

THE NANJINGER

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By Misha Maruma

A Game Of Dedication

They say rugby is a game of dedication. The story goes, New Zealand player Wayne 'Buck' Shelford took a cleat to his sensitive area during a game and seriously ripped open the aforementioned region.

At this point most people would get medical attention and call it a day. But Shelford got it sewed up on the bench and continued the game. From what I know of rugby players, this type of dedication is par for the course.



Last year I interviewed some members of the Nanjing Rockets rugby team. I caught up with them again to see how the club is fairing.

In the past six months the Rockets progress has been nothing short of remarkable. Management structures and recruitment policies have been introduced to become a sustainable club. Former vice captain Romain Kooger, who worked hard at recruitment and building a social base around the club, recently returned to Switzerland; only due to its stability, the club was able to deal with the loss of one of their leaders.


The Rockets success stems from having the right balance of being a social club with getting a committed number to train and play. "In one season we've gone from 'whipping boys' in the Yangtze Delta Division (YDD) to becoming a well drilled team playing at a high tempo", says Dan Aylward, one of the founding members of the team.

When I last spoke to them, they were just happy to

have enough players to get a team together. Half a year later, they are competing at the top of the YDD and finished just one point off top place.

This progression has a lot to do with the fact that the club reached out to the local Chinese rugby community. The relationships they have developed have helped the club to grow, so that now a large number of local talent represents the Rockets on a regular basis.

Dedication to training is mixed with the club's ethos of work hard, play hard. This idea of being committed to turning up every week, but also being involved in the social events that the club hosts, is backbone to the Rocket's philosophy. Indeed, the club is on the look out for a social secretary to help organise even more social events throughout the season.

If you are interested in joining the Rockets, they have touch rugby sessions every Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm at the Nanjing Arts Institute. For more information contact the Nanjinger. 

Nanjing 6's Cricket Tournament

On 17th May the fifth annual Nanjing 6's cricket tournament is being held at the Nanjing Institute of Technology. Teams will be competing for the Connery Shield of Dreams. If you have never watched live cricket before then this is your chance to come and enjoy a day out as teams of six players compete in innings of five overs.




This yearly event is hosted by Nanjing's cricket teams the Bogans and the Nongmin. Last year there were six teams involved from three cities, Nanjing, Shanghai and Xiamen. This year sees newcomers Suzhou invited to enter a team.

Last year the Nanjing Bogans were resoundingly beaten in the final by reigning champion the Shanghai Bashers. Expect the Bogans to be gunning for revenge. The first game will begin promptly at 9am; the teams compete in a round-robin phase with the four best teams going through to the knockout stage. The last game is scheduled to end around 5pm.

Nanjing cricket has seen a notable increase in popularity over the past years. New enthusiastic players are mostly from countries with no cricket pedigree; both clubs pride themselves on being all-inclusive.

Last year the two Nanjing teams were invited to Xiamen for the Halloween 6's tournament. They joined together to form a touring party, the Nanjing Disco Ducks.

This year the Disco Ducks are scheduled to go to Suzhou in the summer and Xiamen again in October. The club is always on the lookout for new players; contact the Nanjinger for details. 

FLYING INTO MORE AND MORE HANDS



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Sheraton Changzhou Xinbei Hotel
Sheraton Jiangyin Hotel
Oxford College

Hefei

Sheraton Hefei Xinzhan Hotel
Hilton Hefei

Huzhou

Sheraton Huzhou Hot Spring Resort

Jinan

Jinan Foreign Entrepreneurs Association

Qingdao

Double Tree by Hilton

Suzhou

Dulwich College Suzhou
EtonHouse International School

Taizhou

Double Tree by Hilton

Wuxi

EtonHouse International School
Sheraton Wuxi Binhu Hotel

Yangzhou

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