



Staines Rugby Football Club

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STAINES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2007

Welcome to the new season newsletter. As with the previous two letters, this will also be posted on the web site. This season we hope to drag ourselves into the electronic age and do away with the cost of posting out these letters to every member. Hopefully we will introduce an 'opt out' clause soon so that you can receive them via email. (Those of you who wish will still receive a hard copy).

Contributions to the web site are most welcome such as match reports and photographs. Please let me know of any upcoming events that you would like highlighted.

You should receive the new fixture book with this letter. Unfortunately I copied the Rugby World Cup kick off times from their website – which is in French time! To get the correct kick off time subtract one hour from the one in the book.

I would also like to write a little about discipline – or the lack of it! Our disciplinary record both on and of the pitch is pretty poor – last year I was involved in a lot of disciplinary procedures. Please remember that breaches of discipline can have serious consequences both for you and the Club in general. If you are involved in any form of disciplinary action, you should inform me or an officer of the Club as soon as possible.

Take care and enjoy the new season,

Kevin McMahan
Hon Secretary

FROM THE PRESIDENT

" A warm welcome to all members, old and new, it is a great privilege to find myself embarking on my second term as President. I am told by previous incumbents that the second is easier, following the trials and tribulations of last season, it better be!

In all seriousness, the club have been extremely busy during the Summer months, particularly on the playing and facilities side, Bob and Eddie have put in a lot of hard work, bringing new players to the club in key positions and securing the commitment of our own talented players, in addition, we have invested substantially in improving the playing facilities, particularly the pitches and surrounds, I want people to come to the Reeves and be instantly impressed by the place.

I firmly believe that the coming season will be an exciting one, that will see us bounce back to London 1 and once achieved, our aim will be to immediately challenge for promotion to the National Leagues, there is no doubt that a successful 1st XV, is essential to both raising the profile of Staines RFC, increasing the number of people through the gate and therefore revenue, your support is paramount to the success of this great club.

Our future has been secured, largely through the efforts of individuals who are now Life Members, Vice Presidents and Former Players, nevertheless, it has always saddened me that, for various reasons, comparatively few still actively support Staines RFC, we need these former stalwarts to return in numbers, to put, in some cases, negative views to one side, and once again contribute to the club, with that in mind I intend to arrange a Lunch at the Reeves prior to a League game sometime in November, together with a Dinner in February, I will write to everyone individually, once the season has started.

Another revenue producing opportunity is the Club Shop, however, last season we lost money, despite the efforts of Pam, I understand that part of the problem is that teams within the senior and junior sections of the club, have produced their own apparel, using the club logo, this cannot be allowed to continue, as this practice effectively robs the club of income and seriously undermines our exclusive agreement with the club's main supplier, KOOGA, cost should not be an issue and can be negotiated, please discuss and consider this, before ordering 'pirated goods' as unauthorized gear bearing Staines RFC logo will invoke club sanction.

The website continues to develop, under the management of Kevin McMahon, both your continued usage and ideas for improvement and enhancement, are greatly appreciated, it is anticipated that, this communications medium will, in time, replace the need to send out letters to club members, thereby saving the club considerable expense.

I would like to take this opportunity, of wishing both the Senior and Junior sections of Staines RFC an extremely successful 2007 - 2008 Season and to thank the players, coaches, managers and club administrators for their

dedication and effort, I look forward to Saturday 8 September and the first game at home to our local rivals, Ruislip, bring it on! And I look forward to seeing you all at the Linford Christie Stadium the week before Christmas, when the President will be happy to buy you all a drink!"

Tony Brightwell
President
Staines RFC

SENIOR RUGBY

The pre-season fitness work has gone much to plan. Head Coach, Eddy Jones has put in place a fitness programme which the squad has responded to. Eddy got the squad training mid April and employed the services of a conditioning coach which has taken fitness levels to a very high level. All squad players have had a body stat print out which records body Mass Index, body fat percentage and hydration levels, these readings will be taken early September and during the season to monitor the marked improvement.

There has been much movement of players during the off-season and Staines 1st XV will contain many new faces. We welcome the following players to Staines RFC and hope their stay will be a successful and happy one:- Leonard Liebenberg, loose head prop from Barking, Giles Walker, tight head prop from Barking, Steffan Myburgh, hooker from Dunstabillians, Junior Harrison, lock from L/Nigerian and Middlesex, the return of Dave Thorley from Bracknell, Edmund Landsburg, b/row from Dunstabillians, Luciano Silvero, b/row from Ipswich, the return of Andy Norman from Bracknell, Andy Reagan, o/half from Rugby, James Cornish from London welsh and Middlesex, Marinus Scheepers from Banbridge RFC, Ireland. Alex Brown from Brixham RFC, Dai Williams from Grasshoppers and Luke Williams from Esher. Also welcome to Charles Kempton and Anthony Cameron.

The following players have left the Reeves for pastures green, we wish them well in their new playing careers. Andy Van Zyl, Dan Leek, Andy Forrester, Tom Lloyd, Darrell Ball, Raakai Maxwell, Aaron Schuurman, Dan Ap dafydd, Tim Carter, Rewi Tollich, Mat Buckley, Ovie Koloko, James McLaughlin. Simon hope, James Hunt, Nathan Orpen Palmer, Ra Thompson.

We welcome Lynn Casey as 1st XV secretary who will be looking after player registration and player information. Jamie Sanders is the 1st XV captain and Andy Reagan will be assisting Eddie as player backs coach

Andy Pearce and his team of Dave Shorey, Tim Connolly, Graham Viddler, Julian Babb, have put in place a player development programme for the colts. There are in excess of 20 players and these have been in training with the 1st XV hopefully these young players will learn much over the next few seasons, Martin Hebert has put in place a competitive fixture list incorporating league and the national cup competition.

Dave Channon will be managing the 2s with Shaun Terrey and Paul Gair as coaches, Dan Major will continue his roll as 2nd XV captain. The 3rds will be managed by Tony Gregory and captained by Barry Hathaway. Jonathon Gibson, has done much behind the scenes work and has put together a comprehensive fixture programme for the senior teams.

A playing strategy group consisting of Kevin Cloran, Tony Brightwell, Martin Hebert and myself has met monthly over the closed season and have put in place strong systems to support the senior playing teams, the main focus has been centred around, playing finances, playing contracts, playing facilities and a strategic plan which will see Staines RFC through the next three years, this group will continue to meet monthly to monitor the playing progress.

The senior playing side is looking for support from members to help out with the following:- Kit Manager, Touch Judge, **expenses are paid with these positions.**

Bob Lawless
Director of Rugby

COMMENT FROM THE TREASURY

Since my report in the April Newsletter and my summary at the May AGM, I am pleased to report that **the income figure for May 2007 improved** above budget.

This created an end of year **deficit in the accounts** for 2006/2007 of £117 against a budgeted surplus of £1,379.
A better result than we were expecting.

We are budgeting for a small surplus of £390 for the year 2007/08. This has an expectation within it that the **Bar Takings** will improve this year which I am sure you will help to achieve!!

The Smoking Ban is now in force and for the smokers there is an area under the awning of the building at the rear of the Clubhouse for their use. This will have some heating for the cold months.

We are hoping to have some **Social Functions** at the Clubhouse during the season and I am sure you will make every effort to attend them and, of course, enjoy yourself.

The Reeves Club has been going for many years now with a contribution of £5 monthly. This makes the top prize of £500 look a little small and outdated. **It is our intention to increase the monthly payment to £10 and double the prize money accordingly. If anyone should object to this then please let me know,**

We would like to find someone to take over the management of this prize draw with a view to making it even more attractive. This is a good area of

income for the Club but the numbers of people participating in it recently have slightly dwindled.

Could you be the person to take over the role of coordinating it?

Remember that there have been numerous **thefts** both in the Clubhouse and in the Car Park.

Please be vigilant at all times.

I WOULD REMIND YOU THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

These have risen slightly in line with inflation and the new rates can be found in Rule 18 near the back of the enclosed Handbook. Standing Orders are available from Angie Channon or myself if required.

Enjoy the Season.

Mike O'Reilly
Director of Finance

GROUNDS

You may be aware that for the last 3 months we have undertaken a large end of season renovation to all pitches and surrounding areas, this work will be ongoing.

The pitches are starting to show the benefits of this expenditure. The posts on pitches 1 to 4 have been repainted and a new set of posts will soon be erected on pitch 5. The 1st team pitch is currently being fitted with a new white perimeter fence. The changing rooms have been painted and updated. We hope all members, players and visitors will bear with us during these improvements.

MINI & YOUTH

The Rugby World Cup and the new 2007/08 season are upon us and whilst we wish the very best to our national sides and teams throughout Staines RFC, the opportunity for recruitment has never been better. On Registration Day, managers will be asking for a number of Staines parents to canvas local schools that their children attend. Through personal contact with the head teacher/teacher in charge of recreation, we hope to mount a successful leaflet campaign that will encourage new players to Staines RFC. Please make every effort in support our appeal.

We had great success last season and hopefully we will continue to build upon that foundation in the coming months. It is most encouraging we see a newly formed Colts team at Staines. I'm sure they will benefit enormously under the new structure as they progress towards senior rugby. The vision is to see an increase in senior players, many of them playing for the 1st & 2nd

XVs. We also wish the Under 13s all success as they enter their first season of youth and league rugby. Exciting times lie ahead. Our congratulations also go to the U7s, who were voted by the Borough of Spelthorne the most successful Team of the Year in a ceremony held in July.

The M&Y section will be organising a number of social events throughout the calendar, which we hope you will support. The first will be a Quiz Night on the 5th October. Not too serious, more a degree of trivia that will make for an enjoyable evening. Your team managers will have further information shortly.

Recruitment within the M&Y section for officers for season 2008/09 and onwards is now being sort. If you feel it is something you could become involved in, now is the right time by shadowing the present incumbent over the coming months. More urgently, we need one or two people to supervise the Sunday kitchen. Shelley has stood down after three years and Sam will continue until someone is found. We thank them both for a magnificent job they have done. Without the kitchen revenue, our section would suffer greatly. Please contact me if you feel you want to volunteer a little of your time in supporting either our section or more importantly the main club. There are many jobs, some requiring as little as a few hours a month. Please do not leave it to the same old faces all the time.

Have a great season and I look forward to watching some sparkling rugby in the coming months.

Martyn Hébert
Chairman M&Y