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ABSTRAK

We present a sports scheduling problem which, although solved every year by the English football authorities, has not yet been the subject of academic research. In England, there are four main football leagues and, whilst they hold their own double round robin tournaments there are still constraints across the divisions which means that the scheduling for one division cannot be done in isolation from the others. We investigate one particular aspect of this scheduling problem. Over the Christmas period, there is a need to produce a schedule such that every team plays two matches. One of these must be played at their home venue and the other should be played at an opponents venue. In addition, the amount of travel undertaken should be minimised in order to save the supporters having to undertake long journeys at this time of the year, which typically coincides with bad weather. Due to the scheduling requirements of this period of the season it is usual to schedule these holiday fixtures first and then fit the rest of the season around them. We present an overview of the problem, the data collection that we have undertaken, our algorithm and the results, which show that it is possible to produce superior schedules.

BIODATA PENCERAMAH

Dr. Graham Kendall is a Reader in Computer Science - School of Computer Science and Information Technology, the University of Nottingham. His research interest includes Computational Intelligence & Games, Evolutionary computation, Heuristic and meta-heuristic search and optimisation.

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