



# The North County Gurkhas Rugby Club Newsletter

**Gurkha Gab**

**All The News That's Fit? Probably Not!**

**June 2002**

## Season Wrap-Up

The season which has just past has produced some of the most important must-win games in the history of the North County Gurkhas Rugby Club. Much of the club's future and status was on the line and everyone pulled together to win the last 3 matches which ended up being the reason why we stayed in second division. With 4 clubs being relegated to 3rd division the competition was intense in order to avoid relegation.

Our first game was against our local rivals, the Old Aztecs. The game itself produced some great defense from both teams and it could have gone either way. The Gurkhas showed a lot of heart (ticker) to hold on and beat the Old Aztecs, 10-7. A lot of the younger fellas stepped up and showed their class as did some of the older fellas. A noted highlight was Rays bulldog like defense on the Old Aztecs Australian Import, who tormented us in the first round match. Poor fella, he just had no answer to the old Geezer's (Ray's) offside defensive strategy.

Our next match was against Eagle Rock. The boys from E.R.F.C traveled from the smog-shrouded fields of Pasadena to the sunny shores of Encinitas. The outcome was a convincing win to the Gurkhas who were too good on the day. The only low point was the injury to scrum-half John Gibb who suffered a bruised larynx. Another low (and high) point was the Eagle Rock player who ended up at the same hospital with a neck injury after being a crash-test dummy trying to stop Vino's try. The team showed patience to eventually run out 35-7 winners. Tries were scored by John Gibb, Clay Orey, Vino Martinez and Pops. Danny Whelan produced some strong runs and solid work by the forwards was evident throughout the game.

The game which showed what Gurkhas are all about was against Kern County. The first time we played Kern in the early season was heartbreaking. After leading most of the match, Kern came out in the last 10 minutes to score 3 tries which eventually gave them the win.

Not this time. Not only was vengeance on the mind but so was possible relegation. If we lose we go down, we win we stay in second division. The team all got together not only physically but also mentally. The team had their minds on the game all morning. Everyone got together and traveled up to Bakersfield in a chartered bus which contributed greatly to our win. The mood on the bus was relaxed but focused. You could see the anticipation on everyone's face. As we neared Bakersfield you could definitely feel the energy level rising. For many of us this game was personal. We all were playing for the club and each other. With John Gibb out due to injury the team was reshuffled. Scotty Wilkes was back from a knee injury, Blaise Jackson finally got out of the pub and decided to lace the boots, Barry Zeait was not only contemplating the best way to avenge the dislocated shoulder he had suffered in Kern during the first round but how to play the position of scrum-half. I think he is still figuring that out.

Should you want to read it, the match report is on our website, but overall, captain and fly-half Scott Talbot showed great leadership skills and played an outstanding match to lead the team to victory. Tries were scored by Scott Talbot, Clay Orey, Barry Zeait and Danny Whelan.

The second side produced a great win to make it a successful day for the team and the club. Outstanding performances by Tim (young geezer) Morris and Mike Armstrong led the seconds to victory.

The Kern County team was gallant in defeat and hosted us at a nearby park after which we refilled the coolers and headed home. The usual 3 hours from Bakersfield to North County took five hours. The mood on the bus was of pure joy and absolute relief that the job was done. Joe and Talbot showed that they are not only the leaders on the field but also in the partying. Great job boys, lead by example.

## Gurkhas Banquet

A special mention goes out to Joe and Pam for hosting the annual Gurkhas Banquet. It was a time to celebrate our achievements and get totally wasted. Also thank you to Tony 'Blackadder' Lazare who helped prepare for the event and of course a special thanks to Ray, Joe, Pam, Vino and Miguel for preparing the feast.

The day brought together a lot of the old boys, season veterans, rookies and some younger lads to enjoy a medieval banquet, combined with 3 kegs, Margaritas, Bloody Mary's and anything else Spill could possibly make with the alcohol available, the night was sure to be a blast.

The highlight of the day was the skits each group of players had to put on. With the official announcement to start made by Studog (the annoying guy with long blond hair who no one knew), it was bound to be a performance that no one will forget.

The eventual winners was Clay's group which consisted of Mike Armstrong, Bad Andy, Karl Grant, John Gibb and any other pansy that were available. The reason why synchronized swimming is not one of the more popular Olympic events is because the United States has never sent their best team to the games. Yep, you guessed it. They are right here in the North County. If you thought that this sport gets a little boring then the boys' performance was a must see. Bad Andy even knew what he was doing, unbelievable. The choreography, style, grace and elegance and continuity of their performance was definitely something the boys should carry with them on the rugby field. I tell you, if they all played rugby like they swam then Super League would be the only place for the Gurkhas.

Another highlight was the award ceremony. The players all voted for the most consistent and outstanding performances in 4 different categories.

The winners were as follows:

Most Valuable Back: **Benny Willis**

Most Valuable Forward: **Clay Orey**  
(can't wait till this man gets back on the field)

Rookie of the Year: **Danny Whelan**  
(I don't know if you call a 35 year veteran a rookie . . . great season you ol' Geezer)

Most Improved: **Mike Armstrong**  
(his new nickname is Woodchuck).

**Congratulations to ALL the winners for season 2002.**

The later festivities were made notable by the (attempted) thong inspection performed by a drunken Irish sod on an unnamed female rugby player. Hmmm... Who could it be?

## For Gurkha Discussion

As we prepare for another action packed season we have to ask ourselves how do we get all the things accomplished we need to get done. It's not easy and typically it's always the same people that do the work, so to help in this area we are discussing the raising of dues to \$200 or so per season. This raise in dues can be offset by performing "Rugby Service Hours". And if you're low on funds for the season you could pay less money for more work. Nothing's stopping us from becoming a power house in rugby like OMBAC except ourselves. Any suggestions are welcome.

## Get Well

For those unaware Clay Orey hurt his neck pretty bad but is ok now. The club would like to send it's regards for a speedy recovery.

## Heard 'Round The Pitch

The Gurkhas Bus is now on the road. It made its maiden trip to Temecula where it broke down 'til Blaise rescued us (wire melted on exhaust), Cruised Grand Ave. on Friday night with other vintage cars, and was present at the Banquet (after some problems with the water pump). The roof rack was welded back together by Blaise, and Vino is going to finish the welding on Sunday. We need some people over at Ray's on Saturday and Sunday to do some sanding and painting and we'll have it ready for the OASIS tournament. A few guys each day will do it!

An excerpt from a Bad Andy's Email from New Zealand



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"It's freakin' awesome here, the people are great and all of the other stuff. I'll tell you about it when I get back. I'm in Christchurch, were the Crusaders play. Going to check out their stadium tomorrow, then to Dunedin, your town where Otaga is. Then Queenstown and up the west coast, and back to the North Island.

Played some rugby with a team in Nelson, freaking great bunch of guys, reminded me of the boys back in North County. I'm a lifetime member of the Waimia Rugby Club. Will stop by there again on my way back north to play some more. Weather is only cold at night, nice during the day." Safe travels, mate.

Several Gurkhas teamed with Old Aztecs and OMBAC players on May 29th to play an impromptu match against a touring team from England. The Old Albanian RFC put on a strong showing with 31 players in their group. It was nice to see solid rugby fundamentals displayed by the experienced Brits. They scored a try early on but it was quickly answered. The hodge-podge of American players struggled with the initial unfamiliarity but really pulled together to secure the win, 31-10.

## Training & Summer Schedule

Practice: Tues & Thurs at 6 pm Rancho Bernardo Park, I-15 Pomerado Rd. Plus Beach Rugby on Thurs 6 pm in Carlsbad La Costa Ave. and Highway 101

### June

- 15 Pasadena 7's, LA Area
- 22 Las Vegas Midnight 7s
- 29 Oasis 7s, Dusty Rhodes, SD

### July

- 13 Belmont Shore 7s, Long Beach
- 20 Eagle Rock 7's, LA Area

### August

- 17 Firestone 7s Santa Barbara
- 31 Tri-Tip 7s San Luis Obispo

### September

- 22 Gurkhas Golf Tournament
- ?? Country of Cameroon, Africa

### October

- 26 Gurkhas 10's Tournament

Ask Dan for wallet schedule cards and/or hand them out as recruitment aids.

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