



crandfc



CR&FC



www.crandfc.lk

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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"Nippon Paint SLR league tournament for 23/24 after a lapse of 26 years. My sincere appreciation to players, Coaching and management team, Rugby board, General committee, past presidents, GC's and many others who contributed to this great achievement"

After an intense and exciting season, CR&FC 33 (5T 1C 2P) defeated Kandy Sports Club 25 (3T 2C 2P) at Longden Place in the league final.



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SPORTS UPDATE



DONATION FOR FLOOD LIGHTS



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Minister of Sports Harin Fernando donated Rs 20 million to install flood lights. Longden Place Grounds now becomes the second rugby playing ground to have flood lights after Havelocks SC.



CELEBRATING OUR CHAMPIONS

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The CR&FC celebrated its Champions with an Award Ceremony held on the 7th of May 2024.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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President's Message

Dear Members,

As we reflect on the first quarter of 2024, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the collective achievements and moments that have defined our club during this period.

The CR&FC rugby team were crowned the undefeated A Division rugby champions winning the coveted "Nippon Paint SLR league tournament for 23/24 after a lapse of 26 years. My sincere appreciation to players, Coaching and management team, Rugby board, General committee, past presidents, GC's and many others who contributed to this great achievement. We want to thank our sponsors, Banking partner and advertisers who believed in us. A special mention of thanks to the media who supported us during the season.

Our women's team performed much better than expected and we are confident, with more experience, new players and facilities the results will be positive. We still remain as the only club to field a team to play women's rugby in the country.

The legendary former Wallaby great David Campese visited the club in February and interacted with our members. We would like to thank the Chairman of the Zahira College Rugby centenary committee for giving us this wonderful opportunity.

We made great strides in the field of Hockey as well. CR&FC Women's hockey team emerged as the "A" division champions in the women's category of the Colombo Hockey league tournament conducted by Colombo Hockey Association. Our mens "A" team emerged champions of the Division "C" of the Colombo Hockey league tournament conducted by the Colombo Hockey Association.

A dream has come true: We are extremely grateful to Harin Fernando, Minister of Sports and the Sports ministry for granting us a sum of Rs 20 mn towards the installation of floodlights. This will give us the opportunity to play under the lights and draw larger crowds to witness club rugby. The project will commence in May and we intend completing by end August.

Facility Upgrades: I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made in our efforts to enhance our club's facilities and will continue to the next quarter.

Entertainment: Your committee has been very active in organizing different types of entertainment programmes and has many plans to introduce new themes, especially on weekdays to draw larger crowds to the club.

Bid Adeau: Rtd. Group Captain Lalith Abeysekera General Manager of CR&FC decide to leave the club end of March. He served the club for eight years and we witnessed a remarkable change in the club during his tenure. We thank him for his services and wish him all the very best.

As we look ahead to the rest of 2024, let us carry forward the momentum and positivity of the first quarter. With determination, passion, and a shared commitment to excellence, I am confident that we will continue to achieve great things together as a club.

Thank you to each member of the CR&FC for your unwavering support and dedication. Here's to a successful and memorable year ahead.

**Tikiri Ellepola – President,
Ceylonese Rugby & Football Club**

Sports update

Nippon Paint SLR Rugby League 23/24

– CR & FC win the League after 26 years!

CR & FC emerged triumphant over Kandy Sports Club with a final score of 33-25 (comprising 5 tries, 1 conversion, and 2 penalties for CR & FC, and 3 tries, 2 conversions, and 2 penalties for Kandy Sports Club) at Longdon Place in the final game of the league, securing the Club Rugby League 2023/24 championship after a 26-year hiatus.

The anticipation for a fiercely contested match at Longdon Place was palpable, with expectations of an intense showdown, although the odds were in favour of the home team.

Gemunu Chethiya returned to CR's XV lineup while Kandy Sports Club made strategic choices by fielding Srinath Sooriyabandara at half-back and Suranga Thennakoon at full-back. Chathura Seneviratne made an early impact, scoring from beside the posts nine minutes into the game, as both teams settled into their rhythm after an initial back-and-forth struggle (CR 03-00 KSC).

Seneviratne narrowed the gap with a penalty kick before halftime, leaving the hosts trailing by seven points.



The second half witnessed a flurry of action, with the home team scoring 5 tries in response to the visitors' 2. Adeesha Weerathunga scored the opening try for CR, shifting the lead after Seneviratne's conversion. Former Josephian Raveen De Silva added another try near the left corner post, followed by Black Knight Player of the Match Zubair Doray setting up Gemunu Chethiya off a crosskick, extending CR's lead (CR 23-18 KSC).

In the 75th minute, Lasindu Karunathilake capitalized on an opportunity, scoring CR's 5th try from the tail of a maul, securing the victory and ending Kandy's dynasty, marking CR & FC's first title win since 1998.

Source:
Images- <https://www.thepapare.com/photos-cr-fc-vs-kandy-sc-nippon-paint-rugby-league-2023-24-week-10/>
About the Rugby League- <https://www.dailynews.lk/2023/11/25/sports/254509/nippon-paint-rugby-league-kicks-off-on-december/>
Article- <https://www.thepapare.com/cr-fc-win-the-league-after-1998/>

Sports update

Nippon Paint SLR Rugby League 23/24

- CR & FC win the League after 26 years!



Clifford Cup Knockout Rugby Championship 2024

In the first semi-final of the Clifford Cup Rugby Championship, Police Sports Club emerged victorious against defending champions CR&FC.



Sports update

CR and FC Women's Hockey Team Clinches Championship Title in CHA League Tournament

The CR and FC Women's Hockey team has emerged as the champions in the Women's category of the Colombo Hockey League Tournament 2023/2024, which was recently concluded. Organized and overseen by the Colombo Hockey Association, under the supervision of the Sri Lanka Hockey Federation, this tournament witnessed fierce competition among three participating teams.

Competing alongside the Young Ladies Hockey Club and Colombo Colts CC Women's Hockey team, the CR & FC Women's Hockey team secured victory by winning one game and losing one. With 3 points to their credit, CR & FC led the table, earning a bonus point due to a superior goal average over the Young Ladies Hockey Club, who also garnered the same points with a win and a loss. As a result of obtaining the bonus point based on goal average, CR & FC Women's Hockey team was declared the Champions of the Women's Colombo Hockey 2023/2024.

The success of the CR and FC Women's Hockey team can be attributed to the guidance and expertise of their coach, former Peterite Hockey star Mario Joseph. His experience and skills played a pivotal role in steering the team to this remarkable victory.

Comprising talented players such as Vajira, Movinya, Maleesha, Thissereni, Natalie, Linara, Shereen (Captain), Shiro, Niro, Kaushalya Fernando (Vice Captain), Chamodhi, Sewandi, Chamashaa, Hasi, Bhagya, Ruwaiza (Manager), and Muditha (Assistant Manager), the CR and FC Women's Hockey team showcased exceptional teamwork and dedication throughout the tournament.



Source:

Article-<https://www.dailynews.lk/2024/02/26/sports/415001/cr-and-fc-womens-hockey-team-emerge-champions-in-cha-league-tourney/>

Sports update

CR and FC Men's "A" Hockey Team Claims Division "C" Championship in CHA League Tournament 2023/2024

The CR and FC Men's "A" Hockey team secured the championship title in Division "C" of the Colombo Hockey League Tournament 2023/2024, which recently concluded. Organized by the Colombo Hockey Association under the supervision of the Sri Lanka Hockey Federation, this tournament saw participation from eight teams.

Competing against formidable opponents such as Colombo Colts CC Men's Hockey team, Old Joes Sports Club, University of Moratuwa, Old Cambrians Hockey Club, Old Nalandians Hockey Club "B", Royal College Hockey Club "C", and Old Anandians Hockey Wing "B", the CR and FC Men's "A" Hockey team displayed exceptional prowess throughout the tournament.

With an impressive record of 5 wins and 2 draws, totalling 17 points, the CR and FC Men's "A" Hockey team emerged as the undisputed champions in Division "C" of the Colombo Hockey League Tournament 2023/2024. Guided by coach Mario Joseph, the team showcased remarkable skill and determination en route to their victory.

The CR and FC Men's "A" Hockey team roster includes talented players such as Sachith, Dhakshaka, Siron, Kamil, Shamal, Lahiru, Chathura, Kavinda, Shakthi (Captain), Pasindu, Dinesh, Amila, Anushanga, and Nalaka.



Source:

Article-<https://www.dailynews.lk/2024/02/27/sports/416818/cr-and-fc-mens-hockey-team-emerge-champions/#:~:text=CR%20and%20FC%20Men's%20%E2%80%9C%20A%20%E2%80%9C%20Hockey%20team%20with%205%20wins,team%20to%20win%20this%20championship..>

Events and Updates

The Ministry of Sports has approved a grant of Rs 30 million for the installation of floodlights at CR&FC

The Ceylonese Rugby and Football Club (CR and FC), a venerable institution in Sri Lankan rugby with over a century of history, has achieved a significant feat by capturing the League Rugby Title after a hiatus of 26 years. Adding to the jubilation, the club commemorates another triumph as the Ministry of Sports has approved a grant of Rs 30 million for the installation of floodlights at its home ground, CR and FC at Longden Place.

The pivotal role played by former rugby player at St Joseph's College and current Sports Minister, Harin Fernando, in realizing CR's longstanding aspiration of having comprehensive floodlighting deserves recognition. This initiative seeks to position CR among esteemed Colombo venues like Havelock Sports Club and the Colombo Race Course, capable of hosting night rugby matches.

The advent of night rugby marks a progressive shift in the sport, offering teams the option to compete under lights rather than enduring the harsh rays of the sun, exacerbated by climate change.

For years, CR and FC have pursued support from the Sports Ministry for this endeavor, encountering financial hurdles along the way. However, thanks to the unwavering support of the Sports Minister, the vision of illuminating CR's grounds is poised to materialize.

CR and FC, affectionately dubbed the "Home of Rugby," has long been a linchpin of Sri Lankan rugby, hosting esteemed tournaments. The Ministry will provide an initial grant of Rs 20 million to CR and FC President Tikiri Ellepola to initiate the project, with an additional contribution of Rs 10 million to follow as required.

The projected cost of the endeavor hovers around 40-42 million rupees. This development marks a historic moment for CR and FC and the broader rugby community in Sri Lanka, heralding a promising future under the brilliance of floodlights.



Source:

Article- <https://www.dailynews.lk/2024/02/23/sports/411731/sports-ministry-backs-cr-and-fcs-floodlight-dream/>

Events and Updates

Celebrating our Champions

The CR&FC celebrated its Champions with an Award Ceremony held on the 7th of May 2024.

This event was attended by the Sponsors, General Committee, Rugby Board, Trustees, players, Coaching and Management team and the CR&FC Management team.



Events and Updates

Visit of the 'King of the Goose Step,' David Campese

The Ceylonese Rugby and Football Club (CR and FC), hosted Rugby Legend, David Campese at the Club during his visit to Sri Lanka.

Fondly known as 'Campo,' he was in Sri Lanka as part of the rugby centenary celebrations of Zahira College, Colombo and graciously agreed to share some of his insights and inspiration with our CR&FC family.



Announcement: Captain and Vice-Captain for the 2024/2025 Season

It gives us great pleasure to announce the leadership for the upcoming 2024/2025 season. After careful consideration and evaluation of leadership qualities, dedication, and commitment, we are thrilled to introduce our Captain and Vice-Captain for this season.

Captain: Gemunu Chethiya:

With a proven track record of exceptional leadership both on and off the field, Gemunu Chethiya has been selected as the Captain for the CR&FC team for the 2024/2025 season. His dedication, sportsmanship, and determination makes him an exemplary choice to lead our team to success.

Vice-Captain: Mursheed Zubair:

We are also pleased to announce Mursheed Zubair as the Vice Captain for the upcoming season. His unwavering support, passion for the sport, and ability to motivate and inspire his teammates makes him an invaluable asset to our team.

Please join us in congratulating Gemunu Chethiya and Mursheed Zubair on their appointments. We have full confidence in their abilities to lead our team with integrity, passion, and determination.

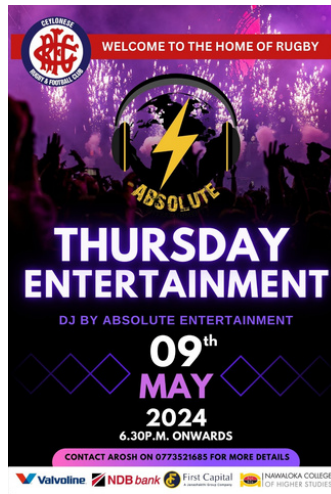
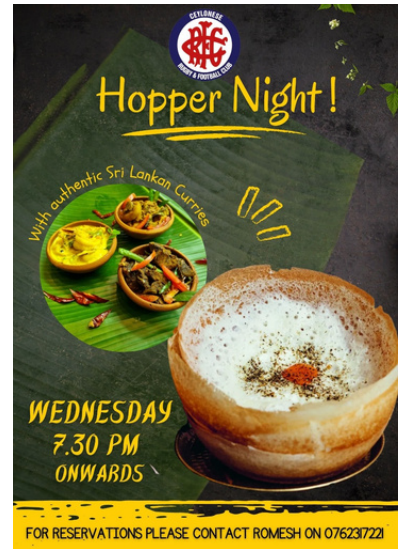
Let's rally behind our new leadership as we embark on another exciting season of rugby at CR&FC!



General Information

Weekly and Monthly Events

- Every Tuesday – Parata/Nan Roti Night
- Every Wednesday – Hopper Night
- Every Thursday – Pol Roti / Rost Pan Night
- Wind Down Friday
- Gin Night (once a month)



Staff Changes

New hires:

- Intern – Mr. Matheesha Perera

Retirements:

- CR&FC's General Manager, RTD. Group Captain Lalith Abeysekera retired from his services as of the 31st of March 2024. He served the club for 8 years and made many lasting developments to the operations. The CR&FC thanks him for his service and wishes him the best in his future endeavours.

Quarterly Newsletter



To stay updated on the Club's latest activities and events, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

Instagram: crandfc

Facebook: CR & FC

TikTok : crandfc

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