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# AVI's keeper a hero as game ends in shoot-out

## NORTHOLT: Epic final between local sides in football fest

### 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

by **Jon Batham**  
 sport@trinitysouth.co.uk

**THE biggest Asian five-a-side football festival in the UK attracted teams from all over the country to Northolt last Sunday week.**

Fifty-nine squads travelled from as far away as Oldham, Bolton and Cardiff for the Shree Kutch Leva Patel Community (SKLPC) football tournament, now in its 22nd year.

But it was two teams from Harrow, AVI Contracts and Kenford Builders, who upstaged the long-distance travellers to produce an epic men's final.

Over seven hours of football came down to the dreaded penalty shoot-out, and it was AVI keeper Jeetesh Hirani who emerged the hero, saving all Kenford's spot kicks as his side won 2-0.

The match itself had produced plenty of thrills, finishing 2-2 after extra-time, thanks to goals by Jai Hilal and Daryl Diaz for AVI and

Mayur Depalla and Rav Khetani, leading goal scorer in the men's tournament, for Kenford.

In the Ladies tournament there was heartbreak for the two Harrow sides, who both bowed out in the semi-finals.

Naranpur Youth Wing suffered a 4-0 defeat to pre-tournament favourites Swaminarayan Gadi from Bolton.

The second semi was a much tighter affair between Bhuva Construction (Harrow) and Wembley's Swamibapa, the latter taking their place in the final courtesy of an extra-time own goal.

Underdogs Swamibapa started well in the final, Jaz Rabadia and Shahini Vekaria forcing good saves from the Gadi keeper, while Anisha Hirji came closest of all with a shot against the bar.

However, Gadi rode out the storm and then struck twice in the second half to take the cup back up the M6.

Elsewhere, in the over 35s tournament Kenon's Reuben Barreto was the leading scorer with six goals.



■ **TIGHT AFFAIR:** Swamibapa and Bhuva Construction before their semi-final clash. *All photos contributed*



■ **SHOWED SPIRIT:** Swaminarayan Gadi and Naranpur Youth Wing



■ **SEMI-FINAL:** Avi Contracts and Kings line up before their game



■ **LAST FOUR CLASH:** Kenford Builders and Dragons