

## **TURF WAR**

### **General Information**

#### **Background**

"Big" Bruce Fowler was a leading Australian footballer. He had been recruited by a top English Premiership Club, Moneychester United. On his debut for the club, as Bruce was running out of the players' tunnel, he tripped where a section of turf had been removed and someone had forgotten to replace it. This dip was only 5 centimetre (2 inches) deep, and 15 centimetres (6 inches) square but, because of his size, Bruce fell very badly, breaking three ribs. He also suffered subsequently from pains in his right leg, which have been difficult to diagnose.

The press have had a ball; all that hype and publicity that surrounded Bruce's arrival, suggestions that this new signing would be the savior of the club – and he falls flat on his face the first time that he sets foot on the home turf! There is a suggestion that he had been drinking although there has been no real evidence and the club are denying the story. The local press are still investigating.

The Chairman received particular adulation for managing to recruit Bruce, and now faces considerable embarrassment at the state of affairs. Both the Chairman and Bruce would actually have a lot to gain if the situation could be resolved in such a way that they could save face.

#### **The dispute**

Bruce is suing the club for his personal injury. He says his career may be over, especially as the undiagnosed pain in his leg intensifies whenever he thinks about playing football again.

Bruce also alleges that he suffered racial taunts from some of his team-mates from the moment he arrived, and is threatening a claim against the club for failing to deal with this.

Bruce is also threatening a stress-at-work claim, albeit the main cause of his stress being the litigation and allegations which have arisen since his fall.

#### **Attending the mediation**

Bruce's agent (Bruce is in hospital)  
Bruce's lawyer

Moneychester United Chairman  
External lawyer