



The  
Shuttlecoque  
Sporting  
Club

The PURPOSE of the S.S.C. shall be:

1. To call attention to, and ably champion, those aspects of sport that are either most ennobling or transcendent. We believe vigorously in sport as Provocation—that is, that it facilitates those instances when something inside of us resonates vibrantly with something outside. We aim to shout to the roof tops the names of Enthusiasm's greatest practitioners, who, by virtue of their acts of physical genius, serve both to celebrate human potential and produce within us curious moments of inner freedom.

We shall call this the principle of SPORT AS PROVOCATION.

2. To promote and legitimize the idea of man at play (*homo ludens*), as opposed to the traditional American-Protestant disposition towards joyless toil and labor (*homo faber*). We consider most important and satisfying those acts in which we partake wholly without obligation, by virtue of their own worth, and which allow for experimentation and mastery—a.k.a. *autotelic* activities. Spectatorship, in particular, we esteem not as mere diversion, but as a participatory activity with its own demands that, when understood sufficiently, might provide equal meaning to that which we typically call “work.”

We shall call this the principle of PLAY.

3. To act as a retreat, meeting ground, and occasional symposium for those interested in The Good Life, by which term (i.e. The Good Life) we mean freedom from anxiety, emotional disturbance, and unnecessary exertions (a state known as *ataraxia*, in the Greek). And, while we do not endorse any one means of achieving this state, we founders do believe that a constant study of, and curiosity for, ethical philosophy—that is, The Art of Living Well—is imperative to its pursuit. Nor by this do we mean only a theoretical understanding of that philosophy, but a willingness to put into practice its most elegant precepts.

We shall call this the principle of ETHICAL LIVING.

4. To create, by virtue of a selective membership process, the ideal environment for adult camaraderie—especially that sort which produces animated conversation, a lively exchange of ideas, a generosity of spirit, and honest criticism. In particular, we honor the bond of fandom, which brings together those of us having been seduced by sport's penchant for Revelation, who wish to share amongst the equally devoted such stirring Provocations.

We shall call this the principle FRIENDSHIP.

5. Finally, to document and share amongst members such instances as illuminate the merit or further intensify the mystery of the first four principles. *Fides quaerens intellectum*, theologians call it: “Faith in search of understanding.” For we who have borne witness to great Enthusiasm, who have been seized by such pleasure as sport provides, there exists also the desire to recognize such experiences, whether by analysis, narrative, or praise.

We shall call this the principle of FAITH IN SEARCH OF UNDERSTANDING

THE NEW ENTHUSIAST  
WEEK IN REVIEW  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SHUTTLECOQUE SPORTING CLUB  
06 DECEMBER 2007

## INTERVIEW

*IN WHICH THE AUTHORS PLUMB DEPTHS  
WITH THE HELP OF TRUE PROFESSIONALS*

*GoITV commentator Ray Hudson's seduction of the entire planet isn't yet complete, but it's approaching rapidly thanks, in part, to the contribution of hudsonia.blogspot.com, a site dedicated to documenting the inspired ejaculations of everyone's favorite Geordie. The following is Part I in a potentially never-ending dialogue with Hudsonia's anonymous, but entirely considerate, editor.*

TNE You have no author info on the blog. You (singular? plural?) are not named (so far as my "research" indicates) in any of the praise of the blog. Is your anonymity by design, or just normal, run-of-the-mill anonymity? Follow up questions: If purposely anonymous, how come? If not, could you please reduce your entire being (biographical data, occupations, all your hopes and dreams) to an easily digestible paragraph?

HUD The anonymity is for professional purposes. I have a nice, ordinary job and I don't really want my boss to ask why I haven't finished the TPS reports when I apparently had plenty of time to watch Spanish soccer over the weekend. Also, if I ever need another job, I don't want to be asked at interview whether I feel it's normal behaviour to obsessively track every utterance of an obscure sportscaster. This may sound ridiculous, but in my job I have often been asked my opinions of candidate's resumes and my first action is usually to google the name. For example, googling one candidate showed that they had a very active role in charitable work and had made very confident appearances on tv, so I strongly recommended that we should find a role for them in our wider organisation. In contrast, I found the Myspace page for another candidate, who seemed to demonstrate a tendency to make out with other girls in public and was also interested in inappropriately aged men. I strongly recommended hiring her for my team.

TNE The Sporting Hour blog has received many hits thanks to the link on Hudsonia. Thank you. What's interesting is where they come from: Cologne, Germany; Ljubljana, Slovenia; West Virginia. Are these friends and family, or devotees of Ray Hudson who've found you on the internet?

HUD Yes, I was also surprised that they have both cable tv and internet connections in West Virginia. The hits from strange parts of the world seem to be partly pure Hudson interest, partly hits from google searches for teams and or players, and partly from occasions when someone posts a link to the website on e.g. a Werder Bremen forum in Germany or, memorably, a Barcelona message board in Moscow. All are welcome ... except for some guy in Thailand who was searching for 'orgasmic oyster stuff'

TNE In a recent issue of the *New York Times's* sport mag *Play*, Steve Nash describes a Flow-like state he achieves during some games, but makes sure to add: "Not to get too mystical about it..." Ray Hudson, on the other hand, seems to take great pleasure in informing the world that Juan Roman Riquelme has a "walkie-talkie to the gods." Do you think this is the attraction to Ray Hudson: his unapologetic appeals to the divine? To the Sublime, in general?

HUD Someone wrote "football is a religion in search of a god". I read that last night and I've already forgotten who it was. Hudson makes frequent reference to "the gods of football", which I have seen explained as linguistic shorthand for the occurrence of the unexpected - fluke goals, David beating Goliath etc. I think Hudson means it in a more literal sense, referring to the transcendent element of the game - those moments which elevate the sport beyond the plane of mere physical activity. You just have to watch, for example, Messi slicing through a defence with the ball glued to his feet to witness something that mere mortals cannot achieve. Hudson elevates these actors to the realm of the divine, which is as good an explanation as any. His other theme is to describe football in artistic or poetic terms, and here again he is raising soccer out of the mundane. Perhaps the 'attraction' to Ray Hudson is that he has no limits, sacred or profane, on what he feels is acceptable. He's certainly not too bothered by the limits of language or logic.

## GUEST APPEARANCE

*IN WHICH THE AUTHORS FARM OUT WORK,  
OWING TO THEIR UNFORGIVABLE SLOTH*

*The following is the final section from author Sean Casey's stirring panegyric to cult figure and street-fighter Kimbo Slice. To learn more about Slice, visit <http://www.kimboslice.org>. To read more work by Sean Casey, google his name along with the phrase "night grinder."*

from YOU CAN DO THIS ALL DAY

Were I to meet Slice  
and have at my disposal  
sufficient composure,  
I would ask him of fighting and family.  
In all interviews  
he mentions both.

And, since what Slice needs to learn  
to compete in MMA  
has been exhaustively posited,  
I'd ask him what he  
and his bareknuckle background  
stands to teach MMA  
and its groomed and milquetoast combatants.

Hopefully, conversation  
would move to other subjects.  
I'd like to learn, for instance,  
of decent Miami restaurants.

And I'm curious about  
the origin and significance  
of his mantra, "All day."

When bareknuckling it,  
Slice would repeat these two words  
before a fight began  
—upon leaving his SUV,  
encircled by ragtag entourage,  
and displaying for the camera  
a pair of dangerous fists.

He'd repeat those words after a fight, as well.

To say, "All day"—  
yes, it suggests that  
what he's about to do  
he could continue to do  
for a period of twenty four hours.

But I'd like to think  
it suggests  
something more.

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FOR BEST  
RESULTS

LISTEN TO THE

SHUTTLECOQUE

SPORTING HOUR