



Vandals and the Shanghai Rugby Football Club

of recruitment and coaching, the women's season has got off to a good start, with strong wins from both teams in their opening matches. Ice, the 15s team, is playing this year in the National League 1 division, and produced a great team effort to win 43-7 against Revolution SRC at home on Saturday, 4th October. New star **Emma Shields** shone as full back, while a young forward pack showed great potential in set pieces and open play. Fire, the new women's 10s team, put in a stunning performance to beat University 25-17. Unfazed by former internationals in the opposition, our new Fire girls worked well together and produced some flowing rugby, allowing vice-captain **Apple Lau** to score a hat-trick. The teams now look forward to building on their early success to develop their skills and techniques through the rest of the season.

There have been a few injuries this season. Newbie **Tom Bamford** broke his leg in a pre-season game for Drags in the Valley and **John 'Chuck' Norries** dislocated his hip playing for Sequins; not to mention a few serious knee injuries. Please look after yourselves and each other out there. Check the status of your health insurance and make sure you have suitable coverage - this is your responsibility. I am looking at a few options but the Rugby Section (nor the Club) does not have a policy that will cover you. Not ideal but this is the hard truth and you need to know this. Also, we have had some head injuries. If you have had a head knock in a game or training you cannot return to rugby unless you have received medical clearance to do so.

Finally, this year's Captain's Dinner was a huge success. Thanks to all the Staff at the Club for hosting us in the Sports Hall, it was a great night! Personally, thanks to **Gareth 'The Ferret' Wilde**, **Andy 'Stavros' Eagle**, **Tony Forrester** (Ladies, he's single), **David 'Chunky Monkey' Nazer** and **Tom F. De Luca** for all your help in organising the night.

Is mise, le meas, ■ *Horse*

## *Vandals' Pre Season Tour to Shanghai*

A chance meeting between **David Nazer** of Hong Kong Football Club and **Mark Ralph**, Chairman of Shanghai Rugby Football Club put in motion events that culminated in probably the first rugby match since 1948 between the two clubs on Saturday 6th September 2014.

In the first half of last century there were regular meetings between the two clubs. Shanghai played Hong Kong on fifteen occasions between 1924 and 1949. See the following link <http://www.treatyportsport.com/hong-kong.html> which briefly examines the history of each club before they met; the numerous failed attempts to arrange a fixture and the fixtures themselves. These matches were part of fixtures played between the Treaty Ports which also included Hankow and Tientsin. The SRFC played its last game in 1950 and reformed in 1994. Therefore the first game for over 60 years between the two clubs was a cause for much celebration (before, during and after the match).

Travelling on much swifter modes of transport than our predecessors the Rugby Section (under our touring side name the Vandals) arrived on the Friday night and immediately put in place the standard Vandals tour pre match routines.

The Vandals team was made up of players from all seven teams in the Rugby Section, and the tour was

a great way for new players to get to know each other and for players from different teams to meet.

Refreshed and resplendent in their new Natixis sponsored kit HKFC arrived at SRFC for the 2pm kick off. The match itself was played (especially by the Vandals) in the best traditions of the early treaty port games. Unfortunately rugby has moved on somewhat since 1948 and Shanghai playing a more modern style ran out the winners in an entertaining match 47-12.



Tries for the Vandals were scored by **Trevor Conneely-Daniels** and **Chris 'Not Asian' Lee**.

Many thanks to Shanghai for entertaining us after the game and hopefully this match will be the start of more regular

features. SRFC are planning to tour to Hong Kong in November with a match at the Club on the 15th.

The information on the history of the two clubs comes from **Simon Drakeford**. He recently published a book about the history of Shanghai Rugby, a history that featured Hong Kong in the first half of the last century. There is a copy at the HKFC library and copies are available to buy from Shanghai Tang on Duddell Street. For more information please check out: <http://www.reatyportsport.com> ■

**Vandals Tourists:** Conor 'Quiet Man' Cole, Bobby 'Merica' Jones, JD 'JD' Pequignot, Al Mullens, Little Tony George, Richard Scarth, Scott Lindsay, Tom McAlister, James 'Just One Job' Daniels, Dave 'Tetley' Harrity, Trev Conneely-Daniels, Andrew Yates, Gareth 'Just One Question' Bourne, Steve 'Special' Kay, Shane Bourk, Dave 'Woody' Cook, Matt Marsh, Horse, Chris 'Not Asian' Lee, Ryan Black, Rhys Pendergast, Rupert Gerald, Ian Morrison-Williamson, Callum 'CC' Dunn and Sean Purdie.

**Stephen 'Horse' Nolan, Captain of the HKFC Rugby Section with Mark Ralph, chairman of the Shanghai Rugby Football Club**



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