

# UKUA TOUR 2

19 June 2010

Here's a little write-up on how our tour team performed over this sunny, early summer weekend.

Following our struggles with the inclement weather conditions at Tour 1, I think we were all relieved to have the chance to show our full potential without having to deal with strong wind and rain -- though having said that, Saturday saw some gusty conditions which gave us a chance to work with and against a bit of zone defence.

## **Saturday**

To begin with, Red were seeded 14th out of 24 teams in the C Division. We played in a pool of 6 teams on Saturday, in which we were the 4th seeds. The top 2 in each pool would play off in the top 8 for promotion to the B tour, whilst everyone else would be left playing for pride and tour points.

Our weekend started against ManUP's second team, ManUP being a new club based in Manchester. Red started this game very strongly, starting on defence and scoring the first 5 points in a row thanks to some solid zone defence on our part. As the game went on we continued to build on this lead, finishing on the right side of an 11-3 scoreline.

Game two saw us face Trigger Happy, a team of seasoned campaigners who traditionally spend the tour season around lower B tour/upper C tour level. This was a really enjoyable, tight encounter between two teams playing effective zone defence. Trigger had the better of the opening exchanges, taking the first half something like 6-4. Red really stormed back into contention in the second half, with our offence against the zone finding some rhythm, coupled with some quick D-to-O transition scores to put us in command of the game, 10-8 game to 11. Trigger, having looked dead and buried, found it within themselves to up their game again and drag themselves into contention, including an extremely fortuitous score to level at 10-10 with their receiver pulling down a floaty, speculative huck which went out the back of the end zone before drifting back into play. They restarted the game with a huge pull into our end zone, putting us on the back foot and under pressure as we looked to win the game in sudden death. A turnover followed, which Trigger duly converted for the win. My favourite game of the weekend.



We then faced Flump, a team I'm very familiar with having played with them on numerous occasions whilst I was in London. In contrast to the previous game, this one was a very scrappy affair to begin with, as both teams struggled to find any sort of rhythm. We just about scraped the first half 6-5, before finally settling down a bit and taking the game 10-6.

Next up were Team JR, featuring plenty of familiar faces from the current Jesters team. This was a very tough game -- JR have grown and grown in strength as the season has progressed, and they played exceptionally well against us. Having said, they certainly didn't have it all their own way, particularly in the first half where we hung in there and traded out points. Their zone defence was very effective, but we responded well by playing with 4 active handlers weaving some really nice patterns amongst their cup. One memorable point saw us complete well over 50 passes taking us from our own end zone to just outside theirs, before finally turning over trying to force that final scoring pass in maybe one throw too early. JR's superior athleticism saw them take the game away from us in the second half, deservedly winning 11-6.

Our final game on Saturday was against Brighton 3, who were fairly inexperienced but very well drilled. Despite a mid game wobble, we ran out comfortable winners by 11 to 6. This left us 3rd in the pool, but only behind Trigger Happy on our head-to-head after they suffered a surprise defeat to Flump in their final game. I was quite pleased with how the day had gone, missing out on the top 8 by a single point and moving up to 12th seeds.

## Sunday

Sunday would see us play three longer games, in a quarter-semi-final type format, playing for 9th position and the C tour plate. The wind had eased a lot since the day before, resulting in very nice sunny conditions to play under.

First up were 13th seeds Team Shark 2, from Oxford. Red started this game in brilliant fashion, rattling through the first 4 points without reply, with some very effective man defence coupled with quick transition scores. Most of Shark's play went through one experienced first team A tour level player, who would punt the disc long at every opportunity. Inevitably some of these were pulled down for scores, but creditably we stuck to our safer, higher percentage offence, taking advantage of match-ups in our favour where we could and for the most part making life easy on ourselves by making the right choices. Team Shark tried zone one or two times, but soon discarded it when after it failed to disrupt our offensive flow. Final score 15-8 to Red.

The plate semi saw us against Curve (9th seeds), who'd given us a comprehensive beating at Tour 1 in the wind and rain. I'd hoped the better conditions would give us a chance for revenge, but I was proved wrong as Curve demonstrated their ability and energy in a 15-6 win. Red competed very well at the start, leading 4-2 early on before conceding a 6 point salvo to lose the half 8-4. Our energy levels were dwindling severely in the mid-afternoon heat by now, and as hard as we tried we couldn't get a foothold in this game.



Tour 2 concluded with a game for 11th place against Ltd Release 2, another team we'd faced (and lost to) at Tour 1. Continuing a recurring theme, we started strongly, again opening up a 4-0 lead. Release regrouped. however, edging the half 8-7. The start of the second half saw them pull away by a couple of points, after which we just about held on to their coat-tails as they ran out 15-12 winners. Given this was the last game of a long, hot weekend, I was really pleased with the way we fought every point and never let them run away with the game completely.

When the dust had settled, we found ourselves in 12th place (from initial seeding of 14th), having won 4, lost 4, scored 81 and conceded 75. Here's the list of Red heroes who all played their part in a great weekend of ultimate:

Neil (c)

Ben

Callum

Brian

Mark

Jamie (voted Red MVP of the weekend)

Ojari

Duane

Ed (last two games Saturday plus Sunday)

Jaff (Saturday)

Dan (Saturday)

Davros (Saturday)

Kaity (Sunday)

Keir (Sunday)

Thankyou for reading this far (I know I said 'little write-up', apologies!), and see you down the park on Thursday!

**Neil Humpage**

## **Spirit**

BAF	13.9	
Curve	12.3	
Team JR	10.9	
Bournemouth Ultimatum	14.3	
Trigger Happy	12.5	
Ltd Release 2	11.1	
Charged 2	10.7	
Reading dragons	11.6	
York Open	11.8	
Kent Open 1	11.5	
Sheffield Steal	12.5	
Flump	10.7	
Team Shark 2	10.5	
Red	12.1	
Strange Blue 2	11.0	
The Brown 2	12.7	
Devon 2	11.8	
GB U17s	9.1	
Brighton Ultimate 3	14.6	(SPIRIT WINNERS)
Flyght Club 2	12.9	
ManUp2	12.1	
Lemmings 2	12.3	
Kent Mustang	13.0	
Devon 3	12.0	

## **Final Standings**

- 1) Team JR (Jest Ridisculous)
- 2) York Open
- 3) Reading Dragons
- 4) Sheffield Steal
- 5) BAF
- 6) Kent
- 7) Bournemouth Ultimatum
- 8) Trigger Happy
- 9) Strange Blue 2
- 10) Curve
- 11) Ltd Release 2
- 12) Red
- 13) Man Up 2
- 14) Team Shark 2
- 15) Brown 2
- 16) Kent Mustangs
- 17) GB U17s
- 18) Devon 2
- 19) Lemmings 2
- 20) Flump
- 21) Charged 2
- 22) Brighton 3
- 23) Flyght Club 2
- 24) Devon 3