

Las Bolas wins home derby against Maersk



The Las bolas team, comprised of Legends of the game plus several new players accepted the challenge from Jurek's team Maersk, and won the first home game derby by 5-4, after being down 3-1 in the first half.

*Las Bolas team included Football Legends **Wendy, Santo, Olivier, Luis ex-Borracho, Paul and Jarko**, and the new generation of players including **Marcelo Hammer, Felipe Ronald McDonald, Junior, and el capitan Luis**.*

The team put in a credible performance in the first half, with defensive efforts by **Wendy** pretty much saving us from a bigger deficit. **Paul** also played well in defense and he wasn't even posing for the camera, like he usually does. Felipe showed his true colors in the 2nd half, after arriving fashionably late in the first half. **Capitan, Jarko, Santo, Junior and Luis ex-Borracho** took some time warming up and coordinating their play up front.

Several players pointed out that **Marcelo's** departure at the end of the first half was the catalyst for the beginning of the comeback that culminated with an amazing 5-4 victory for our team. Not only that, but **Olivier** got injured. They made the simple mathematical calculation = **Marcelo is here, and Olivier is playing → we are losing 3-1. Marcelo is gone, Olivier is injured → we won 5-4. What were the variables here?**

Marcelo Hammer believes that his departure was a master stroke of strategy for our team. Yes, he did leave at half time, but he managed to injure one of their key players (**poor Jurek**), and then asked one of their players to drive **Jurek** to the hospital, effectively removing their defense and midfield, allowing us to score more often in the second half and eventually win.

Although plausible, a small survey sample of players (**Alejandro** and myself) agreed that the first theory was a lot more credible than **Marcelo's** own strategy theory and as a result have suspended him for several matches ahead.

LAS BÓLAS DEL DOMINGO



But in any event, the game did change completely on the unfortunate injury to **Jurek**, who tumbled (some say **Marcelo** “encouraged” him) onto a piece of concrete and cut his knee. Since our medical facilities were not prepared (they consisted of a few bottles of water and a few towels), **Marcelo** decided to go to Mt Alvernia hospital with one of their players to make sure **Jurek** was OK.



← Jurek Pre-accident

Later reports are that after an extensive clean up of the wound and several stitches, **Jurek** is ok and ready to play next Sunday (Just kidding, it will take quite a bit more time before he can play), rumor has it that **Jurek** (like most other players subjected to the Hammer fouls) requested he ONLY play on Marcelo’s team to avoid any future unfortunate **Hammer** fouls like the one on Sunday.

As a final comment about the injuries, it was fun to hear **Olivier** point out again, that “*these type of injuries seldom happened at Tanjung Rhu, however, the constantly happen at Bishan Stadium.* Olivier had to sit out the second half due to a torn muscle. *That is what happens, Olivier, when you reach 50 years old.*”

In any event, it was nice to see some of the historical football players back in action. **Wendy** was visiting from Hong Kong, **Santo** was visiting from Orchard Towers, **Luis ex-borracho** had briefly escaped from his motorcycle licensing class, and **Jarko** finally discovered that Singapore actually extends beyond the East Coast and Tanjung Rhu.



Santo really turned on the power in the second half and was instrumental in our win, teaming up well with **Capitan, Luis borracho and even Paul**. Poor **Junior** was stuck on the left wing and we do not believe he received a single pass in the second half despite begging several times! It was good to see that **Santo** was in fine shape and the huge amount of extracurricular entertainment he has been pursuing outside of football have not hampered his great footballing skills.



Also helping us was **Jarko**, who not only provided his usual strong game, but also allowed us to better understand the Scandinavian football style, including how to handle protests from the other team (simply should louder and tell them “what are you talking about”?? repeatedly until they get tired of complaining). It worked quite well, it seems...



Another great contributor to our 5-4 victory was **Luis ex-borracho**, who took a break from his nearly 10 year effort to get a motorcycle license in Singapore to play with us. It seems he has been taking that course for years. He remains as fit as ever, playing competitive games on Saturday and riding his bike to the stadium on Sundays.

It was nice to see him after his being absent for several months and we do wish him the best of luck in eventually gaining his motorcycle driving license someday.



← **Olivier y el capitan**

And yes, although we have had several goodbye parties and send offs, including a testimonial game in Tanjung Rhu for our friend **Olivier**, he keeps coming back!! He came this Sunday and played a solid first half, however, age has caught up with him and he injured his calf muscle, and sat out the second half.



As a final note, **Felipe Ronald McDonald**, stunned by his nickname and books that were 2-3 sizes too big, decided to go spend some money and actually got himself (white) boots, and an outfit probably elegant enough to play at Wimbledon, but far too color coordinated and nice for a Las Bolas game. Even the hat matched the rest of his outfit.

Felipe was also a ferocious defender, to the point he continued to defend even though the ball had long ago rolled out of bounds, generating some friction with the Maersk player who couldn't understand why the Roger Federer-look-alike kept on trying to tackle him 15 minutes after the ball went out of bounds.

In the end, congratulations to all the players for putting in a gutsy, strong performance against the Scandinavian opposition. *A special thanks to the visitors (wendy) and to the historicos (Santo, Jarko, Olivier and Paul).* It was very good to see you guys again, and to show the New Players how you really are supposed to play football. We do hope that when you have time, you come and play with us again. And thanks to **Marcelo** for helping us "win" the game....

See you guys next Sunday

JOHN the editor