

KENT MESSENGER

Football

12/06/2008

Given my renewed interest in football, I was interested to read that FIFA has suggested that new rules allowing football teams to name only five foreign players in their starting XI should be implemented to safeguard home-grown talent. They have been concerned that with the premier league football teams sometimes fielding only 1-3 English players, that the standard and morale of home-grown talent would diminish.

An eminently sensible idea. How many budding Beckhams or Rooneys do we have in Gravesham. By my reckoning, each school and football club has at least two sides who fit that bill.

President of FIFA Sepp Blatter has said he hopes new rules allowing football teams to name only five foreign players in their starting XI will be in place by the 2012-13 season. However, as always, there is EU intervention. The EU has repeatedly said this would contravene its law on free movement of workers. So, it's really about the EU not preserving our culture and encouraging our youngsters.

PS, I am now the one of the many proud owners of Ebbsfleet Utd having bought a small piece of the club a couple of weeks ago.

MEET THE MP: Tomorrow, Friday, 13th, I will be holding a Meet the MP day in the town centre between 12-2pm outside the National Westminster Bank in King Street. Please come and share your concerns with me.

It's also the fault of some parents as they allow their children to drink and not enough of them are asking where their children are or who they are hanging around with.

The number of kids you see staggering around on a Friday and Saturday night is quite disgraceful but further penalising our diminishing local hostelrys will not help. With wages falling and unemployment rising here, please do not take away the pleasures of the majority who do enjoy a pint responsibly. I was horrified to see the beautiful Cock Inn at Luddesdowne virtually empty the other night - and it is not the only one.