



TRY TIME NEWS

TRY TIME NEWS CELEBRATES
1 YEAR

Tuks' 2021 Carlton Cup

AUTHOR: VALERIE BELLADONA

At first the future of the Carlton Cup looked unclear, but with the easing of regulations we concluded the league with the support of a crowd, something the players had not had for almost two years. All of the Tuks teams started the league strong and managed to position themselves into a semi final spot. For the under 20 division, both the Tuks YoungGuns (A team) and the Tuks Badgers (B team) won their semi final games against Naka Bulle and Harlequins securing their spots in an all Tuks final. However, in the end, it was the Tuks YoungGuns who took the under 20s title.

Tuks JongSpan (3rd team) secured themselves a victory over Grizzlies, 36 - 22, claiming the overall championship title for the third division. Coach Duan Roux said, "The gents played extremely well", with a score of 17 all 15 minutes into the second half. 7 minutes before the final whistle, the team was down three players but still managed to



Tuks JongSpan after winning the 3rd Division of the 2021 Carlton League.

squeeze in three tries, to claim the championship title.

Tuks Fezelas took on Naka Bulle in the second division final. Unfortunately for the Fezelas team Naka clinched the victory by a mere 3 points with a score of 40 - 37.

For the UP-Tuks 1 team, the road to a final was also cut short when they lost the semi against Northam. Conrad Boshoff says the team made silly mistakes but overall he is very pleased with the performance of the club as a whole, winning 2 of the 4 divisions. He also mentions that the younger players as well as the coaches can hold their heads high as it has been a tough twelve months of rugby for them all.

IN THIS ISSUE

TUKSWOMEN BEST IN AFRICA

COACHES CORNER: FRANCOIS ROBBERTSE



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
TUKSWOMENS RUGBY PLAYER,
LIBBIE JANSE VAN RENSBURG,
ON RECEIVING HER OFFICIAL
SPRINGBOK CAP.**



RECENT EVENTS

TuksWomensRugby 7s claim best in Africa title

AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA



FASU Kings of Africa University 7s Champions

The Delta Drone TuksWomensRugby 7s team travelled to Uganda earlier in October to take on the FASU Kings of Africa University 7s tournament. This was the first international tournament that the team has competed in since the Covid pandemic hit, approximately two years of no travel for a team that is

used to playing abroad up to 6 times a year.

The tournament for the ladies division was based on overall points, due to the low number of ladies teams who entered. With that in mind, head coach, Riaan vd Merwe, knew that the team had to put up big scores where ever possible. Van der Merwe said his plan was to play his strongest team when faced with weaker opposition in the hope of boosting the teams overall points and this certainly paid off. The Delta Drone TuksWomensRugby 7s team won 3 of their 4 games, and although they lost their final game against UJ by just one try, van der Merwe's plan to secure the tournament title based on points gave the team the comfort

knowing that they would need to lose by 24 points to zero in order to lose the FASU title.

Sesihle Maguga was team captain for the tournament and was honoured to receive this title. Although the pressure was on for the team to perform, Maguga held her team together, after they suffered 3 injuries, and managed to bring home the silver wear. This victory means that the team will be traveling to Russia in August of 2022 to compete in the University 7s World Cup.

With the success of this tournament the womens programme is shifting its focus to the upcoming Dubai 7s, a tournament that the team is very familiar with. We wish the ladies all the best for their next challenge.

OTHER NEWS

Coaches Corner *Francois Robbertse*

AUTHOR: VALERIE BELLADONA



Francois Robbertse with the Tuks Fezelas

Francois Robbertse, also known as Bones, is currently the forwards coach at the Tuks under 20s team and he is also assisting with the Fezelas. He has been coaching at Tuks for 3 years but prior to this he was a Tukkie player himself. Born and bred in Thabazimbi, Bones left this small town to study education at Pukke. During this time he played rugby for Pukke as well as the under 19 and under 21 Leopards. Bones also played in the Varsity Cup from 2008 up to 2010, unfortunately for Pukke, but he did eventually see the light and made the move over to Tuks.

His dream as a coach is to develop the lives of the young men on the rugby field but also in their studies, as he says that he found himself in a similar situation when he was studying. He hopes to continue to develop as a coach during his time at Tuks.



Francois Robbertse in his UP-Tuks 1 kit

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FROM THE ARCHIVES



KNOWLEDGE

From the Archives: Dr Albert Visser

AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA

Dr Albert Visser, a true Tukkie, dating back to the 1950's. Born in 1931, Dr Visser matriculated from Hoërskool Helpmekaar where his love for rugby was fostered by his then coach, Piet Malan (Former Springbok Flank).

Dr Visser was a first year medical student at Tuks in 1949 when he first pulled the Stripe jersey over his head as a loose head forward. He represented the Tuks under 19's team for two years after which he moved up to the Tuks first team. In total he represented the Stripe jersey for 6 years while he was completing his degree.

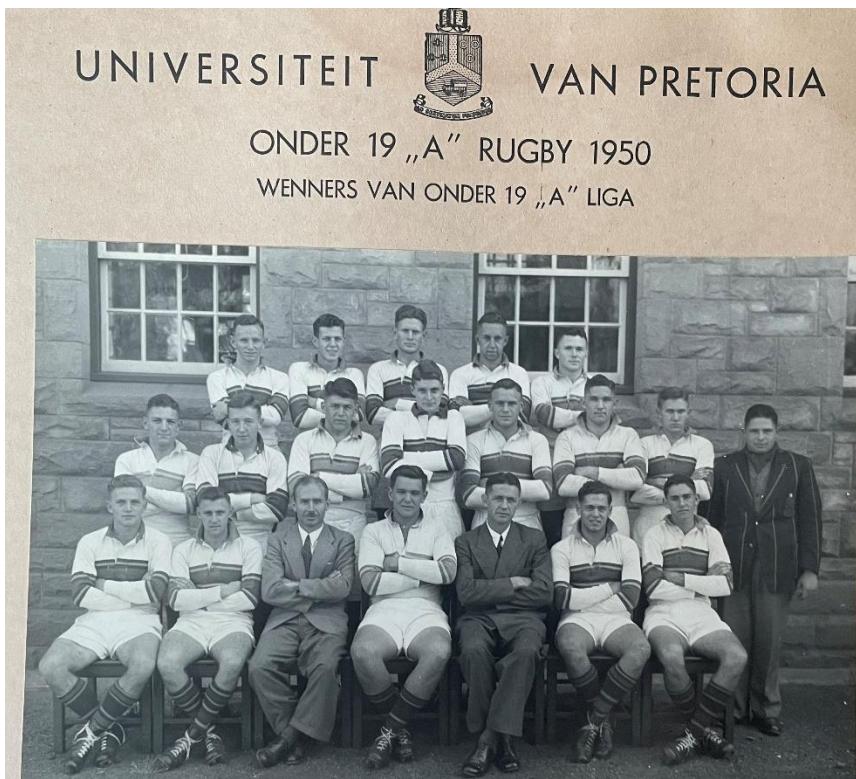
Back then the main focus for the players was academics as one could not rely on rugby as a career, Dr Visser said they would go to training straight after class, the one training session that they had per week, and after training, go straight back to the books. 'We were built different' says Dr Visser, 'Players are a lot bigger today than they were in my time', with gym not being a top priority for the players.

Dr Visser went on to practice as a general practitioner for 10 years, calling it quits on his student rugby career. He then specialized in radiology and maintained his physical health by playing tennis and eventually golf, something he still does to this day. Dr Visser says the Big Man himself has blessed him with the ability to maintain his active lifestyle. With that he believes that maintaining a strong core has also been of great benefit but the real trick could be the fact that he has cut sugar out of his diet for the past 40 years.

One thing is certain, Dr Albert Visser does not look like he will be slowing down anytime soon, a true Tukkie for more than 60 years.

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PLAYER IN FOCUS: CLYDE LEWIS



**Dr Albert Visser, (Middle row, third player from the right),
with the under 19 A team in 1950.**

1954



EERSTE RY : H v d Watt, P Barnard, Prof C Loubser (president), L Theron (kaptein), Prof F Elof (afrigter), P Felstead, A Ras.

TWEEDE RY : A v Zyl (cre-sekretaris), S Spies, A de Villiers, M v Zyl, A Oberholzer, S Senekal, W Kamffer, Dr J Combrink (afrigter).

DERDE RY : G Myburg (sekretaris), J Carstens, W de Beer, J Cloete, J Rautenbach, A Visser.

GOLF DAY SUCCESS



UP-Tuks Player

Player in Focus: Clyde Lewis

AUTHOR: VALERIE BELLADONA

He's got the speed, he's got the flare, he's got the talent. Meet Clyde Lewis, born in Oudtshoorn and grew up in George. Lewis started playing rugby at the age of 7 and has since achieved quite a bit. He has played Craven week for SWD and 7s rugby for the under 19 Blue Bulls and is currently playing for the UP-Tuks 1 team. Lewis was also part of the Varsity Cup team who won the 2021 Varsity Cup Championship. Lewis says this victory will forever be one of his highest achievements due to the fact that it was achieved during the uncertain times of the Covid pandemic. He adds that during the Varsity Cup campaign his biggest challenge was 'mind over matter', staying focused on the task at hand, which was the next game.

Although Lewis can claim to be part of a Varsity Cup winning team, something that few Varsity Cup players have the right of claiming, he hopes to secure ANOTHER Varsity Cup title for the University of Pretoria. Lewis also hopes to take to the 7s field in the Stripe with the hopes of truly showcasing his talents.

As is any rugby players dream, Lewis hopes to one day pull the Green and Gold jersey over his head and represent South Africa, and he hopes that the student tournaments will act as a platform for him to get his foot into the door.

Keep a look out for this talented player in Carlton League and tournaments to come.



**Clyde Lewis, Player that Rocks
in the 2021 Varsity Cup match
against FNB Madibaz**

Player Facts

What is your go-to song?

Headlines by Drake

What is your favourite post-match meal?

Win or lose, it's McDees.

Current Tuks & Springbok, Libbie JvRensburg, with ex Tuks & Springboks; Burger Gelndeihuys, Frik du Preez, Wynand Claassen, Tommy du Plessis.

FNB TuksRugby Golf Day Success

AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA

The FNB TuksRugby Golf Day took place in the beginning of October with great success. The day started with light thunder showers, but this did not deter anyone. By the time the teams teed off, the clouds had blown away and it turned into a beautiful day for golf. The day saw 32 teams competing, ranging from current Tuks players; to alumnis; sponsors; to individuals who just want to support the club. The winning team was Tuks' very own coaching team, Rudi Dames, Reghardt Botha, Nico Luus and Andries Kruger with Andries also winning the longest drive for the day.

Special thank you's must go to every single individual and company who was involved in the day, be it by means of a sponsorship or participation. Without these people, the event would not have been a success.

We hope to see everyone at next year's event.



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THE REAL MVPS: VALERIE BELLADONA

TUKS RUGBY SPONSORS



APPRECIATION'S/THANK YOU'S

The Real MVP's

Valerie Belladona

AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA

As the TuksRugby TryTime Newsletter celebrates its first birthday we must acknowledge the dedication of its most extensive writer, Vallerie Belladona. Vallerie has been an integral part of the newsletter for almost a year and her writing has proved to be captivating.

Belladonna describes herself as a very undercover and private person and does not enjoy being in the spotlight herself. She enjoys her alone time when she can sit quietly and think and will seldom be seen out and about.

When approached by TuksRugby with the idea of joining the TryTime Newsletter team she admits that she was hesitant as she had not yet had a lot of experience writing newspaper articles, let alone the number of articles expected from her for each edition of the newsletter. 'Every edition has been a learning curve for me,' says Belladona, 'my rugby knowledge



Valerie Belladona out with some of her closest friends.

was very limited in the beginning, but it's safe to say that I am starting to understand why people are so obsessed with it.' TuksRugby and the newsletter team are honoured to have Vallerie as a dedicated writer for the newsletter and we hope that she is part of the team for many years to come.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Striving to develop quality student-athletes within a high-performance environment who will graduate with meaningful degrees. Preparing young athletes for life after rugby, competing for championships on and off the field, for future generations to follow.