

## FOOTBALL IS BACK!!!!!!



*The players: (standing) Marcelo el martillo Michelini, Sergio desafortunadamente de River, Jarko the Mad Finn, Richard el caballero ingles, Luis el unico hincha de Estudiantes en todo Singapur, Luis no-mas borracho. (kneeling) John el grande, Olivier el goleador, Alejandro camisa limpia.*

After nearly 1 year of missing in action, the Sunday football game returned, with 9 players participating in a classic Sunday morning match up, with the usual wet, muddy and humid conditions that everyone so fondly remembers as the standard playing features at the Estadio Olimpico Tanjung Rhu (also known as Estadio Embajador Don Julio Acosta)..

The game originated from a discussion that Olivier Crespin, Marcelo Michelini and myself had over a lunch during one of the rainiest days in the history of Singapore; we decided to make an attempt to revive the Sunday classic. We invited as many people as we could, and collected a huge amount of amazingly silly excuses such as 1) if I don't organize it, I don't come, 2) my boss is in from Madrid, 3) I live in Buenos Aires, its too far to come, 4) I am retired from football, 5) I am from Chile, I don't know how to play football (no names on this one, don't worry, Raimundo).

Anyway, it ended up a 5 vs 4 set up, with a final result of 13-2 for my team, of course. Actually most other players remember that the final score was 4-3, still for my team. And to remind everyone...

The winners: John hincha de Boca, Richard hincha de Boca, Jarko soon to be hincha de Boca, and Luis partially hincha de Boca. **FOUR PLAYERS**

The Losers: Luis de Estudiantes, Sergio de River, Alejandro de Penarol, Marcelo hincha de...Racing (believe it or not), and Olivier, verdadero hincha de Boca. **FIVE PLAYERS.**

# LAS BÓLAS DEL DOMINGO

Did everyone see that? The team with 4 players beat the team with 5 players.

We only used  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the stadium, and Marcelo suggested that the goals be nearer the street side rather than the jungle side, so we wouldn't have to contract diphtheria, typhus and dengue fever everytime we went to look for the ball in that jungle. We agreed to his suggestion, despite the fact that Raimundo did not come, and he tends to be the one that kicks the ball completely out of control into the jungle. Where was Raimundo? Missing in Action. We suspect he was afraid of being embarrassed by the high quality of play of those who came to the game.



Olivier in action for his team, leading the team forward in an attempt to even up the score after we had taken the lead early on. Actually Olivier had the dirtiest uniform by the end of the game, it seemed he had accumulated all the mud for the rest of his team. He also missed an open goal penalty but we won't remind him of that.

It is hard to remember all the great plays, passes and goals, so I will have to tell you what I remembered.



1. Shocking news: Luis el borracho announced that he was not a borracho anymore. He also got a haircut, but maintains the rather curious facial hair. He was actually quite fit, and based on his play and skill, we can confirm that he was completely sober. When our team would run out of air, we just gave the ball to Luis and let him run with it. In fact he probably did most of the running for us..

2. Alejandro (Left) came with a Penarol shirt signed by 1970s Uruguayan hero Fernando Morena (you could tell our age by those who recognized Morena's name). We forced him to change the shirt because it was a relic. On the right, in blue, Marcelo the hammer Michelinini, who missed an open goal penalty.



## LAS BÓLAS DEL DOMINGO

As a side note, Marcelo missed an open goal penalty kick, and then resorted to relatively violent play against yours truly, who took it stoically including one tremendous tumble on Marcelo when he tried to pass me.

Another curious item, Alejandro almost went to the Real National stadium, thinking that it was where we played. He seemed a bit disappointed by the quality of the pitch and the lack of fans, changing rooms, etc, but after a while he adapted well.

3. Luis Azevedo: We had tried to prevent his coming by not sending him an email, but he showed up nonetheless. And the reason is because we knew that he would be wearing the Argentina Club Champion Shirt belonging to...Boca...just kidding to Estudiantes de la Plata.



And there he was, Luis Azevedo in his elegant red and white Estudiantes strip, ensuring that everyone knew who was champion of Argentina. It seemed that the shirt raised his level of play quite a bit, though not enough to defeat the Four Musketeers (John, Jarko, Luis no borracho and Richard).

4. Welcome back Richard. Here he is seated to the left in his "This is not a West ham shirt"...he claimed it was Sevilla. Anyway, Richard had moved away to Kuala Lumpur to work for a Danish company (at the height of the Danish cartoon crisis in the Moslem world, smart move....) but decided to return to Singapore after less than a year, because he missed the football game.

Also note Sergio standing, wearing a River Plate shirt which according to previous rules had been banned from the field. However, he got to the pitch before we did, so we couldn't really eject him. Plus we needed the players.

Seated to the right, Alejandro "I will get tired after 1 minute", but who ran the whole time, he maybe meant it was 1 minute after the game was over.



**THANKS EVERYONE FOR COMING.**

**SEE YOU NEXT SUNDAY, RAIN OR SHINE. ESPECIALLY IF IT RAINS...AT 10:30 AM. NO EXCUSES ARE VALID. ESPECIALLY NOT FROM RAIMUNDO.**

**---- REGARDS JOHN**