



# The North County Gurkhas Rugby Club Newsletter

**Gurkha Gab** All The News That's Fit? Probably Not! **February 2002**

## Time Again for Another Gurkha Gab:

Ray is off in merry ol' England for a few more weeks learning nifty phrases like "Cheerio" and eating bad food. He reports playing a match with Effingham RFC thirds with only 13 (lucky) players at kick-off. They were down to a dirty dozen from just after halftime 'til 20 mins to go, until the 2nds finished their game and 3 guys came in. He said "they better have 15 next Saturday otherwise I'll be in the bar, not on the field."

## This just in from Ray:

I played again for Effingham 3rds on Saturday in a knockout cup game. All sorts of people came out of the woodwork for this one. Even the 2nd team captain was suited up wanting to play. We won 44-0! I scored another try (but missed a conversion from right in front - blamed it on the mud!), And was awarded MVP (had to consume left handed standing naked on a dressing room bench). I went down on Sunday to help coach the U16 kids team - there was about 20 different Effingham kids teams there - haven't seen that in a long time. My kids were more interested in trying to kick penalty kicks and drop goals than train hard, but when they did most of them had good skills.

I met up with Hudda and his girlfriend Wendy on Friday night. He has not been playing since he broke his arm (clothes lining someone in a game!). He has a plate in his arm that has to come out if he wants to play again (because if he breaks it again it'll break at either end of the plate). I'm hoping to meet up with him at Twickenham on Saturday when England plays Ireland. I'm going to go up there and see if I can get a ticket from a scalper, if not I'll meet up with Hudda and his mates in a nearby pub.

I think that people probably need a bit of encouragement after losing at Kern and LA. We need to tell everyone that we knew the last two weeks were going to be hard - away games against tough teams! But we have the numbers and the talent to do well in the rest of our games if we all pull together. We only play the top two of central and north, not the bottom two (which is stupid - and I said so when the schedule was being put together), look what OMBAC 3 did to Eagle Rock, and Old Aztecs vs. Kern (with Old Aztecs home). Injuries to key players can derail a team unless other people step up and earn a place or become leaders. The important thing is to remember that we are playing rugby because it's fun, winning is more fun, but its best winning (or losing) when you know you've done your best and earned it.

Also I regard the Bus as being both a test of club commitment, and when completed, it will be a unique vehicle for great club unity and morale. Guys ought to look at themselves and ask if they belong to a team or a club.

Feel free to publish these words - Grasshopper. (I did, word for word...)

Also put in that I'm sorry I'm not there to help at the moment,

but when I get back next week I'll step up and do whatever is required - even play A games if necessary ('til I drop dead of a heart attack!). (We'll hold you to that!)

## End of Ray's Transmission

## Heard 'Round The Pitch:

In other news of far away places, Lou and Garreth are running an ice cream shop in New York. How the hell do sell ice cream in the middle of Winter in NY? Speaking of NY, one of the "Sex, Lies and Videotape" stars has returned to his home NY. Best of luck.

Never fear, there are plenty of new faces this season to replace those that have left us. Even more Marines have decided to join our ranks. Okay, not quite a battalion, but more than you can shake a bayonet at. Welcome guys. We have also had a few more international players coming around to trainings and games. One who's made an impact already is Danny Whelan. Unfortunately he won't be able to stick around too long if he can't get some construction work, so help him out if you can. And a big hello to the lovely and talented Jean Bergesen, formerly of the Old Aztecs.

There's still others who haven't left but for whatever reason are MIA. Hey Leonard, you paid your dues and then took off!?! Our beloved secretary has been keeping a low profile. Tony, at least get a computer so you can read what people write about you.

Mrs. Big A has been trying to find out who decided put their New Years Eve boinking in the last newsletter! But in all fairness after said event SHE was the one running around giggling about it!! So everyone give Steph a hug!

## Injury Report:

It wouldn't be such a fun game without the injuries. Barry and Marine John both have dislocated shoulders and may not be back for the season. Danny has a banged up knee but should be back for our next home game. Rumor is Baz is turning into a morphine junkie. Where's the methadone clinic?

## Game Results:

**Jan 27:** Tied OMBAC III 13-13.

After being down 0-10 at the half, the Gurkhas staged a gutsy comeback vs. OMBAC III. Tries by Clay Orey and Scott Mitchell brought the home team back to 10-13 with 10 minutes to go.

With one minute left on the clock, the Gurkha backs worked the ball down to the OMBAC 5 meter line for an OMBAC throw to a lineout. A knock-on after a driving maul gave OMBAC a scrum at their 15. The forwards put in a mighty shove and evergreen halfback John Gibb tackled his opposite as he was attempting to kick the ball out to end the game. OMBAC

forwards were penalized for offside on the bad kick with no time on the clock. The coaches decided that OMBAC's defense was too well set for a tap and run and MVP Barry calmly kicked the goal to level the scores. The B game featured an OMBAC side containing a number of older ex national players including the Vizman, Brian Vizard of FSW Championship Rugby fame. Age and experience won out vs. youth and enthusiasm as OMBAC ran out comfortable winners 30-0.

The high schoolers played a match prior the men's club. La Costa came from behind to notch their first win vs. Rancho Bernardo 31-27 in a game of 10-a-side rugby. They even got a nice photo in the local papers.

**Feb 2:** Lost to Kern County 10-24

It was a long disappointing trip to Bakersfield. We were unable to close the deal after being up 10-3 at the half. The final scores doesn't reflect the questionable reffing experienced by both sides. The opposing team's coach was almost sent off after storming on to the field yelling at the ref. The B team faired better and won their first match of the season 25-17.

As a side note, the batmobile's seating capacity is limited to say the least. Between Bad Andy and English Scott trying to make the drive home strewn across people's laps in a vehicle packed like a smuggler's, the ride home must have been interesting for Batman.

**Feb 9:** LA Rugby Club 45-10 loss

A Solid drubbing was had in Bronco's town on Saturday 45-10 which just means we need to train like we want to win not just survive the game. The scrum downs were very solid as reported by LA's pack. All in all we played hard but there were just too many out of position players to mount a come back from 19-0 half time score.

The remainder of our matches are all at home or local. No excuse not to show up. Bring your family and friends to support us through the end of the season.


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## Future Events:

Those of you who've been with the club for a number of years may have drunken recollections of a talent show featuring your fellow members (not your fellow's members). Well, the idea has raised it's ugly head and we're looking to put together a show.

We're looking way ahead into early September to stage our 3rd annual golf tournament. Any ideas for prize drawings and committees are welcome.

We are looking into a fundraising Casino night in March if you would like to help let one of us know.

Don't forget the next Gurkhas Tour to New Zealand slated during the World Cup in 2003 with trips to Cup matches in New Zealand and in Australia! Let Joe know if your interested.

## Note from the treasurer: (Pay Now!)

Pay your dues, dammit!!! PAYNOW!! He's just finished a nifty database (which would only impress him) to track you so there's no point in hiding.

## Note from The Boss on 2625 Canyon Rd:

Get some work done on the Bus!

## Rugby Email:

If you need or want a GurkhaRugby.com email we have them for sale for \$20.00 a year. Also sign-up to be on the rugby email group so you won't miss any news or info. Go to www.gurkharugby.com and click on the contact link and select the subscribe link and follow the directions.