

The Place: Lenasia

The Year: 1957

The Opinion: Organised Professional Soccer in Lenasia?

NEVER!

The year: 1964: A youngster receives a tremendous spanking from his father for riding around with "big Bluebells" singing "Vande Matheram" all around Lenasia.

Sometime in the latter half of 1969, another youngster boards a train at Johannesburg, Durban-bound for his first professional game. Throughout the long, lonely journey, he ponders the possibilities of his own team turning professional.

And so we pass on to 1973, the turning point in National Professional Soccer.

Here we find a madman (surely), nervously perched on the steps of the Johannesburg City Hall, hoping to hear a favourable result of his club's Memorandum to the City Council. Whilst, inside, that dynamic lone Progressive Party City Councilor is heard at the top of her voice: "Why does this Policy not apply to the other codes of sport?"

These were but a few of the touching moments that launched Transvaal's first professional team. These were but some of the great moments that gave birth to South Africa's most progressive club.

THE BLUEBELLS UNITED STORY

Introduction by: P.R. Naiker.

Story by: V.G. Naidoo

When the annals of South African sport are rewritten, the story of Bluebells United shall be retold, for surely no other club has suffered for principles of soccer as they have done.

From virtual obscurity in 1964, to recognition by F.I.F.A., the world body, in 1974; that is no mean achievement. Words and words would hopelessly fail to serve as a yardstick for their success, which can only be measured in the loyalty, dedication, determination, perseverance and utter selflessness shown by these gallant men.

In 1962, when the Natalspruit Sports Ground was finally closed, everybody accepted the situation "as one of those things". In 1963, a handful of youngsters, then students at the Lenasia Primary School, decided to form their own club after successfully playing together as a representative school team in Durban. Naturally, this resulted in Differences between the players and their previous clubs. Here was born the first characteristic of this famous club, DETERMINATION; and so it came to

pass that Lenasia's first independant Junior team came into being.

The following year the Dynamos Junior Football Club, as they were then called, affiliated to the Lenasia Junior Football Association.

Many problems arose due to the lack of finance. Then when the club was finally faced with a state of collapse, Sivil Pillay stepped in with an offer for the club to serve as a subsidiary of the Bluebells Football Club.

Although the team enjoyed a fruitful season, winning all games on the field, they lost all by protest.

Through all this, the youngsters remained passive and sought to strive for recognition.

Thus in 1965, they once more affiliated to The Lenasia Junior Football Association, and Vincent Naidoo, then Secretary of the Bluebells Football Club, took the boys under his wing.

Dissatisfaction with the mother-body forced the resignation of Vincent Naidoo, and this young man and his band of even younger followers began the unenviable task of rebuilding, both support and morale.

With the loyal support of youngsters, the likes of Louis Jeevantham, Alan Moonsamy, Farouk Hassen, Richard Frank and Rodney Moonsamy, the club persevered, ultimately winning the Junior League.

At the Annual General Meeting held in February, 1966, it was decided that the club should not disband, but seek affiliation to the L.F.A.'s Senior League. The name "Bluebells", which was honoured and respected was to be retained, and "United" was added to signify the loyalty and unified conceptions of all the members. This action brought new men to the club. Persons such as Jay Ramdin, Patrick Naiker, and Silvyn Naidoo, further strengthened the club and administration, and the Bells have never looked back.

Success followed success, Bluebells United became Lenasia's ambassadors of soccer, gaining promotion to the First Division In 1967, they won the first League. Not only on the playing field did they prove their qualities most also in adminidtration. 1967 saw the revitalising of soccer in Lenasia. Bluebells United were proud to have almost complete control of the Lenasia Football Association. B.G. Naidoo, succeeded the late Sababathi Pillay as President of L.F.A Vincent Naidoo became Secretary and Patrick Naiker Records Clerk. The administrative ability of Bluebells United was clearly demonstrated during the L.F.A. Tenth Anniversary Celebrations which was masterminded by Vincent Naidoo.

During the latter part of 1967 Vincent Naidoo gave notice of motion for the L.F.A. to seek affiliation to the Transvaal Soccer Board. The motion was defeated and

signs of Bluebells United's exodus were already showing.

Bluebells United most appropriately annexed the Tenth Anniversary Knock-Out Competition.

In 1968 they became double League Championships (undefeated) and also annexing the First Division Knock-Out.

Ever striving for higher principles, and realising that the LFA would not sever its ties with the Transvaal Indian Football Association, they sought affiliation to, and were accepted by the Southern Transvaal Football Union, in May 1969.

Although not attaining any major honours, they proved their worth and were reinstated as a contending team in the then Premier League. In 1970, Louis Jeevanantham returned to his club after a spell in the National League with Maritzburg City. The same year the club was honoured to have Louis Jeevanantham, Alan Moonsammy, Pregar Thandrind and Goona Padayatchi selected for the Transvaal United team. This was also the year they acquired the services of top coach Billy Morgan, and Yousef Eshack.

1971 saw Agnat Mohamed included in the Transvaal United line up. The Bells had by now firmly established themselves as a champion team, and had consolidated a position of demand.

Then followed the INVITATION from the Federation to join the Professional ranks. Notwithstanding the fact that they had no suitable ground available, the challenge was accepted, and the struggles began.

From Curris Fountain to the Athlone Stadium, from Northdale to the dust-bowl of Queens Park, the Bells ventured on, carving their name in the pages of soccer.

BELL PARK

In a bid to obtain a suitable playing venue in Lenasia, the Bells spent in excess of R1500 00, in a vain attempt to erect their own ground. This noble venture was tragically thwarted by the ignoble efforts of some opposition parties.

To the brave men of Bluebells United, this move only resulted in their further unity and rededication in the struggle for soccer freedom.

When it would have been so easy to resign, and return to the ranks of racial football, these men hung on to their principles in the fervent hope that one day these disappointments would be repayed with success.

DR. SELMA BROWDE:

This noble lady took up the plight of Bluebells United.

What followed is history.

In her own valiant manner, she fought for justice. The long-drawn battle, and the years of struggle culminated in success, for in July, 1973, the gates of the Lenasia Stadium were finally thrown open to the Federation.

THE BRAVADOS OF BELL PARK:

On the eve of the club's Ninth Annual General Meeting, a message of goodwill was received from the F.I.F.A. Headquarters, signed by Dr. Helmut Kaser (Secretary), wishing the club well for the future. The road was long, seemed almost endless, but these gallant men never lost sight of their ideals and principles, and in so doing, finally conquered against overwhelming odds.

In July, 1973, Bluebells United provided Lenasia with finest Tournament ever staged in the Transvaal. The Tournament was staged to recoup the tremendous losses they suffered. The biggest crowd to date witnessed Bluebells United beat Cape Town Spurs 2-0 in the Tournament.

The 1973 season ended with the league play-off between Cape Town Spurs and Bells. A goalless draw resulted in Spurs winning the league and thousands of Bells supporters were seen crying as they walked out of the Lenasia Stadium.

The financial strain plus the winning of both their own and Amrit Bowan Tournaments were too much for them to have taken on.

At the commencement of the 1974 Season Bells became the first team to bring glory to the Transvaal by being the first to win a competition. Billy Morgan and his gallant boys in March, 1974 annexed the Top Four Competition.

During 1974 Bells had a distasteful season. The only memorable occasion was the staging of the second Tournament, once providing their fans top class soccer and very little profits. The SASF Pro League Executive was badly criticised at the end of that season when Prega Thandrind was overlooked as Footballer of the Year. It took Bluebells Officials and fans a long time to come over this.

In 1975 Bells once more started off badly. At the end of the season they were badly placed on the league log. The biggest setback during this season was the controversial Johannes Kholane Case and the dramatic resignation of Vincent G. Naidoo. Just before the semi-final after defeating Swaraj, Bells Executive handed over the Club to a board of directors. This move was badly criticised by ardent Bells supporters but this was the only suitable solution to save the club.

Akbar Moola headed the Board of Directors of Bluebells United. Bells travelled to Durban to meet Cape Town Spurs in the K.O Final. Thousands of Bells Supporters all over the Country travelled to Durban for the most

controversial matches of the SASF Pro League. All the same Bells unofficially declared themselves Knock-Out Champions of the 1975 season.

1976 was a season of many disappointments and Bells losses seemed to mount up much more. Nevertheless, 1977 seen a rejuvenated Bells and they finally reached the K.O. Finals to be sadly beaten by Manning Rangers.

In 1978 Akbar Moola was succeeded by Soobiah Kollokopen was head of Bells Administration and witnessed a year of many personality clashes within the SASF Pro League Administration. During the latter part of 1978 the three Transvaal Clubs, Bluebells United, Swaraj and Dynamos staged a walk-out during a Special General Meeting of SASF Pro League.

In May 1978 Louis Jeevanantham travelled to Buckinghamshire to become Federation's first certified Coach.

In 1979 Bluebells United were once more honoured when the world body F.I.F.A. extended an invitation to Vincent Naidoo as one of the guests of the opening of the new F.I.F.A. House. The invitation was officially signed by the F.I.F.A. President Dr. Joa Havelange. The invitation also coincided with Vincent Naidoo's tour to London as one of the entrants to do an Administrative Course with the F.A. Opposition parties reacted strongly and the visit was called off after tremendous internal pressure.

In 1979 Bells, together with Swaraj and Dynamos joined the NPSL. Strange as it seems the team with the largest support Bells, were placed in 2nd Division. This move angered Bells supporters not only in South Africa but all over the world. Were Bells used this time to completely destroy Federation in Transvaal? Joining the NPSL was like killing two birds with one stone. Destroying Federation Pro Football in Transvaal and at the same time destroying the club that had caused football progress on a proper non-racial basis in South Africa. The prediction was partly true for Bluebells United, the only Professional Team recognised by the world body F.I.F.A. is no more BUT the SASF Pro League although struggling is still alive.

THE REVIVAL

We now pass on to the year 1980 with Louis Jeevanantham, Rodney and Derrick Moonsamy and Hassen Lorgat Bluebells United formed several junior teams. Later that year the services of honest men like Aboo Mia, Blikkies Bismilla, Vadivel (Devi) Pillay, Hannif Mutalib, Dr. M. Chiboo, Moha Solanki, Bonnie Sequira and many more followed. For Bluebells United there is no end for like some ardent supporter once said, "It is not only a legend but also a religion. The name Bluebells is something you cannot miss in Lenasia. The area where Louis Jeevanantham, Alan Moonsamy and Roland James live is affectionately known as "Bluebell City", whilst the street where the loyal Bluebells

cheerlord, Vella "Naggie" Padiachee lives is called Bluebell Avenue.

Not only has the Bluebell religion swept all over Lenasia but throughout South Africa and the entire world. East London and Port Elizabeth Bluebells are still in existence, while ex-South Africans two years ago were responsible for the formation of Toronto Bluebells. Plymouth Bluebells in the South of England have progressed rapidly and it is predicted that this same team will be eventually promoted to the English Professional League within the next decade.

Vincent Naidoo was fortunately present at the India Football Association's league final early in January to see Ahmadabad Bluebells victors over Delhi Afghan. How heartening was it for him to discover that the League Champions of Andra Pradesh is non other than Bluebells from his own home town the Hills of Thirumali.

FIVE GREAT MEN WHO COULD PROMISE A GREAT FUTURE:

It was once predicted that Louis Jeevanantham, Alan Moonsamy, Rattin Padiachee, Terry Jeevantham and Prega Thandrin will one day be holding the reigns of Bluebells United. The time has come for these loyal men to get together and do just that. Bluebells United Supporters all over the world express their deep sense of gratitude to these gallant men. How can anyone ever forget their sacrifices. When players with less their ability were making tons of money out of football, our five great boys were hanging on to their own club, spending their own money for the sake of launching Non-racial Professional Football and bringing Federation to Lenasia.

It is hoped that the SASF will treat Prega Thandrin's application for re-instatement kindly. The good should outweigh the not so good. Lest we forget the great work done by him at School soccer and Athletics. Who has contributed more to the game - the people playing football and those who create footballers or the policy makers?

Football to be played on proper Non-racial basis has need for such men.

Just like their predecessors they sacrificed unselfishly.

Today, nobody can afford to be indifferent to the name "Bluebells". They who have sacrificed themselves no end, paving the way for others, so that eventually all may benefit.

"Vande Matheram" - Onward to Victory.

Bluebells United and their ardent Supporters throughout the world wishes the LFA well on their 25th Anniversary Celebrations. We promise that as long as football is played on a proper non-racial basis we will always be around.

EASTERN TRANSVAAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION Formed 1939

This is one of the very few associations that were established way back in the late thirties and are still existing. Its headquarters were at most times situated in Benoni and at times in the early fifties in Springs. Some of the names of administrators that come to mind and assisted establishing the association, was the late "Shorty" Allie, late Solly Patel, late "Joey" Simons, R. Spooky Verasamy and a host of others.

Some teams that played soccer in the old Transvaal days and made a name for themselves were Ramblers, Stellas and Berea park.

This association also produced Transvaal and South African Caps over the years. Some names that I care to remember whilst a young boy were Umpin Singh, Rennie Singh, the late Rex Ragunan, R. Portan, the Sayed twins Mohamed and Hassen, E. Joseph, S. Francis, Boetie Fazel, R. Francis, Boy Paruk D. Dhaya, Ronnie Govender and of late A. Paruk and B. Ndebele.

During the period when associations were functioning as ethnic bodies the standard slumped and in 1969 the E. Tvl. Football Association unanimously decided to affiliate to the Transvaal Soccer Board and align itself with the South African Soccer Federation. Just prior to this period teams from Benoni were already participating in the Transvaal Professional Football League (SA 2nd Division-Tvl), Benoni United, Blackburn, Manchester City, Wolves and Manchester United were the teams that partook in the mighty S. Tvl. F. Union. In 1973 the first stage for the development of a Soccer Stadium and turf grounds began. Today the association has under its jurisdiction 7 turf fields and the Stadium with facilitated Grand Stand worth approximately R200,000. A professional team Manchester United plays in the S.A.S.F. Pro League and this association has approximately 80 teams and controls six leagues, with teams from Boksburg, Benoni, Springs, Nigel and Geluksdal. It also has 2 teams playing in the S.A.S.F. — Transvaal, Professional League.

Some of its present long serving members:

Mahomed Sibda:	Delegate: 1957—1967 President: 1968 to 1976 General Secretary and Finance: 1977 to 1979 President: 1980—1982
V. Moodley:	Secretary: 1968—1976 General Secretary: 1980—1982
R. Padotan	Records Clerk: 1975—1982

Mahomed Sibda and V. Moodley having been associated together now for almost 12 years, with the Transvaal Soccer Board and Mohamed Sibda being Vice President of SASF for the 3rd year.

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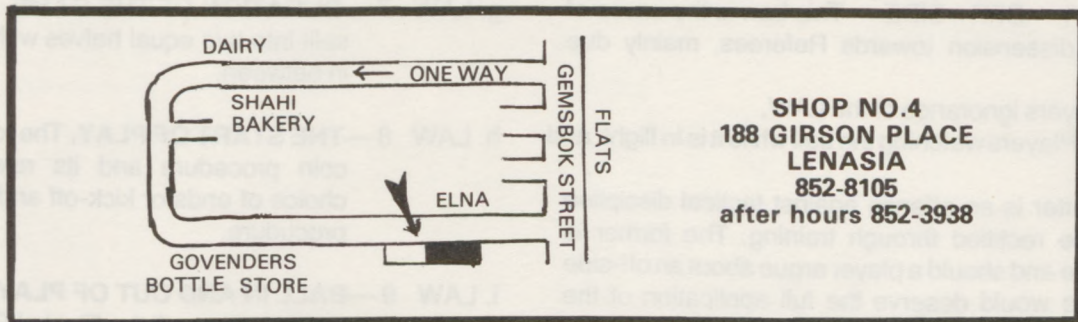
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DISCIPLINE AS IT AFFECTS THE PLAYERS

In addition to common life discipline Football Players need to adopt more. To begin with, the discipline of the Club is one of paramount importance. In a way, it encompasses all the playing disciplines a player has to accept. The Club has a desired reputation to maintain and it would not be very pleased if that was ruined by a member's act of indiscipline. Therefore, Clubs establish a code of practice for their members.

Club Managers, Trainers and Coaches expect their players to accept particular codes of conduct. No responsible player would 'woop it up' every day of the season, let alone on the eve of a match; that would certainly evoke the wrath of management: It would also be common sense to expect a player, as a member of a team, to abide by the tactics laid down by his superiors. Should he not, then as the Japanese Proverb goes --- "A single arrow is easily broken, but not ten in the bundle."

The other Discipline the player has to observe is that of the LAWS of the game. It would be nice to think that every player knows these LAWS. However, from the moment he first kicks the ball (toddler stage) his main interest has been to concentrate on manipulating that ball to his own desires (another discipline). Knowledge of the LAWS has always been very low down in his order of essential learning and is usually gained through playing experience. Unfortunately, some of these experiences have, at times, tended to distort the actual meaning of the LAWS.

How many players actually know LAW 11? Do they need to know that particular LAW? What other LAWS do players need to know? And, if they need to know a particular LAW, do they need to know it completely? Personally, I feel there are only 3 LAWS that a player must know completely. They are as follows:—

- a) LAW 11 -- OFF—SIDE — This Law is the cause of much dissension towards Referees, mainly due to:—
- (1) Players ignorance of the LAW,
 - (2) Players watching the ball while it is in flight, and

The latter is an offence against tactical discipline and can be rectified through training. The former is inexcusable and should a player argue about an off-side decision he would deserve the full application of the Referees authority.

- b) LAW 12 -- FOULS and MISCONDUCT — This is the 'meat' of the body that makes the Laws of association Football. Without it there would be blemish and various Law 12s would have to be invented by Referees. Hence Law 12 is necessary. Players must know the Penal Offences, (Nine (9) Major Offences) otherwise games would be replete with penalty kicks what would one say then? In fact, players must know all the 9 Major Offences and the different types if only to avoid the consequences.

I. Waja, Secretary, T.F.R.A.

- c) LAW 14 -- PENALTY KICKS. Another Law which is grossly misunderstood by players. How many go off the Field of Play, behind the goal line, while it is being taken, sincerely believing that it is a legal tactic so to do? How many know that it is the movement of the goalkeepers feet, not that of his body, that is prohibited before the ball is kicked. (How many referees allow the goalkeeper to get away with it?) How many players do not know the meaning of encroachment and its consequences?

Though each of the remaining LAWS is an integral part of the body, the player need only know certain clauses from each of them, as:—

- a. LAW 1 —**The Field of Play.** He should be able to identify various markings and to know their purposes.
- b. LAW 2 —**The Ball.** The ball is spherical and made of leather.
- c. LAW 3 —**Number of Players.** Apart from the fact that there are 11 players per team, the players should know the substitution procedure.
- d. LAW 4 —**Players' Equipment.** Players must not wear anything that is dangerous to another player.
- e. LAW 5 —**REFEREES.** His word is LAW, based upon his OPINIONS, formed from his angle of view of all incidents.
- f. LAW 6 —**LINESMEN.** The referee's advisor --- not the players.
- g. LAW 7 —**DURATION OF THE GAME.** 90 minutes, split into two equal halves with an interval in between.
- h. LAW 8 —**THE START OF PLAY.** The tossing of the coin procedure and its relevance, i.e. choice of ends or kick-off and the kick-off procedure.
- i. LAW 9 —**BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY.** Unless the ball has gone off the Field of Play, play-on until the Referee blows the whistle.
- j. LAW 10 —**METHOD OF SCORING.** If the ball goes into goal (the whole of the ball), a goal is scored unless the Referee says otherwise.
- k. LAW 13 —**FREE— KICKS.** The difference between DIRECT and INDIRECT free kicks.

I. LAW 15 —**THROW—IN.** The thrower must be facing at least part of the Field of Play; he must throw the ball into the Field of Play from the point it passed over the touch-line, using both hands and from above and behind his head, and his feet must be on or behind the touch-line.

n. LAW 16 —**GOAL KICK.** Ball must be placed in that half of the Goal-area nearest to where it passed over the goal-line. Ball is not in play until it has been passed into the Field of Play outside the Penalty-area.

m. LAW 17 —**CORNER KICK.** The whole of the ball must be placed completely in the quadrant at the nearest corner flag-post to the point from which it passed over the goal-line. A goal can be scored direct from a corner-kick.

Discipline is defined as "a way of life in accordance with rules", and the booklet which we Referees call the "CHART" provides all participants in Association Football with such a system. We know the contents of the chart as "The Laws of Association Football"; and the 17 Laws it contains, together with there relevant International Board Decisions, Advice to Referees, to club Secretaries and to Players, constitute the Discipline which Players, Club Officials, Referees and Linesmen have to observe.

To all 'SOCCER LOVERS', remember Referees are also Human, and as human beings they are not perfect at all times, a perfect men is yet to be born, and his father died many years ago.

To the Gallant Men of the LENASIA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, our heartiest congratulations on your SILVER ANNIVERSARY, we wish you a succesful tournament on your celebration. May the Almighty keep you in the best of health, that you may serve FOOTBALL for many, many more years in Lenasia. May the L.F.A. grow from strength to strength.

To the participants let Sportsmanship prevail throughout the tournament, if there is a winner there must be a loser, but at the end let the game be the ultimate WINNER.

GOD BLESS.

Ismail Waja.
hon. secretary 82.

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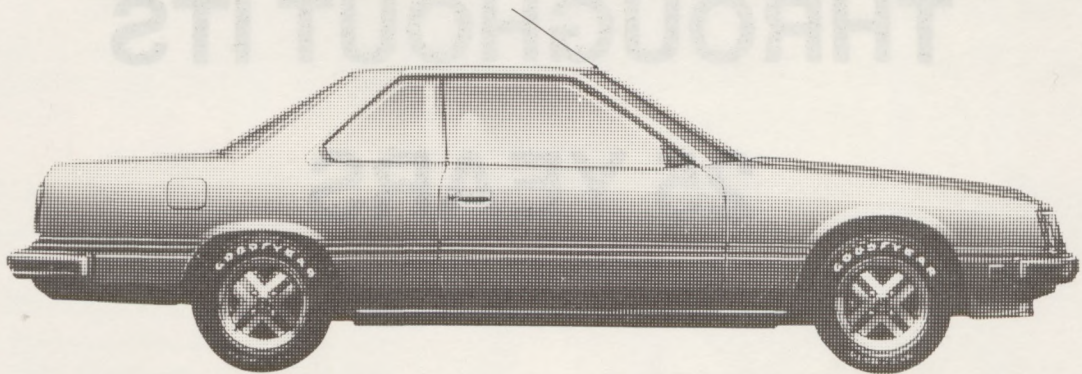
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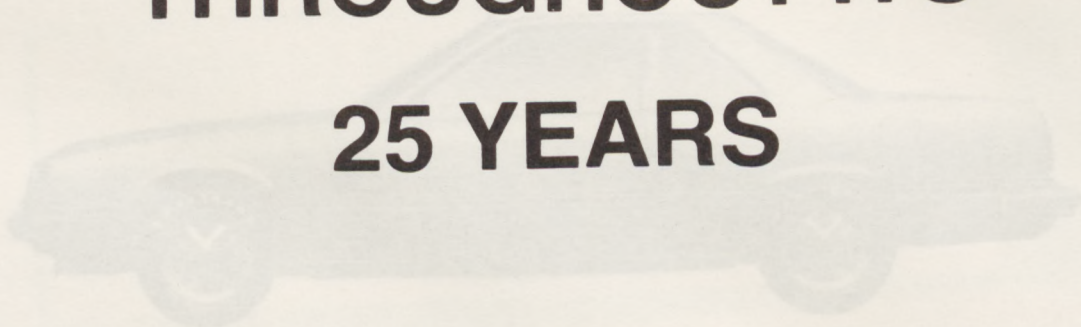
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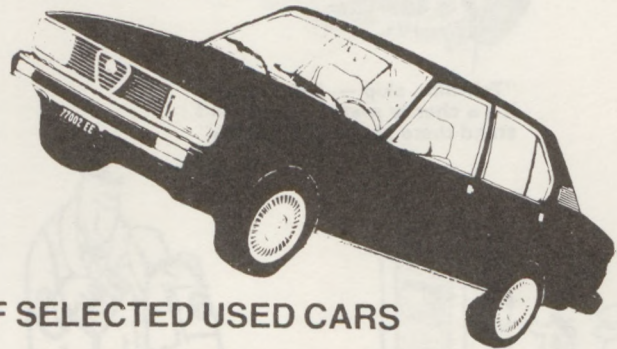
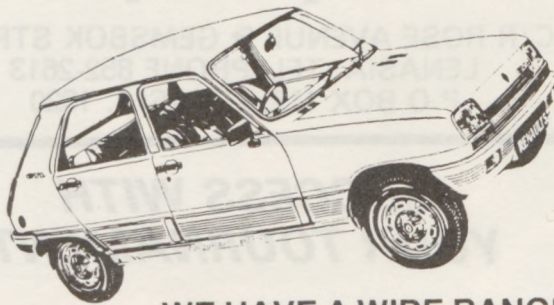
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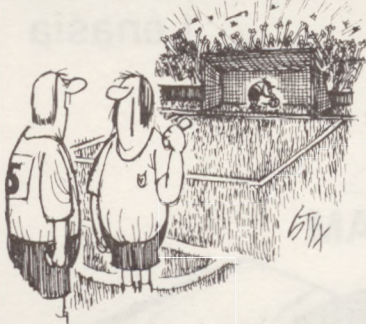
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S —stands for SOCIABILITY, be able to mix with your fellowman.

P —stands for PUNCTUALITY or PERSEVERANCE. Play to the referee's whistle.

O —stands for OBLIGATION—to the referee, your club, the rules of the game and yourself.

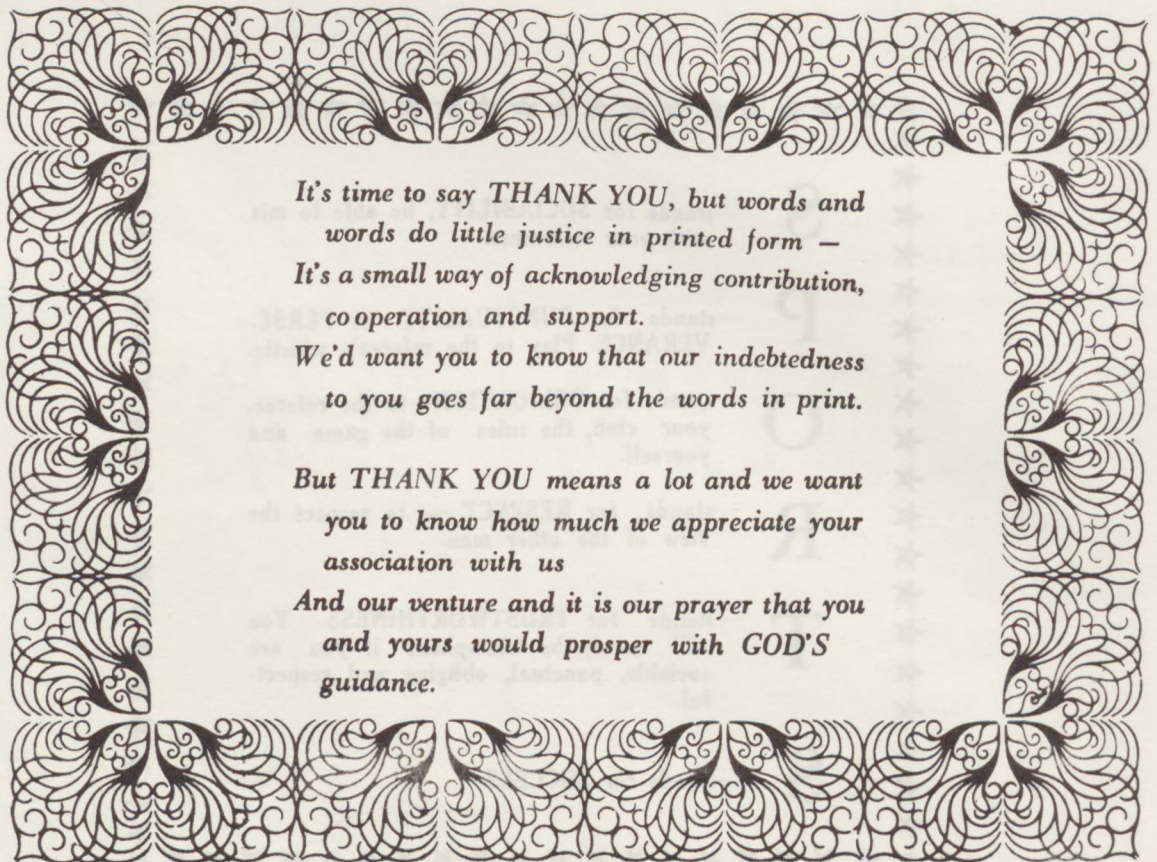
R —stands for RESPECT — to respect the view of the other man.

T —stands for TRUSTWORTHINESS. You will surely be triumphant if you are sociable, punctual, obliging and respectful.

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