

RTPI London 5-a-side football tournament sponsored by Indigo - 2010

LB Newham made RTPI history on Friday when they retained their crown at the Annual London RTPI 5-a-side tournament, kindly sponsored by Indigo Planning on Friday 24th September. The borough will now embark on an unprecedented 3 in a row title bid in 2011.

Their final victory came at a cost though, as star player Paul had to be stretchered off following a collision with hoarding which resulted in cruciate ligament damage. The final itself was a closely fought battle, with *Retail Madrid* (Turley Associates) putting up a brave fight till the end. LB Newham's experience paid dividends however, and prevented the worst named team in the competition from grabbing the silverware.

Last year's beaten finalists and tournament sponsors Indigo Planning - were unlucky throughout the tournament, with their young captain Tim Sturgess breaking his ankle in their opening game. Having comfortably reached the quarter final stage, they then drew with TfL in an evenly matched contest. Indigo should have advanced but missed a penalty in normal time, then going on to lose in the penalty shootout by the smallest of margins.

Perhaps the team of the tournament however was Croydon FC. By far the best looking team on the night, their 'total football' approach was a joy to watch. Despite never having played as a team previously, they managed to negotiate their way to the quarter finals, where some questionable refereeing decisions ultimately led to their exit from the competition. DP9 had provided the opposition, and were fortunate to go through to the semi final stages, where they deservedly got knocked out. Savills and Southwark also made it to the knockout stages.

GL Hearn have been quite busy in the transfer market of late, acquiring three high profile senior players from DTZ, Drivers Jonas and Cushman & Wakefield respectively. Judging from their three hapless displays in Wimbledon, they have not purchased any footballing talent of note, with their defence leaking goals at an alarming rate. An inside source has blamed the defensive malaise on Garry Hutchinson, who apparently forced teammates to watch footage of MK Dons as preparation.

Newly created QuodPlanning sported a brand new kit, proving once more that the recession is well and truly over. Although gaining a lucky point in their final game, they were denied a maiden win in the tournament by the Croydon shotstopper Paddy O'Connor, whose masterclass in goal was enough to scoop the RTPI Player of the Tournament prize. An abysmal night it was for Quod overall, with stats of 1 goal scored and 11 conceded. Team member Tony Gallagher blamed the shape of the ball for the string of poor results.

The event was well attended with plenty of non-playing supporters in attendance, and was a huge success overall. All credit to Lucy once again for organising the event, with Hannah Baker from Indigo dutifully hosting the formalities on the night.