



## **President's Final 2018/19 Newsletter**

Dear Members

The Season has nearly come to an end and with the National 7s tournament being featured at Monks Lane on the 15th June it will have 16 senior men's sides and 8 women's teams will be taking part so a final day of great rugby entertainment for you.

It seems an age ago when we finished playing however and we are now preparing for the next season with the AGM on the 19th June.

Where has the year gone ?

What a great season on the pitch we have had throughout the Club!!! League Champions with 4 games in hand and promotion back to South West Premier.

The Stags and Thirds finished in very creditable positions in their divisions with more playing depth and Colts working their way through the club. The Women with many new players also did really well and the social side provided some great entertaining moments. The Colts, Juniors and Mini continue to thrive and must be the long term lifeline of the Club.

We had players representing England Under 19s, the County and the British Army

We had many memorable days at the Club none more so than the 90th Celebration and Reunion and our Annual Charity day where we raised over £8000 for Cancer Research UK and the Motor Neurone Disease Association. 750 people attended and lots of old players and members turned up. We emptied 21 barrels of beer and it could have been a lot more!!

The rugby at Newbury at all levels has been entertaining, skilful and fun with still the best travelling and largest number of supporters (often away and home) in the division. Huge thank you to all those who have volunteered their time or donated sponsorship to making this a great Community Rugby Club.

Rugby is great. We are privileged in many ways to have such an amazing facility for us all to enjoy. We are all looking forward to next season!!

Alas then, that I have bad news to report as well. The annual running costs of the club facilities outweigh the annual income. It is a problem we have battled with for years. We are not the only club that struggles. Most do and as we know the RFU has got itself into desperate debt which means there is a serious implication on its support for us next year.

We have to do some radical thinking. Our position is that we cannot sustain our sized rugby club in such a luxury, business-sized building. If we do not work out a way to reduce costs &/or improve income we will have a very major problem in 5 years' time. The land sales give us some breathing space but that is all.

We are a Community Rugby Club and we need to embrace that and support it. How many of us only use the club on a rugby morning/afternoon once a week or every other week? How many enjoy the facility but are not members? We need to look at how to support our club to preserve the facility as a huge community asset. How do we do that?

Numerous meetings have taken place to look at ways to go forward but a clear strategy is not easy. We need your views and your support; whether you are just a rugby enthusiast, a willing parent or a community conscious person with business skills we want to hear from you to ensure that we create a legacy for community rugby for a long time here at Monks Lane.

We have the AGM on the 19th June and look forward to seeing some of you there; but do not wait until then to contact myself ([dwsjones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dwsjones@hotmail.co.uk)) or Chairman of Trustees Steve Gibbs ([steve@gibbro.co.uk](mailto:steve@gibbro.co.uk)).

It is your club and your input is vital.

Many Thanks

David J.  
President

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