

How we did it

**IN PHOTOS**

Our attempt at the world's

Largest

Bottle Cap

Sculpture

This was an enormous challenge,  
and one I hope to remember  
favourably.

Tides of difficulties relentlessly hit  
the project, and yet we still  
completed this rugby ball.



A statistician calculated patterns.

As with any project, a sensible start is with the planning.

Questions became discussions, and those turned into the first practical steps.



Equipment and materials were collected.

As the team learned what was needed, basic tools were gathered and materials came from near and far.

There seemed to be a lot of stuff. Later, it would all prove vital.







We did soldering tests.

Testing was crucial, but it was seemingly impossible to get things right.

Lots of practical research meant the team could make an informed decision on the best way to proceed.





Thousands of caps were soldered into sections.

First, boxes of caps were soldered into flat mats. These were used to construct the base of the sculpture, and some mats had to be specifically modified to fit.

Next, curved sections of mats were formed to shape over the frame.







The base was formed and assembled.

It ended up being very heavy and equally bulky.

But that has the advantage of sturdiness, since its purpose would be to steady the rugby ball during transport and displays.





Hoops of metal tube were welded into a frame.

What seemed like a month's measuring, cutting and soldering resulted in the frame, onto which the mats of soldered caps were laid.

Making it was a big job.





Cap mats were placed on the frame.

The project first started to resemble a finished rugby ball when I was able to lay out sections of soldered cap mats.

It took days to position them correctly following a complex set of curves.











We had it transported and cleaned.

Then, the excitement began.

We were ready to see the emerging creation transported to a commercial painting facility where it was prepared for painting.













The ball was painted.

When it went into the painting booth, I began to feel a warm sense of satisfaction.

But a lot of work had been done before I began feeling that way.















The construction was surveyed.

Seeing the surveyors at work made me appreciate the ball's size and bulk.

Standing back to see the nearly-completed art work on its stand was a fine sight.







And then it was the final stretch of work.

The giant ball was placed in a purpose-made cabinet, decorations were added, and the rugby ball had a truly smart home.









A professional photographic session was held.

All the emotion welled up, and I couldn't resist expressing my delight at the photo shoot!

I felt as if I'd conquered a challenge the size of Mt Everest.



And who powered the project  
right from the beginning?

The project sponsors: brilliant!