

Frankfurt October 2007 Report

The End of Season Touch Rugby Tournament was held in Frankfurt on Sat Oct 20 between 8 Teams - Frankfurt (2), Strasbourg, Scotland, Vienna, Munich, Koln, Switzerland.

1. Results:

Vienna came 5th overall, winning the Plate and only lost one game which was to the eventual Tournament winner, Scotland.

Lost to Scotland 8-1

Beat Strasbourg 8-2

Drew with Frankfurt-A 4-4

Beat Frankfurt B 6-4

Beat Koln 4-1

(I hope these scores are accurate!)

The Tournament was played in a very good friendly spirit with just enough competition to make it interesting. I think this is what Touch Rugby is all about.

A major factor for Vienna on the day was the inclusion of 3 Berlin players to our team (we only had 10 players, we needed 14 for a complete squad). Derek became somewhat of a leader and even though he scored quite a lot of tries for us and set up just as many more, his main benefit for us I think was his leadership and direction on the field. I think all of us learnt a lot from playing with him and we will try to incorporate some of those things for the future (e.g. the dummy and ball carrier communication, the talking on defence, the communication of the non-ball carrier to the ball carrier and of course the dump and split). Jordi scored a few tries for us and Klaus I think let a few tries past him whilst defending ;-) but we were thankful to incorporate other teams players (as we have done with Berlin/Koln the past).

2. Special Mentions:

I want to congratulate all the players who scored their first ever tries for Touch Vienna (Maybe you scored more or less but these are the ones I remember): Eva from Rugby (2 or more) , Eva from USI (1 - although she cannot remember scoring it - dont worry Eva, we all remember it!), Step (3 or more), Kati (2 tries), Marek (1). Please tell me if I forgot anyone. In general I thought Esther played really well with driving and support play (especially supporting Dereks dump and splits) and Doug was great at shooting defence and setting up tries for the rest of us. Eva W and Kati were great wingers scoring a few tries, Hans was solid as a driver, Eva V's defence on the wing has improved amazingly and Step was everywhere on the field in both attack and defence, and Marek was also really great on defence.

And for helping out on the day -

Doug : for being Captain (AND reffing as sideline Ref for 2 games). I want to quote what I think was the best Captains speech of the day by Doug after we got our asses kicked by Scotland....

"OK! There is only 1 team Captain, and thats me! So everyone shut the up and listen to.....DEREK!". There is nothing less helpful than 12 no-idea Chefs in the Kitchen telling everyone how to cook, so Dougs advice turned out to be the best of the day, as Derek clearly was the man to listen to.

Thanks again Doug.

Hans: timing of games/schedule etc.

Thanks so much for helping out with the Pre Tournament Organisation to -

Hans: Transport.

Doug: Accommodation.

Renee: Giving us the flash brand new Rugby Uniforms to wear (We have our Touch Vienna Vests (finally!) but at 10 degrees it was a little too cold for vests...).

3. The Games:

3.1 v Scotland (lost 8-1): First game, we were like Rabbits in the headlights of an oncoming car..they were so much better than all the other teams.They cut us up with thier incredibly fast driving of the ball to get us going backwards and then did a few simple switch passes and would score. They were all Captains of various teams in the UK (where there are 250,000 registered Touch Rugby players!) and to be honest being beaten by them was a fantastic lesson in how to play Touch Rugby. They had fantastic communication and the dummy-half was always so close to the ball carrier and they always knew what was going to happen next. They also panicked us and closed us down with thier very fast shooting defence.We kind of lost our nerve in this game and lost alot of confidence, I know I did. Derek gave us a little bit of advice etc after the game and we got it together a bit better.

3.2 v Strasbourg: (won 8-2 - penalised 2 points for only having 2 girls on the field) Well from one extreme to the other - we killed these guys, mainly becasue they were slow and we had quite fast players. But, as Marek pointed out, now we became overconfident and thought we were better than we actually were. This became evident when we tried to do too many risky passes in our own half and kept dropping the ball and then had to defend a lot. We needed to calm down and play simple and tight in our own half. This was also a good lesson for us. It was good to beat the mainly French side (or maybe thats just the Kiwi in me coming out;-)) especially after they were trying to sneak on only 1 girl on the field and then started to argue amonsgt themselves....

3.3 v Frankfurt A: (Drew 4-4) Well they got 2 tries because we all mistakenly retreated behind our own try line and they just scored unopposed. Unfortunately the field markings were quite bad (as happened apparantly in the Berlin German Nationals) but all teams had the same situation so no excuses. When we host our own Tournament in Vienna next year, field markings will be given extra attention. This was a GOOD intense game that we could have won. Frankfurt came 4th overall due to the fact that they lost to Scotland by a little less than we did. Fitness turned out to be a killer for us here, as many of us were tired and couldnt quite make that critical touch or run as support. I know I missed out on a certain try when Derek ran from a quickly taken penalty tap and ran toward the line unopposed, seemingly 100% to score the winning try. BUT I was too tired to run in support and unfortunately he got a leg cramp before the line so couldnt continue and he had nobody to pass to....

3.4 v Frankfurt B: (won 6-4) It was clear in this game that the mix of players needs

to be correct for defence/attack and that means that we need to think about the Subbing more carefully next time. At times there were poor defence combinations on the field and no one leading things at the same time that Frankfurt had their fast attacking players on, and they scored quite easily then. They did have a Killer Kiwi guy on the field who was a professional Rugby Player, who was almost untouchable with his fancy side-stepping, but hey we did still beat them! I'd like to highlight Steps cool try which came from a pretty hopeful 50/50 long pass from Dan over the head of that annoying Frankfurt Kiwi (who was always waiting for an intercept) and Step scrambled to catch it and somehow managed to hold onto it and sprinted to score..well done Step that showed great skill!

3.5 v Koln (Playoff for 5th place and Plate Prize) won 4-1: Koln were missing some of their good players in this game but our defence in this game was really great! Even Dave the very good Sth African Koln player commented on our good sliding defence. It was good to beat Koln, as they have some very good players and I think this was one of our best play-as-a-Team games. Dan got beat up by some small Koln girl in a failed dump and split attack, missed the last 10 minutes but was the only casualty of the day. Marek subbed off after the first 5 minutes, ran straight off the field into a waiting cab and to the airport to catch his flight....thats dedication.

4. Exhibition Game:

There was a bunch of Kiwi contact rugby players who are paid to play for the Frankfurt rugby team, who had an exhibition Touch game against a mixed team from all the 8 teams in the Tournament. Step and Eva played. It was nice to watch the Kiwis tricky passing and side-stepping skills, but the mixed team scored a few tries themselves and it was great to watch. I wonder how the Kiwi boys skills were at the After-Party...;-)

5. Reffing:

Again, not enough good refs. Lots of stuff went unnoticed. It was interesting to see the difference when a good ref reffed us (e.g. the Scottish Refs). They stopped us on many things and picked up alot of our and the oppositions infringements. Again, if anyone is interested to Ref, let me know.

6. Lessons Learnt:

Defence: Drifting/Sliding can be improved, along with more talking on defence. The shooting defence can be improved, and players behind need to cover the shooter. Attack: We need to learn the dump and split. It works and we don't have much else when on attack close to the line. Also, talking on attack and playing the rollball MUCH faster are 2 things we will work on. Dealing with the shooting defence we can also work on. Derek did give us some good advice and we all have things we saw that we can improve on. The Scottish Refs warned me about the Subbing (wait until the person has come off before you go on, and when the rolling the ball, your body must be straight down the field not sideways and other things we can work on). But do congratulate ourselves because we did improve over the course of the day.

7. Organisation:

Next Tournament someone will be appointed time manager - in this way he/she will

ensure everyone is at the right place at the right time and with enough time to do warm ups etc.

I've probably forgotten lots of cool tries and moments but let us know if there was something cool that I forgot.

The after party had a good vibe to it, but I left early so if there was anything interesting to report, let me know. We have our first official Trophy (the Plate), so all be proud of it.