



ONIONbag

Congratulations - the website looks great! What a wonderful way for the family to spend an evening at Christmas. Who needs a fireplace! HA! — Caitlin Berndt

■ That's very bloody funny. We have since submitted Caitlin's email address to over 2,000 especially festive German website partners on the Merry HoHo Webring.



LETTERS—best of 2004



We get our fair share of mail at WFP, thanks ultimately to the efforts of our neighborhood postman here at Central Command outside Grassy Plains, BC, 300 miles north of **Bob Lenarduzzi**, who, by the way, knows crap about football. The postman that is, not Teflon Bob. Still, if you write it, he'll get it here and by God we do enjoy the diatribe and banter. 2004, like the one before it, was a good year for letters and here in their abridged glory are those that fuelled the biggest grins, for better or worse. Relive now, the glory... the horror...

I just read your column. It's time for you to come downtown for a couple of beers. I have a UK buddy arriving next week who supports Arsenal, so you can beat him up and maybe feel better.

— John Lee, Vancouver, #43

■ Next to calls of support from **Donna** and **Joy**, this is the sweetest thought ever passed our way

 HAS ANYONE SEEN THE LIGHT:

Mother weans son on diet of WFP

I... wanted you to know that we are not too concerned about the content... and find it informative, creative as well as amusing. Life needs a sense of humour at all levels.

— Pat Lechkobit, Prince George, #39

■ You need a sense of humour to live that far north and **Pat** is no exception. Her sprouting son **Dillon** is a keeper by trade for **PGSC** and a faithful reader of **Shel's Guarding the Goal** column. Mom's got tough wings though, starting the lad of his December issue till Christmas, at which point he discovered he'd won the second **SoccerPlus Spot the Wanker Contest**.

What greater glory than truth

I've had the chance to read your magazine, and man, you tell it like it is.

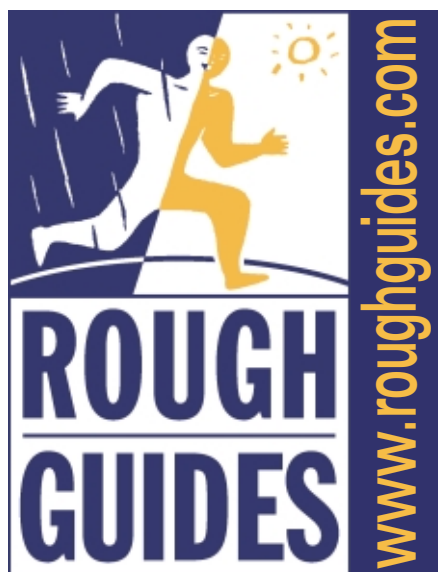
— Michael Torres, Illinois, USA, #43

■ The enlightened Yank read his first copy in May, which featured his own quest to authenticate a ball scribbled on by the our only living God, **Pele**.


Horried reader gets his fix

You really threw a scare into me when you stopped the fortnightly publication. Do you know how difficult it is to wait an entire month for the next issue of WFP? ...Fantastic coverage of not only the world game but the local game... Great job!

— Alvin Martin, Vancouver, #39



ROUGH GUIDES
www.roughguides.com

■ Given that **Alvin** is one of only six people in the country who understand the term 'fortnightly', we were forced to cease production of the 'twice-a-month' edition in favour of the 'monthly', at the close of 2003. For some time, like **Alvin**, we were all starving for our fix, but I think have since settled nicely into this more manageable dosage.

Blind readers welcome

Unfortunately, it keeps getting thinner...

— Erwin Landsberger, Kelowna, #41

■ At your age we're not surprised.

Erwin was in fact referring to WFP's monthly size, which he'd mistaken to be smaller than the fortnightly. It is in fact four pages larger and since March 2004, **Erwin** has graced many of them, contributing more letters than any other reader in our sordid history.


Rubbing Rubbens' rear

Today I received Issue 46. It is a cracker and I can't stop reading. Your editorial made me jump from my seat.

— Alfons Rubbens, Inside Soccer Magazine, #47

■ Unfortunately, by September 2004, **Saint Alfons** had jumped out of his seat and the publishing game entirely — **ISM** had fallen victim to a rather unnecessary business deal that sadly saw WFP's only peer out of print. Fortunately, **Alfons** and crew are working hard to release a new magazine come early-2005. Till then we do hope WFP provides our eastern tycoon many whoopie cushion moments.


 WHAT THE !@#\$:

Tell us what you really think

I went to the tradeshow portion of **SoccerFest** and I thought it was pretty lame. Where was **Adidas**, **Nike** or **Puma**? I was told that **Diadora** is the official supplier to the **BCSA** and that everyone else was shut out. Nuts to that! It was saddest, smallest tradeshow I ever saw. It better be better next year, or I'll give it a pass.

— Dan Nemeth, Vancouver, #40

■ We've yet to hear from **Dan** regarding the recent **SoccerFest 2005**, which no doubt shattered all hopes he harboured. By 2pm midway, there really was no 'Fest' to speak of, except a clearly-drugged **Bill Fowle** who we discovered guarding his impressive photo display alone on the second floor of the **Metrotown Hilton**.

City fan tries to rig Lucky Bugger

I better win the **Niall Quinn** book as not only

am I a [Manchester] **City** supporter but I also met the great man. Can you rig it?

— Stephen Barlow, Stratford, Ontario, #41

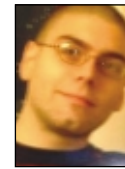
■ He lost.

Portuguese hooligan on the loose

I was going to use my **Hooligan in Good Standing** card to administer life-threatening cuts to **Man U** fans, though I do understand there are other legitimate uses for it.

— Justin Rebelo, Victoria, #41

■ It's hard not to like an inventive sod like **Justin**, so here at WFP we named our newest baby **Zebra Finch** after the feisty lad. Like its namesake, the bird flew the coop.


WFP loses bid to sponsor team

My local men's team in Burnaby is looking to get a sponsorship program for our team. Is there an opportunity with your company?

— Elvin Kumar, Burnaby, #49

■ We agreed to sponsor **Elvin** if he renamed the team the **Burnaby Bungholes**. **Elvin** has not replied.

 CRY ME A RIVER:

WFP scribe proves unstable

I've been quite sick over the past few weeks and haven't really been up for anything at all. Got the email about the **Profiles** but haven't had too much energy lately.

— Phil Dutton, Langley, #41

■ There have since been unconfirmed sightings of **Phil**, and his wife **Laura** is convinced he frequently blinks whenever **Man U** scores. Will **Phil** grace our pages again anytime soon? Will **Fergie** win the **Premiership** again before his ego explodes...?

Humouring Quebec

As a subscriber to your magazine I am frequently puzzled by the commentary that is prevalent.

— Yvon Sancartier, Deux-Montagnes, QB, #43

■ It's OK, she's French.

Desperate for online satisfaction

I've got a beef. How come you can't subscribe online to this newspaper? Huh?

— Erin Hunse, Guelph, #44

■ Your complaint has been forwarded to **Canada Post**. Meanwhile, you still can't subscribe online but at least you can now subscribe by mail to the new electronic WFP. Oh, the irony!

WFP in the Surrey shithouse

I am a regular subscriber and enjoy your paper immensely (currently ranked as my #1 bog read) however, as the coach of the **u10 Gunners...**, I have to object to the "hats off" caption....

— Steve Mattoo, SUCS u10 Gunners, #48

■ **Steve** had due reason following his team's clean-up campaign, playing up a year during the 2004 **LLDT**. They won it all yet we mistakenly credited four of the wee lads with winning nothing.


 THEM WERE THE DAYS:

The FC Victoria Love Bus

Congrats on your birthday. The latest edition was read by all 52 **FC Victoria (Super Y)** players on our bus trip to Seattle....

— David Dew, FC Victoria, #43

■ Unfortunately recent **BCSA District Development Centre** plans have ripped the transmission out of the **FC Victoria Love Bus**, and future **Y-League** readings of WFP.


Savouring the moment

...I'm content because every day that you can wake up and see that **Man U** is 11th in the table is a day to be savoured.

— Steve Holmes, Wesburn SC, #47

■ **Man U** have since ruined **Steve's** life, climbing back to third in the **EPL** since September 2004.



LETTERS—2005



As always, if you're brave enough to send one in, we're foolish enough to print it. All letters to WFP will be considered for such unless otherwise requested. We may edit for taste, legality and size etc., though we have no taste and as my misses insists, size doesn't matter.

Repeat caller All-Black-listed

I've tried calling the office... but with no luck (I thought maybe you went on holiday). The **All-Blacks** want to thank you for publishing the photo and running the article.

— Michael Atkinson

■ **Holiday!**, you lazy sod, there's no time for holidays. We were here. We were just ignoring you.

But I mean that in the nicest way

Like **Stan Collymore** you are a freak in your own freakish way. Perhaps not a dogger or **Celebrity Farmyarder** but still so freakish that "freak Me out!" is a phrase that really should be used self-referentially only when you leave the building.

— Ted 'Thor' Gudlaugson

■ Your letter is being analysed by the best doctors in the field. We'll have your results soon.

Publisher not pulling hairs

As much as you may dislike women's soccer www.gobigred.ca and its forum has hundreds of young women followers.... I was just wondering how many of their forum contributors actually buy or subscribe to WFP.

— Erwin Landsberger, Kelowna

■ With the exception of **Brittany Timko**, we're pretty sure it's close to none. And it's not that I don't like girls, oh I do I do, it's that I don't like the way our national nubles insist on playing a style of football that was rightfully killed off in large part at the turn of the 80's.

Passing around the compliments

Could you please send us a complimentary copy of **World Football Pages** for preview.

— Lisa Strong, Alpha SS Library

■ There's one library we'll never here from again!
Letters continued next page