

Camsham Team Triumph

In a tense final which at times had the crowd in silence the dynamic Camsham team which mixed youthful enthusiasm with dogged persistence of its senior player were eventual winners in a 10-9 final of the Bloomsbury Table Football League.

Playing for the Dave Porter Charity Shield at the prestigious north west London Weller Stadium in Northwood Hills, teams from across London gathered under greying skies for the hard fought contest.

A number of teams rolled out their best international players with representatives for the first time from the Slovakia, United States, Australia, Denmark, Myanmar as well as lead strikers from the home nations including Wales.



For the first time an all woman Filipino team took part making it through to the second round.

The event was not without its controversy with heated arguments before the first ball was played about the standards of the pitch and ground staff spent some time with levelling devices before play finally commenced.

During the contest tensions ran high and in a particularly fraught match the Brown Team - one of only two husband and wife pairings in the competition - from Gipsy Hill, South London almost came to blows.

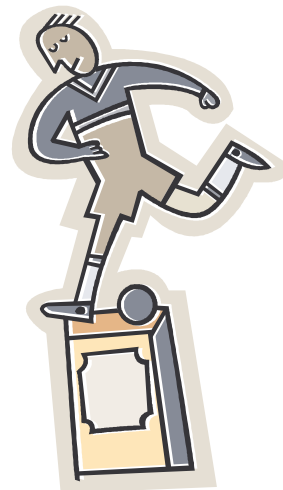
In a closely fought semi-final Welsh spinner, Sec Beynon and his team were pitched against the combined might of Slovak Andrea and the financial wizard H Brown.

Sending the opposition - and at times the crowd - into a spin the Welsh led team triumphed only to be beaten in the Final.



Sparkling Perry celebrates Bloomsbury first...

Celebrating a Bloomsbury first - an all-age summer sporting contest - the team captain, Simon Perry doused the crowd in time honoured fashion with champagne. Aptly named *Sparkling Perry* which reflected the golden boy's prowess on the ball the liquid flowed through the team.



The anchor player of the Camsham team, Muriel from Amersham, who held a tight defence throughout the tournament, although wavering a little at the tense pressure of the final, was amazed at their success.



Speaking to the crowd afterwards she was heard to remark that this was 'her first success in a sporting event' and she attributed the achievement to the partnership formed with the youthful striker from Cambridge.

International Absentees

This year's tournament failed to attract the full range of international participants which hopefully would be remedied at the next event. It is hoped that teams from Scotland, Africa, the Far East and New Zealand would participate in the future.



BIG MONEY SPONSOR GETS WARM APPLAUSE



Tournament sponsor, Canadian financier Dave Porter, based in Ealing west London, who had arrived at the north London Weller Stadium fresh from a tour of Germany, was pleased to be associated with this thrilling and hard fought contest.

Presenting the Charity Shield to the Camsham Team players he reiterated his desire to see this charity event benefit a deserving cause. His generous sponsorship of the event would ensure that a Camsham nominated charity would receive the very generous sponsor's cheque.

The assembled crowd warmly applauded as Dave Porter's suggested that consideration be given to the provision of a central London Stadium and he undertook to begin negotiations with the FWC on a Shaftesbury Avenue site to undertake a feasibility study.

Corporate Hospitality draws in the crowds

As with all major sporting events the Dave Porter Charity Shield Tournament provided an opportunity for some folk just to come and enjoy the atmosphere from the comfort of their hospitality boxes.

Holding court in his box with a steady flow of visitors was international raconteur Seth Stephens who as ever was able to attend thanks to the care and navigation skills of his chauffeur John Britt.

The Cumbrian UK Travel Bureau hospitality box appealed to its own niche audience and its agent expressed his typical lack of enthusiasm for such competitive events but was pleased to be able to represent his company's policies to a wider audience.



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD...

As usual the Weller Stadium proved an ideal venue for this gathering. Its *Metroland* location affords good out of town travel links for those who journeyed from central, east, north and south London.

Catering facilities are of a high standard ensuring all tastes enjoyed a mouth watering selection of tasty dishes to satisfy even the hungriest in the crowd. Such is the popularity of the venue that at times it is not possible to find a seat.

The sweet dish concession stand this year tempted the crowd and players to the sumptuous delight of barbecued pineapple which had universal approval.

Liquid refreshment flowed to the merriment of all and doubtless contributed to the passion and exuberance of the crowds on the terraces cheering on their favourite teams.



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