

Jim Beam, Jaspas and the Vietnam Swans, Hanoi, 6 July 2007

With the Merchants of Saigon having shown the way in truly excellent style, the Powerbrokers of Hanoi finally got their act together and laid on a big night at JASPAS last Friday night to try and raise a few final extra \$ for the Swans' trip to Bangers.

A good crowd turned up as the evening progressed, with numbers boosted by our excellent timing in planning the evening at the same time as a free NZ community wine evening. Luckily no one in the Swans crew knew what rugby was, so fisticuffs normally associated with a post-Bledisloe loss on the part of one or the other side were averted. The Kiwis actually looked a bit put-out that, in a massed gathering of Aussies, not one comment of that nature was passed their way to which they could respond in the traditional manner.

The crowd was also boosted emotionally, spiritually and in so many other ways by the presence of none other than super coach, His Munificence, Scott Stacey, who came in to size up the Hanoi horseflesh and pass on some time honoured tips in advance of the big game. Hanoi cunningly arranged for rain on Thursday evening so that the training session was washed out, leaving His Excellency, Coach Stacey, with the conundrum of believing the bullsh#\$ spouted by the Hanoi Swannies about how hard they have been going at it on the paddock, or treating it with the disdain it deserves. We hope for the Swans' sake His Highness, Coach Stacey, chooses the latter course.

The photos show a few of the later-evening attempts by the lads to demonstrate their prowess in the presence of His Magnificence, Coach Stacey, with particular regard being paid to ensuring that the sponsor's label is "laces up" to the camera. Quite how the big bottle of Beam got quite so empty is anyone's guess. Another shot shows the assembled crowd trying out His Holiness, Coach Stacey's, latest mental disintegration tactics. We will reveal no more, but if you catch His Awesomeness Coach Stacey in a quiet moment, ask him about camouflage gear and Australian birdcalls - the look of puzzlement in his eyes will speak volumes about the tricks we will play with the other teams' minds come Saturday.

A big thanks to our sponsors Jim Beam, and also long-time Swans supporter, JASPAS, for helping out the Swans this way."