

Podcast 19 / 2008-9 Worksheet

Innovations in Football

(December 20 2008)

Background information

Recently there have been a lot of ideas about how to improve the game of football. New ideas are always controversial. In this podcast languagecaster looks at some of these ideas and asks fans what they think.

Pre-Listening

A. Vocabulary

Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

1 ___ innovation	a. stupid, absurd, senseless
2 ___ controversial	b. foolish, insane, stupid
3 ___ ridiculous	c. new idea, new measure, radical change
4 ___ agenda	d. plan, scheme
5 ___ clarify	e. causing disagreement
6 ___ ludicrous	f. enough
7 ___ sufficient	g. disgusting, morally bad
8 ___ obscene	h. make clear, explain

Listening

A. Listening for detail

Listen to the whole report. What five innovations do the fans discuss?

1. So what do think about a _____ in the Premier League being played somewhere _____, around the world?
2. What about the idea of using _____ to _____ a wall should be back in a free kick.
3. And another match _____ on the _____ line?
4. Or how about _____ like videos and replays?
5. And lastly what about a _____ to keep those _____ down?

B. Listening for main ideas

Listen to the whole report again. Do the speakers agree or disagree with the ideas? What reasons do they give?

Fill in the table below.

	Tim	Simon	Hans
Idea 1 _____	good / not sure / <u>bad</u> He thinks it's ridiculous	good / not sure / bad	good / not sure / bad
Idea 2 _____	good / not sure / bad	good / not sure / bad	good / not sure / bad
Idea 3 _____	good / not sure / bad	good / not sure / bad	good / not sure / bad
Idea 4 _____	good / not sure / bad	<u>good</u> / not sure / bad He said we can see what happens immediately	good / not sure / bad
Idea 5 _____	good / not sure / bad	good / not sure / bad	good / not sure / bad

Podcast 19 / 2008-9 Answers

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Pre-Listening

B. Vocabulary

Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

1 <u>e</u> innovation	a. stupid, absurd, senseless
2 <u>a</u> controversial	b. foolish, insane, stupid
3 <u>d</u> ridiculous	c. new idea, new measure, radical change
4 <u>h</u> agenda	d. plan, scheme
5 <u>b</u> clarify	e. causing disagreement
6 <u>f</u> ludicrous	f. enough
7 <u>g</u> sufficient	g. disgusting, morally bad
8 ___ obscene	h. make clear, explain

Listening

A. Listening for detail

Listen to the whole report. What five innovations do the fans discuss?

1. So what do think about a **39th game** in the Premier League being played somewhere **abroad**, around the world?
2. What about the idea of using **foam** to **measure the 10 yards** a wall should be back in a free kick.
3. And another match **official** on the **goal** line?
4. Or how about **goal-line technology** like videos and replays?
5. And lastly what about a **salary cap** to keep those **wages** down?

B. Listening for main ideas

Listen to the whole report again. Do the speakers agree or disagree with the ideas? What reasons do they give?

Fill in the table below.

	Tim	Simon	Hans
Idea 1 _____	good / not sure / <u>bad</u> He thinks it's ridiculous / money grab	good / not sure / <u>bad</u> He thinks it's totally unnecessary / just about money	good / not sure / <u>bad</u> He thinks it's a money making agenda
Idea 2 _____	good / <u>not sure</u> / bad He said, 'not a bad idea' but 'lots of problems'	good / not sure / <u>bad</u> He thinks it's ridiculous / too American	good / not sure / <u>bad</u> He said it's a bad idea / ludicrous
Idea 3 _____	<u>good</u> / not sure / bad He said, 'not a bad idea' and 'maybe help clear this up'	good / not sure / <u>bad</u> He said we don't need an extra official	good / <u>not sure</u> / bad He said it's maybe a good idea.
Idea 4 _____	good / not sure / <u>bad</u> If you have extra official you don't need technology / local leagues can't have the technology	<u>good</u> / not sure / bad We can see 99% of the time what happens immediately	<u>good</u> / not sure / bad He said it's maybe a good idea / seems like a good idea
Idea 5 _____	good / <u>not sure</u> / bad A good idea, but not workable	good / not sure / <u>bad</u> I'm not sure how it can work in the Premier League	<u>good</u> / not sure / bad Seems like a very good idea / other leagues should also do it

Podcast 19 / 2008-9 Transcript

Innovations in Football

(December 20 2008) Despite what the traditionalists might say football is a sport that is constantly evolving. Three points for a win was deemed too radical for some back in 1981 when it was first introduced in England but it's now accepted as the standard manner of rewarding victories around the world. Other innovations that have changed football in recent years include the banning of the tackle from behind, the reduction of back passes to the keeper, the addition of extra substitutes on the bench, the introduction of yellow and red cards and probably the most controversial allowing players to have more freedom in their contracts. These and more have all revolutionised the game in one way or another over the past 20 years or so. So, on this week's main report we asked a panel of football experts what they thought of some of the possible innovations that possibly lay ahead in the game.

Idea 1: So what do think about a 39th game in the Premier League being played somewhere abroad, around the world?

Tim

Ridiculous! Absolutely ridiculous. It's just a money grab by the Premier League and it just doesn't make any sense. Any way you look at it it doesn't make sense: for teams being relegated, for teams going for the title. Just ridiculous.

Simon

Totally unnecessary to get players logistically off playing in Katmandu or where ever. It's just a no goer. I think it's just about money and I don't like it.

Hans

The 39th game seems to be a money making agenda, so personally I would say no. It's not a good idea.

Idea 2: What about the idea of using foam to measure out the 10 yards a wall should be back in a free kick.

Tim

I think experimenting is not a bad idea. I have doubts whether it would actually end up being any good. I think there's a lot of problems... Like you know, if there's a problem with the free kick and they retake it, do they have to spray again or something like that. But it's worth a try I'd say.

Simon

To be honest I had to clarify the question with Damon. And when I heard it, it's just so ridiculous that a referee is going to stand there and spray a line which hopefully will last a minute. What happens after a minute if the ball isn't back. Do we get more spray? I mean it sounds as if we're getting too American for me, so the answer is no.

Hans

Keeping players back with spray at set pieces is not just a bad idea it's a ludicrous idea. Definitely no good.

Ideas 3 and 4: And another match official on the goal line? Or how about goal line technology like videos and replays?

Tim

This one, I reckon... actually Platini has said a lot of rubbish especially towards English teams over the last few weeks, but actually this is not a bad idea. I think every week you hear managers complaining about referees missing hand balls or blatant penalties. And maybe this will help clear this up.

Simon

Platini... well he should be quiet because he's been moaning a lot recently about everything and not really saying very much. But the whole idea of extra officials on the goal-line, we don't need an extra official, we just need to use technology. And we've got the technology, we can 99% of the time see, as spectators, what happens immediately, so I don't know why a fourth official can't watch a monitor and give an answer. We don't need all this extra stuff.

Hans

Having extra officials on the goal-line may be a good idea. I'm not opposed to that, but I think goal-line technology may be a better idea. Using technology to work out if the ball has crossed the line seems to be a good idea in this day and age.

Tim

Goal line technology... I think If you have two officials on the line you don't actually need technology, they should be sufficient, so... and I can understand to some extent keeping the game live and playable at all levels, so that, obviously, when your playing very local leagues you don't have the possibility of goal-line technology, but you do have the possibility of having extra officials, so it keeps it uniform throughout from the very top to the very bottom.

Idea 5: And lastly what about a salary cap to keep those wages down?

Simon

Salary cap? Well again it's an American thing... Though I agree that the money that people like Terry and Lampard and a few other people earn is obscene and it's getting out of control, I'm not sure how this could actually work in the context of the Premier League.

Tim

I don't think it's workable. I think it's a good idea, but I think the top teams will find ways of working around it, but I think the motivation for that is good.

Hans

Having a salary cap in the Premier League seems to be a very good idea. I think clubs should get more even in players wages and things like that, so yes I think it's a good idea and it should also be included in other leagues around Europe and around the world.