



Ottawa Businesses Come Together for Charity Spinning Event in Support of the Bingham Cup Ottawa 2020

SPINCO, Bingham Cup Ottawa 2020 Inc., Ottawa Wolves RFC and local Ottawa businesses come together to support world's largest amateur rugby union tournament which promotes inclusivity and equality

OTTAWA, October 5 & 6th, 2019 – SPINCO, one of the City's premiere spinning studios and The Ottawa Wolves RFC, Ottawa's gay & inclusive rugby team that won the hosting rights for the 2020 Bingham Cup, come together for a 2-day charity ride event.

The Bingham Cup is an international gay rugby union tournament that promotes inclusivity, equality and competition. Seventy+ rugby teams from five continents are expected to participate in the 2020 Bingham Cup. Administered by International Gay Rugby (IGR), the Bingham Cup is named in memory of Mark Kendall Bingham, a former University of California, Berkeley rugby star and cofounder of the Gotham Knights RFC, a gay-inclusive rugby club in New York City. Mark Kendall Bingham lost his life in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks onboard United Airlines Flight 93.

SPINCO, one of Ottawa's premiere spinning studio has partnered with the both Bingham Cup Ottawa 2020 Inc. and the Ottawa Wolves RFC to host a two-day charity spinning event in support of the Bingham Cup. The first charity ride will take place on Saturday October 5, 2019 at 1:00pm at the SPINCO Ottawa studio (123 Slater Street), while the second ride will take place at the same time on Sunday, October 6, 2019. Other local businesses are also partnering to show their support with donation of services and products to the attendees.

The charity ride event will coincide with IGR's International Inclusive Challenge during the Rugby World Cup. IGR has partnered with the World Barbarians Foundation to host a series of exhibition matches during IGR's inaugural #prideinrugby weekend from 4-6 October in Tokyo, Japan. For the first time in the history of both the World Barbarians and IGR, we will field 3 sides made up of members of IGR clubs across the world. With participants joining in from London, Sydney, Johannesburg, Amsterdam, New York, Madrid and many others. All coming together for one event in support of the Japanese IGR teams and to showcase the talent and spirit of IGR players during the Rugby World Cup Japan 2019.

“We are thrilled to see local businesses and the SPINCO family come together to support the Bingham Cup Ottawa 2020. In order to put on a world class event, we need all the financial support we can get. To see these businesses donate their time, services and funds is truly incredible.” Said Jean-François Laberge, President of the Bingham Cup Ottawa 2020 and past Captain of the Ottawa Wolves RFC’s men’s team. “In rugby, you learn very quickly that nothing is possible individually. There is no individual glory in our sport. Every achievement is a team achievement. To see the Ottawa business community and their clients support us in this way means the world to us.”

“SPINCO has a tradition of supporting its community and regularly hosts charity rides. When we learned that we could support the Bingham Cup Ottawa 2020 by hosting a unique two-day event, we gladly jumped at the opportunity” said Brittany Burke, Manager and spinning instructor at SPINCO. “As a former rugby player myself, I know that the values of inclusivity & respect are at the core of that game. The SPINCO team, and all of our riders, share those same values. When you come to SPINCO, we all ride together as a team regardless of personal gender identity, sexual orientation, race or athletic ability. We are honoured to be able to support the Bingham Cup Ottawa 2020 with this event.”

First held in 2002, the Bingham Cup is today the largest international amateur rugby union tournament in the world. The 2018 tournament hosted by the Amsterdam Lowlanders RFC had more than 2,300 registered participants from 63 countries. The 2020 tournament in Ottawa will include week-long cultural, educational and sporting events and is forecast to generate economic activity in excess of \$8.5 million. The 2020 tournament will also be carbon-neutral, feature a wheelchair rugby exhibition game and celebrate Indigenous culture.

The Ottawa Wolves RFC was founded in 2008. The club competes in the regular Division 1 Eastern Ontario Rugby League and has competed in tournaments locally, nationally and internationally, including every Bingham Cup since 2010. Other gay-inclusive rugby clubs in Canada include the Montreal Armada RFC and the Toronto Muddy York RFC. The Ottawa Wolves RFC is part of IGR, a member of the Federation of Gay Games and recognized by World Rugby as their lead LGBT organization.

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