

Finally...at last ...after a long wet summer... football's back!

The football season is upon us again. It's been tough having to make do without it, but at long last life as we know it can finally get back to normal.

For the Craven Cottage faithful, there is a new found level of optimism following Lawrie Sanchez's summer spending spree. Having forked out £6m for Diomansy Kamara, £4m for Steven Davis and £3.25m for Paul Konchesky, fans are expecting great things this year. Well, at least not another relegation dogfight, surely!

For what it's worth, h&f news tips other new signing David Healy as the star buy. Goals will come from the diminutive Irishman.

For Chelsea, the only really big money signing at the time of going to press was Florent Malouda from Lyon for an undisclosed fee thought to be in the region of £13m. That said, the Blues have picked up three fine players on free transfers – namely Claudio Pizarro, Tal Ben Haim and Steve Sidwell.

h&f news predict that Sidwell

will make a real difference to the team if he is allowed to play. He has a good grounding, having been a promising youngster at Arsenal, before maturing into a fully-fledged top-flight player at Reading.

As for QPR, John Gregory has been doing deals with both of the other borough clubs, selling Lee Cook to Fulham and taking Chelsea defender Michael Mancienne on a season's loan. Needless to say the 19-year-old, who spent seven months with QPR last season is h&f news' one to watch.

Hopefully the recent pre-season friendly against Celtic is no indication of things to come, given that Rangers went down 5-1 at home. The Loftus Road boss wasn't worried. "We are gearing up for August 11, so today was just a training exercise in many respects," said John Gregory. That's alright then.

League fixtures for the coming month - subject to change



Wed. 15 Aug. 7.45pm
Bolton at home
Sat. 18 Aug. 3.00pm
Middlesbro' at home
Sat. 25 Aug. 3.00pm
Aston Villa away
Sat. 1 Sept. 3.00pm
Tottenham at home



Wed. 15 Aug. 8.00pm
Reading away
Sun. 19 Aug. 4.00pm
Liverpool away
Sat. 25 Aug. 3.00pm
Portsmouth at home
Sun. 2 Sept. 4.00pm
Aston Villa away



Sat. 18 Aug. 3.00pm
Cardiff at home
Sat. 25 Aug. 3.00pm
Burnley away
Sat. 1 Sept. 3.00pm
Southampton at home

Cricket club's Major landmark

Members of Shepherds Bush Cricket Club (SBCC), who have hosted visits by stars including former West Indies captain Brian Lara, are celebrating the 125th anniversary of their club with a celebrity fundraising match at their ground on 26 August.

James Major, the son of former Prime Minister and avid cricket fan John Major, and former British boxing champions Gary Mason and Lloyd Honeyghan, will be joined by ex-England cricketers Keith Medleycott and David Smith, as well as ex-England footballer Chris Sutton, for a celebrity 11 charity fundraiser at SBCC. They will be taking on a team from SBCC to raise money for Hammersmith Hospital's neo-natal unit as well as SBCC's junior Colts section. Spectators are welcome and tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for concessions and children under seven. The fun starts from noon onwards, with a lunch and charity auction, and the match is at 2.00pm.

SBCC cricket secretary Imran Khan said, "It will be a family day out with bouncy castles, face-painting and live music in the evening. We were founded in 1882 and this event is a great way to help us celebrate our 125th anniversary."

The club, which fields three teams in the Middlesex League, and one in the 1987

League, is in its fourth year in Bromyard Avenue, on the Shepherds Bush border, in what is thought to be the only newly-laid cricket ground within the M25 since World War Two. For more details visit www.shepbushcc.demon.co.uk or email cricketsec@googlemail.com

Pictured right: Shepherds Bush players Algie Corbin (centre) and Jeremy Dean (far right) celebrate taking a wicket at a recent match against Barnes CC.

Pictured below: Bowler Algernon Corbin, Shepherds Bush 1st XI all-rounder, in action.



Youth Games star

Among the young people competing for Hammersmith & Fulham in this year's London Youth Games was 13 year-old Rhiannon Ishmael (pictured), who represented the borough for the third year running. A keen footballer, who has just finished her first season for QPR under 13 girls, Rhiannon was vice-captain of the H&F Youth Games football team but also competed in tennis, girls' tag rugby (in which the H&F team made it to the quarter finals, finishing tenth) and girls' indoor cricket during this year's games. She helped the H&F team secure a bronze medal in the cricket at Lord's indoor cricket centre.

Rhiannon's mum Jacqui, from Shepherds Bush, said, "Football is her real passion. She started playing when she was eight at Greenside Primary School. She was in the school team which won the Mayor's Cup girls' trophy for three years running from 2003-5 and also helped the borough win a bronze medal at the Mini-Games in the same year."

Rhiannon has also just been honoured by her team mates from QPR's under 13 girls, who nominated her the players' player for 2006-7 at their recent end-of-season awards evening.

Other bronze medals for the H&F London Youth Games squad came in the volleyball (a team from the London Oratory School) and in the weightlifting. In the London Mini-Games, for primary age children, H&F secured bronze in the mini-hockey (a team from Fulham Prep. School) and athletics. The borough's kit for both events was sponsored by Chelsea FC again this year.





Anyone for Turbo Tennis?



With our borough contributing a thrilling Queens tournament, and Wimbledon providing the high of Jamie Murray becoming the first Brit in twenty odd years to win a title, tennis fans might be craving a little more of the same.

Well h&f news is offering you the chance to do just that, but with a twist. You may have heard of lawn tennis, clay court tennis, doubles, singles and mixed tennis, but do you know what Turbo Tennis is? If you enter our competition you will have the chance to find out, as six world-class players battle it out over the course of one afternoon in matches lasting just 30 minutes.

When the klaxon sounds, the game is over and the player in the lead wins – it's as simple as that! Understandably it leads to fast frenetic games played at breakneck speed and with an edge that is making this form of play a growing force in the game - log on to www.betfairturbotennis.com to find out more.

Designed to provide maximum entertainment, the Betfair Turbo Tennis tournament will see competitors donning compulsory coloured kit and fighting their way through five knockout matches to become champion. And before you dismiss it as a bit of a gimmick, bear in mind that the prize for the eventual winner is a cool \$100,000!

And the line-up couldn't be more impressive, with former Wimbledon champions Pat Cash and Goran Ivanisevic joined by ATP Tour players Tim Henman, James Blake, Jamie Murray, and his brother Andy Murray.

The event will be held at The O2 on 15 September and in order to be in with a chance of winning one of two pairs of tickets we have to give away, all you have to do is answer the following question:

What is the name of Jamie Murray's partner, with whom he won the Wimbledon mixed doubles final last month?

Send your contact details, in an email entitled 'Turbo Tennis competition' to handfnews@lbhf.gov.uk or post your entry to h&f news, Hammersmith and Fulham Council, Room 6, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London, W6 9JU.

Closing date for entries is 31 August.



Parking at Fulham Broadway

Entry after 6pm & Exit before 9am £5 max

Credit cards accepted

Maximum Headroom 2.1m

Up to:

1Hour - £1.50

2Hours - £3.00

3Hours - £4.00

4Hours - £5.00

5Hours - £6.00

6Hours - £7.00

9Hours - £10.00

12Hours - £15.00

24Hours - £25.00

Make more of your day at Fulham Broadway