

LOVELY BEING SPOILED BY BULLIES

By the Artist

Over the last few weeks, there has been a lot of talk on the Citizens Required Message Boards about a surge in the number of cases of people posting threatening messages, targeting some individuals to the extent that some regular posters had apparently reached the point where Lovely was no longer any fun. They were leaving; why stay to be insulted? The reason they came in the first place was often to escape the pressures and negative side of "real life" to spend a few hours in the company of like-minded individuals having fun, conversing on a whole range of topics, making up stories, play-acting and all manner of diverse and entertaining activities. Being Pirates, supporting the King or plotting against the evil monolithic structures of Lovely's

government, poking fun at the Moderators, even bungee-jumping.

But then along came the Spoilers, hell-bent on picking on individuals, pulling them apart, heaping scorn and derision upon them, following them around all their favourite haunts and generally making their life in Lovely very un-lovely. We have grown used to the differing opinions that exist, the arguments and tiffs, but time and talking are amazing healers, and many arguments have been resolved, or at least the proponents have learned to agree to differ. But the spoilers seem not to learn this, nor to respect others. I will not name them, they do not deserve the publicity they seek, but they will know who they are, as will many Citizens.

Ironically, their actions have in many cases strengthened the resolve of some of those brought to the brink of leaving, leading to them forging stronger friendships, and massive support has been generated for the victims. There was a huge reaction in one particular case, which does go a long way in restoring faith in human nature.

So if you are one of the Spoilers, think long and hard about what you do. Consider the feelings of others. Some of them may be feeling fragile. Many in Lovely are there to find good things that may be lacking in their Real Lives, an escape to a better place. Others may have great Real Lives, but they still enjoy the fun to be had in Lovely. Don't spoil it for them. Be nice!

KING DANNY, GOOD OR BAD?

By citizen Saz

A recent informal poll was put to the people on whether Danny Wallace made a good King. It led to some heated debates, which have repeatedly clouded many a thread throughout Lovely, but are these arguments really against the King? The interaction and individual thought offered by citizens proves how fiercely defensive we have become in wanting better for OUR country. The original idea may have been started, and since ruled by the King, but as was mentioned on the thread by a citizen, Lovely has been left in the hands of the people to develop as we want to see it. Some have felt that the King has abandoned his people. Others have accepted his "hands off" approach to ruling and feel that his interaction with the community exceeded that of previous rulers, and have praised Danny for starting the entire project in the first place.

A poll was set up to engage a simple answer to the question: how many of us actually support King Danny. Is he good, or is he bad?

Up to the time of writing, the poll had received posts from many individuals, and the results are as follows:

- 73.5% of those who contributed to the thread say King Danny is GOOD.
- 17.7% of those on the thread say King Danny is BAD.
- 2.2% of participants were undecided.
- 2.2% of the votes were declared null and void after selecting both FOR and AGAINST.
- 4.4% of those people who participated on the thread did not indicate a vote either way.

Many of the reasons against Danny stemmed from allegations of him being a dictator, which according to the Oxford English Dictionary is defined as "1. A ruler or governor whose word is law; an absolute ruler of a state." Well is King Danny guilty of this? Yes it is true he a ruler of Lovely. His laws? Well here follows a quote from the King himself:

*"Why have ten rules when you can have one guiding principle – **Be Good!** I believe that you, my noble citizens, are capable of understanding what is right and what is wrong without me having to impart this knowledge through a raft of laws, legislation and constant nagging. I'm your king, not your mother."*

He has not dictated how we must behave other than to say "Be good" which

most of us will have followed without instruction, just as human nature in today's society.

The prison is another aspect of Danny's leadership that has been questioned by those who voted. Some have expressed concern over how people are chosen to enter the prison, and as there has been no official explanation we cannot be sure. Is it a vote system of those who email in to the King? Is it something to do with the number of complaints made about someone to moderators? Is it a random choice... *We just don't know.* (Rest assured that the GA would report the matter if an official statement were to be made) The major negative impact of the prison has been felt by the rebels, who have felt victimised by this punishment system. Although it is fact that a vast majority of those who have been contained within the prison have opposed King Danny's reign, it is not an instant result of "rebellion" as some fear. There have been some anti-social members of the forum who have escaped punishment after multiple complaints to moderators, much to the dismay of all citizens, be they rebels or King Danny supporters. What major rule or reason actually prompts a citizen to end up in the Lovely prison? Does the

King make this choice, or is it someone else? The fact that there is no information to help answer this question has made both sides wonder as to who is actually in charge of instigating the penal system, and the "imprisonment without trial" is an issue which the King must explain to his citizens in order to retain confidence in the prison.

Until this matter is cleared up, can this be enough of a reason to unseat the King? There have been many arguments on this, but the reasons mentioned on the voting thread have also included the moderation of the forum. It has since been accepted by both sides that this is nothing whatsoever to do with the King, but the work of BBCi, which hosts the forum on its servers.

Whilst sharing the BBC's web space, we as citizens are asked to abide by their rules and these include avoiding swearing or spamming or making lewd or threatening remarks. This is something that was agreed upon when signing up to the forum, and indeed any other forum on the BBCi site. The BBC terms and conditions can be read at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/terms/>

Some of the positive comments relating to the King have included that his creation of this country has made a positive impact on many people, with new friendships formed across the World counteracting any fears on the technicalities of running the country. As the vote so far

shows, the majority have concentrated on what the creation and development of Lovely has done for them as individuals. To this reporter at least, the creation of the country started by Danny Wallace has been an amazing experience, which has led to positive social and personal development, but what is important here is how you, the reader, feel about the King and what he has done.

Do you feel that Danny has failed or succeeded as King? The vote continues...

*Is King Danny Good or Bad?
To give your opinion, go to:*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1190362>

THE LOVELY NEWSLETTER

By King Danny I, 19-10-2005

Dear Citizens

Things have been getting quite exciting in Lovely. Since my announcement about Citizen TV coming back, I can see that you, my lovely citizens are just as excited about it as I am. I apologise for those of you who are getting a bit impatient, but all good things come to those who wait. Things are still hush, hush but keep checking the website for more news and when you can expect the first broadcast.

The population counter is very close to reaching 51,000. So we still need to recruit more citizens if we are to stand any chance of overtaking the Marshall Islands (population-59,071) and officially be crowned the biggest, small country in the world. So download the Guerrilla Marketing Tool Kit at http://www.citizensrequired.com/unit/sn_guerilla/guerilla.shtml and start recruiting new citizens. Citizen Hobo has started a thread trying to encourage more people: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1180351&skip=0&show=20> Why not email me any pictures you have of you attempting to attract new citizens to danny@citizensrequired.com

The message boards are as busy as ever and so far we have amassed over 550,000

posts. Here's the round up of what's happening in our little country.

Curator of Lovely Records is compiling the "Tetley's Lovely Book of Records". So if you have an interesting skill that you want to be added to the annual add it to the thread below.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1217952>

CoolMin has started a thread about what being a part of Lovely means to him, so why not put up a post explaining why you decided to become a citizen of Lovely.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1218058>

Also news is just in about the first citizens moving in together. Congratulations to Princess Hayley23 and LTN. I hope you'll be very happy in your new home ...and who knows ...a year or so from now we may be blessed with the first person to be born within our great nation. Here's looking to increasing our birth-rate to 1!!

Keep up the good work my Lovely and loyal citizens. Look out for news about Citizen TV on the website ...remember, Citizen TV is about citizens. Why not send me some stuff that I could use or any ideas that you have for the broadcasts to citizentv@citizensrequired.com...!

See you very soon
King Danny I Of Lovely

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NESTLE TO INTRODUCE FAIRTRADE COFFEE

By **psychoticmike**

Nestle, the most boycotted brand in the UK, have announced that they will soon release Fairtrade coffee. After several marketing scandals-including the infamous baby milk case in Ethiopia in the 1980s- this revelation has caused many questions, and much speculation about their motives. The spokesperson for Nestle has fervently refuted claims that this is a public relations move, and states that this is merely to

try and get those who "are attracted by the Nescafe brand" and have a growing interest in issues such as fairtrade. People are speculating as to whether this is actually a change in heart by one of the TNCs considered least moral; the stated attempt to retain a certain group of customers; or the denied PR move. The fact that they have over 8000 other products, none of which are considered ethical, has

caused many to believe that this is merely a gesture, to try and appease the members of the public currently acting in disgust at previous conduct. The fact that even after this move, 97% of Nestle coffee will remain outside the fairtrade system has helped fuel this belief. Hopefully this is a genuine attempt by the company to gain morality, but it currently seems unlikely.

POLITICS

DEMOCRACY NOW?

By our freelance correspondent Rev1

The race to establish democracy in this country has heated up, with Kieran's parliament website attracting serious attention from Lovely's political groups. As things stand though it looks like most political groups will be unable to meet the registry stipulations. The entry requirements for groups are as follows –

- 1) Must have at least 20 members, not all may be voted in but you will need them to fill the 15 automatic seats.
- 2) Their members must all have email accounts
- 3) Each political Party must have a manifesto and spokesperson for each of the 13 portfolios:
 - Constitutional Affairs
 - Culture, Media & Sport
 - Defence
 - Education & Skills
 - Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
 - Foreign Affairs
 - Health
 - Home Affairs
 - International Development
 - Trade & Industry
 - Transport
 - Treasury
 - Work & Pensions
- 4) Each Political Party MUST have a website.
- 5) Each Party must submit photos of their prospective MP candidates

All members must comply with an additional requirement of an oath of allegiance to Danny Wallace.

At present only Kieran's LEGO party have registered along with four independent MPs. While the Party of Erinyes (PoE), the Glories and the FFF have expressed interest, it's difficult to see how they can attract enough members to be able to

register with the parliament, while the oath of allegiance to King Danny will deter any political groups opposed to him. Another controversial issue is the insistence of photographs of every candidate.

Kieran's parliament is unofficial at the minute, but he hopes to receive official recognition from the king, similar to his foreign office

appointment. A source close to Danny Wallace has suggested that politics and democracy will be covered in the planned Citizen TV broadcasts.

To register with the parliament as an independent member or to register your group, visit <http://www.theparliament.org.uk>

THE GREAT ESCAPE

HOW NOT TO RELEASE A DVD

By Citizen MooseAde

I have a confession. I own something I shouldn't, but before you accuse me of theft, I am the rightful owner. I have a copy of the not-quite-released DVD of How To Start Your Own Country. You may or may not have seen talk of how the DVD release was being delayed, originally stated to be because of problems with one scene, then just to give a proper release and publicity to the release. What you may not have known is that the recall of the DVD came after copies had been put in to distribution and sent to retail outlets around the UK.

On Monday 24th October, the original release date, I decided to pop in to my local branch of WH Smiths, for a browse, and just on the off chance the rumours of a delay were false. To my surprise and delight I found several bright yellow shiny boxes, and immediately grabbed one and paid for it before anyone realised their mistake. Having excitedly passed on the news to a handful of other Citizens by text, I came online to boast more widely of my find, and promised to return to the store to buy more copies within the hour.

Unfortunately on my return I

found that someone had WH Smith had finally caught up with the recall notice, and had contacted the branch and ordered the immediate removal of the remaining copies. Not wanting to be recognised as the owner of contraband, and be forced to hand my copy back, I escaped without pressing the issue further.

News of this development stirred other citizens, notably the ever resourceful "I can find anything, as long as its tat" Citizen Saz, in to action. Phones in branches of WH Smiths and other stores rang off the hook around London and the provinces, and even further afield, Liverpool, Bristol, Birmingham, as excited Citizens hurriedly, but carefully, sought out copies. Some branches knew nothing of the recall, others had already implemented it, but in some fortunate cases, copies of the DVD were reserved ready for later collection.

Over the following days, copies became harder to find, although one music and video store (three letters, owns a dog called Nipper) were apparently

still displaying copies on Thursday.

But I digress, this is supposed to be a review... So here it is... the eagerly awaited "How To Start Your Own Country: DVD Edition". Please note that the contents may change on the proper release, whenever that occurs.

Inside the Lovely Yellow box you'll find two discs, and not a lot else. I was hoping for a little booklet explaining the background to the series, or even a list of contents, but the only explanation is left to the back of the box. Never mind, its what's on the discs that matters.

Each Disc holds three episodes of the BBC2 series, each one followed by its own episode of Citizen TV, and all appear to be exactly as they were originally broadcast. Each episode has a number of deleted scenes, some of which are quite enlightening, and provide some interesting insights in to what else King Danny got up to while hatching his embryonic nation.

On Disc 1 there are a number of featurettes, including a Making Of documentary for the National Anthem video. For

anyone who was at Leicester Square for the naming of the country or who has been to meet around the UK, there are a number of familiar faces here. It's quite amazing how a group of people who clearly cannot sing a note as individuals can sound so beautiful when brought together. Although in one case it should be pointed out that speaking the words in time with the music does NOT count as singing. There are also a handful of stills galleries on this Disc, featuring artwork seen during the series. Finally there's a Karaoke version of the Anthem, which is a better quality of the version of the one that can be downloaded from the website.

The second Disc has a full length Karaoke version of the Eurovision Entry, handy for drunken evenings with other Citizens and newcomers alike, and Danny's photo gallery. It also has a little hidden behind the scenes of Citizen TV section, but you'll have to keep your wits up and be at you most flag wavingly patriotic to find it, as I'll not tell you how here.

In all, there could be more special features, and in particular it would have been nice to see more footage from The Naming of a Country, especially for those who couldn't make it on the day. In particular, the full interview with Wing Commander Steve Cobden deserves to be seen.

Perhaps there's time to badger the production company to include a little more content before the proper release.

I would still recommend you purchase a copy if you can find one, or hold off for the full release, as the series, and particularly Citizen TV, is entertaining enough in their own right. Better still, buy copies as presents for your friends and family, who are probably wondering what that odd flag is you've got attached to your wall/arm/forehead. I for one will be laying my hands on a copy for my Dad, to prove to him I am not as much of a "Wally" as he says I am!

Go forth and hunt... there IS treasure out there, and it is Lovely.

Are YOU a record breaker?

By curator of lovely records

"If you want to be a Record Breaker, Dedication's what you need"

The line sung by Roy Castle at the end of his BBC Television "Record Breakers" show had two significant effects on me when I was a growing lad during the 1980's in rural Cheshire.

Firstly, it showed me that record breakers were obsessed, bizarre people who had dedicated their entire lives to the pursuit of

becoming The Best. The undisputed. The Number One. People like Paddy Doyle.

Paddy Doyle is a man who holds 132 National and World Endurance Records. The Records he holds include the World Record for Most Press-ups in a year set at 1,500,230. That works out at 4110 press-ups every day, 7 days a week for 365 consecutive days. Now, don't get me wrong. I've nothing against the man being fit and healthy. But anyone who

does 4000 press-ups on his birthday, and Christmas day and New Years Day, and Sundays, has got to be taking the World Record Achievement thing a little bit more seriously than is probably (allegedly) psychologically safe.

Secondly, and more importantly, it raised the head of the curious beast inside me. It made me want to be like them. I wanted to be a Record Breaker. I wanted to meet Norris McWhirter and have him adjudicate something that I'd

done better than everyone else on the Planet. Ever. It was my dream.

By the time Roy Castle, the multi-talented musician and tap dancer, passed away in 1994, the helm of his Record Breakers Show had been taken over by the runner with the abnormal laugh and even more abnormally shaped head. Kris Akabusi.

The show didn't have the magical aura around it anymore. It no longer yanked at my youthful curiosity. Admittedly by the time it was 1994, I had turned 15 and my interests in breaking world records had been replaced by slightly stronger urges to chase girls, tenderly nurture my facial bum-fluff into a goatee and avoid any sort of washing at all costs. If Roy had still been there to lead the way, who knows where I'd be today?

In a Sub-Conscious attempt to be more like Roy (something I've only just realised), I did start to learn the Trumpet at Eleven-years-old. But then that was only because my parents couldn't afford to rent a Saxophone, and "clarinets are for girls". After several years of Trumpet-blowing lessons, it surprised both my Tutor and My Parents to learn that I'm completely musically inept and should avoid even trying to hold a tune of any sort. Not even nursery Rhymes.

My time as a potential

record breaker looked bleak. And when Linford Christie replaced Kris Akabusi, I didn't even have the funny laugh to keep me encouraged. My childhood dreams of being number one were over.

That was then. This is now. That was a time when Ini Kamoze was warning us that The Hotstepper is coming, so we were on our guard. This is a time when Green Day wants us to wake them up when September Ends. That's 11 Months of sleeping. Times have changed. The time for a new generation of record breakers to be inspired has arrived.

But this time it's different. This time, popular culture dictates that the records don't necessarily have to be difficult to achieve in order for praise to be lavished upon you.

To be famous, you used to have to be skilled at something, these days you can get locked in a house for 3 months and come out the other end as a millionaire.

Let us ignore all those big, posh, World records. Allow yourself to leave the current holders of these records intact for years to come.

I don't want to have to drive a car at more than 763.03 mph in order to call myself a world champion.

I don't want to have to

spend more than 17 days 15 hours in Space in order to feel good about myself. And I'm far too scared of losing my regular seat in the pub to consider 4000 press-ups a day for the next 12 months.

I want people records. Records that are achievable.

Did you know, that it's easier to break a record than you might first have considered? The incredible accomplishments of your fellow human are not always so incredible.

Can you Kick yourself in the head 42 consecutive times in under a minute?

Michael Lloyd of Midland, Texas can!

Can you unhook 42 ladies Brassieres through their clothing with one hand and in under a minute?
Australian Rick Conzler can!

Can you eject spaghetti out through your nostril so that it hangs at longer than 19cm?

Kevin Cole of Carlsbad, New Mexico can!

Can you get 596 of your Friends to get together at the same place and play a game of "Simon Says"?

I'm sure we can!

"The largest game of "Simon Says" was played by pupils from Guan Ya Foreign Language Training School and No. 1 Chaoyang

Primary School in Shenyang, China on 29 Dec 2004. Chen Mengxin won the game which started with 597 participants."

We, the citizens of Lovely, are in a position to break not only the hearts of 600 record holding children, but also a world record itself!

We can put Lovely on the map, and into the history books.

If you are interested in attempting this world record, then Email me at curator_of_lovely_records@yahoo.co.uk

However, whilst any world record attempts are brilliant and should be actively

encouraged by all, any nation needs national heroes who, although brilliant in their own right, are still a little bit comparatively rubbish. Britain has got Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards and Timmy Mallet, to name just two.

I fit into this category as Lovely's current Tallest Person at 6'5" and a quarter.

If you are taller, and are prepared to stand back to back with me, without shoes, whilst someone puts their hand on our heads to flatten the hair, then get in contact with me through Email.

I am collating a long, long list of citizens who have an extraordinary skill or have made an incredible achievement so that the land of Lovely, as their new host nation, can lay claims to their achievements.

If you have a world-beating skill or possess the ability to do things that you probably shouldn't (or at least shouldn't be attempted without the worlds media present). Then let me know.

When I have enough talented people collated, an overpriced shiny annual will be printed and we might even get our own T.V show!

Now where's my Trumpet?

SOCIETY

MISSING: Mr & Miss Lovely

Have YOU seen them?

By citizen Saz

A few weeks ago there was a frantic public vote for who would be bestowed the honour of the titles of Mr Lovely and Miss Lovely. Voting was fierce, support was plentiful, and the people made their choices known.

Citizen Quentin won the honour of Mr Lovely with 55% of the votes. Quite a curious result, seeing as the history of Quentin's posts reveal that he was new to the forum and only contributed to 4 threads, 3 of which were relating to voting

for the title, and one in the "claim to fame" after being awarded the title. Well, perhaps he *is* Lovely, but this reporter is concerned at the lack of activity from him. Maybe he is busy with recycling, promoting World Peace and gardening as this 'thank you speech' comments on, but it's been 4 weeks and not a single word since.... Has he abandoned the country, or is there a darker reason for his disappearance? Could it be Eel Pie Islanders

kidnapped him in a revenge attack for Danny's invasion all that time ago... we may never know the truth.

Citizen Emily won her title with 41% of the peoples votes. Her disappearance is also a mystery. Although not a brand new citizen at the time of the election, she has not posted on the forum either for the past 4 weeks, and the few messages she'd made reveal no plans for a long break away from Lovely.

I urge all citizens to check their garden sheds, under the sofa, and in the cupboard under the stairs. Mr and Miss Lovely are both missing and could be in

need of our help! We must find our Lovelies!

Have you seen or heard from either Mr Lovely or Miss Lovely? Are they

snowed under opening supermarkets in your area? If you have any sightings, let the GA know...

ENTERTAINMENT

Attention all citizens!

We want your contributions for this page. Horoscopes, puzzles, adverts, stories, anything you think the rest of us would be interested in. Send it in and achieve instant fame! Just think, your name in print.

SHORT FICTION

This is the first in our new category of short fiction. It is a column we want you, the citizens, to write. Do you write fiction? Has anything interesting happened to you recently? Write up your story and send it to us!

(NB: no longer than 2 A4 sheets. In Word format if possible. Contact details on the 'contact us' page)

CASINO NIGHTS

'Are you sitting comfortably?'

By Paul Giddings.

Simon was a dealer, a croupier in a casino. He was a big lad, about 6ft 8" tall, broad shoulders that he kept drooped down by his chin, massive feet, crap hair and a problem with body odor. 'Sounds like a nice bloke', you're thinking. Well actually he was a nice bloke despite his awkward appearance and bad smell. Simon was the kind of guy who got upset, if people were upset, themselves. He would often be a good listener and although insecure within himself, seemed say the right thing. It

was Simon who was dealing the night that 'they' got caught. Picture the scene:

The casino was busy, stale smoke hung in the air like smog. The air con had gone, and peoples sweat patches grew bigger and bigger as they threw more money at the smug, sneering croupier. Someone shouted from the Blackjack Table as they won a small % of what they had already lost. A ball from the roulette wheel whizzed past some old granny's head as an

inexperienced croupier went through his training, while the punters paid for it. Cheers came from one of the tables in the poker pit, cheers that had become more regular as the night had worn on.

The table in the corner was a Caribbean Stud Poker Table. This is a game where you receive 5 cards, and are looking to get a better poker hand than the dealer. I'll take it for granted you know what poker hands are, if not it doesn't matter. The game

involves placing an initial wager, 'ante', to receive your cards and a 'raise' bet in order to see the dealer's cards and therefore play yours.

In basic terms if your hand beats the dealers you win!

Now, without going into too much detail, suffice to say if the punter knew what cards the dealer had then they couldn't lose. Remember the dealer dealt his/her cards face down on the table.

Time to introduce Mrs. Fong-Yip and her husband (names changed). Mrs. Fong-Yip, like so many of the Chinese community, was a gambler. This wasn't a hobby, this was what she did about four nights a week sometimes all 7. The casino was to her, what maybe the pub is to us, or perhaps the gym, or 5-a-side. It was her social club and although she had the occasional 'big' win she generally lost about 20-30% of what she spent every year. Her husband gambled less often, but for bigger money. The Fong-Yip's were a typical Chinese couple you will find in casinos throughout the world.

So the strange thing was Mr. and Mrs. F-Yip had been on a winning streak recently, and it didn't look like ending. Mr. F-Yip had become more and more regular and was now winning a fair amount. With suspicions aroused casino management and security started watching very carefully.

The Fong-Yip's winning streak continued, and at one point they were cashing out £10k a day in winnings. The management was now getting more and more anxious as they considered that they were

cheating but couldn't work out how. Surveillance had been watching for a couple of weeks now and couldn't see that anything was suspicious with how they played.

Then one day it happened. An eagle-eyed pit boss had noticed that a lot of Fong-Yip's wins had happened with a certain dealer, so much so that the casino was convinced that the dealer was in collusion with the punter. The dealer was Simon.

"So Simon, what is it with you? You some sort of magician?"

Simon looked awkward sitting in a chair too small for his lanky legs.

"Sorry boss, what do you mean?"

Simon's boss was losing the plot rapidly

"Don't piss about son, how well DO you know Mr. and Mrs. Fong-Yip?"

Simon felt his face redden as he realized what was going on. In the last week management, pit staff and security had watched the dealer very carefully. Simon had noticed more and more eyes on him, but he had no idea why. It seemed every time a big win went out from his table it was being checked far more vigorously than normal. He knew that his luck for the house had taken a bit of a downturn, and he had paid out quite a bit of money recently, but this was a casino!

Simon thought hard. 'Fong-Yip', yes he remembered. That was the nice Chinese couple, won quite a bit lately, always nice to him. Still though what had that got to do with him?

"I'm sorry but I know Mr. and Mrs. Fong-Yip as punters and nothing else."

Simon guessed he was in some sort of trouble, and Simon's boss was convinced he was in collusion with the punters.

"Listen son, just remember we're watching."

Simon was shocked and embarrassed. Too shocked to challenge these allegations, he slunk back to the staff room and shed a few tears in the sanctuary of the toilet.

Two weeks passed and Simon found he spent less and less time on the poker tables where the couple had won so much money. He was uncomfortable and work was so stressful he considered quitting.

It was at this point when the mystery was solved.

A Caribbean Stud Poker table sits a little higher than a normal table, like a bar but lower. The chairs around the Poker table were slightly higher so as the punter would be at the right height. All the other chairs around the roulette tables were of a normal height, i.e. Lower.

Mr. and Mrs. Fong-Yip, (as would often happen), always sat on one of the lower type chairs and always on the first and second betting positions.

So with the table at about 3.5ft, the punters on lower chairs and a 6ft 8" dealer can you guess how they won so much money?

Turns out that Simon's height had provided the punters with the ideal opportunity to beat the house. By positioning themselves in certain chairs and in a certain place on the table, Mr. and Mrs. Fong-Yip

could see one corner of every card that was dealt to the dealer, (face down remember), and therefore knew when to bet as they knew if they would get beaten or not. Simply put, they could see the dealer's cards and were winning a lot of money.

A manager had watched the security tapes again and again. He eventually slowed down the hands being dealt to reveal that the way the dealer was dealing the cards, the actual height of the dealer and the clever opportunism of two wily old gamblers, culminated in the casino losing an estimate of 100K over a period of an estimated 2 months.

The best thing was that the

punters had done nothing wrong and were not even approached by management for fear of reprisals within the Chinese gambling community. This would have been seen not as cheating, but as fair game. Basically the fault lay with the casino not training Simon to deal his cards properly and with Simon's mum and dad's gene pool.

You would imagine Simon got an apology and re-training on a certain game. Not in this world of provincial casinos, where bad management has produced an industry about twenty years behind the times. Slowly this will change, but will Casinos keep staff who are good at their job or

will those people realize how false and hypocritical the whole business is.

Simon continued in his job as croupier for about another year. He faded into the background and eventually realized that he wasn't getting anywhere and so, left, with very little fuss. Mr. and Mrs. Fong-Yip are still gambling today in the same casino, and I would hazard a guess that most of the moneys gone by now.

Casinos are a good night out, but no more. Try one and see if you can find a very tall dealer with an odd way of dealing. You never know!

SPORT

THE DEFINITION OF A NEWBIE

By coach Giddsey

My journey into Danny's world of Lovely coincides with getting my very first PC and a nasty footballing knee injury.

I had previously enjoyed 'Join Me' as a laugh out loud story that tapped into a lot of the way I felt about things. It was like a contemporary version of what Hunter S Thompson would have written, if he had taken fewer drugs and lived in London as a late 20 something male. My 'Join me' book done that all-important journey around all friends, colleagues and anyone who could read, and is probably still travelling now. Anyway suffice to say with all my good intentions

to Join 'Join Me', laziness tripped me over at every opportunity and alas I am not a 'Joinee'. Fast forward to about three months ago when I got injured playing football. Turns out I had torn my cruciate ligament and have spent the last month recovering from surgery. At the same time we took delivery of a new computer.

I have limited experience of computers so this was the time to see what was out there. I was excited by the prospect of having the Internet. I was also excited about joining Danny's new country as I was enjoying the T.V. programme and loved the whole idea of it.

After becoming a citizen my journey got more interesting and enjoyable than I could of imagined. Remember I had no idea about message boards, web sites, peoples own web pages, in fact nearly everything and especially the sheer magnitude of the WWW.

My brilliant idea had been forming since the first visit to Accident and emergency. It was simple yet brilliant, or so I thought. Danny had a new country and all countries should have a football team. That was it, I would go to the message boards and announce my brand new idea to the citizens of Danny's' country. My new

team would be called T.a.g.g F.C., which stands for Talk a good game Football Club. Our motto "we are as good as you say we are". The whole idea was that as coach I would find players who could talk a good game. This meant they could be as good a footballer as they wanted to say they were. An obvious liking for the beautiful game was wanted but not essential, and it was open to all. So I posted my message on the sports section of the message board and congratulated myself on my great new idea. It read:

"Find out what T.a.g.g F.C. is all about. Anyone for a kickabout? Talk a good game F.C. is looking for some imaginative football players, (some may say we are dreamers), to play in King Danny's newest team. To qualify, just tell me, the boss, why your dreams should be fulfilled as you put on the famous shirt and take to the field of dreams. Hardnosed tackler? Midfield General? Technically gifted? Intelligent Winger? Quick-witted Keeper? Send your details to me coach Giddsey and lets see if we can win the world cup."

As I posted the message I was nervously excited. Five minutes later I was devastated. Well I say devastated, bit of an exaggeration, disappointed perhaps. The fact was my new and original idea already existed. The first

person to reply was the Vice President of the LFA. "The who?" I asked myself in disbelief. It turns out that not only was my team about the third to be set up on the message boards, but that a lovely Football association already existed. Somewhat disheartened I continued to look for players and to chat to people I had never met or spoke to before. The next couple of weeks my life revolved around the message boards. I successfully recruited players for my team. The only ones who made it needed to understand the concept that we were never going to play for real, but we could decide our own levels of skill and all our results. I sent info to the Lovely FA's JAG Sarek who alongside dashx79, put my team on the website.

This was crazy; I had a page on a web site, and was talking to people from all over, about a fantasy football team. The messages got better and better, players such as suffolkspindocor, Honorrubble, Lady Lampard, Loyallampost, mightyphyschomikeo, and nicknack were giving superb performances, with funny text and a beautiful fantasy football tone. We then got a fan 'PuPpYdAwG', amazing. Then to top it off we got streaked. Some brilliant messages from our later

adopted club mascot 'Bardaddio'.

As you can imagine I was now totally engrossed in this real fantasy world. I loved the newness of it all, I loved the people's names, I loved the anonymity of it all, I loved the fact I had a web page! I know this may sound weird to all you guys use to the Internet, message boards etc. but remember this was my first time. 'The definition of a newbie' for real!

And so to the present day, I have less and less messages these days, although some players remain loyal to our club and, dare I say, country. T.a.g.g F.C. appears on www.lovelyfa.org.uk along with 10 other teams. The first match in the lovely league has been announced. Teams have offered to play my side, so the fantasy may turn into a reality, mental! To see examples of what T.a.g.g is all about go to sports messages and look for posts by myself and previously mentioned players. 479 messages so far.

Over the last couple of weeks I have heard mention that among other things the Lovely message board may not be for much longer. The real point of my whole story is I have enjoyed this trip so much, so far that I don't want it to end. What happens next? I suppose that's up to us.

LOVELY'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

By Minister for all things rocking

I thought it would be interesting to take a look at Lovely on a Global scale. What, if any, is Lovely's place in this global society that we live in.

My first point would be why people left their old countries. It seems to me that local governments alienates its people, it is very hard to have your say in a large country such as the UK or the US. Having your voice heard and making your home a better place should be easy to do and actively encouraged. It is easy to see why this is in such large country's, in the UK you are just one of 60million other people. On the grander scheme of things it wouldn't really matter if you disappeared into thin air tomorrow. I expect it is roughly the same story in whichever country you were originally from.

This brings me on to lovely, a global community in a global world. With a population of 50,000 and an active population of far less, you're much more likely to get your voice heard and have a say in the direction of the country. It is a place where if you're nice and considerate people will listen to you and let you have your say. I'm also pretty sure that you will no pretty much everyone who posts on the boards and wants to be active in the country. And if not it wouldn't be that hard to get to no them. Lovely has, in my eyes bought all of us together, who if it hadn't of been for that TV program would never had spoken to each other or knew of each other existence.

As for Lovely on a global scale it isn't very hard to

see where we fit in. You can do pretty much anything on the Internet and most things are done. Lovely is a place where people who do things on the Internet a lot can come and speak with likeminded people. See it as a global forum where anything can be discussed with anyone. There is only one barrier that I can see in the global community forum thing that we have going on. The majority of us were British, now its understandable why this is, Danny is English and the Program was based in England. If the DVD got shipped all over the world and other became aware of this place I'm sure it would greatly enrich peoples experiences of lovely. There is only one draw back I can see of making lovely a more global forum –SPAM!

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