

Malcolm Baggio has been on holiday in Costa Del Raydon soaking up the footballing news rays. Here he is back from his break to show you his red raw Raydon news tan.

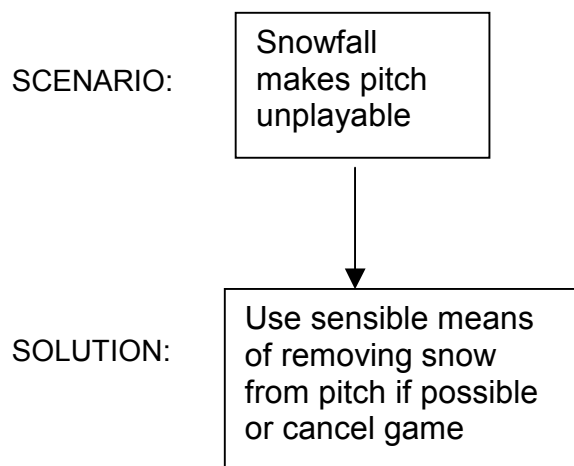
Raydon Chairman Lionel Stubbs called an inquest into what went wrong during the second half of Raydon's 2008-2009 season shortly after the campaign was over. In December 2008 Raydon had been sitting in top place in the Bar Extreme League, 12 points clear of their nearest rivals.

A stomach churning slump in form in the second half of the season during which Raydon only scored 4 goals (three of them own goals and one an error in the referee's match report), and accumulated 3 points saw them plummet down the table like a baby pigeon falling from a nest after a strong gust of wind has plucked it from the warmth of its mother's soft breast plumage. They managed to avoid relegation by the skin of a baby's whisker.

Manager Roland Peters, a number of senior players and Stubbs himself attended the inquest which took place at the Punnet and Kiosk pub in Raydon. Everybody was allowed to have a say into what went wrong. Suggestions as to the reasons for the team's decline included "not playing well enough", "failing to compete to the required standard," "an inability to score more goals than their opponents," and "playing like a bunch of clueless c***s", the latter being forcefully put forward by Peters himself.

Eventually after several hours soul-searching and beer supping, those present pinpointed the team's inability to fulfil eight of their fixtures as the main reason for the slump.

The reason for the failure to play eight games was due to Roland Peters accidentally ploughing up the pitch during attempts to clear snow in February. Having highlighted the main cause of the slump, the group set about formulating a plan to ensure a repeat does not happen in future. It was decided that every person associated with the running of the club would be issued with a handy credit card sized 'plan of action' to keep about their person at all times for them to refer to in the event of snow. Lionel Stubbs and Roland Peters came up with the following flow diagram to feature on the cards:



It was agreed that a graphic designer would be contracted by club to create a suitable colourful design for the cards and that 400 of them would be produced. Furthermore, it was also agreed that a security firm would be recruited to permanently man the entrance to Clockton Park and not let anyone into the complex(1) without their card.

Aside from the cancelled fixtures, Roland Peters still felt that attitude and confidence had been a problem for the team towards the end of the season. Lionel Stubbs revealed that as the result of a recent “business deal” (and he did actually make annoying inverted comma motions in the air with his fingers as he said it), he had some cash which he a) needed to get rid of very quickly and b) was willing to invest in the club in the form of a part-time motivational coach.

Peters virtually (and actually) drooled at the prospect and thought this would be “a wicked idea.” The very next day he set about writing a job description and advert to place in the local newspaper, booking the entire job supplement in the East Anglian Daily Times for a month. Unfortunately to date the club has had no applications so TWTD has kindly agreed to carry a small ad as part of this article.

Sadly we’ve had to cut a bit of this article which revealed the identity of the world famous happily married celebrity that goalkeeper Ian Buffalo has had an affair with, inadvertently fathering two of her recently born triplets, but at least all the other stuff we’ve kept in is really really interesting.

The recent scandal over MPs expenses has prompted Chairman Lionel Stubbs to publicise the expenses claims of players and staff at the club. This was in order to avoid any public scandal over inappropriate expenditure, even though the club obviously receives absolutely no public funding whatsoever and it is therefore totally irrelevant. Nevertheless, it provided us with some useful and interesting information. The below table details the total expenses claims since April 2009.

Name	Amount and nature of expenditure
Lionel Stubbs	£2.99. Purchase of calculator to work out expenses claims.
Lionel Stubbs	£6.40. Travel expenses to drive to Staples in Ipswich to purchase calculator.
Lionel Stubbs	£400. Recruitment of independent consultant to gather information about club expenses claims.
Lionel Stubbs	£150 Recruitment of temporary PA to assist independent consultant.
Lionel Stubbs	£300. Cost of basic finance course for temporary PA.
Lionel Stubbs	£4000. Legal fees and court costs to fight unfair dismissal case upon early termination of temporary PA’s contract.
Lionel Stubbs	£10000. Payment of fine following unsuccessful court case involving former temporary PA.
Roland Peters	£0.15. Tesco value pencil sharpener

The independent consultant employed by Stubbs established that the pencil sharpener that Peters’ claimed for was in fact for personal use which prompted a huge local scandal. A tearful Peters appeared on Anglia News explaining how he had initially

claimed for the pencil sharpener as he had lost the one in his Clockton Park office but it then turned up a few days later so he decided to give the new one to his 7 year old son. "I know now that what I did was wrong, and I will repay every penny" wept Peters in an emotional interview which took up 25 minutes of that day's edition of the programme, despite a massive gas explosion happening in Colchester Town Centre on the same day.

Peters' face was also plastered across the front page of the local press under headlines such as:

"Penny-pinching Peters penalised over pedantic and petty 15 pence pencil sharpener payment!"

"Roland Rat!"

"Roland Prat!"

"Roland Tw*tt!"

"Roland F***wit!"

"Peters Peters – expenses cheater!"

The storm blew over in time for Raydon's annual fun friendly match against their wives over the summer. In view of the complete pasting that they have inflicted upon the wives in previous years, this time it was agreed that the men would play with just 7 players against the usual 11-a-side wives team.

Elaine Funtingdale had to come off half way through the first half with 'the monthlys'. Physio Lionel Stubbs offered to administer his sponge and water to the affected area but the offer was politely declined. He made a mental note to pack some ladies sanitary products in his physio bag for next year's match against the wives. Funtingdale was replaced with a newcomer to the wives squad, Mal Chipaway's new wife Gertrude. Gertrude Chipaway is a bit of a local character and is probably best summed up by the best man's speech at their wedding which referred to her as, "a bit of a f**king nutcase".

The game up had been 1-1 until that point, the numerical advantage enjoyed by the ladies having evened up the game nicely, along with the fact that no-one was really trying or cared much. George Mnunga had given the men the lead after delicately lobbing a penalty over the despairing keeper, his wife Avril Mnunga. The penalty had been awarded after defender Claudine Candlestick had caught the ball in the penalty area, still not really understanding the rules despite taking part in the fixture for the past ten years. Rather unsportingly George celebrated by running over to his wife and making a deeply offensive hand gesture.

Enid Chopper equalised for the ladies with a bullet header from 10 yards although she then had to be substituted as the header had badly damaged her permed hairdo and she had a dinner party that evening.

Gertrude Chipaway's introduction livened up the game as she let fly with a series of niggly fouls and was clearly taking the game far too seriously. The game flared up when, just after she had a goal disallowed for offside, the wound-up Gertrude went through the back of her husband's leg's with a hideous tackle that would have made a pathologist feel queasy.

Whilst Mal Chipaway writhed around in agony with what appeared to be a possible triple compound fracture of the ankle, his wife was surrounded by angry Raydon players. She ignored the furious players and merely goaded her husband, telling him to get up and stop being a 'big jesse'. Stand-in referee Lionel Stubbs decided to abandon the game so everyone could calm down and Mal could get some medical attention. By the time Gertrude drove off to hospital with Mal in the passenger seat, drifting in and out of consciousness and his leg wrapped in horribly blood stained bandages, the incident had all been forgotten about and it was all smiles.

Everyone was laughing and joking about the game that evening when they got together in the pub for a few drinks. Gertrude even got a big cheer when she came in, although Mal couldn't make it, having just woken up in hospital after a three hour operation to save his leg. He is expected to miss the start of pre-season training.

All eyes and ears are now on the big kick off and manager Roland Peters is in confident mood about the new season. "We are in with a good chance of achieving success this season. Winning football matches is all about scoring more goals than your opponents and as long as we can consistently do that in every match throughout the season, we'll be half way there."

- (1) Please note that the word "complex" paints a truly inaccurate picture of the facilities that exist at Clockton Park, both in terms of the 'complexity' of the site which is in fact very basic, and also the fact that it is also no way a 'complex' in the architectural sense.

RAYDON ATHLETIC SEEK A MOTIVATIONAL COACH.

Salary: £piss-poor

You will be:

- In possession of the required attributes to fulfil the post
- Someone we deem worthy of appointing to the above post
- The successful applicant

Unsuitable candidates need not apply.

Applicants should send a CV and covering letter to Roland Peters at PO Box 9774443, Raydon.