



14 volunteers flew from Heathrow to Kigali. RwandAir staff were very helpful as usual helping to check in the 31 bags and boxes. Once again, a big thank you to RwandAir who gave us an additional allowance of three bags allowing us to take an extra 150 balls. We arrived in Kigali, settled into the hotel and then visited the Genocide Memorial Museum. That evening we celebrated Gary's birthday at our favourite curry house Khana Kazana.

The following morning our 15<sup>th</sup> volunteer, Jack, arrived and after breakfast we sorted the kit. This year Ram Rugby donated and provided at cost customised kit (coaching bags, bibs, balls and tag belts etc) for our 22 RDOs. Huge thanks to Tristan Aylward from Ram Rugby and his friends who sponsored the goods.

We also received great deals from Rhino Rugby and ActivWear and we are so grateful for the support we receive to help the charity deliver so much more. In the afternoon we visited Kinamba Community Project where the children entertained us with singing and dancing. Then it was up to the pitch for some tag rugby. The project is closing later this year so this was our last visit. We would like to thank Meg and the team for hosting us at the centre for many years- it truly is a highlight of the tour.

On Saturday, trustee Steve Jones, ran a Level 1 referee course for 17 Rwandan referees. The course was very well received. Thanks also to Terry who assisted.



On Sunday morning we attended the quarter finals of the secondary schools 7aside national competition. We were delighted that all qualifiers for the semi finals (girls' and boys' teams) were coached by FoRR RDOs. It was a chance for our volunteers to see rugby in action and Gary presented a Penarth RFC kit to the boys' and girls' teams from TTC Mururu. In the afternoon we travelled to Nyamata in Bugesera district.





We worked with 180 primary school children (who had never seen a rugby ball before!) and taught them to play tag rugby. After 4 mornings the children were ready to play in a tournament.

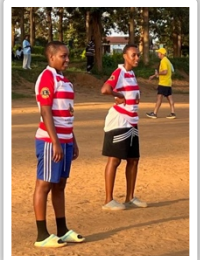


Mary, Lucy, Mia and Becky delivered a Rugby y'Abana Bato training session for 3 nursery teachers and 60 children. Thanks to funding from Jane and Dennis Reese Foundation, we were able to leave the teachers with the equipment to deliver the activities.



The volunteer coaches ran RDO training sessions in the afternoons to develop the coaching skills of the RDOs

At 4pm we ran T1 Rugby sessions with two secondary schools. The students had never handled a rugby ball so they did really well to develop their skills ready for a mixed T1 match between APEBU and Nyamata High School on Thursday afternoon. We also had a mixed volunteers/RDOs match. Big shout out to Lucy and Becky who played in their first ever rugby match.



Tournament Day! 80 children from three schools gathered at the pitch. The games were very exciting. Congratulations to the girls from Nyamata Catholic and the boys from GS Maranyundo. Claude from the Rwanda Education Board presented the trophies and Kamanda introduced Alex who will be new RDO working in Nyamata from September.



Mary and Glyn held a whole team meeting with all 22 RDOs while the rest of the volunteers visited the Bugesera lodge on the lake for a relaxing afternoon on Wednesday.



The tour ended with a farewell dinner hosted by the British High Commissioner, Alison Thorpe. What a treat!





The last day of the tour is a free day for R&R. Gary, Becky, Terry, Ben and Iestyn went to Akagera National Park for an amazing safari game drive. What a wonderful way to end a fab trip.



The 19<sup>th</sup> annual volunteers' tour has been a great success. Thank you to an amazing group of volunteers. From September we will have 3 new RDOs working in Bugesera, Kicukiro and Rwamagana districts. Welcome Alex, Prince and Aime. Thank you to Kamanda, our Program Manager, for all his hard work before and during the tour. Now to start planning for next year ....



#1for1for1 - £1 pays for 1 child to have regular rugby coaching for 1 year.  
<https://friendsofrwandanrugby.com>  [@rwandanrugby](https://www.instagram.com/rwandanrugby)  [info@friendsofrwandanrugby.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofrwandanrugby.org.uk)