



The North County Gurkhas Rugby Club Newsletter

GURKHA GAB

All The News That's Fit? Probably Not!

OCTOBER 2003

SLO 7's TOURNEY

On Aug 22 the Gurkhas departed on the 5-hour plus drive north to San Luis Obispo for the annual Tri-Tip 7's tourney. Some members had already arrived before the majority of the team, having grand plans to sit in the local Cantina Bar drinking 50-cent pints of nasty watered down beer. Unfortunately their dreams didn't eventuate as the early arrivers in particular our marine boys got an ear full of lip from some Army veterans who lectured them on how things were done in the 'good ole days'. Also, the infamous cantina from last year was under new ownership, and the resulting squeaky-clean family style establishment bore little resemblance to last year's wonderfully drab dive bar packed with unsavory characters. When the team did unite it was well after midnight and everyone was sober so Robbie and Benny made the decision that everyone should call it a night... No one dared complaining against those two!!!!

The next morning Batman had everyone up at 5:45am doing a couple of sprints alongside Highway 101. Oh, there is nothing better than near death experience before a tourney. We arrived at Biddle Park, home of SLO 7's, by 8am. It could have been earlier if we didn't get lost a few thousand times, and to our surprise the only team there was US (or was it really surprising?).

The Gurkhas were in a pool that included a couple of college teams and a couple of our arch rivals from division 2 in particular the Evil Empire (SARS aka OMBAC). With 15 players ready to play, it was difficult to get everyone playing an equal amount of time. So the plan was simple; older guys play earlier in the day, young guys play the afternoon games. The only exception was Vino, though he might look a little older than the young fellas, he was running like a spring chicken all day. I could have sworn he was 18 years old when Vinny was tiptoeing down the sideline to score a 90-yard try (50 in support and 40 with the ball).

Our first game against Cal Poly II was a shaky start, leading by only 12-5 at the half and ending up 24-10. But we were just getting warmed up.

Next was Cal Fullerton, and the floodgates were open. The lead at the half was very comfortable and wholesale subbing ensued. Bald Marine #1 managed to display some of his old form and notched a try or two (although he did get caught from behind at one point). Robbie ran the ball like the tank he is. Turk danced and weaved and dished off brilliant passes. End score: Gurkhas a lot, Fullerton very little.

Having scored more points than any of the other 2-0 teams, the boys were the top seed in the Cup bracket, followed by Godzilla, SARS, and Fresno. SARS had looked impressive in their victories, and proceeded to handily dispatch the bravest Japanese in LA.

Credit to Godzilla though: No matter how hard they were tackled they always bounced right back up. And one of 'em put a hit on a SARS player that he won't soon forget. In the other quarterfinal match we took on Fresno, who won the tournament the last few years.

This game produced some of the best rugby we have played and some of the worst. All our players were on fire in the first half, but we fell asleep in the second and let Fresno back in the game. Though only a one point victory (final score 20-19) a win is a win. Or was it?

Shortly after we retired to our tent to rest for the next match, a taunt issued forth from the Fresno camp on the other sideline: "HA HA! YOU GUYS LOST!! NEENER NEENER NEENER!!" Further investigation revealed that we had indeed been victorious. The confusion was a result of the ref's inability to correctly add up Fresno's three tries and two conversions. He thought it was 21, though he realized his mistake when Joe corrected him.

The game that decided who would advance into the final was against SARS, a mixed group of players from OMBAC. They were much bigger than us but something just clicked, and from the word go, we were unstoppable. Benny produced 3 tries, English scored 2, Mike Gallop scored, as did Batman and Bazza. The Gurkhas produced some outstanding defense, which was only surpassed by outstanding offense and an immaculate kicking game by Gallop: virtually every kick was up high and 10.5 meters deep. And because we scored so much there were quite a few kicks.

The bright side was that we were undefeated (4-0), but we had to play Riverside for the hardware. Riverside are the current division 2 XV's national champions and Open VII's national champions. It was true the Gurkhas were underdogs and were expected to lose a team of national and international 7's players. The final was played, and yes the final was a loss, but coming in second place replaced any sorrows we might have had about that game. Overall, 23 teams competed and the Gurkhas come 2nd only to lose the best team in the nation.

This is the first time the Gurkhas have been in an open division final, but the trophy was only for 1st - not 2nd. So we did almost everything needed to earn hardware this summer - just picked the wrong tournament to do it in!

SLO's After Match Celebration:

Some highlights:

- * All male pool party at the hotel featuring Batman's new manhood hugging swimming trunks. The guys really appreciated that.
- * English thinking he was 8 feet tall and ready to take on anyone who stood in his way, including a car of gangsters who happened to be cruising downtown SLO.
- * Bazza picking up a homeless man and deciding to spend a few hours drinking with him (in the pub not the gutter).
- * Vino producing his Robert De Niro I.D card. Bouncer was not too impressed but everyone else thought it was hilarious.
- * Bazza about to be thrown in jail for no apparent reason. Oh yeah, actually English and Bazza almost went through a panel of glass and happened to fall right in front of a cop car. The real reason...TERRORISTALERT, ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT, Bazza was questioned and interrogated for an hour. Thanks to Pam and Joe's lawyer, he managed to get

out of that one. Thanks guys, the world owes you one (ed: but the Gurkhas are still undecided).

BAZ GETS PISSED AND PUTS SHIT ON NEWZEALANDERS.

Carlsbad, Saturday, 11pm: Patrons at the G spot were stunned on Saturday night after the Wobblers lost the Bedisloe Cup, overhearing Bazza putting shite on a group of New Zealand backpackers. "Ya shtupid fuskin ssheep-rooters" commented Baz after one of the tourists spilt his 12th pint. "None of youse can plaay cricket for sssssshit. And youse shtink at league footy, too, don't yasss. eh? eh? eh? yess yas do... eh? Shtupid New Fucksing Zealandernesses. Why don't youse all sscare me with a haka dance? hey? kiwi poofs." Following the incident, the backpackers considered kicking the shit out of bazza, but decided not to after realising that Australia is crap at everything so Baz is probably full of it.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 21 - GOLF TOURNAMENT:

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

Sep 26-28 - FLAGSTAFF 7's

Anyone interested in going to Flagstaff 10's (for the geographically challenged: that's in Arizona) on Sept 26-28 must let Cass or Benny know ASAP. Eleven players are confirmed participants but to reduce costs more players are invited. Ultimately 15 players would be ideal, so if you want one more fun run before the summer ends then sign up, head to sunny Arizona and enjoy a great weekend of rugby.

Sep 26-28 - GURKHA GARAGE SALE FUND RAISER

We make quite a bit of money on this sale, as much as \$1000. That's a lot of entry fees and beer for the after the game party!

Our last one this year (ever?) is Sat Sept 27th. Here's a chance to clean out your garage, your parents garage etc. Please bring all items for sale to Ray and Claire's house before that date. If we're not home they can be left on the breezeway between the house and the garage.

Claire is also looking for help conducting the sale. Please let her know if you can help for part or all of the day. We start about 7:00am, take down the signs about 1:00pm and then pack up the remainder to take to the thrift shop.

OCT 4 - ENCINITAS 5k

Encinitas 5K run is on October 4th. Players are obligated to put in time for community events so if you have the time then volunteer for a few hours from 6am-9am and grab loads of free stuff. If you want some pre season fitness why not run it yourself. Let Batman know ASAP.

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

OCT 4 - Official PRE-SEASON TEAM MEETING

Pre-season will officially start in the next few weeks and to hear our plans for the season a mandatory meeting will take place at the 49'er on Oct 4th. It will be scheduled in the late afternoon. Coaches, Executive members, and Players will all have a chance to discuss what some of the goals are this season, and how we can win the Division 2 championship.

Following our meeting, the Gurkha bus will be piloted around North County pubs on a pub-crawl. So ladies and gentlemen grab your beers and your raffle books and party hard!!!

OCT 11 - POKER RUN

If you missed out on the great time had by all at the Poker Run last month, you're in luck: A second one will be held the afternoon of Saturday, October 11.

Similar to, yet different from the first. We'll still be following a flour trail, but this one will be on trails as well as roads in South Carlsbad near the Aviara Golf Course. The post-event awards BBQ will be at nearby Poinsettia Park. Keep OCTOBER 11 free on your calendar, and do a couple short jogs between now and then. Just as before we'll need a couple dealers, so if you don't care to run, you can still participate. Please let G-Money (Greg Turk) know if you'll be running or dealing (gturk@flash.net).

OCT 18 - TEMECULA WINE TASTING

Room on the Gurkha bus is on an RSVP basis. Contact Whitney "Snake" Wright (whitney_1971@hotmail.com) to reserve a spot (or ask her how tall Mt. Whitney is).

OCT 25 - 16th ANNUAL GURKHA 10's TOURNAMENT

The next big event following the golf tournament is our very own rugby tournament, Saturday Oct 25. There will be much need for folks helping out (setting up fields, working the snack bar and BBQ, post-tourney food, working the score table, etc), so if you plan to play also plan to have your name on one of the work details. Attendee list at this point includes the Old Aztecs, OC Bucks, Eagle Rock, Godzilla, Secret 7's (10's?), Camp Pendleton, with more to come for sure.

NOV 1st - PHOENIX RUGBY CLUB PRESEASON GAME

We will be playing the Phoenix Rugby Club with the Old Aztecs somewhere in North County

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK SALES

Each member needs to sell two (2).

Vino has the books so if you haven't got yours from him give him a call. Cell 760-908-3378 or home 760-729-7825. We only have until mid December to complete the sales!

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