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Expat soccer community scores big for UNICEF

The thriving amateur international soccer community in Kanto gathered on Monday, March 21 at the Yokohama Country and Athletic Club, to do battle in a charity 6-a-side tournament, in an effort to raise money for the tens of thousands of children still suffering in the wake of the Asian Tsunami.



Amateur soccer teams in Kanto raise money for child victims of the Asian Tsunami.

The majority of players belong to teams in the Tokyo Metropolis League, a two-division league modeled on England's Premiership and Coca Championship leagues, and don't have to be asked twice to lace up their boots and face-off against each other. And as small-sided tournaments can be a great leveler, there was no lack of vim and vigor on the pitch -- intensified by the fact that corporate sponsors including: Barclays Capital, Coca Cola, Shinsei Bank, Lloyds TSB, Wall Street Associates, Tokyo Physio, Allied Pickfords and Shane English School were contributing a generous amount of money, some for each goal scored, to UNICEF Tsunami relief.

The British Football Club, who this year celebrate the club's 25th anniversary -- making B.F.C. the oldest international team in Kanto -- emerged victors on the day, beating a determined Walls Street Geckoes team two-nil in the final earning themselves a nice piece of silverware to add to their collection. In the runner-up plate competition the French Masters walked away with the trophy, after B.F.C. Vagabonds failed to clear their lines, conceding a fateful goal that ended their hopes of triumph.

17 teams took part in the tournament hosted by soccer marketing company Footy Japan Ltd. and YC&AC and a total of 110 goals were scored on the day, which converted to a cool 330,000 yen donation to UNICEF.

Footy Japan Ltd., as well as running the Tokyo Metropolis League, also run the British Football Academy, a soccer school for kids in Tokyo and Yokohama.



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