

DR FOX'S 1997 FOOTBALL ANNUAL DEMO

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Context sensitive help is available. Brief tips can be obtained by clicking on Help options on the menu bars. For more detailed help just press the F1 key on your keyboard.

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Overview

This program is a public domain demonstration version of Dr. Fox's Football Annual. It may be freely copied and distributed.

It lets you store and analyse football results. The demonstration version has all the features of the full version except that it only covers the FA Carling Premiership.

The full version covers the following competitions:

- The Football Association Carling Premiership
- The Nationwide Football League; Divisions 1 to 3
- Vauxhall Conference
- Dr Martens League Premier Division
- Unibond League Premier Division
- ICIS Football League Premier Division
- The Bell's Scottish Football League; Premier, First, Second and Third Divisions

and may be obtained by sending your name and address along with a cheque or PO for £8, made payable to Dr. Fox to:

Dr. Fox's Football Annual, Dept D., PO Box HP54, Leeds, LS6 2XS

It is very user friendly, making full use of the pull down menus, command buttons, alert boxes, scroll bars, etc.

It is supplied with all of the last seven seasons' results, and all of the current season's fixtures. It is also supplied with all the season's results up to the date of dispatch. This means that all you have to do each week is enter the results and sort out any rearranged matches.

The program allows many different ways of analysing the results.

It can produce a statistical analysis of any team's performance, including Consecutive Wins, Draws, Losses and Score Draws. Runs of games without a Win, Draw, Loss or Score Draw. Best and Worst results. Graphs of league position history and goals for and against. Latest results, current league record and distribution of results.

It lets you analyse any fixture, by displaying a statistical analysis of both teams making up the fixture. The fixtures can be selected by date, teams or the result.

It can display any team's matches in chronological or opponent order. This lets you find the date and result of any match very easily.

It can display league tables for any selected date.

It lets you see the distribution of each type of result in any division. This lets you spot the divisions most likely to produce more home wins, away wins or draws.

It can make forecasts of results by using a user defined formula based on previous results. It lets you see how good your chosen prediction formula is for any particular date. It displays lists of most likely draws, home wins and away wins based on the formula, along with the actual result, if known.

It can cope with teams being disqualified or having points deducted from their league record. Finally, there is a Team Search facility which lets you find out which division any chosen team is playing in during the seasons covered.

Requirements and Installation

This program requires an IBM compatible computer running Windows 3.0 and MS DOS 3.1 or later, with an EGA or higher monitor, a hard disk, a mouse and a 3½" disk drive.

To install Dr. Foxs Football Annual Demo

Windows 3.0 Installation

- put the Dr. Fox disk into your 3½" disk drive
- Go into Windows
- Click on the File menu bar option in Program Manager
- Choose the Run... option from the pull down menu
- Type a:\setup.exe in the dialog box
- Click on OK

Windows 95 Installation

- put the Dr. Fox disk into your 3½" disk drive
- Click on the Start menu bar option
- Choose the Run... option from the menu
- Type a:\setup.exe in the dialog box
- Click on OK

These commands will copy all the relevant files from the 3½" disk onto your hard disk. To run the program double click on the Football Annual Demo icon in the new Dr. Foxs Football Annual Demo Window.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 1997

Analyse Team/Fixture/Results

I have made the first page of statistics on sequences into a set of bar graphs. This should make it easier to see how long current sequences of results are, and how they compare with the best sequence so far during the season.

More Copy Options Added

I have added Copy options to allow Tables, Results, Forecasts, Match Lists, Division Statistics, Date Statistics, Team Searches and Lucky Dip selections to be copied to the clipboard for pasting into other applications such as spreadsheets or word processors.

Toolbar

I have added a toolbar to many of the pages to allow some common options to be selected via a single mouse click. These include Print, Save to Disk, Copy to Clipboard, Select Another Date, Select Another Club and Help options.

Cup Games

The full version will probably cover cup games for the FA Cup, Coca Cola Cup, Scottish FA Cup and FA Trophy.

Introduction

The program uses a standard Microsoft Windows interface. The easiest way to use the program is via the mouse, making selections by clicking on menus, buttons, scroll bars and dialog boxes.

If you want to activate pull down menus without using the mouse then press the Alt key and then choose the appropriate highlighted key to choose your menu selection. Arrow keys can then be used to move through the pull down menus, when you want to select an option press the Return key.

The Tab key often lets you move around between buttons, boxes and scroll bars on the screens.

Where appropriate the following keyboard short cuts can also be used: *Ctrl P* - prints the current page, *Ctrl S* - saves the current page to a disk file and *Ctrl C* - copies the current page to the clipboard.

On many pages there is also a toolbar, allowing common options to be selected using a single click with the mouse.

The program starts by displaying important copyright information. After reading this press the return key or click on the OK button. The program now reads in all of the data about all of the teams for the current season. When the data has been read the **Top Screen** is displayed and you are allowed to make selections from the menu bar along the top of the screen.

The Top Screen

The File Menu

Exit

The Enter/Amend Menu

Fixtures

Results

The Display Menu

Matches

Tables

The Analyse Menu

Team

Fixture

Results

Division

Date

Forecasts

The Goodies Menu

Team Search

Misdemeanors
Set Forecast Formula
Use Nicknames

The Calendar Screen

The Calendar Screen

The calendar screen is used by many of the program's menu options and makes selecting an appropriate date very easy. (For an example choose the Display Tables option)

What is displayed on the calendar screen

A calendar for the current month is displayed within its own window, the days of the week being displayed across the top row. Each day in the month has its own box and if there are any matches on any day they are noted within that day's box by a 0 symbol.

Selecting a different month

More months within the current season can be displayed by clicking either side of the vertical slider or clicking on the scroll arrows down the right hand edge of the window.

Selecting a date

A nominated date for selection is displayed below the calendar. To nominate another date click on the chosen day box using the mouse. To choose a nominated date either double click on your chosen day box, or click on the OK box.

It is also possible to move around the day boxes by using the Tab key.

Selecting dates in another season

A different season can be selected by using the **Season** option on the menu bar.

The File Menu

The **File** Menu is used to exit from the program. The only option under the **File** menu is **Exit**.

The Enter/Amend Menu

There are two options under the **Enter/Amend** menu; **Results** and **Fixtures**.

To Enter or Amend Results choose the Results option. Similarly to Enter or Amend Fixtures choose the Fixtures option. (What a surprise)

As all the season's fixtures are already supplied with the program, you should only have to use the Fixtures option to sort out re-arranged or postponed matches.

Results

On selecting the **Results** option you are asked to select the date of the matches from the calendar screen. Once a date has been selected, you are presented with a list of the fixtures on that date.

Entering Results

The current fixture whose result is to be entered or amended is highlighted.

To enter a team's score use the numeric keypad to enter the digits followed by a press of the Enter key, e.g. to enter a score of 2-1, press 2 Enter 1 Enter.

As each result is entered the current fixture moves down to the next match on the displayed list.

Tip: Check you have the Num Lock activated (Press your Num Lock Key until the Num Lock light comes on) if you want to use your numeric keypad to enter the numbers.

The *Delete* key can be used to delete the current result.

Moving between matches

To jump straight to a required match you can click on the appropriate results slot with the mouse pointer. You can also move around the matches by using the up and down arrow keys.

Special results

Any postponed matches can be entered by pressing the P key. As it is now quite common for some matches on Saturdays to be rearranged to be played on Sundays in order to be seen on television, I have added the option of using the S key to shift a match forward by one day.

Entering results for another date and finishing

When you have finished entering results on the chosen date, either select another date using the **Another Date** option on the **Options** menu or the **Finished** option to exit from the original Enter/Amend Results option and return to the top screen. Every time you do this the results are automatically saved to your hard disk.

Printing and Saving Results

The results can be sent to a printer by using the **Print Page** option or saved to a file by using the **Save As** option. The entire season's results can also be printed or saved by choosing the appropriate option on the **Options** menu.

Menu bar and toolbar options are available for printing saving and copying results.

You **DO NOT** have to use the menu bar or toolbar **Save** options to ensure that the results you have just entered are stored on your hard disk for use next time you use the program. This saving action takes place automatically each time you leave the **Enter Results** page. The **Save** options on the menu bar and toolbar are for producing a text file on your disk that contains a list of the results you have entered which you can then incorporate into other documents with your favourite word processing package.

Fixtures

If you choose the **Enter/Amend Fixtures** option you are given the choice of defining the fixture by its date or its teams. If you have a list of fixtures on a given date it is easiest to use the date option, whereas if you have a list of fixtures of a given team it is easiest to use the teams option.

Entering fixtures with the date option

If you choose the date option you have to select a date via the calendar. You are then given a list of fixtures already set for the chosen date, along with a Team menu to allow you to set additional fixtures from the remaining teams without a match on the chosen date.

Setting fixtures

To set a fixture just click on each team name as appropriate.

Deleting fixtures

The Backspace key can be used to delete teams from the fixture list one by one.

Clicking on a fixture will also delete that match.

Setting fixtures on another date and finishing

When all the required fixtures have been set you may either select another date via the **Another Date** option or return to the top screen via the **Finished** option on the **Options** menu.

Entering fixtures with the teams option

If you choose the teams option you are first asked to choose the Home team. A list of teams in the current competition and season is presented. If you want teams in an alternative season or competition you should use the **Season** or **Competition** menu options. Once a home team has been selected you are presented with a list of all possible away opponents along with the current list of dates that the matches will take place.

Setting a fixture date

The current fixture date to be amended is highlighted. You can set the day and month of the current fixture via a DAY and MONTH menu in the bottom half of the screen.

Deleting a fixture

The current fixture date can be deleted by using the Delete key.

Selecting a fixture to set

As each date is entered the current fixture moves down the opponent list. A new current fixture can also be selected by clicking on a date slot with the mouse.

Setting fixtures for another home team and finishing

When all the required fixtures for the home team have been set you may either select another team via the **Another Team** option or return to the top screen via the **Finished** option on the **Options** menu.

The Display Menu

There are two options available under the **Display** menu, they are the Tables option and the Matches option. The **Tables** option is used to display league tables, the **Matches** option to display fixture lists.

Tables

The **Display Tables** option allows you to display the League Table on any chosen date. The date is selected first, via the calendar. The League Table is then displayed.

What is displayed

A standard league table is displayed. This gives the number of games played (P) the number of wins (W), draws(D) and losses(L), goals scored for (F), and goals scored against (A), and the total number of points gained (PTS). Additional columns give any points deducted (PD) and either the goal difference (GD) or goals scored (GS) depending on how positions are determined for teams on level points.

By default both the home and away components are shown. If you prefer you can just display the totals of the home and away components by selecting the appropriate option from the menu bar.

Printing, saving and copying the table

You also have the option of printing the currently displayed league table, sending a copy of it to a disk file or copying it to the clipboard, by selecting appropriate menu bar or toolbar options.

Matches

With this option you can display the entire fixture list of any selected team, sorted by date or opposition. The date option is useful when you want to find out who a given team is playing on any date, e.g. who have Manchester Utd got this weekend. The opposition option can be used to easily discover when a given team is playing against any other team, e.g. when are Manchester Utd playing Leeds Utd away from home.

Selecting a team

On selecting this option you first have to select the team whose fixture list you want to display. This is done via the standard team selection menu. A list of teams is displayed, you have to select one using the mouse. To nominate a team for selection you should click on the team name. To select a nominated team you should either double click on the team name or click on the OK box next to the name of the nominated team.

The team list for a different season can be selected by using the **Season** menu on the menu bar.

Sorting fixtures by date or opponent

Once a team has been selected you are asked whether you would like to have that team's fixture list displayed in time or opposition order. Once you have decided, that team's fixture list is displayed.

What is displayed on the match list

The first column gives the date of the fixture, including the day of the week. The next column gives the name of each opposing team. The next column gives the venue of the match. The final column gives the result of the match if it is known. To aid recognition, home matches are coloured red, while away matches are coloured blue. The vertical sliders and scroll arrows down the right hand edge of the screen should be used to display all the pages of the fixture lists.

Printing, saving and copying the match list

Menu bar and toolbar options are available for resorting the fixture list, sending the fixture list to a printer or a disk file or copying it to the clipboard.

Selecting another team or finishing

The **Options** menu gives you the option of selecting another team, or quitting from the **Display Matches** option and returning to the top screen.

The Analyse Menu

Six options are available under the **Analyse** menu option.

Analyse Team

Analyse Fixture

Analyse Results

Analyse Date

Analyse Division

Analyse Forecasts

Team

This option produces a statistical analysis of any chosen team.

What is displayed

This comes on five pages. On the first page there are details about sequences of results, e.g. how many away games the chosen team has gone without a loss, or how many consecutive home wins they have had. Both the current sequences and the best sequences so far during the season are given. These are displayed graphically for each type of result. Each result type (Win (W), Draw (D), Loss (L) or Score Draw (S)) is represented by a bar. The height of the bar corresponds to the best sequence so far, the amount the bar is filled shows how many games make up the current sequence. The team's best and worst results are also displayed. These are defined by the size of the winning or losing margin and then by the number of goals scored or conceded respectively. So for best results a 5-2 win is better than a 5-3 win as the winning margin is greater and it is also better than a 3-0 win as more goals were scored.

More graphs are displayed on the next two pages. The first is a graph of the league position of the team as the season progresses. Each of the team's matches is indicated by a diamond symbol. Clicking on a diamond symbol will produce a box giving details of the match.

The second is a pair of graphs showing goals for and against throughout the season. Clicking on a bar produces a box giving details of the match. Data on average goals for and against are also displayed.

The team's recent form is displayed on the fourth page. The most recent six matches are shown along with the team's league table entry. The final page shows the distribution of different results for the team, so you can find out if Arsenal really do have more 0-0 draws than anyone else.

It is also possible to display a statistical analysis of a match, where the statistics for both teams are displayed for comparison. The match can be chosen according to the date or teams of the fixture or by the result of the match.

Printing, saving and copying the analysis

Options are available on the menu bar and toolbar for printing the current page, saving it to a file on your disk or copying it to the clipboard.

Fixture

The **Analyse Fixture** option is similar to the Analyse Team option except that a statistical analysis of both teams making up a fixture are displayed. To aid recognition, the home team's statistics are shown in red and the away team's in blue. The statistics only refer to the situation prior to the match taking place. A forecast of the result of the match is also displayed.

For the graphs, clicking on position symbols or goals bars with the left mouse button produces a box giving details of the home team's match, clicking with the right mouse button produces the away team's match details.

Results

This option lets you find and analyse results of a chosen score in any division, e.g. all the 1-1 draws. On choosing this option you are given a set of available results to choose from. Matches where either side scores more than six goals can be selected by choosing the **Other** button. Clicking on one of the results produces a list of all the matches with the chosen score. You now double click on the match you want to analyse to select it.

Division

This option displays the distribution of each type of result up to a selected date.

What is displayed

Once a date has been selected via the calendar, the statistics for the division are displayed.

This includes:

- the number of home wins, away wins and draws
- the percentage of home wins, away wins and draws
- the total number of matches to be played
- the total number of matches that have been played so far
- the percentage of the total of the matches that have been played so far
- the number of matches that still need to be arranged
- the number of home goals and away goals
- the average number of home goals and away goals
- the total number of goals scored
- the average number of goals scored per match
- the number of home goals minus the number of away goals
- the average of the number of home goals minus the number of away goals

The distribution of different scores are also displayed, so you can see how many matches resulted in scores of 1-0, 2-1, 1-1, etc. Two tables are displayed, the first gives the number of games with the given score, the second gives the percentage. For both tables the home score is down the table, the away score across the table.

Printing, Saving and Copying the division statistics

Options are available on the menu bar and toolbar for printing the current page, saving it to a file on your disk or copying it to the clipboard.

Date

The **Analyse Date** option allows you to see how many of each type of result have occurred on any given date and how well the user defined formula predicted the results. This is probably the best page to use when choosing your numbers on your pools coupon.

What is displayed

On selecting a date via the calendar four pages of information can be displayed.

On the first page the number of home wins, away wins and draws on that date are shown as are the number of forecast results of each type. If the results of the matches are known on the selected date, the number of correct forecasts of each type are also shown.

Pages two to four show lists of the most likely draws, home wins and away wins respectively, as calculated using the user defined formula. Once again, if the results of the matches are known then they are also displayed.

For picking draws on your pools coupon you can either select your matches from the list of most likely draws or exclude the most likely home and away wins and make your selection from the remaining matches. You can use the Lucky Dip option to make a random selection from those matches remaining.

When the results of matches are known or when analysing previous season's results, these pages are also very useful when fine tuning the prediction formula you use. You can easily see the effect of changing the values you have chosen in your prediction formula on the accuracy and distribution of the predictions.

Printing, saving and copying the date statistics

All four pages can be printed, saved to a file or copied to the clipboard by using the appropriate option on the **Options** menu or the toolbar.

Forecasts

The Analyse Forecasts option is used to display the forecasts of results produced by the user defined Forecasts Formula.

What is displayed

Once you have selected a date via the calendar, you are given a list of the fixtures on that date along with a prediction of the result. If the result has already been entered then a 😊 or a

😞 is also shown according to the success or failure of the forecast. The delta value upon which the forecast is based is also displayed.

Printing, saving and copying the forecasts

You can print the currently displayed forecasts, save them to a file or copy them to the clipboard by selecting the appropriate option from the menu bar or by clicking on the appropriate button on the toolbar.

Choosing another date and finishing

When you have finished looking at the forecasts you may select another date via the **Another Date** option or return to the top screen via the **Finished** option on the **Options** menu.

The Goodies Menu

Five options are available under the Goodies menu option.

Team Search

Misdemeanors

Set Forecast Formula

Lucky Dip

Use Nicknames

Team Search

The Team Search option lets you find out which competition any chosen team is playing in, in any of the seasons covered by the program. All you have to do is enter a sequence of letters contained in the name of the team, and all the team names containing that sequence of letters will be displayed. If you are using the Use Nicknames option then the team's nicknames are searched rather than their actual names. The division the team is playing in also displayed. It also lets you answer questions such as; name all the football league teams with the letter x in their name.

Misdemeanours

The **Misdemeanours** option is used when a team has done something naughty. It is used to either deduct points from a team's league record, or disqualify a team altogether. On disqualification it is assumed that all matches that the team has played become null and void.

Set Forecast Formula

The **Set Forecast Formula** option is used to define a formula for predicting results. Two forms of formula have proved successful. The first is based on the number of results of each type that each team making up a fixture has had. The second is based on the number of goals scored for and against by each team. You choose which form of formula you want to use by clicking on the appropriate button. In both cases there is one formula for the home team and another one for the away team. Each formula is evaluated and if they are close to one another, a draw is predicted. Otherwise, the team with the highest total is selected as the winner. The default formulae supplied with the program pit the home team's home form against the away team's away form. They both usually get about half their predictions correct.

On selecting this option, both formulas and the tolerance value are displayed.

Home Team Formula		Away Team Formula	
Home Wins	5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home Wins	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Home Draws	2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home Draws	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Home Losses	0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home Losses	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Away Wins	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	Away Wins	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Away Draws	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Away Draws	2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Away Losses	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	Away Losses	0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Draw if | Home Team Formula - Away Team Formula | <= 28

Shelf life of results is 0 days.

OK

The current formula value being edited is highlighted. Use the numeric keypad and Enter key to enter numbers into the formula. A new current value can also be selected by clicking on the appropriate slot with the mouse. Whether a result type is included in the formula is controlled by the Used box next to each formula value. A cross inside the box indicates that the value will be used. Clicking on the box with the mouse toggles the usability. The formulae are normalised by dividing by the number of games used and multiplying by 50. A further restriction is given by the shelf life option. This lets you limit the games used by the prediction formula to a given number of days before the date of the match. If you do not want to use this restriction then enter a value of zero here and all the games played during the current season will be used.

At the start of the season there is no previous form to work on, so all matches will be predicted as draws.

As an example, consider the Forecast Formula shown in the Figure above, applied to the match between Leeds United and Blackburn Rovers on 15th April 1995. At the time of this match these teams had the following record:

	Home			Away		
	W	D	L	W	D	L
Leeds United	10	4	3	6	7	6
Blackburn Rovers	15	2	1	10	5	3

So the Leeds United formula uses the results of their home games and gets $10 \times 5 + 4 \times 2 + 3 \times 0 = 58$ in $10 + 4 + 3 = 17$ home games. The Blackburn Rovers formula uses the results of their away games and gets $10 \times 6 + 5 \times 2 + 3 \times 0 = 70$ in $10 + 5 + 3 = 18$ away games. To compare the two formulae each number is divided by the number of games and multiplied by 50, so Leeds United get a total score of $58 \times 50 / 17 = 170.6$, while Blackburn Rovers get a total score of $70 \times 50 / 18 = 194.4$. These two scores are within 28 of each other so the teams are about equal and the match is predicted as a draw.

It is probably not possible to come up with a magic formula which always successfully predicts results, but you can have a lot of fun trying to find one. Best of luck, and if you find a good formula don't forget to let me know.

Use Nicknames

For a bit of fun you can use team nicknames rather than their real names on all the screens. Just click on this menu option to toggle between using nicknames and real names.

TRACKING DOWN RESULTS

I have tried to make my program as easy to use as is possible. I have provided all the fixture lists so you do not have to spend a lot of time tracking them down and entering them yourself. However, there is still the problem of tracking down the results to feed into the program.

I get the results from the teletext pages on my television set. Both CEEFAX, on BBC and TELETEX on ITV, provide all the league and non-league results. Usually all the results are displayed within minutes of the end of the game. They also display the fixtures for the week ahead, so you can find any rearranged matches. A disadvantage of getting results from teletext is that they are only displayed for less than a day before being replaced. Another problem is the lack of hard copy.

If you do not have a teletext television set then newspapers provide an alternative source of results. The quality daily newspapers, i.e. the *Independent*, the *Telegraph* and the *Times* usually give all the required results. The *Guardian* and the tabloids are more unreliable, often missing midweek non-league results. On Sundays, the *Telegraph* the *Observer* and the *Mail on Sunday* give the most comprehensive coverage. They usually include both the results and the league tables for all the competitions covered by the program. The published league tables can be compared against those produced by the program for consistency. The other Sunday newspapers often provide a good coverage of League matches but only give results for the non-league matches without giving league tables. There are also a number of excellent weekly football magazines, such as *90 Minutes*, which supply all the required results along with lots of entertaining and informative articles.

If all these methods fail and you miss some crucial results then, if you have purchased the full version, for a nominal fee I provide an Update Service. If you return your master disk to me along with a stamped self addressed envelope and two additional first class stamps to cover administration charges. I will provide you with the latest copy of the program containing all the results and send it back to you by return of post.

EXTRACT AND RESTORE PROGRAMS

Requirements

These programs require an IBM compatible computer, with an EGA or higher monitor and a mouse.

POOLS Expert Results Predictor

These programs let a pools prediction program called *POOLS Expert Results Predictor* have access to the Dr. Fox Football Annual data files. This shareware program is available for £15 from either Dr. Fox or direct from the author Brian Campbell at Bay Computers, 3 Teasel Walk, Morecambe, Lancs. LA3 3QQ. Telephone : 01524 - 831162. POOLS Expert Results Predictor is a program which analyses sequences of previous results to come up with predictions of future results. It provides an alternative prediction method to those used by Dr Fox's Football Annual.

If anyone wants to use both Dr Fox's Football Annual and the POOLS Expert Results Predictor then they have to enter results and fixtures into both programs. However, by using the EXTRACT and RESTORE programs, fixtures and results can be automatically transferred between the programs, meaning that they only have to be entered manually once. EXTRACT takes the fixtures stored in Dr. Fox's Football Annual and converts them into fixture lists for use by POOLS. RESTORE uses the results file from Bay Computers POOLS Expert Results Predictor to update the results tables used by Dr Fox's Football Annual. Therefore if you want to use both programs you should use the following procedure:

From within POOLS click on the **Utils** menu and select the **Run Dr Fox Extract** option to run the EXTRACT program to create a fixture list file for POOLS. This is done by selecting the **Find Fixtures** option and then choosing the dates you want fixtures on. When you have finished exit from EXTRACT by choosing **Finished** from the **Options** menu, you will now be returned to POOLS.

You can now load the new fixture list into the POOLS program via the **Load Fixtures** option in the usual way. Edit the fixture list, if necessary, and enter the results using Bay Computers POOLS Expert Results Predictor. The results in Dr Fox's Football Annual will be automatically updated by POOLS, as it automatically runs the RESTORE program after results are entered when you **Quit** from POOLS.

It should be noted that the DR-FOX program currently only copes with league matches, so only league fixture lists can be produced. Cup fixtures still have to be entered manually, however this can easily be done by adding the cup fixtures to the league fixture list for the required date from within the POOLS Expert Results Predictor program.

WILL'S FOOTBALL YEARBOOK

The disk on the full version also comes with the fixtures in the format required for Will's Football Yearbook. If you have purchased this program then install the fixture lists by issuing the command A:\YBFIX. This will copy the fixture lists from the Dr Fox floppy disk into the appropriate directory on your hard drive. Further details of Will's Football Yearbook can be obtained from Bill Hunter, Forth Dimension, 28 Macbeth Road, Dunfermline, Fife. Scotland KY11 4EG. Telephone 01383 - 721729.

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POOLS Expert Results Predictor is a licensed shareware program. If you use it a lot you should become a registered user by sending £15 to Bay Computers. This entitles you to program support and discounts on upgrades.

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The fixture lists used by this program are copyright. You are not allowed to copy them without permission from the Football League.

FA Premiership Fixtures List Copyright © The FA Premier League Limited 1996, reproduced by Dr Fox's Football Annual under licence.

To use these fixture lists I have to pay the English Football League licence fees in excess of £1500 every season. The reason I have to charge for copies of my football annual is to try and ensure that I recover this fee.

Lucky Dip

This simple utility uses a random number generator to choose selections for your football pools or National Lottery entries. When using it to choose numbers for your pools coupon it allows you to exclude selected numbers so you can avoid those matches which you are confident will not produce a score draw.

To choose numbers to be avoided just click on the appropriate box next to the number you want to exclude. To delete the last exclusion use the delete key.

You can switch between Pools and Lottery mode via an option on the pull down menu bar.

Click on the OK box to generate your selection.

Frequently Asked Questions

1 There is no way to let users update the program for use next season. Why?

This is because I want users to buy an updated version every season! There are three reasons for this.

Firstly, it would take users quite a lot of effort to update the program themselves. They would have to enter all the teams in each division, get hold of a copy of the fixture lists and then feed them into the program. Typically it takes me about forty five minutes to an hour to do this for each division, giving a total time of about ten hours. When you buy an updated version you are saving yourself all this effort.

Secondly, I like to add new features each season, so you get an even better program if you buy an updated version. It is also impossible to ensure that the current version will cope with any structural changes that might be made in future seasons. For example when the Scottish League split up into three divisions with teams playing each other three or four times instead of the usual two times.

Thirdly, as mentioned in the section on copyright of fixture lists, I have to pay the English and Scottish Football Leagues licence fees in excess of £1500 every season in order to use their fixture lists. So I need to sell quite a lot of copies of the program in order to recover these costs. I try to price the program so that I just about break even. I also sell the program at a lower price to existing users who update the following season.

2 Who is Dr Fox?

My name is Ken Fox. I have a PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of London. I am currently a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Leeds. Dr. Fox's Football Annual is just one of my hobbies. My other hobbies include watching old movies with my wife, supporting Boston United, and feeding an increasing number of squirrels. I am not Statto.

3 How good are the predictions?

As mentioned in the section on Setting the Forecast Formula, the program usually gets about half its predictions correct.

I have had letters from users who say that they regularly use the program to help them with fixed odds betting and that they manage to make a slight profit, but I have not tried this myself.

4 What about cup games?

I have been meaning to put in the capability of coping with cup games since I first started on the program on my Atari home computer in 1988. But what with upgrading the current version and re-writing the code for PCs and then for Windows I have not quite managed to achieve it! Maybe I will get round to putting something in this season.

5 Do you do a version for Australian or Italian or Norwegian football?

I do not do a version for the Australian pools, mainly because I do not know where to get hold of the required results and fixture lists. I have produced versions for the Italian Serie A and B and I once even produced a version for a Norwegian user to cover his own league. I have produced a public domain version of the program for Atari computers which lets users set up their own leagues with up to eight divisions of up to twenty four teams. If I get enough spare time I will convert this to a PC version this season.

6 What language is the program written in and can you supply me with the source code?

This Windows version of the program has been written using Microsoft Visual Basic, which must be the best product ever produced by Microsoft. It took a lot of effort to write the program and I still have dreams of turning it into a fully fledged commercial product one day so I am hanging on to the source code for a bit longer.

The Toolbar

On many pages there is also a toolbar, allowing common options to be selected using a single click with the mouse. These include printing, saving to disk, copying to the clipboard, selecting another date, selecting another team and getting context sensitive help.



