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**FIFA WANTS
WORLD CUP FANS**

With approximately 500 days to go until the football World Cup, organisers have expressed confidence that new stadiums would be ready- but they have also stated that more needs to be done to get fans excited and interested in buying tickets now.

"The biggest challenge is in filling the stadiums and we need to teach our people that there's nothing wrong with buying tickets six months ahead of an event," local committee chief executive Danny Jordaan said at a news conference.

FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke said he was "not afraid about the stadiums anymore," but that it was necessary to generate more excitement about the tournament to attract people to the stadiums.

"We need to start giving life to the World Cup," he said.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter, in comments posted on the FIFA website, said he expected the global economic crisis to have an effect.

"Naturally, we might not have the same return of investment as we had at the last World Cup in 2006, but the world was a different place then," he said. "For FIFA, it's not important to get money out of Africa, but it's important to us that the Africans enjoy organising their own World Cup. They haven't had all the civic and political rights other countries have had until 1994, so it is a young republic, but an organised one."

Blatter expects 450,000 visitors for the tournament.

**NEW MAN UNITED
SPONSOR?**

Sahara, a leading Indian business conglomerate, is among the contenders to replace AIG as Manchester United's shirt sponsor starting with the 2010-11 season.

AIG is in the process of restructuring its business and shedding assets to raise funds despite receiving a \$150 billion bailout last year from the U.S. government. The company, which already ended its decade-long sponsorship of the U.S. Davis Cup team, hasn't said whether it intends to try to renew its Manchester United deal, worth 19 million pounds (\$27 million) annually.

Sahara, which has interests in financial services, publishing and real estate, sponsors the Indian cricket team.

"We've received an elaborate sponsorship proposal from Manchester United, which we are considering," Sahara's spokesman Abhijit Sarkar said.

United is one of the world's most marketable clubs, with stars such Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney.

**FOOTBALL'S AUSTRALIA
DAY HONOURS 2009**

Congratulations to the following 'trio' for their Australia Day honours this week- Tom Doumanis, Donald McNeice and Mark Schwarzer.

All three were acknowledged for their efforts in football and were awarded a Medal (OAM) in the General Division.



Former Football NSW President and Life Member Tom Doumanis received his (OAM) for his service to football in NSW through executive roles with a range of sporting clubs and organisations and to the community.

The Order of Australia is an order of chivalry established by Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia on the 14th February 1975 for the purpose of bestowing recognition to Australian citizens and the other persons for achievement or for meritorious service.

**LIDCOMBE OVAL
BERRIES NEW HOME**

Following a final Football NSW inspection last week, I can now advise you that the West Sydney Berries will now be playing all of their home games in the NSW Premier League competition at Lidcombe Oval in 2009.

passed by Football NSW as now meeting NSW Premier League standards.

Both the seniors and juniors will therefore be playing all their games at Lidcombe Oval this season.

**YOUNG BLOOD ON
BERRIES' BOARD**

Whilst on the Berries, following on from their recent AGM, a new Board with fresh, young blood has taken control.

The new Board is as follows:
Chris Mitrothanas (President), George Ronis (Vice President), Nick Varvaris (Treasurer), Michael Sivris (Secretary), George Nikolopoulos, Peter Mitrothanas, Jim Panagakis, Chris Giorgakopoulos, John Georgopoulos, Bill Venetoulis and John Gounaropoulos.

**BERRIES TRIAL GAME
AT GABBIE**

The West Sydney Berries are engaged in a friendly game tomorrow a-



Historic Lidcombe Oval has been upgraded and renovated and has been

against the Blacktown City Demons at the Gabbie Stadium (5pm/7pm).

**CITY FORD
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Παραχωρούνται δάνεια από τη FORD CREDIT με πολύ καλούς όρους για όσους το επιθυμούν

**Μπιλιμπάο και Μαγιόρκα στους «4»**

Στα προημιτελικά του Κόπα ντελ Ρέι προκρίθηκαν Μαγιόρκα και Αθλέτικ Μπιλιμπάο. Οι νησιώτες αναδείχτηκαν ισόπαλοι δίχως γκολ στην Σεβίλλη απέναντι στην Μπέτις και πήραν την πρόκριση χάρις στη νίκη τους με 1-0 στο πρώτο παιχνίδι. Η βασική ομάδα επικράτησε εκτός έδρας με 2-1 της Χιχόν και σε συνδυασμό με το 0-0 του «Σαν Μαμές» πήρε το εισιτήριο για τους «8». Τα αποτελέσματα της φάσης των «16» (σε παρένθεση το αποτέλεσμα του α' αγώνα):

Μπέτις-Μαγιόρκα 0-0 (0-1)
Σπόρτινγκ Χιχόν-Αθλέτικ Μπιλιμπάο 1-2 (0-0)

Σήμερα

Σεβίλλη-Βαλένθια (2-3)
Μπαρτσελόνα-Εσπανιόλ (0-0)