

Gurkha Gab – July 2005

A Message from the President

Well it's another season over and time to get things building again with the club. This is going to be a big year for us. It's our 30th anniversary and we would like to make it a memorable one. We plan on having a formal banquet and getting as many of the former players as possible to come just like we did for the 25th anniversary. I would also like us to go on another tour, so I am checking prices for places like Argentina, Caribbean or maybe the Pacific Islands.

Other things I would like to get to work on, is having a regular news letter again, improving the golf tournament, having more organized social events, and fund raising. These things take a lot of time and energy so if anyone would like to volunteer to help with any of the above PLEASE let us know.

I took last year off from being president, I needed a break, but know I'm back and ready to get to work. I want to thank Dan for all the work he did last year in running the club.

So let's all work together and make this a year to remember both on and off the field.

Joe

Season Profit & Loss Statement (unofficial)

Now that the Gurkhas are a registered non profit corporation (also big news), we have to keep better records than in the past, and provide profit and loss statements to the state. Sometimes its hard, as often cash comes in (e.g. for dues) and is immediately used to pay an expense. But without accounting down to the last penny we've come up with a statement that starts at the 2004 golf tournament to now.

Income

\$246	Raffle Profits
\$300	Donations
\$3360	Dues
\$320	Entertainment books
\$600	Field Lining at G.O.
\$2095	Golf Tournament
\$490	Gurkha Gear Income
\$1542	Tens Tournament
\$400	Yard Sale

Total \$9353

Expenses

\$598	End of Year Banquet
\$1685	USA, So Cal, Referee dues
\$320	Corporation Expenses
\$1554	Gurkha Gear Expenses
\$1830	After Match Functions
\$100	Trainer/Medical Expenses
\$2012	Training/Home Field Expenses

Total \$8099

Total P/L = \$1254

Plus we have increased assets of Gurkha gear (Polo shirts), and field liner (\$90) and paint (\$150).

Our total turnover is around \$20,000 (e.g. Entertainment book sales were \$1,260 for a profit of \$320), but we could have made a loss if we had not had Green Flash as our beer sponsor. I believe we were given about 12 kegs, and if we'd had to buy that beer we would have easily spent \$1200. So don't complain if you don't like the flavor of the week! Also notice how Club Dues cover only about 1/3 of our expenses. Without the fundraising that we do all year, dues would be about \$450 each!

Season Summary from Coach FA

Results from the 2005 season were not stellar. The Gurkhas finished in fifth place, ahead of SOC (who were relegated to 3rd division) and SLO. Our winter was the 2nd wettest in history, and that caused us to resort to practicing in parking lots as our fields were closed for weeks at a time. I believe this caused us to lose a game or two when we'd dominate play but wouldn't be able to finish. We also had more than our share of bad luck, injuries (e.g. our captain – Mike Gallop – out for the season), and bad refereeing (1st SOC game in particular).

We played a ball control style in the forwards, but tried to get some things going in the backs (more than the last 2 years). It is obvious that the Brumbies style of game that Greg Bartelt taught us requires patience and fitness – some things we lack. I ran a couple of beep (fitness) tests, so the whole club would know our fitness levels. It showed only six players had acceptable levels at the beginning of league games. But by the end of the season we had double that number, and it's one of the reasons we started playing better, and winning.

I felt the backs had been underutilized and tried to bring some of our potential games winners into the game more. Sometimes it worked – and sometimes we'd 'let the ball sing' into the arms of the other team's winger. We need to do some serious local recruiting to build up our depth, and hopefully we can bring a couple of imports to fill in positions where we know we need help.

Some ongoing discipline issues were taken care of early in the season, and we did have a positive attitude at trainings and games (and good numbers throughout). I was told a number of times by LA and Oxy coaches (and heard it from an opposing player on the field) that the Gurkhas never gave up and don't get on each other, and I was proud to hear that, and be part of it this year.

Ray

Announcements of Engagements and Marriages:

Gibson, James Coyne, Brian Barr – engaged.

Barry, Ian, Lev – married in the next month or so

Bachelor parties:

Barry had one in early June. Joe reckons he paid \$60 and only drank 2 beers (sure Joe – what about the lap dances - Ed). Joe noticed Bad Andy kept collecting cash, but never seemed to be fishing \$\$\$ from his own pocket.

Ian's Bachelor party is in Las Vegas July 8-10. Remember (Turtle - Ed) that what goes on in Vegas – stays in Vegas.

Golden Oldies

The world Golden Oldies festival was held in San Diego May 15-21. FA and Claire both helped out on the committee. Claire ended up being in charge of making people do what they said they'd do, and with the running of the tournament on the 3 game days. FA was in charge of setting up the fields each day, and with Kai and Magma's help, managed to raise \$600 profit for the Gurkhas. We also ended up with a field lining cart plus enough paint to line our field for a season.

The Gurkhas entered a team called the 'Gurkhas Old Dudes' or GODS. We were initially in the program as Old DUDS, but however true that may have been in the bedroom, it was not on the

field, where we compiled a 3-0 record. But no scores are kept right? Ask two of the teams who played us, they were pissed off at losing!

Our team consisted of a dozen Gurkhas, half a dozen Rhody Old Cocks – players from Joe's old club in Rhode Island, FA's 76 year old Dad (Alf), and guest appearances by 78 year old club founder Bill Matz, and Rob Albertson (Gurkha from the early 80's). Our jerseys had logos and colors from both clubs, and symbols instead of numbers on the back (e.g. snail, bomb, hourglass, donkey). We made GODS logo pins (we also now have some Gurkha logo pins), and FA ended up trading for sixty pins from other clubs.

In the Sunday parade from the Convention Center to Petco Park we wore Togas and white Beards, and carried lightning bolts. The parade had its problems, late start meant nobody downtown, no beer at the start, freezing at the ballpark (for Toga wearers), overpriced tickets.

Alf wore Purple shorts (untouchable) as did Bill (who replaced his with normal ones – he wanted to hit!), but we think Alf was our top try scorer. He got one on Monday and two on Friday. On Wednesday he got down trou'd (pantsed) twice by the Cook island team instead of being allowed to run to the goal line.

On Monday we pulled some tricks in the game: Incoming – cover head on ground during kickoff, Long Scrum – front row with rest of forwards bound Indian file, Backward Short Lineout – on knees facing away from throw in. These were appreciated by our Australian Monday opponents - but were not appreciated by the Canadian team that wanted to play 'serious' on Friday (but were down a dozen tries to none after one period). On Wednesday we knew the Cook Islanders were going to be tough, so we didn't try any cute stuff apart from a 'we are warriors' song and dance before kickoff, which was of course answered by the Islanders!

The finale dinner was on the flight deck of the Aircraft Carrier Midway. The weather was perfect (it was all week) as was the venue, but it also had some problems: overpriced tickets, average/cold food, not enough speakers placed around for 3000 people to hear the speeches and music. But the GODS were in a great place near the stage – got our food – and had a great time.

FA got pulled over by a cop a mile from his house – but aced the DUI test (what the ??? – who consumed his share of beer!!! - Ed)- he ended up with just a red light violation. It must be the twice a week practice driving home full of Green Flash – practice makes perfect.

FA

Where are they now?

Antonio (Magma) – Left for Australia

Rob Willis – Leaving for Texas

Mark (Juice Man) Munroe – Leaving for Chico State U

Tom Silverberger – At Oregon State U

Jon Linch – Leaving for Wyoming (or somewhere cold)

Dave (wojo) Warczakowski – has been re-sighted and now lives in Poway

Wil SENDERFER – In Texas (returned for G.O.)

Chad – in San Antonio, Texas

(waddayadoin) Sean O'Connell – in Oregon (visiting soon)

John Gibb – in Oregon (returned for G.O.).

Jean Bergesen – in London

Sean Milstead – in London

Kurt Meyer – in Tennessee (returned for G.O. – congrats New Daddy)

Marc Davis – in Rhode island (returning early next year).

Karl Grant – in Colorado

Scott Talbot – Returning to Australia

Mike Duran – fell into fire (crackle crackle)

Cass Barrett – in New Zealand (for 3 months) playing for a club in Murchison

J'son Townes – Recently returned from Iraq

Harry Tarrant – projected to return from Iraq in September
Jonathan "We are Warriors" Heskett – Somewhere in Iraq???

Season MVP Awards

Phil Gardner – Most Valuable Forward (but not most valuable in a boatrace! - Ed)
Scott Mitchell – Most Valuable Back
Mark Munroe – Most Valuable Newcomer
Kai Johnson – Most Improved Player

2005-2006 Gurkha Executive Committee

Joe Clarke – President
Alan Miles – Vice President
Ian Liebenberg – Treasurer
Ray Steel – Secretary

Summer Schedule

June 18	Midnight 7s, Las Vegas
June 25	OASIS 7s, San Diego
July 23	Sunsplash 7s, Belmont Shore
July 30	Eagle Rock 7s
Aug 13	Fresno 7s
Aug 20	Tri-Tip 7s, San Luis Obispo
Sep 10-11	Cascade Classic, Bend Oregon
Sep 18	Gurkha Golf Tournament
Sep 24	Flagstaff 10s

We are hoping to take some guys to the Cascade Classic on August 13 in Bend, Oregon. This tournament is organized by John Gibbs new club.

Vegas 7's report

The first game didn't go so well, for various reasons. It was hot (5:10pm, sun still up, summer in the desert). Some of us were still dealing with the tail end of hangovers. And, not least of all, we found ourselves facing a team of funny talkers that was pretty darn good--the first tip-off being their matching kits, the second being the fact we didn't make it out of our own 22 the whole first half.

Our second match was supposed to be against Camp Pendleton, but they were a no-show so Vegas put together a team of some of the scrubs from their Aces side. We fared a little better (we started to come together as a team and saw some good individual efforts), but still failed to notch a victory.

The third match...oh my gosh, it was fabulous. The opposition was from Azusa-Pacific University, and though they also had sharp-looking matching kits, they didn't stand a chance. This time we finally played an entire game at a level we were capable of, and then some. Spectacular performances were seen by everyone--J.P., Sleeper, Phil and Vino, Turtle, Jethro, English, to name a few. Everyone (including those not named) was simply on fire.

At this point we needed to find out whether we had qualified for the Consolation Bracket. An hour and a half later the head table had finally received enough match results and we were told that our quest for hardware would not be continuing. At least we ended on a high note.

At around 12:30am most of the team left the field and headed back to the Strip for some well earned sleepy time (yeah right – Ed). I stayed at the field intending to watch the Aces and Kings

semis and finals, and get a little tail (It could happen! –Ed). At 1:00am something interesting happened: THE FRICKIN' LIGHTS WENT OUT, right in the middle of one of the Kings semis. And as if that wasn't bad enough, THE SPRINKLERS CAME ON! We've hosted some tournaments that have gone less-than-smoothly, but at least *that's* never happened to us.
Batman

Postscript – The lights never came back on and the rest of the tournament was abandoned! What a farce. Will Vegas ever get their tournaments back to the way they were (free beer, strippers etc)?

OASIS 7's report

We started the day with 8 players for our 9:00am match against the Red Rhinos. They were a no-show so we were awarded the win, or so we thought. They turned up around 9:30 and we agreed to play seeing as they were a bunch of high school kids. After we'd scored a try within the first 30 seconds of the match we were thinking that this was all wrapped up. Six more minutes of embarrassing ball handling and taking the ball to ground without support were followed by the high schoolers running around us in the second half. Score: lots to 5 points for the Kings (Gurkhas 7's). Red Rhinos seeded first in the social playoffs, so we weren't too bent about the loss.

Our next match was another bye so we accepted the win and were left to stocking the coolers with beer and watching matches. In the meantime, the svelte Swede managed to get Icy Hot on his sack and was dancing a jig. Hilarity ensued.

The 1:00pm match was much better and the Kings started to show some form. English danced through and around some pathetic defense to score the notable tries for a well earned win.

The semi-final match against the Del Mar Hoodz found the Hoodz scrambling for players. The Old Aztecs and Gurkhas filled in 6 of the 7 spots. The Kings had some scares and won a close match to make it to the consolation final.

The final match was against an Arizona team. They were one of those with the matching kits and doing serious warm-up drills before the match. The motley bunch of Gurkhas rallied and took the match handily. Sadly, no hardware for the consolation winners except for the aluminum cans that our beer came in.

The highlight of the afterparty was some *runken bastard who run out onto the field to do a strip tease for the crowd who fell over taking off his socks. He was eventually escorted away by some "friends."

Spotted Ryan Gallop, J'son and Houston playing for OMBAC who were taking themselves far too seriously. The boys snuck over to the King's camp for hits of beer whenever they could since consumption is frowned upon by the evil empire.

During our finals match, our endearing sideline supported us with a chant of "just don't suck"

1st beer of the day: 8:30am

Best quote of the day: welcome to the world of heterosexual haircuts (unknown to Batman)

Best performance by an old-boy: GG (What – GenEric's been spotted on the field? – Ed)

Other old-boy notables: Scott Wilkes and Duran

Best decision: Dano in not stepping on the field when the Arizona team played the Rhinos

\$50 finders fee: to anyone who gets their hands on the Red Rhino game video - including a bad news bears impression by Batty and Kai in which they collided as the would be tacklee kept running straight between them enroute to a try - may end up on funniest home videos
Big A.

Under 19s

The U19s (Barbarians) had a pretty successful year. They hosted Jesuit HS from Texas (lost 5-10), took 3rd place at the Fullerton International Tournament in March, and narrowly finished 2nd in the south division on a count back with Fullerton.

In two away games to Fullerton, they lost once by 1 point and tied the other with only 14 players (and one of the 14 missed half of the game due to an asthma attack), and only lost one other league game to the LA Cougars.

The Union didn't get the playoffs sorted out until far too late, and it was decided to finish the season by playing the Bakersfield Yellow Jackets at San Pedro for the Tier 2 title, rather than travel to Santa Barbara for a match that may or may not occur in Tier 1.

They tied the game with Bakersfield 10 - 10, and ended up sharing the Tier 2 title – but are in possession of all the trophies! Bakersfield didn't show up the SCRFU meeting where they were presented – possession is 9/10^{ths} etc!

The Barbarians were able to raise some funds at the Golden Oldies tournament by offering a jersey laundry service. Kathy Linch (mother of fellow Gurkha Jon) took control of this and about \$800 was raised – maybe almost enough to pay Kathy back some of the funds her family has invested in the Barbarians recently!

FA

U19 Season MVP Awards

Lenin Ruiz - Captains Award

Mike Linch – Most Improved

Richard Harte – Most Valuable Back

Peter Swinarski – Most Valuable Forward

Mike Lazarz – Rookie of the Year

Nominated for U19 National selection Camp

Huston Hardinger

Richard Harte

Andrew Moir

Kids Non Contact Rugby

The 2nd year of the Flying Penguins existence came about only because of the efforts of Ven Griva and David Wilkenson. Ven is an ex softball/baseball coach and recent fan of rugby, and David is a Kiwi that I've known for a while, from a place I used to work at. Both of them have sons about 10 years old and they gathered up friends of theirs and re-formed the Penguins. Most of the kids from the previous year did not play this year, as they were Mormon and unfortunately we had to play many of the games on Sundays.

The Flying Penguins (in black & white uniforms of course) played their games mainly against OMBAC youth and the Carmel Valley Mustangs. After understandably being all at sea early in the season, by the end of the season they were winning their games against the same kids who were spanking them earlier.

Next season Ven and David plan to recruit hard at San Pasqual middle school, hopefully with Eddie Pollock's help. Eddie is a Scotsman, is OMBAC's Coach, and is responsible for OMBAC's non contact program and also a startup program in Fallbrook.

Both the Barbarians and the Flying Penguins are under the Gurkha's 501 C3 umbrella.

Kids rugby is taking off amazingly in LA, and hopefully it will continue the same way in San Diego, and the Gurkhas will be all the better for it.

FA

Scott Christie Challenge Cup

This year FA decided to purchase a cup in honor of Scotty Christie, a member of the Old Aztecs who died of cancer 5 years ago. Scott was a good friend to all of the Gurkhas who knew him, as he'd often come on tour with us, or play with either club in tournaments.

The Cup is to be awarded to the player that best displays the spirit of rugby as exemplified by Scott. It is also intended to be something that draws the members of the Old Aztecs and Gurkhas together as friends as well as competitors.

We decided that it should have a greater chance of being won by a player on the winning team, so the protocol is that 2 (or 3) executive members of the winning team, plus 1 (or 2) of the losing side decide who is the best, fairest, and/or most outstanding PERSON at the field that day. It could be won by a coach or a touch judge, i.e. any club member of the 2 clubs. The previous winner should be involved in that decision if possible.

It is also intended as being a home challenge cup so that it doesn't always get 2 names per year, i.e. it is usually competed for only at the current holders home field. But there's nothing to stop the holders from taking it 'on tour' if they wish. If the 2 clubs are in different divisions in any one year, then a special match should be arranged for it.

Upcoming events

Sunday Brunch Cruise – To be rescheduled from June 26 (use your entertainment card to get 2 for 1)

Gurkha Golf Tournament – Sep 18. Meetings for this start soon, volunteers requested

Recruiting

We are looking for volunteers to compile a mailing list (from public and internet records) of athletes that graduated from HS in North County in the last 5 years or so. We would like to do a direct mailing as part of our next season's recruiting drive.

Coaching

We would like to ask anyone who thinks they would like to coach either the Gurkhas, U19s or U10-15 non contact to get in touch with the Gurkha Committee