



TOKYO CRUSADERS

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB SINCE 1990

Yearbook 2012-13

Chairman's Report

- “So did we win?”

- “Bloody Hell... we won!”

(Exchange between Yuuki and Evan after the final whistle of the season)

>> What a year it's been, far exceeding my expectations and then some. Possibly the most enjoyable season for me personally since joining the club in 2007, and one of high drama.

On the pitch winning became a good habit that we couldn't shake. I'm not one for numbers but consider these. 14 games and 148 days without a loss, 16 games won this season and 79 players used throughout the year. We are seeing new recruits week in and week out, and lots of Japanese getting involved with the club.

Off the pitch we have had some great socials, Tokyo Sevens, Tash Bash and Double-Denim to name a few. The Meat Cup (co-hosted by the CRU) and Formal Dinner will take the Club to new heights.

We are grateful to our sponsors for their continued and generous support. Travis from Synergy, JP with the Meat Guy, Focus Consulting Partners and Tokyo Physio.

We have an awesome new sky-blue kit which takes the Crusaders back to its original uniform of 1990.

Success has come as a team effort. All of the above could not have been achieved without your support and the backing of our Committee Members.

Jonas doing a first class job on web management and marketing;

Evan, our own Little General, balancing the books and keeping the club going; Sgt. Tooley, who has transformed the way we approach games and done so much for the club since his return.

Lastly a special mention to Roy Yorke, who's brought in new sponsors and great looking gear - all of which leaves us in very good shape for next season.

Tokyo Crusaders have come a long way this year and we have hard work and challenges of the first division to look forward to, but now let us take a moment to celebrate.

Gareth "Gaz" Lim

Chairman - Tokyo Crusaders RFC



THE SEASON IN NUMBERS

21 GAMES **7 SOCIALS**
2 DRAWS
16 WINS
726 POINTS FOR **433 POINTS AGAINST** **117 TRIES**
79 PLAYERS **3 LOSSES** **+/- 293 POINTS**
5 PRACTICES **1 MEMORY LOSS** **58 CONVERSIONS**
10 NATIONALITIES

Tokyo Crusaders RFC Points scored during 2012/13 Season

Name	Travis Dixon	Evan Hitchman	Tom Ball	Roy Yorke	Sean Whaley	Sean Gibson	Beau Brodthman	Cavan Reilly	Kei Kinoshita	Gene Melvin	Danny Brown	Richard Williams	Jordan Dill	Sean Ward	Marcus Wallington	Dan Martinez	Benjamin Kunde	Sean Gerhold	Seth Robson	Takushi Hayashi	Kaj Miyake	Phong Truong	Yasu (Quills)	Ryuji Matsuzawa	Pat Wheen	Frank Saffery	Takuro Suzuki	Andrew Matyas	Brendan Bolton	Brett Wallburton	Lazario Buckley	Eric Guzman	Evan Kerr	Brandon Fought	Patrick Murray	Mike (Misawa)	Yuki Adachi	Joe McKenzie	Kiyoshi Hamazumi	Paul Skurr	
Try	18	4	11	8	8	6	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Conversion	18	37					2						1																												
Total Points	126	112	55	40	40	30	29	25	25	20	20	15	12	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

Captain's Report

>> Well, what a season it's been! Season 2012-13 has surpassed all of my expectations and personally has been the most successful and enjoyable in my four years at the Cru. Promotion to the 1st Division, only 3 losses all season (although Travis lost 4 phones this year!) and the rebuilding and rebranding of the club both on and off the field and it has been an unbelievably successful year.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be your Captain this season, taking over and building up the work of Skurry and Woody who were very successful leaders for the club over the past 4 or 5 years. At the end of last season though it was clear that things needed to change if we were continue to be successful, or even exist as a rugby club. Our financial position was very poor and our playing stocks after the earthquake and financial crisis took a big hit as our traditional recruitment sectors relocated their staff to other parts of Asia or cut costs. What it meant for the Cru was a very depleted playing roster and most weekends unable to field a full 15 for the few fixtures we were able to arrange.

During this period we have been very lucky to have had the support of Temple University and Alex Diaz for bringing along a steady stream of young, raw, energetic students keen for a bit of ruck and maul

action - sadly for us they were all male! Lift your game Alex! We were also very happy to continue the relationship with the George Washington Rugby Club who at grown during the past few seasons from adding a few guys to our bench, to being half our team on match days, to now being MVP's and stars of the team week-in week-out! (Obviously, we're not talking about you Ginger!).

Thanks to the guys from Temple and Navy we were able to turn the corner and get through some tough times to where we are now a season later - double digit win season, a 12 game winning streak, promotion to the first division, 20 players to games and a full bench, healthy bank account, new and attractive kit and most importantly a return to the Cru socials and after-match functions. We have had some tremendous wins this year, so many backs to the wall efforts that it is hard to single out highlights. For me seeing the progress of players such as Alex Diaz and Koki has been a personal highlight, seeing the dedication of older Cru such as Rich Williams and Sean Gibson, out there at every game, sticking their head in the front row when we were short was a constant inspiration. The introduction of new characters like "Mad Evan" Kerr, Frank "Keep it in your pants" Saffrey and Benji "please somebody feed him" Kunde has been very welcome as the Cru look to continue their dominance off

the pitch and late into the night each week!

Our after match drinks has been my highlight of the season, giving us a chance to have a few beers together with our teammates and opposition, reliving the highlights and lowlights (Sean) from each game, Tooley reliving his glory years and stories from Cru years past, has been fantastic to see. To me, that's what rugby's all about and has helped build our team culture and team bonding which had been lacking in the past few years. Thanks to Tooley's work we can definitely say the Cru are a team this year, on and off the pitch.

We have seen some wonderful players pass through the club this season and sadly move on as is the case with an expat club. We say thank you tonight especially to Tom, our fantastic number 8 who has had a blinding season and was one of the reasons we were so successful this year - if his fly-half actually passed the ball he would definitely have ended up top try-scorer! We will miss Tom, Phong, Matyas, Melvin, Ginger and Whalley from Navy, Cavan and the countless others who have played major parts in Season 2012-13. Thank you to one and all for your efforts in making this such a successful season.

To those who are staying my challenge to you is to take time to think about your game and your goals for next season. Get fit over

the summer, make that starting position yours, get onto the missus and make sure Sundays are Cru day - even better bring her down onto the sideline! It would be wonderful to see a big Cru contingent out in force next season, not only on the pitch but on the sideline. Wives, girlfriends, mistresses, children - illegitimate or not are all welcome!

Thank you to Trav who has been a great vice-captain and has led from the front on the field and been an inspiring player for us all to aspire to. To Gaz and the rest of the committee for their tireless work and support and finally to a man who has been the change and the rocket up the arse that this club needed! Thank you Tooley for making this season what it was, for setting the bar high and for your tireless work off the pitch every week. Booking grounds, finding opponents, getting referees, after match functions, attending meetings - without you mate, we wouldn't be where we are now, you were a major part of our success this season and we really are thankful for all the great work you've done.

Thanks one and all, and here's to an even more successful season for Crusaders in Season 2013-14.

Evan Hitchman
Captain - Tokyo Crusaders RFC

CRU IRON MAN 2012/13 SEASON

			Alex Diaz	Alex Howard	Andrew Grachek	Andrew Matyas	Andy Howard	Anthony Quiggle	Beau Brodtmann	Benjamin Kunde	Bolun Zhang	Brandon Fought	Brendan Bolton	Brett Wallbutton	Cavan Reilly	CJ McClure	Danny Brown	Danny Martinez	Derek Simmons	Devon Lewis	Diyor Madaminov	Dylan Kessler	Eric Guzman	Eric Wercholak	Eric Wilkinson	Evan Hitchman	Evan Kerr	Frank Saffery	Gareth Lim	Gen Hirano	Gene Melvin	Jason Oneill	Joe McKenzie	Joel Hammen	Jon King	
DATE	EVENT	SCORE																																		
2012.09.02	Tooley's Rugby Clinic		●	●			●			●	●		●		●											●			●							
2012.09.09	Practice, Nishi Chofu		●	●			●			●					●											●			●							
2012.09.16	Practice, Nishi Chofu									●	●				●											●		●								
2012.09.30	vs. Dasewa RFC	19-31 (L)	●	●				●		●	●															●			●							
2012.10.14	vs. Shinjuku Jack RFC	29-31 (L)	●				●			●			●		●											●		●	●		●					
2012.10.20	Double Denim Bash		●				●			●	●															●			●	●						
2012.10.28	vs. Takadanobaba No Side RFC	94-0 (W)	●				●																					●			●					
2012.11.04	vs. Gentle Giants RFC	75-0 (W)	●	●			●			●					●											●		●	●		●					
2012.11.11	vs. Olivers/Yutsukeizai Daigaku	45-33 (W)	●	●						●			●													●		●	●		●					
2012.11.17	Practice, Edogawa		●				●			●																●		●	●		●					
2012.11.24	vs. Doronco RFC	24-12 (W)	●				●		●			●			●		●	●		●						●		●					●			
2012.12.01	vs. YCAC	5-62 (L)	●	●					●	●		●	●		●		●		●							●		●	●		●					
2012.12.09	vs. Swift RFC	24-20 (W)	●						●	●	●	●					●									●			●		●		●			
2012.12.16	vs. Wild Turkey RFC	33-31 (W)	●			●					●	●			●											●			●		●		●			
2012.12.22	Christmas Pint, Hobgoblin					●	●												●							●			●							
2013.01.06	Rugby Top League, Chichibu			●			●												●										●							
2013.01.13	vs. Fuji RFC	33-19 (W)			●		●			●	●	●	●				●		●					●		●	●	●								
2013.01.20	vs. All Jinjan RFC	45-26 (W)	●		●					●			●	●			●									●	●	●	●		●					
2013.02.02	vs. All France RFC	45-21 (W)	●				●			●		●			●	●										●	●	●	●							
2013.02.09	vs. Fevers RFC	30-30 (D)	●		●					●		●									●		●	●		●		●	●	●		●				
2013.02.17	Practice, Edogawa		●																																	
2013.02.24	vs. Setagaya RFC	5-5 (D)	●		●		●					●														●	●									
2013.03.03	vs. Quill RFC (Sevens)	21-15 (W)	●								●						●										●	●								
2013.03.10	vs. Girls RFC	43-7 (W)	●				●				●	●					●	●								●	●				●					
2013.03.17	vs. Kurumi RFC	24-15 (W)					●			●		●					●	●								●		●								
2013.03.30	Tokyo Sevens, Chichibu		●					●		●									●							●		●			●					
2013.04.06	vs. George Washington (Navy)	34-14 (W)																							●						●			●	●	
2013.04.06	vs. Misawa (Air Force)	24-12 (W)								●																		●	●	●	●					
2013.04.12	Braveheart Bash		●				●		●	●		●								●		●				●	●	●						●	●	
2013.04.14	vs. Matsudo Club RFC	33-29 (W)					●			●									●					●		●	●			●	●					
2013.04.28	vs. Bluesocks RFC	33-22 (W)					●																			●		●	●							
2013.05.11	Annual General Meeting						●																			●		●	●							
2013.05.18	Awards Dinner						●		●	●		●							●					●	●	●	●	●	●	●						

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[illegible]

Tokyo Crusaders vs. Dasewa RFC 19-31 (L), by Evan Hitchman

Our first match of the season finally arrived last Sunday where a healthy and unheard of number, with over 20 eager Crusaders headed out to Saitama to do battle with the unknown Dasewa line up. After our cross-country trek to the ground and losing a few of the shorter members of the squad to pot-holes near the pitch and others to malaria from mozzie bites we managed to assemble a good quality line-up for the game ahead.

>> We had a good start with Stu winning the rock, scissors, paper contest and forcing the opposition to play shirts “inside-out” and the added bonus of Trav playing sober! Long may that continue! *(Editor's note: Scratch that – As of today all bets are off! Watch for Typhoon Dixon warning in your local area!)*



The Cru started the game well with the forwards punching it up the middle, retaining the ball at ruck time and linking well with the backs who were catching the ball cleanly and running through holes. The unorthodox Crusaders start soon ended though as we went back to our old habit of making it hard for ourselves: throwing silly passes, not taking the contact, over committing and being lazy at ruck time, too many people running out of the defensive line and not enough communication. This period of lapses saw us give away many easy yards and gaps to the opposition who, with their under-handed, dastardly plan of being fitter and quicker than us soon paid dividends. Quick ball spun from side to side saw gaps a plenty open up and

only some gutsy defense saw us keep the damage down to 2 tries in the first half. We hit back after going back to the game plan of keeping it tight and simple (insert your own punch line here). Forwards running in numbers, making the gain line and giving quick, go-forward ball to Trav saw us make our own gaps as Phong, Benji, Neil and Yorkie all made breaks in the back line. 2 great tries coming off slick backline moves were finished off by Kaj and Phong and at half time we were locked in at 12-12.

With confidence in our superior fitness and conditioning from Saturday night's binge-hydration we were confident the win was there for the taking. After weathering a Dasewa storm early on it seemed that victory was possible after a fantastic team try. A turnover ball with Dasewa on the attack in our 22, saw the forwards punch a hole through the middle, Crazy Kim breaking out of tackles and popping to our new recruit on the wing, Ryosuke whose Campese-esque swerves in and out drew in numerous defenders before popping a miraculous pass over the head to the oncoming Yasu who scored under the posts. Advantage Cru!

The last 20 minutes however were a different story! Many of us possibly over-hydrated the

night before and as we swung a few changes to give our newer players a go, our communication and combinations started to fray. Lots of turnover ball at ruck time, line outs and knock ons gave the opposition way too much ball. They made the most of some mis-matches out wide and our defensive line (a line is possibly not the most accurate of descriptions!) was easily punctured as the opposition went on to score a few late tries through tired defence and go on to take the win by 2 tries. Given this was our first game of the season though there were lots of positives to be had.

We had an amazing 7 guys made their debut for the Cru! Welcome and well done to Ryosuke, Bo, Phong, Marcus, Sean W, Kaj, Benji. Some guys were playing their 1st or 2nd game of rugby ever and considering that we did pretty well. We can only get better and as guys get more experience and our combinations and communication improves we will certainly be a force to be reckoned with this season. Special mention goes to Anthony Q for propping through the whole match in only his 3rd or 4th match ever and to the youngsters Sean W and Marcus for showing us all how it's done.

Players Men of the Match:

1st - Travis

2nd - Yorkie

3rd - Phong



Tokyo Crusaders vs. Shinjuku Jack RFC 29-31 (L), by Benji Kunde

A spectacle like no other was seen on Sunday, Frank the tank's long gun turret swung from left to right in the locker room dispersing bystanders in fear of their own safety. This scene was almost as traumatising as losing the game-just-played by two points right on the hooter. However, despite the scoreline the game itself was a cracker. How much of a cracker you ask?

>> Let's just say – it would leave you wanting to buy all four of the McDonalds burgers you were given despite only ordering two. Well maybe not that much of a cracker hey Cav (a.k.a: Paddy).

Yet those who witnessed the game on Sunday were not disappointed as they were exposed to bullocking running, smooth backline moves, keen rucking, and fine team play. This game had people playing out of their skins as a sense of the importance of getting a positive result gripped all. Some players felt the pressure a little more than others, and it showed in the throbbing veins of their foreheads as their c-word ratio lifted to every second word they screeched. Others found ways to channel the energy like Tom the cluster bomb, with his charge down centre field leaving crippled bodies in his wake as he rampaged on toward the tryline. Trav and Kaj, released energy in the form of some big

tackles in the second half. Above and beyond, the whole team lifted, did their bit and showed great heart, but unfortunately the result didn't go our way. As a consolation though, Tom received the man-of-the-match award and subsequently a confession of love by a certain Shinjuku Jack who was looking to climb onto Tom's beanstalk.

To drown our sorrows and get that image out of our heads we carried on to what will now be our official Tatsumi ground post game watering hole. We were very surprised they agreed to have us back. Yet pleased, as the beers flowed swiftly like Tooley's golden locks atop his wet head as he ran in the pouring rain, scouring the area in search of an Izakaya that showed promise. And the one found delivered. With beer in hand and food on table – we were happy as Larries. Brendan had the enterprising idea of

quantifying this happiness into allotments of five minute drinking rounds. Needless to say, the staff were the only ones who struggled to keep up with the pace. Sean "Iron Bladder" Gibson showed his quantification skills through a bathroom break and ode to tub thumping by pissing the night away, all 1.037 litres of it. Making him the highest scorer of the night.

Dedication was shown with as much zeal drinking as that shown earlier on the field. It was fantastic to have such a large contingent of Cru members both for the game and the pub. Thanks needs to be expressed to all the new players and the Giants players who came out for what was a barn-storming day. Now we look forward to next week off and a chance to get down and dirty in double denim. Just when you thought Double D's couldn't get any more exciting.

Quote of the week

"I passed the ball once, I got called a c#&t! I'm not going to pass again."

- Alex Diaz, Lock.

Players Men of the Match:

1st - Tom
2nd - Travis
3rd - Evan / Cavan

We had flankers playing prop, flankers playing wing, flankers who were ill. There was a whole lot of flanking going on yesterday. Besides the fact we had players in roles in which they had no experience, we dominated in every aspect of the game.

>> The scrums were punishing, so much so that after a little help by Tom ploughing the field with their prop's face, they went uncontested. Every lineout, no matter whose ball it was, ended up with the same eventuality, the ball being tapped safely back on the Crusaders side. The backs' game was impeccable with ball being freely passed from the back of every ruck to the eagerly waiting hands of the back seven, that used the full width of the pitch to slice up the opponents defense. This was highlighted brilliantly after Roy "The Gazelle" Yorke ran the best part of the field without any of the opponents coming close enough to lay a hand on him. Some would argue that this was due to Roy's ability to step left and right and run like the wind, others may argue that this was due to the pungent smell emanating from the shirts of the Crusaders deterring our opponents. Things in the second half had almost a rugby league

feel to them as try after try rained down on "No Side" so much so that our faithful kicker was having a very monotonous training session in hitting the sweet spot. While this was unfolding, Tooley could be found in the stands trying to hit the referee's sweet spot with just as much vigor. As the final whistle blew every man wearing a Crusaders shirt could be proud that he had done his job and done it bloody well, so well it took several people and some conferring to even work out the score.

The Crusaders then fielded a rather weakened drinking team, this was due to several players having made the decision to show at least some compassion for their other halves and to go home for some food and fornication. With the beers flowing in the predetermined Izakaya we not so quietly reflected on

Tokyo Crusaders vs. No Side RFC 94-0 (W), by Frank Saffery

the game, the female ref and anything else that was loosely related to rugby, sex or alcoholism. After steadily getting our money's worth and the conversation well and truly in the gutter, it took a turn for the serious. "Hang on, why on earth didn't we make a hundred points?!?" was the question posed by members of the drinking circle. After much deliberation on if we needed to give Trav some more beer before he kicked for the posts, or if Sean and his mighty boot needed a contract for Real Madrid we safely placed the blame in the hands of Gene. In matter of fact, it wasn't in his hands at all as he spilled the ball just before the final whistle smack between the posts, something that we probably won't let him live down, well, at least not until we have had a couple of weeks and a few more beers. When our time was up and the guys had stopped trying to accost every female in the immediate vicinity the truly hardened drinkers went on shiftily into the night to continue what had been an all round amazing day.

My personal man of the match would have to be Sean for possibly the best interception

I have ever seen. On the way back to Shinjuku and the guys being a little boisterous on the train, a 19-year-old innocent, sweet Japanese girl was being quietly entertained to one side. After having some solid groundwork and foundations laid, it unfortunately was time to disembark. So as we all piled off the train we noticed that we were one member short, Sean had not only stayed on said train, he had quickly perked up from his illness induced slumber and changed seats to talk to the now raring to go 19 year old. If anything ever came of that encounter I'm sure we will never know.

Players Men of the Match:

- 1st - Yorkie
- 2nd - Tom
- 3rd - Richard

Tokyo Crusaders vs. Gentle Giants RFC 75-0 (W), by Tom Ball

The third game of the Shuto season took us to Omiya (apparently if you had carried on up the road a few miles more and taken the fourth left, you could actually have seen the arse end of nowhere) for a run out against the Gentle Giants RUFC. Gentle maybe, Giants they were not.

>> For the second week running, there was a distinct lack of a front row waiting the customary 15 minutes at the station, but after a quick lesson in hooking [stop it] and pushing, things were back on track. Leading into the game, both sides had registered one win each and for the first 25 minutes the game was a 'contest', as the Cru were only 2 tries up and not having it all their own way. As the half closed in, and with the forwards securing good ball from both scrums and lineouts, the backs were able to put in to practice some of their more flamboyant training-ground moves, much to the delight of the captain,.....One for the memory bank!! At the break the game was all but over with the Cru 5 tries up.

The second half was much of the same, more good ball and plenty of possession, Man-of-the-match Travis 'the greased up deaf guy' Dixon

was able to pick holes in the defence, and with both forwards and backs picking good support lines, the tries started to mount up. As the half wore on things were getting a little heated, between both sides and also between the Australian contingent of the Cru.....they are a strange breed. Some notable moments from the second half included Kei showing us his footballing skills with a lovely chip and chase and a score in the corner, Roy Yorke making some excellent breaks from fullback and Richard Williams showing us some of his new break dancing moves. A special mention for Evan Hitchman who had a great day with the boot, 10 from 11. In the forwards the return of big Mo was a welcomed sight, especially for the lads who would have been roped into playing front row, not so much for the 7 stone Japanese scrumhalf who ended up in his way! After the final whistle, there were the obligatory fewwords from the captains and referee, and a quick team photo.



Then it was just the 4-hour hike back to the changing rooms and onto the fun-bus back to Omiya station for what I'm sure will become a permanent fixture..... DomaDoma, that is until DomaDoma upper management realize that taking a booking under 'Henwood for 20' isn't such a money maker. "Yes, we will have 20 beers. Yes, I know we ordered the same just 5 minutes ago". After a few beers and much discussion, talk turned to the highs and lows of the day/game. After much deliberation, it was decided that Melvin's tackle was the highlight of the day, Frank Saffery's tackle did come a close second, but it was decided that Melvin's was bigger.

With time in DomaDoma coming to an end, people headed home, however a few hardy drinkers carried on in search of more watery beer and delightful whiskey. Disco Stu 'enlightened' us youngsters on the Glory Days and life in the 'Bubble', and as we made our way home on the 22:23 from Omiya we entertained the masses with a tuneful rendition of the Righteous Brothers' classic, 'You've lost that loving feelin'.....I think they liked it.

All in all a good day out and some decent rugby played, under bright blue skies in November.....can't be bad.

Quote of the week

"I'll have her again." - Stewart 'Tooley' Henwood, Team manager, about his first female ref.

After a couple of weeks of scraping by with only fifteen players and a makeshift front row, it was great to see the Cru field a strong squad. There was a full compliment of front rowers including new recruit Yute making his debut.

>> Olivers, leaders of division one, promised to provide us with more serious opposition than from our previous two heavy wins in the Shuto League. There was a clear impression that we were not being taken seriously judging by the amount of giggling coming from the opposition before the game and during the first half. A well worked early try by Gene showed our intention to play rugby and win. From the off the Cru looked like the more motivated and dominant



side. Forward play moved up a level from previous games with solid set pieces and tighter driving play. The forwards showed their ability to play to a game plan and exerted more control at the rucks. This platform allowed the backs to continue their great attacking form. Defense was solid with better communication and some big hits from Tom and Pat. This was let down occasionally by the Cru's inability to retreat ten meters for penalties. Olivers' kicking options were limited by the threat of Yorkie at full back who always looked dangerous returning the ball. Strong running from some of our big boys and tighter support at the breakdown set the platform for the backs to continue making ground and cutting holes in the opposition defense. Two more tries from Ryuji and Sean Gibson were converted by Evan to give us the lead at the end of the half. Discipline, which had been tight, was let down by a yellow card to Richard just before half time after taking the captain's advice of "smack the c@#t" a bit too literally following a consultation on how to deal with constant holding at the scrums. Some enthusiastic bashing to get free followed by a body blow probably wasn't the cleverest response right in front of the ref.

Tokyo Crusaders vs. Olivers RFC/Yutsukeizai Daigaku 45-33 (W), by Richard Williams

By the second half the giggling had subsided. The last notable giggle being heard from the number eight just before Tom plowed him into the astroturf. The Cru maintained their rhythm after a number of halftime changes. Marcus returning to the pitch from wing to flanker seemed to return all of the kick offs making yards. More Cru pressure led to Yorkie running in the first try of the second half. Pat, who had risked his future chances of fatherhood, by squeezing into his pre-game warm up shorts had recovered well enough for a barnstorming run down the right flank to score our fifth try. With a slight mismatch of physiques he opted for the direct route through the opposition winger who might have regretted his decision to go high.

Another try from Tom and then from man of the match Evan, who had one of his quietest games cussing-wise but put in a strong performance at scrum half. He ran in the final Cru try with a blistering run down the wing. He also had a strong game with the boot kicking five out of seven conversions. Olivers started

coming back into the game in the last quarter. A try saving (apparently legal) shoulder charge saved a certain try and maintained a two score lead. Steady heads at half back allowed us to close the game down and keep out more scores finishing the game 45 – 33.

Tooley continued his great work by organizing the aftergame nomihoudai at our local Doma Doma where a good turnout had of a couple of hours of quiet drinking and sophisticated conversation. With regular games and post-match drinks there is a strong club feeling this season. Greater commitment is showing with even Travis now turning up to matches sober. With still a lot of room for improvement we are moving in the right direction. It won't be long before a fixture with the Cru is one to be taken seriously.

Players Men of the Match:

- 1st - Yorkie
- 2nd - Pat Wheen
- 3rd - Evan

A SOCIAL CRU

>> CRU not only managed to scare the competition off the rugby field this year but also "attacked" the general public with a bunch of ill-conceived bashes. Here is a selection of photos from more or less fancy dress-ups throughout the year.

October 20: Double-denim Bash

The CRU came out of the closet - some with dad's jeans outfit from the blazing eighties. No doubt inspired by Disco-Stu's stories from the dancefloor.

December 2: Moustache Bash

Many players grew a 'Tash' throughout Movember. Results ranging from "you missed a spot" to "I'm on the witness protection program."

March 30: Tokyo Sevens

With a theme of "Hoes 'n' Pimps" nothing could go right. Amazingly, Koki did not get selected for best outfit by the organizers. Some kid in a Pokemon suit got the nod for being more politically correct. Bah!

April 12: Braveheart Bash

Frank showed why he's the worst social sec ever, and nearly got arrested (again!) for showing his nipples in public (again!).



Quote of the week

"Frank is getting me wet all over!"

- Tomoe Endo, Evan's better scrum-half, complaining about "the tank's" beer handling skills during Tokyo Sevens.



Tokyo Crusaders vs. Doronco RFC 24-12 (W), by Travis Dixon



>> We were rather curious where the opposition was when the boots and shorts alarm was sounded and they were nowhere in sight. A 2pm kick off became 2:20pm, which became 2:30pm and eventually fell around 3 o'clock.) The game finally got underway and we welcomed the return of big Jason (if only for one week) as he took the kick-off and brushed away a Doronco player like a donkey's tail flicking off an unwanted advance from Sean "Ginger Navy" Gehrold, whom we also welcomed back from a recent stint in the tropics, no doubt prodding his pecker into every hole he could find in search

of that ever-elusive antidote. The forward pack showed an improved cohesion at the breakdown and despite the disruptive play (which our fearless Captain Evan "Romper Stomper" Hitchman I believe commented on once or twice) from the opposition, we had some fluent phases strung together. The backline didn't quite have the fluency of former weeks from a combination of incredible (if dubious) line speed from the opposition and a (much needed and appreciated) influx of new players (cheers Navy boys) who were picking up the complicat-

The Cru rocked up to Koiwa station mildly enthusiastic about having a decent run-out ahead of this week's MacFadyen cup match against the YCAC. After a good run of form lately and an ideal training run last week (or so I recall), we were confident of continuing our good form. Arriving in due time at the ground (which seemed more appropriate for mud wrestling than rugby),

ed play calls as they went along. No doubt a big factor in the improved forward play was young fella Marcus who thoroughly deserved his man of the match award of a beautiful pair of floral boxers. It was good to see Paddy "Cavan" Reilly back this week as he managed to scamper in a try early in the game (and managed a double for the day). Some weak defense and unforced errors allowed Doronco to strike back but the Cru followed soon after with a scampering run from Frank "the walking Victorian disease museum" Saffrey, who glided gracefully over the try line like a crippled giraffe.

By half time it was clear neither side were really putting their hearts and/or souls into the game, so both decided to throw some boots and fists into it instead. The classic cussing cries from "heart-attack Hitchman" stirred it all up and prompted one of the new recruits to question, "but he seemed like such a calm guy before the game?" While they did lie all over the ball and were unnecessarily niggly (the pot and kettle should feature somewhere here), one does have to commend their ferocious tackling.

Phong and Paddy were on the receiving end of some brutal tackles, and so could do with a lesson from Yutaka Baggins' on how to run through people with ferocious fends. A try from Danny "Darker" Brown sealed the game and when Andy "Haymaker" Howard took exception to a retaliation from some fairly legal (in 1893) rucking, the ref decided to call it off early before sun-down struck and trouble started a brewing. After a few post-match barks from Sergeant "Disco Stu" Tooley, we managed to end it on good terms with Doronco and hope we can have a run out against them in the future. In general it was an ugly but effective win and we hope to see the likes of Yorkie, Tom and the other regulars back soon (i.e. Saturday) to boost the ranks and lift the team.

Now all eyes are turned towards Sunday's big matchup in the Tokyo Dome – the Cru versus Super Oktoberfest. Who will be the winner? Only time will tell but experience has taught me that beer will be the winner on the day. Oh, and we have a game against YCAC on Saturday too.



Tokyo Crusaders vs. YCAC 5-62 (L), by Alex Diaz

I can remember it quite clearly. I was at home in Christchurch, reading the paper, and the words “played rugby for the Tokyo Crusaders Rugby Club in Japan” struck to the very depths of my heart. I did not know Gareth, but the effect was quite profound. We are rugby players and we are family. It is now time to reflect upon why we are here and for whom we play. Ladies and gentlemen, would you please charge your glasses. I would like you all to share this drink with me. We shall drink to those who have come before and passed beyond. We shall drink to tradition and memories. And we shall drink to Gareth and may his memory live on.... To Gareth.

Toast given by Tokyo Crusaders Team Manager, 1 December, 2012.

>> Although the Cru had a tough Sunday opponent, that didn't stop us from banging heads on shoulders on Saturday as we fielded a sober 25 against YCAC for the MacFayden Cup. We warmed up in the brutal cold and sized up the opposition. After words from Gareth's sister and nephew, who flew from NZ to watch the game, we held a moment of silence for Gareth just before the game began.

The Cru kicked off to begin the 1st half and we were introduced to how physical this game was going to be. It was all forwards for the first part of the game going back and forth



Tokyo Crusaders RFC

Gareth MacFadyen Cup

between scrums and lineouts. Tom proved why he won Man of the Match honors as he consistently introduced his left and right hands to each member of YCAC. Evan was quieter than usual, or possibly it just seemed that way, because he followed through with keeping his cussing to an all season low, which may not mean much because I'm sure it will be made up for in the next two games. Before Benji "I know my damn last name" woke up in the shower, he... Well, we all know

what happened so I'm sure he'll figure it out. After some heartbreaking drives were cut short due to our own faults, the half ended after Paddy took advantage of Travis "I'm praying for a January Octoberfest" Jon's try scoring attempt by scoring the try off of an assist from Travis.

Evan, our fearless team captain, gave a motivating halftime speech which inspired a room full of angry Crusaders, and a guy in a suit with long hair and sunglasses, to play even harder and take it to 'em. 2nd Half

The YCAC found the first 20 minutes of the half to be surprisingly difficult and painful as we subbed on fresh Crusaders ready to deliver some big hits. The Sailors relieved some their stress on the opposition stemming from their recent mommy & daddy 11pm curfew. Ah, what it must feel like to be 13 again! Cheers to them for spending some of their limited freedom time battling with us Crusaders. Sometime around the halfway of the half, Pat "Pat Wheen" Wheen decided

that enough rugby had been played and it was time for a dance off, but the opposition begrudgingly backed down. Not a surprise for two reasons: who would really face him in a dance off and didn't Tooley tell YCAC of our other streak? The fact that we're 2-0 when throwing a punch may not have crossed Pat's mind. Things started looking down for us as we started getting injuries left and right taking out Ryuji, Frank, and forcing others to play less than 100%. Yorkie's big run ended just short of the try line, dodging 14 out of 15 defenders. Even as time was winding down, 'Sean' still seemed to be storming all over the pitch! It seemed as if 'Sean' had the energy of four people. As soon as Rich took the field, it all went to hell as Evan stated "Rich, if we lose this game it's because of you." Not to worry, as Travis consoled the team by reminding us we'll still be winners because there is beer after the game.

Cheers to Tom for evening up the score 1-1 as he dominated YCAC's Man of the Match in the beer chugging match. Cheers to the entire team for breaking our punching streak of two games in a row.

Time to shave the moustache?

Players Men of the Match:

- 1st - Tom
- 2nd - Pat Wheen
- 3rd - Cavan



Yearbook, 2012-13



Tokyo Crusaders vs. Swift RFC 24-20 (W), by Maurice 'Mo' Joy



Though the day ended in cheers and beers, the outlook did not start so bright. The usual train station meet turned up a forbidding eight souls, one being a dapper dressed Travis already one bottle of vodka in the piss. The customary 15 minute wait turned into 45 as Tooley took a few more cancellations. On to the pitch with the lot, and a handful more already there, it would seem Crusaders had a bit of luck and some Navy Pride to field 15.

>> After a brief warm-up and explaining to some of the new welcomed players what a Rugby ball was, Cru kicked off to a bright-eyed and bushytailed Swift RFC. Swift took the offensive

straight off, quickly scoring two tries in the first few minutes. Cru was taken aback but decided-ly awakened. Cru struck back with anger as Dan M (side note, all the Yanks seemed be named

Quote of the week

"I love how 'cool' comes so natural to Tooley." >>

- Cavan Reilley, Wing, about our great leader scurrying off on a women's bicycle in inimitable style.

Dan or Sean) got us into the try zone. Cru, now sure of themselves, decided to make a go of it with Beau putting another try on the scorecard. Swift, realizing that this would be no walk in the park, came back with a try before the end of the first half setting the score 15 to 10 in Swift's favor.

Knowing that battle had only just begun, Cru went into the second half with a mind to knock these blokes off their game. Cru was now in good motion, with solid runs of the ruck from the pack and keen hands down the line to the backs. A bit of footy over the line with a chase and Beau scored his second try for the game. Swift, determined not to give up without a fight, retaliated with a try on their end. In all this excitement and intense play, Travis could no longer contain himself and weaseled his way into play despite it being his off weekend. To everybody's amusement, his first go at it was not the usual surefooted, sidestepping, greased up... well you know what I mean. In a brilliant stroke

of catching the ball through the haze of what is his life, he managed to take two steps before falling on his face with no opposition within

reach. After the comic relief and some minutes of intense battle, Sean W. scored a final try for Cru giving us the lead we would keep until the final whistle-blow.

With the match in hand, we made our way to Warawara for a pint and a chat. The navy boys were so determined that they walked sans cab all the way from the pitch to the pint. Many stories were shared as the Kiwis tried to teach the Yanks how to speak English. Tooley even manage a bit of manners as he apologized for his lewd stories and swearing in front of Danny's bird. Hopefully, Danny learned his lesson also.

Honorable mentions go out to a few: Steve Lewis (referee) for not giving us a yellow card after continued warnings on bringing down the maul, Tooley for playing a solid 2nd half at open-side, yours truly for being selected man of the match by the Swift, and again to the Navy guys for making the game possible.

Players Men of the Match:

1st - Beau

2nd - Mo

3rd - Gene

On a wind-swept but beautiful, sunny Sunday morning, 11 Crusaders gathered in the outskirts of Tokyo for the final match of 2012. A few minutes before kickoff 8 more turned up to fill out what would be a well-oiled rugby machine.

>> Facing a determined and eager Kichijoji Wild Turkey opposition, it was a hard-fought match from the start. Lack of experience at front row meant Richard Williams and Kyle Hill stepping up in big fashion to fill the void, and I'm sure they have a lot of aches and pains to show for it. A very strong and technical Wild Turkey front row had the Crusaders scrum somewhat on the back foot for the better part of the first half before we found our rhythm. Fortunately, Tom Bombadil (aka Tom Ball) at #8 was very adept at getting the ball out in time before going on one of his many trademark rampages. Forwards then did very well getting to the breakdown and providing a stable platform for

scrumhalf Neil Maclean to get the ball out to the backs. Thereafter we witnessed some superb passing through the hands of the back line, with forwards once again managing to stay in close support to provide for recycling. Travis Dixon repeated his greased-up deaf guy several times before offloading to a capable set of centres in Andrew Matyas, making a special return guest star appearance, and Gene Melvin, who was sadly playing his last game for the Cru. Melvin, you and your awesome tackling skills will be sorely missed. As the dust settled at halftime, the Cru found itself ahead by 4 points, thanks to tries scored by Greased Up Deaf Guy Travis Dixon, newcomer Takuro Suzuki and Gene 'The

Machine' Melvin; the trusty boot of Evan Hitchman converting all three tries made the difference thus far, the scoreboard showing 21-17 to

the Cru. But there was a long time yet to play and fitness would obviously be a factor going forward. Fortunately, we were rallied by Tooley's halftime inspirational speech of "OK, who's coming to the izakaya after the match? I need to know now." It was an untried but clearly effective motivational technique, as we came out once again firing on all cylinders. The opposition, however, had the same idea in mind and it was a hard fought 35 minutes. I'm not aware if they discussed their post match function at halftime, but they might have. The Cru went up by 2 more tries and a conversion, but Wild Turkey was far from finished. They answered with 2 converted tries and were receiving the last kickoff with 4 minutes to play – plenty of time for them to salvage a win. But the Cru stayed resolute and held them off until the final whistle. Score Crusaders 33, Wild Turkey 31. The opposition was visibly disappointed in the result – they gave it all they had and was a hand-full. But all the efforts of the Cru this season came together and allowed us a hardearned and well deserved win. Afterwards we headed to the neighborhood bath house, only to find it wasn't yet open. So we and the layers of dirt we were

all wearing set off toward the station, all the while keeping an eye out for a drinking venue (the izakaya idea was cancelled, believe it or not). To our great fortune, we discovered what may become a regular drinking spot for us – a 7-11 parking lot. After loading up on beers, chuhais and snacks we proceeded to make merry in the 7-11's near-empty parking lot. During that time a 7-11 delivery truck pulled up. Mo Joy reckoned the management had called in reinforcements to deliver more beer before the shop ran out and we started to get angry. I'm going with that story as well. From there it was on to Ueno for a few more (10 or so) cheeky beers at an Irish Pub, which was a great way to kill time whilst waiting for the Hub to open. The crowd dwindled further while the diehard alcoholics relocated to the Hub. I'd like to regale you with stories from that point on, but from there my memory kind of blurs for some reason.

Thanks to everyone who came out on the day and for everyone's hard work throughout the season. It was great day out and a great evening as well. Hope to see everyone at our all-important match on January 13.

Tokyo Crusaders vs. Wild Turkey RFC 33-31 (W), by Sean Gibson



Yearbook, 2012-13

Players Men of the Match: 1st - Tom, 2nd - Travis, 3rd - Matyas

Tokyo Crusaders vs. Fuji RFC 33-19 (W), by Neal Maclean

After a gutsy 33-17 win over Fuji RFC, our post-season march to Division 1 rumbles on for another week.

>> Tooley's clever ploy of not telling us the kick off time seemed to work as 25+ guys were ready and waiting at Yanokuchi Station two hours before kick off, which meant we were able to have an excellent warm up and practice, and be ready for the match fully prepared. Which was just as well, because the game started at a very fast pace and hardly relented all game. The Cru had the upper hand with the majority of possession and territory, but it took us until the 22nd minute to

cross the try line. With a scrum 5 m out, we very nearly got there with a push over before No.8, Tom Ball, made his signature run off the back and crashed over for our well deserved first points. Captain Evan duly converted

Tom's try got us going as Yorkie and Travis both scored impressive tries from long range runs, with Yorkie unfortunately being too fast for his own good and picking up a hamstring injury along with his five-pointer. Evan's fine kicking had us out to a 21-0 lead after half

1st Quote of the week

"I don't want to blame anyone, but every time they broke through it was always on the other wing."

- **Danny Brown, Wing**, explaining what went wrong during "highs & lows."

an hour gone, which is how the score remained for the rest of the half.

was a high scoring half in fact, with five tries

We'd done well to hold them scoreless for forty minutes, especially since we were taking a beating at the breakdown and losing a lot of ball. We were also lacking in some of our customary big hits, although young Sean Whaley made up for in quality what we lacked in quantity with a perfectly timed leveler on his opposite man that was followed by the equally perfectly timed quip from Tom; "Someone check his shorts because I think he just shit them!"

Fuji managed to get on the scoreboard within minutes of the second half re-start after a loose lineout let their prop dubiously squeeze in over the line right in the corner. It



2nd Quote of the week

"I don't want to wear a dress anymore."

- Benji Kunde, The Other Wing, pleased about the arrival of new jerseys as he'd been playing in 3XL.

scored in total. Travis responded brilliantly for the Crusaders minutes later with his second

try of the day after waltzing through gaps that even Fred Astaire would have had trouble with.

For almost the next 15 minutes, no further points were scored as both teams tired each other out with endless scrums after the ref had some curious rule interpretations at the breakdown. However, we were happy to take the scrums as we didn't lose one all day and never took a backwards step. Every forward put in a massive effort at scrum time, and this is where we won the game undoubtedly. Fuji snuck in two quick tries within a couple of minutes, before Sean Gibson ensured a Crusaders win

Players Men of the Match:

1st - Travis

2nd - Tom

3rd - Sean Gibson / Mo

after his industrious support play gave him a try five minutes from time.

Both teams looked relieved to hear the final whistle, everyone was out on their feet after a cracking game had been played! With Tooley having already sniffed out another good watering hole, that's where we headed to celebrate our win. We'd done ourselves proud, and the mood while drinking really showed that.

A huge thank you to the seven new lads who showed up: Wyn Hughes, Eric Wercholak, Patrick Murray, Nester Gonzalez, Andrew Grachek, Jordan Dill and Evan Kerr, who almost had a dream debut by diving over for

a try only to look up and see that the try line had moved by a foot or so! Big thanks also to Yutaka Yuzawa and Yutaka Negishi for sideline duties and turning out to support while injured.

One more game....then Division 1 awaits us.



Tokyo Crusaders vs. All Jinjan RFC 45-26 (W), by Stewart Henwood

**'Twas a crisp, sunny Sunday morning....
Granted, it was early, but the mighty Cru had woken from their slumbers and were heading for their date with destiny. Would we get promotion, or would we wallow in the 2nd division again next year?**

>> Well, the whole thing nearly turned to custard as the best laid plans were almost thwarted by the Yokosuka Line which decided to throw the proverbial spanner in the works. There's always bloody something, isn't there? The meeting time was 08:20, and most of us were late. Not to be put off, we quickly 'taxied it' to the ground. And what a beautiful ground it was,... heavens to Betsy, it was green! Ok, it was artificial, but we'll take it when we can get it. 'No mucking around' seemed to be the general feeling and the team got into 'boots 'n' shorts' and took to



the pitch. We proceeded with the warm-up and as the stragglers drifted in they quickly picked up on the mood of 'down to business'. As with the last game, we felt the luxury of time and space as the whole team were assembled well before kick-off.

However just before the kick-off, the team were treated to the strange situation of being in a circle and staring at the ball while Tooley paced around outside, barking out his pregame "Get out there and put this game to bed!!" talk. Maybe it was because, as he owned up to later at the Izakaya, he was reading from his clipboard and didn't want anyone to notice!? Anyway, the game got off to a cracking start with a sensationally quick try to Travis who silenced the opposition sideline 1 minute in. Then it was an arm wrestle of sorts as All Jinjan pretty much threw everything at us for the next 15 minutes. We could only hold out for so long and we were



punished by 2 quick tries against us within 5 minutes. However, even at 7-12 there was no sense of panic in the Cru camp. That sense of calm and "We can do this" attitude resulted in 2 very quick tries 9 minutes later. The first, a well-deserved try to Sean Whaley, who had another storming game in the centres (and seemed to be everywhere), and the second to Brendan Bolton who looked a picture, careering up 'the fat man's track' after picking off a pop pass from Travis. He later confessed that that was his first try.... ever ! A couple of minutes later the half came to a close with the score at 21-12 to the Cru.

A few half-time changes in the team saw a bit of shape disappear for a few minutes, giving the opposition a chance to capitalize and score again. 2 points the difference – oh, dear. Again, the Cru stayed on attack and were rewarded with a spectacular speculator by Evan the halfback that saw new-boy Brett totally burn his opposite wing and touch

the bouncing ball down over the tryline. The euphoria from that was not to last as All Jinjan, fine team that they were, came back at us with a score-levelling try. 26-26, twenty to go....



Tokyo Crusaders RFC

A sense of urgency had crept into both teams by now. We all knew what was at stake. The tension in the stands was palpable. And to be honest, we have been guilty of letting the game get away on us at this stage on a few occasions this season. But, ha!, it was not to be this time. No siree! The Cru never let them get back into the game after 3 quick tries in the closing 6 minutes. Tom was rewarded for his usual barnstorming bursts and rampaging runs with a try nonchalantly placed under the posts, and Benji bagged a brace. Benji's first was a right doozy. A real

heartstopper, and somewhat comedy-like in the way it unfolded. Quick hands on attack out the backline saw Brett with ball in hand, and a clear run to the line a metre or 2 away.

For reasons inexplicable at the time, he flicked it on to Benji on his outside, who was prematurely in the rapturous throes of celebrating by clapping his hands.

A heart stopping fumble was the result but he miraculously fell over the line and, 5 more points. On being asked why he didn't score the try himself, in typical Kiwi fashion, he said "Well, I didn't want to take too much glory on my first time out". Well Brett, next time out, take as much glory as you like! With 5 out of 7 conversions put away by Evan, the final score was an inspiring 45-26.

So many of the guys were playing out of their skins, unsung heroes the lot, but special mention must go to the front row, fellas like Mo, Andy, Marc, and later Stew and Kyle who had a series of powerful runs up the centre that appeared to knock the stuffing out of the

opposition, who seemed to tire a little at the end. Also, special mention must be made of the backs, who never gave up on chasing and bringing their man down. And once again the mercurial Travis was awarded the opposition team's 'man of the match'....he also got our vote. Finally Tooley just couldn't resist a bit of the old Crusaders tradition by sneaking in an Oogie, oogie, oogie! after the formalities.

A sore looking Cru bussed it back to the station and proceeded to Yokohama where another 'Henwood for 25' had been organised.

All in all, a bloody good day, and a bloody good team. Well done, chaps.

Thanks to everyone who has supported us throughout the Shuto League 2012/-13. We are now in Division 1!

Players Men of the Match:

- 1st - Travis
- 2nd - Tom
- 3rd - Benji



Tokyo Crusaders vs. All France RFC 45-21 (W), by Cavan 'Paddy' Reilley

Fresh off of Division 1 promotion, the boys rocked up looking happy, fresh and keen to keep the winning streak alive (and smash the French).

>> From the off the match looked tight with plenty of rucking and some good defense from both teams. But, in a premonition of things to come the next day at the hands of Italy, the French fell apart and the Cru began to take hold. A superb run from Jordan saw boys in blue on the board. Allez les Cru!

However, we still tried to make life difficult with some silly penalties and slow rucking. This irked the newly aerodynamic Travis, who came on like a man possessed throwing (and receiving) elbows as he ran through the defense. Taking one try and setting Sean G. up for another, he made sure the Cru came out of the half with a decent margin. 19-7.

The 2nd half started slowly again, All the French, were keen to show that they would bring more than wine and smelly cheese to the second division. However, 2 successive tries from Seth and Sean Whaley after 15 minutes meant that Cru were well and truly in control. Sean W.'s effort deserves special mention for a try – untouchable for 70 metres – which clearly inspired Baltimore Ravens' Jacoby Jones to his 108-yard touchdown. All France were losing spirit. After a dislocated shoulder from one of the All France boys (ed. – for which we are definitely not responsible), Sean W. ran in another. Travis, clearly remembering all the painful defeats the French have inflicted on his proud nation over the years, was still tearing apart their back line

and in his last play of the game kindly donated a try to yours truly (Paddy).

Unfortunately, this is where the Cru's domination ended and a lack of focus and poor discipline allowed AF to get a couple of token tries before the finish. Final score 45-21.

Special mentions to Skurry for some dominant play when he came on and all the new boys representing the Cru. It's been a pleasure boys, all the best for the future, let me know if you ever come to Chengdu.



Photo by Mike Gras (All France)

Players Men of the Match:

- 1st - Sean Whaley
- 2nd - CJ
- 3rd - Travis

Quote of the week

"It was like a girl losing her virginity. It hurt a bit but I enjoyed it."
- Diyor Madaminov, Center, after his first ever game of rugby.

On a sunny blue-skied Saturday in February the CRU took to the field to face off against the Fevers RFC at Fortress Yokogawa where we had overcome the Shuto League Div. 1 topping Oliver RFC earlier in the season. Naturally spirits were high, and even without the mercurial duo of Dixon and Ball, the 7 or so CRU faithful (that had signed up for the game on Doodle) would surely be able to handle a Fevers team, more famous for their "pink pensioner shorts."

>> The CRU were riding wins off All France, and All Jinjan, confidence was good. With Tooley and Evan trading roles for this game, Evan was left to manage the clipboard and keep us in order. The first half began as a nervous encounter with both teams giving away silly penalties and looking to find their stride – expansive rugby it was not. Seth broke the deadlock on 10 minutes with a powerful charge beating 2 defenders and running in from 20 yards. Tooley looked destined to score on 17 minutes but somehow his try proved elusive..... An inspired move nonetheless which was followed by tries from new boy Lazario and Jordan, both running in from around the 20 yard mark. Fevers pulled one back just before half time to bring the scores to 15-5 at the break.

Wholesale changes for the 2nd half bought several guys in who were playing their first 15' s game and the most number of Navy guys that I've ever seen in a CRU shirt. By now the light was

fading but Benji's pink fluorescent socks (and the stadium lights) brightened things up. Fevers came back stronger in the 2nd half, their No. 8, (cunningly wearing a No. 5 shirt) continued to be a thorn in our side with darting runs into our defence. With the 3 and 4 CRU players needed to bring him down, our back line became vulnerable and Fevers fought back with 3 tries in 10 minutes. Thankfully Sean Gibson seemed to be inspired by a rare chance to take on players older than himself. He rolled back the years, running in one try from a 15 yard scrum 10 minutes into the half and cleverly intercepting from 30-40 yards to jog in his 2nd of the game, exactly 20 minutes later. New boy Eric Guzman, inspired by his team The Baltimore Ravens, was not to be outdone and combined his first ever touch of a rugby ball with a text book hand-off, releasing himself to sprint in for his "touch down!"

30-25 to the CRU with 7 minutes remaining, was a nail-biting finish coming? Despite some

Tokyo Crusaders vs. Fevers RFC 30-30 (D), by Gareth 'Gaz' Lim



dogged defending, in one of the last moves of the game, the Fevers, again led by their No 8. pulled one back to level off at 30-30. It was a fitting scoreline where there were no winners or losers and rugby triumphed. The after-match function was held at the FukufukuYa Izakaya in Mitaka. A dozen or so of the Cru were present, including a couple of the ladies. Six of us ended up in a pokey wee bar with four of the Fevers until 10:30ish.

Special mention to new boys Diyor Madaminov (who looks certain to be fasttracked into the Uzbek national squad), Mason Beninger and Eric Guzman, plus all the Navy boys who came down. Well done to the Fevers who provided us with a lesson on winning opposition ball at ruck time and some other aspects of the game. However the biggest lesson of the day???You are never too old to play rugby.

Tokyo Crusaders vs. Setagaya RFC 5-5 (D), by Evan Hitchman

With many regular guys out injured, away skiing or suffering from severe bruising to the forehead from their better half's thumb we did well to scrape together 20 willing lads to take on the unknown quantity of Setagaya RFC. Navy boys once again made an important contribution squad-wise with 9 guys making the long, tortuous 3 hour trek from the station to the ground which Tooley assured us was just "round the corner"!

>> In a scrappy first half on an absolute dust-bowl there were few highlights to recall. Both teams struggled with the wind and a lot of panic passes saw about 400 scrums pack down in the first stanza. The positive thing being our scrum was rock solid, winning 3 or 4 penalties for wheeling and totally dominant. Our prematch intention to tighten it up at the breakdown and keep body positions low didn't eventuate and we ended up getting a schooling or should that be "Tooley-ing" at ruck time. Setagaya went in low, hard and in numbers – much like kiwis around a 1 cent coin. A very good lesson for the new players in how important body position and technique is in this game.

As the old adage says – "you can't win a game without the ball". In the first half we knocked on, threw silly passes or got turned over at

the ruck too many times and so saw our back 3 get very little ball. Having said that the opposition was almost just as bad in not holding onto the ball and our defense held solid to get to half time at 5 apiece.

In the second half with a lot of changes in the pack we still managed to win our scrum ball and were a little better at breakdown time winning most of our own ball. With a make-shift backline missing a certain bald, hairy antipodean we struggled to get quick ball to our new go-to man "Nash" who had a blinder in the centres. Cru had the better of limited chances but each time we got into Setagaya's 22 we managed to knock it on, or get isolated trying to pick and go one time too many and get turned over when we had an 8 man overlap out wide (we won't mention any names

Players Men of the Match:

1st - Nash

2nd - Patrick

3rd - Sean Gerhold / Orey



– S.Henwood)! . Before we knew it the game was over and we had our 2nd straight draw. Seth arriving just in time for the after match debrief!

Afterwards we had a good piss-up with some of the opposition players from Setagaya and managed to not drink them out of beer, but drink them out of glasses and jugs! We had a teapot full of beer at one stage I recall. All in all, after looking like not fielding a team earlier in the week it wasn't a bad effort against a fairly solid opponent. Thanks one and all for those lads who did turn up. Lots of guys making big improvements with Evan Kerr, Bran-

don and Alex Diaz all improving and making strides with each match.

Still 4 or 5 games to go at least before the end of the season and a big round-robin tournament and rugby festival in April – so don't think the season is over! Let's work hard and get some practice and combinations happening now while we have the chance before a big Shuto League season starting in September, when unfortunately we won't have the luxury of having our Navy friends to help us out as much as they have been.

Sunday the 3rd turned out to be a GREAT day for rugby. A motley crew of haggard hungover gents showed up at Koiwa for training with the promise of a match.

>> Tooley expertly collected the eclectic collection and herded us into waiting cabs, following on his state-of-the-art 2-wheeler. Upon arriving at Edogawa we found a very fit-looking club using the ground, and began to question our decision to turn up on a Sunday for rugby. It turned out to be an Aussie Rules club which captivated Evan Kerr for the better part of 5 minutes. It was then time for a warm up led by our affable manager. After a session of stretches that was more “Disney’s Wide World of Sports” than the pre-match rituals from Twickenham or Auckland we were ready for the dynamic drills. Some of the CRU (myself included) needed a lengthy water break in between the 1 hour “warm up” and touch. Needless to say, both teams were sufficiently warm at the start of touch rugby.

*Author’s note: To dispel any ambiguity I will affectionately refer to Sean Gehrold as “Ginger” from here on out.

The big take-aways from touch rugby were: 1. Ginger enjoys playing against the CRU a little too much, and 2. We need to work on our ball skills and communication, especially

on defense (not revelations, just felt the need to reiterate).

7s, or 8s (which is what we ended up playing), started promptly at 15:23 following a short brief from Ginger (the only CRU member on the day with 7s experience) on the subtleties of the game. 7 min. halves with a 3 min. break was the format for the afternoon. Conversions were not tallied.

There was a 5 minute period of feeling-out before Quill drew first blood at 15:28 following a lengthy run by their #9. We were able to even the score right before half time after Ginger enthusiastically instructed the side that “EVERYONE IS A SCRUM HALF !”. I pulled the ball out of a ruck 30 meters out and ran it in down the left touch line.

We started the second half off at 15:33 with a try in that same minute by myself; running it up the middle of the field on a great outlet pass from Ginger. Quill however responded with a try of their own 2 minutes later due to some sub-par tackling and poor communication on our part. Danny Brown responded

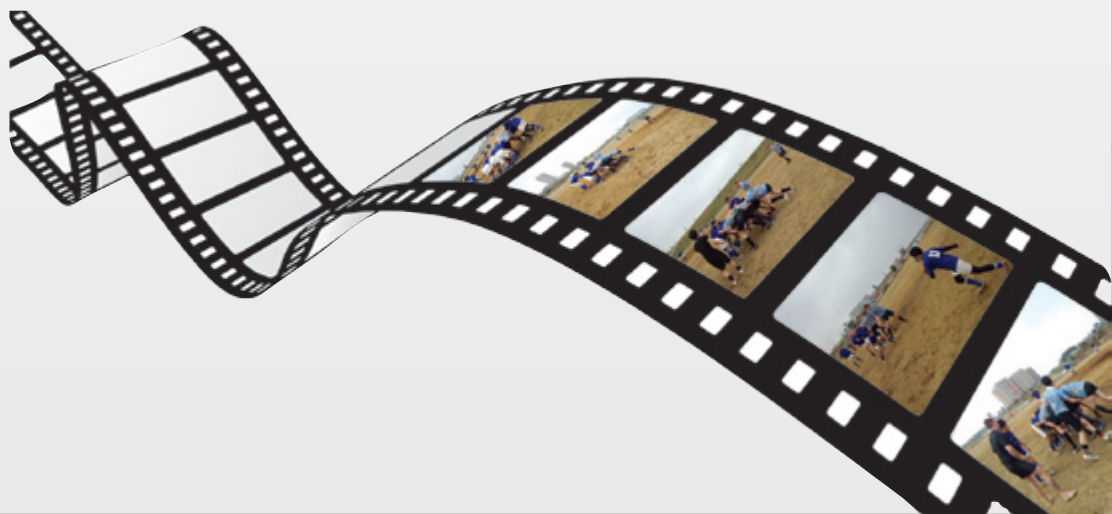
with a beauty try turning an ordinary outlet into a foot race, out-running the entire Quill side for 3 quarters of the field. Quill had different plans though, tying up the score right as time expired on the 2nd half.

Not wanting to end in a tie again we petitioned Quill for another half. Evan Kerr gave us the lead shortly after the start of the final period on a spirited run up the left touch line, leaving Quill in his wake as he took it in. A try he would not let Ginger forget for the remainder of the day. Aside from the long tries, this was a very physical game of 7s and this was working in our favor for the final seven minutes. I added the final try as both sides were

spent, running it the length of the field from inside our own 22.

Worth mentioning are a number of punishing runs from Frank and Alex, more aggressive play from Bolun in defense. Koki turned in a solid match on both sides of the ball, displaying his versatility at scrum half for the final period. Naoto Nicol made his CRU debut. The after-match function was held at the Warawara Izakaya in Koiwa. There were 7 CRU in attendance with 4 players from the opposition.

Tokyo Crusaders vs. Quill RFC 25-15 (W), by Sean Whaley



Tokyo Crusaders vs. Girls RFC 43-7 (W), by Evan Kerr

Summer weather had finally arrived when most of the Cru members [Benji and Frank aside, promising stories of seeing the Eiffel Tower] woke up begging for another opportunity to do what they work all week for; Play Rugby!



>> Unfortunately, by the time most of us had rolled into Koiwa Station, the sky resembled something which the armed forces section of our team have been dreading since they first signed up for service all those years ago. But Tooley said that he had seen this thing before in the infamous “Boom” and it was bigger and bet-

direction was given before the game about not trying to go for the long pass and to play possession rugby. It wasn't long before the team-orientated rugby of protecting the ball paid off, with Richard getting across the line thanks to some tough work from all involved. Travis had more chance of staying sober until

ter then, so this was just some of the ‘China death dust’ with no rain in it. If only that was all he said for the day!

Plenty of

Players Men of the Match:

1st - Mo

2nd - Travis

3rd - Patrick / Sean Gerhold

June then he did making the conversion as the wind was playing havoc with everything.

It was harder going for the next spell with both teams struggling a little with the conditions, not that the Cru weren't looking threatening, getting close to the line a few times, There were some great runs, with Mo, Trav, Ginger and Patrick all having an impact. Working with some nice ball movement, the Cru ran over with Dan Gonzalez finishing a try set up by a nice break from Trav. Before the end of the half the Cru ran two more in, credit going to Trav and Ginger for some individual brilliance to get over for another two converted trys. Ending the half at 24-0

The Cru were caught basking in the glorious conditions and allowed the opposition to run one in within the first minute of the half. Not to be outdone though, Brandon ‘can I get her-



pes again from Nester's boot?’ Fought read a breakdown beautifully and was off to the races to run one in with more style than the latest Dior advertisement from 35 metres out. Mo was generally unhappy with the look of the scrum and decided to make it his mission to get as many of the inexperienced forward pack ‘in his ass’ as possible. Patrick had decided that breaking people's ribs in the line out and being generally tough around the pitch wasn't enough, and got one home 20 minutes later like a rampaging elephant. Living up to the elephant comparison, Patrick ‘Stompy’ Murray was given a yellow card for having too much of an impact on the game [and maybe just a little bit of accidental ‘stomping’..] Girls RFC surely were having a laugh trying to see how close to the opposite side of the river they could place 3 of our balls, in response to this Trav decided to double up.

Quote of the week

"Get in my ass, dammit! GET IN MY ASS!"

- Maurice 'Mo' Joy, Prop, instructing an inexperienced second row how to scrum.

All round it was a great effort with all players rising to the occasion. Those who I thought stood out but haven't been mentioned due to laziness are Sean Gibson, Alex Diaz, Gen Hirano and Seth Robson. A big thanks to Andy for coming down and running the lines along with Koichi and Taka.

Post-match was held at Warawara Izakaya where 15 of us mounted a table and sucked as much winner's piss as we could handle. Brandon more than most when he had to 'shoot the boot' for his try that day. The usual shenanigans were observed, including Tooley 'zooming in' on the one available womb in the room after delighting us with stories about cross-cultural/religious events and relations that he had taken part in throughout what must have been the most actionpacked 20 years known to man.

Tokyo Crusaders vs. Kurumi RFC 24-15 (W), by Roy 'Yorkie' Yorke

A 10:20 kick-off, on St Patrick's Day, against a club which were billed as likely to provide us with one of our sternest tests of the season, was always going to sort the men from the boys. We started with 9 at the station including several players carrying injuries who hoped not to have to play a full part in the match.

>> On arriving at the ground a sense of impending doom rapidly deepened as we surveyed the scene: The opposition forwards, with 2 full packs at their disposal, were practicing scrum-

maging against themselves. Meanwhile 20 or so backs were running through their moves with alarming accuracy. All this while the grounds-men were busily sweeping any remaining soft



substances from the surface of the 'pitch' in order to get right down to bedrock before kick-off.

Takushi Hayashi, who had turned up for his very first game with the Cru, made a few phone calls and managed to persuade his mate Kiyoshi Hamazumi to get out of bed and come and prop for us. Kiyoshi arrived 2 minutes before kick-off, allowing him ample time for a standard front rower's warm up.

Sgt.Tooley was also on a recruitment drive and 2 Mitaka Allcomers who had turned up early to their practice were put to work. Fukutomi agreed to play and the other fella ran the water for us. Both did a stirring job, and Fukutomi was rewarded with a Crusaders t-shirt. One way or another, despite Seth having to pull out during the warm-up with an unfortunate calf problem, we started the game with a full complement of 16 on the pitch.

Quote of the week

"It's better to drink on an empty stomach. You get drunk faster and when it comes back up it's all liquid."

- Frank Saffery, Lock, sharing his acquired wisdom during the after-match function.

Not surprisingly it was Kurumi who made the brighter start, enjoying the bulk of possession and opening the scoring with an unconverted try. Crusaders raised their game in response to this and having suffered



an injury blighted second half of the season Roy Yorke, back in the role of full back, got Crusaders on the score board with a try in the corner. Kurumi then hit back almost immediately with another unconverted try. However, ten minutes before the half Crusaders stunned Kurumi by snatching the lead as Danny Brown beat his man on the outside then cut in to score under the posts. Captain Evan converted.

As Kurumi threw everything at the Crusaders defence to try to go into half time in the lead, Danny Martinez, who had a storming game up to that point, suffered a game ending ankle injury. Under pressure, Evan tried a sneaky piece of play to slow Kurumi's momentum. The ref was wise to his antics and showed him the yellow card. But the Crusaders defence dug in and at the end of the opening stanza the score remained 12-10 in Crusaders' favour. At half-time there was a sense that, rather than a damage limitation exercise, this had become an opportunity for a heroic, backs to the wall, victory.

As the second half got underway the Crusaders pack were making Kurumi long to be scrummaging against themselves again. Jonas made significant contributions in his strongest game for the Cru to date. The superiority at scrum time allowed Takushi to play like a... the kiwis will have to help me out here. If a flyhalf is a first-five-eighth and a playmaking inside center is a second-five-eighth, what do you call someone who acts as a third half-back from the number 8 position?

Meanwhile Travis Dixon was his usual force with ball in hand. The burly fly-half was making barnstorming runs, fending off opponents like E. Honda with 100-hand slap and picked up a try early in the second half, converted by

Evan, to extend the lead. He also seemed to win turnover after turnover in defence. Either by simply ripping the ball from the arms of attackers or by teaming up with Takushi to hold them up in possession.

Despite Crusaders swarming defence Kurumi were able to fashion a second half converted try of their own. But Danny Brown was in no mood to let the Crusaders lead slip away and went in for his second, again converted by Evan. As the game entered the final stages Kurumi, with their extensive squad, kept coming but every Crusader was by this stage putting their body on the line in defence to hold out for the win. When the referee adjudged Kurumi had been held up over the goal line it proved to be their last throw of the dice. The final score was 24-15 in Crusaders favour!

After the match we rewarded ourselves with a trip into the city to search for some Craic. As the black stuff worked its magic, new boy Takushi continued to perform strongly. He was one of the last to leave the pub and was going on to an Izakaya with 5 or 6 Japanese ladies in tow when he did! He claims he can't remember what happened after that. However it will come as no surprise to anyone that Frank Saffery's evening culminated in him receiving a life-time ban from yet another pub.



Players Men of the Match:

- 1st - Travis
- 2nd - Takushi
- 3rd - Danny Brown / Jonas



Tokyo Crusaders vs. US Navy and Air Force by Stewart Henwood

Due to the threat of inclement weather, The Meat Cup had been cancelled, and rightly so. However as Misawa Snow Devils RFC had already organised leave and were coming down in their vans from Aomori, and the ground had been booked, we decided to go ahead with the day anyway and play a 3-team 15s fixture, rain, wind or shine. Smart decision...the day was a great success, especially for the Cru.

>> The meeting point was Jinmuji Station, way out in the sticks. Uncharacteristically, the Cru arrived in two batches, pretty much on time. We were signed through the base gate with no arrests or body cavity searches, and walked on down to the ground, and it wasGRASS. It was a beautiful morning with narry a hint of what was to come later.

The format of the afternoon was to have 3 teams playing 3 games, consisting of 20 minute halves. A plays B, B plays C, C plays A. It was decided, quite sneakily by the bulk of the Cru, to forgo the democratic route and make the decisions with regard to what teams play when. Naturally we decided to play as A team; later to rue the decision, as we all started to 'freeze up' on the sidelines waiting for our second game!

Game 1

Tokyo Crusaders vs. George Washington RFC 34-14 (W)

A 12:30ish kickoff saw the Tokyo Crusaders RFC play George Washington RFC. We only had 13 players so we had to borrow 2 wings from Misawa (a very handy pair in Mike and Ronnie). The opposition were willing, but we prevailed in the first half, scoring tries by Tom (2nd five), Mike (wing-Misawa), and Travis (1st five). Or should I say, the first 2 quarters, as the ref thought we were playing two 10 minute halves and called half time at the 10 minute mark. We all thought it a bit of a hoot, in the spirit of the day. The second half saw the Navy boys with a bit more shape, coming back and scoring 2 tries to our 3. Yuuki (hooker) scored his first on his first outing for the Cru and so did Joe (lock). Our third try go-

ing to Takushi (No 8), scoring his first for us on just his second outing.

Game 2

George Washington vs. Misawa Snow Devils 29-12

At 13:36, George Washington RFC kicked off against Misawa Snow Devils RFC. Three of our boys played for the Navy, with Paul at No 8, Takushi at centre, and Travis having a rest out on the wing. The first half was a bit of a seesaw and rather evenly matched, ending at 2 tries to 1, 12-5 to Misawa. However, the second half was all Navy, as they put in 4 unanswered tries. The highlight of the game from the sideline was the discovery of a twin to our own Evan Hitchman in Navy boy, Sean Whaley, who could be heard from all parts of

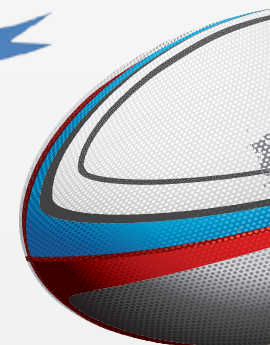
the base berating his wing for running "out of bounds". 'Fired up' would have been an understatement!

Game 3

Tokyo Crusaders vs. Misawa Snow Devils 24-12 (W)

By the kickoff time of 14:35, the rain had started falling lightly....at first. We had spent the previous 10 minutes trying to get our muscles moving again, with Tooley carrying some sort of knee strain incurred in the 1st game that would see him leave the field in the first half.

Joel had turned up in the interim and now took the field. With 14 players, we had only





Beau from Navy on the field as an import, and Luke (to replace an injured Stewart) and Jordan (to replace an injured Takushi) from Navy on the sideline. The

Snow Devils were a fairly physical side with some big guys doing some damage with rampaging runs against us. However our forwards got a sniff of superiority and targeted their scrums, winning tightheads to keep us on the front foot. Our support play and rucks were also good. So, with a ball that was starting to resemble a cake of wet soap, there were a lot of knock-ons, and therefore a lot of scrums, which made us even happier.

The first half saw Kiyoshi (lock) score his first try for the Cru and Tom (2nd five) bag his second for the day. With Misawa also scoring, the

Players of the Day:

Travis Dixon for Tokyo Crusaders RFC

Sean Whaley for George Washington RFC

Matt Duggan for Misawa Snow Devils RFC

half ended at 12-7. The second half was pretty much a repeat of the first, as our forward pack kept it's ascendancy. Travis (1st five) also picked up a second try and Beau (fullback-Navy) scored our last try of the day. Misawa never gave up though, and came back with a well deserved try to their 1st five whose reaction after scoring looked like he'd just scored for USA in the World Cup final. Great stuff!

Mention must be made of 4 guys who made their debut for the Cru,... Yuuki, Eric, Joe, and Joel.

Yuuki will be an asset as an experienced player, Joe and Joel hadn't played in years and Eric played his first ever game of rugby, coming from American football. Welcome, and thanks!

Also a big thanks to Paul Skurr who came out of semi-retirement to create the usual mayhem for the opposition. The only real negative from the day was a pretty serious-looking injury to Takushi's elbow. We all hope it's not too serious. With the rain coming down steadily now, the teams retired to the Bar Kamaya just inside the base gate for a raucous evening of drinking, eating and the odd song or two.

Tokyo Crusaders vs. Matsudo Club RFC 33-29 (W), by Andy Howard

There once was a rugby team from Tokyo
Who loved beer and girls and what-have-you
They went on the piss
Dressed as William Wallace
And still won 10 games in a row!
(Anon)

>> Arrived at Edogawa riverside ground in gale force winds nearly an hour before the game to find a herd of rugby players warming-up. With traditionally low Cru expectations I assumed this was the opposition. Blimey,

were we playing another gaijin team? Imagine the shock dear reader on realising this was 25+ of the Cru's finest – on time, booted and shorted and looking like rugby players. Had the Cru landed a lucrative sponsorship deal,

the squad turned pro and Tooley forgotten to tell (and pay) me? Were they on a promise of free beer in the after-match izakaya? Along with fairies and crop circles this goes into the annals of the unexplained. Although woefully

outnumbered the opposition were also out on the pitch and running some disturbingly good moves without dropping the ball. Game on!

Quote of the week

"Who was the toughest player to face today?"

"Hmm... about 14 of you."

- Matsudo Club's Captain. We wonder, who *didn't* give them any trouble?



Playing into the wind in the first half the Cru were up against it from the kick-off. Matsudo made some initial strong runs and were impressive at the breakdown. In the conditions, scrums were a common feature and facing a front row of mini sumo wrestlers the Cru pack could feel the pressure. Matsudo opened the scoring with a try after 10 minutes following some missed tackles from the Cru. Another try followed shortly after and with both converted the Cru were down 14-0. But as things started to look bleak the Cru started to show some attacking potential of their own and the thunderous Sean Whaley crashed through for a try. With the conversion the half time score stood at 7-17 – an excellent performance

from the first half team to stay within 10 points against the wind.

On came the second half Cru team playing with the wind. A beefed-up front row of Mo Joy playing his final game for the Cru, Yutaka “Baggins” Yuzawa and young debutant Dylan Kessler would make life difficult for the opposition. Other welcome new faces for the Cru were Jon King and Devan Lewis.

Despite Matsudo scoring an early try the Cru started to play a more forceful running game. Good work at the breakdown and strong support play paid dividends as the Matsudo try line was crossed four times in the space of

15 minutes – Beau Brodman scoring twice, Sean Whaley making it a brace and man of the match Travis Dixon predictably adding another to his season’s tally. Importantly, Evan managed to add all the available extras from the boot. Matsudo mounted a late fightback and added a late converted try to bring the margin to just 4 points but the Cru held out to win a hard fought game 33-29.

A classy after-match function was held in the car park of the local Seven Eleven under the watchful eye of a nervous store manager. The hardcore then went on to Warawara izakaya in Koiwa, presumably for their Sunday tea.
– - THE END.

Players Men of the Match:

1st - Travis

2nd - Beau

3rd - Skurry / Sean Whaley



Yearbook, 2012-13



Tokyo Crusaders vs. Bluesocks RFC 33-22 (W), by Travis Dixon

Once again Drill Sergeant Tooley, in his unrelenting love of sparrow fart kick-offs in the middle of nowhere, had us trekking out to somewhere near Osaka to play our final game of the season against Bluesocks RFC. Jonas “Hawking” Hult and his love of numbers informed us that the mighty Cru hadn’t lost a game in 147 days, so we were keen to keep that record going in to the Summer break.

>> The whispers through the grape vine that we’d have another showing of 30+ proved too good to be true, as undoubtedly the 6am wake-up call was too early for most. Regardless, we managed to field 15 with a couple of broken reserves and we witnessed debuts from Masafumi “Gaz Lim II” Miyoshi, and Fredrik “Owen Finegan” Holm, both of whom we hope to see in the start of the 2013-14 season.

With the wind at our backs, the first half was a controlled affair. The scrum was solid and Evan “affianced” Hitchman did a sterling job at the back of the scrum with well-directed kicks to the corner flags and darting runs around the sides of rucks. The Cru dominated a majority of the possession and territory by continuing to develop the basic tactics we’ve been focusing on all year; ball retention, sup-

port play, picking and going and demonstrating good pass selection. Our lineouts as well, which have historically proved to be our achilles heel, were also well-controlled and we even managed to win a few against the throw. This was thanks to great throws from Yuuki at hooker and the stellar locking partnership of Sean “Trav’s Hero” Gibson and Jonas. Despite all this however, we were still unable to cross the line until Paul “Skurvy Legs” Skurr used his power to burst over for the Cru’s first try of the game, edging us out in to the lead by 7-5.

The second-half seemed to open up a bit more as the Cru looked to play a bit more expansive rugby with the additions of Tom “I’m-in-denial-about-my-balding” Bally, Sean “the Ginger Predator” Gehrold and Travis “Greased up

Quote of the week

"Unfortunately I was penetrated twice."

- Koki Yamana, Wing, telling everyone his 'low' in an otherwise stellar performance.



run from the back of another solid scrum and threw a brilliant over the shoulder pass to Takushi “Mr Rugby” Hayashi who finished under the posts. Ev’ slotted another conversion, and ended up kicking 4/5 for the game!

Deaf-Guy” Dixon in to the back line. The plan seemed to work as 2 minutes in to the first half GUDG managed to cross the line to edge out the lead to 14-5. However, the desire to spin the ball wide often led to basic handling mistakes in our own half, and coupled with poor tackling technique by trying to go too high led to the Bluesocks managing to stay in the game with easy tries. They scored two unanswered tries to bring them right back in the game as the Cru were unable to build pressure by making handling errors and not being able to get in to the opposition’s half. When we finally did manage to, Skurry made a nice

It’s worth mentioning here the brilliant play of the front row in the scrum who managed to drive the opposition into the dirt on more than one occasion. Yutaka “Baggins” Yazawa, Yuuki “Mealamu” Adachi and Kiyoshi “Beer-me” Hamazumi all played outstandingly well and received a dozen or so well-deserved points in the man-of-the-match voting.

The Bluesocks were once again let in for another soft try, but with Bally’s surge over the line off a penalty tap, and GUDG managing

to dot down for a second the game was put solidly in the Cru's hands (despite some fear that there was only one point in it after some mis-information was bandied about). The Cru won a penalty at half-way with no time remaining and Hotheaded Hitchman uncharacteristically had to be the calming force as Timmy O' Tooley, keen for another go at them, screamed "attack, attack," Ev' nudged the ball over the line to cement the victory; the Cru's

12th in a row and the 16th win of the season.

Once again the Cru dominated the izakaya at the after match function with 23 players and supporters coming out to enjoy the revelries (where new addition Koki "I'll-bring-the-

women" Yamana came out with his classic quote which you'll see on the sidebar). After this the core moved on to the Ikebukuro Hub where I'm told it ended up in raucous singing which was threatened with Police intervention, so a few carried on to karaoke where apparently the Ginger Ferret also managed to

stalk a poor unsuspecting bunny into a dark burrow.

A big thanks to Aiko "That's-not-a-bullseye-on-my-bum" Watanabe for taking pictures, running water and (amazingly)' volunteering' to help the team out next year. Thanks to Big

Tom for being a great addition to the Cru this year. On and off the field,

Cheers to the leadership of the team Gaz "Robocop" Lim and Stu "Silent-Assassin' Tooley for their tireless behind-the-scenes work. Cheers also to Ev' for doing a sterling job as Captain this year (he's thinking of stepping down next year, so please do your best to convince him otherwise). Not to forget Jonas "the stats man" Hult for doing our website, and Yorkie for clothing us in fancy new kit.

We've got a big season next year boys, looking ahead to the step-up

we'll have to make to play in

Tom's been a stellar example of a true Cru rugby player and we wish him well on his future journeys.

Division 1, so try your best to get in rugby shape over the summer and come back in fighting form to take that Division One title next year.

Players Men of the Match: 1st - Travis, 2nd - Yutaka, Yuuki, Kiyoshi (the entire front row), 3rd - Skurry / Evan

Tokyo Crusaders RFC - Accounts

>> This season has been a very productive one both on and off the field for the Crusaders. At the beginning of the season we were not in a healthy position at all financially with many Cru players having to dip into their own funds to keep the club running. Thanks to the sound stewardship of our "Great Leader" Lim our investments into the Chinese sweatshop trade finally paid off and we are looking good going into the future!

The introduction of annual subs has helped us afford the purchase of our very popular new jerseys and club polos. Thank you to Roy Yorke for the organisation and production of those and we look forward to continue next season with a wider range of merchandise that no doubt the gullible Yanks from the Navy will keep buying for 10x the cost price!

As you can see though, running an amateur sports team is not a cheap venture. There are many ongoing costs such as hiring grounds, referees, ordering new gear, registration fees and website costs. Without our members and sponsors continuing to support us we would not be able to run out week in, week out on the

pitch. Thank you to all the players who have supported us this season, our valued sponsors "The Meat Guy", "Synergy", "Mojo Coffee", "Focus Consulting" and also to our chairman Gaz Lim who has donated not only hundreds of hours of his time but also a considerable amount of funds to the club this season to put us back on a firm footing.

All the best for a healthy and successful season on and off the pitch for the Crusaders in Season 2013-14.

Evan Hitchman
Treasurer - Tokyo Crusaders RFC

Tokyo Crusaders RFC Account Balance 2012-13 Season			
YEAR TO DATE- 2012.5.1 - 2013.4.30			
Balance as at 2012.5.1	¥51,549		
Balance as at 2013.4.30	¥188,577		
CREDITS		DEBITS	
Merchandise		Shuto League Representative	¥180,000
Supporters T-Shirts	¥138,500	Bank Fees	¥4,095
Classic T-Shirts	¥72,500	Shuto League Registration	¥90,000
Beach Rugby Shirts	¥12,000	Strapping Tape	¥8,714
ANNUAL SUBS	¥310,000		
		GROUND FEES	
GROUND FEES		Beach Rugby	¥22,000
Beach Rugby	¥20,000	Ground Fee/Referee Fee	¥108,500
Rugby Games	¥368,500	Supporters T-Shirts	¥94,000
		MVP T-Shirts	¥45,500
		Beach Rugby Shirts	¥15,000
DONATIONS		T-Shirts to sell at Meat Cup	¥30,000
Dinner leftover	¥13,010	Gaz - Money Owed	¥39,000
Donations	¥18,500	Polo Shirts	¥162,000
Synergy	¥61,250	Transport	¥3,000
Meat Guy	¥96,000	New Jerseys	¥137,000
Gaz Lim - Website Startup Costs	¥150,000	Shirts to MacFadyen Family	¥3,000
G Lim - Annual Website Running Costs	¥10,000	Gift to Quill RFC	¥2,000
		MVP Drinks	¥2,000
		Trophies	¥27,423
		Website Startup Costs	¥150,000
		Website Running Costs	¥10,000
TOTAL CREDITS	¥1,270,260	TOTAL DEBITS	¥1,133,232
		SEASON CR/DR	¥137,028
		CURRENT BALANCE	¥188,577

