



# ARMY XXXV RUGBY



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The Army XXXV Rugby provides players over 35 years old (and generally under 40) with the chance to represent the Army in the latter quarter of their Army Careers. It has evolved by design over the last 15 years to become a highly competitive and well regarded team and the standard of rugby played is not for the faint hearted! That said, there is no pre-requisite of previous Army level representation in order to play for the 'Veterans', but it is likely that players will have played at Corps or equivalent standard.

The 2009/10 Season is particularly exciting with the primary aim of winning the Inter Services games. The culmination of the campaign is set for the morning of the Army v Navy, to be played on 1 May 10 at Kneller Hall. Our playing season is therefore structured to deliver success against our sister Services. From September to January there are a series of trial and development games. From this the Inter Services squad is selected and the level and intensity of games rises accordingly. Fixtures against the top civilian 'veterans' sides, and exploiting any opportunity to benefit from the coaching expertise of the Army Senior staff will ultimately come together in a training concentration prior to the two vital games against the RAF and Navy. Beyond this the Veterans seek to maintain the squad cohesion through the summer through entry into selective 7's tournaments and Charity Events such as John Bentley's 'Legends' in support of Help for Heroes as well as possible selection for the Combined Services Veterans for the lucky few.

As part of the rolling plan to demonstrate our excellence in the wider rugby community, the Army XXXV is scheduled by the ARU to participate in the World Masters Games (quadrennial). The opportunity to compete in the World Masters Games in Sydney, Australia 7-19 October 2009 will confirm our global standing following a strong Silver Medal performance from the Games in Edmonton in 2005.

Finally, and most importantly, any affiliation with the Army XXXV comes with a unique set of responsibilities which are the bedrock of our ethos and style:

- As senior members of the rugby community we must be exemplars in our personal and playing discipline and behavior. Young soldiers look to us to us to exemplify and be a living embodiment of the ARU codes for discipline and general conduct, as well as the wider Army Values and Standards.
- Excellence in everything that we do is paramount. In Army/Service environments we should be the guardians, and seek to provide that knowledge and expertise in the development of the game in the Army. Mediocrity is not part of our make up.
- In the wider rugby/civilian community we must reinforce the themes of the Army being 'The Best' – winning our games and beating top sides is part of this. The wider effect is to influence those with whom we come into contact to be supportive of the Armed Forces.
- It is expected that every member of the Army XXXV team is delivering significant concurrent rugby effect in unit, corps and age group teams, especially in support functions such as coaching and administration. Army XXXV rugby is a means to learn more, to feedback into the games development.

In summary, there is a lot of fun to be had in playing for the Army XXXV Team but the commitment goes a lot further than that. We invite interested players to contact us either by e-mail, phone or letter.

[www.aru.org.uk](http://www.aru.org.uk)

And then click on Veterans Rugby where you will find the contact details of the key personnel.