

ISSUE 04

SPORK!

THE FANTASY FOOTBALL ZINE

YOINK!



WELCOME TO SPORK!

ISSUE 04

GREETINGS, SPORTS FANS!

WELCOME TO ISSUE NUMBER FOUR OF SPORK!, THE ONLY ZINE DEDICATED TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST SPORT: BLOOD BOWL.

With most teams having played three matches now, the **SHAT** season is firing on all cylinders: the **Bashful Binfires** extend their lead after a decisive victory over the **Nuln City Ironclads**, with the **Synth Valley Renegades** and **Crownwell Corpse Grinders** in hot pursuit. It's also hotting up in the locker rooms as well, with a number of key players having improved their skills: most recently, The Doof (**Synth Valley Renegades**) has **Mighty Blow**, Stephilda Allansdottir (**Thorsá Blood Eagles**) has **Block** and Achillobator (**Terrible Lizards**) has **gained Multiple Block**.

Wardancer Thessath (**Bashful Binfires**; 155k) leads Jonathon "Dolo" Diaby (**Cromwell Corpse Grinders**; 145k) as the highest-valued player in the league, whilst Big Bite (**Pride of Southampton**) is the King of the Big Guys at a cost of 170k gold. Meanwhile, on the scoring charts, Jean-Jacques François Jacques Jean (**Cromwell Corpse Grinders**) is top scorer with three touchdowns, ahead of Fudd Dunker (**Synth Valley Renegades**) and Trotholgo (**Bashful Binfires**) with two touchdowns apiece.

Good luck to all teams during the next round of fixtures on Sunday 21 April 2024: until next time, merry blitzing!

- Viola Scuttlebutt (Editor)



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South Hampshire Association of Fantasy Football Teams (SHAFFT)

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FEATURE

THE RUMOUR MILL



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After a personal coaching session from Grombrindal ("The White Dwarf") during the recent match against Bashful Binfires, Detlef von Sturm of the Nuln City Ironclads has gained the Leader skill, Franz Umlaut learned Guard, whilst the team's two Noble Blitzers are now Blodging specialists. What ho!

In response to reports of fan violence and misconduct during the match between the Synth Valley Renegades and Terrible Lizards, SHAT announced a series of new spectator safety measures; including an increased ogre-led security presence, stricter enforcement of stadium rules, and implementation of a fan code of conduct. Swift action will be taken against any individuals found to be in violation of the new guidelines.



With Jonathon "Dolo" Diaby (Werewolf playmaker for the Cromwell Corpse Grinders) freshly groomed and now a skilled Block aficionado, he's surely a shoe-in for the league's most paw-some player. Woof!

Following the seismic activity experienced during the Binfires' clash with the Ironclads, the RARG have installed brand new vibration-sensitive Gnoblars at The Forge in order to ensure that match-disrupting groundquakes are a thing of the past...



Pride of Southampton (P.O.S.) are eager to get back on the gridiron after taking a bye during this round - the team gave this exclusive story to our Skaven correspondent, Geraldine Squeak:

(Squeeb): "ME SQUEEB. GET PUMMEL. BUT SQUEEB RISE AGAIN. BITE BITE BITE".

(Shank): vicious squeaking and spitting

(Big Bite): "SQUEAK SQUEAK SSSSQUEAK".

GOSSIP

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DISPATCHES

Blood Bowl news from across the Old World

LETTERS FROM OUR FRONT LINE CORRESPONDENT, IRINA SCHICKENDANTZ

In a shocking turn of events at the Blood Bowl championship, fans of the Khorne team erupted into chaos, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake. Eyewitnesses reported scenes of violence and carnage as enthusiasts of chaos clashed with supporters, stadium security, and even players themselves. Chants of "*Blood for the Blood God!*" echoed throughout the stadium, sending shivers down the spines of onlookers.



"It was like a war zone," said one terrified spectator. *"I've never seen anything like it. They were smashing everything in sight, screaming an' laughing like madmen. Crazy!"*

Despite efforts to contain the chaos, authorities struggled to regain control as the situation escalated out of hand. In the end, the championship match was cancelled due to safety concerns, leaving both fans and players disappointed and shaken by the day's events. Many have called for stricter measures to be put in place to prevent such incidents from happening again in the future.

Meanwhile, at the recent playoff match between the Goblin Greenbacks and the Skaven Slayers, fans were treated to more than just thrilling plays on the pitch – they were also treated to a culinary catastrophe courtesy of a mischievous Goblin hot dog seller.

Known locally as "Gnarly Gob," the Goblin in question had set up his makeshift hot dog stand near the stadium entrance, luring hungry fans with promises of savoury sausages and fiery condiments. Little did they know that Gnarly Gob's hot dogs were anything but ordinary: eyewitnesses described the chaotic scene that unfolded as unsuspecting customers bit into their hot dogs, only to discover that they were filled with bizarre and unexpected ingredients: squirming maggots, crunchy cockroaches and rotten squigs. *"It was disgusting,"* said one fan. *"I took one bite and nearly gagged. I'll never trust a hot dog again."*

As word of the hot dog havoc spread throughout the stadium, angry fans demanded refunds and called for Gnarly Gob to be banned from future matches. Stadium security was forced to intervene to calm the crowd and remove the offending vendor from the premises. Whilst the antics may have caused a stir, it proved once again that anything can happen at a Blood Bowl match; especially when Goblins are involved.



REPORTAGE

yours, Irina

BRUISE OF THE WORLD



**SPECIAL
COLOUR
EDITION**

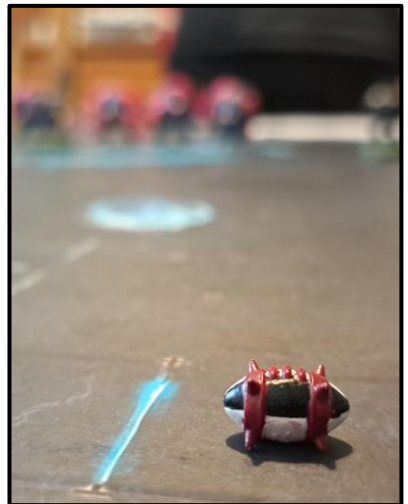
from the makers of

SPORK!

THE SEASON SO FAR

Well, we've had a cracking few matches of this season already, so we thought we'd bring you a view from the grandstand of the action so far. Behold! This special colour pictograph supplement features fully panchromatic snapshots from the **South Hampshire Association Tournament** games that we haven't been able to feature in **SPORK!** until now.

The Cabal Vision cameras have been present on the sidelines to capture all the thrills of spills of blood 'n' balls. So: sit back, grab a warm mug of Bugman's XXXXXX and enjoy some unseen shots from the **SHAT** carnage that's taken place so far...

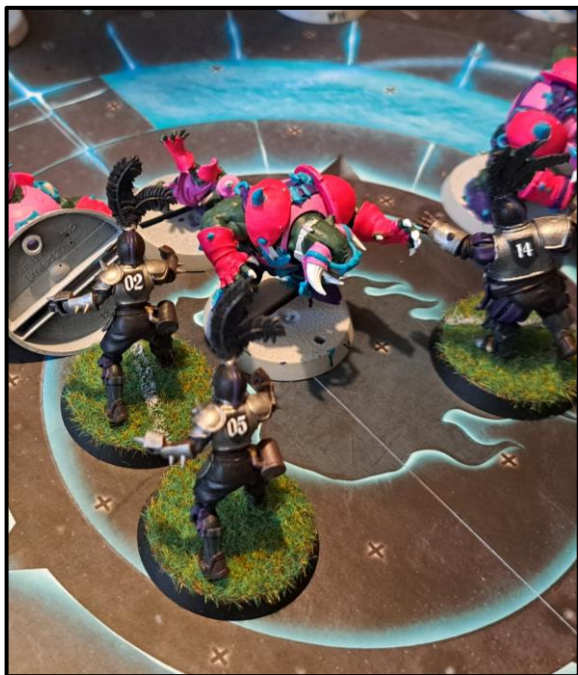




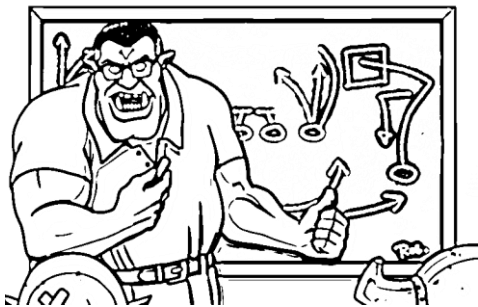
(clockwise from top-left) ...; Pride of Southampton vs. Synth Valley Renegades (03 Feb 2024); ...; Bashful Binfires vs. Thorsá Blood Eagles (03 Feb 2024); NuIn City Ironclads vs. Synth Valley Renegades (09 Mar 2024); the SHAT Arena (09 Mar 2024).

(previous page) Pride of Southampton vs. Synth Valley Renegades (03 Feb 2024); NuIn City Ironclads vs. Synth Valley Renegades (09 Mar 2024); (overleaf) the SHAT Arena (17 Mar 2024).







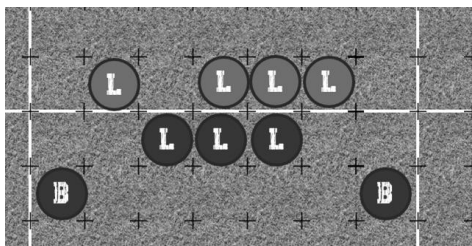


TALKING TACTICS

WITH BRUISER

WHEN DEFENDING AT THE START OF A DRIVE, THERE ARE TWO BASIC APPROACHES THAT YOU CAN ADOPT WHEN IT COMES TO SETTING UP ON THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE (LOS). YOU CAN EITHER PUT SOME SERIOUS MUSCLE THERE, OR DROP OFF SOME SACRIFICIAL GARBAGE. IN BOTH CASES THEY ARE GOING TO BE AT SIGNIFICANT RISK OF GETTING HIT BY THE ATTACKING TEAM, SO YOU NEED TO DECIDE WHAT APPROACH TO TAKE. THANKFULLY, CEDRIC "BRUISER" PANHANDLE IS HERE TO HELP.

SCRIMMAGE



For the (minimum of) three players which must stand on the LoS, placing them in a tight, side-by-side formation will limit how many opponents can immediately block them or provide an assist, but leaves them bunched-up and potentially easily surrounded. Placing them wider apart (2-3 spaces) means that more players can gang up on each one individually, but leaves the opposition more spread out after the initial "punch" and potentially easier to shut down afterwards.

For any player not on the LoS, it is recommended to position them at least three squares back if possible: this will help mitigate any blitzes made by the opposition on their offensive turn and minimise the risk of undue pain. Keeping valuable players (and/or heavy-hitters) at least three spaces back will help ensure they are still standing after the initial punch and free to react or move to where they are needed on the counter-turn. In the wide zones, players should stand at least two spaces from the sideline: depending on the opposition's tactics, they could be at risk of being punted into the crowd and having A Bad Time™.

If you are starting the drive down on players, a sensible tactic may be to employ an asymmetric setup and use this as bait to encourage the opponent down a particular direction: attempting to cover all lanes may find you outnumbered and easily split. However, if you outnumber or outmuscle your opponent, you may be able to be aggressive and create a beefy wall which discourages the attacking team from making progress: they will still get to make the first punch, but you may be able to limit the number of assists they get and maintain the upper hand.

MATCH REPORT 07/04/2024

Bashful Binfires 2 - 1 Nuln City FC



**A COMPANY OF IRONCLAD BLITZERS
STAMPEDES TOWARDS THE BINFIRES' ENDZONE**

theBinfires' Catcher had evaded the Ironclads' desperate defensive measures and walked the ball over the endzone to take the match to an early 1-0 lead. On the restart, Thrower Detlef von Sturm scooped up the ball for Nuln City, and a tumble by Elf wardancer Thessath led to a turnover and a break up the right-hand lane by the Ironclad frontline. An equalising touchdown looked briefly plausible in the final few moments of the first half, until a Noble Blitzler fumbled the ball and a valiant Wardancer performed some heroic gymnastics to swipe the ball away from danger, chased by two Noble Blitzers and a Bodyguard.

The second half proceeded much like the first: on their own drive, the Ironclads were sacked of the ball early doors and couldn't halt Binfires Lineman Syne from trotting over the endzone to take the match to 2-0. However, the Irons were not completely down and out, and recovered on the restart to form a Blitzler cage around the reclaimed ball - the unit marched up the pitch, flinging Elves left and right, until Albrecht Panzerblitzen saw a door opening to sprint to the endzone and score. With too little time remaining to effect another scoring opportunity for either side, the Wood Elves played catching practice for the remainder of the game; one which was a lot tighter and more frantic than the scoreline might suggest.

BASHFIRES MAKE IT THREE WINS FROM THREE AGAINST AN UNDERPOWERED NOBILITY LINE

With a considerable CTV discrepancy and a heavy contingent of Journeymen, the Ironclads took loan of Grombrindal from prospective SHAT team The Thunder Mountain Vulcans; hoping that the White Dwarf's expertise would aid in putting up a worthy fight against a superior opposition. The Binfires, meanwhile, were cooking on timber after two wins on the trot and confident of a third against a wounded Nobility.

The Wood Elf team came blitzing out of the blocks after scuffed kick by Detlef von Sturm; within three blistering turns,



**A BINFIRES WARDANCER LEAVES A WAKE OF
NOBILITY DESTRUCTION BEHIND THEM**

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MATCH REPORT

MATCH REPORTER: VIOLA SCUTTLEBUTT

MATCH REPORT

11/04/2024

Corpse Grinders 2 - 0 Blood Eagles

DOUBLE TROUBLE FOR THE NORSE AS THEY SUCCUMB TO THE NECROMANTICS

The Blood Eagles kicked to open the match and the ball was quickly gathered by Jean-Jacques François Jacques Jean ("JJ Frankie JJ") and the Corpse Grinders' offence formed up on the right flank. The Norse put up a robust defence, but some good tilly from The Jims resulted in an early knockout, giving the Undead the numbers advantage. Play stood locked in the centre field, pitching and wheeling across the centre line, but, eventually, the Blood Eagles' defence cracked open wide enough for Frankie to sneak through. Jared



THE NORSEMEN CLASH WITH THE UNDEAD IN CENTRE FIELD

"Shoresy" Shore kept things tied up and the centre field, meaning that JJ Frankie JJ only required assistance from Diaby and Hitchcock to open the scoring for the Corpse Grinders.

The second half saw the knocked-out Blood Eagles returning to the field whilst a Jim remained in the dugout for the Necromantics. An early line break from Hitchcock dispossessed the Norse in a dangerous position: the ball was loose in the ruck in the centre field, but the Blood Eagles continued their rampage, scattering players left and right. The chaos of the ruck led to some bungling as the ball bounced around the melee until luck smiled once again on JJ Frankie JJ - the ball stood up plum and he answered the call. The Ghoul and ball escaped from the back of the pack and the Norsemen could not reform their defence and the runner sailed across the line for a second time.



THE TWO TEAMS' COACHES LOOK ON FROM ABOVE

After the restart, the Blood Eagles finally entered the opposition half in an aggressive cage. But time in the half was short, and the Corpse Grinders held back the advance long enough to hear the whistle and secure their victory. The Norse team left the stadium disappointed, with a scoreline which did not do their performance justice, but they simply could not keep up with the golden boots of JJ Frankie JJ: the haul of two touchdowns makes him the league's top scorer, even though the Corpse Grinders still have a game in hand.

MATCH REPORTER: LAURA MOHR

MATCH REPORT

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LEAGUE STANDINGS

SPONSORED BY:



SO:BBL - CENTRAL CONFERENCE

	CLUB	PTS	P	W	D	L	TDF	TDA	CAS
1	BASHFUL BINFIRES	9	3	3	0	0	6	4	3
2	SYNTH VALLEY RENEGADES	4	2	1	1	0	3	1	2
3	CROMWELL CORPSE GRINDERS	4	2	1	1	0	3	1	1
4	TERRIBLE LIZARDS	4	3	1	1	1	4	3	5
5	NULN CITY IRONCLADS	2	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
6	PRIDE OF SOUTHAMPTON (P.O.S.)	1	2	0	1	1	2	3	5
7	THORSA BLOOD EAGLES	0	3	0	0	3	1	7	2

WITH A THIRD WIN FROM THREE GAMES, THE BASHFUL BINFIRES HAVE ALL BUT SECURED THEIR PLACE IN THE PLAY-OFFS - BUT THE RACE IS ON TO SEE WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PACK OF TEAMS WILL JOIN THEM IN THE TOP TWO BY THE SEASON'S END. MEANWHILE, WITH THE BOTTOM THREE YET TO PLAY EACH OTHER, IT'S STILL UP FOR GRABS AS TO WHO CAN ESCAPE THE BOTTOM OF THE TABLE - A SINGLE WIN COULD PROPEL THEM UP THE LEADERBOARD!

LEAGUE TABLE KEY:

PTS	LEAGUE POINTS
P	MATCHES PLAYED
W	WINS
D	DRAWS
L	LOSSES
TDF	TOUCHDOWNS FOR
TDA	TOUCHDOWNS AGAINST
CAS	CASUALTIES INFLICTED



CASUALTY CORNER

DAALOT (BASHFUL BINFIRES)

"Talking Tactice" - Scrimmage adapted from <https://fumbbl.com/>

"Dispatches from Afar" written with the aid of ChatGPT