

ROBIN DUNLOP AKA 'THE GRUFFALO'

POSITION: CENTER / FLANKER

AGE: 26

HEIGHT: 6FT 1INCH

WEIGHT: 90KG

CLUB: WANSTEAD RFC

A player known for his wily frame but deceptive strength, the Gruffalo, Robin Dunlop, always relishes the end of the domestic 15's season and the chance to pull out some outrageously audacious skills...and get away with it!

Why do you play 7's?

'I've always loved playing 7's in the summer. Other than constantly burning my fare Scottish skin and ending up with golf ball sized blisters, its always refreshing after a long winter playing on predominantly mud bath pitches.

What tournaments are you looking forward to and which stick in your mind?

I'm looking forward to defending our own trophy at this years Wanstead 7's. Being very much a social player the odd bit of silverware is always fantastic,

but I'm definitely about immersing myself in the banter and activities off the pitch as much as on it. It's meant I've had some great experiences and tournaments over the years, from taking a battering from Newcastle Falcon's man mountain Pacific Islanders, to streaking in front of a couple of thousand (having a detrimental affect on my après boozing pulling power!).

What's been your favourite tournament?

My most memorable tournament was my trip to the West Coast of Scotland and the Isle of Mull 7's. Acclaimed as the world's most sociable Sevens for a reason, water bottles full of vodka are the standard and, in our case anyway, drinking starts on Friday afternoon on route and ends late on Sunday when you finally get to bed! This tournament combines a pitch otherwise inhabited by sheep, a mass of tents, and some amazing hospitality to make one of the best I've been to... although I was pretty drunk!

What are the highlights of your rugby career?

My highlights started and ended pretty early. I think scoring at Murrayfield probably wins it, although this was aged 16 and it seems any Scotland age grade selectors must have missed it! Since then I've enjoyed a mixture of rugby and been fortunate enough to play alongside some great players such as Ben Cairns and Alan McDonald, and against (will add some players

from the New Zealand squad, need to find the programme!), all be it before any of them were the big names they are today.

Where does the Gruffalo come from?

Where all great names are created – the Church in Clapham! Dressed up as what I thought was a wolf for Halloween, after 24 hours + of drinking the mixture of my child catcher net and my surprisingly chirpy mood, the name was spawned. Washed once and now my standard fancy dress, the outfit and name have stuck!

