

# CAB TRADE FOOTBALLERS RAISE £2,200 FOR CHARITY *by Russell Hall*

Stephen Powell is a London cab driver. He has organised a charity football match for the last four years in aid of a young boy, Seyhan Ali, who sadly never recovered from his courageous fight against cancer, but whose memory lives on in these annual charity games. The football matches raise money for 'Make-a-Wish Foundation' and 'Cancer Research' and it is these two charities that assisted Seyhan, who was only at the tender age of 14, when his brave battle finally came to an end in January 2005. Seyhan's father, Emin, has worked at M & H Taxis (known as Mehmet's) in Chapman St E.1 for over twenty five years. So when Stephen, a regular driver at the garage, heard of Emin, and his wife Sener's tragedy, he decided to raise money for cancer related charities by means of a football match between Stephen's side, Fairway Vets, and any team that would like to take part in raising money in memory of Seyhan. As the continuing interest in these matches escalates, Stephen and I decided to try and organise two games. It proved to be a great success as this years total has surpassed previous years by raising over £2,200!

**GAME 1:** Fairway Vets 6  
Cab Trade All Stars 5

Match Day Officials: Barry Kyriacou, Harry Yennaris and Peter Panayiotou

Good friend, Arsenal fan, cab driver and, more importantly, the manager of the Cab Trade All Stars, Dennis Pinching, will always do you a favour when you mention the words 'football'

and 'charity' so when I asked him to get his side together for a game at the magnificent Bank of England Ground in Loughton, otherwise known as The Academy, I knew he wouldn't let me down.

On Sunday 27th July, the hottest day of the year by far, over 50 cab drivers and friends entertained the crowd with some scintillating football. The match was 'split' into 4 quarters of 25 minutes each so that everyone played their part [and paid their money!] and was watched by the WOC's (Wives of Cabbies!) who seemed more concerned in sunning themselves on the terrace and sipping Pimms than watching their men toiling in the blistering heat akin to the temperatures that were reached in the World Cup in Mexico 1970! As you can see by the score line, it was 'end to end' stuff but the 'goal of the game' came from the Cab Trade All Stars when winger Danny Walden whipped in a cross for Alan Dickens (ex West Ham and Chelsea) to score with a bullet header.



Peter George flanked by ex West Ham stars Alan Dickens and Steve Potts



Wes Mendy and Russell Hall organise the defence



Players at Loughton

Rumour has it that Mr Capello was hiding in the crowd and was impressed in what he saw [I think he had an eye on the WOC's!]. Apparently Fabio wants to draft in one or two players for the World Cup Qualifiers in September but the only 'draft' the players were interested in was the lager!



Dennis Pinching-manager of 'Cab Trade All Stars'

**GAME 2:** Fairway Vets 2  
Blackheath Wanderers 3

Match Day Referee was Ian Newman

The venue for this match was played at the fantastic Holmesdale FC stadium, nestled away in the Kent countryside, close to Bromley.

This was always going to be a closer game and Fairway were up against an unknown quantity in Blackheath Wanderers. Most of the WOC's had decided to give this game a swerve and trotted off to Bluewater or Lakeside



Asa Pamplin watched by Gary Jackson lead the attack

- \* Organiser Stephen Powell, ably assisted by his wife, Sharon
- \* Andy Swallow and Joel Nathan for the use of The Academy's fabulous facilities
- \* Ray Tolfrey, Chairman of Holmesdale FC, for use of his Football Ground
- \* Dennis Pinching and his team, 'The Cab Trade All Stars'
- \* Matt Harvey and his team, 'Blackheath Wanderers'
- \* George Davis, captain of Fairway Vets

The matches were generously sponsored by the following:

- \* Seyhans parents, brothers, family and friends
- \* Peter Da Costa of KPM Taxis
- \* Len at Martin Cordell Accountancy
- \* Stuart Pessock at the LTDA
- \* Alan Fisher of 'Call Sign' Magazine
- \* Tony Stone of Lesterose Builders
- \* Richard Stone of Kent Plant and Tool Hire
- \* Jamie at the 'Healthy Trailer' in Queen Victoria Street
- \* Sue Goacher at Waitrose, Green St Green
- \* Not forgetting the players for giving up their time and their generosity in participating in the matches

On behalf of Stephen Powell, I'd like to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone for their tremendous help by helping others who are not as fortunate as we are.



Fairway Vets at Holmesdale FC

instead!

Fairways went 2-0 up and were cruising but (just like England did in that quarter final against Germany in 1970, sorry, but it's back to Mexico again!) let Blackheath back in the game to end what was an entertaining game.

Events like this take a tremendous amount of time and organising so special thanks go to the following:



A proud Emin Ali