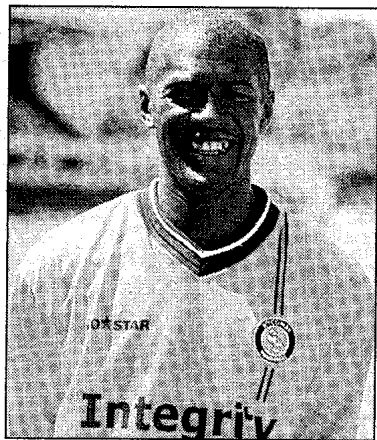


The transfer deadline is ridiculous



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PARKLIFE

I'M having a go at the meddlers at the top of our game this week. I just wish they would leave the game alone.

I'm talking about this ridiculous new UEFA transfer deadline which is due to come in tomorrow unless the Football League win their fight to get a stay of execution – and I hope they do.

I really don't like the idea of this transfer window lark. I think it is a crazy idea.

The people at the top of football must get so bored that decide to tamper with things that don't need tampering with.

The transfer market has always worked well. It's good for players, its good for teams to be able to bring in new players when they are in trouble and it is good for the fans to have something to get excited about when they pick up their daily paper.

I just don't understand the reason for it and I wonder about its legality. Is it fair to tell a player who is out of work that he has got no chance of being employed again until January.

This transfer window will kill all those players who are out of work. How can you have a system where players who are without clubs now are told they have no chance of finding employment until the New Year?

The people behind this are meddling where they aren't needed and it's not for the first time. I can't understand why every so often they feel the need to change things that have worked perfectly well for years.

Does somebody lie awake at night and say I know lets all play with a yellow ball as soon as the clocks go back?

Talking of meddlers brings me round to the Bank Holiday game with QPR and our first three points of the season. Unfortunately that performance and a terrific win has been somewhat overshadowed by the four red cards dished out by Rob Styles.

It certainly wasn't Mr Styles' best performance of his career. I didn't think it was a dirty game. People don't come to watch referees but everyone was talking about him afterwards.

Still it was a terrific three points for us. Playing three up front was a good bold move by the gaffer even though I was one of the players left out for it.

We've been conceding a few goals lately so this was a bit of the Kevin Keegan philosophy – let's go out and outscore them, and we did.

What we've got to do now is push on and make sure the next three points come a lot quicker than the first three.

● At the time of going to press the Football League were still hoping to win exemption from the proposed new transfer windows.