



Kieron Davies scores against the Welsh soldiers

800 fans turned
: their one and
ome game so far,
at was not enough
: the players a
They have also been
sed a pay packet if
w club can attract
ent sponsorship.
ough most of the
are German, other languages can
be heard on the training ground.
because a significant number of
s are either Germans of eastern and
an European descent or Anglo-
in Europeans; the consequence of
ing British soldiers anywhere!
coaching staff further illustrates the

years of age, captain and versatile threequarter Mark Kuhlmann sets the pace by combining his club and national team commitments with a busy family and professional life. Kuhlmann, who led Germany against the Barbarians during Expo 2000, is reputed

to sleep with a rugby ball under his pillow. Whatever their age or background, all the Oaks players dream of playing against the best. Whilst acknowledging the debt they owe their clubs, they thirst for more than their clubs can give them.

The Oaks, who believe they could compete against – and beat – English

Outgunned: the Royal Regiment of Wales (red) are looking forward to a return match against the Oaks

THE OAKS HOPE TO BE ABLE TO REWARD PLAYERS WITH A SHARE OF GATE MONEY

opolitan nature of the club. Head Horacio Gumhord (Argentinian) is rted by Andy Gordon (British) and .Lecht (German). Fitness is the sibility of Frank Hintze (German). ical of the club's 'Eastern European' re the Zimmermann brothers. Born in stan into a rugby-playing family, ive an intense commitment to the onstantin, 26, capped 19 times by ntry, spent six months playing in to broaden his experience. The n-European in the squad is n international Tarek Ajoud, the mber of the Oaks who could make : World Cup in Australia next year. e Oaks players still play for their ibs, and all have family, work or ommitments. Many travel long es to training and matches. At 32

sides like Exeter Chiefs, will play regularly against the best of the British Army teams in Germany, training and developing between fixtures.

Their first game, played in Hanover, ended in resounding victory for the Oaks, albeit against a weak team from the Royal Regiment of Wales. The Welshmen had selection problems but have promised to return 'mob-handed'. Other opponents include the Black Watch (with their fearsome Fijians), 32 Engineer Regiment and the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. It is hoped to play a full British Army Germany team in December this year. The programme will continue into next year, culminating in a game against Bristol Shoguns Under-21s.

● For further information on the German Oaks, contact info@rugbyoaks.de

HONG KONG

KOWLOON CALLING



Chinese Barbarians claim the ball

FANS planning to travel out to Hong Kong next March to watch the Hong Kong Sevens are being encouraged to travel a little earlier, bring some boots and some mates, and enter the Kowloon Rugbyfest Tens.

The tournament, at Kowloon Rugby Club, featured teams from England, Wales, the United States, Dubai, Macau and Guam this year and was heralded as a great success. The organisers have already received some applications for entry to next year's event.

Kowloon RFC secretary Peter Stubbley says: "Rugbyfest is designed to be a very sociable tournament, both during the competition and even more so afterwards."



The 2003 tournament will take place on Wednesday, 26 March. The Hong Kong Sevens themselves start on Friday, 28 March and run through to the Sunday.

The USA Owls won the Cup at the Kowloon Rugbyfest Tens this year, beating Chepstow in the final, while Kowloon RFC won the Plate. A local bar, called The Devil's Advocate, sponsored a scratch team to enable players without a team of their own to enjoy a day of social rugby. The line-up included players from Australia, the US, Korea and New Zealand – including one 67-year-old – and they won the Bowl.

To enter the 2003 Rugbyfest, e-mail rugbyfest@kowloonrfc.com.hk



The Headstrong Kowloon side attack