



The North County Gurkhas Rugby Club Newsletter

Gurkha Gab

All The News That's Fit? Probably Not!

May 2004

Greetings, time again for the Gurkha Grunt. This edition is long overdue, and thanks to a renewed interest in reporting the happenings around the club, we actually hope to be able to put this rag out at regular intervals.

SEASON RECAP

The Gurkha season ended on March 27th with a loss to the Old Aztecs, this was a sour note to end the season on, but at the end of the day the Gurkhas can say that they made a drastic improvement from beginning of the season to end. The season started on a good note, but with a 5 game losing skid, the Gurkhas knew they could only get better. Here is a recap of the season.

JAN 10 vs S.O.C.

Played uninspired - but won on a charged down kick which was grounded in the try zone by Jimmy Parker (?)

JAN 17 vs SANTA BARBARA

Played uninspired and lost

JAN 24 vs OLD AZTECS

Played OK for a half - then lost

JAN 31 AT LOS ANGELES

The mighty Gurkha bus traveled to the Home Depot Center in Carson for our first bout with LA since the playoff loss last year. It was a sunny, windy day, and a beautiful facility, but 30 minutes into it there was no doubt about who would win this day. The Gurkhas were trampled 55-3 in the A game and about the same in the B game. We did put a hurtin on their fajitas and beer supply at the Hermosa Beach Sharky's though.

FEB 7 AT OXY TIGERS

Played much better than the previous week, but lost

FEB 14 IRB 7s

The World Sevens Series event in LA was fun. We saw about 30 matches over the two days, and drank an equal number of beers, some guys even more. Argentina beat NZ in the final, and England and SA showed well. The French and Aussies sucked. Kenya,

Fiji, Tonga and Samoa all had huge followings of fans with painted faces waving national flags. The Americans even got hardware (for 13th place).



FEB 21 vs SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

The Gurkhas are having a tough season. We lost Saturday to SF Valley 23-7 bringing the record to a not-so-stellar 1-5. It was a decent performance by the team, but a deplorable one by the "referee" DeLynn Barclay. The second half started 7-5 Gurkhas, and she never let more than 15 seconds go without whistling play dead, then making something up. She even penalized the Gurkha sideline for making too much noise. Our pack was KILLING them, but we couldn't overcome the ref. Andy gave us all a scare with his roadkill imitation, and we were all quite glad to see him at the B game, since he left in an ambulance. It was a windy, rainy, cold day and it was nice to get indoors at Indigo Joe's for food and brews afterward.

FEB 28 AT OMBAC

Played the best we had so far and won, with our loose forwards having a dominating influence on the game.



MAR 6 AT SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY

The Gurkhas are on a two game winning streak with victories over OMBAC last week and SOC this weekend. It wasn't pretty, but "W"s are better than "L"s any day. It was 7-0 Gurkhas most of the first half, but just before halftime the Gators made a deep kick with the wind. That ball seemed to have eyes and was determined to stay out of the hands of anyone wearing blue. They scooped it up on the goal line and put it down for a try with only seconds to go in the half. It stayed 7-7 until about 70 mins., when a Gurkha scrum at about 10M yielded quick ball to the backs. Chris scored under the posts; Final 14-7. SOC sent half their team back out for the B game along with several OC Bucks to get routed 7 or 8 tries to 1. They fed us well, we had a great "spoons" match with Kai and Phil Martinez, a rousing choir practice, and saw more of Sean O'Connell's anatomy than most of us would have liked. Wish you hadn't hoisted that kilt Mattie.

MAR 20 VS OMBAC

This week a victory over OMBAC ran our record to 4-5. The Gurkhas started off quickly, winning most of the scrums regardless of who put the ball in. With lots of quality ball, the Gurkha backline scored three tries in the first half, two by Jonno at wing. Barry made a lovely chip behind the OMBAC line which Jonno kicked ahead, then outraced a single defender to the ball and scored under the posts for a 60M try. The mood was pretty good since the score was 21-3 at the half. The second half was a little uglier, with the ref's whistle and fisticuffs dominating the action. OMBAC put two tries over and looked to be mounting a comeback. The Blue pack was just too much for them, and their backs were also outmatched, so the Gurkhas finished off a 31-17 win. The B-game was more of the same. J'son was back for his first post Iraq rugby and showed his fitness by running roughshod over anyone he came near. He even opened the scoring with a 35M drop goal from inside center (who sent him all those World Cup videos, anyway?). J'son and Bryan Barr got tries in the B game, and the Good Guys won that one too.

MAR 27 AT OLD AZTECS

The season ended for the Gurkhas. A loss to the Old Aztecs put our record at 4-6 for the season; in no-man's land between relegation matches and the playoffs. It was a beautiful sunny day, but windy and the pitch was rock hard. The Gurkhas played uphill the first half, and kept the score close. In the second half, the home team showed us how to use the sun and wind with their kicking game. The only glory for the Gurkhas came in the final minutes when Tom connected with Benny on our own 22. As the Aztecs converged on Benny near the sideline, he chipped ahead and somehow collected his own kick about 40M later while bursting through two defenders to score a brilliant try. The Ass-tecs continued their bootshots tradition for their man of the match awards, and doled out some fine vittles for us as well. We scarfed on well

seasoned tri-tip, chili, and salad at the pitch, until cold and darkness finally dispersed us, only to re-form at Turtle's place for Phil's bachelor party a few hours later.



GURKHA WEDDINGS

Two of our beloved Gurkhas took the ultimate plunge and got married.

Phil Martinez finally tied the knot with Lena. This was a very festive wedding (in Carlsbad) with a mariachi band, for the ceremony, and another good band for the reception following. The wedding started on rugby time with the ceremony starting only after everyone had consumed at least one or two of Clay Orey's margaritas, which weren't that good anyway. The ceremony went off without a hitch, and the food was grand, although there was nearly an emergency situation with the CO2 running out early and no store open to get more, Joe saved the day with a regular tap. The reception was highlighted by the tackling of Johnno (our Kiwi wonderboy) Hutchins into the pool, by an unnamed individual. The wedding and reception were a great time, and will be remembered for a long time to come.

Bronco Farwell was the second of the Gurkhas to tie the knot in the span of about about a month.

Bronco and Amy were married in a traditional church ceremony in Torrance, California, with a reception directly following in Rolling Hills Estates. The ceremony was very nice, and went off without a hitch. The Gurkhas showed up in true fashion, right at the nick of time, and walking as a huge group. It was nice to see that some of the guys can actually clean up pretty good, even the front row. The reception was a gala event with a excellent meal, and beer, wine, liquor aplenty. Dr. Archie, had a great time, evident by at least one photo, and several first hand accounts. As a whole the event was a memorable experience.

Election of new executive committee

The Gurkhas elected a new executive committee last month. Our former President Joe Clark decided he would be stepping down, so that left the head job open as well as some of the other positions being either vacated or those people moving up. Our new

committee is as follows:
President: Dan Beaulieu
Vice Pres: Alan Miles
Treasurer: Ian Liebenberg
Secretary: Alvino Martinez



Goodbye to a couple of our Gurkhas

We said goodbye to one of Gurkhas and will be saying goodbye to another in the near future.

Sean (Wadayadoinsean) O'Connell a former Gurkha player, and present referee was lost to us due to the call of nature in the pacific northwest, and the cost of living being a little better as well. Sean was a SoCal ref for quite a few years, and will be carrying on as a ref in the PacNorWest. Here is an e-mail Sean sent a week or so ago.

"How's everything going down there? Annual banquet time, I see. Please tell everyone in attendance that everything is going well up here for us and we should be in our new house by the middle of August.

Anyone who wishes to come up and see the beauty up here can give us a call and we'd be glad to put them up.

Are you going to Catalina this year? I'm going to go to Maggotfest for the first time and everyone I've talked to says it is legendary. Tami is picking up DeLyn Barclay tomorrow and she'll be riding over to Missoula with me and a couple of guys from the North Idaho team.

I want to invite you up here for next year so you can go. I hope the Golden Oldies is not at the same time.

I had a 2nd side game for Old Puget Sound last week and OMBAC's 2nd side could have beat them but it would have been close. They are a good bunch of guys. After my game, I touched judged for the Super League game and OPSB ended up beating Belmont by a few points which I think is a justified win because OPSB just plain wanted it more. You should see some of the Islanders they have; some of these guys played

professionally in Fiji and one of their locks is 6'10" (islander) and just a freaking huge guy. I wasn't afraid to call a penalty on him from the side though.

The Super League ref watched a bit of my game and gave me some pointers, which helped, and he said I should be a "B" panel. I hope to finally make it there this year. Then, I will be happy in my Rugby career, if you can call it a that.

Anyway, you guys are in my thoughts.

Tell everyone we said hi. Sean"

We will be saying goodbye to one of our coaches, players, and a great servant to the sport of rugby. John Gibb and his wife Justine will be moving to Oregon in the near future and so will no longer be with us. John has been a Gurkha for a number of years and has a rugby career that spans more than two decades, that being said I would venture to say that he could outplay most players half his age.

John Gibb started playing at UCSC for the Banana Slugs in January 1981 when a friend of his told him about this great new sport he had found. John went to two training sessions where they did fitness for 90% of the time and then played in his first game that saturday against Stanford's B side. His coach, Dan Porter, played flyhalf and John played inside center. Dan said to follow him around at his side all game and that was all there was to it. John remembers his first contact, he was coming up against his opposite to make a tackle and just as he got there the opposing player passed along and John turned to watch the ball and the opponent ran into him, there skulls colliding leaving John with a lump on the side of his head that made it hard to chew for the next week.

John played three years at UCSC (he played flag football as a freshman).

In the summer of 1985 he found himself following a Gentleman of Aspen rugby bumper sticker into a gas station to speak with its owner about where they played and spent a summer season in Aspen playing the other ski towns culminating in a win at the finals of Ruggerfest in the snow.

'86/'87 John played with San Diego/Coronado, where he played against Ray, George and Kirk.

In 1988 he moved up to the Bay Area and played with Hastings Old Boys, Dave Peters' old team, where he learned many songs from the originators.

'89/'90 John played with San Francisco RFC, where he started playing scrumhalf.

In 1991, he moved down to San Diego again and

joined the Dark Side and played there for 3.5 seasons.

And in 1995 John regained his senses, moved back into the light and started playing for the Escondido, Escondido/San Marcos, and North County Gurkhas.

He has also played partial seasons and 7's with the Santa Cruz Rebels and Monterey RFC.

John's last game as a Gurkha was on March 27, 2004 in a B side match against the Old Aztecs, he slotted in at halfback, and played brilliantly in narrow loss. Playing alongside Ray (flyhalf, and against Big Kirk, John led from the front and showed us all what rugby is all about. John will always be a Gurkha, and will be sorely missed by all, we wish him the best of luck in whatever comes his way.

Upcoming Events

JUNE 5TH ANNUAL BANQUET

The Banquet this year will be at Ray and Claire's house in Escondido. 2625 Canyon Rd., Escondido, CA 92025, Phone: (760) 747-5141

We will be having Mongolian BBQ cater again as it was a big hit last year. Ray will be doing his MX Challenge course., awards and a few other surprises.

Also don't forget to spread the word about the golf tournament, this is an event we would like to have more outside participation.

JUNE

- 5 Annual Banquet
- 12 Las Vegas Midnight 7s
- 26 Oasis 7s, - Robb Field, SD

JULY

- 10-11 7's in the Sand - Back Bay
- 7 Belmont Shore 7s - Long Beach
- 31 Eagle Rock 7's

AUGUST

- 14 SLO Tri Tip 7s
- 21 Firestone 7s - Santa Barbara

SEPTEMBER

- 19 Gurkhas Golf Tournament - Twin Oaks Golf Club

OCTOBER

- 30 Gurkhas 10's Tournament

THIS IS WHAT A QUARTER TON OF BEER LOOKS LIKE!
Pictured is the guys drooling before delivery. Then here is the winner's brother right after we delivered the beer. This is the first time a winner has not just gotten the cash value.



Parting Shot...

...Jonno is all wet!



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and Grill
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