

# BLUE BERET



## Sport and Cooperation

### First Pyla Football Tournament

In a spirit of cooperation and togetherness, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Mukhtars of Pyla in the east of Cyprus' buffer zone brought together hundreds of football-lovers on Saturday, 18 April 2015 for the first ever bicultural football tournament to be held in the village, capping off an active day with a street festival in the evening.

The event was facilitated by UNFICYP's Police component in conjunction with the Civil Affairs Section. It kicked off at midday with a football match for children from the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, who played side by side in mixed teams under clear blue skies. Four teams vied for the title in the adult tournament; one from the Greek Cypriot community, one from the Turkish Cypriot community, a team from the Sovereign Base Area, and a United Nations team. After a hard-fought few rounds, the Greek Cypriot team came out on top as the overall winners of the competition.

Later, the street festival in Pyla Square was attended by more than 300 people from both communities. Each child who took part in the children's football match received a medal, and the tournament trophy was presented to the winners by both Pyla Mukhtars and UNFICYP's Senior Police Adviser Andrii Sachavo. Afterwards there was music and dancing by performers representing the two communities. Looking forward to a repeat in 2016 of this excellent event!



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