

**IN MEMORY OF TOM AGAR
1984 - 2010 (AGE 26)**



6 GAMES 2 DAYS 36 MEN

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PRESS RELEASE

A RUGBY CHALLENGE LIKE NO OTHER!

A group of rugby players are preparing their bodies for a challenge that is not for the faint hearted. 36 rugby players will play 6 full 80 minute games against 6 teams in just 2 days called the 6236 Rugby Challenge.

Andrew Agar is leading the pack to raise awareness and much needed funds for Thames Hospice in memory of his younger brother Thomas. "The care that Thames Hospice offered Tom whilst he was ill and the support and compassion they showed us as a family was exceptional. As Tom was a keen rugby player we wanted to raise some money for the hospice in Toms' name. We were going to start with playing just one game, but we thought this wouldn't do justice for this cause. So we came up with the idea of playing 6 games over 2 days with 36 men, which Tom would of said was a crazy idea!"

Andrew and the rest of the rugby players are preparing to play 3 games at Deal and Betteshanger RFC in Kent on Saturday 28th May and 3 games at Staines RFC on Sunday 29th May. Andrew goes on to explain, "As the challenge grew in size so did the interest to want to host this unique event. We decided that the bigger the area we could cover the more chance of being able to spread the awareness of testicular cancer and in turn, raise the much needed funds for Thames Hospice."

Each venue will host 3 full games of contact rugby as well as holding several mini 7 competitions during intervals for those players that didn't make the 36 man squad. Community groups will be invited to the day to run stalls, face paint and hand out more information about testicular cancer and help create a family day out for all. "We really hope that this can be a fun family day for all ages to enjoy various entertainment throughout the day, full games of rugby, junior squad members doing rugby demonstrations, food and refreshments from the stalls and the rugby club bar. Each of the 36 players will have to raise £150 of sponsorship"

1800 men are diagnosed with testicular cancer in the UK each year. It accounts for one to two percent of all cancers in men. Most men with testicular cancer can be cured. It's most likely to occur in young and middle-aged men.

Tom was diagnosed when he just 24 and finally lost his battle to testicular cancer in November last year aged just 26. Tom was a keen rugby player, junior coach and scout volunteer and went on to receive several treatments of chemotherapy. Throughout his treatment he still continued to support his local rugby team and volunteering commitments. His brother Andrew goes on to explain, "the amount of courage and support Tom showed us and his close friends was amazing, he was always smiling and cracking jokes trying to make us laugh and forget our worries, he was an amazing son, brother and friend, he will always be missed but never forgotten. With the 6236 Rugby Challenge we will go on to run these events for years to come, to help raise money for charities and families that need it the most. The support for this challenge is huge and without the help of local community groups, Staines RFC, Deal and Betteshanger RFC, London Irish, and so many other individuals this unique and body battering challenge would not be possible"

The 6236 Rugby Challenge still needs help with players, sponsors, kit, equipment and if you are a company, community group or an individual that would like to help for the day then please contact the 6236 Rugby Challenge team via the 6236 Rugby Challenge Facebook page or via email at rugbychallenge6236@hotmail.com

The challenge will be taking place on Saturday 28th May at Deal and Betteshanger RFC and Sunday 29th May at Staines RFC kicking off at 10am and continuing throughout the day. If you would like to donate to this cause then please do so at www.justgiving.com/6236RugbyChallenge