

# D5

## Sportsmanship Verses Gamesmanship

### US Accused of Bad Sportsmanship

By BBC Sport Online's Clive Lindsay at Loch Lomond  
8th October 2000

Annika Sorenstam accused the Americans of bad sportsmanship as controversy over one of her fourball shots ensured that emotions, even tempers, were running high on the final day of the Solheim Cup at Loch Lomond.

While the Swede teed off in the first of the concluding series of singles matches, referee Barbara Trammell was unable to scotch the impression that there had been some opportunistic gamesmanship on the part of Pat Hurst and Kelly Robbins.

Sorenstam, paired with Scotland's Janice Moodie, had chipped in for a birdie from the rough beside a bunker on the 13th hole – only for the US side to complain that she had played out of turn. After the shot was replayed, the Americans went on to win the hole, and the match, by 2 and 1.

However, when she was interviewed afterwards, Sorenstam – who had been left in tears on the green following the row – said: “It is just really sad to see that the ugly part of them came out, because both Pat and Kelly are the nicest they have and it is just sad to see that, that they don't even have sportsmanship.”

Moodie suggested that it had all just been a misunderstanding – but there was no doubt that the Europeans felt aggrieved, captain Dale Reid insisting that Sorenstam thought that she had received the nod from the Americans to play her shot.

Trammell told a press conference that she believed that Robbins had not realised that she had been closer to the hole than Sorenstam until she had returned to her ball. “She was shocked and was agonising about what to do and it was her captain, Pat Bradley, who made the decision,” she said.

However, Trammell could not explain why the Americans had not realised that Sorenstam was playing out of turn while the Swede was preparing to make her shot. The whole incident delayed play by 10 minutes as the teams argued the point, with Trammell having to pace out the distance between the two balls and discovering that Sorenstam had been more than a yard further from the hole.

While the Americans were within their rights under the rules of golf, there was no doubting that the Europeans felt hard done by.



# Gavaskar Mourns Lost Sportsmanship

30th July 2003

**Indian batting legend Sunil Gavaskar has criticised the standards of on-field behaviour in modern cricket and warned the spirit of the game is in danger of being ruined for ever.**

The 54-year-old spoke out while giving the Cowdrey lecture at Lord's in honour of former England captain Colin Cowdrey.

"In the modern world of commercialisation of the game and the advent of satellite television and the motto of winning at all costs, sportsmanship has gone for a six," he said.

"Today, although there is a code of conduct, the verbal bouncers go on pretty much unchecked and, unless something is done quickly about it, the good name of the game that we all know will be mud."

Gavaskar, who scored a record 34 Test centuries, said there were a limited number of players who indulged in sledging but singled out Australia as the worst offenders.

## **Verbal abuse**

"Lest I sound pessimistic, let me say that, out of a possible 150 Test cricketers from 10 Test-playing countries, there are perhaps not even 15 who indulge in this verbal abuse and intimidation," said Gavaskar.

"But unfortunately most of these belong to a champion side [Australia] and it makes others believe that it's the only way to play winning cricket."

However, the International Cricket Council committee member said he had not given up. entirely on modern players' manners.

He praised the England and South African teams after they wore black armbands to mark the death of South African star Jacques Kallis' father.

Gavaskar said it showed "that there are people who believe that sharing in a fellow player's grief does not take away anything from their competitiveness, but does help to lessen the grief."



## Serie A Investigates 'Win'

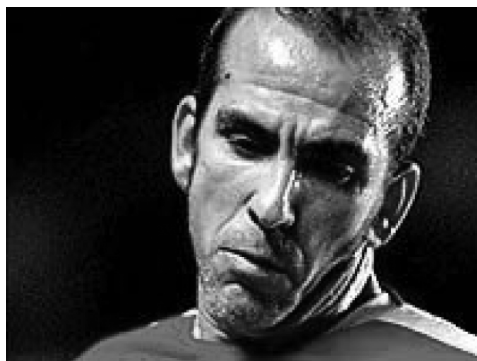
28 September 2004

**The Italian league has not validated Brescia's 2-1 win at Udinese after the visitors' controversial winning goal.** Keeper Morgan De Sanctis was lying injured when Daniele Mannini chipped in on 76 minutes, as Udinese players called on the referee to stop play. Udinese say there was a "technical mistake" by the referee and say the game should be replayed. Lazio's Paolo di Canio joined Italian soccer commentators in criticising Brescia for bad sportsmanship.

"It was unsporting to score like that. I think Brescia should have let Udinese score to bring the game back to level terms," Di Canio told RAI television.

Di Canio won the Fair Play Award after a similar incident at Everton in 2000. The striker, then representing West Ham, caught the ball instead of shooting at goal when home goalkeeper Paul Gerrard was down injured. Italian television broadcast footage of last month's Carling Cup match between Yeovil Town and Plymouth Argyle when the Glovers allowed Plymouth to equalise after scoring a goal in an unfair manner.

After the Brescia goal, furious Udinese players protested to the referee and Udinese's Czech midfielder Marek Jankulovski was sent off and Brescia coach Giovanni De Biasi also received a red card.



# Rocket Goes Off Again

Thursday, 14 December 2006

## **Ronnie O'Sullivan has always been consistent in one thing – courting**

**controversy.** Arguably the most naturally gifted player in the sport's history, O'Sullivan has probably

earned more headlines than the rest of the snooker world put together. On Thursday, the "Essex Exocet" added another dramatic chapter to his colourful career when he walked out of his Maplin UK Championship quarter-final against Stephen Hendry. Of course, O'Sullivan is no stranger to bizarre behaviour – at the same tournament last year he spent much of his 9-8 defeat to Mark King with a wet towel draped over his head.

Earlier in 2005, he looked visibly stressed by Peter Ebdon's go-slow tactics in the World Championship quarter-finals and said after his defeat that he intended to take a year off snooker. The public and the media did not hold their breath though as it was not the first time O'Sullivan had threatened to quit the sport. His many moments of brilliance on the green baize has been tempered with apparent periods of disinterest and unhappiness.

His 14-year professional career has been blighted by depression, which in turn stems from events in his family life and from drug abuse. In fact, the 27-year-old's use of recreational substances landed him in trouble in 1998 when he tested positive for marijuana after winning the Irish Masters – O'Sullivan was later stripped of the title. His emotional stability was also tested in 1996 when he was found guilty by snooker's governing body of assaulting an official at the 1996 World Championship. He was handed a two-year suspended sentence, a £20,000 fine and advised to donate £10,000 to charity. Fellow players have also felt the wrath of O'Sullivan's outbursts and erratic behaviour. In 1996, the Chigwell star decided to play left-handed against opponent Alain Robidoux. O'Sullivan eventually beat Robidoux 10-3, but there was no offer of a handshake from the Canadian after the match. In 2002 O'Sullivan launched a stunning attack on Stephen Hendry prior to their Crucible semi-final. He accused Hendry of bad sportsmanship in a previous match, adding:

"I know if I do get beat and he comes up and does a moonie in front of me and goes 'Ne ne ne', I'll just look at him and say 'well done' and say 'go back to your sad little life'."

That is all now ancient history, according to Hendry. It remains to be seen whether snooker fans will be so forgiving after The Rocket's latest explosion.



## Did Derby Do Wrong?

9th September 2000

**Derby County are at the centre of a 'cheat' storm following their 3-3 draw with Middlesbrough on Wednesday night.** The accusations flew thick and fast after the Rams refused to give the ball back to Boro after they had kicked it out of play so one of the players could receive treatment. Derby eventually scored from the possession, which obviously caused great resentment in their opponents' camp. After all, there is an unwritten rule which says Boro should have been given the ball back.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/football/europe/3692870.stm>

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## Maradona Tops 'Bad Sport' Vote

16th June 2003

**Diego Maradona's handball goal against England in the 1986 World Cup has topped an online poll as the worst-ever example of unfair play in sport.**

In the vote, conducted by children's charity the NSPCC, Maradona's act was voted even less sporting than Mike Tyson's infamous 'ear-biting' incident when he fought Evander Holyfield.



[http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/front\\_page/2993246.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/front_page/2993246.stm)

## **Yeovil Town 3-2 Plymouth Argyle**

Tuesday 24th August

Championship high-flyers Argyle were dumped out of the cup thanks to a hat-trick from Lee Johnson, the son of the Yeovil manager. The scoring began in bizarre fashion on 28 minutes when Graham Coughlan was off receiving treatment for a head wound. Yeovil should have given the ball back to Argyle as they had put the ball back into play. Lee Johnson attempted to hit the ball back to the Argyle keeper but Luke McCormick had strayed off his line and the ball flew into the net. Very sportingly the Glovers allowed Argyle's Stevie Crawford to wander through the Yeovil half and tuck the ball away for an equaliser. Very bizarre, but very sporting.

Bobby Williamson, the manager who has taken Argyle to second place in the Coca-Cola Championship, was gracious in defeat but agreed Yeovil deserved to win.

"I don't know whether their lad tried to put the ball in the net for the opening goal but fair play to Gary he allowed us to equalise," he said.

"I have never seen a goal like our equaliser in all my life and I hope I never will again.

"We never really got to grips with the game and Yeovil played well. They deserved what they got."

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/devon/sport/match\\_reports/august\\_04/yeovil\\_v\\_plymouth.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/devon/sport/match_reports/august_04/yeovil_v_plymouth.shtml)

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## **Clipper Praised For Sportsmanship**

1st December 2005

The Jersey Clipper has been universally acclaimed for its sportsmanship by the Round the World Yacht Race committee. The Channel Island boat was praised for coming to the aid of the New York Clipper in the Southern Ocean. The crew abandoned the race on Tuesday night to transfer a spare water maker pump head in treacherous conditions. It has requested redress from the race committee for just under 49 minutes of lost time, although the crew said their colleagues' safety was more important. The yachts are competing across 35,000 miles of sea, visiting 12 ports, before returning to Liverpool next July. The crew of the Jersey Clipper, which is currently at the back of the fleet of 10, includes people from Guernsey and Jersey.



<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/jersey/4489182.stm>



# Handshakes All Round

14th February 2002

Millwall and Bournemouth contrive to gift each other goals in a bizarre example of good sportsmanship. BBC Sport's Mark Mitchener attempts to explain this unprecedented outbreak of fair play.

Football managers are always quick to bemoan their luck when they gift the other side a goal. But Sue Barker and A Question Of Sport will be kicking themselves that they were not at the New Den on Tuesday afternoon to record what would surely be a perfect 'What Happened Next?' sequence. Light years away from the Premiership, Millwall's reserves were facing Bournemouth in the Avon Insurance Combination. The comedy began when Bournemouth's Ryan Woolfenden and Danny Thomas collided with each other. When play resumed after the pair had received treatment, the Lions sportingly thought to return possession to their opponents. Mark Hicks then obligingly knocked the ball towards where he thought Bournemouth keeper Michael Menetrier was. However, the French custodian was out of his goal and either unsighted or unaware of what was transpiring – and as the ball slowly trickled over the line, the referee was obliged to give a goal.

Not to be outdone, Millwall's players then stood still at the re-start, allowing Cherries striker Amos Foyewa a clear run on goal. He duly obliged to make it 1-1, before a few handshakes were exchanged. With normality restored, the rest of the game went ahead, with Ben May's free-kick eventually winning it for the home side. But Millwall's reserve coach Joe McLaughlin is surely the next recipient of a FIFA Fair Play award after his explanation of the events.

"Hicksy was trying to give it back to Bournemouth, which was only fair since they'd put it out of play for players to receive treatment," he told the Lions' website.

"There was no way that we should have been one up from that situation, so I just said to the lads, 'You've got to let them score to make it even again.'

"It was a silly situation, but I'm sure most teams would have done the same."

Currently languishing dangerously near to the Division Two drop zone, Bournemouth will be hoping to receive similar acts of charity in their remaining league games.



# Campbell Applauds Clarke Gesture

Tuesday, 23 May 2006

**New Zealand's Michael Campbell has heaped praise on Darren Clarke for his sportsmanship at the Nissan Irish Open.**

Clarke, who eventually finished third, found his ball in a much better lie in the rough than he had left it when play resumed on Monday after a suspension.

But he opted not to take advantage of the situation despite being allowed to.

"Darren has gone up in my estimation tenfold. To basically penalise himself due to his lie 24 hours later was amazing," said Campbell.

"We have had cases in the past where we have had a few bad examples set on the golf course.

"But for Darren to do that I think shows how big a person he is character-wise. Takes a lot of guts to do that – he has definitely made us look good.

"If you ask all the players what would they do in the situation I would say half would probably go for the green and the other half probably chip out.

"No parties are actually wrong if you think about it because that is just the rub of the green. He got lucky, but he probably felt it was not the best thing to do so he chipped out sideways."

Colin Montgomerie, caught up a year ago in a controversy over his replacing of a ball in rough, also applauded Clarke's actions.

"It is only a shame he did not go on and win," said the eight-time European number one.

"It proves what a character Darren Clarke is – it was very easy for him to hit the ball an awful lot further than he did."



<http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/golf/5010236.stm>



# Di Canio Plays Down Sportsmanship

18th December 2000

**West Ham United's Paolo di Canio has played down his amazing act of sportsmanship against Everton by insisting: "I'm no saint."**

The controversial Italian refused to take a goal scoring opportunity in injury time because Everton goalkeeper Paul Gerrard was lying injured. It earned Di Canio a standing ovation from the Goodison Park crowd, and praise from Everton boss Walter Smith, at the end of the 1-1 draw. But Di Canio, who once served an eleven-match suspension for pushing over referee Paul Alcock while playing for Sheffield Wednesday against Arsenal, played down the incident. He said: "I am not a saint, just like I wasn't a killer two years ago with the referee when I did something wrong.

"I saw the goalkeeper was on the ground and in pain. During the game, the opposition is my enemy. But when they are injured, they are my colleagues and I must help them.

"Only stupid people would say I was wrong, and that we could be in sixth place if it wasn't for me.

"I was definitely right to do what I did. Sometimes you have to think about situations very quickly. Even if my mother and father told me I was wrong, I would disagree.

"The players and the manager have said nothing to me. They are intelligent and know why I caught the ball.

"I have never been in that situation before, but I would be lying if I could tell you how I would react if it had happened in a World Cup Final."

West Ham skipper Steve Lomas admitted to being puzzled at first by Di Canio's act.

"I did go up to him at the time and ask what he thought he was doing. But until you are in that situation you do not know how you will react," he said.

"It has to be a unique moment of sportsmanship and he did the game a great service."



# D5

## Men Behaving Badly

### Scenario 1

Situation: Any Town and Anywhere United have a longstanding basketball rivalry. The boys all come from the same town and every year, they play each other in the last game of the season for the championship. Having played against one another for so many years, all of the boys know each other. They know who each team's best players are, and who each team's weaker players are. Any Town's leading scorer is their centre, a much bigger and taller boy who scores lots of lay ups and rebounds. However, he is very poor from distance and at free throws. So, the Anywhere United coach instructs his players to foul the centre anytime he gets the ball close to the basket and starts to shoot. This will force him to make two free throws rather than an easy lay-up. The strategy works and the centre ends up taking 24 foul shots, missing 18 of them, and scoring only 10 points. Anywhere United win the game easily, and wins the title. Is this a fair tactic?

There is no rule in basketball that prevents a team from fouling their opponent's worst foul shooters whenever they touch the ball. So, is it right to continually foul the centre, gaining a competitive advantage in doing so?

### Scenario 2

Situation: Ronny Wilkinson was playing in a rugby match. At one point, he is knocked over by a big prop forward, flattening him and knocking the wind out of him. However the referee didn't call a penalty. Ronny's captain was obviously very mad and he ran up the field to complain to the referee about the foul not being called. The referee just told him to go back to his position. When play resumed, the same prop carried the ball up field. When he reached the captain and is tackled, on the way back up the captain deliberately stamps on the player. Consequently the prop is injured and needs to be substituted.

Why might the captain be justified in his actions? Did he do the right thing?

### Scenario 3

Situation: In an important football match, Every Town and Everywhere United were tied in the first half. One of Every Town's strikers chased a pass into the penalty area with an opposition defender running right next to him. Just as they reached the ball, the striker jumped to his left, intentionally crossed his legs and tumbled to the ground, rolling over twice and holding his ankle faking an injury. From the referee's angle, it appeared that the defender committed an unnecessarily hard foul, intentionally pushing and tripping the striker. So, the ref not only called for a penalty kick, but also sent off the defender. Every Town scored from the penalty kick, and went on to win the game easily.

Were Every Town's striker's actions reasonable? Why did the attacker do what he did?

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## What am I like?

### SPORTSMANSHIP TEST

#### Agree or Disagree

- 1) It is normal to complain about officials' decisions.
- 2) Yelling at an official is OK if he makes a very questionable call or one with which you don't agree.
- 3) Taunting is just part of the game. It's part of the gamesmanship that goes on and is no big deal.
- 4) Ignoring a negative comment by an opponent or fan is the thing to do in a heated contest.
- 5) When an opponent reacts to a great piece of play or score by one of his team mates, you do not react. You stay calm.
- 6) Sincerely congratulating an opponent on a good play or victory is the way it should be in sports.
- 7) Cheering should be done for your team, not against your opponent.
- 8) Both participants and fans should walk away from confrontations or potential fights.
- 9) During or after a contest, if you can't say something nice or positive, you shouldn't really say anything at all.
- 10) If a player is injured, you should be supportive and cheer for him when it has been determined that the injury is not severe.
- 11) Inappropriate language during a contest is natural because of the intensity and emotion involved.
- 12) This push for sportsmanship is important for school athletics.
- 13) It's important to exhibit good sportsmanship, even when your opponent and their fans do not.
- 14) If pushed, provoked, or attacked, one should retaliate. It is always important to stand up for your rights.
- 15) It's OK to gain the edge in a game any way you can.



Award one point for **Agreeing** on questions 4-10, 12-13, and add one point for **Disagreeing** on questions 1-3, 11, 14-15. For each wrong answer deduct a point.

#### How you rate:

- 11-15 Pretty good. You certainly are on the right track.
- 6-10 There's some work to do, but you probably understand what sportsmanship is all about.
- 1-5 Basically, you are clueless. A massive effort will be needed. Seek advice and help immediately. Your attitude is totally unacceptable.