

CAB TRADE FOOTBALLERS RAISE OVER £2,000 FOR CHARITY

London Cab driver Stephen Powell has organised a charity football match for the last five years in aid of a young boy, Seyhan Ali, who sadly never recovered from his courageous fight against cancer. Earlier this year you may have learned that Seyhan's elder brother, Mehmet, has also sadly passed away after his battle against cancer. These annual football matches are played in their memory and raise money for charity and in particular 'Make-a-Wish foundation' and 'Cancer Research.' Seyhan and Mehmet's father, Emin, has worked at M & H Taxis (known as Mehmet's) now based at New Baltic Wharf in Oxestalls Rd SE8 after relocating from Chapman St E1 for over twenty five years. When Stephen 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. This year's match was against Tipples.

THE SEYHAN AND MEHMET ALI MEMORIAL CUP

FAIRWAY 2 TIPPLES 4

The Tipples team, made up of a group of players that used the Bethnal Green pub, started in 1979. They joined the Clapton & Stoke Newington League and after three successful seasons the team were promoted into the South West Essex league, going on to the Green King League and in

'87 with intermediate level being granted meant promotion to the Spartan League. They went on to win the London Intermediate Cup in 88-89, 90-91 and runners-up 91-92. In 92 the club was the first in the East End to be given senior status and with a name change to Tower Hamlets FC, they played in both the FA Cup and FA Vase. Their finest hour was lost in 94 due to a depleted team (injuries) when they were defeated in the London Senior Cup final 94-95. The team was disbanded at the end of the 94-95 season but is guaranteed to turn out for the occasional charity game, where their on-pitch skills are still very much intact, along with their commitment to post-match partying!

A bumper crowd turned out to watch entertaining game of football at The Academy in Loughton and Tipples rolled back the years with some slick passing and went ahead as early as the 6th minute. By half time the game looked all but over as the visitors were now 3-0 up. A complete team change by Manager Steve Powell, Fairway's equivalent to England's Fabio Capello, produced a sterling fight back with slim line centre forward Gary Jackson netting a brace. Tipples began to stem wave after wave of Fairway's attacks and even went on to grab a fourth from a powerful 35 yard drive from Tipples midfield dynamo Steve 'Shepa' Sheppard. As always, these charity games are played in great spirit and everyone enjoyed getting involved and making this a great afternoon.

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

- * Organiser Stephen Powell, ably assisted by his wife, Shaza
- * Andy Swallow, Joel Nathan and Chris Knott for the use of The Academy's fabulous facilities. May it long continue.
- * John Westwood, Stevie Sheppard, Monica and the Tipples team
- * George Davis, captain of Fairway
- * Paul Arber and Russell Hall

The matches were generously sponsored by the following:

- * Seyhan and Mehmet's parents, brother Murat, family and friends
- * Mehmet Hassan aka Charlie at M & H Taxis
- * Len at Martin Cordell Accountancy
- * Stuart Pessock at the LTDA
- * Alan Fisher of 'Call Sign' Magazine
- * John at Quotax Taxi Insurance Services
- * Grant at the London Cab Drivers Club
- * Not forgetting the players for giving up their time and their generosity in participating in the match

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. Roll on next year! *Russell Hall*



Emin flanked by team captains George Davis and David May



Fairway Vets FC



Proud Emin with some of the players from the match



Tipples Stevie Sheppard and Cab Driver Joey Moran providing post match entertainment

SIR DOUGLAS BADER COMMEMORATED WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE BLUE PLAQUE

On Sunday 31 May 2009, Sir Douglas Bader, the Battle of Britain hero believed to be the first RAF pilot to fly with prosthetic legs, was commemorated with an English Heritage blue plaque at 5 Petersham Mews, SW7. It was here that he lived between 1955 and 1982. Sir Richard Branson, a life-long friend of the Bader family and supporter of the Douglas Bader Foundation, was at the unveiling. Richard attributes Douglas Bader's passion for aviation as a major inspiration behind his own airborne expeditions. David Bickers, Bader's son-in-law, was also there. He is chairman and an original founder of the Douglas Bader Foundation and the Douglas Bader Walking School. Other guests included David Gardner, a survivor of the 7 July London bombings, who has received practical help and support from the Douglas Bader Foundation and Wing Commander Bob Foster, DFC, a Battle of Britain Veteran, who gave an account of what Douglas Bader experienced during war.



Bader (middle) with fellow pilots

Bader's already outstanding war-time achievements are all the more remarkable given that he suffered a double amputation in 1931 following a horrendous crash. After the accident, he refused to give up and managed to walk with artificial legs just six months later. He rejoined the RAF but was later captured and taken to Colditz where he was integral to many escape missions. In peace time, Bader turned his attention to charitable activities on behalf of the disabled, offering inspiration and practical advice to other amputees. He was awarded the CBE in 1956 and knighted for his services to the



disabled in 1976.