

## Harpenden Sevens 2011



Saved the best till last!!!

Following what has been a disappointing season in many ways August bank holiday Sunday saw White Hart Marauders return to the National Pub 7s at Harpenden in Hertfordshire and absolutely devastate the opposition as they rediscovered the form that has seen them in the top echelons of the 7s circuit for over 30 years.

For the second time in 5 years we renamed the squad in the memory of a close friend who had passed away. In 2006 it was Sue Smith and we went on to win the tournament beating the Army in the last play of the final. This year we dedicated the side to James van Amstel, a major sponsor and manager of the Café Corso, the Marauders Club House in the red light district of Amsterdam.

Playing as the JvA (James van Astel) Marauders we swept aside Old Columbia B (59-5) and Kew Occasionals (42-5) before dispatching the Mitres (62-0) the first of three Samurai sides that we would meet on the day.

The Quarter finals saw Old Columbians A follow their B side out of the tournament (38-0) setting up a semi final against the Samurai Midwives. Following a rare defensive mistake Midwives took an early 7 point lead before normal service was resumed and Marauders when onto to record yet another 34 point + win.

So once again we meet our old adversaries Samurai in the final and it was Marauders who took the game by storm scoring three tries in the opening two minutes with the handling skills and blistering pace of the Marauders attack leaving the Samurai defence in tatters.

With Simon Pitfield and Sikeli Ratabuli dominating the restarts Samurai had to scramble defence for most of the first half before breaking out for a late score to trail 24-7.

Once again Marauders dominated from the restart and soon extended the lead to 31 -7 before Samurai pulled one back 31 – 14. Marauders didn't back off and the game was closed out by an audacious piece of showboating from Bunny Burenivalu to take the final score to 38-14.

On a day when the whole squad got onto the score sheet it is difficult to pick out one player of the tournament, but it wouldn't be right not to mention some outstanding finishing by Chris Rose. However for me, for his all-round performance, I would nominate Simon Pitfield.

Barrie Torbett, Team Manager

Squad: Howard Graham, Simon Pitfield, Joe Knowles, Chris Rose, Isoa, Adam Bishop, Martin Nutt, Bunnie Burenivalu, Sikeli Ratbuli, Jamie Stewart.