

OKTOBERFEST SEVENS



MÜNCHEN

Report from: Götz Köthe

37th Oktoberfest Sevens Rugby Tournament powered by München RFC

Winners:

Men's Cup: Rudergesellschaft Heidelberg - RGH ShoX

Women's Cup: RC Stusta Munich

Men's Plate: RC Stusta Munich

After months of intensive preparations, September 24th 2016 saw the 38th edition of the international Oktoberfest Sevens rugby tournament in Munich. In spite of some short-notice cancellations, this one-day classic could yet again field a broad variety of teams.

The ladies started with seven teams in two groups; in addition to representatives from Hungary (Tarnok Rugby Club) and France (Ecole Centrale de Lille), a team from Norway (HAGL Rugbyklubb) and a mixed German team (Bataillon d'Amour) as well as the local ladies teams of Stusta, Unterföhring and the host München RFC.

The men were represented by a total of 16 teams in four groups. In addition to last year's finalist Cruisers from the Rhine country, the entry of the current German Sevens Champion Rudergesellschaft Heidelberg raised high expectations. The US forces were represented by the Sigonella Hoplites from Sicily and the Rose Tower Titans from Grafenwöhr, Germany, British forces were fielded by the RAF Hurricanes. Further international representatives included the Ecole Centrale de Lille (France), New Zagreb Rugby (Croatia), Rugby Liuc 7s (Italy) and Rugby Leoben Bears (Austria). German rugby culture was further represented by the Gorillas from Tübingen and another select side from the Bataillon d'Amour, the Hannover Unicorns, plus teams from the Munich area: Schusterhäusl from Germering, Unterföhring, Stusta and hosts München RFC.

Our friends of the Royal University Medical School in London were sorely missed, they had to cancel their participation at the last minute.

On Saturday, September 24th, 2016, the big day finally started: the preliminary round kicked off punctually at 09:30h on three pitches simultaneously. The group phases were made up of five men's and two women's groups, and a total of over 30 games was played until the 13:30h bell.

After the lunch break, the knock-out competitions with women's cup, men's plate and men's cup were kicked off. In the women's final, the Stusta ladies beat hosts München RFC 15:0 in a high-class final, thus defending their title from last year and taking the cup away yet again into the north of Munich.

In the men's plate, the Munich students showed that they have to be counted with also in the men's game, beating the Bataillon d'Amour 26:5 in an entertaining game.

In the cup competition, the German Sevens champion played up to the expectations. Last year's finalist Cruisers gave a thrilling game to Rudergesellschaft Heidelberg (RGH ShoX), but the boys from the Neckar could finally take away the title with a 35:7 win.

At the presentation of awards at around 18:00h, not only the winners and finalists were nominated, but also the women's and men's player of the tournament, traditionally elected by the tournament referees, who again ensured the high playing standard of this competition. The women's player of the tournament was Tonje Lyssand of HAGL Rugbyklubb in Norway, and the men's player of the tournament was Nick Günther of RGH ShoX.

A special credit goes to our partners of the city of Munich, the district council 16 (Munich Ramersdorf Perlach), the Munich sports council as well as the municipal sports ground and our sponsors, and last but not least the many helpers of the MRFC, who particularly in the weeks leading to the tournament were ready to take out anything to make this event a great success.

München RFC is looking forward to the 39th edition of the Oktoberfest Sevens in 2017!