



Rugbyfest 10s

Everyone knows the great success of sevens in Hong Kong, but the ten-a-side rugby code also has many adherents here, with one of the newest and most welcome competitions on the mid-week scene the Descartes Kowloon Rugbyfest Tens on Wednesday, 26 March, 2003.

Rugbyfest is designed to attract social and touring teams who play at a reasonable standard but want a competitive and predominantly fun tournament that allows them to dazzle their mates with a 'Serevi shimmy'. Kowloon Secretary Chris Welsh explains "Visiting teams who are not of an "elite" standard have in the past been disappointed by the difficulty of getting a game during the week. Rugbyfest will give these teams the chance." Kowloon is extending its hospitality to any member of the local rugby community as well, all of whom are invited to stroll down to So Kon Po for a pint or even a run out on the pitch should they choose.

According to HKRFU Executive Director Allan Payne, tens rugby renders well socially. "Tens competitions are a regular precursor to our main league programme in September, and return at the end of March, providing very social 'bookends' to the league competition. Since Tens is usually played in tournament format it provides a great opportunity for local and Asian region rugby players to meet up."

Among the teams participating in this year's event are sides from Japan (Yokohama Athletics and Country Club and the Tsunami Teetotallers), England (Stoneyhurst Wanderers), Australia (New South Wales Sheepshaggers), the USA (Pacific Coast



Grizzlies, and even from as far as Wanchai with the Devil's Advocate World Select, Hong Kong Barbarians, Aberdeen, Nomads and of course, the hosts Kowloon RFC.

The one-day Rugbyfest Tens is played from lunchtime until early evening with Cup, Plate and Bowl competitions. The tournament's ideal social scheduling provides these superbly trained athletes the morning lie-in necessary to prepare for the competition while keeping the evening free for the extracurricular activities essential to proper team-building.

Testing the players' dedication to the full, Rugbyfest Tens offers a full-day bar with food and an 'Evening with Kowloon Dinner' featuring ex-England prop Jeff Probyn and other entertainment. In keeping with its social theme, the Dinner has been opened to all punters. Tickets are only HK\$150 which includes entrance, food and drinks at happy hour prices all evening. For enquiries e-mail the club on kowloonrfc@kowloonrfc.com.hk. RT

Kowloon shows True Grit

Descartes Kowloon won February's Guam Rugby International Tournament a.k.a. True Grit Tens, setting a tournament record along the way for its 71 - 0 drubbing of Japanese club Tsunami Teetotallers. In fact, the Kowloon boys conceded only one try on the weekend, while mounting some impressive offensive statistics with 53 - 0, 28 - 0 and 34 - 0 victories joining their 71 - 0 skulling of the Teetotallers.

In the Cup final, Kowloon met the tournament's only other undefeated side, Japan's Sumitomo Samuraiz. After conceding their only try to their pacy opposition, Kowloon re-gained control with four quick tries to put the match away 29 - 7.

Kowloon evidently impressed, as Guam RFC member Ross Morrison was quoted in the local Pacific Sunday News saying, "Kowloon's speed and skill are amazing. It's fun to watch them play and good for the Guam teams. It exposes us to a very high level of skill and play and shows us what can be achieved." In response to this overwhelming admiration, Kowloon captain Dean McLachlan noted that "It was a great tournament. The hosts were outstanding, the teams were good and there was the perfect number of sides - that way we didn't have to get up too early in the morning."

Kowloon was invited to the True Grit 2003 as a result of a reciprocal relationship with tournament organizers, Guam RFC, who visited the Kowloon Rugbyfest Tens in 2002. RT

