

CCDD BORDERLANDS LEAGUE REPORT ON THE EASTER MONDAY 6TH APRIL 2015.

Mr Cooke Launching the netball game.



Some said that the idea of a tournament with mixed teams from Kibigori, PotoPoto, Kopere and Owiro was too ambitious.

Others said that Easter Monday was the wrong date, and people would not attend as they would be travelling.

But now Mzee Otiato reports locals as saying, "Such a thing has never been seen before, everybody is talking about it!"

So what happened? After weeks of preparation, CCDD held netball and football tournaments in Kopere, with entertainment supplied by the St.Liza Cooke

Academy, and commentary by Reverends Bett and Nyoross, JeryOdhiambo and



others.

Four football teams and three netball teams played in good spirit, all in the name of peace. Extra rules for the games were that each team had to be mixed and hakunalughaya mama on the pitch/court.

Team names were taken from the English Premier League, and at the end of a very happy day, two cups were presented to two very happy but tired teams- both named Chelsea!

Oh, you want to know who was there?

Well, our wonderful group of Volunteers, who have worked long and hard with CCDD- people like Eunice Atiatio, Peter Aloo, Douglas Otiatio, Willis OmundiOundo, Jacob Yama, LareenChemutai, James Kirong, Jacob Osida, MarylineJepkosgei, Maureen ??, HesbonOmondi, Esther Killy, and Assistant Chief Josef Onyango, to name but a few.

And several Reverends graced us with their presence and prayers - Ririei, Bett and Nyoross. We also had three Chairs with us- Rev. Rono, Chair of Nandi County peace Committee, ShadrackTarno, Chair of Nandi County Civil Society Network, and our very own David Busienei, Director CCDD.



And of course we had over 200 chairs for our guests, two tents, a PA system, water for thirsty athletes, sodas and maandazi for refreshment, and some singing and dancing too.

What a wonderful day – topped by Chiefs Harusei and Maurice ? and ???

And you know what? No cattle rustling incidents have been reported in this area of West Songhoro since December last year.

Is this anything to do with much prayer and intercession for the Borderlands, the region overlooked by politicians based in Kisumu and Kapsabet? Perhaps.

Is this anything to do with the 5 years we have worked in the area, walking with those who love peace? Probably.

Is it anything to do with close liaison with vijana peace builders, the Provincial Administration and community leaders? Almost certainly.

So how will we go on?



We need a Borderlands Peace League, with teams playing regularly, committed to the joy of the game and mixing tribe and abilities, pursuing collaborative peace rather than competitive excellence.

Even the practice sessions will bring progress.

The teams will need help with transport.

We need to help construct a Court at Owiro, and supply netball rings, netball and football as we have done at Kigbigori, Kopere and PotoPoto.

We want to respond to the folk of Nyangore who want to join in the fun.

And some ladies say they want to play football, too...

We want to organise other connecting activities, for non-sportsmen, choirs and drama teams, all aimed at bringing people together who would otherwise not talk or greet.

We want sustainable grass-roots activities, enjoyed and owned by locals, not boring gatherings filled with nothing but listening to long speeches given by outsiders.

And we want more laughter and cooperation in the neglected Borderlands, with the Tinderet and Kibigori roads repaired, a market in Owiro, trees planted in Kolelach, churches working together in Songhor, and a diversification in local agriculture to reduce the dependency upon sugar cane; and an end to many politicians being part of the problem instead of the solution.

What else do we want?



We want the moon, we want peace, we want our people to get the opportunities they crave and the support they deserve. We want Kenyans to live together in peace, finding an identity as peaceful Borderlanders.

As John Lennon sang,

“ All we are saying,
Is give Peace a chance”

And CCDD intends to continue to help local activists grow Peace.

What can you do?

Come and see. Join us.

Donate time, your expertise, and of course, cash! And don't forget; pray for us, our work, and the Borderlanders.