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# EL JUEGO MATINAL

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## A truly “Olympian” victory.

By John.

Last week we had another well-attended game and a very tight result of **3-2** in favor of **Nacho’s Macho Men** over **Julio’s Olympians**.

Much of the game was spent at 0-0, with all the goals coming towards the end of the game, including a dubious penalty call by Nacho, that was converted by the Master Blaster, **Juan el Betico**.

The most fearful player on Sunday was Juan El Betico, in his traditional Green and White striped uniform, who hits the ball with nuclear potency. This is a warning to goalkeepers: Make sure he is chosen for your team. After a near career ending injury for **Robert** a few weeks ago when he tried to stop one of Juan's shots, this goalkeeper nearly lost three of his fingers of his hand by trying to deflect (unsuccessfully) Juan's penalty shot.

Although Juan claimed he did not hit the ball that hard, we suspect that the ball would have gone through a cement wall if it happened to be in the way of the ball. Fortunately he will be away this weekend so the goalkeepers will actually not have to get to the hospital after the game.

Time, Space & other details.

We had set a new record for disparity in times of arrival. A certain person who will remain nameless, but plays in goal against me all the time (and wears a Red Medellin shirt), showed in the field at 8:40am because he doesn't know how to read his alarm clock.

At the other end of the spectrum, we have the usually laggards showing up at 10:30am, which by usual Latin standards is ok, but for those of us who have been here long enough: its too late!

The missed absentees:

There was a notable increase in the number of new players, (*as seen in the picture below*) and also the notable absence of our usual MVPs, **Victor** the 58-year-old prodigy, and **Mariano**, the Singapore National Macarena dancing champion. **Conrado** was also absent, though no one ever passes the ball to him anyway, even though he calls, whistles, claps and does everything possible to make himself noticeable to his own team. That's quite fortunate for the other team, since he always manages to place himself on a clear line to the goal.



..Cont.

"X" is the mark.

Another highlight of the game, was the tight marking on both sides, with the outstanding marking award going to **Wendy**, who made Don Julio totally disappear from the pitch and prevented him from making his famous "Thierry Henry" speed runs down the wing. Julio tried and tried, using his now famous dribbling skills and speed, but according to Nacho, Wendy beat him 200 out of 200 times they faced each other off with the ball.

"Vos sos horrible.."

And what about Nacho? He scored a late goal, though I would like to point out, for the record, that he did not score on me despite repeated attempts...and insults, and only managed to score on our injured goalkeeper, Saba. He also engaged in typical Argentinean theatrics in a dubious penalty call, he had some good combinations with our New Portuguese player Diego, and surprisingly enough, did not use his patented "**Horrible...**" call on anyone, even though there were several candidates for it. (*Obviously, Wendy was not one of them. Just for the record*)



## The Wednesday Game:

By John and Ricardo.

Last week's Wednesday game was not particularly memorable except by the fact that despite all predictions, we did get a full house. The weather was quite nice; as the heat of the afternoon had already dissipated by the time we finally started playing, which was about 17:30.

One of the really good plays were one of the goals scored by Juan, who caught me a bit too far away from my poles while the ball just flew overhead and into the net (or whatever is left of that thing hanging from the arc.) The other really good play was an auto goal scored by no other than **Richard**, (the Spanish Englishman) who while trying to deflect a high ball with a head kick, it simply made the ball bounce off him, over his own goalie, and into the net.



Richard of course denies that it happened "exactly that way", but there are enough witnesses to agree that generally speaking, Richard scored a pretty incredible own goal.

Having played goalkeeper behind Richard on Sunday, I can't believe he would do something like that, I thought his best skill on Sunday was his ability to effectively and on a timely basis, insult players equally well in Spanish and English.

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Mike, the new striker.

It was quite a surprise to see Mike score a goal this past Sunday, since he always prefers to play as a defense. Nonetheless, towards the end of the game, and while most people were already too tired to run back and forth, Mike received a pass from Camilo in the area of the 18 that he was able to kick right into the goal.

Luck perhaps, but a goal is a goal and the fact is that we can see ourselves playing better and better each week.



## How About...

Let's get together this Friday (10.May) at 'Ola' (right next to 'Ocho' in Chijmes on the ground level.) for a drink or two after work.

( This should be better than allowing Nacho to take half the team out on Saturday night so that we can pick and choose his team mates on Sunday based on who got less drunk the night before.)

See you then.

Ricardo F.

## World Cup Events:

By Ricardo

Some of you may be aware that the World Cup is starting in just a few days. In fact, the 'Celeste' team from Uruguay is planning to come to Singapore to face the eastern tigers on a friendly match on **May 21<sup>st</sup>** (Tuesday) at **19:00** in the **National Stadium**.

How about we go and give them a few pointers and tips to help them a little bit. If you are interested, let's buy our tickets together so that we can experience a bit of the world cup here in sunny Singapore.

The pricing and location are listed below:

### Seat Pricing

- \* \$89 - Seats within Grandstand Seats (West)
  - \* \$89 - Seats within Grandstand Benches (West)
  - \* \$49 - Seats within Gallery (East)
  - } \* \$29 - Seats within Gallery (North/South)
- \* Free Seating within designated area



In addition, there will also be another friendly match in **Kuala Lumpur** between **Brazil** and **Malaysia**, which is scheduled for Sunday, **May 25<sup>th</sup>**.

Anyone interested? Let's talk about it and make it happen !