



The North County Gurkhas Rugby Club Newsletter

GURKHA GAB

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT? Probably Not!

AUGUST 2003

It's been a few months since the last Gurkha Gab. It may be because our illustrious executive committee is taking a break from all things Rugby during the summer. But that can't be right, who'd be doing all the stuff that I'm about to tell you about? Could it be that they're all too busy plotting our assault on next season? Must be!

BANQUET

The Gurkha Banquet seems a distant memory now (things were a bit hazy the day after as well), but I think we all had a great time. It was held at the Sons of Norway Hall (home of the infamous Fish Club) with entertainment from Fula Bula and the bar staffed by gorgeous Fish Club Valkeries. The food was Mongolian style stir-fry and it appeared that no one went hungry this year!

The committee was reelected in its entirety, which means once again President Joe presides over our unholy gatherings, supported by Vice-Master Dan, blonde bombshell Secretary Batgirl, and show me the money Big Al. Also elected was Spaniard Partner Whitney as social chairwoman. She is now responsible for making sure we have ample numbers of persons of the female persuasion (for single members only) at our events!

Awarded priceless crystal consumption vessels for their achievements over the season were:

Ian Leibenburg - Most Valuable Newcomer
Matt Gardner - Most Valuable Forward
Ben Willis - Most Valuable Back
Clint Nelson - Most Improved Player
Lev Elson - Leather Balls Award

Pops and Batgirl and the Troll (cunningly disguised as Yoda) re-performed their famous Star Wars skit (whereby coach Greg is persuaded not to go over to the dark side i.e. OMBAC). Turtle acted as Ring Girl by parading a sign that stated "OMBAC 5, Visitors 30".

The newly painted Bus was also prominently displayed outside the Hall for all to see. Many Thanks to President Joe for organizing this venue and to his neighbor Robert (Odin) for letting us use it.

World Cup Tour

The tour has now been officially cancelled. Too many people paid their deposit then found reasons to back out. There is still a hard core of about a dozen that still say they are going anyway, but we'll see if that's just bar talk!

SUMMER SEVENS

This summer we've tried to accommodate those Inland vs. Coast, and beach touch vs. serious 7's by having a touch training at Cannon Park in Carlsbad on Monday, R.B. on Tuesday, Carlsbad beach on Thursday. These all seemed to be well attended.

Near the start of summer, our missing marine, Cass, came back from Iraq. He arrived back in S.D. in the morning after a marathon flight, and showed up at training that afternoon. Semper Fi!

We had a lot of people at Las Vegas in June for the midnight 7's, but we only had one team entered. This meant we ended up being the bulk on Eagle Rock's team, plus a part of SDSU's team. The Gurkhas team played well enough to make the semis, but then decided they'd rather hit the Casino's. Some claimed they never knew we made the semis. I think they doth protest too much!

Our eagle Rock squad played SDSU in a challenge match at the end of the tournament; with the losers promising to Zulu (run naked) if they lost. SDSU were duly dispatched (with the help of Pops as the Referee), but the sissy college boys backed out of the Zulu! Balance was restored to the force when 3 current and ex Gurkhas took up the obligation.

At the OASIS tournament the Gurkha Ateam made the semis of the open division and lost to the Evil Empire. The B-side won some and lost some, but everyone played, including Jean and a rare appearance by Coach Greg.

The Sun-Splash tournament was more impressive. The Gurkhas tied for first in their pool and missed the Semis on total points scored. Considering we were up about 40-0 at halftime vs. Pasadena, replaced 6 players at halftime and drew 14-14 in the second half, we could easily have made the semis (vs. Oxy - 2nd best team in So Cal this summer, then vs. Riverside - probably top 4 in the country). The Evil Empire was again up to their usual tricks, by trying to recruit Marine #2 (J'son) with promises of a National 7's Championship with them (they'll be lucky to win a game in my opinion). So we're going to take matters into our own hands by dispatching him overseas for 6 months in search of that missing vowel.

Eagle Rock Tournament was a big comedown. We drove the Bus up with the HS team aboard, but with most of our A team not available. We played in the open division and only managed to score a try or two in the last game. Due mainly

to that - we weren't able to record any W's, only L's. The high school team scored more often than the Gurkhas, but also had trouble getting W's

The Bus once again had no intention of driving past the Swallows Inn on the way home, no matter that it was full of Kids getting up to no good. So after a certain scrumhalf charmed all the Old Divorcees in the Bar and then proceeded to pass out on the floor, we retired back to the Bus.

Meanwhile the kids (and Batdude) were playing tackle rugby beside an outdoor Shakespeare performance. Apparently it was more entertaining than the "wherefore art thou" due to the number of spectators turning around to watch. They were only told by security a couple of times to leave before we actually left!

Advance scouts report yet another first (that we know of) after stumbling back to the Bus. Reports are that relations between RB and TP High Schools are becoming warmer after coming upon new Bud's with their hands full. Those lips aren't made (just) for kissing!

Last 7's tournament of the summer is at SLO on August 23.

High School Rugby

Last Friday a combined Rancho Bernardo & Torrey Pines team played Claire's Court High School from England. As expected they were too good for our kids, most of whom have only played a year and are certainly not fit. The score was a 'whole lot' to 'not much' (0), but they had a good patch for 10 minutes in the second half where they got pissed off with all those sissy backs running around them and started smashing into them with "pick & go's". Unfortunately they missed a try when the ball was knocked on while reaching over the line.

Fund Raising

We have a number of things going on right now that will make or break our club funds for the season. The first is our annual beer raffle. Ian has the tickets and has been giving them out to everyone. If you don't have yours yet, come and get them, they're easy to sell. We'll have a pub-crawl to help you sell them sometime soon (social chair??), they'll be drawn at our 10's tournament on Oct 25.

Next is Entertainment Books. Each member is expected to sell two books. We make \$8 off each one and in past years we've made a profit of about \$500. We've ordered 60 books to start with.

Golf

The 4th Annual Golf Tournament will be played on Sept 21, 2003, check-in at noon. This year it will be at Twin Oaks

**The 49'er Bar
and Grill
San Marcos**

Golf Club in San Marcos. There will be a golf meeting every Thursday Night at Nieman's in Carlsbad after training. Please attend if you wish to help out. We NEED MORE golfers this year. Last year we only had 17 foursomes. We need to get many, many more than this, do start hitting up your co-workers, bosses and relatives

COMMUNITY EVENT

We have committed to the City of San Marcos that we will help with security at the San Marcos Summer Festival beer garden on August 24. Each member is expected to participate in two events per year and in return get \$50 off dues. We do this to keep (get) a good profile in the community, so that we can reasonably expect to ask for training fields and lights etc. Some of us will be at the SLO 7's tournament that weekend, but there should be enough left to fill the dozen spots we've promised. Contact Pops (ray.steel@gurkharugby.com) to make sure you get to participate in this event which entails hanging out, scoping out the opposite sex (or same sex - in Bandy & Clay's case), and listening to the bands for a few hours.

Flagstaff 10's

Cass is organizing a trip to Flagstaff AZ for there annual 10's tournament on Sept 27th. This is a damn good tournament and we have already 8-9 wanting to go. We're checking into flights from Palomar Airport directly into Flagstaff. If this proves too expensive we will rent a van. If you wish to go let Cass know.

Wanda Andrews Fund Raiser

The club raised almost \$500 for (ex Gurkette) Wanda Andrews, who had been suffering from a life threatening illness.

Get well soon Wanda!

Poker Run through DTC

(Down Town Carlsbad) followed by a BBQ at a park. We know it'll be a fun time, we just need to make sure enough of you will be available and want to get a few volunteers to man the card stops. The date will be Sat Aug 16 in the afternoon (4 to 8-ish).

Some brief info for those not familiar with the poker run concept: This is a social event, not a fitness competition. As participants make their way through DTC, at various points they will pick up playing cards in sealed envelopes. The envelopes will be opened at the finish line, and the best hands will win highly desirable prizes. As you can see, the triathletes among us will have no advantage over the rest of us in the run portion (and Brian Barr will not have any better chance than anyone else in the poker portion).

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