ΣΠΟΡ

⇒ AFC ASIAN CUP 2011

The Qantas Socceroos have been placed alongside Bahrain, India and the Korea Republic in Group C of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011 following last the draw at the Aspire Dome in Doha.

The Qantas Socceroos were seeded in the second tier of teams for the tournament and were placed in the C3 position of the groups.

FFA National Technical Director Han Berger, who was in Doha for the draw, described the Qantas Socceroos draw as "interesting".

"It's an interesting group. But then, all groups are interesting. Nobody will have it easy at the Finals. Australia will have to deliver consistently to excel in the tournament," said Berger.

"Korea Republic are one of the strongest sides in the continent and have been regularly featuring in the World Cup finals since 1986. They'll be a strong opponent. Then there's Bahrain. We played a few times against the Gulf nation during the 2010 Asian Zone World Cup qualification and it was never easy. They too will raise a strong challenge".

"India are newcomers. Frankly speaking, we don't know much about them. But they've qualified for the tournament by winning the 2008 AFC Challenge Cup and that shows that they too are capable of playing at this level. We look forward to the finals in Qatar and want to better our record this time around," concluded Berger.

The Qantas Socceroos will face India in their opening match, followed by the Korea Republic with their final group match against Bahrain.

The Qantas Socceroos have played India at senior men's international level on seven occasions and last played each other back in 1956 in a friendly match in Sydney following the Melbourne Olympic Games.

The Qantas Socceroos are undefeated against Bahrain having beaten the Gulf Nation twice during the recent 2010 FI-



FA World Cup Asian Qualification stage and twice during the AFC Asian Cup 2007 Qualifiers.

The Qantas Socceroos have faced the Korea Republic in 23 fixtures including their most recent friendly match in Seoul last year where the hosts won 3-1.

Host Nation Qatar will face Uzbekistan in the opening match of the tournament on the 7th January.

⇔ AFC Asian Cup 2011 -**Groups**

Group A: Qatar. Kuwait. China. Uzbekistan **Group B:** Saudi Arabia, Japan, Jordan, Syria **Group C:** Korea Republic, India, Australia,

Bahrain Group D: Iraq, DPR Korea; UAE, Iran

→ AUUSIE CUP BID STILL ON TRACK

FFA Chairman Frank Lowy said President Blatter's comments were a timely reminder of what Australia is up against in trying to win the right to host the World Cup.

"It's the biggest sporting event on earth, and his comments tell us what we already knew- that we are up against an incredibly tough field and that every competitor has a strong case to make.

"It reinforces the importance of lodging the best bid we can, and the need for the nation to get behind the bid.

"If we remain focused and continue to sell Australia 's strong points - our track record with big events, being part of the fast-growing Asian region, and football's growing popularity here - then I am confident we will succeed.

"We don't take the competition lightly, every nation has strong credentials, but I genuinely believe Australia is in a position to make the strongest bid."

⇒ ALARM BELLS RINGING FOR THE BERRIES!

I hope they can hear the bells ringing loudly and alarmingly now...

The West Sydney Berries are a club in crisis, yet again...

And in serious relegation contention after their 4-0 massacre at the hands of a team that was sitting in last place- and

The Berries were hopeless against APIA last weekend and the loss has seen them fall to 2nd last spot on the 2010 NSW Premier League ladder now.

They look like a club in very serious trouble- and we are not even at the end of Round One yet.

How long will the Board put up with this ordinary showing?

There is no doubt that their coach John Calleja is under enormous pressure now to retain his spot as the Berries look for answers to try and remain in the Premier League for next year.

The 1st Grade side as we predicted, looked ORDINARY on paper, even BE-FORE a ball was kicked in this year's competition- some 'experts' got carried away with the Berries' early pre-season form- but what are they saying now?

Those responsible for assembling an ordinary playing roster from the outset should hang their heads.

Two wins in 9 games played so far is not good enough. And the Berries, who promised so much, have again got very little to play for other than surviving the drop back to Super League in 2011.

Make no mistake, the Berries are in serious trouble and need to find answers

The 1st Graders have so far also scored THE LEAST amount of goals than any other club (8) and they have conceded al-

most THE MOST as well (18)- leaving the club with THE WORST goal difference at present (-10) than any other club!

The Berries MUST WIN against South Coast this weekend- otherwise the pressure will continue to mount on them!

The club sits in 2nd last spot on the Club Championship ladder (8pts), with only the Apia Leichhardt Tigers below them (7pts).

Things are not looking at all good for the Berries at present, and strong leadership and guidance is crucial if they are to manouvre through this turbulent period they currently find themselves in.

⇒ U/20's ARE NOT HELPING!

What is also disturbing for the Berries is that their other teams are also not pulling their weight in terms of Club Championship points either at present!

The Berries U/20's are sitting in 10th spot and really need to start winning games to help the club's cause. But how can they when they have the WORST defence in the league?

⇒ U/18's?

The only Berries team to stand up and be counted so far as we near the end of round one has been the U/18's- currently in the "Top 5" (4th spot) and looking like definite finals contenders. But these juniors cannot save the Berries from relegation alone- they need the help of the other teams- the sooner the better.

⇔ CLUB'S AGM?

I wish I had a dollar for every time someone has asked me when is the club going to host its 2009 AGM?

For the life of me I cannot understand WHY it is taking SO LONG?

The club has NEVER EVER EVER before in its history delayed its AGM this

What is going on? WHY the delay?

ERREA TIPPING COMPETITION Σταυρουλάκης Αυγερινός Κονιστής Λαζάρου Μαργιώλης Νικολάου Σταυρουλάκης Αλιφέρης Παξινός Το πουλί Γιώργος Χρήστος Γιώργος Γιώργος Δημήτρης Λάκης Γιώργος Παναγιώτης Μανόλης Μπόνιριγκ-Σίδνεϊ Ολύμπικ Σάθερλαντ-Μένλι 2 Χ Μαρκόνι-Ροκντέιλ 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 Μπανκστάουν-ΑΠΙΑ Χ 1 1 1 2 1 X Γ.Σ. Μπέρις-Σάουθ Κοστ 1 2 Χ 2 1 Χ 1 2 Χ 1 Σίδνεϊ Γιουνάιτεντ-Μπλακτάουν 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 X BAOMOI 18 25 21 23 20 21 18 27 23 13



