



The North County Gurkhas Rugby Club Newsletter

Gurkha Gab

All The News That's Fit? Probably Not!

April 2002

Club Happenings:

Well it has been a long hard season with a lot of injuries and a lot of disappointments, but we did finish the regular season on a high note. We beat the Old Aztecs 10 -7 on Saturday. This win was important for our seedings in the playoffs. We will be playing Eagle Rock at home on April 13th. The field has not been finalized yet but we will let you know ASAP, so let's get all the support out there we can. The following game will be against Oxy on either April 20th or 27th.

For those of you who follow our win/loss fortunes on the web site, it hasn't been updated since January. The web dudes didn't want to advertise a string of losses but we ended up 2-7-1. In our own conference we did OK, a Win & Loss vs. Old Aztecs and S.O.C., and Draw and Loss vs. OMBAC III. Our other losses were to Kern (should have won), L.A., Las Vegas and Grunions.

We experienced 8 season ending injuries (6 of them to A side players), an inability to cross the try line after putting in all the work to get there, and a drop off in aggression on the field. Our last two games (OMBAC III, Old Aztecs) were much improved, and as we go into the playoffs we hope to have 3 or 4 of those injured players back. Our last game had a distinctly Old Boys look about it, with Carl Grant, John Gibb, Ray Steel, and Tony Lazare (Black Adder) playing all 80 minutes. None of whom played at all in our first league game against the Old Aztecs at home. Way to rally to the flag (Turban? Kukri?) guys!

After an orgy of politics, the SCRFU Executive Committee decided to have playoffs to determine 4 teams (from 12) to be relegated to 3rd division. With our win on Saturday we finished ahead of the Old Aztecs, S.L.O and Eagle Rock. If we'd lost we'd have faced an away game at S.L.O, but now we have a home game vs. Eagle Rock (0-10). If we win we travel to Oxy Old Boys (we think), rather than to Kern County.

Other league results were, LA (9-1), Las Vegas (9-1), OMBAC III (8-1-1), San Fernando (7-3) made the top 4 playoffs (SOC missed out, in spite of being 8-2). The criteria being the winner of each conference plus the team with the best record.

Other political issues involved player eligibility with OMBAC III. After being told all season that once OMBAC players played in an upper division game they weren't eligible for 2nd division,

we protested their roster for our last game with them. The E.C. then made a non-decision by falling back on USARFU regulations. Which means that OMBAC can pretty much do what they want!

More politics involved Jean Bergesen, a woman who has played with the Old Aztecs B side for a number of years. She's always played without expecting favors from the guys so no one has had a problem with playing with or against her. Until this year when a few of the Old Aztecs decided they had a problem (a scrumhalf said 'she can't protect me' - faggot!). They decided to use some new USARFU directive to kick her off the team, but the SCRFU has no problem with her playing B-side. So she's now playing with us and has become a valuable member of the Gurkhas.

How ironic that she received the 'Man of the Match' award for her efforts last weekend vs. the Old Aztecs B side! There was also a bit of a ruckus at the after-match when Alvino started to auction her (unused) Old Aztecs jacket. The bidding got to \$5 (in 25 cent increments) before the jacket was grabbed by an Old Aztec, who believed the jacket should stay 'in the family'. Cass got in his face about it (Go Cass!), but blows were avoided. The consensus was that most of us would have done the same thing (grabbed the jacket). Point made I think.

This will be read by some Old Aztecs, and we'd like to say; lighten up guys. We have a long history of friendly rivalry. You should run your club the way you see fit, but we believe in being inclusive not exclusive. After all, we found a place for Jeff McCoy!

We wish you all the best for the playoffs and hope we will both be in the same (2nd) division next year so that our rivalry can continue. In the mean time a bunch of us, Old Aztecs & Gurkhas (& Jean) will be playing together at the Catalina Old Boys Tournament. Look forward to it!

Golf Tournament:

The Golf Tournament will be held September the 22nd. It will be at Hidden Meadows the same place as last year's. We would like to sell this one out (that would be 36 foursomes). So start talking it up to all your friends, family and co-workers. There will be a discount for all advance sales.

World Cup Tour:

World Cup Tour, October 2003. It looks like we will be going to Australia instead of New Zealand. All the games will be played in Australia. At this time New Zealand will not be co-hosting the tournament. We will spend about 10 days there. The details will have to be worked out, but we could see a semi final one weekend play a couple of games then see the final the next weekend. Most of the time will probably be spent around Jeff McCoy's old hometown of Sydney. This should not change the price that much; it will be around \$2000. There could be options available for those who want to go on to New Zealand afterwards, and if there is enough interest maybe we can organize a game there.

We have about 18 months before we go, so we need to get started. Contact Claire (claire@gurkharugby.com) or Clay (clay@ncrc-inc.com) NOW, if you have any interest in the tour and what your preferences would be, and also if you would like to help organize the tour.

Gurkhas Banquet:

The end of year banquet is scheduled for May 25th at Joe's house. The 25th is Memorial Day weekend if some of you have plans for that weekend let us know, maybe we can change the date. We would like everyone to be there.

This is where we vote for our Club Officers and also have the awards for Best Forward, Best Back, Most Improved and Rookie

of the Year. This is not just for players; it is for everyone who supports the Gurkhas. So invite your family and all those who have been coming out to support us this year.

There will be some added entertainment, this year we will be putting on a talent contest. The team will be broken up into groups; Front Row, Locks & 8men, Flankers & ScrumHalves, etc. Each group will have to do some kind of skit or song or dance or something to entertain the crowd. There will be prizes.

Casino Night:

We intend to have a Casino night sometime soon. To start with though Clay Orey is going to organize a Poker Tournament. Something like a \$50 buy-in, some undetermined percentage going to the club. Let us know your interest level. It'll probably be in June or July

Heard 'Round the Pitch:

Scott Mitchell is back in England for a few weeks; he'll be back for the banquet.

Anthony & Felicity are getting married December 21st in New Zealand. Congratulations.

We don't tell who is responsible for the newsletter each month, but we can tell you that Black Adder was NOT responsible for the March newsletter. Thanks Tony!

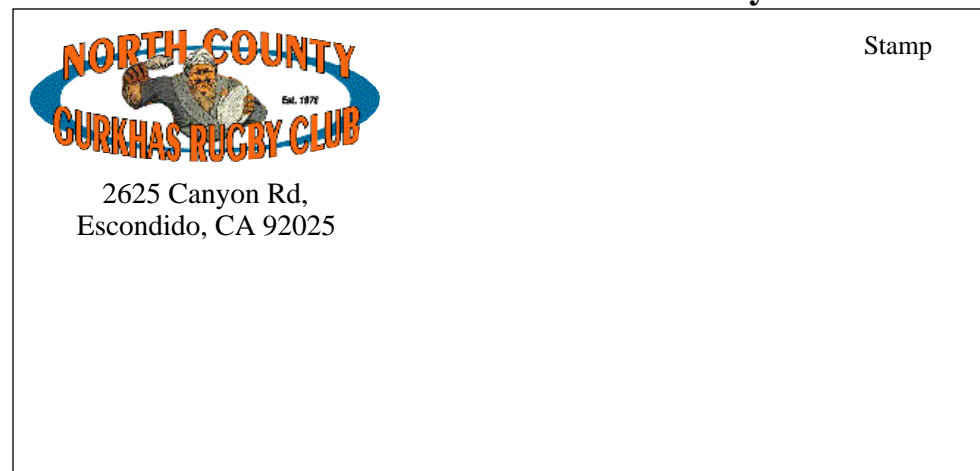
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