

BRITNEY STARS AS ACTIONAID FC TRIUMPH

Writes Garry Garris

FC ActionAid picked up the first piece of silverware in their history by winning the London Stag 6 a side Cup 2008. The tournament was played on a wet and windy Paddington Recreation Ground last Saturday.

Looking the most professional outfit, in their splendid Tiger strip, early arrivals ActionAid struggled through the early stages of the competition being defeated on three out of four occasions. However, as Fabio Capello knows it is all about peaking at the right moment, and ActionAid faced a semi final play-off penalty shootout. ActionAid won this 3-1.

In the final Ben Spier, scored the only goal of the game, and the goalkeeper Mehran pulled off a series of miraculous saves, while Ben , and Simon conspired to scramble the ball away repeatedly. The team was marshalled superbly from the back from captain courageous Phill Arnold, beau of Rebecca Ingram. Playmaker Daniel Spier pulled up in the final under a heavy challenge, but ActionAid held on to make the most of their unexpected appearance in the final. They lifted the Big Ben trophy - a long overdue reward for the chasing the shadows of the local youths in their weekly kickarounds.

Stars of the show for ActionAid were the Spier Brothers, Ben - who used to work in International Education - , Daniel, and Simon, who all each scored two goals open play. It was the first time they played together competitively. With injuries decimating the ActionAid squad manager John Hunt was forced into a series of cameo appearances, culminating in his first cup final appearance at the ripe old age of 36. One of the injuries was a thigh strain suffered by Tom Sharman who was injured in the warm up.

Goalkeeper Mehran was voted player of the tournament, and Ben Spier took home the trophy for leading goalscorer, courtesy of scoring the winner in the final.

Videos of the dramatic. penalty shootout are available on facebook, and the trophy is proudly on display in UK finance.

ActionAid lined up, Mehran, Arnold © , Gautam, Shariar, Sharman, Spier.D, Spier.B, Spier. S, Hunt.