

The Bledisloe Cup

Every year, the Bledisloe Cup excites rugby union fans around the world. Since the 1930s, The Wallabies and the All Blacks have competed for the trophy. These national teams from Australia and New Zealand are long-term rivals in the sport. The two teams compete in a number of international rugby competitions (including the Rugby World Cup). The Bledisloe Cup, however, is the only rugby union trophy that can only be won by either Australia or New Zealand.

Lord Bledisloe introduced the Cup in 1931 but it was not awarded for the first time until 1932. In its early history, the competition could not be held every year, because important events like the Second World War interrupted many regular events. Now, the Bledisloe Cup series is held every single year.

To win the Cup, Australia and New Zealand compete in a larger competition called The Rugby Championship (previously known as the Tri Nations). Four nations take part in the competition: Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina. No matter who comes first in The Rugby Championship, only Australia and New Zealand are able to win the Bledisloe Cup.

Lord Bledisloe

Charles Bathurst was born in 1887 in England. After moving to New Zealand, he became the fourth Governor-General of the country from 1930-1935. He was a popular figure in New Zealand at the time, partly because he cared about people and was a powerful speaker. He is famous for buying the land at the site of the 1840 signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. This event is an important part of New Zealand history. Today, his name is most famous because of its link with the Bledisloe Cup.



The Wallabies won the trophy for the first time in 1934, but the New Zealand All Blacks have always been a strong team. In fact, the Wallabies have not held it since 2003, which means that the Wallabies have gone 14 years without winning it once!

This year, fans will gather to watch the three deciding matches live at stadiums in Australia and New Zealand, or on television. Wallabies' fans will be dressed in green and gold to show their support and the All Blacks' fans will be wearing... Well, you can probably guess!

Questions

1. Which two teams compete in the Bledisloe Cup?

2. Name another rugby event mentioned in the text.

3. How often is the Bledisloe Cup held today?

4. How many years was Lord Bledisloe Governor-General of New Zealand?

5. Why was he popular?

6. What happened in 1840?

7. Which Rugby Championship teams are not able to win the Cup?

8. How long has it been since the Wallabies won the Bledisloe Cup?

Answers

1. Which two teams compete in the Bledisloe Cup?

The Wallabies (Australia) and the All Blacks (New Zealand) compete in the Bledisloe Cup.

2. Name another rugby event mentioned in the text.

The Rugby World Cup / The Rugby Championship / The Tri Nations is mentioned in the text.

3. How often is the Bledisloe Cup held today?

The Bledisloe Cup is held every year/once a year/annually.

4. How many years was Lord Bledisloe Governor-General of New Zealand?

Lord Bledisloe was Governor-General for five years (from 1930 until 1935).

5. Why was he popular?

He was popular because he cared about people and was a popular speaker.

6. What happened in 1840?

The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840.

7. Which Rugby Championship teams are not able to win the Cup?

South Africa and Argentina are Rugby Championship countries that cannot compete in the Bledisloe Cup.

8. How long has it been since the Wallabies won the Bledisloe Cup?

The Wallabies have not won the Bledisloe Cup for fourteen years.