

YOU WAT!

Watford Rugby Club Monthly(ish) Newsletter



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*Something to share? Contact
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New Year. New sletter.

By Martin Lee - WRFC Chairman

Welcome to the first 2020 edition of You Wat. A belated Happy New Year to you all, I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable break. It's been a busy month at the club, indeed our 2nd XV were back to work almost immediately with a cup fixture away to an in-form Harpenden. Whilst it was a tough day on the pitch, off the pitch it was especially pleasing to see some fantastic support not only from the 1st XV squad but also the MMJ parents who braved the cold (and dry January) to come and support the lads. I managed to get down to watch the U14's take on Kilburn and was especially impressed not only by the game (what a win!) but also the big, passionate and positive home support. It was great to see all that is good about our club represented on these two occasions and I'm sure it has been happening every time Watford take to the pitch, home or away. This months edition also see's our first Player of the Month nominations in. All would be worthy winners, however unfortunately there can only be one. Read on to find out who... Finally, February sees the start of one of the great annual sporting occasions - the Six Nations. The club will be open for all fixtures, please come down to support your side whoever they may be! As always, myself and the committee are here to help and support you - anything you need from us, no matter how small, please shout.



WHAT A LOAD OF HOT AIR!

The money raised during the Rugby World Cup sweepstakes has been used to help fund the tiling of the hand dryer area in the Gentlemen and Ladies toilets. Thank you to all those who supported the club by buying 1st try scorer / World Cup winner tickets!

Don't forget our socials



#WRFC



@WATFORDRFC

FANTASY 6 NATIONS



Fantasy 6 Nations returns and is completely free to enter!

http://fantasyfc.espn.com/CleverTV_espn/en/espn/fantasy/22/clienthome.do

Please submit a team and join the WRFC league! Details as follows:

Name: WRFC

Pin: 1302489-153552

The best team name can claim 2 whole pints from Martin Lee during the match on Sunday!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

WRFC's Keeper of History dusts off another tale from the time when internet was a northerner's answer to "where's the fish?"



As the 6 Nations is kicking off this month and Le Crunch is this Sunday, this edition's "From the Archives" features a little bit of cross channel chicanery...

"We were playing St Nicholas Old Boys at home and on the side line is a man with a French accent, barking orders and appearing to be coaching the Opposition. After the game and with WRFC being the ones left at the bar, the Frenchman approaches us to offer us his skills in coaching - free of charge! This turned out to be a bargain, with him assuring us that he was also part of the French National Team coaching setup (admittedly their B team... but still!).

As we celebrated our international acquisition, and this being in the days of amateur rugby, discussion changed to occupations and he informed us that he was a pathologist who worked in London. Having some boys in blue on the squad, they wondered what area he covered as they hadn't come across him before, however this being pre internet and mobile phones, this wasn't exactly surprising news.

Having offered his services he recommended that as an introduction he would take the next game's warm up. Next home game the 1st team are down early eagerly awaiting our new coach. With kick off only half an hour away we decide to start our warm up and just as it's about to start, our international coach arrives apologising for being late but he had an urgent night call out at the pathology unit - perfectly understandable.

Being from France, one of the sexier european countries, we didn't bat an eyelid when he urged us to do pressups "like you are making love to a beautiful woman" and our leg stretches were given a certain je ne sais quoi. To say we were getting strange looks was an understatement, but this man was an international level coach! Some further rather explicit sprinting drills were worked in and we were ready for the game. This pattern repeated the following week, with our gallic coach arriving just before kick off, again being delayed by work.

There must have been french industrial action the next 2 weeks as he didn't turn up. It was on the 3rd game that an ex player Bob Wynn came into the club for a beer, having watched a few games the previous weeks. After missing this week's game, he was informed that our new star coach from France had inexplicably vanished.

Bob almost spat out his beer, telling us he had seen our new coach the week before in a pub in Dunstable when he was out with his wife. Expectantly we all asked who was he with. He wasn't with anyone he was a Chef working in the Kitchen and was not French but English.

So to sum up our pathologist new French international coach was in fact an Englishman working as chef in a Beefeater."

Player Of The Month

Awarded to the player who is deemed to have made the biggest contribution on the pitch, open to all players from U6 to 1st XV. This doesn't necessarily mean the 'best' player. It can be someone who has particularly improved or gone above and beyond to help their team. Putting equipment away, filling water bottles, doing extra training, exhibiting our core values. To make a nomination please contact the Chairman Martin Lee

WINNER - Olivia Slowick - U13 Girls

Olivia joined the club in 2018 and is now one of the more experienced players in the squad. In this time she's developed both in the team and outside of it, going from someone who appeared slightly unsure and apprehensive to someone who shows determination, carries well and powers through defenders. Loves the physical side, getting stuck into the ruck and mauls and is an integral part of the team.



Congratulations Olivia on being the 1st WRFC Player Of The Month!

Special Mentions

Aaron Emmanuel - U14's

Has scored 7 tries and several conversions amassing around 51 points in two games. Both on and off the pitch he's a credit to his coaches and club. Very rarely misses training or matches and when he's not playing for u14s in a Sunday he's either down the club practicing his kicking or helping out the senior sides.

Charlie Shaw - 2nd XV

Charlie turns up training twice a week with a big smile and a positive attitude looking forward to the games at the weekend. His on field antics always brighten up the week and he is a photographer's dream.

Tom Gordon - 1st XV

Tom always sets a great example for everyone around him with his work rate and positive attitude to challenges. Donated towards funding the new training balls (along with Steve James) in a bid to contribute off the field as well as on.

Jack Fareham - Colts / Senior Squad

Jack has made his senior debut and despite finding it a physical challenge in terms of size has made an instant impact with scoring 3 tries. Played a back to back senior and colts game on consecutive days and was rewarded with an instagram worthy eye wound to which his response was "F"£\$*!£ Awesome - Take a pic".

GLOBETROTTING GREG



Our very own Greg Reeve gives report on his work in community rugby in Brazil

Dear Mighty Watford RFC, I hope everyone is well and happy. I'm entering in to my 4th stint working in Brazil now and things are looking very busy this year. I will be continuing to work with the NGO in the nearby favela with kids aged 14-18. In addition I will be going back to the youth prisons and working with young offenders regularly, hoping to get them playing Rugby upon their release. This continues to be challenging, but rewarding work, and has become easier now I have got to terms with the lingo.

In addition to the volunteering, I have also been working with a Rugby club (Templarios), who after two tough years have been relegated (thank God) to the second division of Brazilian Rugby. During this 2 years we lost around 25 players and the club ended up in debt. As co-coach I was unaware of what was going on and unaware of how poor the structure of the team was. Stepping up to head coach in 2019 therefore was a challenge, spent building the club up to a position where it could become self-sustaining. It was also evident we needed to become a "club" rather than just a group of guys playing rugby together. There are many aspects of the way Watford operate which I want to incorporate in Templarios, especially the attitudes people have to volunteering and giving their time to help the club. This is ongoing and difficult to implement considering Brazilian attitudes/culture, however it is looking much better then it was. Through the introduction of youth training, fixed membership costs, sponsorship and the start of a girls XV's team we are already looking much more structured and community-focused. The young players from my project in the favela are also now turning 18/19 so are able to replace many of the players who left the team. Our focus now is very much on restructuring and making sure everyone involved has the right attitudes and feels a part of the family. Winning I am confident will come in time as a result of what we achieve off the pitch, but at the moment isn't my focus. This ongoing development will be helped along I'm sure with a new position I will be taking on this year as head coach of a nearby University team, "Leprechauns". They are a great group of young people, and I'm sure will form a large contingent of Templarios. We will hence have deep pool of new talent coming in from both the Uni and social project in years to come.

It continues to be an exciting adventure, constantly managing to surprise me. Things here often just don't make any sense and unfortunately even corruption filters from the top down and has made it's way in to grassroots rugby. It is however continuing to help my development as a coach and a human being, teaching me more than I could ever have imagined. I miss both playing and being with you all very much, and a part of Watford will always be with me in whatever I continue to do both professionally and personally. It truly is a remarkable club, which epitomises what rugby should be about. Good luck for the remainder of the season, and keep up the amazing work.

Love Greggles xxx.

Mens 6 Nations Fixtures

ROUND 1		
WALES V ITALY SAT 01 FEB - 2.15	IRELAND V SCOTLAND SAT 01 FEB - 4.45	FRANCE V ENGLAND SUN 02 FEB - 3.00
ROUND 2		
IRELAND V WALES SAT 08 FEB - 2.15	SCOTLAND V ENGLAND SAT 08 FEB - 4.45	FRANCE V ITALY SUN 09 FEB - 3.00
ROUND 3		
ITALY V SCOTLAND SAT 22 FEB - 2.15	WALES V FRANCE SAT 22 FEB - 4.45	ENGLAND V IRELAND SUN 23 FEB - 3.00
ROUND 4		
IRELAND V ITALY SAT 07 MAR - 2.15	ENGLAND V WALES SAT 07 MAR - 4.45	SCOTLAND V FRANCE SUN 08 MAR - 3.00
ROUND 5		
WALES V SCOTLAND SAT 14 MAR - 2.15	ITALY V ENGLAND SAT 14 MAR - 4.45	FRANCE V IRELAND SAT 14 MAR - 8.00

Womens 6 Nations Fixtures

ROUND 1	FRANCE V ENGLAND SUN 2 FEB - 12:30	IRELAND V SCOTLAND SUN 2 FEB - 13:00	WALES V ITALY SUN 2 FEB - 13:00
ROUND 2	FRANCE V ITALY SAT 8 FEB - 20:00	SCOTLAND V ENGLAND SUN 9 FEB - 12:10	IRELAND V WALES SUN 9 FEB - 13:00
ROUND 3	WALES V FRANCE SUN 23 FEB - 12:00	ENGLAND V IRELAND SUN 23 FEB - 12:45	ITALY V SCOTLAND SUN 23 FEB - 16:00
ROUND 4	ENGLAND V WALES SAT 7 MAR - 12:05	SCOTLAND V FRANCE SAT 7 MAR - 19:45	IRELAND V ITALY SUN 8 MAR - 13:00
ROUND 5	WALES V SCOTLAND SUN 15 MAR - 13:10	ITALY V ENGLAND SUN 15 MAR - 13.30	FRANCE V IRELAND SUN 15 MAR - 15:35

ALL TIMES ARE IN GMT

In Memorium



It is with great sadness that we have to announce that Paul Godfrey has passed away on 20th January, following a period of illness.

Paul joined Watford in the late noughties, progressing to captain the second XV for the 12 /13 & 13 / 14 seasons. A larger than life character, 'Godders' saw the humour in everything (other than the 1st XV cherry picking his players late on a Friday evening). A genuinely warm, funny and caring person, Paul will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

The funeral will be held at St Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, London, NR2 0RZ at 1 pm with the wake being held at The Penridge Suite, 470 Bowes Road, New Southgate, N11 1NL.

There will be a donation box at the service for the Florence Nightingale Hospice for those who wish to make a donation in Paul's memory. Everyone at Watford would like to extend their deepest condolences to Sophie, Talia and Jordan as well as Paul's friends and family during this difficult time.