

Youth football tournament a success

SOCCER

by Richard Glover

Hundreds of local football fans turned out at the Dolby football ground in Che Mussa Township on Saturday for the final day of the youth football tournament for orphans, poor and under privileged children. Mafco won the trophy after edging Che Mussa 1-0 in the final.

The tournament, organised by a team of Swiss volunteers, ran from July 10-23 and over 150 children, aged between 13-15 from the township, took part.

The final was the culmination of the 13-day tournament. Red Lions narrowly beat Sammys in a nail-biting penalty shoot-out after a 0-0 draw to take third and fourth places respectively.

Head coach Dave Mpesi, who coaches the Malawian Under-20 side, said after the match: "We are very pleased with the talent of these youngsters, all they need is some inspiration to play. You give these kids shirts and they are inspired."

The tournament was organised and funded by Martin Schaer from Switzerland, who has been working in Malawi for 10 years focusing on this project since June last year.

Commenting on the tournament Schaer said: "We just wanted to bring joy and exchange cultures. So much of the focus on Africa is negative, we wanted to bring happiness. This is a very good moment for me."

All eight teams involved were congratulated for their participation.