

*Wanderers Friendship Cup*

# RECAP - FROM FRIENDS TO FRIENDS

2017 EDITION

## Growing friendships, an annual tradition



### **A big big thank you to parents and coaches!**

This year's Organizing Committee is pleased to share what many of you already know firsthand - the 4th annual Y's Men Wanderers Friendship Cup, presented by the Fredericton Inn, was another overwhelming success.

We also send a special congratulations to our sister tournament, which celebrated the 5th Edition of the Wanderers Friendship Cup in The Gambia, at the Brikama Mini Stadium earlier this year.

*... soccer is so much more than a ball and two goals; it connects people from all of the corners of the world. – Unknown Author*



We first thank the parents for giving their children the opportunity to grow through the beautiful game, soccer. We strongly believe in the positive impact that soccer has in players' lives. The Organizing Committee aims to ensure that the Friendship Cup presents an opportunity for friendly competition - and we hope that through this you see your children grow as players, teammates, and leaders. In addition to playing and competing (win or lose), we also place an enormous value on knowing that friendships grow throughout the weekend, and frankly across the world.

We also thank the coaches and managers for their, often unheralded, dedication to create season-long environments in which children best grow. We hope that the Friendship Cup provides coaches with an opportunity early in the season to 1/ see teams bond, and 2/ teach valuable lessons from both successes and failures.

As we continue to build the tournament, we send a special thank you to this year's new teams, from as far as Rimouski, and to the teams that continue to come year after year, from as far as Dartmouth.



*Smile! - One of many post-game group photos*



*A little help with players of the game*



*Team picture from The Gambia*



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## A little adversity

Each year presents a new experience. This year was the first that we experienced rain. Apparently, when it rains it pours. That said, we applaud everyone's spirit as the games continued, and the smiles remained. And a little adversity doesn't hurt.



In Canada, we are privileged in many ways, and honoured to be able to support the our friends in Africa where adversity has an entirely different tone to it.

Each year, our collective efforts in Canada help our partners in The Gambia with their work to

continue to host a tournament while also delivering education programming in order to promote healthier lifestyles and share lifesaving skills with youth.

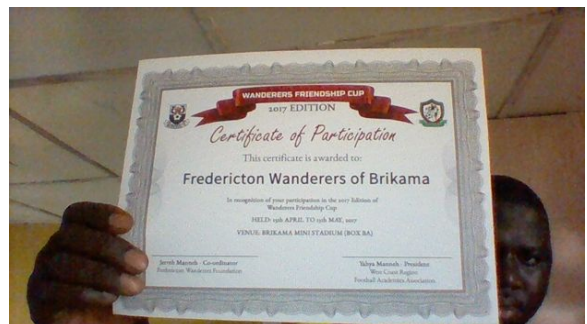


*Friendship Cup activities in The Gambia*

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## Big congratulations

We congratulate all participants for their efforts throughout the weekend tournaments. In our minds, the energy brought to the fields is a boost for all as we gear up for an excellent summer and soccer season. We also congratulate the Championship sides and the Finalists, in both The Gambia and Canada - you know who you are. And good luck to all teams for a fun and successful season.



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## Our invaluable partners

In closing, we thank each of the Fredericton Inn, Y's Men, City of Fredericton, and many volunteers for their continued support.

Without the group effort this tournament and the impact it has would simply not exist. In addition to surpassing 1,000 players "served" locally, this year we surpassed raising \$14,000 for our sister tournament in Brikama, The Gambia, Africa. For an overview on this year's tournament in Africa, see [here](#). In addition, we've been happy to support several local causes as well.

As a bonus this year, with the FDSA's help, we were also fortunate to see soccer gear delivered to Ethiopia. For more on this story, see [here](#).

Thank you all again.



Yours in soccer,

*The Wanderers Development Group*

