes, he sat on the bench, still and defeated. The greatest British manager ever had simply not one idea of how to stop Barcelona.

How does one contain Barca? Arsenal had a pretty good go of it in the knockout stages of the Champions League. Press them, play high up the pitch, have a go. But, realistically, what can you do against a team with Xavi, who passes the ball more often and with far more accuracy than some entire teams can in the course of a match? Or Dani Alves, the Brazilian speed merchant who launches forward at every attack, virtually giving Barca three world class wingers? Or David Villa, a man who has never failed to score less than 13 goals in a season?

Then there is Lionel Messi. There have been many miscarriages in anointing the next Maradona or the next Pele. There have been great players, but Messi's stunning goal against United took him to a whisker away from that enduring, mythical greatness. Should he just carry on, there will be a third Greatest Player.

Even if you are not a fan of football, watch a Barcelona game this season. You will be in the company of greats. 



Related List

The Daily Mail's football correspondent pooled their expertise and came up with a list of the greatest teams in history. Which, if any, could beat today's Barcelona?

10 Spain (2008)

Casillas, Ramos, Marchena, Puyol, Capdevila, Senna, Iniesta, Xavi, Silva, Villa, Torres

European champions

Discard the back four, and this is one of the most perfect line-ups imaginable. With David Villa and Fernando Torres in front of a mouth-watering midfield of Marcos Senna, Andres Iniesta, Xavi and David Villa, it's no wonder Spain swept away their tag of nearly men last year.

9 Holland (1974)

Jongbloed, Krol, Rijsbergen, Suurbier, Haan, Van Hanegem, Jansen, Neeskens, Cruyff, Rensenbrink, Rep

World Cup runners-up

The 1974 World Cup winners have already featured in this list at No 29. But most sided with Johan Cruyff and the Total Football kings when Holland were conquered by West Germany in 1974. How could you resist those orange shirts.



8 Hungary (1954)

Grosics, Buzanszky, Lantos, Bozsik, Lorant, Zakarias, Toth, Czibor, Kocsis, Hidegkuti, Puskas

World Cup runners-up

The legendary Ferenc Puskas led the fabled Magnificent Magyars, with a fair bit of help from Sandor Kocsis, to within fingertips of ultimate glory. The attacking trailblazers were cruelly beaten by West Germany in the World Cup final, 16 years after suffering the same fate at the hands of Italy.

7 AC Milan (1989)

Galli, Tassotti, Costacurta, Baresi, Maldini, Ancelotti, Rijkaard, Colombo, Donadoni, Gullit, Van Basten

European Cup winners, Super Cup, Intercontinental Cup

The team with typically uncompromising Italian defenders, more than a flavour of Dutch flair - and an English name! This side - with the outstanding Marco van Basten and Ruud Gullit striking fear into the opposition - looked damn good in those rossoneri stripes, too.

6 England (1966)

Banks, Cohen, J Charlton, Moore, Wilson, Stiles, Ball, B Charlton, Peters, Hurst, Hunt

World champions

England's pride - yet not good enough to make the top of our list. Perhaps one day the Three Lions will win the top prize again, joining the legends of Banks, Charlton, Hurst and Moore as names etched on the hearts of a nation.

5 Arsenal (2004)

Lehmann, Lauren, Campbell, Toure, Cole, Ljungberg, Gilberto Silva, Vieira, Pires, Bergkamp, Henry

English League champions

The Invincibles. Need one say more? Arsenal took the moniker first given to Preston some 120 years earlier by going a whole season unbeaten on their way to lifting the League title. Arsene Wenger's finest moment - and one he is unlikely ever to match.

4 Liverpool (1984)

Grobelaar, Neal, Kennedy, Hansen, Lawrenson, Whelan, Dalglish, Lee, Rush, Johnston, Souness

European Cup winners, English league champions, League Cup winners

It's hard to pick a fault in this Liverpool side. Deadly striker Ian Rush scored 47 goals as he led the side to a fantastic treble. Bruce 'Wobbly Legs' Grobbelaar was the hero in an memorable European Cup final penalty shoot-out in Rome.

3 Real Madrid (1960)

Dominguez, Marquitos, Santamari, Pachin, Vidal, Zarraga, Canario, Del Sol, Di Stefano, Puskas, Gento

European Cup winners, Intercontinental Cup winners

Ferenc Puskas makes his second appearance in this top 10, this time in the iconic white of Real Madrid. The 1960 side claimed Los Merengues' fifth successive European Cup - as well as being crowned kings of the world - with Madrid's finest: Alfredo di Stefano banging in the goals.

2 Manchester United (1999)

Schmeichel, Neville, Stam, Johnsen, Irwin, Beckham, Keane, Scholes, Giggs, Yorke, Cole

Champions League winners, English league champions, FA Cup winners

Reached new heights with their fantastic Treble-winning achievement. The closing moments of that night in Barcelona turned a rather drab European Cup final into arguably the most dramatic of all time - and made legends of Sir Alex Ferguson's XI.

1 Brazil (1970)

Felix, Brito, Piazza, Carlos Alberto, Everaldo, Clodoaldo, Gerson, Jairzinho, Tostao, Pele, Rivelino

World champions

Sublime, inventive, breath-taking... words which fail to do justice to the beauty which Brazil's heroes of 1970 gave the world on the biggest stage. This was futebol-arte, this was Pele in his last World Cup, this was the side that produced perhaps the finest team goal of all time in the final against Italy. No wonder they let them keep the trophy.

Bar Room Blitz

While alcohol is often viewed as social lubricant, its impairment of a person's judgement and disinhibition of aggressive patrons also has the potential to oil the wheels of litigation against operators of licensed premises. This article by James McIntyre, Senior Associate at law firm DLA Piper, opens a six-pack of recent Australian decisions and a 2004 vintage High Court decision to consider whether the combination of a busy venue and the inherent difficulty in assessing the amount of alcohol consumed by a patron and their level of intoxication, creates a cocktail of risks that inevitably results in an unpleasant damages hangover for licensees.

Can you protect patrons from themselves?

In *Freudenstein v Marhop Pty Ltd & Ors*¹ the plaintiff claimed damages for personal injuries suffered in a fall from the roof of his local hotel after he consumed approximately 14 schooners of full strength beer. At the time of the accident, the hotel was undergoing renovations and the bar was operating from the first floor of the hotel. The plaintiff alleged that he had become curious about the renovation work and climbed through a doorway, onto the roof of the hotel and fell onto soft ground approximately four metres below. Although the defendants alleged that the plaintiff was 'a very determined entrant', they were unable to demonstrate that the renovation works had been secured, appropriate warning signs had been placed on the doorway to the renovation work or safety fencing positioned around the roof. Justice Kirby concluded that, but for the defendants' failure to secure the doorway the plaintiff's accident would almost certainly not have occurred and this was the substantial and effective cause of the accident. Justice Kirby noted that significant culpability must attach to a succession of foolish actions on the part of the plaintiff and reduced damages by 50% to reflect the plaintiff's contributory negligence.

In contrast to *Freudenstein*, in *Liebeck v Dawsal Pty Limited*² it was the plaintiff who was unable to substantiate his claim of negligence against the Kingston Hotel in Canberra after he slipped on a walkway after consuming 10 schooners of beer.

The plaintiff's contemporaneous hospital records noted that he was unable to recall the circumstances of the accident and his blood alcohol content at the time of the accident was approximately 0.362 (a level of intoxication that would impair balance and coordination and markedly impair memory for events that occurred during the period of intoxication). The first reference to the plaintiff slipping appeared

in an entry in the plaintiff's hospital notes made by a social worker a week after the incident.

The plaintiff led expert evidence that the tiles were 'treacherously slippery' when wet and asserted that the tiles had become wet due to rain. The plaintiff's expert conceded that the plaintiff would have been very unlikely to slip and fall if the subject floor had remained dry. However, the allegations of rain were not supported by contemporaneous meteorological evidence and the duty manager gave evidence that when he inspected the accident site immediately after the accident he could not see any water, debris or other cause for the plaintiff's fall.

The plaintiff was unable to prove that the area of the accident was slippery as alleged and the court dismissed his claim. Further, the court noted that even if the claim had succeeded, damages would have been reduced by 50% to reflect the plaintiff's contributory negligence.

The contrasting decisions illustrate that the liability of licensed premises for accidents involving their patrons ultimately depends upon the individual circumstances of each claim. The decisions also highlight the importance of obtaining comprehensive contemporaneous information about the state of the accident site and measures adopted to protect the safety of patrons. As seen in *Liebeck*, such evidence can provide a critical forensic advantage at trial. Even if the premises are found liable to a patron, the decisions demonstrate that, in cases of severe intoxication, the courts are prepared to make a significant discount for contributory negligence.

Is Saturday night alright for fighting?

In addition to a raging hangover, one of the least attractive consequences of excessive alcohol consumption is the fact that, in some circumstances it results in previously suppressed aggression being released in the form of physical violence. Although licensed premises have a duty to take reasonable steps to respond to

a foreseeable risk of injury to patrons how far does the licensee have to go to protect a patron against assaults by other patrons, especially when the aggressor decides to persist with the dispute after being ejected from the premises?

In *Rooty Hill RSL Club Ltd v Karimi*³ the plaintiff was injured in the club's car park by a Mr Smith. Prior to the incident there had been an altercation between the plaintiff and his companions and Mr Smith inside the club and, in accordance with club policy, both parties were required to leave the premises. Mr Smith was escorted through the eastern entrance at 11.00pm and his girlfriend informed security staff that she would take him straight home. They were observed leaving the premises. Approximately 20 minutes later, the plaintiff and his companions were invited to leave through the western entrance. As the plaintiff walked through the car park, Mr Smith ran up to him and 'king hit' him with sufficient force resulting in significant residual brain damage.

The NSW Court of Appeal found that there was no evidence that the plaintiff or his companions were concerned about a renewal of the altercation or that the security staff had knowledge that Smith still posed a danger to the plaintiff or other patrons. Smith's attack was sudden and unexpected and would probably have occurred even if measures proposed by the trial judge, such as providing the plaintiff with a security guard to escort him to his car, had been employed. Consequently, the plaintiff's claim was dismissed.

Similarly, in *Portelli v Tabriska Pty Ltd*⁴ the plaintiff was injured in an assault several blocks away from the licensed premises. Prior to the assault, the assailants (the third and fourth defendants) had been involved in a brief altercation with the

1 [2010] NSWSC 724

2 [2010] ACTSC 141

3 [2009] NSWCA 2

4 [2009] NSWCA 17





plaintiff inside the hotel over a game of pool close to closing time. The assailants were asked to leave the hotel via the front door. The plaintiff and his companion were allowed to finish their drinks and their game of pool and, after a short interval left through the back door of the hotel.

The plaintiff's claim was dismissed at trial and the NSW Court of Appeal dismissed the plaintiff's appeal, noting the following relevant matters:

- The altercation at the hotel did not involve any serious violence apart from a minor cut to the plaintiff's chin.
- The plaintiff's companion gave evidence that he was not expecting further trouble from their assailants and had no concerns for his safety.
- The manager of the premises knew the assailants and had never seen them behave in a manner which suggested they were violent.

The Court of Appeal noted that any duty of care could only have been based on a conclusion that the circumstances should have given the licensee an appreciation that there was a risk of harm to the plaintiff unless further steps were taken. The court added that care needs to be taken to prevent recognition that the control which can be exercised by a licensee is transformed into a positive obligation to become the protector of an innocent patron whenever danger can be apprehended outside the premises. For example, it might be prudent to call the police if the licensee expects a fight will be continued outside the hotel but this does not mean the licensee has a legal duty to do so or that they become responsible for getting the innocent patron home and outside the clutches of a potential combatant outside the premises.

The most dramatic form of altercation between patrons at licensed premises was considered by the High Court in *Adeels Palace v Moubarak*⁵. In that case, the assailant had left the premises after an altercation. He returned to the premises with a pistol and shot the plaintiff (who was in fact a mere bystander) in the stomach. The plaintiff commenced proceedings against the premises alleging that the club had breached its duty of care by failing to employ licensed security personnel.

The High Court noted that, having regard to the number of people attending the club and the fact that the club was attended by old and young patrons, this did not demonstrate a need for provision of security personnel and there was nothing in the history of the premises which would have warranted a conclusion that it was probable that violence would erupt in or about the restaurant. Further, even if the premises had engaged security staff, there was no basis for concluding that security staff would have deterred or

He returned to the premises with a pistol and shot the plaintiff... a mere bystander... The plaintiff commenced proceedings against the premises alleging that the club had breached its duty of care by failing to employ licensed security personnel.

prevented the re-entry of a person armed with a gun when later events showed that he was ready and willing to use the weapon on persons. Consequently, the plaintiff was unable to prove the failure to provide security personnel had caused his injury.

All three decisions illustrate that the circumstances in which patrons may be injured by the criminal conduct of other patrons are unique and the assessment

of the extent of the duty depends upon a prospective assessment of whether a patron posed a danger to other patrons prior to the incident instead of reviewing liability issues with the benefit of hindsight.

Show me the way home

In the previous cases, the courts considered a licensee's duty to protect patrons from the behaviour of other aggressive patrons. This gives rise to a final question:- what is the extent of the licensee's duty to protect a patron when they leave the premises?

This question was first considered by the High Court in *Cole v South Tweed Heads Rugby League Football Club Ltd*⁶. The plaintiff was injured when she was run down in the early evening while drunk. Prior to this incident she had attended a function at the defendant's premises and commenced drinking at about 9.30am. There was no evidence that she was served alcohol by the respondent after 12.30pm. The plaintiff was refused service at 3.00pm because of her state of intoxication and at approximately 5.30pm, the club's manager asked her to leave the premises and offered to provide a courtesy bus to drive her home or to call a taxi. The plaintiff refused both offers in crude terms and one of her apparently sober companions told the manager that they would look after the plaintiff and shortly after they left the club.

The High Court found that the club had taken reasonable care to protect the plaintiff from the risk of injury by offering a courtesy bus or a taxi and the plaintiff's claim against the club failed.

The High Court revisited the issue of the obligations of licensed premises to their patrons in *Tandara Motor Inn v Motor Accidents Insurance Board*⁷. This case

5 [2009] HCA 48

6 (2004) HCA 29

7 [2009] HCA 47



involved a claim for damages by the widow of a patron who was killed in a motor cycle accident whilst driving home from licensed premises with a blood alcohol reading of 0.253.

Mr Scott commenced drinking at the defendant's premises at approximately 5.15pm and around 6.00pm, Mr Scott arranged for his motor cycle to be placed in the club's storeroom and the licensee understood that Mr Scott's wife would pick him up later that night. At approximately 8.00pm the licensee told Mr Scott he had consumed enough and it was time for him to go home and asked for Mrs Scott's telephone number so that she could be contacted to come and get him. Mr Scott forcefully refused the offer and then went outside and asked the licensee for his motorcycle and its keys. The licensee asked three times whether Mr Scott was 'right to ride' and he answered that he was fine.

Mr Scott's widow alleged that the licensee's failure to insist that he call her to collect Mr Scott was a breach of duty. However, there was no evidence that the licensee knew Mrs Scott's home or mobile telephone number and the licensee's previous request for Mrs Scott's contact details had been refused with such aggression to practically preclude any further request being sensibly made. The High Court noted that even if the licensee had managed to contact Mrs Scott it could not be inferred on the balance of probabilities that Mr Scott would have responded meekly to her arrival and left the hotel with her. The High Court found that the licensee had complied with its duty once he had made the offer to contact Mrs Scott and the situation was analogous to the situation in *Cole* where the club offered her safe transport home. Consequently, the plaintiff's claim failed.

The High Court also noted the difficulty for licensees to assess whether a person is intoxicated in light of the following matters:

- The difficulty in counting the number of drinks served to a patron.
- Lack of knowledge of how much the drinker has consumed before arrival.
- The risk of confusing excitement and high spirits with inebriation.
- The point at which a drinker is at risk of injury from drinking can be reached in many individuals before those signs are evident.

The final two decisions highlight the tension between taking reasonable care for the safety of patrons and the individual drinker's responsibility for dealing with difficulties and dangers arising from alcohol consumption. In *Tandara*, the court observed

that it was a matter more fairly to be placed on the drinker than the licensee.

The court also noted the further tension between customer autonomy and protection of customers by noting that if an intoxicated customer wished to leave, the licensee was caught between the dilemma of committing the tort of false imprisonment or the tort of negligence.

Six-pack summary

The following key points emerge from these cases:

- The outcome of each claim will depend upon the individual circumstances of each claim.
- Although licensed premises are involved in selling alcohol to their patrons (and potential claimants), the well known effects of alcohol do not mean that all persons injured at licensed premises can disown all responsibility for their actions. Even where liability is established against licensed premises, the courts are prepared to make significant reductions for contributory negligence where there is evidence of extreme intoxication. The assessment of liability and contributory negligence requires a consideration of the actions (or omissions) of all the parties to the claim.
- There will always be tension between the obligations of a licensee and an individual drinker's personal responsibility and autonomy. The High Court has indicated that, in the absence of legislation, the responsibility is more fairly placed upon the drinker than the licensee.
- Where a licensee is aware that an incident has occurred, detailed contemporaneous evidence of the circumstances of the accident (e.g. the presence of water or debris) should be obtained. This may provide a critical evidentiary advantage at trial.
- The assessment of whether a patron poses a threat to other patrons must be performed objectively on the basis of what is reasonably apparent prior to the incident, not with the benefit of hindsight.
- Offers to provide or arrange transport home for intoxicated patrons may be sufficient to discharge the premises duty to take reasonable steps to allow a patron to get home safely.



Protection to all clubs, leagues and players.

Comprehensive cover for all amateur clubs and leagues safeguarding the players, members, voluntary workers and committees against legal action taken against them or their club.

Specialising in the following sports (and more):

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| • Billiards | • Snooker | • Gymnastics | • Hillwalking | • Music/Drama |
| • Bowling (indoor, lawn and ten pin) | • Swimming | • Handball | • Hockey | • Pitch & Putt |
| • Bridge | • Table Football | • Keep Fit | • Lacrosse | • Skittles |
| • Chess | • Table Tennis | • Rowing | • Netball | • Baseball/Softball |
| • Choirs | • Archery | • Sailing | • Orienteering | • Canoeing |
| • Croquet | • Athletics | • Triathlon | • Racquetball | • Cricket |
| • Darts | • Aqua Gymnastics | • Volleyball | • Running | • Basketball (individual) |
| • Golf | • Ballet/Dance (including Irish Dancing) | • Water Polo | • Squash | • Cycling |
| • Tug of War | • Windsurfing | • Badminton | • Tennis | • Fencing |
| | | • Soccer (Individual) | | |

Contact Us today for a quote:

17 Herbert Place Dublin 2 Ireland Tel: (01) 639 5800 Fax: (01) 639 5850 Email: info@odon.com Web: www.odon.com



O'Driscoll O'Neil
Insurance Brokers

Sports insurance produced
in association with:



O'Driscoll O'Neil

MASS PARTICIPATION FROM THE STREETS TO THE STADIA



The art of juggling a football has been frowned upon within the football world for many years now. Seen a flashy form of entertainment although always enjoyed by spectators of any age.



Now the Freestyle Football Federation has been established, with a founding network of 51 countries and with the help of leading freestyle football athletes from all over the world to develop this art form into a sport, a healthy lifestyle choice and now also a sustainable career path.



WORLD FREESTYLE DAY 2011

On Saturday 3rd September 2011 the Freestyle Football Federation is calling for support on the streets of towns and cities across the world to raise the profile of freestyle football, by simply asking people to juggle a ball.

Regardless of ability, this is a day where everyone can be on the same playing ground... All you need is Ball.

Everyone, who plays football, juggles with a ball at some stage in their life. Even those who don't like football will struggle to resist the temptation of having a go. It is the simplicity of this that has seen the development of freestyle football as a popular sport and form of entertainment around the globe

in the past decade. The Federation also recognise that by juggling a ball, core fundamentals such as confidence, balance, co-ordination and body awareness develop naturally, without the need to rely on a teacher or coach.

Rio Ferdinand, Manchester United and England international footballer is supporting the movement by offering the opportunity for one lucky person to travel all expenses paid to Old Trafford, home of Manchester United FC to the meet the team and watch a game in the 2011/2012 season.

Explore www.freestylefootball.org to learn more and follow links to get involved.



Hyundai A-League's battle to win Hearts and minds

With the start of the seventh season of the Hyundai A-League just over a month away, there has been plenty of talk about its future. The recent signing of Harry Kewell by Melbourne Victory has made headline news in the Australian media and seen by many as a positive development for the A-League. All of the clubs are now starting their final preparations for what promises to be an exciting and highly competitive season. Last season's Grand Final between Brisbane Roar and the Central Coast Mariners was the most dramatic and eventful so far and has raised the bar – and expectations – even higher. So what does the A-League have in store?



*Touchline has caught up with **Scott Munn**, CEO of relative new boys **Melbourne Heart** to find out how he thinks the season and the Hyundai A-League's future will pan out.*

Last season was Melbourne Heart's inaugural season. Heart finished 8th on the same points as Newcastle. Were you satisfied with that start?

There were a range of things on and off the pitch that I was really happy with and a range of things that we know we could have done better and we hadn't foreseen the amount of work required. We set ourselves the target at the start of the year to make the finals and we didn't, so we were a bit disappointed. But in saying that, I think we have put in place some fantastic foundations and set ourselves up to be very competitive this season.

What lessons do you feel you and the team learned from last season?

Two big lessons. The first that we learned was the importance of preparation. Last year we were bringing 23 new players who were together for the first time and also still building our facilities and employing staff. We really had a very interrupted pre-season and we learned that preparation is absolutely vital. This year we have had an uninterrupted pre-season and I think that really sets us up for the year ahead. The second big lesson was the actual improvement from the previous season to last season - we underestimated the significant improvement that the likes of Brisbane and CCM had made.

What were the highlights for you?

On the field it must be winning the first ever derby with Victory – that's there forever - to have a sold out stadium and for our boys to win was fantastic for them and the supporters and all the people that had joined us early and come along for the ride. Also we had a fantastic away win against Adelaide. We were 1-0 down with 3 mins to go and that famous player, John Aloisi, popped up again, then our captain Simon Colosimo scored and we won 2-1 in the dying minutes of the game. That was fantastic for us - we had gone 6 games without a win which really was the monkey off the back, I guess.

What are your expectations for Heart this year?


We absolutely have a very clear expectation to make the finals. We think we have made some

adjustments to our squad that are perfect and in accordance with our plan. We are continuing to grow and we are introducing our National Youth League side this year and we have gone about that in a really clear structured manner. That will be a great addition to our team as a whole.

What new signings have you made?

We have signed a few new players – Mate Dugandzic from Victory, two new Brazilians – Maycon and Fred, Fred has obviously been around the A-League before when he played extremely well and dominated for Melbourne Victory, and then we signed a young boy, Curtis Good, from the Australian Institute of Sport. We are still looking for a couple of other players to fulfil our roster.

Do you feel that Heart are in the shadow of Melbourne Victory?

Melbourne Victory have been around for 6 years and have 



Left: Melbourne Heart Captain, Simon Colosimo

done an incredible job. In ever measure they are either number 1 or in the top 3 in the league. We are thankful for what they have achieved in the marketplace – they have set the benchmark that we continue to look at and continue to aspire to. But from our perspective we have a very clear strategy, a board that are very committed to the long term and absolutely committed to engaging grass roots, fostering youth and picking local talent and that is where we will focus. We are not about short term solutions, this is a long term build.

Which teams do you think will be the strongest this year?

Everyone about this time of the year is looking good. We will have a clearer idea around round 6 to see how everyone is tracking. I think both Brisbane and CCM will be up there again. No doubt Melbourne Victory will be up there – they have just recruited well and I wouldn't be surprised to see Sydney bounce back. They have had a lot of squad changes – they are a very proud team and I expect they are going to be performing significantly better than last year.

Some people are saying that this is a make or break year for the A-League. How do you view it?

I think a lot of people have been saying that from season one. I believe that it is a year in which we can continue to grow off the field. Last year on the field really improved and I think the job that Graham Arnold and Ange Postecoglou did was just incredible. It is absolutely immeasurable the work they did for the code as a whole last year on the pitch. This year the opportunity is there for the administrators off the pitch to improve as well, both at a club level and at an FFA level, from a marketing aspect. The Harry Kewell signing is going to be fantastic for that - I think he is going to increase awareness of the game. But it is then up to every individual club to improve both on and off the field.

What impact do you think Harry Kewell will have on the league?

I think he will be fantastic for the league. He is a high profile player, who has played all around the world and is instantly recognisable, so I think he will be a great asset to the league and to Melbourne Victory. I look forward to playing them in round three and I hope that Harry is fit and will play.

What do you think the future holds for the A-League?

I think the future is really good - continued growth in youth participation, significant growth in female participation. The league is learning and growing and continuing to improve on the field. The challenge now for us is to improve off the field. I have absolute confidence that we will continue to challenge other sports and we will continue to be the best that we possibly can.

The Aftermath of the Death of Wouter Weylandt

The death of Wouter Weylandt has sent shock waves through the global cycling community.

The Belgian rider (pictured right during the 2011 Tour de France) was going downhill at an estimated speed of 70-80km/h when he lost control and was hurled 10 metres. He collided with the road, taking much of the impact with his face. Despite resuscitation attempts, experts later established that he died on impact.

He was wearing a helmet, as mandated by rules established in 2003, but this precaution was not enough to save his life.

Tributes were made shortly after the devastating news reached the sporting community.

A statement from the International Cycling Union said:

“The UCI has learned of the tragic death of Wouter Weylandt during stage three of the Giro d'Italia.

“On behalf of the whole cycling family, the UCI President Mr Pat McQuaid wishes to extend his deepest sympathies to all members of Weylandt's family, all his friends and team mates, but also to all his colleagues on the Giro, who will have to overcome their grief to continue in the race.”

Cycling great Lance Armstrong twittered that he was “shocked and saddened. May he rest in peace.”

Those close to him, the Quick-Step Team, made this heart-felt tribute:

“For all of us, Wouter was a friend before he was a colleague. We remember him as an honest man, always available with a smile on his face and forever generous towards the next guy.”

“Wouter leaves us with a terrible sense of loss and unbearable grief. We want to remember him with arms held high, crazy with joy after a victory, like the one at Middelburg last year.”

Beyond the grief felt within the sport, there have been serious questions raised about the Giro course. Former Australian professional Patrick Jonker has questioned routes such as the 24km decent of Monte Crostis over concern for rider safety.

In an interview with The Sydney



Morning Herald he asked “Are the organisers going too far by pushing riders physically beyond their limits and capabilities of doing a descent like that at high speed?”

When asked how the death would impact on the way riders approach the race, he said that “I think the majority of riders will approach the descent with more caution than before Wouter's death.”

Despite this caution, the nature of the sport will continue to have riders pushing themselves to dangerous levels of performance.

“You are going to have 10 per cent of the peloton are going to be desperate bike riders who have nothing to lose, looking to make a name for themselves and make money and risk everything.”

This sentiment was reflected by Giro stage leader David Millar. “Our sport is very tragic at times, it has been throughout its history, but we get mixed up in a lot of stupid things in this sport.

“But the bottom line is that it's a sport that has its risks every single day,” he said to reporters.

Weylandt is the fourth rider to die competing in the Giro d'Italia. Judging from the nature of the sport, he may not be the last.

He is survived by his pregnant girlfriend, who was 5-months pregnant at the time of his death.

World Sports News Roundup

Qatar to host Tour de France?

Media reports suggest that Qatar is interested in hosting the start of the 2016 Tour de France. This follows on from its successful bid for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

However, Qatar would come with logistical and meteorological challenges – with a mid-summer July heat posing problems for the riders, almost guaranteeing a short stage or time trial should Qatar win the stage.

Next year's race will depart from Liege, Belgium, while Corsica is due to begin the 100th Tour de France in 2013. Florence is bidding to become the first Italian city to host the Grand Depart in 2014 and Barcelona, Edinburgh and cities in England, Netherlands, Germany and Austria have all expressed an interest in hosting future starts.

UK - London 2012 ready to go!!

With just under a year to go it has been announced that all of the permanent Olympic venues are ready and that the whole construction project is on budget.

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge has hailed London's Olympic progress. Rogge joined London 2012 chairman Seb Coe in a series of public events watching the first action at the newly-completed aquatic centre and attending a celebration event in Trafalgar Square.

Olympic Delivery Authority officials, who are responsible for building the Olympic Park, have reported all six permanent venues have now been completed and 90 percent of construction work is finished.

Public transport links to and from the London Olympic Park have also been completed - according to the Olympic Delivery Authority.

Meanwhile, the sale of London's Olympic Village has been completed for £557m to a joint venture between Delancey and Qatari Diar - the property arm of Qatar's sovereign wealth fund.

Delancey & Qatari Diar will now manage the 1,400 homes and six development plots in the area.

The homes will become private housing, while the six adjacent plots have the potential for a further 2,000 new homes to be built.

The other half of the village, comprising 1,379 homes, has already been purchased for £268m and will be operated by Triathlon Homes.

The Village, which cost £1.1bn to build, will be transformed into a new neighbourhood - offering high-quality new homes, many of them affordable, as well as education and healthcare facilities, new parklands and public squares, once the Games are over.

The Netherlands - Dutch FC Twente Stadium roof collapse kills workers

Part of a stadium roof of Dutch football club FC Twente has collapsed killing two people and injuring more than a dozen.

The accident happened on 7 July during building work at the ground. The victims are all construction workers.

The stadium was under renovation at the time of the roof collapse. Twente wanted to increase the stadium capacity to 32,500 from its current 24,000 capacity. Two support beams at the De Grolsch Veste Stadion apparently collapsed. Workers were adding a second tier to an already existing stand in the area that collapsed.

Twente are one of the most prominent sides in Dutch football, having won the league two seasons back and finished second last season. They are based in the city of Enschede and were also involved in the Champions League last season against the likes of Inter, Tottenham and Werder Bremen.

USA - Baseball bat manufacturer liable for death

An aluminium baseball bat manufacturer is liable for the death of an 18-year-old pitcher who was struck in the head by a batted ball, the Montana Supreme Court has ruled in affirming an \$850,000 jury verdict.

The plaintiffs' son died from head injuries sustained in an American Legion baseball game when he was struck by a ball hit by a player using a Model CB-13 Louisville Slugger aluminium bat.

The plaintiffs filed a strict liability claim for failure to warn against the manufacturer. According to the plaintiffs, the manufacturer's aluminium bat increased the dangers of baseball because in-fielders have less time to react due to the increased velocity of a batted ball.

The manufacturer argued that state law allows only actual users of a product to bring a failure-to-warn claim and that the company owed no duty to "bystanders" like pitchers and fielders.

The court disagreed, saying, "A warning of the bat's risks to only the batter standing at the plate inadequately communicates the potential risk of harm posed by the bat's increased exit speed. In this context, all of the players, including [the plaintiffs' son,] were users or consumers placed at risk by the increased exit speed caused by [the manufacturer's] bat. [The manufacturer] is subject to liability to all players in the game ... for the physical harm caused by its bat's increased exit speed."

Montana Supreme Court. Patch v. Hillerich & Bradsby Co., No. DA 10-0051. July 21, 2011. Lawyers USA No. 993-3108. (c) 2011 ProQuest Information and Learning Company; All Rights Reserved.

Scotland - John Scott resigns as Glasgow 2014 chief

The chief executive officer of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games organising committee John Scott has resigned after admitting breaking rules over accepting gifts and hospitality from a potential supplier.

Chief Operating Officer David Grevemberg will take charge of the organising committee until a permanent CEO is appointed.

A statement from the organising committee said that Mr Scott deeply regretted his mistake.

Lord Smith, chairman of Glasgow 2014, said: 'John Scott has made an important contribution to the planning of what we believe will be an outstanding Games'.

'The board has accepted his resignation today for an error of judgement he made in accepting, and not declaring, an offer from one of Glasgow 2014's potential suppliers, in breach of the organising committee's strict Gifts and Gratuities policy'.

'I know he deeply regrets this mistake and this was a job that he loved. It is a measure of the man that he has put the values and reputation of the OC ahead of his own at this time'.

Bulgaria - WTA champions tournament moves to Bulgaria

The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) has announced that the Tournament of Champions, the annual season-ending event for the WTA's top International tournament winners, will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

The tournament will be staged at the brand new state-of-the-art Arena Sofia, to be unveiled in July, and features existing and next generation stars competing for a share of nearly £500,000 in prize money.

The top six highest-ranked players who have won an International tournament during the regular WTA season and who are not participating in singles for the year-end TEB-BNP Paribas WTA Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, will compete in the single-elimination format event.

Additionally, two wildcards will have the opportunity to compete in the event.

Stefan Tzvetkov, president of the Bulgarian Tennis Federation and Tournament director of the Tournament of Champions, said: 'We are very happy and proud that the WTA chose Bulgaria and Sofia as host of one of the most prestigious events - the Tournament of Champions'.

'This will be the biggest tennis event ever organized in our country. It will be a very good opportunity for promoting our wonderful city and country as a first class tourist, event and business destination'.

France to host 2018 Ryder Cup

France has been named as the host country for the Ryder Cup in 2018, winning against favourites Spain and ahead of bids from Portugal, Germany and The Netherlands.

Le Golf National course, near Paris, which has hosted 18 of the last 20 French Open tournaments, has been chosen as the venue for the event. It will be the first time France has hosted the biennial Europe versus United States match and only the second time the event will have been played on mainland Europe.

There had been support for calls to award the event to Spain in honour of the five-time major winner Seve Ballesteros, who was patron of the Madrid bid and died earlier this month after a long battle with cancer.

'France's bid was exceptional. They have a first-class tournament venue already built,' said European Tour chief executive George O'Grady.

To fund the French bid, every registered golfer in the country has donated one euro to the cause, and it is hoped that landing the tournament will boost the development of golf in France, which has promised to build more than 100 urban golf courses.

The French bid says it wants the number of registered players to increase from 400,000 to 700,000 by 2022, and it is also aiming to have three native players in Europe's Ryder Cup team by 2022.

Scotland - Glasgow wins World Gymnastics bid

Glasgow has won the hosting rights for the 2015 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships beating rivals Paris and Orlando to secure the event.

The International Gymnastics Federation Council voted out Paris in the first round, before Glasgow polled 23 votes, to Orlando's 13 in the second and final round of voting.

The event is scheduled to be held in the National Arena Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre - due to open in 2013, it will also host the gymnastics at the 2014 Commonwealth Games, which Glasgow is hosting.

British Gymnastics developed the bid with the support of UK Sport, Event Scotland and the City of Glasgow's major event teams.

Meanwhile, the 2015 World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships were awarded to Stuttgart and the 2015 Trampoline World Championships to Odense in Denmark.

Badminton Championships - A Huge Success

When Badminton England won the right to host the Yonex BWF World Badminton Championships back in 2007 they never thought it would have the huge impact on the sporting world that it did.

'Bringing badminton back home' to their capital city for the passionate, dedicated fans, players and staff offered Badminton England the opportunity to once again put on a show that made the world see 'badminton as they had never seen it before' as well as creating a world-class sporting event to be rivalled.

Come next year Wembley Arena will be packed with badminton and sports fans alike to witness the global badminton stars battle it out again for their chance to become Olympic champion.

This August was no different, and thankfully for all those people who applied for Olympic badminton tickets and missed out, the opportunity to watch the world's fastest racket sport compete on a global stage was not lost.

Badminton England Chief Executive, Adrian Christy, said "We were delighted that demand for tickets for the greatest badminton event in the world was so huge and it underlines the popularity of the sport in this country and across the globe.

The successful bid to host the World Championships seven-day event was staged by Badminton England and had support from UK Sport's National Lottery funded World Class Events Programme and London & Partners (previously based at Visit London) on behalf of the Mayor of London.

The event also helped inspire more participation in the sport through the Mayor's backing of the World Championships Badminton Festival for 3,000 young people in the lead up to the event."

To add to the success of this event was Chris Adcock and Imogen Bankier's incredible journey making the mixed doubles final and coming away with a well deserved silver medal.

The pick of the days finals was, without doubt, the men's singles clash between top seed and world No 1 Lee Chong Wei and second seed Lin Dan.

The Malaysian won the opening game 22-20 but Lin Dan hit back to take the second 21-14.

That set up a thrilling decider in which China's hero Lin Dan saved two match points before winning it 23-21 on his first match point.

Wang Yihan won the women's singles, Cai Yun and Fu Haifeng retained their men's doubles title and Wang Xiaoli and defending champion Yu Yang won the men's doubles.

Over the week the 31,000 Wembley crowd included London Mayor Boris Johnson and Olympic Chairman Lord Coe.



Adcock and Bankier on track for Olympic qualification

Chris Adcock and Imogen Bankier's incredible journey continued in Wembley Arena recently (pictured) when they achieved a career high, by winning silver in the mixed doubles final at the Yonex BWF World Badminton Championships.

Their 21-15 21-7 defeat by top seeds Zhang Nan and Zhao Yunlei meant China took all five titles for the second year running after their success in Paris last year.

Chris stated that "It was amazingly tough... they are No. 1 for a reason - It's a world final and they had the experience"

The brilliant performance by the Anglo-Scottish pairing, who have only been training as a competitive pairing since January this year, had ambitious hopes of making the quarter finals, following a tough draw.

That goal was well and truly beaten when they toppled the fifteenth, fourth and second seeds on the way to the final.

Adcock insisted he was "speechless" but added "the feeling that went through me at the end was nothing I had experienced before. It makes everything worth it."

They also had a huge impact on the 31,000 people who attended the World Championships over the week, with the support being "out of this world".

Bribery Act 2010 (UK)

The UK Bribery Act 2010 commenced operation on 1 July 2011. Its application extends to companies/organisations in the UK with operations around the world and to those companies/organisations that have operations in the UK although their home jurisdiction may be in another country. This Act has implications for sports associations and clubs and leisure operators if they have operations in the UK irrespective of where their head office is located. Touchline is providing a brief explanation of the Act below but any organisation who may be affected should seek its own legal advice on its application.

Under the Act Offences are defined by way of 'cases' as follows:

Offences of bribing another person:

Case 1:

A person 'offers, promises or gives a financial or other advantage to another person', and the person 'intends the advantage to induce a person to perform improperly a relevant function or activity, or to reward a person for the improper performance of such a function or activity'

In this case it does not matter whether the person to whom the advantage is offered, promised or given is the same person as the person who is to perform, or has performed, the function or activity concerned.

Case 2:

A person 'offers, promises or gives a financial or other advantage to another person, and the person knows or believes that the acceptance of the advantage would itself constitute the improper performance of a relevant function or activity'

In both Cases 1 and 2 above it does not matter whether the advantage is offered, promised or given by the person directly or through a third party.

Offences relating to being bribed:

Case 3:

A person 'requests, agrees to receive or accepts a financial or other advantage intending that, in consequence, a relevant function or activity should be performed improperly' (whether by that person or another person)

Case 4:

A person 'requests, agrees to receive or accepts a financial or other advantage, and the request, agreement or acceptance itself constitutes the improper performance by that person of a relevant function or activity'

Case 5:

A person 'requests, agrees to receive or accepts a financial or other advantage as a reward for the improper performance (whether by that person or another person) of a relevant function or activity'

Case 6:

In circumstances where, 'in anticipation of or in consequence of a person requesting, agreeing to receive or accepting a financial or other advantage, a relevant function or activity is performed improperly by that person, or by another person at the first person's request or with the first person's assent or acquiescence'.

In Cases 3 to 6 above it does not matter whether the person 'requests, agrees to receive or accepts (or is to request, agree to receive or accept) the advantage directly or through a third party nor whether the advantage is (or is to be) for the benefit of that person or another person'.

In Cases 4 to 6 'it does not matter whether the person knows or believes that the performance of the function or activity is improper'.



In Case 6, where a person other than the first person 'is performing the function or activity, it also does not matter whether that person knows or believes that the performance of the function or activity is improper'

The Act provides a 'strict liability' corporate offence for companies/organisations of failing to prevent bribery. It provides for corporate and personal criminal offences with substantive penalties.

Under section 7 of the Act, a company/organisation is guilty of an offence if an 'associated person' bribes another to obtain or retain business, or an advantage in the conduct of business for the company/organisation. An offence is committed even if committed by any foreign subsidiary, employee, contractor or agent of the company/organisation anywhere in the world. The Act makes it clear that it is irrelevant if the company/organisation did not participate in or know about the bribe. Lack of knowledge of an act of bribery committed by any foreign subsidiary, employee, contractor or agent of the company/organisation anywhere in the world, is not a defence for companies/organisations. It is not a defence for senior officers/Board members/Boards of Directors that they did not know of the act of bribery.

However, it is a defence under the Act for a company/organisation if they 'had in place adequate procedures designed to prevent persons associated' with the company/organisation from engaging in such conduct and can prove that they existed and that they were operational.

Companies/organisations with operations in UK and around the world must become familiar with the provisions of the Act, educate their employees on its requirements and ensure that they have in place systems and procedures for the prevention of bribery.

Disclaimer: This article is intended to provide general information only. It is not intended to constitute legal advice and it does not provide legal advice.

Injury Focus: Concussions



Concussion is an injury that can cause more than a headache. As brain research advances and our ability to map the brain increases, startling new information suggests that the sports community needs to take this injury very seriously.

The Olympic committee has published strict regulations on concussions which mandate a four-day rest period for any concussion victim. They may then resume training, and if they pass a range of tests, they may return to competition after a further two days.

“Concussion can be exhibited in many different ways,” said Bill Moreau, who has served as director of sports medicine clinics for the Colorado Springs-based USOC since 2009. “It’s not just a loss of consciousness. It could be a loss of memory, a loss of balance, the inability to concentrate. ... Every concussion needs to be recognized as a brain injury.”

This is true for all athletes, regardless of their level. But while professional sports are highly regulated, participants in amateur sports are not subject to such stringent guidelines.

People involved in amateur sports are most at risk from misdiagnosis of potentially life-threatening damage. Children are especially vulnerable to long term damage because their brains are not yet fully developed.

In a study conducted in 2010, researchers claim that sports-related concussions are being sustained at increasing rates. Moreover, because of the general public’s inability to diagnose concussion, many young people are at risk of second impact syndrome. This potentially deadly injury occurs when a person who is still suffering from the effects of a first concussion receives a second blow to the head. This second blow compounds the effects of the first and can result in long term losses of motor skills, paralysis or even death.

Indeed, as many as 90% of reported concussions are sustained by high school and primary school aged-people. According to an article published in USA Today:

- Just 40% of parents feel “knowledgeable” when it comes to preventing their child’s sports injuries.
- 35% say their child plays games with a certified athletic trainer present.
- 29% feel that their child’s coach knows how to prevent sports injuries.

After being concussed, many young people recommence playing too early. Jean Rickerson has first-hand

experience with the uncertainty that concussion can generate. She founded Sportsconcussions.org after her son received a blow to the head in a football game. Not knowing how soon to send him back to the field was a source of stress for all the interested parties: her son, the coaches and the rightly-fearful mother.

“The coaches weren’t educated and neither was I,” says Rickerson. She finally convinced him not to take to the field, but the impact of the first concussion took its toll regardless. It was a year before his writing and reading skills were fully recovered.

Rickerson concludes that only correct diagnosis and time can ensure that children and young adults do not compound their injuries.

Scientific research is being conducted to combat the dangers of concussion. While educating parents and coaches in detection of the injuries has improved, scientists have made some critical discoveries over the past few years.

In a study published in Neurosurgery, scientists assert that Omega-3 fatty acid can help to prevent brain injury. In the study, rats were administered varying amounts of the omega-3 acid and then giving brain trauma. The rats which had received higher amounts of the fatty acid suffered less initial damage and had a faster recovery rate than the rats that had received lower amounts. It is believed that the omega-3 acid helps to strengthen the brain muscle. As a consequence of this study, sportspeople who have a history of concussion would do well to consume higher volumes of foods that contain omega-3.

As our understanding of the brain improves, so does the technology that charts and diagnoses issues in the brain. Neurological testing, according to The American Journal of Sports Medicine, has shown that the damage caused in many cases of concussion should result in longer periods of rest.

Being able to quantify damage beyond secondary symptoms such as nausea and expanded pupils enables medical professionals to gain a more comprehensive insight into the brain’s actual damage. Overall, this study confirms that players usually underestimate the amount of time it takes

to recover from concussion. Neurological testing, therefore, will help players avoid second impact syndrome.

Concussion is a significant sports injury and is one that is all too frequently brushed off. If you sustain any form of blow to the head, seek medical advice.

Related Fact Box

While the dangers of concussions for young people are becoming more widely reported, they face a variety of risks in sport. SAFE KIDS USA is an organization that researches the dangers sports pose to young people.

According to SAFE KIDS USA:

More than 3.5 million children aged 14 and under receive medical treatment for sports injuries each year.

Injuries associated with participation in sports and recreational activities account for 21 percent of all traumatic brain injuries among children in the United States.

Overuse injury, which occurs over time from repeated motion, is responsible for nearly half of all sports injuries to middle-and high-school students. Immature bones, insufficient rest after an injury and poor training or conditioning contribute to overuse injuries among children.

Most organised sports related injuries (62 percent) occur during practices rather than games. Despite this fact, a third of parents often do not take the same safety precautions during their child’s practices as they would for a game.

A recent survey found that among athletes ages 5 to 14, 15 percent of basketball players, 28 percent of football players, 22 percent of soccer players, 25 percent of baseball players and 12 percent of softball players have been injured while playing their respective sports.

Children ages 5 to 14 account for nearly 40 percent of all sports-related injuries treated in hospital emergency departments. The rate and severity of sports-related injury increases with a child’s age.

A Wheely Good Result

Touchline investigates a case of a leisure operator and its insurer taking a stand against the “blame culture” and winning.

The most fun you can have on two wheels?

Many people may have seen a Segway, but perhaps do not know what it was called. Often seen on TV, particularly in US, the Segway is a self-levelling two-wheel personal transporter, made famous by President George W Bush who fell off one because he forgot to turn it on!

However, Segkind Limited, which recently changed its name from Sedghire Ltd, is the UK’s first and biggest provider of Segway Rallies at 10 locations. Their website states that they have over 160,000 satisfied customers since 2007.

Segkind have provided over 150,000 “Segway rallies” around the UK in the past three years. The model used is an off-road one with high mudguards and more aggressive tyres. These rally experiences are sold throughout the UK through various on-line outlets and via affinity schemes such as Tesco Clubcard. They have been insured through Leisureinsure for a number of years without major incident.

On 7 December 2008 there was a Segway rally experience being held at Flint House in Hertfordshire. The day of the event was a crisp winter’s morning with some frost and ice on the ground which the organisers took comprehensive steps to remove. The Claimant was attending the event. Shortly after the event commenced, the Claimant was taking part in a group race which comprised of each participant doing 20 laps of a course. It was made clear to the participants that the objective was not to collide with the cones and that it was a test of control rather than speed.

Despite this, when it came to his turn the Claimant set off down the course at a pace, lost control of his Segway and then failed to follow either the pre-ride training given to him or the shouted instructions of the event organiser to let go. Unfortunately, in the process of the Segway spinning around, the Claimant suffered an injury to his right ankle that appeared minor enough. In fact, after resting for a few minutes he hopped back on his Segway and participated in the remainder of the event – including negotiating a fairly tricky off-road course! Later the Claimant issued a claim for damages for personal injuries.

From an early stage in the matter, panel solicitor Steve Robb of Shakespeares



and Sportscover’s Senior Claims Handler, Andrew Ancrum took the view that this was a case to fight. Although the Claimant’s injuries were slight and the value of the claim fairly modest, an admission or finding of liability could have had a profoundly adverse effect on the policyholder’s reputation. They had built a successful business in a relatively short period of time, based largely on providing safe opportunities to enjoy a fun but slightly risky activity. This was the first time that anyone had suffered a “significant” injury on one of their rallies.

Evidence was gathered which showed the strength of the policyholder’s training and systems, with particular emphasis on the experience of the trainer on the day. At the same time the evidence of the Claimant as to weather conditions,

his reporting of the accident and his comments on the training he had received were carefully analysed and the inconsistencies noted.

At the trial, the Claimant’s case was presented. He suggested that the area of the accident was covered in “sheets of ice” and that the whole event was an accident waiting to happen.

However, the District Judge delivered a very detailed Judgment which dismissed the Claimant’s claim in full. She took the view that the activity that the Claimant was taking part in was inherently risky but that everyone accepted that without the perceived level of risk (which the organisers had reduced to the lowest possible level) there was no experience. The Judge accepted the Company’s submission that to remove all possible risk of injury would have made the whole experience “tedious beyond belief”. The fact that the participants had been provided with helmets, body armour, gloves, elbow pads, knee pads and shin pads, should, in the Judge’s view, have given the Claimant some clue that the activity was “a bit risky”.

Commentary

Trials emphasise time and again the importance of having properly recorded and properly applied systems of training and allocation of equipment. Lawyers and Judges take account of the fact that Claimant’s, be they employees or participants, had been made aware of the risks associated with what they were doing and contain an explanation of why the training and equipment are important.

Too often in today’s society people want to blame someone when they are hurt. So much more so when they can do so on a “no win – no fee” basis. Even in a case such as this, where someone was taking part in an activity that he acknowledged was inherently dangerous and for which he had more safety equipment than the average ice hockey player, the Claimant still wanted to blame somebody when he ignored the training given to him and suffered an injury.

However, thanks to an effective system of training and instruction on the part of the policyholder and a robust approach from the defence team a positive result was achieved. In the face of the “blame culture” it is refreshing to see that a Judge can still accept that accidents do happen that cannot be blamed on anyone.

Sports Shorts



ANZ Stadium to conduct review after stakes found on surface

It was reported that Sydney's biggest sporting facility, ANZ Stadium, was investigating how three metal stakes were found on the ground during a Aussie Rules football game. Sydney Swans co-captain Jarrad McVeigh is reported to have found the objects during their game against Collingwood in June.

McVeigh stepped on a U-shaped stake when he was in the forward line in the first quarter and, later in the half, found two others lying on the turf in different locations.

ANZ Stadium officials said they were working with the Swans to investigate "how such an incident might have occurred".

"There are a number of pins used when attaching grow mats to the playing surface," the stadium's general manager of assets and technical services, Simon Davies, said.

"The mats promote grass growth in preparation for an event. All pins are removed prior to any field activity and stringent procedures are undertaken in the lead-up to any event to ensure the entire playing surface is free of objects and ready for play."

"If it is the case that one or two pins have remained in the turf despite these checks, we would be surprised and disappointed. If investigations show that this occurred, we will thoroughly review our procedures."



ECB & MCC reveal new initiative

The England Cricket Board (ECB) and the Marylebone Cricket Club have announced a new joint initiative – 'Play Hard, Play Fair and Stay in the Game' aimed at improving standards of behaviour in junior cricket.

The initiative, which is also supported by the Professional Cricketers' Association, the England Schools Cricket Association and the HMC Schools, has been devised to help educate youngsters about the challenges they may face as players or as captains and promote a wider acceptance and understanding of the 'Spirit of Cricket'.

Drawn up in close consultation with age-group players, coaches and managers, the project invited all children participating in Under 15 cricket this year to take part in an online quiz based around ten different cricketing scenarios and include an opportunity to win tickets to an npower Test Match. ECB head of non-first class cricket Paul Bedford said: 'As well as learning that cricket is a fun and enjoyable sport, we want all young cricketers in whatever competitive situation they are in to understand that they have a crucial role to play in upholding the game's historic reputation for fair play'.

'There is no place for bad behaviour in cricket and this initiative is designed to help teach the next generation of players about the importance of showing respect to your opponents, match officials, coaches, scorers and spectators'.

The initiative will be accompanied by the implementation of a new code of conduct for junior cricketers which was circulated to all junior clubs and match officials in England at the start of the season.



Boy dies after goalposts fall on him

A 12-year-old boy has died after being hit by falling goalposts while playing football in Powys, Wales.

Dyfed-Powys Police said Casey Breese was playing with local boys in a recreation ground at Caersws. The incident occurred in July.

A spokesman said the goalposts were being examined after the "sad death" of Casey and there were no suspicious circumstances.

He was pronounced dead after being flown to hospital in Shrewsbury.

A police spokesman said it is understood that a group of local boys were playing football on the recreation area when the goalposts fell to the ground.

Casey was treated at the scene by ambulance staff before being taken by air ambulance to the Royal Shrewsbury hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after his arrival.

"The goalposts have been taken away by the police, who have also spoken with the other children and some adults who were in the area at the time," said the spokesman.

Floral tributes and a football top were placed at the ground, while tributes were also left to Casey on Facebook and Twitter.



Sports Shorts

Chinese gymnast sues in USA

Sang Lan, a Chinese gymnast who broke her neck during a vaulting accident at the 1998 Goodwill Games, filed a \$US1.8 billion (\$A1.65 billion) lawsuit on Thursday against Time Warner and the US gymnastics federation.

Sang was paralysed after being injured during a warm-up vault at the Nassau Coliseum in suburban New York at the global multisport event which is no longer contested but was at the time owned by AOL Time Warner.

In a federal lawsuit, Sang, now 29, claims promises for care after her injury were broken and her condition has worsened because Time Warner and USA Gymnastics failed to make sure her medical bills were paid and other needs were met.

Sang, paralysed from below the middle of her chest, says she has been unable to obtain vital treatments after suffering



Girls die on biscuit tube ride

In early April this year a tragic boating accident left the families of three sisters and an American exchange student in shock, mourning on two sides of the globe.

Paris Wilson, 16, her sister Dodie, 12, and a 16-year-old American exchange student Cameron O'Neill-Mullin were riding an inflatable "biscuit" tube at Goondiwindi Natural Heritage and Water Park in Queensland, Australia when the tube swung out on a turn, flinging the girls up the bank, where they slammed into a tree.

Paris and Cameron were killed on impact. Dodie was severely injured but is reported to have made a remarkable recovery since the horrific accident.

The boat was being driven by Bianca Wilson, 17 - Paris and Dodie's older sister. Bianca was treated for shock at the Goondiwindi Hospital.

Cameron was on a five-week exchange program from St Paul's School for Girls in Baltimore, Maryland. Paris was due to visit the US as part of the programme later that month.

The accident has rocked the rural community of Goondiwindi, on the Queensland border with New South Wales.

spinal cord injuries and two broken and dislocated vertebrae.

The lawsuit also claims Sang has suffered under the care of two Chinese-Americans who were appointed as her legal guardians after the accident by Chinese gymnastics officials, a move made over her parents' objections.

The filing says her guardians have controlled her medical treatments and contacts with US physicians.

"Living in China for the past 13 years, Ms. [Sang] Lan was literally unable to sue in an American court or Chinese court," the lawsuit said.

"Ms. [Sang] Lan has been struggling for the past 13 years in China, without proper medical insurance coverage, without a penny compensatory damage for her ... permanent injury, without freedom or recourse to seek justice."



Boy dies at Massachusetts football camp

A 12-year-old US boy died in hospital after earlier collapsing at a Massachusetts soccer camp following a "low-speed drill".

Joshua Thibodeau of Holden, about 80km west of Boston, was attending the Zalgiris Soccer Camp at Wachusett Regional High School in July when he collapsed and stopped breathing in front of horrified players and coaches.

He was rushed to the University of Massachusetts Medical Centre in Worcester, where doctors pronounced him dead.

In a news conference at Holden Police Headquarters, Worcester County District Attorney Joe Early Jr. said a preliminary investigation showed Thibodeau did not have a pre-existing medical condition. However, final autopsy reports were still to be released.

A statement released by Joshua's parents described him as a "kind-hearted, caring, loving son and brother".

Facebook to show FA Cup opener

Facebook is set to broadcast the opening match of this season's FA Cup with Budweiser between Ascot United and Wembley FC live on the social networking site.

The two non-league sides meet on Friday 19 August in an extra preliminary-round of the competition.

The stream will be funded by the FA Cup's new sponsors Budweiser, and is the first broadcast of its kind anywhere in sport.

The tie could normally expect to attract a crowd of around 90 fans - according to media reports - but will now have the possibility of reaching a potential global audience of 700m people.

Budweiser marketing director Ian Newell said: 'Budweiser is committed to bringing the world's most prestigious knockout competition closer to the fans. What better way to demonstrate this than by broadcasting the very first kick to a global audience via Facebook?'

'This is the first time an FA Cup tournament fixture has been broadcast live on the social network, which is great news for football fans and clubs alike'.

Ascot, who play their football in the Hellenic League, take on Combined Counties side Wembley at the Racecourse Ground in one of 204 extra preliminary-round fixtures.

763 clubs will compete in this year's FA Cup, with an extra-preliminary round, a preliminary round, and four qualifying rounds for some teams before the first round proper takes place the weekend of 12th November.

Premier League sides will join the competition in the third round at the beginning of January 2012.

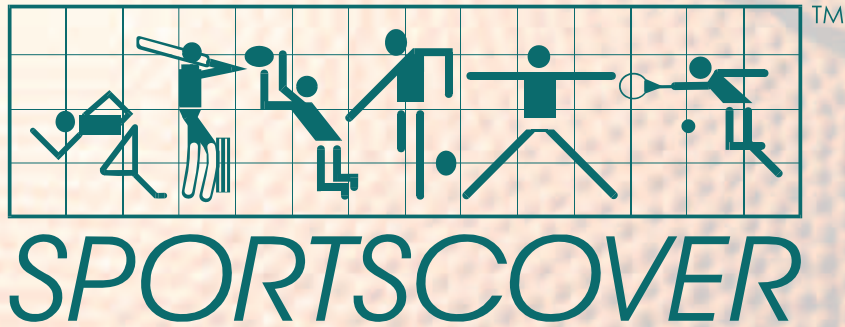
The final will take place on 5th May 2012 at Wembley Stadium.



25 YEARS OF
INSURING
SPORT

LLOYD'S

*Sportscover wishes
the Bulleen Boomers
Good Luck on their
upcoming tour to China*



*Genuine experts in Sport
Sportscover has 25 years experience
in providing bespoke insurance for
Players, Teams, Clubs, Venues, Country
and National Associations worldwide.*

All policies underwritten by Sportscover Syndicate 3334, managed by Sportscover Underwriting Ltd. Sportscover Europe Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Sportscover Australia Pty Ltd ACN 006 637 903 ABN 43 006 637 903 AFS Licence Number 230914

MELBOURNE SYDNEY LONDON SHANGHAI

sportscover.com