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Rear Window – Edited by Angus Grigg

Soccer faithful see Hammers' bubble burst

The country's newest sports promoter didn't get the result he wanted, but plenty of people turned up to watch West Ham United go down to Crystal Palace.

As we told you last week, Sunday morning's match to determine promotion to the English Premier League was not going to be shown in Australia, so David Lewis bought the rights himself.

The escaped lawyer, who runs an IT company these days, lured nearly 3,000 people to venues across Australia for the midnight kick-off.

And there was plenty of international interest in his efforts.

The BBC's main caller crossed live to Lewis, who was running things from Sydney's Kings Cross nightspot, Aussie Rules Club, for a quick chat, while Sky News in the UK sent a camera and crew to capture the evening. The Essex Chronicle even ran a yarn on the Hammer's No. 1 Australian supporter.

Despite his team going down 1-0, bidding for a shirt signed by the players has reached \$1,800 in an uncompleted, online charity auction.

But Lewis couldn't tell us if the idea to have his photo in the dressing room before the clash, to demonstrate how committed some supporters were, was ever more than pub talk.