

Berlin Tournament Report

Vienna participated in a Touch Tournament on 23/24th May in Berlin.

Scotland All Stars - Winner

Wales Durkha Touch - 2nd

Zurich - 3rd

Koln 4th

VIENNA - 5th

Munich 6th

Frankfurt 7th

Berlin 8th

Highlights were:

- Esther being Captain - she did a great job, led by example on the field by playing fantastically, read the games perfectly and guided us at half time, and we realised she is a natural leader. It wont be her last time as captian.

Kathi and Marti - received Vienna Players of the Day awards. Marti scored many touchdowns (3-4 of them from dives) and gave the team a lot of foward momentum with driving. Kathi (yes, my Kathi) stopped 3-4 touchdowns with awesome desparate defence in games we may have lost if she hadn't defended so well, and impressed alot of people - incuding us!

Hans - Organised accomodation, collected money, played 5 games, refereed 2 games AND became AUSTRIAS FIRST ever qualified LEVEL 1 Touch REFEREE! So congratulations to Hans, big effort.

- Beating Munich (again!): After a tough 5-5 all draw, it went to drop off (Drop off is where you play 2 minutes with 5 per side, then take one person off each team the field so 4 against 4 for another 2 minutes then take another off the field so 3 against 3 on the field until somebody scores - sudden death.) It was pretty intense and exciting and everyone was watching. Munich almost scored several times but Vienna held on. It was 3 against 3 when Michy (dummy half) made an awesome break and ran past his opponent from half way all the way to the touchdown line and passed a perfect over head pass to Dan who scored the winning touchdown - a split second before the remaining 2 Munich guys dived to touch Dan and smashed thier heads together and concussed each other, with one of them (Duncan) requiring 4 stiches to his cut open head. A few of the UK refs and players said it was the most exciting drop off they had ever seen. And Vienna can be proud of playing the entire game in a friendly good fair spirit....and still winning.

- Our Girls - Every tournament Vienna gets comments about our girls (I'm talking about thier on the field performance)...and this was no exception. Nearly every other coach and Ref commented on how good our Vienna girls are

at playing touch. There were only 5 of them to fill 3 on-field positions and I don't think I heard one whinge or complaint about being tired. So huge congratulations to Niki, Kathi, Esther, Suzy and our new player Johanna who played so well. Suzy gets special mention for her evening party antics of trying to steal the Swiss flag from the Swiss...

- Being beaten hard core by the Scottish All Stars, and then playing with them....:Our first game was against Scottish All Stars, captained by a Kiwi girl, full of Welsh, Scottish, Kiwis, English, including the English Mens Touch Coach etc etc. we got killed, at one point everytime they got the ball they scored... Then on Sunday when we mixed the teams up to give the German National teams someone to practice against, some of us got to play with the Scots - and they were amazing players and helped us a lot, and taught us so many cool things.

- Koln kicked our a\$\$es with a simple but good attack learnt from Bernie the Aussie coach. Its never good to be beaten but they played a very good team game and gave us a good realistic target to work towards, as many of them came from non-rugby backgrounds like many of you.

- Marti also reffed one game, and Sebastian and Mal put in fine playing performances.

Prague Boys - Jason (Kiwi) and Graeme (Aussie) played with us and blended in very well to our team, and setup and scored a lot of tries for us.

Some Lessons Learnt:

- We turned the ball over to the other teams too much - penalties from forward passes, oversteps, and hips not straight when doing a roll ball, and dropped balls. So that means we will do a lot more basics in our trainings - passing especially. Teams can't score against you when they don't have the ball.

- Listening to the Referee more. We will train this.

- On field communication. We still need to talk 1000x times more to each other on attack and especially defence. Again, we'll practice this at trainings.

It was a great weekend of touch and as a bonus we all got to be Tourists in Berlin as well.