

PENGUIN INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB Rugby Football Union Kent County RFU

# AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

# PENGUINS PIPPED AT THE POST IN THE GFI HKFCI0s CUP FINAL

#### Also in this 'Hong Kong/New Zealand Special' issue:

 The story of the Penguins at the HK7s + Michael Schwartz's never before seen photographs of the 1987 & 1988 HK7s + Q&A session with Penguins' World Cup winning Kiwi superstar Nehe Milner-Skudder + Penguins involved in the Lions Tour + John Kerr (right) becomes the first King Penguin President





#### Welcome to the PIRFC Newsletter for Autumn 2017

This year the **HSBC Penguin International Coaching Academy** will be travelling to India between 24th August - 3rd September.

The Academy will also be visiting Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in September and also Sri Lanka and China (dates TBA).

Plus, in November the Academy will be visiting Selangor and Klang Valley in Malaysia. As usual, if you'd like to join the Academy at any of these events, please contact **Craig Brown** at: craig.brown@penguinrugby.com

On the playing front, the Penguin International RFC defended their GFI HK10s 2016 title in Hong Kong, falling just short of a second successive final win. Read all about it on pages 3 - 7.

The King Penguin played in the **Malta Vets Tournament** in May and won the title - beating Malta Marauders in the final. Details on pages 8 and 9. And on page 24 there's a short article regarding Penguins' stalwart John Kerr's recent appointment as King Penguins' President. Many congratulations, John!

Carrying on the Hong Kong theme, this year the Hong Kong Tens Programme ran a number of pages dedicated to the Penguins and Penguins' Senior Vice-President Bill Calcraft.

You'll find copies of these articles on pages 11 - 19.

And that's not all the Hong Kong-related info - on pages 20 - 23 you'll find some never-before-seen photographs by Michael Schwartz of the Penguins at the 1988 and 1989 Hong Kong 7s Tournaments.

You'll find a few other bits and pieces inside to entertain you, too. We hope you enjoy catching up with your Club's doings!

#### **Coming fixtures**

♦ The dates of next year's Cambridge University RUFC and Oxford University RFC matches are yet to be finalised. See the Penguins' website for more info. If you'd like to join the Penguins at the University matches please contact **Steve Hill steve8hill@googlemail.com** 

Please keep an eye on the Club website for up-to-date news as and when it happens: www.penguinrugby.com



HSBC sponsor the HSBC Penguin Coaching Academy. Going forward, in an agreement that includes World Rugby, HSBC Penguin coaches will be travelling the world to help develop our game through grass roots, development and coach education activities.

HSBC is a long-term investor in rugby around the world. Through key partnerships such as the HSBC Sevens World Series, the bank is helping to develop and grow rugby at all levels of the game.

At the heart of all of their partnerships is HSBC's commitment to helping develop the grassroots level of the game and the HSBC Penguins are a key part of this support. The Penguins are aligned with the bank's focus on encouraging youngsters around the world to play rugby, often for the first time, and create a legacy through Coach Education and the delivery of essential kit and equipment.

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We are sure all members will join with us in expressing our thanks to HSBC, Grove Industries, Tsunami and Synapse for their ongoing support, interest and sponsorship of the Penguins.



#### PENGUIN INTERNATIONAL PLAYING NEWS



#### **GFI Hong Kong Football Club Tens Tournament** Hong Kong, China, 1st - 10th April 2017

For the eleventh straight year we Penguins made our annual waddle to the GFI Hong Kong Tens at the Hong Kong Football Club (writes Graeme Inglis, Tour Manager). This year we had the added pressure of

being defending champions and No. I seed This year we had the added pressure time epic

(after winning the over- of being defending Champions... against 💼 Samurai twelve months earlier). Scott Waldron, our forwards coach

from 2016, has since taken up a New Zealand 7s coaching role, so Willie Walker (our backs coach from last year) was joined this time by Steve Hill, a long time Penguin and Director of Rugby at Richmond FC. On paper we had a strong, well balanced and eclectic squad, with ten Kiwis, two Englishman, two Americans, a Canadian and a Scotsman. It was also great to welcome back three of last year's winning team.

The majority of the squad arrived on Saturday (1st April) to maximise our preparation time. That evening we took the well-trodden path to the always popular American Peking Restaurant in Wan Chai for a good feed and a spot of team bonding. The lads then wandered off into the night to explore the sights of Hong Kong.

On Sunday, after a slow start, we headed over to the mainland to King George V School for our first training session. This was the boys' first chance to work together and more importantly get a taste of the Hong Kong conditions for the first time. 'Rusty' seemed to be the word of the day, but only to be expected in the first run out. On Sunday evening we took the short walk from the hotel to the HKFC for a bite to eat in the Sportsman's Bar, and to show those new to Hong Kong the spectacular tournament venue for the first time.

On the Monday morning we managed to get our first training session on the main HKFC pitch. At the start of the session the coaches named Johan Bardoul and Shalom Suniula as our co-captains for the week. Our morning run out was followed by a pool recovery session and lunch at the club.



Sandy Bay RFC Minis Section waiting patiently for the HSBC Penguin Coaching Academy kit hand out!

Later that afternoon, we jumped on the bus again and headed to Sandy Bay. Following a Captains Run, we spent the rest of the afternoon coaching Hong Kong's next generation of rugby superstars, the Sandy Bay RFC Mini Section (around 100 kids). As always we arrived laden with Penguins T-shirts to pass out to the kids at the end of the session, which topped off a cracking afternoon. Thanks again to Sunil Gidumal for organising, and for his hospitality.





PIRFC Hon. VP Sean Fitzpatrick and the rest of the lads at the player's jerseys presentation

Our Tuesday morning training session allowed us to iron out any last minute issues and following our 'best session of the week' the coaches decided to give the squad the afternoon off. Before that, however, we were lucky enough to have the New Zealand legend Sean Fitzpatrick present the playing jerseys for the following day.

After a relaxing afternoon, we had a team dinner at The Jockey pub, before the boys hit the hay in anticipation of our first game at 10am the following morning!

First up on day one of the tournament was the Silver Dragons from Shanghai. The Dragons, sporting their strongest team ever in Hong Kong (they went on to win the Shield for the first time) proved to be a stern test and they held us scoreless for much of the first half. However, after weathering the initial storm, things began to click for the Penguins and following some strong build up work, Joe Webber was the first Penguin to dot down. The second half went more to plan and we managed to open up a sizeable lead by the end of the game with tries by Jesse Parete, Will Warden, Teddy Stanaway, Lalaki Foketi and Gafa Siu. 36-0 job done.

Our second pool game was against the Irish Vikings, a regular invitational side to the Hong Kong Tens. The Vikings proved a step up from the first game, and we did not have



Joe Webber bursts through against the Silver Dragons

things all our own way. In the end some individual class proved to be the difference, as we eventually notched up a reasonably comfortable 19-5 win. The 'Show and Go' from front rower Tau Koloamatangi for his score, was a particular highlight. Despite the final score this was a frustrating and scrappy game with too many basic errors, but in hindsight, it was probably the wakeup call the boys needed.



Russ Weir spreads it wide against the Irish Vikings

Game Three on Day One was against the ProjecX Waterboys, a select side from the top clubs in Scotland. Once again, the standard was a notch up from the previous games, and in a very tight first half the score remained 0-0. The theme of the half time team talk focussed on 'patience' and 'accuracy', which seemed to work as we managed to put three unanswered tries (by Lalakai Foketi, Tone Ng Shui and Lewis Ormonde) past them in the second half, the last of which must have been a contender for try of tournament. Final Score 17-0. So, day one over and mission complete - it may not have been pretty at times, but the boys dug deep when it mattered and got the job done.

Following our final game of the day, the squad joined the Penguins' supporters for the annual Hong Kong Penguin Dinner. This was a good chance for the lads to relax following a tough

day. With an attendance of over 60 people (including several of the Penguins Board Members) this was the best attended Hong Kong dinner in recent years and it was great to see so many supporters there to cheer on the team. Bill Calcraft took the opportunity to provide us all with an update on the various activities that the Penguins and the HSBC Penguin Coaching Academy have been up to over the past 12 months. A fine night was had by all, but it was another early night for the team in preparation of day two.

The Penguins' HK Dinner was a good chance for the lads to relax...



Talking of the HSBC Penguin Coaching Academy, we were joined during the week by two Penguin coaches, Neil Young and Nik Man, who spent the week running or participating in a range of coaching activities across Hong Kong. Neil also doubled as our social media guru for the week (#goodjobyoungy).

So to the business end of the tournament. First up the Scottish Exiles in the quarter final! The Exiles. who had made it out of a tough pool the previous day, struggled to live with the Penguins' intensity and physicality, and despite some early resistance the Penguins notched up a comfortable 29-0 win.



Callum Sirker scores against Tradition - YCAC

On to the semi-finals and Yokohama Country and Athletics Club (Tradition - YCAC) (who we met at the same stage last year) who had topped the 'Pool of Death' on Day One, lay in wait. From the off, this was a tough uncompromising game with two strong defences. Mid-way through the first half YCAC found a hole out wide and snuck in. Crucially they were unsuccessful with the conversion. The rest of the game followed a similar pattern, with brutal defence from both sides. With just two minutes on the clock it was still 5-0 and we were camped in our own half. We needed something special! Enter, Callum Sirker and his jet shoes! Callum, a member of the England 7s squad, had been itching to open up all tournament but had never really been given the ball in any space to show us what he could do. Luckily for us that chance came late on in the semi-final. A beautiful flick pass from Lewis Ormonde gave Callum the open track he needed allowing him to pin his ears back and outstrip the covering defence. The conversion from in front of the posts made it 7-5. A nervous last couple of minutes and some big defence saw us hold on. We were one step away from retaining our crown!

The Final was against the Tournament's surprise package, UBB Gavekal...

Time for the Final! Our opponents this year were the tournament's surprise package, UBB Gavekal, representing Top 14 Club Union Bordeaux-Begles. The Gavekal side was made up of players from the recently crowned Hong Kong Champions, Valley RFC, four of the wider Fiji 7's squad and a couple of Frenchmen from UBB. Seeded eleventh, Gavekal had surprised everybody on day one by defeating Samurai and had made it through a tough semi against three time winners the Asia Pacific Dragons (this year coached by the ex-Springbok Coach Heyneke Meyer).

From the outset it was clear that we again had two evenly matched sides, with both sides unable to create any spare. Even their fleet-footed Fijians were struggling to open up the gaps they had done so with such ease earlier in the tournament. Once again it was scoreless at half time, with the crowd on the edge of their seats (with flashbacks to last year's final and the 34 minute stalemate). However, not long into the second half, Gavekal managed to engineer a gap and slipped through to score under the posts. With time running out we found ourselves on the back foot again.

Some patient work and good ball retention gave us the opportunity we needed. Still struggling to find holes, Kuki Moala (aka the 'Kuki Monster'), decided to take matter into his own hands and took the direct route, smashing through several of the opposition to score under the posts. Conversion over - all square.

The tension built as the clock ran down and only some last-gasp defence kept them from scoring a second. The commitment from the Penguins was unstinting and the defence uncompromising. A knock on close to our own line (now deep into injury time) gave them the opportunity they needed. To everybody's surprise from the ensuing scrum, their standoff dropped back into the pocket and popped over a drop goal. Game over 10-7. Whilst a sickening way to lose, credit to Gavekal for their quick thinking, in a final that could have gone either way.







Lewis Urmonde was awarded the John Grove Award

With the business end of the week now out the way it was time for some fun - well for most of us. On Thursday evening Callum Sirker and Niama Fuala'au got the call up from the England and USA 7's team coaches to join their respective squads for the weekend.

Following the tournament the Coaches, Management and Supporters selected Lewis Ormonde for the John Grove 'Best and Fairest' award. Well done Lewis!

On Friday after the tournament the Penguins were once again the main attraction at

the Christina Noble Children Foundation Charity Ladies Long

HK Lunch. This year the lunch raised HK\$1.4 million (£140,000). Well done to Angie and Jodie from CNCF who were in charge of the LLL for the first time.

The Penguins helped raise HK\$1.4 Million for the Christina Noble Children Foundation...





The rest of the weekend was spent relaxing and taking in the HSBC 7s at the National Stadium. On the Sunday, good news came through for Tone Ng Shui, Lewis Ormonde, Joe Webber and Teddy Stanaway, who were all called up to the New Zealand 7s squad for the HSBC Singapore 7s the following week.

As always we have lots of people to thank for making the week possible, including our club sponsors, Tsunami Sports, Grove Industries, and Synapse Physiotherapy. We were also lucky enough to have a tournament sponsor, Latham & Watkins the renowned legal firm, while the success of the HSBC Penguin Coaching Academy continues to grow with the ongoing support of HSBC. All your support is very much appreciated.

e would als	o like to say a big THANKYOU to our 'Sponsor a Day' sponsors
	• Day I - Enzo Paolini
	<ul> <li>Day 2 - Dudley Ankerson</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Day 3 - Alan Black &amp; Andy Morris</li> </ul>
	• Day 4 - Iain MacLeod
	• Day 5 - <b>Peter Duncan</b>
	• Day 6 - David F Hughes
	• Day 7 - <b>Camille Jojo</b>
	• Day 8 - <b>Ian Linderman</b>
	Day 9 - David Hodgkinson
	• Day 10 - Guy Woodford & Chris Kneller



So another Hong Kong 10s gone in a puff of smoke. As tour manager it was a pleasure to look after this group of men for the week, and I would like to thank them personally for the effort they all put in. The Penguins wish them all luck for their future rugby careers and ask that they all stay in touch and continue to spread the gospel of the Penguin International Rugby Football Club.

#### Penguins GFI HK10s 2017 Results

Pool: Penguins 36 - 0 Silver Dragons (CHI); Penguins 19 - 5 Irish Vikings (IRE); Penguins 17 - 0 Projecx Waterboys (SCO)
Quarter final: Penguins 29 - 0 Scottish Exiles (SCO)
Semi final: Penguins 7 - 5 Tradition YCAC (JAP)
Final: Penguins 7 - 10 UBB Gavekal (FRA)
Points for: 115, Points against: 20



#### Penguin International RFC squad GFI Hong Kong Football Club Tens 2017

**Back row:** Steve Hill (Forwards Coach), Willie Walker (Backs Coach), Deano Herewini (Hong Kong Liaison), Johan Bardoul - Co-Captain (Yamaha, Bay of Plenty, Waikato Chiefs), Teddy Stanaway (Bay of Plenty 7s & XVs, NZ 7s), Eric Howard (Westshore RFC, Ontario, Canada 7s & XVs), Jesse Parete (Bay of Plenty, Taranaki), Hapakuki Moala-Liava'a (North Harbour XVs & 7s, Blues, NZ U20s), Tone Ng Shiu (Tasman XVs & 7s, NZ 7s), Will Warden (Richmond, England Students), Graeme Inglis (Manager), David Gorrie (Manager), Su Olovsson (Masseur), Craig Brown (PIRFC CEO).

Front row: Naima Fuala'au (Life West Gladiators, USA U20 & 7s), Lewis Ormonde (Taranaki 7s & XVs, NZ 7s), Shalom Suniula - Co-Captain (USA 7s & XVs), Callum Sirker (England 7s), Joe Webber (Waikato XVs & 7s, NZ 7s), Russell Weir (Rosslyn Park, London Scottish, Scotland 7s), Gafa Sua (Auckland, Counties-Manukau, NZ Schools), Tau Koloamatangi (Valley, Waikato, NZ U20), Lalakai Foketi (Bay of Plenty XVs & 7s, Melbourne Rebels, Australia U20). Missing, Marc Daniels (Physio), Neil Young (HSBC Penguin International Academy Coach), Nick Man (HSBC Penguin International Academy Coach).



The team perform the famous Penguins 'waddle'!



#### King Penguins at the Malta Vets Tournament May 2017

King Penguins 0 v 0 Kidderminster Carolians King Penguins 33 v 0 ASD Rugby Monza King Penguins 21 v 0 Sefton RFC King Penguins 35 v 14 Malta Marauders King Penguins **Champions** 

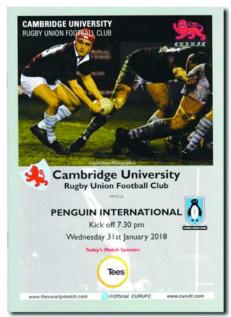






#### Cambridge University RUFC v Penguin International RFC Wednesday 31st January 2018 at Grange Road, Cambridge

The Penguins' first game of 2018 was their traditional visit to Grange Road for the annual encounter with the students of Cambridge University, who were buoyed by their Varsity Match success at Twickenham back in December 2017.



**Steve Hill** writes: Penguins secured a hard fought victory against a spiky and confident Cambridge University team. The Penguins' scrum was dominant throughout the match and the combined efforts of front rowers Litchfield, Fields and Spelman secured a penalty try within the first five minutes. Conversion was secured by Bedford's Dan Lewis.

Both sides sought to play ball in hand rugby and this led to some terrific breaks by centre James Neal and scrum half Charlie Saunders.

Another strong scrum saw No.8 Huw Worthington crash over and give the visitors a 14-0 lead. In a rare visit in the first thirty minutes to the Penguins 22m area, the hosts built good pressure and only an illegal tackle by flanker Tom Stanton stopped a try being scored for which he received a yellow card. A de-powered Penguins lineout then failed to stop a Cambridge catch and drive try.

Renewed pressure from the Penguins pack quickly led to a well taken score by hooker Jacob Fields and a 19-7 half time lead

The second half saw a raft of substitutions in the Penguins side, especially the pack. Demitri Moros looked strong in the scrum whilst Argentinian No.8 Enzo Comin proved a real handful.

Unfortunately the Penguins sought to play a little too much rugby close to their line and from a turnover Cambridge secured a well taken try and got back within a score at 12-19.

Grant and Hutchinson disrupted a number of Cambridge lineouts whilst Harrison and Haining ran strongly in the backs. A period of sustained pressure eventually saw centre ...the Penguins scrum was dominant throughout the match...



James Neal wriggle past four defenders and score in the corner. Cambridge pressed hard in the last ten minutes to score but staunch defence across the pitch kept them out. The game ended with Penguins fielding an all Cambridge Blues back row of Malaney, Malaney and Stanton.

#### Penguin International RFC Head of Coaching Steve Hill wrote on Twitter:

The Penguins fielded an unusual team with six props, two hookers, one second row, seven back row and eight backs. A great team effort and the guys stuck to the task well.





Referee: Andy Smith (RFU), Assistant Referees Roy Phillips and Pat Chalkin(CUDRRS).

Sin bin: Cambridge University – Dean (technical offence, 52); Penguin International – Stanton (technical offence, 32), 80+3 R Malaney (technical offence, 80+3).

#### Scorers:

2min penalty try (0-7), 16 Worthington try – Lewis con (0-14), 20 Dean try – Hennessey con (7-14), 32 Saunders try (7-19), 46 Hattea try (12-19), 74 Neal try (12-24).

#### **Result:**

Cambridge University RUFC 12 - 24 Penguin International RFC

#### Penguin International RFC squad v Cambridge University RUFC

Penguins Starting XV:

 Jimmy Litchfield (Coventry) 2 Jacob Fields (Bedford) 3 Dave Spelman\* (Bedford) 4 Andrew Grant\* (Bedford) 5 Kailus Hutchinson (Coventry) 6 Tom Stanton\* (Barnes) 7 Tom Malaney\* (Barnes) Captain 8 Huw Worthington (Bedford) 9 Charlie Saunders (CURUFC) 10 Matt Harrison (Richmond) 11 Chris Blucke (Richmond) 12 Ollie Clough\* (Richmond) 13 James Neal (Coventry) 14 Joe Lane (Coventry) 15 Dan Lewis (Bedford)

Replacements:

16 Ali Wade (Rosslyn Park) 17 Patrick Calvert\* (Merlins) 18 Dimitri Moros\* (CURUFC) 19 George Milligan (Blackheath) 20 Kai Owen (Coventry) 21 Enzo Coin (Pucara argentina) 22 Sean MacMahon (CURUFC) 23 Alistair Haining (Bedford) 24 Rob Malaney\* (Barnes) 25 Ed Oram (Blackheath)

\*Denotes Blue

**Penguins Management:** Head Coach – Steve Hill (Richmond), Team Manager – Tim Stevens (Oxford University)





#### PENGUIN INTERNATIONAL RFC NEWS



#### Penguins involved in the 2017 British & Irish Lions Tour to New Zealand

We had four Penguins in the New Zealand Provincial Barbarians team against the Lions on 3rd June 2017: Fullback - Luteru Laulala (Counties-Manukau) - played for us COBRA 10s 2015; Reserve Prop - Tolu Fahamokioa (Hawkes Bay) - played HK10s 2014; Reserve loose head prop - Matt Matich - played HK10s, SCC 7s and COBRA 10s 2016; Reserve back (late call up) - Joe Webber (Bay of Plenty) - played for us in the HK10s this year.

We also had two Penguins playing for the Chiefs against the Lions on 20th June 2017: Fullback/wng **Solomon Alaimalo** and centre **Johnny Fa'auli** 

Regarding the test teams, two members of the British & Irish Lions have played for the Penguins fly-half/inside centre **Owen Farrell** and lock **George Kruis**, both of Saracens

-nait/inside centre **Owen Farrell** and lock **George Kruis**, both of Saracens and England.

At the time this Newsletter was put together, one Penguin was a definite selection for the All Blacks - fly-half **Beauden Barrett** of Taranaki and the Hurricanes.



#### Penguin pages from the 2017 GFI Hong Kong Football Club Tens Programme



This year's GFI Hong Kong Tens Programme (above) dedicated no less than seven pages to defending champions the Penguins - plus another page on Penguins' Senior Vice President Bill Calcraft's twice HK10s-winning side The Warblers. The articles include a fascinating Q&A with Nehe Milner-Scudder, the World Cup winning All Black and 2013 HK 10s winner with the Penguins

We thought you would be interested in John Higginson's fine articles so, with his kind permission, we have given over the following eight pages to extracts from the programme.

#### PENGUIN INTERNATIONAL

Seed 1 Pool A



Home UK Players International

Founded 1909 HKPC 10s 11 (2007-2017) Highlights Cup winners 2013, 2016, Cup runners-up 2007, 2008, Cup sensi-finals 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015

D elending champions Penguins have again opted for an experienced two-pronged coaching attack as former New Zealand Macri flyhalf Wille Walker returns to link up with Steve Hill, Director of Rugby at Richmond in England, who takes charge of the forwards.

Walker, who played for Highlanders, Gloucester and Worcester, last played for Penguins at the GFI HKFC 10s in 2015 alongside the likes of All Black Rico Gear and USA legend Told Clever, but last year revolled in a co-coach role – alongside Scott Waldrom – and will again look after the backs.

In their 11th straight appearance at the GFI HKFC 10s, Penguins are seeking to win the Bill Burgess Cup for the third time in five years and have retained a handful of last year's players in a equal typically dominated by Kiwis, including four current or recent New Zealand Sevens players.

The hot-stepping Joe Webber, Banker Tone Ng Shiu and wing Lewis Onmond have all played on the 2016-17 World Rugby Seven Series; while Bay of Plenty centre Teddy Staneway was contracted in 2015-16. Calium Sirker – who turns 18 on the opening day of the GFI HKPC 10s – joined England Sevens this season and is also very guick.

Kiwi flanker Johan Bardoul, who played Super Rugby for Chiefs for the past two years. Richmond captain Will Warden and Canada hooker Eric Howard, tresh from playing in this year's Americas Rugby Championship, are rewcomers up front.

Burly 115kg prop Tau Koloamatangi, who played for New Zealand at the World Rugby U20 Championship in 2014 and 2015, arrives hot off a Hong Kong Premiership win with Valley and adds to an impressive group of forwards including Hapakuko Mosla-Llava'a, the 20-year-old North Harbour Banker.

Among the tamiliar taces, hooker Gafa Su'a is back for a third



straight year, while other returning players include Bay of Plenty centre Latakai Foketi and Samoa-born Shalors Suniula, the USA 15s and sevens Tyhait.

While in Hong Kong for the GPI HIOFC 10s, Penguins always hold clinics at a number of places including Sandy Bay and support the HKRU school rugby programme.

Founded in England in 1959, Penguins are one of the world's premier touring and coaching clubs, having played in or against teams from at least 72 countries, stating: "We are not only the most travelled rugby club in the world but the most travelled sports club in the world."



Shalon Sumula (pentra) returns from last year's winning aide



Note: For squad updates, visit were hongkongtens.com

#### FEATURE PENGUINS AT THE HK SEVENS



Panguma erpsy their first Mong Kong Sevens in 1987.

## Penguins ride 'Chariot' into HK hearts

England rugby league legend Martin 'Charlots' Offiah and New Zealand's World Cup-winning captain David Kirk were among the stars in the Bill Calcraft-captained Penguins sides that reached the semifinals of the 1987 and 1988 Hong Kong Sevens.

By John Higginson Photos Michael Schwartz

A sitill Calcraft cheers on The Penguins in their defence of the GP1 HKFC 10s title at Hong Kong Football Club this week, it will mark 30 years since the former Australia flanker captained the famous invitational side on their memorable Hong Kong Sevens debut in 1987.

Now 57, Calcraft was born in Sydney in 1959, the year Alan Wright and the late Tony Mason founded Penguin International Rugby Football Club, which remains one of the world's premier touring clubs, theving played in or against teams from over 70 countries.

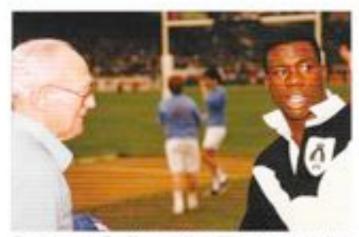
Calcraft made 21 appearances for the Wallables and was a member of the 'Grand Slam' tour of Britain and Instand in 1964 and the successful 1986 Bledisloe Cup tour of New Zealand, which remains the last time Australia won an avery series against the Al Blacks.

In March 1986, he played for Australia in the Hong Kong Sevens, going on to return a year later with The Penguina following an unusual sequence of events.

On March 5, 1987, during his post-graduate degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Brasensse College, Calurah ceptained the Oxford University side who played against The Penguins in an annual fisture that continues today. Notably, Penguins fielded a little-known but very quick winger called Martin Offiah, who – as described in his autobiography – scored three



Martin Othan, 20; on the run in the win over Ramos.



Perguns manager Yony Mason with Martin Offich, who became a star on his first oversese rugby tour.

tries in the first 55 minutes and a fourth before the final whistle.

Typically, Calcraft made triends with both Mason and Wright, now the club's Life-President, and the encounter led to a rapid reunion because just 10 days ahead of the Hong Kong Sevens (March 26-29), The Penguins were called in to replace Malaysia.

Caloraft was appointed capitain and still remembers the impressive response of Mason, who had been trying to secure an invitation for a couple of years.

"I had just met The Penguins a couple of weeks earlier because I had just played for Oxford against them and they knew me from there. That's when I first met Alan Wright and Tony Mason." Calcraft says.

"The Hong Kong Sevena invitation was pretty much a lastminute thing, so Tony did a good job-pulling together a side. We were put together at the last minute, flew across and had a lot of good players in the squad, but the fact is that we were completely unknown and we took to the field and played some excellent sevens."

#### Offiah storms Hong Kong

Mason was manager and Wright was named honorary secretary of the team in Hong Kong as the pair finally realised their dream of seeing the club compete against international teams on a grand stage.

Penguins had some world-class pace of their own in Offiah, the lightning-quick winger who would go on to be one of rugby league's greatest by scorers.

"It was very much a scratch side that was put together except for the fact that this 20-year-old kid on the wing was Martin 'Charlots' Offiah ... although this was before he was a 'Chanot.'

#### Calcraft laughs.

"Tony had spotted him somewhere and he played for Penguina against Oxford, so we took him to Hong Kong, where he got in the headlines the whole time. No one knew who he was, but he was just brilliant; he was just the standout.

"In fact, his mum clidn't want him to go. He'd riever been away for rugby before and his mum wouldn't let him go because of his studies, so there was a fair bit of lobbying required to get permission for him to come to Hong Kong.

"Once he was there, he just spent the whole weekend acoming tries and running around players. I was the captain, so it seemed prefty simple to me, we'll get the ball and we'd give it to the young kid on the wing."

Offiah, then playing for Rosslyn Park and Surrey County, amazed the crowd at the old 28,000-seater Government Stadium by ecoring three tries in the opening 22-0 win against the French Barbarians, the previous year's finalists.

That opening victory was followed by wins over Papua New Guinea (20-10) and, in the quarter-finale, Samoe (20-4) in the days when a try earned four points.

Calcraft recalls that Offiah spoke more on the pitch than he did off it.

"He didn't say much because he was young, but he was a bit cheeky. Actually, he was really cocky. He was really enjoying it." Calcoalt says.

"He was running around players just with sheer speed and then he'd slow down, let them chase him up the field and, worse than that, he'd talk to them!

"He was by far the quickest player in Hong Kong that year and he was running around players, slowing up so people would chase him and then talk to them. Needlass to say, they never caught turn. He was just phenomenal."

The Penguins enjoyed strong support because of their catchy name, underdog status and Ottah, while British fans quickly identified with the team in the absence of the Barbarians, the 1961 winners.

"At the time, the Sevena was dominated by Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. There were a lot of international sides, but there were still invitational teams. We became very popular among all the British tans, all the expans, because we were the only team that was threatening the hegemony of Australia, New Zealand and Fig." Calcost says.

"We became popular basically because we were the standout British aide, even though I was the captain, but I was at Oxford. We were the only British side that looked competitive. Martin Offiah was the star and Paul Tamer, a Wetsh international, he was also very influential in the side."

#### Penguins - 1987 HK Sevena

Bill Calcraft, captain (AUS) Martin Offiah (ENG) Mike Kendrick (ENG) Mike Buckt (WAL) Nick O'Brien (WAL) Dwain Williams (WAL) Paul Turner (WAL) Peter Steven (SCO)



In the serve Inuits, Ponguino were stopped by a New Zealand side Realizing many players who three months later work the first Ruppy Montel Cust.

#### FEATURE PENGUINS AT THE HK SEVENS

However, The Penguins more than met their match in the semitinats against eventual champions New Zealand, losing 28-0 to a group of players that were gearing up for the first Rugby World Cup in May and June.

"We get well beaten by a very good All Blacks side in the semifinal. You have to remember, this was the All Blacks, it wasn't the 'sevens team'. These were guys heading to the Rugby World Cup, which they won," Caloraft says.

"They had [Wayne] 'Buck' Shelford, Zinzan Brooke, Frano Botca, Terry Wright, Mark Brooke-Cowden and Emosi Koloto, just to nime a lew. Although we made a pretty good game of it, we got well beaten in the end. That was a step too far for us."

New Zealand retained the Cup with a 12-6 win against Fiji.

#### Penguins return prepared

Based on their sturving tournament debut, Penguins were invited back in 1986, although Offiah didn't return as he had been snapped up by rugby league club Widnes

Despite Offlahr's absence, Penguins put together a much stronger squad for 1966, including Calcoaft as captain, Turner and three termer All Blacks – World Cup-winning captain David Kirk, then at Oxford, wing Craig Green, scorer of als tries at the World Cup, and Syhait Wayne Smith, now better known as an All Blacks coach.

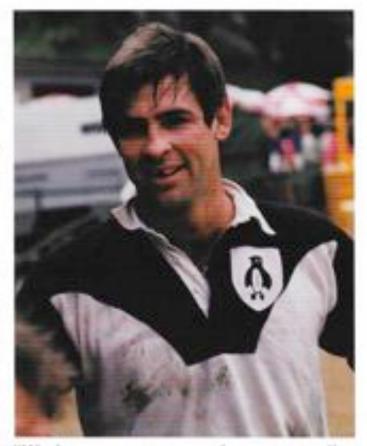
The rest of the aquad were also, or would become, established internationals and included Australia No. 8 Rose Reynolds, who had played in the 1987 World Cup, David 'Dai' Pickering, who earned 23 cape for Wales (1983-87), and 21-year-old winger John Bentley, who would make his England debut in 1988 before going on to represent England in league and later return to union, starring in the 1997 Lions tour of South Africa.

John Jeffrey, a Hong Kong Sevens regular, was also supposed to leature in the nine-man squad. However, the Sootland flanker became unavailable after being banned for five months for the part he played in the damage caused to the Calcutta Cup following the drunken dinner after the England-Sootland clash on March 8, (England No. 8 Dean Richards, Jeffrey's friend and fellow Cup trasher, was given a one-match bari.)

A 23-year-old Rob Warnwright was drafted in as a replacement, four years before the tail back-rower would kick off his own Scotland career that included captaining his country 16 times and playing for the Lions – with Bentley – in 1997. Off the pitch,



Perguins enjoy the isona: March Past' in 1987.



"We became very popular among all the British expats because we were the only team threatening Australia, New Zealand and Fiji."

Bill Calcraft.

Mason and Wright continued in their managerial roles.

"We were back, but we were missing Martin Offiah," Calcreft says, "However, with more preparation, we took a very good side and I was the captain again. We had two Walabies, two Wales internationats, three All Blacks, John Bentley of England and a Scotsman, Rob Walewright. Once again, we sort of carried the flag for the British expets."

#### But the All Blocks ... again

Penguins lived up to the reputation they had earned the year before, beating Papua New Guinea (38-0), Hong Kong (14-0) and French Barbariana again (22-6) to make the semi-finals for the second successive year. Yet again, though, the All Blacks stood in their way.

"We had a mighty tussie against New Zealand which we lost 16-0, but it was a pretty close-fought game, much closer than the year before." Caloralt says.

"Look at their side – bloody hell John Kirwan, Terry Wright, Zinzan Brooke, Frano Botica, John Schuster, Eric Rush and Dallas Seymour, to name a few. But we gave New Zealand a mighty match and we were only namowly beaten."

New Zoaland, though, were denied a third straight Hong Kong Sevens title, losing 13-12 to an Australia side featuring David Campese. 'T can remember Campo's try. He scored a cracking good try,' says Calcraft, who remembers that the win remains Australia's last at the Hong Kong Sevens.



Penguins - 1988 HK Sevens

Bill Caloraft, captain (AUS) Ross Reynolds (AUS) Craig Green (NZL) Devid Kirk (NZL) Wayne Smith (NZL) Dai Pickering (NIAL) Paul Turner (WAL) John Bentley (ENG) Rob Wainwright (SCO)

In 1968, Penguina again ran up against New Zaaland in the same - but this time it was lighter.

Calcraft believes the Penguins put themselves on the global rugby map with their two appearances at the Hong Kong Sevens.

"Those two campaigns were really high profile for the Penguins. They really launched the Penguina in terms of recognition worldwide with Martin Offiah and those sorts of guys. It's just gone on and on and with Craig Brown in charge, it has become a pretty dynamic organisation.

"It's a pretty good story, really, in the sense that Penguins get the chance to replace a team and go on and do so well ourselves."

It wasn't the last time. In 1999, Perguins were called in to replace the Barbarians at the high-profile Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham, where the Baa-Baas had won the previous two years against top professional clubs.

Calcraft coached the Penguins to victory on their debut, beating Saracens in the final. The Aussie then managed to get both New Zealand star Eric Rush and Fiji legend Waisale Serevi into the team for 2000 as Penguins continued to upset the establishment, again beating Saracens in the final. Calcraft laughs: "We were never invited back." Pengueni' influence on nugby stretches for beyond its playing teams. Penguin international RFC has a tong history of coaching on its tours and travets, and the Penguin International Coaching Academy has coached an estimated 25,000 players over 30 years, from Atrica to Asia to Europe to the Pacific and the Americas. The Coaching Academy works closely with World Plugby, Asia Plugby, HSBC and national associations worldwide, its influence in Asia is pertinuterly strong. On its trip to Hong Kong each year for the GFT HKFC 10s, the team holds clinics at a number of places including Sandy likey and supports the HKIFU schools rugby programme.



The full account of The Penguina at the Hong Kong Sevens features in The History of the Penguin International RFC by Dick Tyson, with an introduction by Willie John McBride



Perguns late it to a New Zealand learn leaturing Enc Rush. Terry Wright and John Kirean.

# **From Warblers to Penguins**

Bill Calcraft has had a long history at the GFI HKFC 10s since captaining the Warblers to victory in 1991 and 1992, when a young Frank Bunce helped knock over teams including a White Hart Marauders side featuring Will Carling.



The winning TIRS2 Warthers side included, back row from second left, Eventori Davies (ENG B), BH Caloralt (AUS), Frank Bunce (NZL), from fourth right, Milchell Cox (AUS), Rod McCall (AUS), Warrick Waugh (AUS), Aloss Reymotite (AUS); front row from left, Simon Solidi (ENG), Gareth Davies (BRL); fourth left, Philip Cox (AUS).

N ow better associated with the GFI HICFC 10s through his Penguins connection, Bill Calcraft first arrived at the fournament in triumphant style as captain of the Warblers team that won back-to-back titles in 1991 and 1992, before the starstudded select side were stopped by a younger, filter and more professional Alems side in 1993.

Having witnessed the emergence of Martin Offah at the 1987 Hong Kong Sevens as captain of The Penguins, Calcraft fielded a young Frank Bunce in his Warblers side at the 10s in both 1991 and 1992, Capped four times by Samos in 1991, Bunce went on to win over 50 caps for New Zealand from 1992-97, including reaching the 1995 World Cup Irnal in South Akica.

"The 10s sort of became – this is my opinion – like the Sevens in the sense that there were good invitational sides, like us and White Hart Manauders, who had Will Carling and all sorts of people playing. Will Carling was in the Marauders side we beat in the 1992 final," says Calcraft, a Senior Vice-President of Penguin International RFC.

"But we had a young bloke called Frank Bunce who nobody knew about, before he was an All Black," he adds, before laughing. "He was a pretty tough character?"

Wallabies who featured for the Warbiers included brothers Glan Ella (1991, 1992) and Marx Ella (1993), lock Rod McCall (1992, 1993) – a World Cup winner in 1991 who also played in the 1995 edition – No. 8 Ross Reynolds, scrumhalf Philip Cox and fulback Roger Gould. Welsh flyhalf Gareth Davies and wing Arthur Emyn, and Ireland star Brendan Multin also played for the multi-national side. "Basically, what I did was I got all us old blokes - because it was the 1Ds, you've got to have some fun - and then the key was to pick three or four really guick young guys. You get the ball and you give it to them.

'It was a very successful tactic until Aliens took it up a level. When the Aliens turned up, they just changed the whole contast of the event.

"If you look at our Warbiere sides, you'll see Mark Ella and a lot of very good players, but many were well past their best. Then when the Aliens turned up, they were fair dinkum professionate and we got bloody amacked. We said: Forget that, we're not coming back?"

Aliana signalled the changing of the guard in the 1993 final by beating a White Hart Marauders side featuring Jeremy Guscott – a Warts Cup runner-up in 1991 – and Dewi Morris just a year after the pair helped England win the Grand Siam.

"You then had the Aliens, the New Zealand Legenda, the Fijian teams and so on," Calcraft continues. "Boy, I mean, how tough was that? And it still was, right through the 2000s, too. Since then, if you're coming to Hong Kong to play in the 10s and you want to win, you know you have to bring a serious side."

Calcraft says Penguins have been one of those "serious" sidee since making their debut in 2007, reaching the final in the first two years but losing to New Zealand Metro on both occasions.

"If you look back you'll see that Penguins were always at the business end, but there were days when we had to play New Zealand Metro, New Zealand Legends, the Aliens," Calorett says. "I remember us playing three New Zealand sides and losing the final, saying that was tough stuff."

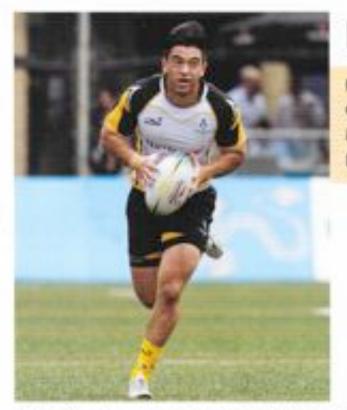
Caloraft was relieved when Penguins finally lifted the Cup in 2013, winning the final against Samural with a last-gasp try scored by wing Richard Hooper, elder brother of Wallaby star Michael Hooper.

He was also impressed by both Perguins and Samural in test year's brutally hard-fought final, in which the first try was only accord in the second five-minute period of extra-time, following 24 scoreless minutes of regulation time.

"It was great when we finally won in 2013 and last year was pretty extraordinary. What about that? That's never happened, with 24 minutes of 0-0, another five minutes at 0-0 and then we shatch it with that lineout mistake at the end. That was unfortunate for Samural, especially after three years earlier," Catoralt says.

"Anyway, I think the 10s is fantastic. There's great rugby, it's comfortable in the stands, and it's the perfect pretude to the Sevens."

#### Q&A NEHE MILNER-SKUDDER



N ehe Miner-Skudder is one of seven of the 2015 World Cupwinning AT Blacks who had competed in the GPT HKFC 10s earlier in their career, along with Beauden Barrett (Penguins 2010), Sam Karle (Samural 2010), Ben Smith (NZ Legends), Charlie Faumuina (NZ Metro 2008), Jerome Kaino (NZ Metro 2003) and Conrad Smith (Diago Shepherds 2003).

After helping The Penguins win the Cup at Hong Kong Football Club in 2013, 'Skudz' broke through to the even bigger time in 2015, helping Hurricaries reach the final in his debut Super Rugby season, scoting six tries at the World Cup in England and winning the inaugural World Rugby Breakthrough Player award.

Although injuries have held him back in 2016 and early 2017, he still holds fond memories of his time in Hong Kong and talks about his rapid rise from Super Rugby rookie to World Cup winner.

#### Who approached you to play in the 2013 G/H HK/FC 10s for Penguina and what had you heard about the event?

I was asked by mates from Manawatu, Lewis Marshall and Penguina legend Reece Robinson, if I was keen. I heard it was a well-known tournament that attracted a lot of world-class players. This was no different the year I went. I saw it as a great opportunity to go over and have a crack against some awesome players and experience Hong Kong.

#### There were a lot of nationalities in that Penguins equad. How did all these Kiwis, Aussies, English, Scots, Fijians and Tongans gel?

Everyone got along really well. The management put in place a schedule and the boys had a few bonding sessions early on and got to know each other really well. That set the platform for the week and showed when we took the field together.

### Breakthrough Star

Nehe Milner-Skudder looks back at his GFI HKFC 10s victory with The Penguins in 2013 and his World Cup win with the All Blacks two years later.

What do you think gave the Penguins the edge that year, beating Tana Umaga's Asia Pacific Dragons in the quarters and winning an amazing final against Semural?

I think the boys really dug deep and pulled off crucial plays in key moments of the big games. We were definitely the underdogs, but there was plority of belief.

#### Your career fast-forwarded in 2015. Why do you think you were able to stand out in Super Rugby and international rugby so quickly?

A lot of my success was definitely a credit to the management and players I had around me. They allowed me to play with confidence and encouraged me to express myself and play what was in front of me. Also, having no injuries and keeping my body in good nick helped and kept me out on the field.

#### How do you look back on winning the 2015 World Cup, especially for a guy who just started playing for the All Blacks months earlier?

Winning the World Cup was huge. It was a surreal moment and something I won't ever longet. In NZ, a lot of kids grow up dreaming of being an All Black and that was no different for me. To achieve that and top it off with a World Cup medial in such a short time was a dream come true.

#### What was it like playing with so many All Blacks legends in their last World Cup and what did you learn from them?

It was a massive buzz heading into the Alta environment and seeing all the players and guys you grew up watching – and now I was playing alongside them. It was really special being able to be a part of some of the boys' last campaign and time in the black jersey. It was a massive learning curve seeing how they conduct themselves on and off the field. I've definitely picked up a few things about preparing for big games and how to deal with highpressure situations.

#### How rewarding was it to be named the first World Breakthrough Player of the Year?

Being named for the award was an honour and topped off an amazing year. I was nominated alongside some incredible players who easily could've it won it, as well, it was almassive achievement and I definitely wouldn't have been able to achieve all that without the support of my family; friends, coaches, management staff and teammates over the years.

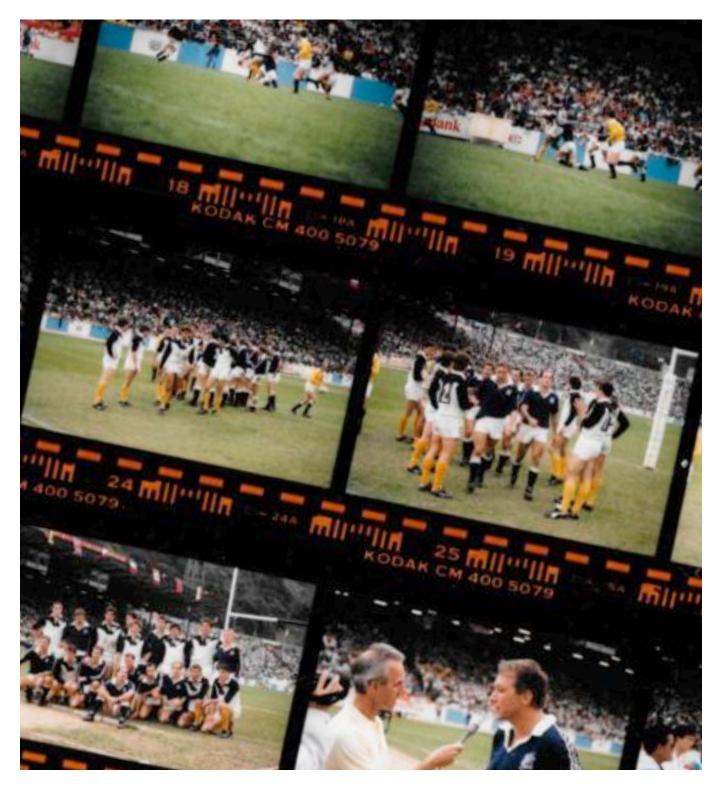


#### Michael Schwartz's fine photographs of the Penguins at the 1987 & 1988 Hong Kong Sevens

I recently received a letter from Michael Schwartz, via PIRFC Life President Alan Wright, offering the club his original negatives and contact sheets of the photographs he took at the 1987 & 1988 Hong Kong Sevens Tournaments. Michael subsequently sent the material from America to me in the UK.

The timing was very good, as I was able to offer the use of these photographs to John Higginson to illustrate his fine article about the Penguins at the HK7s on the preceeding pages.

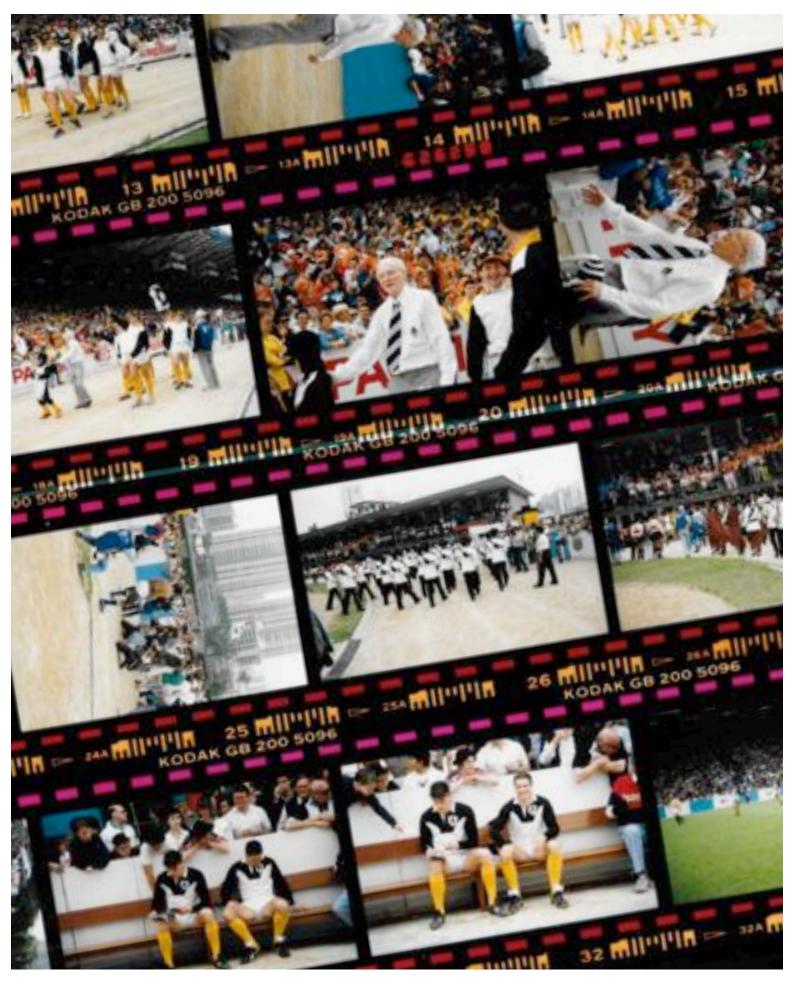
I thought it would be interesting to reproduce some sections of the contact sheets here in the Newsletter, as some of these shots have never been seen before.



















#### John Kerr becomes first President of the King Penguins

John Kerr has become the first President of the King Penguins and will lead the side going forward. Part of his remit is to formalise the playing and charity aspects of the King Penguins.

Penguins' President Richard Bennett confirmed that John was the natural choice for the role, given his long association with the club and his ongoing association and support since retiring from professional rugby.

John has played in many famous Club victories throughout the 1990s (COBRA Tens winner, 1993 & 1994; Stockholm Tens winner 1994; Nordic Sevens winner 1994; Uruguay Tour 1995; COBRA Tens 1995; Thailand Sevens finalist 2001).

John, who also played for Haddington, Watsonians, Edinburgh, Caley Reds, Scotland 7s and Scotland 'A', is still an active King Penguins player.

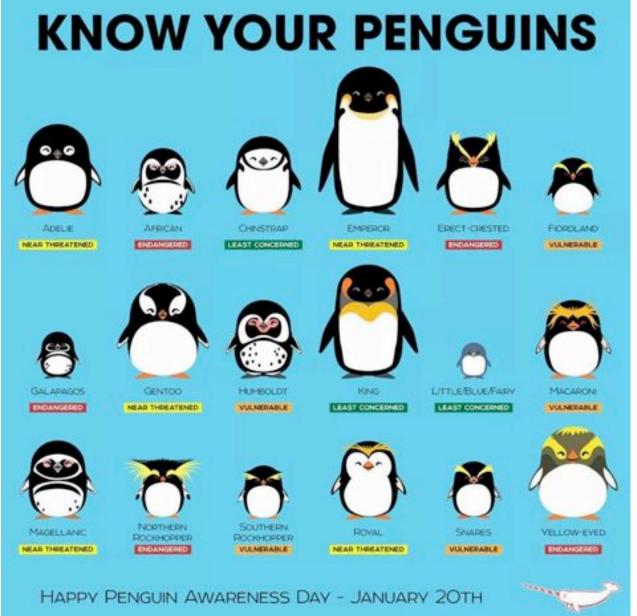


#### As usual, a couple of pages of odds-and-ends to finish...

#### **Golden Oldies Commandments**

**I.** I will play the game of rugby for rugby's sake.

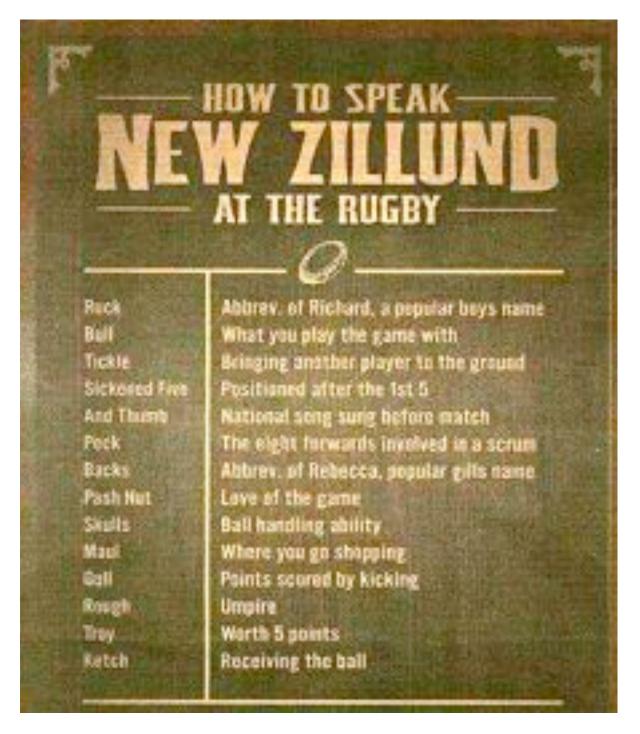
- 2. I will not remember the score at the end of the match.
- 3. If I 'made it' during my playing days, I will not use that to embarrass others.
- 4. If I didn't 'make it' during my plays, I will not use the Golden Oldies to do so.
- 5. I will at all times during the match respect the older and more decrepit members of the other team.
  - 6. I will follow the Golden Oldies philosophy of fun, irreverence, and self-indulgence.
    - 7. I will be an ambassador of Golden Oldies and always spread the good word.
  - 8. I will never lose sight of the rule to make friends and renew acquaintances in exotic places.
  - **9.** I will always remember that I'm at far greater risk in what I may do to myself or have done to me socially than anything that might happen to me on the pitch.
    - **10.** There are only nine Golden Oldies commandments because memory fails with age.



Know your Penguins courtesy of Craig Brown



#### Lions Tour to New Zillund Special!



#### And finally a rather fine poem by Harri Webb called Vive le Sport:

Sing a song of rugby, buttocks booze and blood -Thirty dirty ruffians, brawling in the mud When the match is over, they're at the bar in throngs -If you think the game is filthy, then you should hear the songs.

Until the next issue, have a great time supporting the Penguins. Dick Tyson - PIRFC Information Secretary

# WHAT THEY'VE SAID ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE PENGUINS

**Book of the Month!** Rugby World Magazine

"Beautifully produced" TouchLines Magazine

"A splendid book" Bob Reeves - RFU Past President

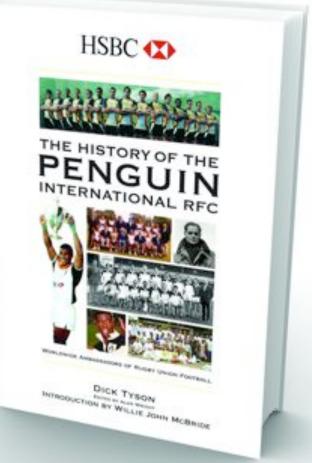
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The book costs £40 (plus £6 P&P - total £46) - but remember, it can also be collected post-free from the Club's headquarters at Little St. James's House, 11 Little St. James's Street, London SW1A 1DP.

To order, or for more information, please contact the author at: dicktysonrugby@gmail.com or call: 01992 730 823.

Cheques should be made out in favour of **Penguin International RFC** and sent to:

#### Dick Tyson, 148 Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 0RW.

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### Penguin International Rugby Football Club Membership Information Update Form

Please use this form to update your personal details so that we can remain in contact with you.

Name:	Membership no. (if known):			
Address:				
Home Phone:				
Mobile Phone:				
Work Phone:				
Email:				
Alternative Email:				
Contact preference - email or post:				

#### Signed:

Date:

Please email to:

membership@penguinrugby.com

Alternatively you can go online at the Club's website and fill out the on line form.



### Penguin International Rugby Football Club Nomination Form For New Member

Please use this form to nominate new club members. The information requested is used to update the membership database so we can remain in contact with all members.

Any club member can nominate new members and will need the support of one General Committee Member. Any General Committee Member can nominate any new member outright.

If you complete this form by hand, please write clearly in capitals.

When the form is completed it should be sent to the Club Secretary who will process the nomination. Members of the Club are automatically designated as Vice Presidents.

Name:						
Address:						
Email:						
Phone Numbers:						
Date of Birth:	<b>Country:</b> Choose which country you would prefer to be listed under. This can be your country of origin, country of residence or other - your choice					
Brief Professional CV:						
Brief Rugby CV:						
Contact Preference (tick one	POST					
Name and Signed Proposer:		Date:				
Name and Signed Seconder:		Date:				
Thame and Signed Seconder:		Date.				