

Script

AgInt03,2b.mp3

A football association has threatened to take action against a pub football team which has been sponsored by the British National Party. The “Tipton Boilers” are playing in the colours of the BNP. The initials of the organization are emblazoned across their red, white and blue strip [Fr. *maillot*], but the strip and the boots have been paid for by the BNP.

Andrew Hoskin reports : “There are no television companies or big corporations queuing up to pour their millions into the Sandwell Premier and District Sunday Football League, and few buy season tickets to cheer on the Tipton Boilers from the terraces, even if the Tipton Boilers had terraces, which they don't. The last sponsor of the Boilers was a Mr Pullevere Delavere [??] Singh who ran a company called *PVH Brotherliners* in Wolverhampton. Their latest sponsor, though, is an entirely different matter: the BNP. The far-right organisation stepped into the breach when Mr Delavere Singh pulled out. Shane Hughes, a welder, is the Boiler's captain:

“I realised that the BNP was all for British people and I didn't realise that it was racist.”

“But what do you feel now that a lot of people say that it *is* a racist party, and that it's actually an odious organization”

“Until somebody proves to me that they *are* a racist party, I still stand... say that they aren't. Me not being political anyway, I don't want to get involved in a political argument.”

“But if you say you don't know anything about the BNP, then... then you're hardly in a position to know whether or not it's a racist party or...”

“It's only what I've been told and what I've learnt today because to me, I think it's been all blown out of proportion.”

Down-at-heels [= *poor*] areas in the West Midlands have proved comparatively good recruiting grounds for the BNP in recent local elections. The BNP refuses to say how much money it's given to the Boilers – only to say that it amounts to only a few hundred pounds to buy the strips. And it denies allegations that it's taking the team for a ride [= *deceiving, cheating*].

Simon Darby is the BNP's organiser for the West Midlands:

“We’re not unpopular in Tipton.”

“But you are using these people, aren't you?, to promote your own policies. You *are* using them.”

“Perhaps they're using *us*. They're in for the long ride, the people down there, they understand that unless they have a future, [and unless] there is a certain change in government or whatever, then, I'm afraid there will be no white people in Tipton in a hundred years' time.”

The Football Association [FA] which ultimately oversees the Sandwell League says no political organization is allowed to sponsor a team.

Paul Newman is the FA's head of communications: “We've obviously written to the club *and* the league, informing them that they're in breach of the regulations and we expect the kit, the offending kit [= *la tenue incriminée*], to be withdrawn immediately.”



Tipton Boilers' new strip bears no "political message" ([source](#))