PENGUIN INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Rugby Football Union
Kent County RFU   Middlesex County RFU   Sussex County RFU

The Origins of the Word/Name Penguin

Historians confirm the word Penguin is most likely a compound word of two Welsh words, *pen* and *gwyn*, which mean "head" and "white" respectively. It is likely that "penguin" was at one time the name of a similar bird, though to be the Great Auk, in its winter plumage, now extinct, which had a white patch near its bill. The word penguin was first reliably reported in a letter in 1578 from Newfoundland and also recorded in the report of the voyages of Hakluyt.

The origin of the name Penguin for the club is based on a weekend of searching. After the success of the first tour, Tony Mason (co founder of the club) decided a name of note was required. He researched names of other clubs and found a number had a tendency to have *aggressive* names such as Barbarians, Pumas, Lions etc. Tony decided the team name should reflect a more passive stance and set about the search for a name based on an animal.

Over the course of a weekend, and armed with his children's zoo books, Tony thumbed backwards and forwards reducing the possibilities to a select few. After a pause and further consideration Tony decided upon the name Penguin, and the rest as they say is history.

Up until 1997, the Club's name was Penguin RFC. Following a proposal from Alan Wright, the committee resolved that the name be changed to Penguin International RFC to properly reflect the fact that the Club was the probably most travelled sports club in the world.

"Penguin" in many languages around the world

Arabic:	البطريق طائر	Japanese:	ペンギン
Chinese	企鹅	Korean:	펭귄
Czech:	tučňák	Latvian:	pingvīns
Danish:	pingvin	Lithuanian:	pingvinas
Dutch:	pinguá‹án	Norwegian:	pingvin
Estonian:	pingviin	Polish:	pingwin
Finnish:	pingviini	Spanish:	pingüino
French:	pingouin	Portuguese	pinguim
German:	der Pinguin	Romanian:	pinguin
Greek:	πιγκουίνος	Russian:	пингвин
Hungarian:	pingvin	Slovak:	tučniak
Icelandic:	mörgæs	Slovenian:	pingvin
Indonesian:	pinguin	Swedish:	pingvin
Italian:	pinguino	Turkish:	penguen