

YOU WAT!

Watford Rugby Club Monthly Newsletter



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by Martin Lee

Welcome to the second episode of You Wat, where we have hopefully ironed out any bugs from the first publishing. We received a lot of positive feedback on our inaugural edition, some not so positive (the picture of the Chairman heading the newsletter was met with particular disdain). Anyway, onwards and upwards! The Rugby World Cup is upon us, what better time to look at everything which is good about our wonderful sport and the benefits it can bring to those who participate in it, both on and off the pitch. On that note, I would like to use this month's newsletter to bring to light a particularly poignant, sobering fact.

**DURING EVERY MATCH OF THE RUGBY WORLD CUP, 80 MEN
AROUND THE WORLD WILL TAKE THEIR OWN LIVES.**



For more information, please visit Movember.com

During each game of the RWC, 80 men around the world will take their own life. That's one during every minute, of every game. Movember has joined forces with some of rugby's biggest stars to encourage men to start discussing challenges in their life and being more up-front and honest about their mental health. This isn't a plea for money, a bucket shaking exercise – all we ask is that when enjoying a match at the club, pub or at home you use half time to talk to your mates and leave the phone in the pocket. Watford has always been a club that looks out for each other – lets use this World Cup to continue doing just that.

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

DIARY DATES

2nd November

RWC Final (9:00)

Halloween Party (19:00)

16th November

Home Double Header (14:30)

7th December

Home Double Header & Christmas Party

Regent Club Membership Offer

Here at the Regent Club we are very grateful to the support we receive from WRFC, or our 'sister club' as it has become known. I know that many of you are already members, but if not and if you've been thinking about joining we have a special deal for you. Join any time before the end of this year and your membership will extend to the end of 2020.



Words from Clive Thompson, Regent Club Committee Member

Just fill in an application form and write 'WRFC 2020 offer' on it and we'll sort it out. Membership is just £10 per year or £15 for a couple. We have both BT and Sky Sports, and a function room that is free to hire for members should your own clubhouse be unavailable. We always have a couple of real ales available, and the usual range of other drinks. There are a few darts teams that use the club for home games and on Thursdays we run both bingo and a quiz

APPEARANCE TIES AWARDED



Congratulations to Richard Yates & Luke Bees (both 100 apps) and 'Skinny' John Portway (200 apps) who were awarded their senior appearance ties following the home club double header against Mill Hill. This was followed by 100 appearance ties for Georgio Pitsialis and JR Greyling being awarded after the home game against Old Millhillians. As mentioned, to reach either milestone as an amateur player in such a physically demanding sport is a testament to the durability and loyalty of these players.

Jon McClellon - Treasurer



Hi Jon - so what does a Treasurer

JM: Pay the bill, invoices all the little bits that happens behind the scenes.

And what first drew you to the role

JM: Everyone looked at me during a committee meeting and decided I was doing it..

Main aims for the 19-20 season?

JM: Our club runs a lot of events and we get a lot of people outside the WRFC family coming down. We want to make the clubhouse even better to grow our WRFC family. Also to prevent Pie from buying a giant painting of a stag for the clubhouse.

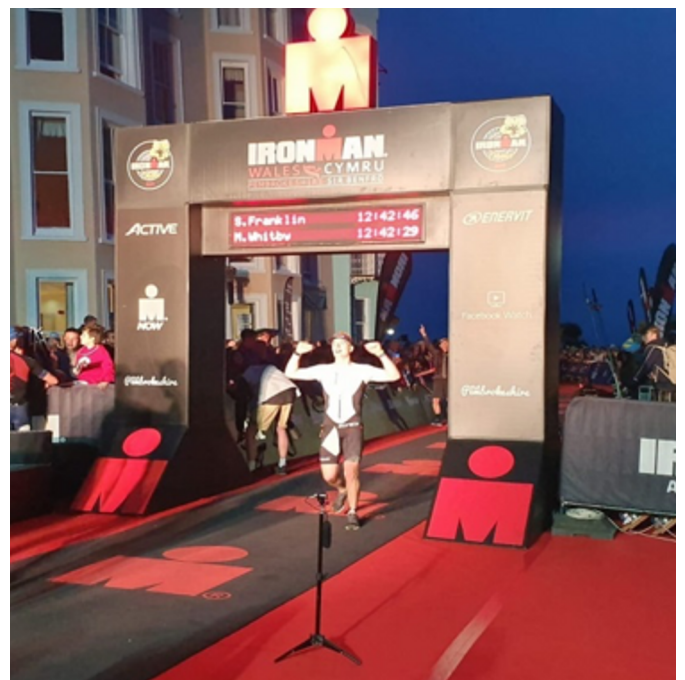
The best thing about WRFC?

JM: I came down to the club not having a clue how to play rugby. Ten years later nothing changed, but i've made some great friends who I consider my family

Sam Franklin Completes Ironman

Here at Watford Rugby Club, where fitness is always top of our agenda..., we like to acknowledge incredible feats of endurance outside of spending 80 minutes as a lock behind Pie... One of our youth-thru-adult players Sam Franklin, who's unfortunately away at university, completed the Iron Man in Tenby last month with a staggering time of **12hr 42m 56s**, in which he completed a **2.4 mile** sea swim, a **112 mile** bike ride and then a full **26.2 mile** marathon to top it off..

For his first time ever competing, he came in 538th place out of 1873 contestants - a real achievement from a real attribute to the club. We can't wait to have you back down playing with us Sam, and well done!





MMJ COACHES KITTED OUT

A huge thank you to Uponor Plumbing & GTR Removals who between them have sponsored the MMJ coaches kit for the 2019-20 Season. Both companies are incredibly proud to be associated with such a community focussed, grass roots club and wish all WRFC sides success both on and off the field during the 2019-20 season. Heartfelt thanks from all at WRFC!

PIC OF THE MONTH

You Wats biggest fan Diarmuid Brennan 'enjoying' the Irish performance against England during the Summer world cup warm up match.



WHERE'S WAT WANDERED

This month, Peter Cox spreads the Watford Gospel to the Big Apple, proudly sporting his Watford shirt at the New York Yankees Stadium..

Lets Get QUIZICAL

We like to give you something to tax your brains at You Wat!, so we asked the Regent Club quiz correspondent, Candice B Fureal, to come up with five fantastic facts from around the world to see if you can spot the fake news. Two of these facts are utter rubbish, guess which two they are then scroll to the end of the newsletter to see if you were correct.

- 1. In Switzerland it is illegal to keep a goldfish in a bowl with less than 4 litres of water.*
- 2. US President Richard Nixon was a big fan of clowns and passed legislation to create National Clown Week, which is still celebrated.*
- 3. There is a one-metre square paving stone within Vatican City which, politically, is part of Italy. This is to ensure that the Vatican can benefit from the protections of Italy in the event of war.*
- 4. In France it is illegal to name a pet pig 'Napoleon'.*
- 5. In the 1930s Australia had such a problem with emus destroying crops that it called in the military, leading to the Great Emu War in which hundreds of the birds were killed with Lewis guns.*

TEAM TIME

A monthly feature where we take a closer look at a team within Watford. This month, the Ladies U13's

Following a huge amount of effort from a number of people, Watford are very proud to announce we now run an under 13's ladies side. Originally a Barbarians side including players from Tabard, the girls now play under the Watford banner, giving a great showing at the Fullerians Water Festival a few weeks ago. The girls have a great team spirit already and are always on the lookout for new players.

Fancy joining them? Please get in contact with Ian Griffiths!



One From The Archives

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

“Watford went on a delightful Tour one glorious Easter in 1985, travelling to the bustling Metropolis of Ilfracombe and duly beating our hosts in a cracking game of rugby union on Good Friday. Good Friday became Great Friday as we naturally tucked into a few beverages in order to celebrate our mighty accomplishment. Friday was suddenly the early hours of Saturday, where we bumped into local rivals St Albans who were also enjoying the hospitality of the local watering holes. After several more beverages with our Hertfordshire brethren and us magnanimously reminding them that we had done the double over them during the season, Saints ‘reminded’ us that Ilfracombe were hosting a welcoming ceremony at the town hall following Saturdays matches. News to us, but given the vast quantities of alcohol imbibed by and all, entirely possible that we had been invited and duly dismissed said invite.

Having played Biddeford through bleary eyes on the Saturday we made our apologies to the host club, explaining that a hasty departure was necessary in order to conduct a meet and greet with the great and the good of Ilfracombe. We were reminded on the coach that despite being on tour, we were representing WRFC and were to behave accordingly – under no circumstances were we to let the rabble that were St Albans show us up (even though they had graciously reminded us about the prestigious event a mere 7 hours ago).

The coach pulls up outside the Town Hall. WRFC enter in our finest shirt and ties, fully clothed and ready to make an impression. A nod and tip of the cap to the bemused security guards, we made our way into the hall ready to do our club proud. Fair play to St Albans, we had been hoodwinked and sent not to a important welcoming ceremony with the Mayor of Ilfracombe... We were at a pensioners afternoon ballroom dance. Being the good sports we are, Watford weren’t dismayed and gamely joined in – the sight of horrendously hungover players waltzing with arthritic octogenarians is one which will live with me forever.

As much as I reminded Trudey of our victories over St Albans that year, he always hit me back with this. God Bless him.

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’!

Quizical Results

1. *Well the Swiss do love their chocolate and cuckoo clocks, but they don't give a damn about goldfish. This is false!*
2. *No fake news here, this is true. National Clown Week is celebrated in the first week of August each year, and i'm sure Tricky Dicky would be please to see that there's a clown in the white now.*
3. *Seems logical for Vatican City to have this, but this is completely made up, it's false. Frankly, who in their right mind would rely on the Italian Army for protection!*
4. *As amusing as it seems, this is true. There is actually a law in France forbidding anyone naming their pet pig Napoleon.*
5. *The Great Emu War? Surely that's made up, but no, it's another fantastic true fact. It wasn't a great success though, the military used about 10,000 rounds of ammunition and only got rid of a few hundred emu.*

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?

Richard Williams (Senior) on rich216williams@hotmail.co.uk

Tim Casey (Junior) at tim.casey@arup.com

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