⇒ ALL ABOARD THE BERRIES KARA-SEL!

The Berries have finally hit "rock bottom" in the 2010 Club Championship ladder- relegation back to the Super League is now looking very likely- and we still haven't finished Round One!

Last week we forewarned that the Berries looked like a club in crisis- both on and off the park there are many many many serious issues that need to be resolved.

And this weekend looks like more pain for the Berries- as they take on the Brian Brown coached Bonnyrigg White Eagles- ahh Brian Brown...

Now there's another intersting story to tell...

But we'll leave that one for another time...

Suffice to say, look at the squad "Bomber" has assembled for the Eagles, and compare them to the Berries "20".

Then you begin to realise the poor recruitment that went on in the off-season...

And you quickly realise why the Berries are in the mess they are in already.

Forget about semi finals- this now is a battle for survival for them.

But how can they survive when their sides find it so hard to win games?

1st Grade has now won twice in 10 games played.

The U/20's made it four-losses-in-arow and remain second last.

The U/18's have also caught the 'disease' and have now been bundled out of the "Top 5".

Enter Steve Karavatakis...

The next person to hop aboard the Beries coaching carousel.

Question is, for how long?

I hope I am wrong, I hope Steve proves me wrong, BUT...

I cannot see much changing at the



Sports World

West Sydney Berries.

"Kara" is a great person. A wonderful player. But has he the experience as a 1ST GRADE COACH to turn the Berries around?

Have a look at the next 4 games- Bonnyrigg, Marconi, Sutherland and Sydney United.

What happens fellas IF Steve Karavatakis loses all 4 games? Where to next? Will he too be sacked?

All this drama at the club has eventuated because the desperate Berries Board has pressed the "panic button". Poor preparation yet again- and now the club looks like paying the price for it.

Can "Kara" turn it around?

Or are the Berries headed for relegation?

The next four weeks will tell...

→ FNSW PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON SALARY CAP SHOULD BE SUPPORTED

With all the coverage the Melbourne Storm salary cap scandal has been receiving lately, it is interesting to read Football NSW President Jim Forrest's views on the salary cap issue- and especially IF the Premier League clubs are serious about their own survival.

Today in "Sportsworld" we highlight for you his views in their entirety...

"Football NSW has no salary cap on our semi-professional State League competitions. The reason is that we've tried it before and know it doesn't work. Our State League is so competitive, es-

pecially at the Premier League level, that some Clubs in the past have used the same 'inventiveness' demonstrated by the Melbourne Storm (though on a much reduced scale!) to circumvent such measures.

Even so, we recognize that some Clubs are overspending on players, to the long term detriment of their continuing financial viability and that of the Premier League as a whole. This has a consequential effect on less well off clubs, who must spend perhaps beyond their means just to remain competitive. This goes to the issue of long term financial viability. In short, our senior Clubs must to some extent at least be protected from themselves.

Later last year, Football NSW turned instead to a points system adopted by the AFL in country Victoria to limit spending on players. It is a potentially more effective approach than the largely discredited salary cap. This was implemented for season 2010 for the NSW Premier League. It is intended to be rolled out to all divisions of the State League in the next year or so, and ultimately to all areas of Football NSW where player payments are part of the competition structure.

It works by placing a successively higher points loading on players with higher levels of experience and imposing a limit on the number of points that can be used. In other words, it limits the number of top flight players that can be imported or maintained, thus limiting the market somewhat and thereby driving down financial outlays.

For example, a limit of 120 points was imposed on the two grades (up to 40 players but commonly 35 or 36) that may be registered in the 1st and reserve grade teams of a PL club. At base level, any player with previous PL playing experience (inside out outside a particular PL club) attracts 6 points. This means that at any one time, a PL club that wanted to use all its players with 1st grade experience could only register 20 players. Instead, they are required by the points system to use a combination of top level players and those from lower divisions (2 points) or their own Youth League or from Associations in combination (0 or 1 point)

The benefit of this approach is three fold. First, it requires a balance of experienced and up-and-coming young players – a player development pathway. Second, it is self-perpetuating, so after two years, every player who was with the Club at 1st grade level then attracts 6 points, so renewal from underneath becomes necessary. Thirdly, it limits the number of top (high cost) players who may be signed up before running the risk of topping the 120 points limit. Thus a former A-league player counts for 10 points.

This system is not draconian. We applied it to all of our PL clubs in 2009 and very few, just two or three, overtopped the total allowed points. Maybe we set the bar too low, but we need to ensure that in the experimental year clubs are not deliberately disadvantaged.

The main thing is that the points system is wholly transparent, easy to understand and calculate, and easy to administer. Unlike salary caps. It does not prevent high salaries being paid. But with a limit on the number of top level players that may be used, it surely has the effect of dampening down the number of top level (highly priced) players any one club can register. So the talent is more widely spread, to the advantage of the competition without denying to some better off clubs the ability to register some really top level players.

We believe this to be a much fairer and transparent approach than the now surely largely discredited salary cap approach".

Jim Forrest- President FNSW.

























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	Αλιφέρης Γιώργος	Αυγερινός Δημήτρης	Κονιστής Λάκης	Λαζάρου Γιώργος	Μαργιώλης Γιώργος	Νικολάου Παναγιώτης	Παξινός Χρήστος	Σταυρουλάκης Γιώργος	Σταυρουλάκης Μανόλης	Το πουλί
Σίδνεϊ Ολύμπικ-Μαρκόνι	1	1	2	2	2	Х	1	2	X	Х
Ροκντέιλ-Σάθερλαντ	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	X
Μένλι-Σίδνεϊ Γιουνάιτεντ	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Μπλακτάουν-Μπανκστάουν	X	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Γ.Σ. Μπέρις-Μπόνιριγκ	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1
Σάουθ Κοστ-ΑΠΙΑ	2	2	Χ	1	1	X	2	2	2	1
BAOMOI	19	26	25	26	23	25	21	31	27	15





