

AUGUST 2010 ISSUE

# MANYATTA



Kenya  
Rugby  
Union

KENYA RUGBY UNION NEWSLETTER

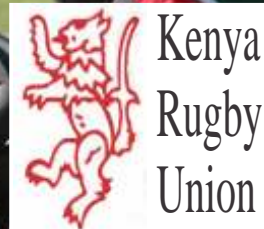


 Kenya  
Rugby  
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**KENYA VS UGANDA ELGON CUP  
WINNER**

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# Chairman's Note



Greetings,

I trust you are all fine and building the game of Rugby in Kenya one way or another. The past six weeks have been very interesting both on and off the pitch for Kenya Rugby. Our National XV team won the Victoria Cup and Elgon Cup. There have been issues relating to the adopted Constitution at the last AGM, and in particular the various calls for a Special Annual Meeting to discuss this, and to amend the Constitution. Kenya Sevens have also started their preparations for the Commonwealth games to be held in Delhi, India.

It is a constitutional right for changes to happen within the frame work of the constitution and affiliates are free to make suggestions on how we can best do this so that the changes if any, are within the constitutional framework. For this reason I have appointed a working committee to be chaired by Paul Nyamodi who sat on the last Committee of Experts to review these changes once again, to ensure that we are all pulling in the same direction and not at cross purposes. This can only be good for the sport as we continue to distinguish rugby from the rest. The other members of the committee will consist of Mwangi Muthee, Sadik Makii and Peter Nduati with power to co-opt other members into the committee. The outcome of this will be a convening of a meeting to look at the recommendations and if need be to re look at the constitution.

With regard to the proposed changes to Christie 7's and Kabeberi 7's, these have been reviewed and Kenya Harlequins FC and Mwamba RFC will continue to host these events as before.

The audit of the accounts for Kenya Rugby Limited for

the years 2008 & 2009 has been completed and these will be circulated for discussion alongside the adjourned adoption of accounts of the Union in a meeting to be convened in the coming month.

The Kenya XV team has had an impressive 2010 season winning the inaugural Victoria Cup Competition. Victoria Cup is a Tri-Nations competition between Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe played on a home and away basis. Kenya did win all its matches in the competition beating Uganda in Kampala for the first time in 7 years, and beating Zimbabwe in Harare for the first time ever. Consequently, Kenya is now ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> in the world, the best ever ranking ever for the country and a huge leap from 42<sup>nd</sup> earlier in the year. We must remain steadfast in continuing to develop the game at all levels and the recent wins over Uganda and Zimbabwe both at home and away culminating in winning both Elgon and Victoria Cups are a very good sign that our game is a notch higher in the region. We congratulate our 15's team for this gallant effort and for the commitment to the game.

As part of the preparation for the Commonwealth Games to be held in India in October, The National 7s team has started its preparations including:

1. Conditioning program to run through up to September.
2. Participating in a number of tournaments namely:
  - a. Middlesex Sevens weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> August.
  - b. Castle Sevens in Zambia on the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> August.

KRU will release ALL the players to fully participate in the NSC for their clubs except Players who will be called to do National duty during those two weekends, and players who might be injured. The players though will not play beyond September 19<sup>th</sup> which is when they will go into camp for the Commonwealth Games. During the NSC, the Kenya Sevens Management will be looking to identify new talent to join the larger Kenya 7s player pool.

It has to be stressed that the Chairman of the Union remains the policy spokesman of the Union and all policy pronouncements will emanate from his statements. We can only remain stronger if we remain united and I urge all of us not to be side lined on issues that can only be seen to be divisive."

Chairman,  
Kenya Rugby Union

# Fifteens Rugby



## The Victoria Cup Review

A clean sweep over Uganda and Zimbabwe saw Kenya winning the inaugural Victoria Cup Tri Nations Series and climbing nine places up the IRB World rankings to an all time high 32<sup>nd</sup> in the world and fourth in Africa behind South Africa, Namibia and Morocco.

The dramatic rise didn't come easy. Kenya narrowly beat Zimbabwe 11-10 in Nairobi on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in a tight, scrappy affair that had many a rugby fan wondering the team would be up to the task ahead of its remaining fixtures. Uganda's 24-15 win over Zimbabwe a week later in Kampala put many critics into overdrive, forecasting doom for the national side. Kenya's 7-101 result against Mpumalanga in an international friendly on the same weekend generated heated debate within the local rugby circles. Kenya would venture to Kampala on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010 for an epic

Victoria Cup tie which doubled up as the East African Elgon Cup derby played annually against their western neighbours. Kenya had not won a game in Uganda since 2005 and the pressure was on Michael "Tank" Otieno's charges. They would have to come off with a win if they were to satisfy the demanding Kenyan fans. They did not disappoint. Peter Abuoga's successful penalty kicks early in the game and a man of the match performance from Oscar Ouma saw Kenya score four tries en route to a 33-25 result over the Rugby Cranes at the Kyadondo Rugby Grounds, a result that gave them pole position in the Victoria Cup and put them on course for a fourth successive Elgon Cup title. Speaking after the match in Kampala, "Tank" paid tribute to his side, particularly Abuoga who contributed eleven points from boot and touchdown saying, "We worked on his mental approach to the game, he has played well today." He also spoke about the controversial Mpumalanga result saying, "Mpumalanga was a blessing in disguise, it exposed our weaknesses. We worked on them and the results are plain for all to see."

This set the stage for the return

match on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at Nairobi's RFUEA Grounds. A win for Kenya would see them claim a fourth successive Elgon Cup while securing the Victoria Cup at the first time of asking. Uganda, coached by Kenyan Ham Onsando came into the Nairobi fixture with a lot of fight and bite in them, eager to undo the wrongs of Kampala. Kenya's fly half Nato Simiyu's man of the match brace of tries would guide the hosts to a 21-5 victory, Elgon Cup and Victoria Cup success too.

Heading into Zimbabwe with the Victoria Cup safely tucked away, one would think that Kenya would ease off the gas. They would instead put in a heroic performance, rallying from 8-18 at half time to stun Zimbabwe 23-18. This was Kenya's first ever win in Zimbabwe, a result that saw them finish the Victoria Cup with a perfect record and 32<sup>nd</sup> place in the IRB World Rankings.

NB. The final Victoria Cup match pitting Zimbabwe against Uganda was called off after Uganda pulled out, citing trauma from the 11<sup>th</sup> July bomb attacks in Kampala. We offer our condolences and commiserations to the Ugandan rugby fraternity and all the people of Uganda.







# Elgon Cup

## Kenya's Women Retain the Elgon Cup

Kenya's women had an equally good Elgon Cup outing, acquitting themselves well in their first leg loss to Uganda on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010 in Kampala. They survived a stormy start against their host, turning what had initially been a one side affair into a very close game of rugby that ended 8-5 to the Lady Cranes.

Speaking ahead of the return clash in Nairobi, Kenyan coach Sammy Kemmey said, "The Ugandans used their strong forwards as platforms in the game, which we will have to address come the weekend.....I expect the Ugandans to come with their guns blazing, but to counter their charges we need to tackle them hard in the rucks and mauls and keeping all our ball in hand while following the basic principle of pace, patience, persistence and penetration to win us the game. We need to give the Kenyan fans their first Elgon Cup in a final played on their ground. "

Match day 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010 and Uganda drew first blood, securing three points from Christine Kizito's boot after nine minutes of play. Angie Olum leveled the scores for Kenya before captain fantastic Celestine Masinde released Philadelphia Olando to score, extending Kenya's lead. The Kenyan ladies would eventually win this tie 16-8, retaining the Elgon on a 21-16 aggregate.

Despite Kenya winning the match and the series, the Ugandan Lady Cranes deserve special mention. They almost didn't make it for the return clash after their bus was involved in a traffic accident as they made their way to Nairobi. They soldiered on and gave a good account of themselves in Nairobi.



## CAR African Under 19 Tournament

Kenya's under 19s bowed out of the main cup competition at the Confederation of African Rugby African Under 19 Tournament when they lost 0-20 to regional rivals, Uganda's Baby Cranes on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2010 in their quarter final clash in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Two tries from Ray Kasule, one from Adnan Mutebi as well as a penalty and conversion from Jasper Ochen were enough to see Uganda secure a semi final berth against Zimbabwe who were 45-0 winners over hosts Cote d'Ivoire.

Tunisia beat Morocco 18-0 while Namibia were awarded a walk over following Zambia's no show.

The semi final pairings at the time of going to press were:  
Uganda v Zimbabwe

Tunisia v Namibia

Kenya, Morocco and Cote d' Ivoire were relegated to playing classification matches which were on going at the time of going to press.





Kenya  
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# WHERE WERE YOU?????





## Opinion

### Time for C.A.R to restructure its competitions

The Confederation of African Rugby (C.A.R) has over the years held its continental championships using formats which favoured geography over world/continental rankings in the preliminary stages.

Kudos to C.A.R for ensuring African sides have a competition of their own. More can be done.

While this may have played the role of reducing travel related costs, it has done little to improve the standards of rugby across the African continent. Africa's top tier teams are pooled into three groups of four teams each with group matches kicking off at the semi final stage.

#### Pool A

Morocco, Tunisia, Ivory Coast, Senegal

#### Pool B

Namibia, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroun

#### Pool C

Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Zambia, Botswana

The three group winners and the best overall runner up proceed to the final four. Looking at the groupings, one gets the impression that pooling the teams according to regions takes precedence over pooling them according to world/continental rankings.

The end result? We have constantly had the same top sides slugging it out at the group stages.

While it may on paper appear to be a noble attempt to get African sides playing at minimal expense, this format restricts many national sides to probably two matches in a season, not much to build on in terms of world rankings and development of the game. The C.A.R needs

to ensure that African sides are playing more matches amongst themselves over a longer period of time.

An overhaul of the current format would be a good place to start. It makes little sense when we have three strong sides pooled together all because they are from the same geographic region. This has been the case in Pools A (Morocco, Tunisia and Ivory Coast) and B (Namibia, Kenya and Uganda) of the 2010 C.A.R tournament. A seeding system based on world/continental rankings makes more sense for the obvious reason that the competition will be open and evenly contested, giving all and sundry a chance to play more matches and gather more ranking points which are critical to the furthered growth and development of the African game.

*The views expressed here are the author's and not necessarily those of the Kenya Rugby Union*

### Victoria Cup Pictorial





# Sevens

## Introducing the Western Union National Sevens Circuit 2010

The 2010 Western Union National Sevens Circuit is here.

Now in its twelfth season, the Western Union National Sevens Circuit will capitalize on the ever growing popularity of rugby sevens, which makes its return to the Olympic Games in 2016.

The National Sevens Circuit has over the years played a crucial role in exposing, tapping and identifying Kenyan rugby talent. We have seen the likes of Benjamin Ayimba, Oscar Osir, Felix Ochieng, Victor Sudi, Sidney Ashioya and Humphrey Kayange to name but a few all showcase their skills in past events. It has also unearthed with it new blood in the form of Oscar Ouma, Fabian Olando among others.

The 2010 Circuit takes place in August/September following the restructuring of the Kenyan rugby calendar with five tournaments taking place in Nairobi, Nakuru, Kisumu and Mombasa. It will feature teams and players from across Kenya, battling for individual tournament honours and the overall National Sevens Series title.

The Kenya National Sevens Circuit 2010 -

August 21st/22nd - Christie Sevens, RFUEA Grounds, Nairobi

August 28th/29th - Prinsloo Sevens, Nakuru Athletic Club, Nakuru

Sept 4th/5th - Dala Sevens, Kisumu Polytechnic, Kisumu

Sept 11th/12th - Kabeberi Sevens, RFUEA Grounds, Nairobi

Sept 18th/19th - Driftwood Sevens, MSC, Mombasa

## Sevens A Sell-out Hit

Mike Hooper, Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Games Federation added: "With a record crowd of 50,000 at the final Rugby Sevens session in Melbourne in 2006, the Rugby Sevens tournament has become one of the most sought-after attractions at the Commonwealth Games, providing an excellent spectacle for both fans and television viewers.

"The inclusion of some of the world's best Sevens teams and star players from every corner of the world continue to broaden the Games' global appeal even further."

-Courtesy of the International Rugby Board/

<http://www.irb.com>

### 2010 Commonwealth Games Rugby Sevens Pools

Pool A

New Zealand, Scotland, Canada, Guyana

Pool B

South Africa, Wales, Tonga, India

Pool C

Samoa, Kenya, Uganda, Papua new Guinea

Pool D

England, Australia, Namibia, Sri Lanka

### Strong line up for 2010 Commonwealth Games

Newly-crowned IRB Sevens World Series champions Samoa have been named in a strong line-up of nations competing in the Rugby Sevens tournament at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi this October.

Samoa, who secured their first IRB Sevens World Series crown with victory in the Emirates Airline Edinburgh Sevens on May 30, will be joined by reigning Commonwealth Games Rugby Sevens champions New Zealand, hosts India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Kenya, Namibia, Uganda, England, Scotland, Wales, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Canada and Guyana in the 16-team tournament held on October 11-12.

Marking one year since Sevens' inclusion as an Olympic sport at the 121st IOC Session in Copenhagen, the tournament will be the first opportunity to witness its successful blend of high-paced action and competitive matches in a multi-sport Games environment.

"We firmly believe that the Sevens tournament at the Commonwealth Games plays an important role in the ongoing development and promotion of Rugby around the world. The event continues to attract some of the world's top players, delivering exciting matches and attracting new fans thanks to the remarkable talent of all the international teams competing," said IRB President, Bernard Lapasset.

"The Sevens tournament at the Commonwealth Games has consistently proven successful and this year we are particularly excited that the event is being held in India where Rugby is reaching out to new young audiences in a rapidly developing market for our sport. We are looking forward to what promises to be a memorable tournament for the Rugby family and sports fans alike."



# Commonwealth Games

## Kayange: Kenya to hit back in New Delhi

Kenya Sevens captain Humphrey Kayange is relishing the prospect of participating in this October's Commonwealth Games.

Following a challenging 2009/10 IRB Sevens World Series campaign, where Kenya finished eighth overall, there is much anticipation from their fans for a stronger showing in Delhi on October 11-12.

Kenya has been drawn in Pool C along with World Series champions Samoa, Papua New Guinea and rivals Uganda – known as the Cranes.

"Ever since the pools came out, there has been a real excitement in Kenya," Kayange told IRB.com in a recent column.

"The fans have been talking, the media has been discussing the opportunity for us to go there and win a medal for our country and for us the preparations are just beginning.

"The rivalry with the Cranes is intense: our 15-a-side team is involved in the Victoria Cup at the moment against Uganda and Zimbabwe, and also the Elgon Cup with just Uganda."

'Tall', as he is affectionately nicknamed, has never participated in the multi-sport event and is looking forward to being part of Team Kenya, along with brother Collins Injera.

"One of the things we're most looking forward to is sharing the athlete's village, including with the Kenyan distance runners."

"Right now within Kenya they still come above us, but we're working hard, trying to get near the top of our game too and maybe we can change that pecking order - it will take a lot of work though."

### Energized for Delhi

Criticism was labeled at the Africans following some mediocre displays during the second half of last season, with calls for newer and younger players to be drafted in.

But Kayange blames 'fatigue' as one of the major reasons for some of the below par performances and promises his side are recharged for October's showpiece.

"Last season we started well but half way through I think fatigue set in and we found it hard to operate at the same level. But by the time we get back into it now I think we'll be fully refreshed - physically and mentally."

-Courtesy of Robin Heymann/Ultimate Rugby Sevens

<http://www.ur7s.com>

## Elgon Cup Pictorial





