**Oakway vs East London**

**30th October 2010**

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An early start beckoned again for Oakway, with a 10am push back in the heart of the city East End. (cue music) To early for some of us, who’d been out the night before, but aware of the fact we now had to do without the services of Braveheart herself, who DID break that arm a few weeks back on home soil, two Paddy’s who jetted off to the homeland, and ‘ar Tracy. Never fear, those who were meeting at the clubhouse, only to be met with the news that another could not make it, Paulette, and so our numbers dwindled.

However we all arrived pitch side, and on time unscathed. Thankfully Sister Jane was able to play the whole match now, but still we were down to the bare bones of 8 out field players and yours truly.

Another slow starting match, did see East London make most of the attacking play. Oakway rarely threatened at first, owning the fact we were upholding a defensive position, and holding it well. Within the first 20minutes of the first half, East though having shots at goal, really didn’t pose any serious concerns.

Finally, growing board of the fact she was having to play at ‘make shift sweeper’, our one remaining Paddy, Suzanne, (making a pretty fine job of it, it has to be said, watch out Tracy!) swopped places with her better half, literally, and headed from inside our own 25, down the left wing, passing numerous East London players! Obviously mesmerised by the fact we had a ball carrying player, East watched hopelessly as we did in wonder, as our Suz swept in to their D, and on towards goal. With Heidi and myself shouting for others to support Suz in her quest, and thinking she should really pass that bloody ball,..Suz carried on, and pushed the ball in to the back of East London’s goal!! Ah, it was just like watching Brazil. Pele never scored a better goal,...especially on the hockey pitch! ☺

With half time approaching, and Oakway barely believing they were 1-0 up with depleted numbers, the whistle couldn’t come soon enough.

The Second half, saw East bringing on and off fresh legs and better players. Oakway had obviously been working hard (or harder, as Heidi would have it known) and East knew it, and attacked with fresh gusto! Even though my lungs were doing most of the work this morning, with shouting at the out field players to run faster back to goal and just where the ‘hell was my left hand side!!???!’, never let it be said that all of them ran their hearts out. Unfortunately there was a certain inevitability of East goal, when it did come. On another day, and with a full house, Oakway would have seen of the game a long way back, but tired legs just couldn’t cover all the ground late on the second half.

However, Oakway held. And it was with relief, mixed with a heavy dose of ‘knackeredness’ when the final whistle came, and we were all pleased with the point. Suzanne deservedly got her ‘Man of the Match’ award too.

One novelty occurred afterwards, was ‘teas’ on the street! East’s ‘pub’ had bizarrely locked them out, and the owners in, leading to us having to munch on few bits on the street corner. Mmm!