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## Tekst 10

### Too many agents waiting in the six-yard box

*Big fleas have little fleas  
Upon their backs to bite 'em.  
Little fleas have lesser fleas  
And so on, ad infinitum.*

5 JONATHAN Swift was writing about the invention of the microscope, but the agents crawling about Old Trafford<sup>1)</sup>, trapped under the glass yesterday, were not a pretty sight.

Agents occupy soccer's twilight world. There are 240 licensed by Fifa in England and 39 in Scotland, giving these isles more middlemen than France and  
10 Germany combined. It's another baleful competition where we are world champions.

For years, agents have operated behind the scenes. Now, Manchester United has done the football world a service by detailing the £8.5m of agency payments it made and promised last season.

15 United may have been dragged into the move by its major Irish shareholders, but it still deserves a little credit for shedding light on this previously invisible world. If the agents made £8.5m from United last season, how much did they get from Chelsea?

Some of the problem is due to football's regulators. Fifa's rules restrict clubs  
20 from approaching players other than through licensed agents. This guarantees work for the agents and, with clubs footing their bills, creates the perfect conditions for fee inflation almost without limit.

Football is an industry where the money pouring in at the top drops straight into the pockets of the players and out again via fast women and faster cars.

25 Agents want some of the spoils and they are getting it. There are even agents for the agents.

United chief executive David Gill wants to do away with these surplus  
midfielders, but will not attack the system, arguing that players would simply  
demand more money if their agents' fees were not borne by the club. Maybe. But  
30 at least there may then be some restraint. After all, he who pays the piper...

*The Daily Telegraph*

noot 1 Old Trafford: football stadium, home of Manchester United

*Lees bij de volgende opgave eerst de vraag voordat je de bijbehorende tekst raadpleegt.*

## **Tekst 10 Too many agents waiting in the six-yard box**

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- “Agents occupy soccer’s twilight world.” (line 8)
- 1p **41** In which of the following quotations is the cause of this situation described?
- A** “There are ... world champions.” (lines 8-11)
  - B** “United may ... invisible world.” (lines 15-17)
  - C** “Fifa’s rules ... without limit.” (lines 19-22)
  - D** “United chief ... the club.” (lines 27-29)