

## What a Soccer Experience for the 2009 Tournament!

There was another football fiesta last weekend in Tenerife. The third annual Soccer Experience International Masters 7s Tournament was a wonderful success with many fun filled games being played over the three days. Soccer Experience's tournament is rather unique as it is not only recreational and amateur players participating but Tournament organizer and ex-professional player Martin Tierney invited along a few of his friends from his playing days. Therefore many players who would never have the chance to play on the same pitch as these top ex-professionals had the opportunity to play against some major ex EPL, SPL and La Liga players!

Some of the play from guys like Nayim and Regi Blinker it must be said showed what class they still have today even as slow motion players!



### The Carlsberg All-Star winning team with tournament supporters the Rhodes brothers of Club Olympus

Darren Jackson (ex-Celtic, Scotland) Nicky Summerbee, (ex-Manchester City) Nayim (ex-Barcelona, Spain) and Reggi Blinker (ex-Celtic, Holland) Jim Duffy (ex Celtic) were the mainstay of the Carlsberg all-star team who took the main tournament title. Tenerife's own local goalkeeper Nick Parker won last year with winners Leicester City and again played very well to help Carlsberg All stars win this years title. Carlsberg All-stars had to overcome a strong Liverpool Victoria team who flew in again this year and performed even better than last year semi's to reach the final this year, next year will Otch and his boys win it?

The Plate title was won by the Rangers Select team led by one of Glasgow Rangers FC best ever midfielders Bobby Russell as they beat Sunshine Properties F.C. in the final 4-1 with Big Marcus Gayle scoring a hatrick.



Rangers select team above with Legends Bobby Russell, John MacDonald,

Marcus Gayle, Dougie Bell, Carlton Fairweather, Martin Tierney and Scott Murdoch.

The Strabane Olympic team from Northern Ireland decided again this year to bring their WAGS with them for that added support and this clearly helped them as they were much improved and walked away with the Bowl title beating local team Harley's Restaurant FC.

There were three all-star teams this year, one in each grouping so all the recreational players could play against an all star team. There was a team of ex-La Liga players from CD Tenerife who may have been true masters in age but were also true masters when it came to skill level, their touch and reading of the game was still second to none as they were the only other team apart from the Carlsberg to beat the Liverpool team.



## CD Tenerife ex La Liga Players

Another all star team was a Glasgow Rangers Select team (photo above) containing names like Marcus Gayle (ex-Rangers, Jamaica) Bobby Russell (ex-Rangers, Scotland) John MacDonald (ex-Rangers, Scotland) Dougie Bell (ex-Rangers, Aberdeen, Scotland) and Carlton Fairweather (ex-Wimbledon). This team performed well even with its many injuries and the many combined years between them! On the sidelines at all times ice was on hand to ease the ageing muscles.

A special mention needs to go to the many International traveling players flying in from all over the UK and Channel Islands. These players took time off even during these difficult times to enjoy being full time footballers in an away from home European tournament for a weekend and it must be said they ate, drink and breathed football for the three day event.

The local teams who were fighting fit due to playing year long in Soccer Experience's weekly 7s Leagues and gave the all-star and traveling teams a run for their money with many a good level of game being played. A lot of these teams took the event seriously and even drafted ex professional players from the UK to come especially in for the event to boost their chance of a few more winning games.

Local goalkeeper Meatloaf picked up the trophy for best goalkeeper of the tournament. Best non ex- professional player of the tournament went to Liverpool player Fran who was super the whole weekend.

Over the three days lots of volunteers gave up their free time to help with the event and this was very much appreciated by all those at Soccer Experience as without the help of these people the event would not run nearly as smoothly.

Soccer Experience would like to express a huge thanks to all the local companies who helped support and made this event happen.