

CARLING CUP CLASH

When Chelsea and Arsenal met in the Carling Cup final, they clashed in more ways than one. Chelsea ran away as eventual winners, securing the first silverware of the season, but the match was overshadowed by off-the-ball incidents.

While Chelsea put out a full-strength team, Arsenal stuck by their young guns and second string players who had taken them all the way to the final, fielding a team with an average age of just over 21.

The Gunners started strongly, scoring the first goal on 12 minutes

from the boot of 17-year-old Theo Walcott. Chelsea equalised on the 20 minute mark, although it was questionable as to whether Drogha was inside when the ball was played. Drogha did however score the winning goal just six minutes from time, getting in front of Philip Senderos to head home as good as the box.

However, as inside as the game was in spells, it is likely to be remembered more for two unfortunate incidents.

The first came just after the hour mark when Chelsea Captain John Terry stooped to head a ball and was knocked unconscious by a flying boot. Terry later recovered in hospital.

The second incident saw a full scale fight break out between the two teams after Chelsea's Jon Obi Mikel

pulled Kolo Toure to the floor. In the ensuing altercation, both players were sent from the pitch, along with Arsenal's Emmanuel Adebayor, the latter unfairly dismissed for an incident in which he played no part. At the height of the violence, both managers and other staff took to the pitch, as referee Howard Webb lost control of the situation.

So Chelsea, victorious, take home the Carling Cup. An achievement regardless of the shenanigans on the day, and the second-string Arsenal team fielded. That said, if it turns out to be the only piece of silverware Chelsea win this year it will be of little consolation. But, if it is just the first part of an historic quadruple, it will set them apart from their rivals.

GREAT BRAWL OF CHINA

QPR 'friendly' ends in kung fu chaos



China's Olympic sportsmen captivated an H&F crowd with energetic displays of karate, kung fu and boxing. The only problem is that they were supposed to be playing football.

The 'friendly' match between China's under-23 squad and Queens Park Rangers descended into a 30-man brawl with spectators joining in as well as players. Police and

paramedics were called to QPR's Harlington training ground as China's Zheng Tao was struck unconscious and was carted off to hospital with a broken jaw.

One eye-witness, who wanted to remain anonymous, said, "There were punches, kung-fu kicks and all sorts. It was absolute mayhem". QPR have until the middle of March to respond to a misconduct charge from the FA.

SKITTLEBALL CHAMPS

More than 200 children from 15 primary schools competed in a fast-moving indoor sport which has now become a regular fixture in the borough.

It is the third year running that the inter-schools' skittleball tournament has been held in the assembly hall at Hammersmith Town Hall.

H&F pupils battled it out on 27 February to become skittleball champions - with the winning team, from Old Oak Primary School, in Shepherds Bush, receiving a shield from the Mayor, Cllr Minnie Scott Russell.

The sport is a cross between basketball and netball, with opposing mixed teams of girls and boys

competing to knock down each other's skittle.

It was introduced to Hammersmith & Fulham by Deryck Fill, a former headteacher who is now a consultant sports development officer for the council. Mr Fill said, "Skittleball lends itself very well to children aged seven to nine - they can pick it up very easily and are learning skills, such as passing, marking, positioning and being part of a team, which apply to other sports."

Old Oak Primary School, from Shepherds Bush, beat Peterborough Primary School 12 - 2 in the final. The other semi-finalists were St John's Walham Green Primary, in Fulham, and Bentworth Primary, in Shepherds Bush.



The winning team from Old Oak Primary School, with children's services cabinet member, Cllr Antony Lillis, and Mayor, Cllr Minnie Scott Russell.

Lillie Road Fitness Centre reopens

£1/2m major refurbishment unveiled to the public

The fantastic, new-look Lillie Road Fitness Centre, in Fulham, has opened after a £500,000 revamp. The main group exercise studio, fitness equipment, changing rooms, reception and membership area, have all been refurbished. Among the local residents

trying out the new facilities was Amy Valley, 25, from Parsons Green (pictured), who said, "I joined as a new member last week and I come here three times a week after work. I am really impressed with what this community gym has to offer."



For more details about Lillie Road Fitness Centre phone 020 7381 2183 or visit www.gll.org or for general information about sport and leisure in H&F visit www.lbhf.gov.uk



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