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香港

RUGBY TALK



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VANDALS

HONG KONG RUGBY REMEMBERS



Message from HKRFU President – T. Brian Stevenson

The tragedy that occurred in Bali on the night of 12th October impacted the Hong Kong rugby family as nothing has before and hopefully ever will again. On that fateful night the senseless act of terrorism ended so many innocent young lives full of promise for the future and maimed and injured so many others.

As a sporting body it ended for us an age of innocence and grimly brought home the reality that terrorism knows no boundaries.

The brunt of the disaster was borne by our friends and colleagues in the Hong Kong Football Club and the Referees' Society. On behalf of all its players, clubs and officials, the Hong Kong Rugby Football Union extends its sincerest condolences to the players and supporters who were lost, their family and friends, and our thoughts and prayers to those injured for a speedy and full recovery.

Also our admiration and gratitude goes to the survivors of the blast in Bali, our colleagues in the Union and the Referees' Society,

and the leadership, management and many members of the Hong Kong Football Club all of whom reacted magnificently and worked tirelessly in the most trying of circumstances to bring news, help and comfort to the many family and friends of those missing and injured in the aftermath of the tragedy.

Rugby is a world-wide fraternity and expressions of sympathy and support have been received from all corners of the rugby world. These have been greatly appreciated.



Photo: Martin Chan/South China Morning Post

For Hong Kong the game will go on, strengthened by adversity, and played in the memory of those whose zest for the game and its camaraderie so personified the spirit of rugby.

With thanks to the following for their assistance and support in collating this section:

T. Brian Stevenson and John Molloy, HKRFU; Niall Donnelly, Glenn Schloss, Martin Chan, Grace Lui and the *South China Morning Post*; Mike Kerr and Owen Conbeer from the Hong Kong Football Club; Peter Chworowsky, President Taipei International Rugby Club – The Baboons; Dean Herewini, International Sports Club of Indonesia; www.singaporecricketclub.com; and www.gwladrugby.com.



Message from HKRFU Chairman – John Molloy

The Hong Kong rugby community was devastated in October by the terrible events in Bali.

We are a small yet strong rugby community and there can be few of us who have not played with or against one of the Hong Kong Football Club players who has been lost, or been refereed by one of the referees now thankfully recovering from the injuries they received.

It is this closeness, and the very nature of our game and the people that play it that has

united us in our sense of loss.

But through the tragedy and adversity the spirit of our game has shone through. From the players and volunteers manning the Football Club crisis communications centre twenty four hours a day, to the Valley Griffins, Pot Bellied Pigs, referees and remaining Football Club players who were magnificent on the ground in Bali, to the thousands of people who telephoned, or sent faxes and emails offering help in whatever form was needed, and to the wonderful floral tributes lining the tunnel at the Football Club. All of

these selfless acts of support have been heart-warming and have given us all the strength to go on.

In Hong Kong rugby's darkest hour I have never been so proud to be part of Hong Kong rugby.

I am sure I speak for our entire rugby community when I send our wishes for a speedy recovery to our injured referees, and our sincere condolences to the relatives, friends and teammates of those we have lost – we will honour their memories by playing the game that brought us all together and which binds us all.

Message from HKRFU Executive Director – Allan Payne

As our minds clear from the darkness of the days following the Bali tragedy, we begin to try and bring order of our thoughts of the terrible event and its consequences.

Our condolences and thoughts go to those who are no longer with us and their families and friends. We also wish those who were injured a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them again on the rugby fields of Hong Kong.

But as we go through the process of coming to terms with the losses and injuries, other feelings shine through the mist and perhaps one of the greatest of these

feelings is that of pride. Pride in knowing our lost friends for the fine people that they were; pride in those who returned from Bali – the injured and the helpers; pride in the Hong Kong support groups; and a great pride in the Hong Kong rugby community who have worked together as a team in so many caring and thoughtful ways to help support all the various Bali efforts, led from the crisis centre at the Football Club.

From the time that the first words of the tragedy trickled into Hong Kong in those early hours of that dreadful Sunday morning from countless mobile phones in Bali and through the ensuing long hours and days, many individuals and groups

have so impressed with their selfless efforts. I'll avoid naming the various individuals whose actions and deeds will always be etched in our memories with pride, for fear of naming one and missing out ten but we know there are some very special people in our rugby community.

The pages of this month's *Rugby Talk* will look back at some other recent news items and look forward to future Hong Kong rugby events. I ask that you join in these with much spirit plus make a special effort to go along to the Football Club memorial service at 6 p.m. Thursday 28th November, for "A CELEBRATION OF LIFE" to remember the lives of those who were lost.

Memorial services are continuing to be held in various parts of the world for those that were so tragically lost in Bali on 12th October. Details of these can be found on www.hkfc.com.hk/home.asp. You will also find details of the Memorial Service to be held on Thursday, 28th November at the Hong Kong Football Club on the same link.

A Black Tie Dinner is being organised for 7th December 2002. Full

details of how you can obtain a table will be available shortly and will be posted on the HKRFU website.

The HKRFU and the HKFC are deeply grateful for all the offers of assistance and messages of condolences that have been received.

For more details please contact :

www.hkfc.com.hk/home.asp



A tribute to friends

No man can be happy without a friend, nor be sure of his friend till he is unhappy
- Thomas Fuller

We all lost friends in the recent incident in Bali, but I hope we have all found comfort and new friendship in the overwhelming response from the international rugby community. The tributes and the limitless offers of help and support have come to define the unique bond of rugby players and supporters worldwide. Those that were lost were very much a part of this international family and will be missed greatly.

The HKFC Vandals - Stevie Speirs, Clive Walton, Tom Holmes, Dan Miller, Ed Waller and Jake Young, a formidable force on the pitch in any sun drenched 10's tournament. With the support of Polly Miller, Tina Brandes and Annika Linden, and previous Vandal stars Peter Record and Charlie Van Rennen, any shortfall in play would soon be forgotten once the Bintangs started flowing, the silly hats and silly shirts appeared and the party began.

And it is this passion for life that has to be remembered and celebrated. Polly survived and is recovering in Australia and we wish her a speedy and full recovery. For those that were lost we celebrate your life,

your friendship, your spirit and love for the game. And we will never forget you.

Hong Kong rugby will certainly be less colourful for their passing. Clive Walton, newly appointed club captain at the HKFC, was one of the most charismatic people I have ever met. Whether in the Sportsman's Bar holding 'court' or as was the case on this occasion, wearing a striped knitted beanie and swimming goggles to the bemusement of the fellow passengers on the flight to Bali, he was the life and soul of the party. With the rest of the boys wearing Viking helmets it was only when the captain, over the PA, wished the rugby players good luck in the 10's tournament that the cabin crew's faces broke into knowing grins and the red wine was uncorked to accompany breakfast. Stevie chatting in his own version of the English language, with all around him on the benefits and uses of a Viking helmet and Tom had hours with which to reacquaint himself with all the other rugby players on board, probably arranging how he could play for their teams as well. Whether they believed his claim to



Photo: www.gwladrugby.com

be the third fastest back in HK rugby we will never know. Polly and Dan had horns locked for the entire flight. Not metaphorically, but literally, as those helmets were fairly restrictive when two Vikings were seated next to each other. Jake already sporting a black eye from the previous week on the pitch, quietly being huge and probably wondering what he had let himself in for with all this rugby stuff



which, I am sure, was a long way from his familiar All-American College Football scene. Why do I have to wear a Viking hat again? And Ed, who had persuaded me to bring my gum shield and boots and promise to join them on Sunday for the finals, trying to re-negotiate our deal for a full weekend appearance with the promise of a free hat, shirt and a beer or two.

This is how I will remember my friends. Laughing, joking, having fun, on another rugby tour, enjoying life to the full.

I'd also like to thank all those involved at the HKFC crisis centre who were simply outstanding and all those from the rugby community and beyond who helped and supported those affected throughout this tragic event. To the friends and families of all those lost, I also extend my heartfelt sympathy.

In an ongoing effort to help, the HKFC in conjunction with the HKRFU have set up the Hong Kong Rugby Bali Fund, which will continue to support those affected by the tragic events in Bali. I hope you will all support this cause.

Finally a fitting last word taken from a letter written by one of the families to the Select team...

"...and you were his friends and he will be watching from wherever he is and cheering you harder than he ever cheered you before. Play up and play the game"

Yours in rugby,
Mike Kerr



Photo: Glenn Schloss

The Vandals



The Bali bombing is estimated to have cost the lives of over 30 rugby players and supporters attending the Bali 10s. Through many memorable encounters both in Hong Kong and abroad, these clubs, like the HKFC Vandals, have formed their own storied traditions and carved out an enduring piece of Asian rugby history.

As a commemoration of these players, the following partial list of names of the deceased or missing players and supporters has been compiled through the assistance and support of the clubs themselves.

RUGBY TALK also acknowledges the loss of many others in Bali, particularly Australians: from rugby clubs at the Bali 10s to the Australian Rules Football and Rugby League teams celebrating end-of-season success on the island. We also pause to remember the people of Bali and Indonesia. Although the victims are tragically too numerous to mention, our thoughts go to all of the families of the lost in this time of sorrow.

Taipei International Rugby Club – The Baboons

The Baboons regret to announce that the following friends in rugby were lost during the Bombing in Bali:

Eve Kuo Hui-min (Taiwan): A loyal Baboons supporter and girlfriend of one of the players.

Daniel Braden (England): The team wit who could see the humour in any situation.

Godfrey Fitz (South Africa): The smoothest of the smooth, steadfast friend and calm in any storm.

James Hardman (Australia): A true free spirit.

Craig Harty (South Africa): Embraced the team as his family and helped the club with enthusiasm.

All five loved life and were loved. The gap in our hearts is too large to ever fill.

*With thanks to: Peter Chworowsky, President
Taipei International Rugby Club – “The Baboons”*

Singapore Cricket Club

The Singapore Cricket Club Rugby Section flew down a 17-man touring side to the Bali 10's. The majority of our players were enjoying themselves that evening in Paddy's Bar. Six members of the touring party have been confirmed amongst the deceased, and two more are listed as missing. The remaining nine are all back in Singapore. Below is a tribute to all those that have been lost. We will remember them.

Tim Arnold: A man who enjoyed the camaraderie that came with the game and is remembered always as a decent and gracious teammate on and off the field.

Neil Bowler: Arrived in Hong Kong in 1997 where he was quickly snapped up by the Typhoons Rugby Club whom he played for until 2001 when he relocated to Singapore.

Chris Bradford: A skilled player who was elevated to first team captain for SCC in only his first year with the club, an almost unheard of achievement.

Chris Keys: Played his way into the first side where his strength with the ball in hand and attacking style helped steer the team into a dominant position in the league this season.

Dave Ken: Perhaps the hardest player to ever walk onto a Singapore rugby pitch, Dave played every season but one since 1977. On a number of occasions he was known to continue playing despite suf-

Referees Update

Four referees from Hong Kong were also injured in Bali. Barrie King (pictured) is in the UK for a period of time while referee David Fielder has returned to work in Hong Kong. Ian Hampton and Nick Axiotes were hospitalised in the Burns Unit at the Prince of Wales Hospital but are now recovering at home.

RUGBY TALK and the HKRFU wish them a quick and full recovery.



fering serious injuries inflicted while on the paddock. In this regard Dave was always an inspiration for his fellow teammates.

Chris Redman: Suffered a season-ending injury when he ruptured his Achilles tendon in the opening game of the season and was resigned to supporting the club from the bench. Despite his injury, he remained very active taking a leading role in organising many of the section's social activities.

Two members of the SCC team, Peter Record and Charlie Van Rennen, had travelled with the team but as ex-members and stalwarts of the Hong Kong Football Club Vandals side, in true rugby fashion, also played for the Vandals team in Bali.

Peter Record: Instrumental in the founding of the HKFC Vandals touring side, Peter was the Vandals Captain from 1999 to 2001. He introduced many new members to the club and made significant contributions to SCC both on and off the field. His vibrant personality made him an essential ingredient for any rugby gathering.

Charlie “Digger” Van Rennen: A close friend of Peter Record's from their days in Hong Kong, Charlie joined the SCC in 2002. A true rugby nomad, Digger represented the tradition of itinerant rugby players worldwide, becoming an honoured member of clubs near and far, including the SCC.

*Information compiled from the SCC website at:
www.singaporecricketclub.com*

International Sports Club of Indonesia

The popular ISCI Rugby Football Club lost five players from its ISCI Komodos side including Australians **Robert Thwaites**, **Scott Lysaght** and **Nathan Swain**, as well as New Zealander **Jamie Wellington** and Canadian **Mervin Popadyne**.

***RUGBY TALK** sincerely apologises for any players left off our list of commemoration, if you should know any rugby player or supporter lost or missing in the Bali bombing, and want to include them on our list, please contact the editor at (852) 2534 5039 or on fax (852) 2511 5472.*



Hong Kong rugby battles on in remembrance

Like many of the region's sporting associations, the HKRFU and Hong Kong's rugby community decided in the wake of the tragedy in Bali, that the best way to honour their fallen comrades was to continue playing the game that they loved.

On Wednesday October 16, the decision to proceed with a previously scheduled match between a Hong Kong Select side and a touring team from the Royal Australian Navy was taken with near unanimous consent.

Allan Payne, Executive Director of the HKRFU commented on the match saying "The important thing today was that the game had been especially arranged in advance and that both teams still wanted to play. Also a lot of supporters wanted to come down. They weren't quite sure what they would do but they wanted to get together in a show of respect for those who weren't with us. It was a good night, and now we can share a few beers with our guests."

"Knowing the guys they would have wanted us to play, so I think it was the appropriate thing to do"

A strong gathering of the local rugby community turned out to support the teams and referees and join in a minute's silence which was held before the commencement of the game, passing on the heartfelt thoughts and wishes of all in Hong Kong to those affected by the tragedy.

With the nation of Australia suffering their own keenly felt loss, the game was a true occasion for demonstrating the healing power of rugby, and in its own way a strong tribute to the need to circle the ranks and shoulder on in the face of such senseless destruction.

The game itself was a close-fought affair, scoreless after the first half, with Hong Kong having the lion's share of opportunities in what was a highly-charged encounter. Leading from the front through-



Hong Kong Select attacks the Navy 22

out the emotion-charged match was Captain and new Hong Kong Football Club player Paul Dingley (see article on page 16) who seemed to be everywhere at once on the pitch, helping steel the side.

Fellow Football Club and Hong Kong player Chris Gordon shrugged off injury to shine on coming into the match in the second half. Speaking afterwards, Gordon commented on the difficulties of playing as a long-time Football Club veteran, "It was a bit harder than I thought, but I think it was good to try and get things back to normal. Knowing the guys they would have wanted us to play, so I think it was the appropriate thing to do."



As usual, his veteran leadership and incisive runs helped inspire the experimental back line of the Select side. Using the match to test several new hopefuls for the representative team, Hong Kong Head Coach Chris Roden substituted freely during the second half. Despite the influx of players, the team bore down well defensively as the Royal Australian Navy conducted a series of ground manoeuvres within Hong Kong's 22 metre-line.

"We approached the players before the match to see how they felt about playing, and most of them wanted to go ahead. Some of course were a bit reluctant and didn't know if it would be good or not, but the Football Club guys were amongst the best out there and Crispy, who was a bit hesitant, was a star."

As far as the match itself, Roden said he was "happy with the first half, but not so happy with the second," adding that the Select side "showed character, so overall, it was not too bad."

On a practical level, the match was an important selection tool for Hong Kong in preparation for this month's Asian Rugby Football Tournament, while the Royal Australian Navy, compiled from players based in Perth, Melbourne, Sidney and Cairns have only been playing together for a few weeks, and used the experience to gel the side for their continuing tour of China, where they will play China Agricultural University and the People's Liberation Army. **RT**



In the Clubhouse

Due to the Memorial Service being held at the Hong Kong Football Club on Thursday, 28th November, the next gathering of the Rugby Union Club members will be on Tuesday, 26th November 2002 in The Caledonia in Central.

Highlights of the current November Rugby Internationals taking place in the UK will be shown so make sure you have the date in your diary. **RT**

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The HKRFU extends its gratitude to all sponsors who offer their generous support to rugby in Hong Kong.

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WORLD SEVENS SERIES CHANGES ITS STRIPES

The IRB has launched its new logo for the World Sevens Series. Like the World Sevens Series itself, the logo reflects the vitality and unique atmosphere of sevens rugby around the world.

The IRB has also announced that the scheduling of its Cardiff leg has been changed. The Cardiff Sevens, which were due to kick off over June 14 and 15, 2003, will now precede the London Sevens. Cardiff will now host the penultimate tournament of the IRB Sevens, from May 31 to June 1, 2003.

The IRB Sevens begins another annual carnival with its first event on December 6 and 7, 2002 in Dubai. **RT**



Upcoming Mini Festivals:

	DATE:	VENUE:
ABN & FK	January 26, 2003	Community Sports Centre, Aberdeen
HKU/Sandy Bay	February 16, 2003 (TBC)	TBA
Tai Po Dragons	February 23, 2003	Kings Park
HKFC	March 3, 2003	HKFC / Happy Valley

Support welcome for 18th ARFT – Bangkok

This November, the HKSAR XV will travel to Bangkok, Thailand for the Asian Rugby Football Tournament. Hong Kong will play Japan on Sunday 17 November and Korea on the following Wednesday, 20 November before meeting Chinese Taipei on Saturday 23 November at the Army Stadium.

If you happen to be in Bangkok please go along and give the team your support. **RT**

The Hong Kong Rugby Football Union presents the

2002-2003 Asian Rugby Football Union Under 19 Tournament in Hong Kong

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For more information visit: www.hkrugby.com

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LEAGUE STANDINGS – 2002/2003 SEASON

1st Division – League Championship

TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	Bonus	TL
Asahi Valley	5	5	0	0	137	51	2	22
DHL Club	5	3	2	0	115	95	3	15
Kowloon	5	2	3	0	119	107	3	11
DeA Tigers	6	2	4	0	125	133	3	11
Synovate Aberdeen	5	2	3	0	98	102	2	10
PLA Sports Institute	5	2	3	0	74	126	2	10
China Agri' Uni'	5	2	3	0	69	123	1	9

2nd Division – League Championship

TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	Bonus	TL
DHL Club Dragons	6	5	1	0	208	73	5	25
DHL Club Scorpions	6	5	1	0	145	110	2	23
Valley Knights	6	3	2	1	135	91	4	18
Hitachi D S CWB	6	2	4	0	88	105	3	11
Kowloon Lions	6	1	4	1	70	141	0	6
DeA Tigers II	6	1	5	0	87	213	2	5

3rd Division – League Championship

TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	Bonus	TL
DHL Club Select	5	5	0	0	115	47	3	21
Valley Mustangs	5	3	2	0	134	29	4	18
Police	5	3	2	0	104	70	2	16
DHL Club Sequins	5	3	1	1	72	49	3	15
Synovate Aberdeen II	4	1	2	1	10	57	0	6
Kowloon Pussies	5	1	4	0	32	100	0	4
Nomads	5	0	5	0	22	135	0	0

4th Division – League Championship

TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	Bonus	TL
Gai Wu J	6	6	0	0	215	48	5	29
Valley Griffins	6	6	0	0	201	39	4	28
Police Panthers	6	4	2	0	149	114	4	20
DHL Club Bulls	6	4	2	0	72	115	0	16
University RFC	5	2	3	0	91	63	3	11
City Seven	6	2	4	0	82	100	2	10
CWB Pirates	6	2	4	0	66	129	1	9
Kowloon Beavers	6	1	5	0	77	191	2	6
DeA Tigers IV	5	1	4	0	70	153	1	5
Typhoons	6	1	5	0	63	134	0	4

5th Division – League Championship

TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	Bonus	TL
Taipo Dragons	4	4	0	0	103	5	2	18
DeA Tigers V	5	3	2	0	103	52	2	14
Nomads II	4	2	2	0	66	61	1	10
Gai Wu A	5	2	3	0	71	67	1	9
CWB Marines	4	0	4	0	3	161	0	0

Women's 15-a-side Competition

TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	Bonus	TL
DHL Club Ice	5	5	0	0	78	0	1	21
CWB/Gai Wu	5	3	1	1	72	31	1	15
DeA Tigers	5	1	3	1	44	62	2	8
Aberdeen/Nomads	5	0	5	0	0	101	1	1

Standings as of November 12, 2002

UPCOMING FIXTURES

As of November 12, 2002

	Match	Venue
23rd Nov		
1st Div	No Games	
2nd Div	Valley Knights v DHL Club Scorpions	HV
	DeA Tigers v Kowloon Lions	KP
	Hitachi D S CWB v DHL Club Dragons	SKP
3rd Div	Police v DHL Club Sequins	HKFC
	DHL Club Select v Synovate Aberdeen II	HKFC
	Valley Mustangs v Kowloon Pussies	HV
	Nomads	Bye
4th Div	Gai Wu J v Valley Griffins	HV
	Kowloon Beaver v CWB Pirates	SKP
	DHL Club Bulls v DeA tigers IV	HKFC
	University RFC v City 7	SKM
	Police Panthers v Typhoons	PBS
5th Div	Nomads II v Taipo Dragons	THT
	CWB Marines v DeA Tigers V	SKP
	Gai Wu A	Bye
Women's	To Be Confirmed	
27th Nov		
1st Div	Synovate Aberdeen v CAU	SKP
30th Nov		
1st Div	Asahi Valley v CAU	HV
	PLA v DeA Tigers	Guangzhou
	DHL Club v Kowloon	HKFC
	Synovate Aberdeen	Bye
2nd Div	Valley Knights v DHL Club Dragons	HV
	Kowloon Lions v DHL Club Scorpions	SKP
	DeA Tigers II v Hitachi D S CWB	KP
3rd Div	Police v Nomads	PBS
	DHL Club Select v DHL Club Sequins	HKFC
	Valley Mustangs v Synovate Aberdeen II	SKP
	Kowloon Pussies	Bye
4th Div	Police Panthers v DeA Tigers IV	PBS
	Gai Wu J v Kowloon Beavers	HV
	Valley Griffins v City 7	SKP
	University RFC v CWB Pirates	Sandy Bay
	DHL Club Bulls v Typhoons	HKFC
5th Div	Gai Wu A v DeA Tigers V	THT
	CWB Marines v Nomads II	THT
	Taipo Dragons	Bye
Women's	To Be Confirmed	



Lessons learnt bode well for 2006

Hong Kong's Asian Games Sevens squad has returned from the competition in Busan, Korea with mixed results but a clear idea of what needs to be done in the future.

Of the squad's 0 - 3 finish, Coach Jim Walker said "We were up against it in the tournament's strongest group with China, Chinese Taipei and Japan and were a bit unsettled going in, but despite this, the boys played well." Also participating in the eight-nation Sevens competition were Korea, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Walker, who is completing a two-year tenure as the Coach for Hong Kong 'A' and the Asian Games squad, said "we played three games and I would say we played well in half of them and not so well in the other half. Most disappointing for us was to lose against China, the game we had initially targeted for victory."

First up for Hong Kong in Busan was a tough opener against Chinese Taipei. Considering Chinese Taipei fields a side of World Sevens Series veterans, and Hong Kong's Asian Games squad is made up primarily of Division II players, the boys in blue played well. Despite an unconvincing score line, Hong Kong lost 29 - 0, the coach was proud of the squad's performance early on, "We put



Hong Kong pressuring Chinese Taipei

up a great defence in the first half," he said, "but we ran out of tackles in the second half. Overall it was a decent performance, and the score line makes it look easier than it really was." Adding injury to insult, promising Hong Kong player Lee Cheuk Yin broke his hand in the first half, sidelining him for the rest of the tournament and compounding the team's growing injury woes.

The day's second match was the one identified as a must-win for the team before leaving Hong Kong, the game against China. Things seemed to be going according to plan early on, as Hong Kong Sevens star Ricky Cheuk raced ahead for a brace of tries supported by some excellent forays by Chan Wai Ping. Unfortunately the lead didn't hold as China first equalized and then surpassed Hong Kong on their way to a 28 - 14 victory. "The result was a disappointment for us all," said Walker, "we looked at China as a possible victory but we couldn't hold on to the lead. It left the players a bit gutted. Defensive lapses let China back into the match at a time when one more try for Hong Kong would have sealed a win and helped us advance."

Despite the disappointment, Hong Kong still had work to do in playing Japan, one of the perennial favourites in Asian rugby. Although the team played strongly and with great confidence, Coach Walker



Ricky Cheuk counters versus Japan

still felt the margin of victory against the Japanese, who won 45 – 10, was wider than it should have been at that stage of the team's preparation.

Against a well-drilled Japanese side, Walker noted the physical play of Dan Bailey, which was a constant throughout the tournament, "Dan played well for such a young lad, and even though he was one of the youngest players in the side, he had a real physical presence in some very tough encounters." Despite Japan scoring

"Even though we didn't win, these players now have a better idea of how to prepare for a tournament like this, and the level of preparation it takes for success"

four tries in the first half, Hong Kong never let-up, playing with great confidence and rallying together for the final match of a six-month programme. Playing together like they knew they could, Hong Kong rallied to score two tries in the second half, narrowing the gap through another tally from Ricky Cheuk and one from captain Jung Ho Jung.

"Confidence was not a problem, but perhaps leadership was," said Walker, "Not that we didn't have good leaders, but because the team went into the Asian Games in a bit of an unsettled position. In fact, it would have been better for us if the Asian Games had been played at the end of August instead of end September."

The Asian Games squad had been training and preparing for this moment since April. In hindsight it might have been too much. "It was designed to be an intensive period of weights, skills and speed training, on a par with what other teams such as Thailand and China were doing. But in retrospect, it might have been a little bit ambitious for Hong Kong", said Walker.

In the last build-up tournament before the Asian Games, the Sri Lanka Sevens in mid-September, the team hit their form going 2 – 3 versus tough competition like Portugal, and narrowly missed out on the Plate competition after a 24 – 21 loss versus Malaysia. Undeterred, the team went on to beat Singapore and trounce India in the Bowl Final 50 – 0. Unfortunately, the team also suffered some key injuries in Sri Lanka, particularly to Asian Games captain Jung Ho Jung.

"I wanted to select Jung Ho Jung in the run-up to the Games, but with his injury it was not possible to select him because he wasn't in form." Ricky Cheuk's absence from Hong Kong in the build-up to the Asian Games also didn't help the team or the player, "Ricky was sensational offensively (the team's leading try-scorer at the Asian Games with three), but defensively he was a bit rusty as he had been out of the set-up for some time."

Both Walker and Asian Games Manager Rob Perren selected half-back Chan Wai Ping as one of the standout players throughout the tournament, particularly for his strong breaks which was something Coach Walker was trying to institute to break down the opposition at the base of the scrum. Other notable players for the management team included Lee Cheuk Yin, Jung Ho Jung and Dan Bailey.



Supporters bask in the sun in Busan

Although Hong Kong didn't advance in the tournament, Coach Walker saw one notable advantage, "Even though we didn't win, these players now have a better idea of how to prepare for a tournament like this, and the level of preparation it takes for success. Over the years, the 'A' programme has been very successful in developing this group of players. They are a good bunch of guys who get on together well and the experience will help them prepare for future Asian Games."

With this knowledge and a couple of years to prepare and further season our local players, Hong Kong will be looking to make a statement in Doha in 2006. RT

Korea Kings of Asian Rugby

Korea completed their second successive double at the 2002 Asian Games, winning gold in both the fifteen and seven-a-side competitions. In sevens, Korea edged Chinese Taipei 33 – 21 to take top honours, while a surprising Thai side edged Japan into fourth place with the narrowest of victories at 17 – 14. The Thais jumped into an early lead scoring all of their points in the first half, and then dug in to hold off the Japanese who scored both of their tries in the second half.

There were fewer surprises in the four-Union fifteens competition with Korea beating Japan in the final by 45 – 34, while Taipei finished in the medals with a convincing 56 – 18 victory over Sri Lanka.

The 2002 Asian Games in Busan marked the second consecutive Games to feature rugby as a competition sport. If the trend continues at the 2006 Games in Doha, Qatar, rugby will become a permanent Asian Games sport. The participation of China for the first time in the Asian Games is an important step for the game's possible inclusion in the 2008 Olympics. RT



Academy underway

With the first class of the new HKRFU Rugby Academy selected, rugby school is officially in session. The Academy members will participate in a variety of activities (both educational and sporting) in the upcoming months including English classes, fitness, skills, speed training sessions, outdoor and community activities.

The strength, circuit and skills training sessions as well as the English-language tuition will be carried out on a weekly basis from now through to the end of the year, interspersed with community programmes like visiting the elderly and social activities like Rugby Academy BBQs and Outward Bound camps. The activities take place at a variety of venues including the Hong Kong Sports Institute, the Indian Recreation Club (IRC) and Sports House. The first semester of the intensive programme will wind up with an evaluation session on December 7 and a final three-day long training camp with Outward Bound from 21 to 23 December.

The Academy has named several officers for its staff including a full-time Administrator, Charles Lau, who joins the Union as Assistant Manager – Support Services and Rugby Academy. Current Schools Committee Chairman and Asian Games player Jung Ho Jung will be responsible on a part-time basis for assisting in the rugby skills development, along with Hong Kong Head Coach Chris Roden. Chow, Chor Hau has been brought in to assist with the programme’s Education & Life Skills sections, while Pauline Cheung and HKRFU Executive Director Allan Payne will help oversee the programme which is headed by Director, Development, Dan Hackston.

According to Lau, the Academy will differ in many important ways from the existing HKRFU Charitable Trust Fund. “The Rugby Academy is a tailor-made programme to develop potential players to elite levels in rugby, and to prepare them for the challenge of eventually securing a career and assisting them with Life Skills, while the Charitable Trust Fund is linked to self-development of the chosen youths.” In the ideal situation, the Charitable Trust Fund kids will in turn continue to mature both personally



Rugby Academy administrators and students with Serevi

and from a rugby standpoint, and may be included in future Academy classes.

The Academy received a welcome boost in September with the participation of Waisale Serevi. Serevi was in town as a guest speaker at the HKRFU’s Sevens Long Lunch, along with Eric Rush and former England prop Jeff Probyn. Before entertaining the audience at the Long Lunch, Serevi took time out for Hong Kong’s youth rugby players by participating in a special training session with Academy members at the Indian Recreation Club.

Serevi, perhaps the world’s greatest sevens player, not only took time to train with the kids, but encouraged them to believe in themselves as the key to success. He began the session by talking with the players about how he had chosen rugby as a profession, then dedicated himself to achieving this goal. He touched on the importance of self-discipline, encouraging these potential Hong Kong stars not to be distracted from their goals and emphasized that nothing is impossible in this world as long as one is adequately prepared for anything that comes along. Characteristically modest, the sevens legend said he “enjoyed the experience of talking to the young players, and hoped that my own experience in life will help encourage them to first dream big things and then achieve them.”

Liaison Officers needed

Liaison Officers are needed from 3 – 13 January 2003 for the teams participating in the upcoming ARFU U19 Tournament.

For information, please contact

Mr Charles Lau on **2504 8337** or **charles.lau@hkrugby.com**

The new students responded to Serevi's message, with Academy member Candy Cheng, Tsz Ting saying she enjoyed the training session. "I learned that nothing is impossible with hard work and adequate training and preparation." Cheng who marveled at Serevi's skills said that she hoped to gain valuable rugby experience from the Academy. "It is very different from club training which focuses on teamwork. The Academy is intensive and provides specific training for us to improve as individuals. The English course and volunteer work is also important to our development as people and not just players."

The HKRFU has its own dreams of glory for its first Academy class, with 12 of 14 players from the first class inducted having Hong Kong representative experience. Of the group, only two of the members have not yet gained representative honours, but have been chosen for their strong potential to do so in future. The programme is designed as a comprehensive three-year structure of involvement, with the chosen members commenting that they will see the programme through to its end to achieve their desired results.

One of the Academy's elder statesmen is undoubtedly Fan Shun Kei, a first year student in Leisure Studies at IVE Haking Wong. Fan has been playing rugby for nearly 12 years, starting at five with the Tai Hang Tung Mini Rugby Club then going on to Kai Tak Tigers at 14. To date, he has played for Hong Kong at U14s, 16s, 19s and 21s and most recently joined the Asian Games triallists at the Jonah Jones Sevens in Malaysia. Fan, who currently plays for DeA II, relishes the opportunity the Academy can pro-

vide him to improve his game. "Training with Serevi was a great and very valuable opportunity for me. As a scrum half, his tips for me on passing were very helpful and something I can continue to practice in my own time to become a better player."

Chan, Yiu Yu, another Rugby Academy freshman illustrates what can be achieved over a short time. The player only took up rugby two years ago after playing in a Summer School Tag Rugby league. From there he continued on to promising local side City Seven and has played for the Hong Kong Under 21s. Attracted by the "excitement and speed of rugby" initially, Chan now says he enjoys the game's complexity the most. "Rugby requires a lot of thinking as it is a pretty complicated game." These complications should soon clear for Chan as he continues in the elite atmosphere of the Academy. The goals he has set for himself are wide and far-ranging from one day continuing his education abroad in the United States to possible careers as a fireman or teacher. On the pitch, he is clear about his aims, wanting to play in the Hong Kong First Division within a couple of years and represent Hong Kong in front of thousands of fans at the Sevens.

Many of the Academy members stressed the improved fitness and enhancement of their individual skills recommended by Serevi at the training. If this group of bright and dedicated Hong Kong youth can listen equally well to their instructors at the Rugby Academy, both in rugby and life skills sections, the Academy's first class should go on to make their parents – and their patron, the HKRFU, proud. **RT**



HKRFU refines development structure

With exciting new initiatives like the King's Park complex and the HKRFU Rugby Academy, the HKRFU Rugby and Development Department has refined its operating structure to account for the increased challenges. Pauline Cheung, Rugby & Development Manager, noted that the new structure is designed to be "more functional and provide a more direct working structure to ensure immediate service to meet the different needs of the members of our local rugby community."

Amongst the key benefits of the new organization (which was created last summer and recently implemented) is that the new organization is designed to speed up the HKRFU's response time while providing a direct contact point for the many various activities within the development programme.

To further these aims, a new member has been added to the HKRFU staff, Mr Charles Lau. Lau joins the Union as Assistant Manager – Support Services and Rugby Academy. "Charles has vast experience in sports management across a variety of different sports in Hong Kong," said Cheung, adding that he also has a strong "technical background from working with other sports and sport organizations in Hong Kong."

In his new position, Lau will be responsible for a number of activities and areas including providing services to the HKRFU's Focus Groups and Associations; coordinating the King's Park Pro-

ject and equipment control; assisting coaching activities and providing technical support.

As always, the main goal of the development programme over the next year is to provide youngsters with the opportunity to play and enjoy rugby in a clear pathway from mini to senior clubs. According to Cheung, this goal can now be more easily achieved through the new structure, which "provides clearly defined contact points and accountability at all levels of rugby within the Union; through this, better communications and service levels will be achieved."

"This year we are expecting a record in the total number of Charitable Trust entries received"

Amongst the most obvious changes to the structure are new roles assigned to many within the Union including Head Coach Chris Roden who adds the Rugby Academy to his brief. HKRFU Development Officers Ocean Chow, Doris Chow and Lam Kwong Shun have also taken on increased roles. Ocean will be responsible for the U16 & U14 Representative Teams, while Doris takes over responsibilities for youth Women's Rugby, and Lam will serve Mini Rugby and the U12. Current Development Officer Andrew Chambers has been handed additional responsibility with the inclusion of the U19 Representative Team now within his purview under the new structure.

In other development news, this year has seen a strong response to the annual application period for the HKRFU's Charitable Trust Fund Scholarship Programme. HKRFU Assistant Manager for Support Services and Rugby Academy, Charles Lau, noted that "With each Charitable Trust Fund recipient needing to re-apply to the programme each year, the number of applications is always strong, but this year we are expecting a record in the total number of entries received." With the application period still ongoing and applications filing in from clubs all over Hong Kong, the final numbers cannot be confirmed as of yet, but the interest in the programme, and by extension, in local rugby continues to grow year on year.

The Charitable Trust was first founded in 1992 and has been a



Shuffling the line-up: Rugby Development team is reorganised and ready



New blood: HKRFU Assistant Manager – Support Services and Rugby Academy, Charles Lau

vital entry-point to the game for local rugby talent ever since. In return for the support to their educational needs and expenses, the Charitable Trust scholars assist the Union in a variety of ways throughout the year, from serving as ball boys at local league or test matches to providing a helping hand at other rugby initiatives aimed at the local populace.

“The new structure provides clearly defined contact points and accountability at all levels of local rugby”

The Trust is funded in part through the annual HKRFU Sevens Long Lunch auction and raffle. This year’s Long Lunch featured one of the most surprising and entertaining line-ups in years, with Eric Rush serving as guest MC along with Australian television commentator Dave Fordham, and sevens legend Waisale Serevi and ex-England prop Jeff Probyn as guest speakers for the day.

The auction and raffle at the Long Lunch helped generate over HK\$300,000 dollars for the Charitable Trust, funds which will be disbursed to another generation of promising local schoolchildren, helping continue Hong Kong’s rugby tradition for another fifty years. **RT**



Dingley tackles new direction

These are certainly heady days for one of Hong Kong's most capped representative players, No. 8 Paul Dingley. A recent baby, a new company, a budding journalistic career and most of all a new club have seen the player taking many changes in his considerable stride of late.

Dingley or 'PD' or 'Dingles' as he is variously known, has been a constant in local rugby since his arrival from South Africa in 1996. In those heady days of relaxed international eligibility, Paul was able to arrive and make his international mark in the same season, playing his first international test in the 1996 Pacific Rim Championship series where he came on in back-row relief for his own brother Jon, who had arrived in Hong Kong in 1993.

Dingley has been a Hong Kong rugby mainstay and a constant member of the forward pack. The wide ranging back-rower figures he is close to 100 Sevens games alone.

A constant feature of Dingley's play has been his ability to bring the ball upfield, sometimes without much support. This forward-looking attitude has seen him embark upon a new career path by creating Legend Events, a name he swears was "made up by my wife Louise" with fellow South African and Hong Kong representative Warren Warner. First meeting in South Africa a decade ago, Warner and Dingley are good friends who complement each other well both on the pitch and in the boardroom.

Leveraging on the two players' professional experience with the Asian PGA Tour, Legend Events has started out with a natural focus on managing corporate golf events. Business has been strong so far, with the company already successfully arranging five corporate golf days, with four more scheduled before the end of the year. As it so often is on the pitch, the cooperation between Dingley and Warner is proving successful off the field as well, with Dingley explaining the complementary skills of the two players. "Warren and I are equal partners in Legend Events and we both handle marketing for the company, but I am quite amazed at Warren's skills with people on event day."

The two are currently running the operation from Dingley's home in Happy Valley, with an eye towards testing the market and successfully growing the business before deciding on making any further major investment.

Adding to the excitement the year has already brought is the birth of Paul and Louise's first child a girl they have named Natasha. Dingley's infatuation with his baby daughter and

involvement with his business have found a happy median in his working from home, "Don't tell my clients, but if I ever need a break from my work, I can go in the other room and play with my baby daughter which is fantastic and a real release from the pressures of the work day."

Other new chapters in his life include his current affiliation as a rugby commentator in the *South China Morning Post*, where his Rugby Talk column provides a "more in-depth view into the matches and the players from an insider's perspective,"

something which has found resonance with local readers. "Comments so far have been quite positive," confirmed Dingley, who also inadvertently indicated a willingness to contribute to future issues of *RUGBY TALK*.

For local ruggers however, Dingley's biggest news came with his decision to switch from Valley to Football Club in the close season. The movement of a notable and long-standing player with one of Hong Kong's leading sides to another historic club news sparked yet another outcry about player movement in Hong Kong.

Dingley, who refused to be drawn on the player movement debate, said that the Football Club's "subventions are an important incentive as are the Club's potential business contacts, but I don't believe that the HKFC went out to blatantly recruit other players. I don't think that player movement is a big problem in the

league, as clubs like Valley and Kowloon have all been able to bring in talent from overseas, which I believe will lead to a better competition than last year."

Dingley's favourite international moment came in the second annual Pacific Rim Championship in 1997 in a 56 - 9 win versus the USA. "In that year, the Hong Kong team was both skilled and close-knit off the field," remembers Dingley, who scored twice in that match along with his brother Jon, making the day both a fond memory and a family affair.

With a pensive look in his eyes for a player closer to the end than the beginning of his international career, Dingley commented, "Hong Kong has been very good to me: the rugby, the tours and the teammates. When I am done I would like to be in a position to give something back to local rugby." For the player who has led from the front through the recent years of wanting player availability, many would say his debt to local rugby is repaid in full. **RT**



OUTWARD BOUND FOR GLORY

The 2002 – 2003 HKSAR XV season kicked off on the October holiday weekend at the Outbound Camp in Sai Kung. The weekend was a great experience in terms of team building with all the potential squad members really enjoying themselves. The players had to learn to work together to overcome various challenges including orienteering, rope climbing and various water activities. It was a tribute to the team that they overcame every challenge that was laid down, usually in near record times.

Besides team building the weekend also allowed the team to develop its leadership skills and to integrate new and upcoming players. One of the leaders who came through was HKFC's Lusiano Afeaki, quickly establishing himself as a unifying force. DeA's Paul Chiu Kin Pong and Causeway Bay's George Di Koon were two of the up-and-coming players who did a lot to earn the respect and trust of the other members of the squad.

A key positive was that players put their trust in each other in often dangerous and physically challenging circumstances

A key positive to come from the weekend was that players put their trust in each other and depended on their teammates in often dangerous and physically challenging circumstances. For example, one of the challenges required groups of four players to climb to the top of a forty-foot pole, squeeze together onto a 3x3 platform and then jump off simultaneously and make contact with four balls suspended high above the ground. It was then up to the other players waiting on the ground to catch the jumpers with the safety ropes and to lower them to the ground safely. Each of the challenges reinforced the premise that much more can be accomplished when players work as a team with a clear game plan as opposed to working individually. The challenges also mimicked rugby in the sense that players of all different sizes and shapes had a role to play in overcoming the weekend's tests.

One of the more humorous moments occurred when the team was asked to jump off a 25-foot high pier into the ocean. Almost as soon as the instructor had finished giving extensive instructions on proper safety techniques which included jumping feet first, HKFC's Rory Dickson stepped to the edge pier and proceeded to perform a near perfect (knowing Rory he would say perfect) 360° dive sans splash. The whole squad was howling. What a shock to the instructor!

The most time consuming and intensive challenges started on late Sunday and ended on Monday morning. The first part

required players to paddle in kayaks for almost two miles to an uninhabited island. Once the players arrived on the island they had to surrender their kayaks to the instructor who took them back to the mainland. (Even before surrendering their kayaks, however, the first thing they had to do after arriving on the island was clear the rotting fish from the beach – DeA's Dave Atkinson was particularly proud of his leadership role in this impromptu challenge). The players were told that if they wanted to leave the island they would need to build rafts from some scant supplies such as bamboo poles, ropes and plastic barrels (and anything else they could find on the island). This exercise brought out the Boy Scout in Valley's Peter Spizzirri and soon the team was on its way to building a sturdy raft that would carry almost 20 players ashore in record time at the crack of dawn on Monday morning.

Before Monday morning, however, came Sunday evening. The team decided that there was no need to build any shelter and that it would be a good idea to "sleep under the stars" on the beach. There may have been some regrets the next morning after Sunday evening turned out to be very cold without any sleeping bags and most of the players still in wet clothing after the sea kayaking. In the middle of the night, large waves from a passing Marine Police boat almost swept DeA's Robert "Junior" Naylor out to sea. "Too bad the waves weren't just a little bit larger" many were heard to say the next morning.

The squad's achievements on Sunday and Monday were even more impressive in view of the fact that their hearts and sometimes minds were clearly elsewhere after news of the terrible tragedy in Bali began to filter in.

Undoubtedly, the lessons learned and friendships developed over the weekend will help the squad achieve its goals in its upcoming matches against Singapore, Taiwan, Korea and Japan and prepare it for its biggest challenge of all...taking care of its manager. **RT**

*By HKSAR XV
player James Wood*



School ruggers face league test

Schools rugby in Hong Kong has kicked off its 2002/03 season with a four-month season for U19s and U16s or 'A' and 'B' grades. The season, which runs from September to December and features teams from six schools, provides a welcome warm-up for Hong Kong based schoolboys in the run up to the New Year's Day Youth Rugby Tournament and the exciting possibility of representing Hong Kong at the biennial Asian Rugby Football Union U19 Tournament, which will be held for the first time since 1996 in Hong Kong this January.

From now until mid-December, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons will see the league, which features primarily English Schools Foundation schools along with Hong Kong Island School and a combined French and Chinese International School side, play afternoon matches at Happy Valley and Tai Hang Tung.

Hong Kong Asian Games representative Jung Ho Jung is the new Chairman of the Schools Committee, which operates as a subsection of the HKRFU's Youth Committee, along with the similar age group, but club-based, Colts league. Jung, a former Schools player who has come up through the ranks of Hong Kong rugby, seems the perfect choice to take the helm. The Physical Education instructor at West Island School played in the HKSAR XV in the first Tri-angular tournament back in 1999 against Singapore and Taiwan, and was also a member of this year's Asian Games squad in Busan, an experience he fondly remembers as his swan song for representative rugby.

"I am getting older now, and after the experience of the Asian Games, I really want to give something back to the Hong Kong rugby community and to the HKRFU which has supported us so well." To the HKRFU, there could be no better recompense than Jung's current battle to keep future generations involved and in love with rugby in Hong Kong.

As Chairman, Jung is assisted by other local teachers and members of the rugby

community including well-known Hong Kong reps Charles Riding (King George V) and Rodney McIntosh (French International School), as well as HKFC coach Andrew Tranent from West Island School, Peter Hardman from Hong Kong International School and Andrew Service from Shatin College. Together, this dedicated team of educators and sportsmen help maintain this excellent opportunity for Hong Kong's youth ruggers.



Although Schools Rugby is also offered at the primary stage, it has yet to be developed to its full potential, something which Jung hopes to do in the future. "At the

moment, the entire Primary Schools League consists of a day-long competition, we hope to extend this but are focusing on the Secondary level initially," said Jung.

With the league in full swing, and a series of highly competitive domestic and international opportunities awaiting the players at the end of the year, Jung's attention has to be focused. The Schools League's competition will be decided by a playoff of the top four teams (based on points accumulated) in the 'A' grade, and by points alone in the 'B' Grade.

To date, West Island School is running rampant in the 'A' league with an undefeated record after six matches while King George V is a close second at 4 - 1 with a game in hand. Hong Kong International School is at 4 - 2, while South Island School is hanging tight at three wins and three losses. Shatin stands at two wins and three losses. French International School have had difficulty in fielding a side but are valiantly putting forth their 'B' grade side for the competition, providing valuable experience for its future 'A' graders. While the scores are recorded, the points are not counted towards semi-final tallies.

The 'A' League semi-finals will be played on Tuesday, November 19 with the finals the following Tuesday, the 26th at Happy Valley at 4:30.

As always, the Schools league will provide a welcome warm-up for youth players in advance of the traditional New Year's Day Youth Rugby Tournament, but this year's competition provides an important opportunity for the U19 to effectively prepare for the ARFU U19 Tournament, which will be held from January 4 - 12, 2003, (see more on the ARFU U19 Tournament in the next issue of *RUGBY TALK*).

With the top four winners from the U19 Tournament going through to the U19 Rugby World Cup in France in 2003, Hong Kong's schoolboys have everything to play for over the coming months, which should ensure some ultra-competitive rugby. **RT**

Updates and the latest results from Schools Rugby will appear in future issues of RUGBY TALK, and next month, we get up close with Colts Rugby.

DeA Tigers roaring already

According to former Chairman and veteran player Leighton Duley, “No matter what DeA’s results are this year, the season was a success before we even started.” The iconic, if not laconic, rugger was referring to the official association forged this season between DeA and Kai Tak Tigers.

The two prominent local clubs have now formed a single comprehensive entity capable of fielding sides at all ages and skill levels of Hong Kong rugby from mini

fortunate to have a core which provides continuity. We have a core at DeA too, but we always see some change in key positions.”

DeA RFC began 14 years ago as part of a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme activity. Over the years, the team has grown from strength to strength, and is today made up of both local and expatriate players. The “proud mongrels” of Hong Kong rugby, the club’s membership is multinational including Chinese, English, Aussies and Kiwis, Samoans, Canadians, Scots, French and Slavic players.

“increasing standards in the seconds.” With the distraction of the Asian Games over, DeA’s players will have the opportunity to fully concentrate on their club duties as the season progresses.

DeA is also fielding sides in the Fourth and Fifth Division this year with the Fifth Division side undefeated and boasting a record of 103 points scored after three matches.

For DeA, who have been at the fore of local rugby development, producing a good number of Hong Kong’s Chinese representative players, the new feeder system is ideal.

Kai Tak Tigers RFC was formed in 1981 by a group of enthusiastic parents who wanted nothing more than to see their children enjoy the game of rugby and interacting with other children of the same age from around Hong Kong. Mr Terence O’Connor, Chairman for Kai Tak Tigers welcomed the move saying “This is an exciting new development for two of the biggest and most progressive rugby clubs in Hong Kong. Both have a proven commitment to encouraging all in Hong Kong to participate.”

With Chan Fuk Ping only one of the talented players to have risen through the ranks of the Kai Tak Tigers and into the DeA first XV before representing Hong Kong, the advantages for both clubs are evident and plentiful.

In particular, Kai Tak’s mini and colts players can benefit from the input of DeA’s senior players and coaches, and the young players will now have a senior club to migrate to, while DeA enjoys a continuing stream of young Hong Kong rugby talent to fuel future challenges to the league title. The comprehensive organization is rounded out by the very active DeA Womens sides, who can boast of their own Hong Kong representative players as well.

The new club has also received a warm welcome from the HKRFU, who have provided them with practice facilities and a home pitch at King’s Park in Kowloon. With increasing eligibility requirements for international competition, and a shrinking expatriate population, the move looks a good solution for problems facing both the Union and the local clubs in the years to come. **RT**

“It is an excellent opportunity to bridge the gap that exists between mini and colts level and senior rugby, and is something that I believe, as Director of Clubs, needs to happen more around the landscape of Hong Kong rugby”



DeA Tigers have a ball at the Great Wall

to senior grades. “It is an excellent opportunity to bridge the gap that exists between mini and colts level and senior rugby, and is something that I believe, as Director of Clubs, needs to happen more around the landscape of Hong Kong rugby,” added Duley.

The new strength has seen the Tigers start roaring after an inspirational 25 – 11 victory over defending Grand Champions Aberdeen, which levels their record at two wins and two losses. “Not ideal,” admitted Duley, who expects the marks to improve at both the first and second division level. “You always have a slow start whenever you have a new team. Other clubs in Hong Kong are

This international balance has brought the club, and its players, strong rewards. Amongst the 12-man Hong Kong Sevens squad, three of the players were DeA members, while the club’s national representation increases in competitions with strict eligibility requirements like the Asian Games, which involve many of DeA’s locally-born players from the first and second sides.

Surprisingly enough the club’s second side is not faring so well after the new move. Last year, DeA II completed the first round of the league undefeated, but this year, the team is languishing in the depths of the Second Division, which according to Duley, reflects nothing more than the



香港七人欖球代表隊 寄望二零零六多哈亞運會

第十四屆釜山亞運會已於十月中圓滿結束，香港各項運動代表均全力以赴；結果於不同項目中贏得多面獎牌，創下歷屆最佳的成績。香港七人欖球代表隊亦竭盡全力，以爭取理想的成績。雖然香港隊未能打開勝利之門，但教練華樂勤(Jim Walker)認為球隊的表現尚算理想。

是次七人欖球項目採取八隊賽制，將八支球隊分成兩組先以循環賽制比賽；香港與中國、中華台北及亞洲勁旅日本同組，於分組賽一較高下，爭取出線權。而另一小組則包括主辦國韓國、馬來西亞、斯里蘭卡及泰國。

香港首戰先與今屆黑馬中華台北對賽，由於多位出色的香港隊成員因居港時間的問題未符合今屆亞運會訂立的嚴謹參賽資格，而未能參加比賽，所以香港隊主要由香港乙組聯賽球員組成。對手中華台北則派出上屆世界七人欖球巡迴賽陣容上陣，經驗比香港隊豐富。雖然香港隊以零比二十九落敗，但教練認為隊員的表現一點也不遜色：「我們上半場的防守是非常緊密的，可惜後勁不繼，被對手將比數拉開，但整體來說還是不錯的。」

香港隊為了今屆亞運會做了接近六個月的備戰功夫，大家在出發前一直預計三場比賽中最有機會勝出的便是對中國一役。在第二場比賽開段，香港隊控制著局面，後起之秀卓銘然連續兩次達陣成功，帶領香港隊邁向勝利之門，情況頗為順利。可惜香港隊又再一次防守失誤，讓中國隊乘勝追擊，結果對手以二十八比十四反敗為勝。

雖然香港隊對中國一仗的確有點失望，但大家的信心卻未因此而被擊倒。在與日本隊對壘時，對方於上半場以四球領先，但香港一直堅持下去，繼續努力進攻，作戰到底。在大家的合作及努



香港隊全力以赴

力之下，卓銘然再下一城，與隊長鄭政浩各取一球，將比數稍為拉近。最後，日本還是以四十五比十大勝香港。

經過連番激戰，結果主辦國韓國隊擊敗群雄，成功登上冠軍寶座；而香港的首戰對手中華台北與泰國分別奪得亞軍及季軍。至於大熱之一日本隊則只能屈居殿軍。



卓銘然於今屆亞運比賽中為香港成功達陣三次

華樂勤表示球隊今次雖然未能嚐到勝利的滋味，但卻得到非常寶貴的經驗。大家亦體會到參加一項高水準的國際賽事，賽前無論在個人或球隊方面的準備功夫是十分重要的。賽前一直被看好的年青球員比利(Dan Bailey)在這次比賽中的狀態穩定，不僅是體能好，在與強敵日本對壘時，更是毫不畏懼，表現出色。

此外，教練華樂勤與領隊柏倫(Rob Perren)一致認為陳偉平表現突出，多次於進行鬥牛時擊破對方的進攻。其他表現出色的球員包括隊長鄭政浩及李卓賢。

隊中多位球員均為香港代表A隊培養出來的，從今屆亞運會可證明香港欖球總會的代表隊培訓計劃有明顯的成績；相信經過今次的寶貴經驗及賽後檢討，再加上充足的準備，香港隊必定能在二零零六年多哈亞運會中有更好的表現。

RT

欖球訓練學院課程全面展開

經過香港欖球總會的努力及多方面的協助，欖球訓練學院已於今年九月正式開學。總會及招募委員會甄選了十男四女，一共十四位學員成為首屆學生。為了栽培學員成為全面的欖球員，總會特別悉心安排多元化及高質素的課程，務求在運動與教育兩者之間取得平衡。除了不可或缺的欖球技術及體能訓練之外，更包括急救、電腦及英文課程。此外，總會更安排學員參加義務工作，例如探訪老人院，以灌輸「關心社會、造福人羣」的概念。總會亦注重學員之間的溝通及默契，並於十二月二十一至二十三日舉行為期三日的戶外訓練營，希望能夠增進大家的感情及團體合作精神。

與欖球獎學金計劃不同，創立欖球訓練學院之目的是訓練有潛質的學員成為優秀的欖球運動員，加入香港代表隊；更希望透過全面的課程，學員可以吸取運動以外及終生受用的知識，更有信心迎接及面對未來的挑戰，對其日後踏足社會有一定的幫助。其實，總會頒發獎學金予在學的青少年欖球運動員，主要是著重欖球方面的個人發展，同時亦鼓勵他們繼續升學。總會最終希望被選為欖球獎學金運動員的學生能夠在總會的栽培下成長，在欖球及個人方面均有良好的發展。



總會安排了專題訓練計劃給負責比賽和評選的選手

香港中文大學體育系一年級學生陳耀宇對於能夠加入訓練學院感到很榮幸，他認為學院的訓練比球會更嚴格，更全面：「球會比較著重加強球員之間的合作及進攻能力，練習個人技術的時間便相對減少；而學院的訓練則較著重我們的基本功，提供非常全面的訓練。」

已是四屆欖球獎學金運動員的范信基擁有十二年的欖球經驗，更多次被選入香港青年代表隊，包括十四、十六、十九及二十一歲以下代表隊，代表香港到海外比賽；今年七月便前往馬來西亞參加吉隆坡七人欖球賽(Jonah Jones 7 撥)。范信基非常珍惜今次加入欖球訓練學院的機會，他表示：「我希望透過學院的訓練課程提高個人技術及加強進攻能力，再加上我現時於香港專業教育學院黃克競分校修讀的康體文娛業務文憑課程，希望畢業後加入香港欖球總會，參與推動及發展欖球運動的工作。」

除了一系列為學員度身設計的課程，總會亦會安排特別訓練環節，盡量為學員提供不同的學習機會。就以九月為例，七人欖球巨星斐濟隊長撒力非(Waisale Serevi)應邀來港為香港國際七人欖球賽午宴擔任嘉賓。總會把握是次機會，邀請了撒力非於百忙中抽空為欖球訓練學院的學員進行一次「特訓」。

這次特別訓練對學員來說絕對是寶貴的經驗，得到世界頂尖級球星的指導已是難能可貴；更難得的是撒力非與大家分享他當年選擇成為職業欖球員的決心，闡出名堂背後的秘訣及當中所付出的努力。撒力非「世上無難事，只怕志不堅」的一番說話在學員的腦海中留下非常深刻的印象。

就讀嘉諾撒書院中五的鄭芷婷從短短九十分鐘的訓練中感受到撒力非對欖球的熱愛：「他告訴我們一定要立下目標，然後朝著目標邁進，不斷努力，不怕艱苦，還要比其他人付出更多努力，才能突圍而出。他對欖球的熱誠及堅毅精神感染了我們每一位學員。」

大家都緊記著撒力非的說話，除了應付校內功課及課程指定的訓練，還會抽出時間在體能方面再下些功夫，以爭取更好的表現，希望通過為期三年的欖球訓練學院課程，達到自己定下的目標，在欖球界有理想的發展。



七人欖球巨星斐濟隊長撒力非為學員上了寶貴的一課

RT



香港欖球總會教練培訓課程

香港欖球總會為了提高本地教練質素及使其更專業化，現正重新安排課程內容，以實務、效益為本，期望於每個課程完結後，均能夠培訓出新一代的教練，為不斷發展的欖球運動培育更優秀的教練人材。

香港欖球總會希望透過是次計劃，確保及提高各課程參加者的質素，並清楚了解各級別活動之技巧及樂趣，從而啟發更多教學概念，增加各級別訓練之成效及安全性。

更新的教練課程將分為四個部份，包括實踐課程、專項理論及教學課程、教練實習及由香港康體發展局「教練培訓部」舉辦之教練通論課程。詳情如下：

實踐課程

此階段以技巧為主，學習正確之技巧，對從未參與教練工作之學員極為重要。透過親身練習及比賽，真正了解學員所需及技巧要點。(備註：各學員必須參與有關教練課程中之比賽)

專項理論及教學課程

學習個別組別之教學技巧及各級別比賽之規則，使參加者能了解該組別運動員的需要，以教導正確之觀念。

教學實習

學員可透過擔任助理教練或教練工作，實踐課程中所學到的知識及技巧。

通論課程

由香港康體發展局教練培訓部主辦之「教練通論課程」，目的是希望各級教練能夠有效地掌握所學習的知識，並與其他教練交流心得，互相學習，從而提高個人及教授之技巧。**RT**



二零零二至二零零三年教練培訓課程時間表

課程	日期	備註
帶式欖球教練課程	二零零二年十二月十四日	中文班
	二零零三年四月	中文班
基本欖球教練課程	二零零三年四月	中文班
	二零零三年四月	英文班
準初級欖球教練課程	二零零二年十一月二十四日、 十二月一日(甲部)及 二零零三年二月二十三日(乙、丙部)	中文班
	二零零三年四月	中文班
	二零零三年四月	英文班
初級欖球教練課程	二零零二年十二月六至八日	英文班
	二零零三年五月	中文班
	二零零三年五月十六至十八日	英文班
中級欖球教練課程	二零零二年十二月二十至二十二日	英文班
	二零零三年五月	中文班
	二零零三年五月二十三至二十五日	英文班

如欲查詢有關資料或有興趣報讀以上任何課程，請與香港欖球總會謝穎詩聯絡(電話：2504 8311，傳真：2576 7237或電郵：cookie.tse@hkrugby.com)



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