

You Wat!

Watford Rugby Club Monthly Newsletter

30 August 2019

www.watfordrfc.co.uk



Message from the chairman - Martin Lee



September Upcoming Events

31/08/2019

*1st & 2nd Xv Home vs Saracens
Amateurs 3 pm K.O*

01/09/2019

MMJ Registration Day

08/09/2019

*1st & 2nd XV Home vs Mill Hill 3pm
K.O*

22/09/2019

*England vs Tonga 11:15 K.O –
Macmillan Fundraise from 10:30*

*Have we missed anything? Let us
know!*

Welcome all to our first edition of *You Wat*, your monthly summary of all things WRFC. One of the key things I would like to improve at our club is communication. There are so many fantastic things happening all across WRFC, from our minis to our seniors, but we too often operate in silos. It's important to share the good news stories, regardless of how trivial they may seem – I can't emphasise enough that we are **one club!** So, if there is anything you would like to see in *You Wat* then just let me know! Given this is our first issue, there may be some things we get right, some we may get wrong. If there is anything you want more (or less) of, just let us know. Happy reading.

News

1st Golf Society Day a Success



Congratulations to 2018/19 1st XV Player of the Season Tom Gordon, who added further silverware to his mantelpiece by winning WRFC's first Golf Society Day.

We are looking to expand this in the future, extending the invite to the membership as a whole - keep your eyes out!

Meet the Committee

McGee Married



Tim Casey – Youth Director of Rugby

Hi Tim – so what does a being a YDO consist of?

TC: *Recruit, develop and enthuse young people to play rugby to the best of their ability and have FUN*

And what first drew you to the role?

TC: *'Er in doors' told me I had to.*

Main aims for the 19-20 season?

TC: *Consolidate the good work done last year in terms of new coaches training and restarting different age groups and then improve on it. We still have gaps in age groups*

The best thing about WRFC?

TC: *You always feel welcome and you can be yourself. Plus there is always one Eejit talking nonsense who you can have the craic with (I am saying no names but in the 30 years I have been involved in the club nothing has changed).*

Pic of the Month:



Robert Hobbs fantastic WRFC themed Bar Mitzvah cake!



Senior player Tom McGee tied the knot on the 10th August in Althy, Ireland. Congratulations to Tom and Danielle! Commiserations to those senior players who managed to miss their flight home...

Rachel & Lawrence Tie the Knot



The good news keeps on coming, congratulations to the Mr & Mrs Smith who also celebrated their nuptials in Ireland – even going so far as to import the WRFC bar staff for the occasion!

Clubhouse Upgrades Continue



Improvement works to the clubhouse gather pace, with the new wheelchair access path giving all our guests an uninhibited route to the clubhouse. Cosmetic touches also add to the ongoing improvements in ambience.

SPONSORS REQUIRED!

As a grassroots, amateur club WRFC are always keen to engage with local businesses to explore potential sponsorship opportunities. Please contact Martin Lee

Senior Fixtures Released

martin.graham.lee@gmail.com if you or someone you know is interested.

Senior Fixtures for the 2019-20 Season are now available on the website, with two consecutive home double headers against Saracens Amateurs and Mill Hill opening the 1st & 2nd XV's campaigns. Supporters, please check the website before travelling as fixtures are subject to change! MMJ fixtures are expected to be uploaded in the coming weeks. www.watfordrfc.co.uk



This month sees the start of the Rugby World Cup in the Land of the Rising Sun, Japan! The majority of fixtures featuring home nations will be on the big screen, keep an eye on the website for confirmation of which games will be shown. This will be updated at the start of the week. Not to mention the highly coveted WRFC RWC Fantasy Rugby game, details of which will be posted both on the website and our Social Media pages.

Neil Cusack



It is with great regret that the club heard ex-player Neil Cusack passed away this month. Neil was an excellent back row player for Watford during the 1980's, our thoughts are with his friends and family during this difficult time. The funeral is at West Herts Crematorium on September 11th, the service starts at 13:20.

Where's Wat Wandered?

Beer Fest Delivers Yet Again



Our beer festival delivered the goods once again, with Beer Fest Chairman Jon McClennon delivering the biggest and best yet. A record number of teams in the fancy dress 7's, live music from NRG on Friday evening and some of the best food yet courtesy of Smokey Mac BBQ. A huge thank you to all WRFC members who volunteered and made this such a great event – particular thanks to Jon for the huge amount of effort put into organising the festival.

Groundforce Day a Success



A massive thank you to all those who volunteered to lend a hand sprucing the club up over the weekend prior to the beer festival. As the saying goes, many hands make light work and it was brilliant to see so many people from so many different parts of the club come down and lend a hand. Particular thanks to House Manager George Hicks for coordinating events on the day.

Inaugural Appearance Ties Awarded



Naturally, we are keen to spread to word of Watford far and wide! This month see's the WRFC logo travel all the way to South Africa, courtesy of Warren Baker from the U16's. Potential new signing in the background.... Got any pics of WRFC in unusual places?

Send them in!

Jamie Wins Award



A huge well done to Jamie Ramsden-Morris who received an award recognising his leadership skills in tandem with the Olympic Legacy funding. Great work Jamie!



The Senior Players Dinner was a great success, with 30 members of the squad & support staff enjoying an excellent home-cooked meal at our Sister venue The Regent Club. The highlight of the evening was the awarding of commemorative ties to players who have made either 100 or 200 senior appearances for the club - a great achievement given the numerous more pressing commitments on amateur players (work, family, hangovers etc) in the modern era. The recipients on the evening were Gary Bridge (pictured) and Andy Lee (both 200 apps), and Jon McClennon and Luke Hammill (both 100 apps). Congratulations to all 4 recipients, further awards will be made at various points during the season.

Don't forget Senior Training on a Tuesday and Thursday Evening 7pm-9pm – All Welcome!

Rugby (and Watford's) Core Values:

1. **Respect** – The game, your club, the opponent, your teammates, referees, facilities... You name it, we respect it.
2. **Teamwork** – WRFC is a team, on and off the pitch.
3. **Enjoyment** – No point being here if we aren't having fun!
4. **Discipline** – We maintain our focus and uphold our values.
5. **Sportsmanship** – We win with grace and lose with dignity, respecting the opposition at all times both before, during and after a match.

Results:

1st XV: N/A

2nd XV: N/A

Colts: N/A

U17's: N/A

U16's: N/A

U15's: N/A

U14's: N/A

U13's: N/A

U12's: N/A

U11's: N/A

U10's: N/A

U9's: N/A

U8's: N/A

U7's: N/A

Contributors Needed!

We are always looking for volunteers to help spread the Watford Word. Our website (www.watfordrfc.co.uk) needs as much content as possible in order to

Team Time:

A monthly feature where we take a closer look at a team within Watford. This month, the U14's.



Words from U14 Coach George 'Pieface' Hicks

Last year our then u13's had a hugely successful season, winning all group games with a perfect 6 out of 6 record. (We can't call them league games apparently...). The boys beat some big, well established clubs along the way taking the scalps of Royston, Old Albanians and Chess Valley just to name but a few. Our coaches Ben Booth, Steve Emmanuel, George 'Pieface' Hicks and head coach Matt Hobbs were all extremely proud of the lads - not just in the games they won but also in the games where they didn't quite manage to come out on top. Their attitude both on and off the pitch has been exemplary. Special thanks to our Fixture Sec Amanda Hobbs for getting us a season rammed full of competitive games. Our final record for 2018-19 stood at 17 wins with only 3 losses. Further thanks are due to Amanda for arranging our end of season tour to Clacton where 44 Watfordians enjoyed a rugby festival at which the boys once again did the club proud, registering 5 wins from 7 as well as fully embracing the WRFC 'Tour Spirit' off the field.

Lastly a big well done to Aaron Emmanuel, who got through the 1st round of the Saracens Developmental Sessions. Well don Aaron; keep up with the hard work!

One From the Archives....



Our monthly feature, WRFC's longest serving player Gary Bridge remembers back to the early 1880's (sorry, 1980's).

"So, early 80's saw the mighty WRFC travel to the County 7's at Harpenden. As usual Watford are late, with Dennis forgetting the shirts (once again). The whole squad have to travel in Dennis's lorry, getting changed in the back en route and as we arrive at the ground drive up to the pitch in order to save precious seconds. As we made our subtle approach in the lorry, the tannoy blares out a final call for Watford. The shutter immediately goes up and we all jump out of the lorry, running onto the pitch to play immediately. And yes, we of course won the game! Which, as you can imagine, proved extremely popular with the more organized sides in attendance!"

*Have any WRFC memories you feel are suitable for a **family friendly** newsletter? Send them over and find yourselves in the next 'One From the Archives'!*

drive internet traffic our way thus increasing our visibility and attractiveness to potential players and sponsors across all age groups. A great start is match reports, from the U7's right up to seniors. Fancy stepping up? Please speak to your teams Head Coach!

Team of the Month

A monthly feature celebrating outstanding team success within WRFC. This award isn't based purely on results. An improvement in training numbers, exhibiting core Watford values on or off the pitch, an excellent social event or piece of fundraising can all contribute. This isn't just down to players – coaches, parents and supporters can get involved too! At the end of the season, the Team with the most wins shall be presented with the inaugural 'WRFC Team of the Season' award. Nominations to be sent to Martin Lee with the team name and 100 words as to why they should win no later than the **3rd Friday** of the month.

WRFC Committee Members:

President: Dennis Reilly

Chairman: Martin Lee

Vice-Chairman: Andy Menzies

Secretary: Kay Giddings

YDO: Tim Casey

Director of Rugby: Richard Williams

MMJ Chair: Fiona Casey

Safeguarding: Richard Giddings

Social Secretary: Jake Landen

Club Captain: Simon Bram

2nd XV Captain: Liam Meredith

House Manager: George Hicks

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... all these can count towards a 'Player of the Month' award. Nominations to be sent to Martin Lee with the players name / age group and 100 words as to why they should win no later than the **3rd Friday** of the month. Players will be awarded a small shield at their next home game.

That's all for our very first 'You Wat'. For this to work, we need to hear from YOU! Get those team / player of the month nominations in, let us know about your socials and fundraisers and most importantly – any good news stories on or off the pitch, we want to hear all about it!

Knutsford Playing
Fields,

Radlett Road,

Watford

WD24 4LL

01923 243292

www.watfordrfc.co.uk

Contact information

Want to be included in the next edition of *You Wat?* Email Martin Lee – martin.graham.lee@gmail.com.

Looking to hire the clubhouse? Contact Ryan, ryandalton92@gmail.com

Those looking to play, contact Richard Williams (Senior) on rich216williams@hotmail.co.uk or Tim Casey (Junior) at tim.casey@arup.com

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram! Search for 'Watford Rugby Club'