

## **Football joins**

On the first April's Saturday\* on a Bacon's College pitches In London took place a football tournament. An idea came from a group of young Poles – white-collars in London banks – gathered in “Solidarni” Foundation who also organized the event. Into the tournament entered eight teams: Morgan Stanley, Poles to Poles, Shoreditch House, Polish City Club, mBank & Polish Professionals, Guests, Solidarni Foundation and Polish Embassy & Consulate Team. Profit from the event was assigned to activities of Barka UK in London.

Matches were accompanied by typical English weather: it was raining and cold what undoubtedly influenced attendance. But luckily there were a lot of emotions heating frozen audience. Players were in their element as well. Football professionals could have been learnt ambition, will to fight and determination. Matches ruled by a cup system(a loser drops out) formed finalists: Morgan Stanley team and representation of Embassy & Consulate. After enchanting match finished by penalties Diplomats triumphed. For winners there were founded a cup and commemorative medals. Organizers asked Ewa Sadowska, director of Barka UK, to present winners with prizes.

Among the audience Barka's leaders – Marek and Andrzej – excelled in cheering up players and also in promoting ideas of Barka among supporters as well as among changing players. They were giving away “Street Paper” edited and published in Poznań and DVDs presenting Barka's activities in general and in peculiar. Andrzej gave a short interview to London-based Polish TV station PTV concerning a sense of his work in London. The reported event showed a deep need for tightening links and solidarity among Poles working in Great Britain. Constructing is a fact that an initiative came from people young in both aspects – in the sense of age and in the sense of migrant experience. Over all this dominates understanding of tragic situation of those of countrymen who failed in labour migration process for various reasons and a willingness to provide support by supporting Barka UK's initiatives. For this we, Barka people, are happy and proud that we could join such a noble – for its lofty aims - event.

What was reported from London by Andrzej – Barka's leader.

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\* The 5th of April 2008