

Football

Sunday brought the sad news of the death of Jimmy Greaves at the age of 81, ironically on the day of the Spurs Chelsea match.

Turning pro with Chelsea in 1957, he made his debut for Chelsea against Spurs and scored that day. During his 4 years at the club he scored 132 goals, with 41 of them coming in the 1960/61 season, which is still a club record.

He then moved to AC Milan for just 1 season, making just 12 appearances and scoring 9 goals, helping them to the Serie A title.

Moving to Spurs, he scored a hat-trick on his debut. In his 10 years at Spurs he went on to score 266 goals in 379 appearances, becoming, and still is, the all time record goal scorer. From Spurs he moved to West Ham where he finished his Football League career, having by this time scored 357 goals becoming, and still is, the all time record goal scorer in the English top flight division.

He did return to play, for a couple of seasons, 1977/78 and 78/79, for Barnet in the Southern League Premier Division, where of course he scored goals. By the time he retired from football he had made 668 appearances and scored 447 goals.

Greavsie also made 57 appearances for England scoring 44 goals, including 6 hat-tricks, a record number in an England shirt. He was a member of the 1966 World Cup squad. He played in the group games but in the final group match was injured. Though fit for the final, he was not picked, his replacement after his injury, a certain Geoff Hurst, kept his place and the rest is history! He did not receive a winner's medal but this was righted in 2009, though in 2014 he sold his medal for £44,000.

As well as winning the Serie A title, he also won 2 FA Cups, the European Cup Winners Cup and the FA Charity Shield.

RIP Jimmy Greaves MBE.

Tony Toms, former Sheffield Wednesday trainer and coach has died at the age of 76.

Better news re Pele, while he has been readmitted to hospital, it is said to be just for precautionary purposes and he is said to be recovering.

UEFA are hoping FIFAs publicity drive to make the World Cup a biennial event is nothing more than a bargaining tool to help force through their plans for a 24 team Club World Cup, with 8 teams from Europe.

The Governments plan to hold peace talks with Premier League players following their criticism of players salaries and anti-racism campaigns is being seen as motivated by wanting to use the players to endorse a 2030 World Cup bid. The Government are willing to back and finance the bid but need the players onside (no VAR here).

Derby County have been plunged deeper into crisis with the news that they were heading into administration. The club will automatically be deducted 12 points under EFL rules. They also still face the threat of a further deduction as a penalty from the EFL relating to irregularities in the clubs accounts and a 9 points deduction is expected.

Besides all the off field happenings, there was also some football played over the weekend. Chelsea beat Spurs to go top of the Premier, Man Utd beat West Ham, with West Ham missing a last minute penalty (Moyes bringing on Noble to take it!!) to equalize. Man City were held goalless by Southampton and Liverpool beat Crystal Palace where Sadio Mane became the first Premier League player to score in 9 consecutive fixtures against the same club. VAR was again under fire, with decisions to award penalties and 1 red card reversed at Manchester City and Burnley.

In the Championship Coventry drew with Millwall, while Fulham were beaten at home by Reading. With West Brom drawing, Bournemouth took advantage winning to go top.

In the Champions League, there were victories for Chelsea, Man City and Liverpool while Man Utd lost to a late Young Boys winner.

Australian Jarrod Gillett is set to become the first ever overseas referee to take charge of a Premier League game when he referees the Watford v Newcastle game on Saturday.

In the Womens World Cup qualifiers there were wins for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Rugby League

Wigan head into this week's playoff match against Leeds Rhinos in a confident mood after a 12 - 8 win over Super League leaders Catalans Dragons. Elsewhere Leeds Rhinos beat Hull KR 36 - 12, but St Helens were beaten 26 - 14 by Salford.

Rugby Union

Saracens, on their return to the Gallagher Premiership were 26 – 9 winners against Bristol. Levels at half-time 9 -9, Bristol were shut out in the second half, Saracens scoring 17 points.

There were also opening day wins for Leicester, Northampton, Sale, Worcester and Harlequins.

Racing

The big race of the weekend was the Ayr Gold Cup. The winner, by 2 ¼ lengths was a horse, trained by a dirty Leeds fan, Kevin Ryan, called BIELSA!! I don't think there is any truth in the rumour that the jockey, Kevin Stott, had to have a bucket instead of a saddle!! Not sure either how accurate Ryan's statement is either, when after the race he said " Bielsa is a legend in Yorkshire".

Cricket

In last week's fixtures Yorkshire were all out in their second innings for 117, losing to Warwickshire by 106 runs. Notts, chasing 249 to win, were all out for 127, Hampshire winning by 122 runs. Lancashire, left needing just 32 runs to win against Somerset, won by 10 wickets.

Hope you see more runs today Chris (as long as they are for Yorkshire!!).

Jordan Cox enjoyed a night to remember with the bat and in the field to help Kent to the Vitality Blast title. He struck an unbeaten 58 as Kent reached 167 for 7. Then in the field with Somerset requiring 74 off 39 balls, their captain Lewis Gregory hit a shot high over mid-wicket, looking all the way a 6, only for Cox to leap into the air and slap the ball into the hands of Matt Milnes for a relay catch. Instead of 100 for 5, Somerset were 94 for 6 and from then on lost momentum finishing with 142 for 9, 25 runs short of victory. Cox was also denied a catch at the boundary, by the umpire and TV official, as he touched his teammate's legs and who was partly over the ropes. The MCC have clarified that the Somerset batsman should have been given out.

New Zealand's tour of Pakistan has been cancelled following a security threat aimed at their players on the morning of the first ODI at Rawalpindi. Subsequently England's men and women pulled out of their tours to Pakistan. Also in doubt is the Ashes tour to Australia unless quarantine conditions for the player's families were relaxed.

Boxing

Anthony Joshua defends his WBA, IBF and WBO heavyweight titles against Oleksander Usyk at Spurs Stadium on Saturday.

Darts

Michael Van Gerwin came back from 6-3 down to beat Fallon Sherrock 11-7 in the final of the Nordic Masters. The English woman became the first female to play in a PDC final.

Local Sport – Football

Handsworth FC beat Halesowen Town 3-1 away in the 2nd Qualifying Round of the FA Cup, to reach the 3rd Qualifying Round for just the second time. The win boosted their earnings from the cup run to just under £5,000.

In the EFL it was a tale of 2 penalties, one missed by United and one by Wednesday.

Following their 2-2 draw with Preston last Tuesday, when they conceded an equaliser in the last seconds of 5 minutes added time, the Blades bounced back to win 3-1 at Hull City. A penalty miss by Sharp, his first miss in 3 years, proved not to be costly with the score at the time 1-0 to the Blades.

However a miss by Bannan proved to be costly for the Owls as they were held at home 1-1 by Shrewsbury Town.

Also in the First Division, Doncaster claimed their first win of the season 1-0 at home to Morecambe, while Rotherham were 2-0 winners at Bolton.

In the Championship Barnsley were held 0-0 at home by Blackburn Rovers and in the National League, Chesterfield remain top following a 2-0 win at Yeovil.

Off the pitch United are facing criticism over the prices for the Derby County fixture this coming weekend, with tickets costing £36 to £41. Derby fans having to fork out £37.

Speedway

The Sheffield Tigers faced Peterborough last Thursday at Owlerton and were beaten by 50 points to 40. Level after 7 heats, Peterborough went on to win 6 out of the last 8 heats. However in the return fixture Monday night Tigers beat Peterborough 51-39.

Ice Hockey

Sheffield Steelers beat Nottingham Panthers 3-2 at the Nottingham Arena on Saturday but on Sunday lost 5-3 to them in the return friendly (if there is such a thing against the Panthers) at the Sheffield Arena in front of a crowd of over 8,000.

Boxing

Rotherham boxer Kash Ali retained his IBF European Heavyweight title at Ponds Forge on Saturday when his opponent's corner signalled the retirement of Gorst who had seemingly picked up an injury to his jaw.

On the same bill, in a fight for the vacant British flyweight title, Sheffield's Tommy Frank beat Matt Windle to take the title with all 3 judges scoring in his favour.

Sheffield boxer Dalton Smith, Super Lightweight, won the WBA Intercontinental belt beating his Spanish opponent, with all 3 judges scoring in his favour. He also holds the English title and had won his previous 7 fights by knockouts. A possible British Title fight is now on the cards and even a World Title eliminator fight.

