Lucia Lacund Lac

The Beautiful Game

The modern game of football - surely the most popular game in the world originated in England in the 19th Century when the rules we know today were set out. Shinkicking, tripping and carrying the ball were finally outlawed, w much to the dismay of some players who split from the English Football Association to develop the game of rugby.

Football certainly has a violent history. Mob Football, which emerged in the Middle Ages, was played across Europe in various forms. In England, villages played each other, trying to force the ball into the market square of the opposing village by any means possible (in one version the called Shrovetide of game, Football. only murder manslaughter prohibited). were Starting with Edward II in 1314, a long list of English monarchs tried to ban the sport, threatening players with imprisonment.



Mob Football is still played in some parts of England to this day.

In contrast, the king of the Olmec people in ancient Mexico (1300BC) not only permitted their subjects to play, but took part themselves. And their ancestors, the Mokaya (3000BC) were so serious about their sport - called Pok-a-Tok, similar to football but using only the elbows, knees and hips to control the ball - that the losing team's captain was generally beheaded. Given the sport's history it would not be surprising to learn that the head was then used as a ball. Outlandish, you may think, but some researchers believe that the severed head of a defeated Danish prince was the first football to be used England.

So, when you settle down to watch replays of the World Cup final, remember the words of Bill Shankley, a

former Liverpool manager: "Some people think that football is a matter of life and death. They're wrong. It's much more serious than that".



Article by Jonathan

Net News

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NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

Learn all about the history of soccer here:

http://expertfootball.com/history/

<u>NET NOTEBOOK:</u> Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Some Thoughts for the Month



<u>Joshua Says</u>: It's that time of the term again. Performance night! The Big Party is on the 31st of this month. I really hope many of you will come along and join in – not just the performers. After all, everyone likes karaoke, a glass of wine and good food, don't they? And next month there will be our Summer B-B-Q party on the roof-top. Check out the details on P3. I look forward to seeing you all there, twice!

Junko Says: It is always good news to hear our students do well outside. Studying English has paid off for two of our high-school students from Jonathan's S(c)1 group. Taiki Shiraishi was recently placed 3rd out of 400 students in his grade in the GTEC English writing test. And Kota Nishiyama traveled to Chicago in America to take part in a NASA-sponsored debate competition where his team (including members from Ireland and the US) achieved the 3rd prize out of 434 teams comprising a total of 1,043 students. Great job, boys!!!





Jonathan Says: I find myself largely ignored as I walk the streets of Matsuyama, or drink coffee in a café. I thought that perhaps I am particularly ugly or generally unremarkable — disappointing, as I expected legions of female admirers to flock to my side on arrival in Japan — but it seems that Japanese do not seem to stare at each other, either. I watched as two young men completely ignored the stunning woman that walked right past them. This is in contrast to England where 'people watching' is a national pastime.

Greg Says: Have you ever had a craving for something? Last week my daughter played golf in Tokushima and we were staying overnight in Kagawa. We both had a craving for sushi but our GPS couldn't locate a sushi restaurant anywhere near us. There were heaps of udon and noodle shops, but no sushi. We drove for nearly an hour before finding one by chance in the middle of nowhere. Now I understand the strange cravings pregnant women sometimes have.





<u>Kevin Dit:</u> La moitié de l'année est maintenant passée! Mois apres mois, j'ai l'impression de me répeter, mais le temps passe vraiment très vite! Juillet est l'un des mois préferés des français, il est en général associé aux vacances, au repos, aux voyages. Qu'en est-il au Japon? Pour ma part, pas de réelles vacances cet été, mais je vais accueillir mes parents (que je n'ai pas vu depuis 8 mois) à Matsuyama dans quelques jours. J'éspère qu'ils aimeront le Japon autant que moi!



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