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Take Five: Football fads

The snood has been outlawed. STV looks at some other trends that would be best forgotten.



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Flavio Paixao shows Hamilton is at the forefront of fashion with his monogrammed snood.
Pic: © SNS Group

Fashion, by its very definition, comes with a built in use-by date. Though Fifa have put insignificant matters like goal-line technology, racism and the integrity of bidding processes aside to swiftly announce that the snood will be banned from July, the fad was unlikely to last that long anyway. STV has looked at some trends that we really don't think deserved a longer shelf life and some that really should come to an end.

1. The nasal strip

When Robbie Fowler decided to do something about his nose during his time at Liverpool it wasn't vanity taken too far. The prolific striker wasn't undergoing surgery to improve his looks, but pushing back the boundaries of sports science to enhance performance.

Fowler's crack team of medical professionals had answered the call for something to give the forward an edge in an ultra-competitive environment. Having identified Fowler's nostrils as an impediment to elite performance, a solution was found. A plaster stretched across the bridge of the nose to allow a larger intake of air.

What was good enough for one of England's top marksmen was good enough for

everyone and soon every striker through the league, down the local park and just ordinary blokes walking down the street were enjoying the bigger lungfuls that only looking like an eejit could bring.

Those that didn't suit a piece of transparent plastic pulling their face out of shape were relieved when the trend died as quickly as it had risen. The reason? Simple science.

Professor Frank Cerny, of the University of Buffalo carried out research into the benefits. "We wanted to see if the strips, when worn correctly, have any effect at this level of performance," he said. "The answer is they don't."

2. Winter warmers

As every season enters its final stages, managers the length and breadth of the country talk about their squads ability to endure to the end, the "character" required to grind out result after result, and the mental strength on show as they add every precious point to their tally for the season.

Alas, such claims of dogged determination look false following the winter months, which routinely see the stars of the game don extra layers to keep them cosy during those period of the game when they are standing around doing nothing. Rather than doing something to keep them warm like, say, running, accessories have been the solution for far too long now.

The snood may be the latest fad to keep the cold out but while some fans will stand in just a replica shirt, or no shirt at all in sub-zero temperatures, we're now accustomed seeing pampered pros trying to look cool while keeping warm.

Jerren Nixon's woolly gloves seem almost quaint compared to the polo necks worn under shirts that make right wingers look a bit Left Bank intellectual. The bobble hat that made Jens Martin Knudsen the only recognisable Faroese football has now given way to the like of Arjen Robben wearing tights for most of the last Bundesliga season. Surely it's only a matter of time before your star striker trots out at a midweek January cup match at Pittodrie wearing one of these in club colours. (allinone)

3. Catwalk footballers

If the thermal attire proves that players can put up with looking ridiculous when on the park, then what they wear off it is sometimes beyond belief.

For a while, it seemed like there was a chronic shortage of men in the modelling industry and footballers were drafted in to fill the gap. Freddie Ljungberg had a lucrative sideline modelling for Calvin Klein and David James took time off from playing Tomb Raider to tread the catwalk for Giorgio Armani.

While for many, the benefit of being involved in the fashion industry enhanced their reputation and earning power for others it just invited criticism from opposition fans, with former Celtic defender [Ramon Vega's appearance as a model for Vivien Westwood](#) being a prime example.

4. Coloured boots

Once upon a time, football boots followed the rule set out by Henry Ford: "Any colour you want as long as it is black." Now, footwear doesn't just come in every colour in the rainbow as it does the 1,114 colours in the Pantone spot chart.

The trend isn't exactly new, with Alan Ball having painted his own boots white in the early 1970s. But new boundaries seem to be broken every season. From brilliant orange to bile green, eye-catching to borderline offensive, the feet of the top players are now used as moving billboards for whatever monstrosities their sponsors wish to unleash.

Sir Alex Ferguson has already banned Manchester United youth players from wearing anything other than black, insisting that looking ridiculous is a right that has to be earned. [Has Arsenal striker Nicklas Bendtner done enough to earn the right to wear these?](#)

5. Pimped rides

Imagine life as a top footballer. Feted by tens of thousands of supporters when on the park once a week. Constantly stopped in the street for autographs in the street. Popular with the clientele in whatever nightclub you deign to visit on a Saturday night.

Problem is, when you get behind the wheel and pull out on to the road you become just another driver. Nobody knows who just sped past or cut them up. Surely there's a better solution than banging the dashboard and screaming "don't you know who I am?"

This generation of players have decided to step up their game. Led by the likes of [Stephen Ireland](#) and [El Hadji Diouf](#), the Pimp My Ride culture has been introduced to the beautiful game. Can Fifa tackle this next, please?

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