

KOWLOON RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kowloon Rugby Football Club celebrated its 40th anniversary year with a stand-out performance by the 1st team. Culminating unsurprisingly with Jack Neville being awarded the Hong Kong men's player of year and Jim Scaysbrook awarded Hong Kong coach of the year. An outstanding season at the premiership level coming second in the league and reaching the grand championship final. Proof that the drive to build a winning culture breeds success.

Individuals also excelled during the season with acknowledgement through inclusion in the national men and women's 7s and 15s squads and full time positions in the Elite Rugby Performance and age grade programs. The addition of former England international Olly Barkley to the coaching and playing squad provided the catalyst to elevate collective and individual levels of professionalism necessary to compete at the top of the modern game in Hong Kong.

Throughout the year anniversary celebrations were held in England, Canada and Hong Kong to laud past feats on and off the field. Over those 40 years Kowloon have provided many of the great personalities and memories in the domestic and international rugby competitions. The end of this season saw two of Kowloon's legends, Brucie and Dooley calling time on memorable rugby careers. News welcomed only by opposition front rows and referees.

Throughout the year significant strides were made in progressing the strategic plan. From the introduction of a contingent of PLA players into the 2nd squad to the addition of a summer elementary rugby program. The latter adding considerable numbers to the men and women development squads and eventually providing the numbers to register additional teams in both competitions.

In senior social grades the Specials and Beavers both fielded strong teams with the Beavers taking double honors with the trophies in the NL6 league and grand championship competitions. In the coming season, several of these senior players will turn their attention to developing and mentoring our potential future elite players.

Kowloon community support has become an integral part of the ethos of the club. In collaboration with sponsors and HandsOn Hong Kong, numerous groups of children with special needs were given an entertaining introduction to rugby through Kowloon MVision Community Days. During the season, we ran 5 community days with the valuable assistance of HKRU, Renaissance College and HK International School culminating in a Community event during HK7's week with the Classic Wallabies at Chater Garden. During summer we will host an event with the South African Consulate General to celebrate Nelson Mandela Day.

The 9 Dragons, the charitable arm of Kowloon Rugby Club continued to expand its impact on youth rugby and long term development of the game. In 2016, a one year scholarship to Mount St. Mary's College, UK was introduced in addition to the 1 week Tony Ho memorial rugby camp in the UK for a group of under 16 year old. This charitable work through these and many other programs such as Laos Rugby and Operation Break Through are only possible with the support of sponsors and the proceeds of the annual RugbyFest 10s tournament and dinner.