Refugee Week: Bristol Football Tournament 2016

Now in its sixth year, the annual Our City Community Cup Football Tournament, for Bristol Refugee Week, is an eagerly anticipated event in the community and this year was no different.

Ashley Community Housing has organised the tournament for the last two years and this year it was part of the extended Refugee Festival 2016 that spanned over the course of a month.

Despite it being Ramadan, an amazing number of teams showed up to compete for the trophy - 16 teams, equalling 112 players, played a total of 35 matches to win the envied cup! Special guests Mayor Marvin Rees and Councillor Ruth Pickersgill kicked off the day by opening the event.

The tournament brought together people from all over the world, including people from Sudan, Eritrea, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Poland, Somalia, Algeria, Syria and the UK. The tournament saw people from a range of ages and abilities getting involved. Ashley Community Housing entered their own team, as did other organisations such as Bristol Refugee Rights and Bristol Hospitality Network.

After 34 matches, we were down to the Final. Two-time champions 'Champions X3' returned to play against 'Salam FC' in a tense 20-minute game. Both teams put on an excellent show, but in the end the reigning champions took the cup and 'Champions X3' won the tournament for the third year running! Congratulations!

It was a brilliant day in spite of the patchy weather and we would like to thank all who took part or came to watch! A special thank you goes to Pat at BCfm for compèring the event and for Chris for organising the fixtures. Among the crowd were Councillors Kye Dudd and Afsal Shah. Those of us not fasting were also treated to food supplied by the wonderful Oumaima from Easton Family Centre. Amazing work to all who managed to play with such endurance despite fasting and we hope your Iftah that evening restored you to full energy.

We hope everyone enjoyed the event as much as we did and we look forward to continuing with the tournament next year!