



Sheffield

Medicals RUFC

Mid-Season Newsletter: 2013-14



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Dear Friend of the Club,

As you will read, this season has started superbly for SMRUFC and at the Christmas break our 1st, 2nd and 3rd XV are all at the top end of their respective leagues and gunning for promotion. We had an exceptional recruitment drive, with 39 freshers joining the club. In fact, recruitment was so good that we launched the SMRUFC 4th XV in an inaugural fixture against the current 3rd XV on 30th November. This historic moment for the club shows the incredible growth which we have enjoyed over the past few years and I look forward to updating you with more news from the 4XV in the not-too-distant future.

Please enjoy this newsletter and I look forward to hearing from you regarding the 50th Anniversary celebrations in April 2014.

Robert Sandler
Club Captain

Coaching Report – By Matt Green

The Medics have enjoyed a strong first half of the 2013/14 season, with the 1st XV sitting proudly at the top of SSE Yorkshire Division 2, the 2nd XV in 3rd position and only 2 league points off the pace in the Merit League Western Championship and the 3rd XV riding high in 2nd place in the South District Merit Table.

This success is down to the great commitment, attitude and work ethic shown by all members of the club at training (numbers on a Tuesday night have exceeded 50 almost every week) as well as a real development in the club's strength in depth over the last season and a half. It has been our aim to develop a whole squad mentality within SMRUFC, ensuring that players are able to develop the knowledge and skills to allow real competition for places and regular movement between teams. The success of this ethos was highlighted in the recent 1st XV bonus point victory against Moortown, where we fielded a squad showing 9 changes from the previous week's success away at Leodiensians and with 6 players making their 1st XV debut.

This strength in depth has also brought about another exciting chapter in the history of the club as more 4th XV fixtures will be played in the New Year. The club continues to go from strength to strength on and off the pitch and I am proud and privileged to have played a small part over the last couple of seasons. Promotion is a real possibility for all 3 sides this season, what a way that would be to round off the club's 50th year.

Matt Green
Head Coach

1st XV Report – By Ben Gabbott:

It's been a fantastic first half of the season for the 1st XV and we are currently sitting top of Yorkshire 2, clear by four points. We have put in some fantastic performances against very tough opposition (as well as making life very difficult for ourselves against much weaker teams!). A stand out game for me so far, has been travelling away to play Barnsley. In a very hostile environment against a very physical opposition we rose to the occasion to come away with a bonus point win! The aim of this season has been to blur the lines between first and second team and strive for a squad of 20 – 30 of players that can play at that high standard and increase movement of players between all three teams. I feel so far this season we have done a good job of this. Each Wednesday afternoon is becoming more and more of a headache to pick the team as there is so much competition across every position! It's also been fantastic to see some of the young freshers already working their way up through the squads and pushing for first team spots already. In the new year, we hope to keep on top of Yorkshire two and push for promotion (yet again). We also hope to juggle this with a combined effort from the 2nd XV and progress as far as we can in the NAMS competition and get as far as we can in the cup!

First XV

LEAGUE - Northern Division

DIVISION - Yorkshire 2

#	Team	Pld	Pts
1.	<u>Sheffield Medicals</u>	14	51
2.	<u>Bradford Salem</u>	14	47
3.	<u>Yarnbury</u>	14	46
4.	<u>Barnsley</u>	14	45
5.	<u>Hullensians</u>	14	43
6.	<u>Roundhegians</u>	14	43
7.	<u>Leodiensian</u>	14	36
8.	<u>West Park Leeds</u>	14	34
9.	<u>West Leeds</u>	14	29
10.	Moortown	14	29
11.	<u>Knottingley</u>	14	27
12.	<u>Old Rishworthians</u>	14	24
13.	<u>Ripon</u>	14	16
14.	<u>Baildon</u>	14	7



1st XV vs Ripon - 14/12/13

2nd XV Report – By Joe Knight

The 2nd XV's season kicked off with a default 25-0 win over a team that didn't show up. Another cancelled match against Wheatley Hills and a disappointing loss to Dinnington made for a slow start to the season, however following an influx of fresher talent the results started swinging our way.

The first real win of the season was a classic 2nd team encounter against Sheffield, with the students leaving it typically deep into Fergie time to run in the winner. Two further away wins followed with a good thrashing of Barnsley and the performance of the season so far at Huddersfield YMCA moving the medics up to the heady heights of 2nd in the table. A crushing 43-0 defeat at the hands of Huddersfield however brought us back to ground with a bump and left us with a lot to think about going into the following week's top of the table clash against Old Brods. And think hard we did, managing to battle to a 13-12 win at their place, a great achievement from the boys! A lacklustre performance against Wheatley Hills followed by an inspired win against Morley in the next 2 weeks really summed up the season so far for the 2nd XV ... a lot of talent and potential on display but lacking in consistency.

At the time of writing, we are sitting 3rd in the table with a promising squad of players that should be there or thereabouts come the end of the season.

Second XV

LEAGUE - Yorkshire Merit League

DIVISION - Western Championship

#	Team	Pld	Pts
1.	Huddersfield 2	9	40
2.	<u>Old Brodleians 2</u>	10	37
3.	<u>Sheffield Medicals 2</u>	11	35
4.	<u>Wath Upon Dearne 2</u>	8	34
5.	<u>Huddersfield YMCA 2</u>	9	28
6.	<u>Morley 2</u>	10	24
7.	Dinnington 2	9	22
8.	<u>Sheffield 3</u>	9	13
9.	Barnsley 2	10	7
10.	Pontefract 2	8	0
11.	<u>Wheatley Hills 2</u>	11	-1



3rd XV Report – By Nick Richards:

This season the third team has been inundated with fresh talent, with over 40 players often available for selection each week. The team has looked stronger than ever, winning 4 out of the 6 games played so far, putting us second in the South District Merit Table. There is always, with out fail, a strong contingent of third team players at training and an even stronger one at social, which perfectly sums up the mentality of this team - work hard, play hard. This term has also seen the birthing of the brand new Sheffield Medicals 4th XV. The large numbers of keen rugby enthusiasts have made selection a captain's nightmare and so, to get more people playing, we organised a 3rd XV vs 4th XV match. The 4th XV was lead out by the social sec, James Swinnerton. The game was fantastic, with a great atmosphere. The 3rd XV triumphed, running in 5 tries, but the day was a huge success regardless. This new team will be returning to action after Christmas, playing a variety of local sides and we hope to make this a permanent feature next season.

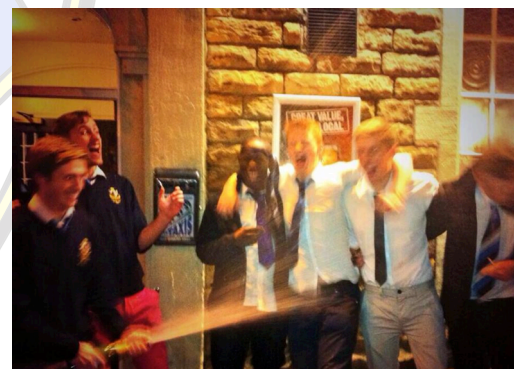
The level of commitment and skill within the team has been excellent and it has been pleasing to watch several 3rd XV players and freshers work their way up the club, gaining their 1st XV or 2nd XV debuts. There has been no shortage of quality players eager to fill their spots. One poignant victory that sticks out was our match against Hallamshire RUFC. The factor that won it for us, I think, was that everyone came together and worked as a team for 80 minutes. The forwards were dominating in the scrum and the breakdowns, (something we don't often experience being a small student team in Yorkshire rugby) providing fast ball for the backs. The backs were hitting great lines and their hands were on fire. It wasn't long before we broke their lines and scored our first try. Once this had happened, the flood gates opened and we looked very impressive, winning the match 50 points to nil. After the Christmas break, our goal is to continue as we have started, playing as a team, winning games and having fun. Ideally I would love for us to finish the season near the top, if not at the top, of the table.

Third XV

LEAGUE - Yorkshire Merit League

DIVISION - South District Merit Table

#	Team	Pld	Pts
1.	Sheffield Oaks 2	8	28
2.	Sheffield Medicals 3	6	19
3.	Hallamshire 2	8	18
4.	Stocksbridge 2	6	17
5.	Hemsworth 2	5	15
6.	Rotherham Phoenix 2	8	14
7.	Sheffield Engineers	3	10
8.	Wath upon Dearne 4	6	7
9.	Rotherham Clifton 2	2	5
10.	Wortley	3	5
11.	History Society	1	4
12.	Halifax Halls	4	1
13.	Rawmarsh Warriors	0	0



Celebrating the first 4th XV fixture at social.

50th Anniversary

Sheffield Medicals RUFC – 50th Anniversary Dinner: Sat 26th April 2014. Firth Hall, University of Sheffield.



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Accommodation