

Cup Final Sensation

Report by: Chris "Motson" Puxley
Club Sports Correspondent and occasional darts player

Silloth Rotary Club is pleased to report, that at this time of emotional football scenes relating to the promotion of Carlisle United and the angst at the somewhat grander clubs such as Arsenal and Manchester United, the excitement of sporting excellence has certainly not passed Silloth by.

On the evening of Monday 16th May, at a venue beneath the sweeping staterooms of the Golf Hotel, the Rotary Club of Silloth's "Darts, Doms & Pool" team snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. This motley band of sporting heroes battled like terriers against ten other determined Area clubs, to win the highly prestigious Rotary District 1190 (NW Area) Winter League Championship Grand Final! "So what?" you might say, but brace yourself firmly as you read on.

Akin to the heart pounding excitement of an Arsenal v Manchester United cup final, the Silloth team manager, John "Wenger" Bowe, led his side on to the arena, coming face to face with the formidable opposition, dispatched from the Rotary Club of West Lakeland.

Our darts had been honed to needlepoint sharpness, pool cues had been freshly oiled and chalked and the sets of dominoes had been

warmed, agitated and spot-checked for any anomalies. This was to be no peely-wally little game of sociability! The atmosphere was crackling with electrical static, as John briefed his team and organised his players into a cunning 4-4-4 disposition. (But then it might have just been Fausto's dodgy lighting).

As the match got under way, the 'individual' games were not going well and the Silloth team could see the prize slipping out of their grasp. John Bowe's normal cheerful bloodhound-like countenance was getting more and more gloomy as the night wore on. Jim "the rottweiler" Aird, an ex police officer and a stickler for justice, had great difficulty containing his frustration and very nearly received a yellow card for fingering his truncheon and having strong words with the opposition team manager on a fine point of game law.

Gradually the tension within the Silloth team eased. As the 'doubles' games unfolded and results started to filter through to the scoreboard, the chance of a win for Silloth began to emerge. Clawing back some good results, the excitement grew towards a nail-biting climax, as with deft skill and astute

tactical manoeuvring, the Silloth pool players carefully pocketed their balls in quick succession. The 'doubles' darts games went right to the wire, as each player struggled under extreme pressure to land their weapon in the right bed.

As for the dominoes, well, the suspense was palpable as each player slammed down his 'dom', or rapped the table in blinding frustration. But the time spent in pre-match training sessions finally paid off, as Fausto "the hood" Previtali pulled off his coup de grace. This was particularly amazing, as Fausto had apparently been training for pool all afternoon!

Suddenly the room exploded with roars of delight, almost blowing the b---y doors off this pressure cooker of an underground bunker. The Silloth 'doubles' teams all finally won their games and the home team had actually done it! A clear win for Silloth, but with due respect, West Lakeland Rotary Club had put up a brave fight and were worthy opponents, and were very gracious in defeat. I'm off for a lie down now, having just re-lived that dramatic and momentous occasion all over again, as I struggled through tears of unbridled joy to write this report!

Silloth Tennis Club

2005 promises to be another hectic year for Tennis in Silloth as our competitions start to get under way and with coaching on Saturdays and Tuesdays as well as our first "open" competition there should be enough time for practice as well. This year to compliment our heavy junior programme we feel that the adults need to be looked after as well. This will take the shape of a special adult tennis night and an adult/teen night where older junior players can play alongside older players.

We also intend to run various adult tournaments such as singles, doubles and mixed doubles, but we would be very pleased if anyone out there would

be interested in helping to run these. A full list of coaching times and special sessions is available in the Buzz.

Also, please look out for our "Open Day" which has been re-scheduled to the new date of May 30th at 1pm (Bank Holiday Monday) on both the Skinburness and school courts, where lots of different activities will take place including our annual Bounceathon, which this year will be raising money towards a free training top for our junior members. We are also holding a "Race Night" in July, which, again will go towards the provision of training tops and equipment.

For further information please ring 077 4254 7767.

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