

WORLD RUGBY CLASSIC

‘A first-class event in a first-class setting’

Sport Staff

For thirty years, Bermuda has been host to the World Rugby Classic, an annual event which has attracted some of rugby's most famous players to our shores.

The event has built up a reputation over three decades for great international rugby, super social events and an atmosphere of sheer enjoyment unique in the game.

Since 1988, players from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, France, Italy, Argentina, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, USA and Canada have come to Bermuda to battle it out for the crystal rugby ball, and to prove they still “have it”. Local spectators have had the privilege to see, and local players play alongside, some of the greatest names in the modern game.

From the early 1970s, Bermuda played host to many of the world's most famous international players. It all started with the Easter Classic, which involved just one match on Easter Sunday; the Bermuda-Irish against Bermuda.

International players aug-

mented the local players, and Easter Sunday at the Classic became a Bermuda tradition for many families. It was also arguably the beginning of Corporate Hospitality in Bermuda.

Many long-lasting friendships were built over the 21 years of the Easter Classic, and following a successful two-match tour of Old Wales in 1987, the idea was hatched to turn it into a longer event with more teams.

Speaking to the press in 1987 with the ambitious notion of hosting an international event, John Kane, the Classic president, said: “This could be a major tourism plus for Bermuda, if the success of this week is anything to go by. Bermuda is underutilised as a sporting centre and a rugby tournament could be the key.”

The rest as they say, is history.

In the early years, the event was made possible with the support from the Bermuda Department of Tourism, Bank of Bermuda and other local companies.

The continued support of the local business community and the hundreds of volunteers involved each year have meant the event has continued to grow



Coming through: Nick Beale, of the Classic Lions, launches an attack against the Classic Pumas in 2004

from strength to strength. It is the only local sporting event to be shown internationally on Sky Sports in Britain every year on Boxing Day and it attracts visitors to the island year after year

for the weeklong festival of rugby. Ubiquitous to the Classic is the vision of the tent village on the west side of the North Field, National Sports Centre, which showcases the very best of Ber-

muda's corporate hospitality. Countless friendships have been made over the years there and in the “Tent Tavern”, and many business meetings are organised around the dates of the Classic each year. It is truly an event not to be missed.

Over many years of increasingly competitive rugby, New Zealand have won the top prize ten times closely followed by the Lions with eight wins. South Africa boasts six wins, Argentina have three, and are this year's defending champions, and Australia, France, and the inaugural Classic winners, Wales, each have one championship

The teams come to win — this is no “oldies tournament” and the standard and pace of play is a thrill for spectators who are right up close to the action.

Aside from the action taking place on the field, visiting players give their time to coach youngsters in special training clinics organised with local schools, and throughout the year, the Classic donates prizes to numerous charities.

Giving back to the community makes sense for an event that simply would not be possible without the volunteer hours

given by so many who make the event possible.

“When we started out at the old National Sports Club in 1988, with temporary lights provided by Belco, I never thought that thirty years later we would still be going,” Kane adds.

“The catalyst was the move to the National Sports Centre for the 2001 Classic which allowed us to increase our hospitality facilities while, at the same time, giving the players one of the best surfaces possible on which to play rugby. We've really created a first-class event played in a first-class setting. I hope everyone enjoys the 31st edition.”

The event kicks off on Sunday and should be a great day out for the whole family. Bouncy castles and face painting for the children, local food vendors Rosa's Cantina, Docksidiers and J & B Pizza.

•For the full tournament schedule and ticket information go to www.worldrugby.bm. The World Rugby Classic will be offering a free shuttle service, provided by Titan Express, to all patrons of the event next week. Shuttles will depart from the Flagpole on Front Street at 5.30pm, 6pm and 6.30pm

SPORT SCOREBOARD

BERMUDA

RG FANTASY LEAGUE

	Wk9	Tot
1 Hierspieltiedmusik, Steve King	93	704
2 Only Juan That Matas, D Wright	90	699
3 MegaBron, Bron Turner	90	688
4 In off the post, Keith Jones	56	680
5 Same Snarley FC, Kristian Muldoon	76	678
6 Oulu City FC, Miikka Keranen	78	677
7 Alex's Grubby Claws, Daniel Nash	80	674
8 Dream Team, Jonathan Briers	80	672
8 The Joyful Legs, Tim Evans	75	672
8 Real Madras, Mike Jones	67	672
11 Spoons, Joseph Oloo	78	670

FOOTBALL

DUDLEY EVE TROPHY	
Semi-finals	
Yesterday's results	
Robin Hood 1 North Village 0	
PHC Zebras v Somerset Trojans	

PREMIER DIVISION	
Tomorrow's games	
Boulevard v Devonshire Cougars, Lord's, 3pm	
Robin Hood v North Village, Goose Gosling Field, 9pm	
Sunday's games	
Paget Lions v BAA, Southampton Oval, 3pm	
X-Roads v Dandy Town, Garrison Field, 3pm	
PHC Zebras v Somerset Trojans, PHC Field, 3pm	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
X-Roads	6	5	0	1	21	11	15
PHC Zebras	5	4	1	0	13	3	13
Robin Hood	6	3	3	0	12	6	12
North Village	6	3	0	3	8	6	9
Paget Lions	6	2	2	2	11	11	8
Dandy Town	6	2	1	3	14	12	7
BAA	6	2	1	3	12	19	7
Dev Cougars	5	1	3	1	7	8	6
Boulevard	6	1	0	5	9	22	3
Somerset	6	0	1	5	9	18	1

FIRST DIVISION	
Tomorrow's games	
Southampton Rangers v Flanagan's Onions, Southampton Oval, 12.30pm	
Somerset Eagles v Devonshire Colts, White Hill Field, 12.30pm	
Social Club v Vasco, Police Field, 12.30pm	
Hamilton Parish v St David's, Wellington Oval	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton	6	4	2	0	19	4	14
Dev Colts	6	3	2	1	13	9	11
Hamilton Parish	6	3	1	2	15	10	10
Social Club	6	3	1	3	12	15	10
Somerset Eagles 6	2	3	0	10	6	9	9
Flanagan's	7	2	3	2	9	9	9
St David's	6	2	1	2	9	9	7
Ireland Rangers	7	1	4	2	11	13	7
Wolves	5	2	1	3	6	13	7
St George's	7	1	2	4	7	10	5
Vasco	6	0	2	4	5	18	2

RUGBY

WORLD RUGBY CLASSIC	
North Field, National Sports Centre	
Schedule	
Sunday's games	
France Classic Rugby v Ireland Rugby Legends, 2.15pm (A)	
Classic Springboks v Rugby Canada, 3.45pm (B)	
Monday's games	
Classic Lions v Rugby Italian Classic XV, 7pm (C)	
Classic Pumas v USA Classic Eagles, 8.30 (D)	
Wednesday's games	
Plate semi-final: Loser (A) v Loser (B), 7pm	
Classic semi-final: Winner (A) v Winner (B), 8.30pm	
Thursday's games	
Plate semi-final: Loser (C) v Loser (D), 7pm	
Classic semi-final: Winner (C) v Winner (D), 8.30pm	
Saturday, November 10	
Plate final, 7pm	
Classic final, 8.30pm	

OVERSEAS

FOOTBALL

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

All times Bermuda

Tomorrow's games

AFC Bournemouth v Manchester United, 9.30am

Cardiff City v Leicester City, 9.30am

Everton v Brighton & Hove Albion, 9.30am

Newcastle United v Watford, 9.30am

West Ham United v Burnley, 9.30am

Arsenal v Liverpool, 2.30pm

Wolverhampton Wanderers v Tottenham Hotspur, 4.45pm

Sunday's games

Manchester City v Southampton, 10am

Chelsea v Crystal Palace, 11am

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Man City	10	8	2	0	27	3	26
2 Liverpool	10	8	2	0	20	4	26
3 Chelsea	10	7	3	0	24	7	24
4 Arsenal	10	7	1	2	24	13	22
5 Tottenham	10	7	0	3	16	8	21
6 Bournemouth	10	6	2	2	19	12	20
7 Watford	10	6	1	3	16	16	19
8 Man United	10	5	2	3	17	17	17
9 Everton	10	4	3	3	16	14	15
10 Wolves	10	4	3	3	9	9	15
11 Brighton	10	4	2	4	11	13	14
12 Leicester	10	4	1	5	16	16	13
13 West Ham	10	2	2	6	9	15	8
14 Crystal Palace	10	2	2	6	7	13	8
15 Burnley	10	2	2	6	10	21	8

16 Southampton	10	1	4	5	6	14	7
17 Cardiff City	10	1	2	7	9	23	5
18 Fulham	10	1	2	7	11	28	5
19 Newcastle	10	0	3	7	6	14	3
20 Huddersfield	10	0	3	7	4	21	3

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP						
Today's game						
Aston Villa v Bolton Wanderers						
Tomorrow's games						
Blackburn Rovers v Queens Park Rangers						
Brentford v Millwall						
Derby County v Birmingham City						
Hull City v West Bromwich Albion						
Ipswich Town v Preston North End						
Nottingham Forest v Sheffield United						
Reading v Bristol City						
Rotherham United v Swansea City						
Sheffield Wednesday v Norwich City						
Stoke City v Middlesbrough						
Sunday's game						
Wigan Athletic v Leeds United						
	P	W	D	L	F	A
1 Sheff United	15	9	2	4	27	18
2 Leeds United	15	7	6	2	26	12
3 Middlesbrough	15	7	6	2	17	8
4 Norwich City	15	8	3	4	20	17
5 West Brom	15	7	4	4	33	23
6 Derby County	15	7	4	4	22	16
7 Notts Forest	15	5	8	2	22	16
8 Swansea	15	6	5	4	17	11
9 Birmingham	15	5	8	2	19	14
10 QPR	15	7	2	6	15	19
11 Bristol City	15	6	4	5	18	15
12 Blackburn	15	5	7	3	18	20
13 Stoke City	15	5	5	5	19	20
14 Wigan	15	6	2	7	18	22
15 Sheff Wed	15	5	4	6	21	26
16 Brentford	15	4	6	5	23	20
17 Aston Villa	15	4	6	5	22	23
18 Millwall	15	4	4	7	19	23
19 Bolton	15	4	4	7	11	20
20 Preston	15	3	5	7	24	29
21 Rotherham	15	3	5	7	11	21
22 Reading	15	3	3	9	19	25
23 Hull City	15	3	3	9	12	21
24 Ipswich Town	15	1	6	8	11	25

LEAGUE ONE							
Tomorrow's games							
AFC Wimbledon v Shrewsbury Town							
Barnsley v Southend United							
Blackpool v Bristol Rovers							
Bradford City v Portsmouth							
Charlton Athletic v Doncaster Rovers							
Coventry City v Accrington Stanley							
Gillingham v Fleetwood Town							
Plymouth Argyle v Sunderland							
Rochdale v Luton Town							
Scunthorpe United v Oxford United							
Walsall v Burton Albion							
Wycombe Wanderers v Peterborough United							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Portsmouth	16	10	5	1	27	14	35
2 Peterborough	16	10	3	3	33	21	33
3 Sunderland	15	9	5	1	30	13	32
4 Barnsley	15	8	4	3	28	14	28
5 Luton Town	16	8	4	4	27	19	28
6 Accrington	16	7	6	3	20	18	27
7 Coventry	16	8	3	5	19	17	27
8 Doncaster	16	7	4	5	25	22	25
9 Walsall	15	7	4	4	18	19	25
10 Fleetwood	16	6	5	5	24	16	23
11 Southend	16	7	2	7	21	21	23
12 Blackpool	14	5	7	2	17	12	22
13 Charlton	15	6	4	5	22	20	22
14 Rochdale	16	5	4	7	22	31	19
15 Wycombe	16	4	6	6	22	24	18
16 Burton	15	5	3	7	19	21	18
17 Scunthorpe	16	4	5	7	23	34	17
18 Gillingham	15	4	3	8	23	28	15
19 Shrewsbury	16	3	6	7	14	14	19
20 Bristol	16	3	5	8	11	14	14
21 Oxford	16	3	5	8	17	17	24
22 Plymouth	16	3	4	9	18	27	13
23 Wimbledon	16	3	2	11	10	10	24
24 Bradford	16	3	1	12	12	30	10

LEAGUE TWO

Tomorrow's games

Cambridge United v Grimsby Town

Carlisle United v Newport County

Cheltenham Town v Mansfield Town

Colchester United v Swindon Town

Crawley Town v Milton Keynes Dons

Lincoln City v Forest Green Rovers

Macclesfield Town v Bury

Morecambe v Yeovil Town

Northampton Town v Crewe Alexandra

Port Vale v Notts County

Stevenage v Oldham Athletic

Tranmere Rovers v Exeter City

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1 Lincoln City	16	10	3	3	30	14	33
2 MK Dons	16	8	7	1	20	10	31
3 Exeter City	16	8	5	3	26	15	29
4 Newport	16	8	5	3	23	26	29
5 Colchester	16	8	4	4	30	16	28
6 Forest Green	16	6	9	1	25	17	27
7 Tranmere	16	7	6	3	23	16	27
8 Stevenage	16	7	4	5	18	14	25
9 Bury	16	6	5	5	24	17	23
10 Crawley	16	7	2	7	24	25	23
11 Mansfield	14	4	9	1	18	10	21
12 Yeovil Town	15	5	6	4	22	16	21
13 Swindon	16	5	6	5	19	21	21
14 Port Vale	16	6	3	7	15	19	21
15 Oldham	15	5	5	5	19	15	20
16 Carlisle	16	6	2	8	16	20	19
17 Crewe	15	5	4	6	16	14	19
18 Northampton	16	4	6	6	18	21	18
19 Grimsby	15	4	3	8	10	20	15
20 Cambridge	16	4	3	9	15	27	15
21 Morecambe	16	4	2	10	15	28	14
22 Notts County	15	3	3	9	18	34	12

23	Cheltenham	15	2	4	9	10	23
24	Macclesfield	16	1	4	11	13	31

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

Tomorrow's games

St Mirren v Rangers
Celtic v Heart of Midlothian
Hamilton Academical v Livingston
Hibernian v St Johnstone
Motherwell v Dundee

Sunday's game

Kilmarnock v Aberdeen

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
1	Hearts	11	8	2	1	19	7	26
2	Celtic	10	7	1	2	22	6	22
3	Kilmarnock	11	6	3	2	17	10	21
4	Rangers	10	5	3	2	23	10	18
5	Hibernian	10	5	3	2	21	10	18
6	Livingston	10	5	3	2	12	6	18
7	St Johnstone	11	5	2	4	11	18	17
8	Aberdeen	10	4	3	3	13	9	15
9	Motherwell	10	2	2	6	10	15	