



PENGUIN INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Rugby Football Union
Kent County RFU

Future Hope India - Support Coaching & Player Development 21 to 30 Nov 2025

Report by Craig Brown

Following up from the visit in 2024 the Penguins were back in Kolkata visiting our friends at Future Hope and supporting rugby development around the city.

Penguin Academy Coaches Megan Gaffney and Dougie Thomson, both from Scotland, headed to India with a sense of purpose and much excitement. First time for both!

Our colleagues at Future Hope had lined up a fantastic schedule.

The Week's Schedule



Date	Activity
Sat 22nd	Arrivals – very early 8am Crow Field coaching sessions 3pm Senior Men's & Women's coaching
Sun 23 rd	8am U18 youths – men, women – FH & Khelo – Crow Field 11am Uluberia coaching session 4pm Touch Rugby at Crow Filed 7pm Future Hope CEO dinner – Sujata Sen
Mon 24th	10am Coach Training 2:30pm KPT Colony coaching sessions 6pm dinner with the younger boys
Tue 25th	7:30am 7s coaching at Crow Field 3pm Pratap coaching
Wed 26th	3pm coaching with the Dhapa players
Thu 27th	10am coaches review sessions 3pm juniors/U18s coaching, Crow Field 6:30pm Glenburn Penthouse reception
Fri 28th	Free day
Sat 29th	8am academy coaching Crow Field
Sun 30th	Head home

Selected Stories

Monday: This morning we worked with the young leaders focusing on what makes an effective rugby coach, how can they engage with beginners and get them hooked on rugby in a safe and nurturing environment.

This afternoon we visited KPT and were invited into players homes. We enjoyed great hospitality and ran a session with 2 age groups some huge potential in the KPT. Very good skills and game understanding.

Fantastic to get an insight into the players lives and their amazing achievements in rugby

Another day filled with laughter and learning.



Tuesday: The morning session was with the elite 7s teams focusing on effective passing and clinical finishing. Some great athletes in this group and they took on board our messages well and executed them.

In the afternoon we visited Dhapa community with Khelo rugby to play some fun rugby games. The highlight was Dougie being carried like a princess by a very strong 12 year old. The children of Dhapa showed their physical side in a game that should have just been touch!! They loved contact!

Thursday: We held a workshop/discussion looking at the key principles in attack and defence. The coaches and young leaders showed excellent knowledge and are looking forward to trying some new defence styles in their 7s games.

In the afternoon we took training for the U18s looking at scanning and communication in defence and working on varying depth in attack.



We were very lucky to be hosted at the Glenburn Hotel for a rooftop reception with supporters of Future Hope and Khelo Rugby, including the UK Deputy High Commissioner Dr Andrew Fleming. It was very interesting to meet and learn more about how these 2 wonderful organisations continue to deliver their work, all while looking over the stunning Kolkata skyline.

Saturday: Last day today! This morning we helped at the academy rugby session where over 200 children came to play rugby!! Megan even joined in with the girls game and got thoroughly shown up!

In the afternoon the amazing coaches from Khelo rugby took us on a local tour that included a bus, ferry and tuktuk. We visited the bazar and Priya, a very

promising young player welcomed us into her home and along with her sister cooked up a delicious lunch.

We rounded off our trip with a visit to one of Future Hope's Boys homes where we chatted to the older boys about their plans for after school and tried to convince them it wasn't that cold in Scotland.

Last but not least we joined the young boys for our final dinner, who schooled us both in rock, paper scissors.

We're packed and ready to head to the airport. Thank you to Future Hope and Khelo rugby for supporting us all week 🙏



Thank Yous

The Penguins would like to thank Paul Walsh & Tim and Erica Grandage from Future Hope for their hospitality and organisation of the tour.

Thank you to the 2 Penguin coaches for taking the time to travel to India – an experience they will not forget!

Also, thanks to Andrew Chambers who provided the Tsunami stash the coaches were wearing.



