



Where is Bingham Cup 2010?

The International Gay Rugby Association Board (IGRAB) named the Minneapolis Mayhem Rugby team as the hosts of the 2010 Bingham Cup.

When is it?

The tournament date is slated for **17–20 June 2010**.

Approximately 1,200 gay rugby players from around the world will travel to Minneapolis to compete against each other for the tournament's top honor—the Bingham Cup.

The weekend's events include an opening celebration, tournament play, closing ceremonies and four days full of rugby tradition. Going on past years experience, it is likely that the Sydney Convicts will be traveling to Minneapolis 3-4 days before the competition commences in order to acclimatize and recover from jet lag.

In the past most people allowed a few days after the tournament to have a bit of recovery time, and to also fit in some personal travel.

If you're a player or a supporter who is thinking of joining the tour next year, now might be a very good time to put in requests at work for Annual leave, or to check your study schedule for Uni next year!

Checklist

At this early stage, here are a few things you might want to do in order to get ready for another big Bingham year!!

- Dust off that passport and check the dates!
- Renew (or apply for) your passport if needed
- Put a request in at work for your Annual Leave
- Pay your club dues for 2009!!
(proof that you are a Convict and not a ring in!)
- Go to USA visa site <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/esta.html> and apply for your Visa Waiver (before they start charging for it)
- Prepare a budget with personal savings goal for Bingham 2010
- Start going to the Tuesday night fitness training AND Thursday night training

What is the Bingham Cup?

In 2002, gay and bisexual rugby union teams worldwide founded the International Gay Rugby Association and Board (IGRAB) as a body to promote rugby union as an all-inclusive non-discriminatory sport which everyone can play, regardless of sexuality.

An informal invitational tournament, held in May 2001, was formally inaugurated by IGRAB as a new international rugby union competition — a gay rugby union world cup — which in a unanimous decision by all the members of IGRAB became known as the Bingham Cup.

The tournament was named after *Mark Bingham*, a former University of California, Berkeley rugby star who had played in the May 2001 tournament for San Francisco Fog RFC.

Bingham died in the September 11, 2001 attacks on board United Airlines Flight 93. He is generally accepted to be one of a group of passengers who fought with the hijackers aboard the flight, which eventually led to the hijackers crashing the plane into a vacant field in Pennsylvania instead of targets in Washington, D.C..

At the time of his death, there were approx 8 gay-inclusive rugby clubs worldwide, and he was helping to create others.

Since it's inception there have been 4 tournaments played in cities around the globe... San Francisco (2002); London (2004); New York (2006); Dublin (2008). Minneapolis 2010 will be the Fifth Bingham Cup tournament.

Sydney Convicts has had a long association with the Cup, sending a team to London to compete for the first time in 2004. Narrowly missing out on winning the cup that year, the club went on to successfully campaign for the Cup in 2006 and 2008.

The New York comp provided an opportunity for the Convicts to take two sides... and the second team came home victorious with the newly minted Bingham Plate.

It goes without saying that there is a lot of history for the Sydney Convicts in this relatively young comp!! Speak to any player who has been to one of the competitions and you will hear it's a lot of great rugby, and a great deal of fun mixing it up with players and supporters from all over the world!! There is also a strong band of supporters who have joined the Convicts on tour.