

## GDA – FRIENDSHIP CUP 2006/07

It truly is a night where all teams come out of the woodwork, always unpredictable, always jam-packed.



Photo (Top): A group photo of some of the participating players.

Photo (Right): Winners – College Cosmos team (Left to Right) Manolo Vilerio, Rodriguez, Henry Zapata, Nicholas Cumbo, Dylan Duo & Justin Broton.



Missing player in photo: Danny Peach.

Lets start with a bit of history “The 'Friendship Cup' donated by Mr. Bill Gibson, the Leicestershire (UK) secretary was introduced in 1979. Mr Joe McCarthy, the Gibraltar Darts Association secretary at the time and Mr. John Trinidad travelled to Leicester to collect this brilliant cup. The first team to win this cup was a five-man team from St. Theresa's Social Club”.

27 Years later, nothing has changed and the Friendship Cup still remains one of the best team events to be won on the Rock.

With 10 teams participating out of the 12 teams in the league it sure was an eventful evening.

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At the preliminary stages the currently top of the league in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division (*Stan James Edinburgh Arms*) where drawn against R/J Cosmos (*previously Gib Utd*). Although they played very well with some games won by a marginal 2-1 deficit, it however showed why R/J Cosmos are previous winners of the event and furthermore why they are in the 1<sup>st</sup> division. They were just too strong for them and they won 5-0. Unfortunately this meant that the Edinburgh Arms had an early departure from the tournament.

The 1<sup>st</sup> upset of the night however was induced early on in the 1<sup>st</sup> round by the St. Joseph's team and yet again against the veterans of the game the R/J Cosmos.

In an enthralling match where the R/J Cosmos team took a healthy 2-0 lead, the St. Joseph's team managed to level the game at 2-2 and the decider to be played by Alan Kimberley (*R/J Cosmos*) against Nicholas Barbara (*St. Joseph's*). An under performing Alan Kimberley was just not up to the job and Nicholas simply took full advantage and gave St. Joseph's the win.

Here is the draw as it happened on the night:

	<b>Preliminary Round</b>	<b>Qualified for 1<sup>st</sup> round</b>		
	Stan James Edinburgh Arms (0) R/J Cosmos (5)		R/J Cosmos	
	College Cosmos (5) The Cue Ball (0)		College Cosmos	
<b>QuarterFinals</b>	<b>SemiFinals</b>	<b>Final</b>		<b>Winners</b>
R/J Cosmos (2) St. Joseph's (3)	St. Joseph's (3)		St. Joseph's (0)	
Rock Cosmos (4) Laguna Warriors (1)	Rock Cosmos (2)			
Coach & Horses (3) Moorish Castle (2)	Coach & Horses (0)			<b>College Cosmos</b>
R.A.O.B. (1) College Cosmos (4)	College Cosmos (3)	College Cosmos (3)		

As always lots of 180's thrown in fact 7 in total by: 2 x Dylan Duo, 1 x Henry Zapata, 1 x Francis Taylor, 1 x George Federico, 1 x Vinnie Ryan, 1 x Manolo Vilerio Rodriguez (*unlucky Manolo on your attempt at the 170 finish, very close*).

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After a tougher draw to get to the final by the St. Joseph's team, the College Cosmos team were quite happy in progressing unnoticed and simply waiting for no further surprises and meet St. Joseph's in the final. As expected, that's exactly what happened.

The final saw yet again last year's teams, College Cosmos & St. Joseph's (previously known as *Rock Cosmos*).

The individual player order for each team was drawn on two separate sheets and each opposing team does not know the order of play of the other team's players (*yet another exciting point about the Friendship Cup*). In an unexpected twist the St. Joseph's team decided to play their strongest player 2<sup>nd</sup> "*El Crack de el equipo*" – as they put it, Dyson Parody (*they had been playing him 1<sup>st</sup> all night*).

Whether this move was intentional or not, it proved to be the wrong decision as it turned out Dylan Duo was also drawn 2<sup>nd</sup> for the College Cosmos and that meant the two hound dogs of each team had a full blown face off.

In team events one always tries to guarantee points not challenge them. In past experiences many a team has fallen to this pitfall, in playing strong players against strong players on a 50/50 chance that your player might win. That's exactly what a team should not do and this time it worked in favour of the College Cosmos team.

The 1<sup>st</sup> game of the final featured an irregular Henry Zapata (*College Cosmos*) against Takahashi Schimidzu but Henry managed to pull through and win 3-0.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> game was played by Dylan Duo against Dyson Parody. Although Dyson started strong and won the 1<sup>st</sup> leg, Dylan persisted and took the game 3-1. Making it 2-0 for the College Cosmos team.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and what we now know was to be the final game, was won by Justin Broton against the hero of the night for the St. Joseph's team, Nicholas Barbara. The game was won by Justin 3-0

Having won 3 of the possible 5 games, the College Cosmos team took the final to become the "*The Friendship Cup winners 2006/07*".

It was a good night for the College Cosmos team, they only lost 1 single leg in the whole event and they retain the Friendship Cup, which they also won last year.

**1<sup>st</sup> semi final line-up (standing) St.Joseph's, (front) Rock Cosmos**



**2<sup>nd</sup> semi final line-up (standing) Coach & Horses, (front) College Cosmos**



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