



*23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019*

7 volunteers loaded up with 21 bags of kit weighing 480kg left for Rwanda flying with RwandAir who had increased the hold baggage allowance from 46kg per person to 69kg. Three more volunteers came later in the week so we have been able to transport a massive 670kg of balls, shirts, tags, first aid kits and other equipment on this trip. Apart from the trophies, medals, cups, branded Tshirts and caps, everything else had been donated. A big thank you to our many donors.



*24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019*

The first two days were spent in Kigali sorting kit, visiting the Genocide Memorial museum and the Kinamba project school (MEG foundation) where the coaches took a session. We were lucky that there was a league fixture on Sunday between the Kigali Sharks and Thousand Hills. Matt Phillips (one of our coaches and a trustee) was the referee.



Our youngest coach, Camron had brought kit from St Julian's HSOB and stationery from St Julian's High School for the children.



*26<sup>th</sup> May 2019*

Two more volunteers – Glyn and Lorna -flew into Kigali and we were straight on a bus to Nyamasheke where we would spend the week introducing rugby to four schools and hundreds of children who had never seen a rugby ball before. The journey was long (5 hours) but the scenery was stunning. And we were very happy with our accommodation – the Ishara Beach Motel alongside Lake Kivu.





27<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Our first day of full coaching was with four Nyamasheke schools GS St Nicolas, EP St Catherine, EP Mutusa and GS Makoko. We were made very welcome and all schools were so supportive and well organised providing us with groups of children and also a teacher who would be learning alongside the children. At the start of the day none of the children had seen a rugby ball before but by the end of the first day the skills were coming along nicely.



In the afternoon the RDOs and the UK coaches took a 'first ever' session of rugby for the students from St Joseph's secondary school. Over 60 boys and girls attended the hour long session. They asked us to come back the next day so we changed the schedule to accommodate them as they were so keen.



28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Morning and afternoon sessions were run with the children and the difficult choices had to be made to select a girls' team and a boys' team from each school ready for the tournament on Thursday afternoon. Hundreds of children had been involved. We were joined by 8 additional volunteer coaches from Rwanda and another of our trustees, Tina.



The coaches always enjoy an opportunity to work with a club side but as rugby is new in Nyamasheke there is no club side. Resilience RFC from the neighbouring district of Rusizi was very happy to oblige and arrived in a bus for a brilliant coaching session delivered by Matt.



30<sup>th</sup> May 2019

The highlight of the trip is always the Tag Tournament. 80 children from the four schools were taking part.

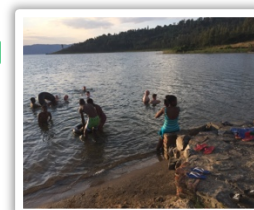
The tournament ran like clockwork and we were very happy to have so many interested spectators. The rain (just about) stayed away and a great time was had by all.



Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all for taking part. Each school received 10 rugby balls from us and they will be receiving regular visits from our new RDO, Frederic who will work in Nyamasheke.



A final visit to the beach and a swim in the lake was a perfect way to end our stay in beautiful Nyamasheke.



#1for1for1 - £1 pays for 1 child to have regular rugby coaching for 1 year. Help us reach more children by donating at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/friendsofrwandanrugby>

<https://friendsofrwandanrugby.com>

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