



Bingham Cup 2018 to be held in Amsterdam

Following a competitive bidding process and voting from all 60 member clubs worldwide, International Gay Rugby (IGR) is pleased to announce that the 2018 Mark Kendall Bingham Memorial Tournament (the Bingham Cup) will be hosted by the Amsterdam Lowlanders in Amsterdam, Netherlands. To be held in in June 2018, this will be the first Bingham Cup played in continental Europe.

Outstanding bids were received from four IGR clubs; the Caledonian Thebans, Edinburgh; Kings Cross Steelers, London; Toronto Muddy York and the Amsterdam Lowlanders. Each of the bids satisfied significant bid requirements and demonstrated the ability to produce a first-rate rugby tournament, with significant support from governments, community groups and local and national rugby unions. The final vote was extremely close with Amsterdam Lowlanders receiving a majority of the available votes.

“On behalf of the IGR Board and Trustees, I would like to thank and congratulate each of the bidding clubs for their dedication and professionalism through the bidding process. The quality of all four bids was exceptional, meeting high expectations that the Bingham Cup tournament provide for excellent rugby and showcase the importance of diversity and inclusion in sport. This is the first time IGR has received so many high quality bids, which reflects the strength of gay and inclusive rugby around the world”, said IGR chairman, Andrew Purchas. “The international gay rugby community is extremely excited that the Bingham Cup will be held on continental Europe for first time, in the beautiful city of Amsterdam. The Amsterdam Lowlanders are one of IGR’s most active and successful clubs, having competed in the last seven Bingham Cups and won numerous trophies and awards. This vote reflects their high standing in the gay rugby community and our confidence that they will deliver an outstanding rugby tournament worthy of their tag line: ‘Prepare for Impact’.”

Marc-Paul Stufkens, Chairman of the Amsterdam Lowlanders’ bid committee said: “It is fantastic that the Bingham Cup is coming to Amsterdam in 2018. I’m extremely grateful for the confidence placed in us by so many IGR clubs from across the world. Our bid promised a professional, personal and friendly tournament and we won’t disappoint. The 2018 Bingham Cup will be a major sports event in the Amsterdam area, fully endorsed by Rugby Netherlands, the Dutch national rugby union. The Bingham Cup will no doubt give rugby in the Netherlands and beyond a huge boost and help tackle homophobia in sports.



"IGR will begin working immediately with the Amsterdam hosting committee to secure all necessary agreements and finalize tournament details. Purchas added, "In June 2018, we look forward to joining with our rugby brothers in Amsterdam, a city synonymous with diversity and inclusion."

The Bingham Cup

Bingham Cup 2018 will be the 9th time the event has been staged, having been previously hosted in San Francisco 2002, London 2004, New York 2006, Dublin 2008, Minneapolis 2010, Manchester 2012, Sydney 2014 and this year in Nashville. It is now one of the largest 15-a-side rugby tournaments in the world. The competition is named after Mark Bingham, a member of the San Francisco gay rugby union team who died on United Airlines Flight 93 on September 11, 2001. It's believed Mark was one of the passengers who tackled the terrorists on board, preventing the aircraft from reaching the hijackers' intended target. The Bingham Cup is held in honour of Mark's memory and challenges stereotypes and perceptions of gay men.

For more information, contact Andrew Purchas. <Andrew.Purchas@igrugby.org>