We’re on the march with...

Barry’s Army

Fanzine Launched!

Welcome to the first (and, perhaps, the last) number of the fanzine, Barry’s Army. If you plan to be on the march with Barry’s Army and the AAYSA Arsenal Under-Nine Blue team, this fanzine is obligatory reading. Since you will probably be spending an inordinate amount of time either getting soaked or getting sunburned, while standing on potholed playing fields miles from anywhere, it might have other uses too (and that’s without mentioning the Airport Portacabins we all know and love). Of course, when AAYSA moves to the facilities on Platt Road (rumored to rival the new Wembley in lavishness and cost; see page five for details) we might even have real bathrooms and somewhere to stand out of the rain. But by then who knows what will have happened to ten boys, their quiet, undemonstrative parents, and their favorite coach...

Further editions of the fanzine may be forthcoming (with luck). Contributions and comments are always welcome. In the meantime — read on.

Comments, complaints? Contact the editors at: mlmakin@umich.edu

Message from the Master and Commander

Last May, when the club told me I was moving on from my two girls teams, I was a little disappointed. I had been with the older girls for 3 years, and it was time for a change, so I was told I would be taking the U12 boys. OK, I thought. But I was then told that I would not be coaching the younger girls. I had only had them for two years, we had really progressed, competing with the top teams in the state and I was surprised and disappointed to lose them, but that’s coaching. The next question I had was "Who would I be coaching?". The coaching committee decided that my future lay with the U9 boys. I was happy, although a little anxious, as it had been several years since I coached such young players. How happy am I that the coaching committee allowed me to coach the U9’s. What a great team to coach. Not only are we a good, competitive team, the boys are awesome, and the parents are too........especially as a lot of them had never been involved in travel soccer before! It has been an absolute joy to work with the players. They are enthusiastic, hard working, want to learn (they are like little soccer sponges), dedicated, motivated and a very talented bunch. I am amazed at the level of soccer we play and what I can teach these guys at this age. It is truly a joy to work with these guys. Our play and results so far have been nothing short of phenomenal. Of course the hard part is maintaining the standards we have set for ourselves. We have adapted to Division 1 very well, and should have no fear in playing (and beating) anyone. Although this is very much a developmental age, it is also nice to compete and win against the best teams and clubs in WSSL. That is also an important factor in the players development and something they need to learn for their soccer future.

I look forward to all out training and games and I cannot wait to see these guys develop and compete against the other top teams in the state. Keep up the great work guys (and parents....remember no coaching from the sides!)

Coach Barry
Meet the team

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<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Josh</td>
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<td>Kevin</td>
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<td>Michael</td>
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<td>Henry</td>
<td>Winters</td>
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At the Airport

Groundskeeping services offered by Arsenal Blue parents may be too expensive for some clubs. But not for AAYSA

Have animals dug holes in your lawn? Has your lawn service failed to turn up? Do your sons need their back-yard pitch marked? If the answer to any of these questions is “yes”, contact the parents pictured above. They do it all!
Arsenal Blue Fixtures and Results — Outdoors Seasons

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<th>DATE</th>
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Abbreviations: V — Venue; R — Result; GST — Global Soccer Tournament; PP — Pacesetter Park (Sylvania, Ohio). Home matches in the Fall Season were played at Concordia; home matches in the Spring Season are played at Ann Arbor Airport.

The Arsenal Blue Under-Nine team also played two indoor sessions at Ann Arbor’s Wide World of Sports, both in the 1st Division of the Under-Ten league. They were increasingly competitive against older opposition, recording a win in their final match — against the Arsenal White Under-Ten team. Arsenal Blue Under-Nines also played a final indoor session this winter at Novi Soccer Zone, where they beat every opponent except a Bandits team, consisting of Wolves and Waza players, to whom they lost a very tight match 2-1. In the first and third indoor sessions, Arsenal Blue players were joined by several comrades from the Arsenal White Under-Nine team.

The team plays in the Western Suburban Soccer League (www.wsslsoccer.org). Detailed team statistics, kept by Rick Jones and Rob McCullumsmith, can be found at www-personal.umich.edu/~rickey/soccer/arsenalu9/.

Team members have competed in the following small-sided tournaments: Wixom (Thanksgiving); Wide World (Christmas); Canton (Winter); UM Micro-Soccer Shootout (February); Wixom (Easter).
Lawrence Mullen is the youngest player on the team (it is thought that he is almost nine months younger than any other player). He has played with great flair and determination all year, attracting enthusiastic praise for such plays as his elegant and precise through ball in the recent match against Bloomfield White. That pass sliced through the defense with deadly accuracy, and was met by Kevin in stride, enabling him to put it away for a key goal. Lawrence also scored the first goal in open play of the team’s spring season, with a fine finish at the far post from a corner. Here is what he told our correspondent:

So Lawrence, when exactly were you born? My date of birth is January 3rd, 1997.

Interviewers always ask professional players their weight and height—what are your plans? I plan to be 157 lbs and 6 ft 2 inches.

How long have you been playing? I’ve been playing the Beautiful Game since I learned to walk.

Why did you choose number five? I chose my number because I like Zidane.

What can you say about the Airport Fields? Airport fields are fit for goats.

What has been your greatest moment on the pitch so far? When I scored a goal in an indoor game against Northville Orange by making a move to the net and striking a bouncing ball.

What in the future, will be your greatest moment on the pitch? A diving header against the Wolves.

What was your favorite moment as an Ann Arbor Arsenal player? When I went to Blue Chip.

If you weren’t playing the Beautiful Game, what would you be doing? I would be practicing the most patahetic instrument in the world all day long: the violin.

What does “Play big” mean to you? It means my dad better stop losing the ball to an old lady…

Who is your favorite player? Andrei Shevchenko, because he is the best striker for AC Milan and he has the same hair cut as me.

And your favorite team? AC Milan, because of Andrei Shevchenko, even though my dad says it should be the Montreal Canadiens Hockey Club.

What is your dream on the pitch? To score the winning goal in the last minute of the 2014 final match for Canada against Scotland. (By the way, did you know that, according to FIFA, Canada is rated 84th and Scotland 86th?).

And off the pitch? To be a poker player.

What do you like about school? Recess.

What don’t you like about school? It interferes with recess.

What was the funniest moment of your life? When I met my parents.

What do you hope that your future sibling will do? Help me torment girls and fetch my soccer ball.

What is the one thing you wish your Mum, Christina, or Dad, Stephen, wouldn’t do? I wish my Mum would stop telling me to cut my hair.

How often do you sing “O Canada?”. At least 4 times a week in French. Yeah right.

Complete the phrase “As Canadian as…” “As Canadian as poutine.” (“Hey, he’s from Quebec”, adds his father. Now we all know what je me souviens means—the Québécois can’t forget poutine.

What is Barry Scott? A Scott. No really.

If you were Barry, what would you do? If I were Barry I would bring my bagpipes to the games to wake us up when we’re “nut werkin’ ard enuf”.

Thank you, and good luck. Play big.

Chris Utz — Arsenal Blue Under Ten star, enthusiastically scrimmages with the Under-Nines, even without his brother’s permission.

Carly Carn-Saferstein — keeps goal very well for Arsenal Under-Thirteen, but might rather be playing softball. Brother Adam Carn-Saferstein is a leading midfielder for the Wolves Under-Twelves (but we still love him).

Colin Jones — taking the Arsenal Academy by storm.

Neil Makin — also playing in the Academy; claims to hit the ball harder than Alan Shearer.

Colin and Neil, together with Evan Brown and Michael Cohen, formed the Spitfires, champions of the UM Micro-Soccer Shootout, Under-Seven Bracket, this February.

Olivia Chernew — does not consider the game beautiful, despite the many admirers of her own beauty among its players. She prefers ballet and gymnastics.

Calvin McCallumsmith — is destined to be a goalkeeper, weighing in at the ninety-fifth percentile at birth. Elder brother Sam will play in Italy, since he loves to pull shirts. Sister Dagny will star on the left wing, while sister Eleanor will use her after-burner speed to score on the breakaway.

Rules of the game by Kirby Winters for young players:

And his most important piece of advice for young players:

1. No hands.
2. No headers, if you’re five.
3. No kicking the ball in the face.
4. No hands.
5. No throwing sticks at the other team.
6. No tripping.
7. No kicking the referee.

This is the first of a planned series of player profiles. Players are chosen at random to be profiled by our team of interviewers.
Chairman's Report

The 2nd Annual AAYSA Golf Outing is set to take place Sunday, June 12th, at Reddemann Farms in Chelsea with an 8:30 a.m. tee time. The golf outing is AAYSA’s largest fundraiser. If you are interested in sponsoring the event, volunteering, or registering a foursome, please contact Brian Manning at (734) 662-2972 or brian@aaysa.net. More information is also available from Lisa Jones (lisaj@umich.edu), who is seeking more or less willing volunteers.

AAYSA plans to create its own playing complex, just outside of Ann Arbor. Below are edited extracts from the statement issued by the Association’s President, Don Tilton.

“AAYSA has been studying building and owning its own soccer fields for many years. We have investigated many parcels of land only to reject the sites for various reasons, such as cost, local opposition, poor road circulation, etc. We have explored partnering with the City of Ann Arbor and, while we may still do something in the future, for the time being it appears that the City is not in a position to construct a complex.

“There are many reasons for having our own fields and investing in our future. The most important reasons are:

• To provide high quality training and competition fields
• To provide space for our growing programs
• To control our expenses
• To provide our young athletes the facilities they deserve.

“The chosen site is located in Pittsfield Township along Platt Road between Michigan Avenue and Bemis Road. There is enough room for eight full size fields, parking lots, and buildings. The strategy is to develop the fields with minimal, if any, increases in player fees. Our plan is to increase player participation, because we will have better facilities and more space, in order to cover the cost of maintaining our own complex. The bank will allow us to pay back the principal as we develop our fundraising program, so that eventually we will own the land free and clear.”

Several team members and coach Barry Scott participate in AAYSA’s TOPSoccer program. As the club’s website puts it “The TOPSoccer program was created to train young people with disabilities in a caring coaching environment to play soccer; to serve as a feeder program to recruit, assess and train players to participate in competitions offered by existing sports organizations for people with disabilities; and to mainstream higher ability players onto regular youth soccer teams”. Work in the program is rewarding and interesting. For more information contact Brian Manning at 734-662-2972 or brian@aaysa.net. This spring, TOPSoccer is run at the Airport Fields on Fridays, 5.30-7.00.

Stephen Mullen has proposed a parents and children small-sided tournament for the team, with a valuable trophy for the winners. The fanzine editor suggests that teams with players over 45 and under 7 be given a four goal cushion before kickoff. For more information, contact stephenmullen@comcast.net.

Lynne Richards has suggested a kit-swap day. Sort out those under-used boots and shorts, and contact her at richard6@aps.k12.mi.us or mslmr6@hotmail.com.
We’re on the march with…

Barry’s Army

Know the Game — Glasgow Rangers F.C.

The most important thing for every Arsenal Under-Nine Blue player to know about Glasgow Rangers is that they are coach Barry Scott’s favorite team. So don’t forget to check the results — if Rangers won (and Celtic lost), Barry will be in a good mood. At least, until the first misplaced pass of the day…

Rangers, together with archrivals Glasgow Celtic, form Scotland’s “Old Firm”, which has dominated the Beautiful Game in Scotland since the beginning of professional leagues. Rangers have won the Scottish League fifty times, including the very first league title awarded (1890-91), and were champions most recently in 2002-3. At the time of writing, they lie in second place, two points behind Celtic, with much still to play for. Sadly for Rangers fans, the one great boast that Celtic have over Rangers is that they have won a European Cup (now the UEFA Champions League). In 1967 Celtic, playing with a team consisting entirely of men born within twenty miles of Celtic Park, became the first club from the British Isles to win the greatest European club competition. Rangers won the Cup Winners Cup in 1972 (their only European title), but that cannot quite match Celtic’s major achievement in Europe.

However, Rangers lead Celtic in head-to-head league matches (won 107, lost 89), and have eleven more league titles.

For many years, the Old Firm teams were very competitive with other top clubs in Europe, and the Scottish game produced stars to rival any other nation — after all, it was the Scots who really made the sport the English had codified in the nineteenth century (until the Scots got hold of the game, it was all about dribbling without passing). But although Celtic and Rangers are two very big clubs, with huge followings, they play in a small league in a small country (Scotland’s population is only around five million). Thirty years ago, that meant less than today, but now, with vast sums of TV money in the English, Spanish, Italian, and other top leagues, Scotland finds itself lagging far behind. Rangers (and Celtic) are big fish, with big budgets — and, right now, big debts — in a small pond, measuring themselves not against other Scottish teams, but against rivals across Europe, who play in better, richer leagues.

There have been persistent rumors of attempts by the Old Firm to move into the (very wealthy and very prominent) English Premiership. So far nothing has come of these rumors, and such moves would be disastrous for the rest of the Scottish league, and would undermine the status of the Scottish F.A., but they illustrate perfectly the dilemma of Rangers F.C. in the twenty-first century.

Moreover, gone are the days when every Rangers player came from North of the Border. Indeed, a Rangers team sheet this season is likely to include players from Georgia, Germany, Holland, Croatia, France, England, and Denmark, with Scots in a distinct minority. That has meant, in recent years, the presence at Ibrox Park of many international stars. So the Rangers Hall of Fame today includes not only such Scottish greats as Davie Provan, Jim Baxter, Ally McCoist, Derek Johnstone, and Graeme Souness, but also imports such as onetime England captain (and Ipswich centre back) Terry Butcher

and favorite English bad boy Paul Gascoigne, who both played for the team in the 80s and 90s.

Thus, in a development mirrored elsewhere in the modern professional game, with its huge financial appetites, the Rangers team nowadays resembles its fans far less than was the case thirty years ago. Historically, in a city very divided by issues of culture and nationality, Rangers, playing in the red, white, and blue of the Union Flag, have represented (and been represented by) those whose culture and religion align them with the traditional majority interests of the United Kingdom. Celtic, on the other hand, as their name and colors (green and white) suggest, are the team for those whose cultural alliances and religious affiliation lie outside Great Britain. For that reason, you see lots of Union Flags and Irish Tricolors at Old Firm Derbies, but few Scottish Saltires. For the same reason, Old Firm Derbies remain passionate affairs — to say the least. But nowadays the passion may be felt a little more intensely by the fans than the players (although the five meetings between the clubs this year produced two red cards and enough yellows to cover every hole in the Airport Fields).

The current Rangers manager is Alex McLeish (who won 77 Scotland caps while starring for Aberdeen in the 80s and 90s). He became the sixth Rangers manager to win the Treble (League, SFA Cup, and League Cup) in his first full season — 2002-3. However, success in Europe has eluded him — this year saw another disappointing performance in the UEFA Champions League. Today’s star players include Scotland captain Barry Ferguson, Croatian international Dado Prso, and Spaniard Nacho Novo. Current A.S. Roma player Traianos Dellas, who started for Greece when that country surprised the continent by winning the 2004 European Championship, is rumored to be heading to Ibrox Park for next season.

Want to know more? Go to www.rangers.premiumtv.co.uk.

Homework:

Topics to research on the game in Scotland:
1. What is a “Red Lichtie”?  
2. Where is Arbroath; what is it famous for?  
3. Which of the following makes Hampden Park famous:  
   a) It used to be home to the “Hampden Rat” (when the nation had a team to roar about);  
   b) It hosted what many consider to be the greatest club match ever (Real Madrid 7 — Eintracht Frankfurt 3, European Cup Final, 1960);  
   c) A leading Ann Arbor Arsenal coach scored his first professional goal there.

Correct answers (for a prize) to Alina Makin — resco@umich.edu.

Glasgow Rangers are among the biggest clubs in the world, despite playing in one of the smallest national leagues in Europe

Founded 1872.
Play at Ibrox Park, current capacity (all seated) 50,500.
Record attendance 118,567 (vs Celtic, 1939).
Major trophies: European Cup Winners Cup, 1972; 50 Scottish League Championships; 31 Scottish Cups; 24 Scottish League Cups.

Is there a club or nation you’d like to see profiled in the next issue? Let the editors know!
Follow the Beautiful Game

It is probably a surprise for the casual sports fan to learn that followers of the Beautiful Game are remarkably well served in South East Michigan. Although the Columbus Crew is the nearest South East Michigan. Although the Columbus Crew is the nearest MLS team to the Detroit Area (see www.MLSDetroit.com), there are now plans to bring an MLS team to the Detroit Area (see www.MLSDetroit.com). In the meantime, the Michigan Bucks (http://bucksoccer.com/), owned by the brothers leading the campaign to bring the MLS to Detroit, play a high level of the game and can be watched for relatively little expense. The Bucks were the first team from their league – the Premier Developmental League (a sort of U.S. Division IV) – to beat an MLS team in the Open Cup, and they have enjoyed considerable success in their ten-year existence. Their home matches are played at Oakland University or at Hurley Field, Berkeley, with a spring/summer season. The amateur game is also remarkably well served, not only by the many strong clubs in the area (not least of them AAYSA, of course), but also by the top quality college teams. The University of Michigan has excellent men’s and women’s teams (fall seasons; see www.mgoblue.com), even though both programs are relatively new. As with other “non-revenue sports”, attending games is easy and cheap, while spectators are made to feel very welcome. Our local high schools also prosper (men’s season – Fall; women’s – Spring), and annual “Soccer Nights” can draw large crowds.

If it’s the top level of the professional game you want to watch, then, with all due respect to the MLS (which is certainly getting stronger and stronger), you probably need to switch on your TV. European and Latin American fans would be astonished at the variety of live and tape-delayed matches, highlight programs, and the like available in the U.S. today. Through cable and satellite providers, the American viewer can find, without too much difficulty, excellent coverage of the world’s top leagues – Spain, Italy, England, Argentina, Brazil, and many others. Most sports packages available locally now carry Fox Soccer Channel (http://msn.foxsports.com/foxsoccer). This channel, part of the Murdoch empire, carries extensive coverage of the English Premier League, the German Bundesliga, the French League, and the Argentine championship. GOLTV, originally available only in Spanish, now has an Anglophone version (www.goltv.tv/eng_index.php), and they have the rights to the Brazilian, Spanish and Italian leagues; GOLTV is available on DirecTV and on digital cable services. Newly-launched Setanta Sports USA (www.setanta.com/us) is available on DirecTV. It shows many matches for which Setanta owns U.S. rights (rebroadcasts of English league matches; UEFA cup matches; the Scottish Premier League, for example). The world’s premier club tournament – the UEFA Champions League – is shown primarily on ESPN channels, with ESPN2 the main Anglophone carrier in the U.S. The South American equivalent, the Copa Libertadores, is shown on Fox Soccer Channel. Recent World Cups have received excellent live coverage on ESPN (and no wonder, since the U.S. men’s team did extremely well at the Korea/Japan World Cup in 2002), while the European Championship has been available as a pay-per-view package — both competitions take place every four years. On pay-per-view you can also find many live Saturday and Sunday England Premier League matches, and a good number of international matches. The biennial Copa América has been available in recent years on Univision and its partner channels. Local Fox sports channels also provide limited coverage of the sport, but little live coverage.

However, if you want the details of everything you can watch on North-American TV, there is a simple “one-stop-shopping” venue – the excellent web site www.soccertv.com. It provides very reliable schedules, with links to all the channels, including many broadcasting in languages other than English. You’ll even find a list of pubs and restaurants that show the sport.

If your favorite European team doesn’t show up enough on your TV – don’t despair. Nearly all of the clubs in England and many other clubs across the continent offer web casts of their radio commentary live, and video highlights within a day – but usually for a price, with a subscription required. Of course, you can always look at the other material on their web sites for nothing. For an example from England’s second tier go to www.itfc.co.uk (the web site for Ipswich Town Football Club, of course…). For an example from La Liga, go to www.realmadrid.com/portada_eng.htm (the English-language web pages of Europe’s greatest club). For an example from Serie A, go to www.acmilan.com/index.aspx (the English-language pages for Italy’s most successful team).

Naturally, there are many, many web sites devoted to the sport. If you start with the sports pages of the BBC, you probably won’t go far wrong: http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport/. And don’t forget their Academy section, which has lots of good material for younger players, including appealing competitions and drills – http://news.bbc.co.uk/sportacademy/default.stm.

Upcoming major matches:

Final of the UEFA Cup (Europe’s second knockout competition), 18 May.

F. A. Cup Final (the world’s oldest knockout competition, and England’s second prize, after the Premiership), 21 May.

Champions League Final (the biggest and richest club competition in the world), 25 May.

The U.S. viewer now has access to three channels devoted almost exclusively to soccer – two more than to golf, three more than to tennis.

Important Matches on US TV this spring:

UEFA Cup Final
(Sporting Lisbon vs TsSKA Moscow)
18 May, 2.30 p.m.
Fox Soccer Channel

F.A Cup Final
(Arsenal vs Man. Utd)
21 May, 10 a.m., PPV

UEFA Champions League Final
(Liverpool vs A.C. Milan)
25 May, 2.30 p.m.
ESPN2

www.soccertv.com — the place to find details of every TV broadcast of the game available in North America
Fifteen signs that you might be an Arsenal Blue Under-Nine Parent

1) Your ten-year-old car is worth a great deal less than the amount you've spent on your son playing the Beautiful Game in the last eight months

2) You've just shelled out $250 for an audio course on British English in the (probably vain) hope that you'll finally understand what you hear on the touchlines.

3) All the same, you find that when you call out your son's name (for example, summoning him to dinner), your voice takes on a distinctly Scottish accent.

4) You were surprised to learn that “coaching from the touchlines” is outlawed, since you had always thought that it was obligatory.

5) You can’t now pronounce terms like “Thanksgiving”, “New Year”, “Good Friday”, and “Memorial Day” without wanting to add to them the word “tournament”.

6) Your spouse never actually got up in time to attend the eight a.m. Saturday practices this winter, but that did not stop him/her from waking you up at 2 a.m. once to warn you that “you’re going to be late for practice”.

7) Despite anxiously arriving forty-five minutes before every kickoff, you are almost never the first to get to games.

8) You call your family from your office and say you’ll be home early one winter night, but it’s only after you’ve parked, searched your pockets and dashboard for quarters, and walked in, that you realize that you don’t actually live at Wide World Sports Center.

9) Moreover, when someone told you, as an April Fool’s Day joke, that Nishan was setting up a luxury box program at Wide World, you went to his office immediately to make sure that you would get your deposit down first.

10) You’ve told your spouse that you’ll have to get a new laptop, since other parents are complaining that the team statistics you keep aren’t detailed enough, and they don’t understand why they can’t have real-time information on time of possession and shot velocity (yes, you’re buying a speed gun, too).

11) You’ve told your spouse that the vacation you’ve been planning for the last three years will have to be postponed “because of tryouts”.

12) On the worst day of the winter, you get yourself and your son up even earlier than usual, drive through a blizzard to Wide World, and spend an hour with nine other Under-Nine Blue families, discussing in astonishment the fact that some teams seem to have fewer players at Saturday morning practice than usual.

13) Your secretary can no longer make head or tail of your Outlook calendar, since it’s full of abbreviations like “WWSC” and “CW3”, but since the word “Arsenal” seems to occur on every second date too, she’s decided that you must have joined the National Guard or the Michigan Militia, and so it’s better not to ask.

14) After living in the area for half a lifetime, you’ve finally begun to understand the geography of the Northwestern suburbs (although you still can’t tell the difference between Novi and Northville).

15) On the female side of your household, the news of Brad Pitt’s engagement is greeted with far less distress than the news of Barry Scott’s.

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Do you know these people (and, if so, will you admit to it)?

Who Said?

(Among Arsenal parents)

1) On being told of plans for the third winter session, “You’re all forgetting one thing. The trouble with Novi is that it’s in Novi.”

2) On being told that there was a fundraising golf outing, “I wouldn’t mind playing a round with some of the mothers.”

3) “I’m sledging.”

4) “Play big!” (repeatedly, at every Arsenal match, and then explained that it was accompanied by a complex and constantly modified system of some thirty hand signals for communicating with his son).

5) Of supporters of a Livingston County opponent, “You can tell you’re playing a redneck team when someone is changing his oil on the sideline”.

(Among Arsenal players and siblings)

1) “I’m undateable”

2) “I love John Terry – he scores a lot of goals (great glancing headers) and tackles so well. The only thing he hasn’t got is pace.”

3) “I didn’t say that Terry Sciavo is the wife of Chelsea’s John Terry [editor’s note — he did]. She’s the wife of the U.S. President, John Terry”.

4) Do I really have to come?

Barry’s Army on the web at www-personal.umich.edu/~mlmakin/BarrysArmy1.pdf