



Amsterdam Sevens.

The 38th Heineken Amsterdam Sevens ended much like the 37th, (and the 36th, 35th and 34th come to that) with Samurai International ruling the roost in the Men's Sevens and the Ladies Sevens and Wooden Spoon winning the Veterans 10s.

However, in all three tournaments the outcome could have been very different with games being won by the narrowest of margins.

The vagaries of the seeding for the Sunday morning pools pitched Samurai International against the Ukraine national side and Guernsey Salty Sea Dogs which they negotiated safely.

As in previous years there was one game where they needed a little luck and a few decisions going their way. This year it was the quarter final against Mel's Exiles.

The crowd was strongly behind Mel's Exiles, mainly because Sevens Legend Waisale Serevi was playing for them and everyone wanted to see him progress. In a "game of two halves" Samurai ran in two tries in the first half to lead 14-0 while Mel's Exiles ran in two tries in the second half but missed one of the conversions, losing the game 14-12. Serevi and the team received a standing ovation from the crowd as they left the field in front of a packed main stand.

In the other quarter final the **White Hart Marauders (a.k.a. Corso Marauders)** lost out to **Yug** from Russia 14-10. In a close fought game, where the Russians successfully disrupted the Marauders rhythm, missed conversions made the difference. The Russian champions contained many of the Russian national squad and were the surprise package of the tournament.

In the **Veterans 10s** it was Wooden Spoon against **Corso Marauders Vets** for the third year in a row in the final.

For the third year in a row it was Wooden Spoon who walked off with the silverware but it is getting closer every year. On a heavy pitch the old guys failed to score in normal time even though one Corso Marauders player decided not to fall over the line with the ball and score but to go for another phase of play. On such decisions are games won and lost.

In extra time Wooden Spoon won when they scored a try, the "golden score" that ended the game. Cheering loudest were the organizers as they were worried the teams would still be playing at midnight if the extra time had finished scoreless and the winners would have had to be decided by a "Drop Kick Shoot Out".

Just like last year the losing semi-finalists were Millfield Old Boys Legends and Dutch Rugby Veterans. Both lost 24-0 in their semi-finals.

World Famous" White Hart Marauders