

by Rukshan Razak

There's no doubt that Royal-Trinity rugby encounters have delighted rugby fans over the years.

But it was at Kingswood College, Kandy that rugby was first introduced, at school level. The arrival of Rev. A. G. Fraser as Principal of Trinity College saw the introduction of the game at Trinity. These two colleges met in 1906 in the first ever inter-school rugby match. Kingswood gave up rugby shortly after.

Rugby was introduced at Royal College, Colombo in 1916.

The first Royal-Trinity match was played in July 1920.

Both Royal College and Trinity College magazines mention the events leading up to the match. The Trinity magazine mentions that V. C. Perera and C. E. Hettiarachchi (old Trinitians), encouraged and coached the young Royalists prior to the first match. An outbreak of plague in Kandy threatened to stop the first match. So keen were the Trinitians that they decided to go down to Colombo for their match. To add to their woes, six of their 1st XV players were not available. Three, including skipper H. Ellis were taking part in the Stubbs Shield in Colombo, the same day and three others were ill. The Trinity College Magazine says "Let us say Royal gave us a good time."

(I must mention that I am indebted to Merrill Goonetilleke - a walking encyclopaedia on rugby - for some of the information in this article).

On July 31, 1920, at 5.15 pm, at Serpentine Road (now Reid Avenue), Royal met Trinity in the first encounter and suffered a crushing defeat (26 points to nil). The star player of that game was A. P. Maralande who scored the first try in the series and two more in the match. G. G. A. Perera, the Royal captain is described as the best of the Royal team and the Times of Ceylon reported; "this is the first ever inter-school match of its kind and Royal still lack experience."

In the next matches Royal lost to Trinity 26-nil, 34-nil, 17-nil, 37-3 and 46-nil. Ernest Aluvihare and A. W. Myanga (the Trinity stars) were absent as they were taking part in the Stubbs Shield in 1923 and Trinity's score of 17 points would have been double but for the water logged grounds. Ernest Aluvihare, one of Trinity's versatile sportsmen (rugby, boxing, cricket) made the Royalists watch in amazement when he scored five tries. (This is the individual record to date). Aluvihare missed a sixth due to a timely tackle by J. R. Jayewardene on the line.

In 1924, Royal led by J. R. Jayewardene were badly battered by a Trinity 'hurricane'. Royal gave the 1926 and 1927 inter-school rugby season a miss but returned in 1928 led by H. S. Roberts. They lost to Trinity who graciously allowed R. E. Blaze and S. W. Dassanayake had joined the University College a few days prior to the match to play for Royal.

S. A. Odayar (Trinity's brilliant three quarter) was outstanding and so was Kim Maung (a Burmese).

There was no Royal-Trinity match in 1929 although Royal met Zahira College. At the end of the decade, Trinity had swept every-

thing before them, winning seven matches.

Things did improve gradually for Royal in the 1930s.

Longden Place was the venue for the first time in 1931. This match was dominated by one man, E. W. A. Buultjens. Buultjens scored and Buultjens converted. Percy de Silva

kicking to touch in 1935. Royal almost pulled off a miracle in 1938, the nearest they came to a win. Brilliant play by three quarters S. Kardirgarmar and U. N. Gunasekera prevented Trinity from scoring. Gunasekera caught the Trinitians 'flat footed' when he ran right across the field from left

the greatest games in the series. Royal's S. G. Salgado, at 14 years 8 months became the youngest (and still the youngest) to represent either school in the series.

A few weeks later Salgado was in the Combined Colleges XV who played CR & FC.

One more defeat due to brilliant

ture from then Ceylon after retirement.

In 1944, S. B. Pilapitiya (TC), played a brilliant game as scrum half Kagwa scored the tries. (In 1970, Kagwa was knighted by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth).

The Bradby Shield was won by Trinity in the inaugural year. In

Trinity dominated in the 1950s. They won 11 of the 12 matches between 1953 and 1958. In 11 games Royal did not score. Trinity had some outstanding players in the 1950s; L. L. Vitharne, Khavan Rambukwella, R. T. de Silva, Quentin Israel, M. U. Odayar, Nimal Maralanda, Gemini Tennekoon, D. Madugalla, Ken de Joodt, Denzil Kobbekaduwa, M. G. de Alwis and E. D. K. Roles to name just a few.

Dudley Fernando and his men decided to end the run of Trinity triumphs and the Bradby Shield came to rest at Royal College in 1958.

The crowd turned unruly in 1959 at Bogambara when referee Mahesh Rodrigo gave a five yard scrum for what the crowd thought was a Trinity try.

Two hookers took the spotlight in the early 1960s: Ken Balendra (RC) in 1960 and M Jayakumar (RC), in 1961. Balendra was on the losing side and Jayakumar on the winning side.

1964 was A. L. Dissanayake's year, comparable with Eddie Buultjens', in 1932. Dissanayake's 11 out of 14 points is a record individual performance.

In 1971, Trinity Principal E. L. Fernando graciously presented the Bradby Shield to Royal based on the result of one game. The second was not played due to the insurgency. In 1979, Royal captained by Raba Gunasekara lost the first leg by 3 points to 4 at Bogambara. In the return match played at Longden Place, they went on the rampage to rout Trinity by 18 points (three goals) to nil.

In 1981, the Trinitians were superb and trounced Royal by 16 points to 3 at Nittawela. However, in the second leg played at Longden place, Sujeeva Cooray's Royalists came up with a magnificent performance to beat Trinity by 10 points to 3.

In the centenary encounter in 1983, Trinity led by Ashan Ratwatte won the first leg by 14 points to 6 at Bogambara but in the return game at Longden Place Royal triumphed by 10 points (1 try, 1 drop goal, 1 penalty) to 6 (1 goal). Lalith Samarawickrama scored the try for Royal while Sampath Agalawatte fired across the penalty and drop goal. For Trinity, number eight Dilshan Ratwatte scored the try which was converted by Naleen Wettasinghe.

In 1985, Trinity under the leadership of Manoj Jayatissa turned in a dazzling display to win the first leg convincingly by 18 points to 9 but in the return match played at Longden Place, Royal triumphed by 4 points to 3. Scum half Jehan Canagaratne scored for Royal while Shah Doole put over the penalty for Trinity.

The best victory for Royal so far in the series was registered under Zulki Hameed, when the Royalists crushed the Trinitians in 2002 by 83 points to nil, in both legs. And in the last encounter in 2005, Trinity recorded their best ever victory under B. N. R. Fernando 69-13 (both legs). Trinity play maker Pushpakumara won many accolades for his performance along with Imalka Maddumapatabendi, who scored three tries.

When Trinity celebrates 100 years of rugby, the Bradby 'score' stands in favour of Trinity at 33 to 27, with one match ending in a tie, in 1992.

A look at the past as

Bradby 'fever' strikes!



BOGAMBARA GROUNDS KANDY, 1924: The Trinity College rugby team (R) and the Royal College, Colombo rugby team. Trinity was led by Philip Buultjens while Royal College was captained by Sri Lanka's first executive President, the late J. R. Jayewardene (Seated fifth from left).

scored and Buultjens converted. That's about how it went.

The Royal captains of 1930 and 1931 did not play against Trinity - V. S. V. Fernand - and F. C. de Saram (on medical advice) were replaced by R. C. W. Paulusz and G. A. K. Rockwood.

The Royal College Midsummer Term magazine commented; "we hope this will not be a habitual complaint."

In 1932, Royal stretched Trinity as never before. Eddie Buultjens, probably resting on his 1931 laurels, decided not to score - he missed five conversions and penalties. Trinity skipper Sidney Ratwatte was outstanding.

Cedric Illesinghe (the Royal full back) is remembered for his fine

play by R. Jenkins (TC) saw the decade end in 1939 with Trinity winning all nine matches. There was no match in 1934.

On July 1, 1941, the Royalists decided enough was enough. Led by 'Minoo' Jilla, a well disciplined Royal team beat Trinity.

J. E. W. Prins' refereed this historic game played at Royal College grounds, Reid Avenue.

After losing in 1942, Royal won both games in 1943 - the first time two matches had been played in a season. This was to make up for the absence of Zahira College and St. Peter's College, who had to give up rugby during the war years.

In December 1944, Principal E. L. Bradby of Royal presented the Bradby Shield prior to his depar-

1944, Summa Navaratnam (RC) scored the most spectacular try in the history of the series when he intercepted a pass by Trinity's Rudra Rajasingham in the the Trinity 25 and ran right through to score. Royal, with 14 freshers led by Ashey Cader beat Trinity by 6 points to 3. Trevor Anghle (RC), at full back gave a brilliant display. The following year, D. N. Hapugalle (RC) scrum half was in great form serving out his passes with accuracy.

In the second game, Geoff Weinman (the Royal skipper), was outstanding. He played for All-Ceylon at international level a few months later and became the first schoolboy to represent Ceylon at rugby.

The Sabaragamuwa Province rugby awards ceremony will be sponsored by Hirdaramani Mercury Apparel, Seethawaka. The sponsorship cheque was handed over to the Secretary, Sabaragamuwa RFU, K. S. P. Karunaratne, by A. S. M. Rafi, CEO/General Manager, Hirdaramani Mercury Apparel, Seethawaka. A. S. M. Rafi (R) hands over the sponsorship cheque to K. S. P. Karunaratne (L). Also in the picture are; (from L); Gamini Aamarasinghe, Human Resources Manager, HMAS, Merchandiser Kanchana Herath, Financial Controller Panduka Gunawardene, Admin. Manager Saman Priyadharshana, Production Manager Priyankara Samarakoon and Malith Arshakulasooriya. (Pic by M. Farook Lantra)

Club, Dharga Town, played an exhibition soccer match against Saunders Sports Club, Colombo, which Saunders won 2-1.

As part of their 18th anniversary celebrations, United Sports

Saunders beat United SC 2-1

by M. H. M. Irham
Dharga Town

Club, Dharga Town, played an exhibition soccer match against Saunders Sports Club, Colombo, which Saunders won 2-1.

The match was played at Zahira College grounds, Dharga

Town, recently. At lemons, the scores were one all.

For Saunders SC, Isuru and Tharanga found the net while M. Rinoz scored for United SC.

The popular HSBC 5-Club Stableford Golf Tournament will take place at the Royal Colombo Golf Club (RCGC) today and Sunday.

The Ladies' and Seniors' categories will be played today, starting at 1.30 pm, while the Mens' category will tee off at 7.15 am on Sunday, September 10.

A total of 160 players - 50 today and 110 on Sunday - will participate in the tournament.

"This is the eleventh consecutive year that HSBC is holding the Stableford tournament with a shotgun start at

RCGC golfers tee off

the RCGC and it is a tradition we hope to continue," said Trevine Fernandopulle, deputy chief executive officer, HSBC. "In fact, it has become very popular with the Sri

Lankan golfing fraternity. This year - as in the past - we had an overwhelming response and look forward to a glorious day of golf and fellowship."

In addition to anticipating an event of good golfing, the tournament is also awaited as one in which HSBC executives will also actively participate - the golfing enthusiasts being part of the action while the others join in the fun in a more laidback fashion. After the game, HSBC will host the players to lunch at the clubhouse, during which the prize giving will be held.



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