



15th Kronenbourg 1664 Stockholm International Ten's

A QUICK REPORT COMMENTING ON THE RESULTS

A record number of teams (56 in all) appeared for this year's tournament – the fifteenth in succession. The weather was mainly sunny, although a few showers had the spectators scurrying for cover. Good attendance, with the main stand filled most of the two days. Many of the matches televised (www.edgesports.tv) and will be made available.

Day One was as usual devoted to separating the men from the boys (and the ladies from the girls) as the pools were completed.

The eight pools in the Men's went more or less according to seeding with Lodufkas a team based in Gothenburg perhaps providing the only surprise over Dutch-based Bionic Exiles. The Motor Men just got home against Hammarby, Megatron Ten and Susies Saloon were unchallenged and it took a countback to conversions for Kukri Badgers to get the nod over Irish Coolmine. In the lower half of the draw, the holders Olorun Sharks and Bective Rangers strolled through, Lodufkas scored a surprise win and the UWIC Babas scored just at the end to pip the home team, Stockholm Exiles.

In the Ladies' tournament, host team Stockholm Exiles, the Wooden Spoon and Pink Babas from England had few problems, while Gothenburg-based Horny Bulls had to work harder to win their pool. The runners-up in each pool also went through to the Cup-playoffs, namely Boudicca from England, Warrior Ladies from Finland, Moa's Constrictors (an international select) and Enköping from Sweden.

Day Two

On to the playoffs on Day Two with the Men divided into Shield, Bowl, Plate and Cup; and the Ladies into Plate and Cup in ascending order respectively. Starting with the Men, the Shield went to Ljungberg Jacks from England, easily the best team in the lowest group. Blackpool then had to fight hard to win the Bowl. The standard then rose noticeably at the Plate level and local team Hammarby prevailed for the second year in a row, coming from behind to beat Welwyn Rangers in the final.

Then the **Men's Cup** with eternal runners up Susie's Saloon just getting home against Megatron Ten in the semi, while the only remaining club side, Bective

Rangers from Ireland, were overwhelmed by a top form Olorun Sharks. And yes, we had the same final for the fourth year in a row with the Sharks meeting the Susies once again. And once again we saw a nerve-tingling final where it looked for quite some time as if Susies would finally take the title. They led for most of the game, tied up the Shark's flyers and at 14-15 had a penalty drop-goal from 10 meters out and just to the left of the posts to win the game with a couple of minutes remaining. The kick hit the crossbar, the chance was lost and Olorun Sharks tackled manfully to finally save the day. Congratulations on a fourth win in a row to the Sharks and commiserations to Susie's Saloon who have now lost four in a row, twice by one point.

The Ladies' Plate went to the mature Pink Ladies from Enköping who in the final took the trophy from Jyväskylä, one of three promising Finnish teams to make an appearance.

The Ladies' Cup was graced with the presence of a select team from the rugby charity the Wooden Spoon. With 276 English and Welsh caps to their names, almost all of them recent, there could of course only be one result. But in their wake, the title holders Stockholm Exiles chalked up 164 points to nil in their five games to the final. The Spoons accumulated over 200 points in their games, although they did concede a try to Moa Constrictors. The final was played at a furious pace with an enormous tackle count by Exiles. The Spoons always seemed to have one last person to score the try in the corner however, whereupon they rushed back to start again without taking the kicks at goal. A superb display of modern rugby by the Spoons, not clear how many teams in the world who could in fact give them a game. But all credit to Exiles who once again were the only club side in the last four.

The Old Boys tournament was of considerably higher class than in previous years with a well-established team like the DHL Baghdaddies failing to make the final. Stockholm Exiles just beat them but lost in the final to the holders, South Pacific Masters, in essence a reinforced Swedish Old Boys Select.

A small U19 tournament was also played with three local teams against Saracens from London. Not surprisingly the Saracens lads had a bit too much know-how for the local boys

Awards and Donation

A few more awards. Ericsson Sony, one of our sponsors, presented a state of the art mobile phone to the best player of the weekend. A panel of experts decided this should go to Maggie Alphonsi of the Wooden Spoon for a superb display of back-row play. It was only afterwards we realized that she was the IRB Player of the Year! A best male player award went to the hard-working Henry Head from Susie's saloon. Fair Play trophy, as judged by the referees, went to Coolmine from Ireland.

The organizing club, Stockholm Exiles, also donated 6,000 SEK (around £500) to the Wooden Spoon charity

Thank you's: Thanks as always to our superb medical staff headed by Dr Alex Kledzik (with Doctor Death, a.k.a. Dr Fredrik von Bergen lurking in the

background), Injuries fortunately down a bit on recent years. Also our very well turned out refs (courtesy of Zoti from Hong Kong), ably convened by Steve Henley. Every one of the 120 odd matches on four pitches had a three-referee squad. Thanks also to Harriet Sharpe and her team who handled the administration on the day and to Hunter Mabon Jr. for his behind the scenes graphics work. Most of all thanks to Allan Mabon, chairman of Stockholm Exiles who put it all together and to Peter Salzer, with the patience of a saint, who has answered thousands of e-mails since entries started coming in many months ago.

Hope to see old and new rugby friends again next year

Hunter Mabon
Ten's committee
30.7.2007