



Official Matchday Programme



DINGS CRUSADERS RFC

A CLUB WITH ITS HEART IN BRISTOL

Saturday 3rd September 2011

DINGS CRUSADERS v OLD ALBANIANS

National League Division 2 South

MAIN SPONSOR

GRANGER REIS

www.dingscrusaders.co.uk



The New Season

Today we welcome Old Albanians for the first of this season's home games and it could well be a turning point in our famous club's history and direction. So we welcome all supporters of both sides, both old and new, let's hope it's a cracking game.

Old Albanians come to Bristol, much fancied with all the astute pundits on line having the Dings down for a proper drubbing and not a point being earned. Well anyone who can remember last seasons home game, knows full well how this youthful Dings team pushed a very good Albanians side right to the wire. With some familiar faces (although not all available today) we hope that the tremendous hard work put in over the summer by players and back room staff alike will benefit the club right through to all teams who intend turning out for the Dings this season.



A new season and players lost over the summer, meant that summer training had an unusual feel to it, at one time I was even offered the services of Messrs Thorn & James & Beake to ease our worrying loss of players. But what always happens someone always seems to pop out of the cupboard or in some cases the closet, and so a number of new players agreed to turn out for us this season. I for one feel the balance within the squad is the best for some time, experience in positions that will help the more youthful players in what will be a stern test this season. It seems that all clubs are getting stronger and stronger each season, in some cases just to survive, but I can assure you all, that we at the Dings are committed to bringing young players to the fore and hopefully a chance to play at a higher level if they so wish.

I would also like to thank the new sponsors that have chosen to support the club this year and as my summer letter stated, these days a club at this level cannot survive without the much appreciated support of sponsors, and I know we have a loyal band of supporters who have supported the team over the past nine seasons allowing National League rugby to flourish in the leafy suburb of Lockleaze.

So last weeks game saw the Dings take their first points off a much vaunted Taunton team, and after two drubbings last season, the last a right old hammering at Lockleaze brought self belief to this new team and the play was encouraging to say the least. A couple of missed passes and hey-ho, 3 try scoring chances gone and I wonder if they would have got back into it, just goes to show its not all about money.

So today, let's hope the weather kind and we get the game we are waiting for.

Come on you Dings Boys!

Steve Lloyd

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SEASON REVIEW 2011 - 2012

Tenth place finish with twelve wins from thirty starts was in the end a poor return from a season that promised much more. With eleven wins and a draw from twenty-two starts, by the first week in March we were well in contention for a good top half place. However a spate of injuries robbed us of key personnel and exposed a drastic lack of depth in our squad, resulting in a run of seven defeats on the trot and just one win from the last eight games.

The season got off to a very good start with a brilliant display of open rugby in an 83-0 win over newcomers to this league Newbury. This was followed by a single point loss at near neighbours Clifton in a game that could have gone either way and a good home win over Westcombe Park. Our first trip to Jersey saw a very good sixty minutes going down to a couple of late tries then a loss to Old Albanians in a match that was thrown away in the final minutes with an unnecessary loose pass when the game was won.

October and November saw five wins and a draw from seven matches with the reverse an unlucky 20-27 defeat at Worthing where we went down fourteen points in the first five minutes after a coach crash on the way to the ground saw the players still stiff after a seven hour journey and just twenty minutes to change and warm up. A great second half comeback on a frozen pitch at Richmond failed to prevent defeat and a scrappy defeat at Taunton brought the year to a close with seven wins and a draw from fourteen matches and great optimism for the second half of the season.

The New Year saw four wins and four defeats in January and February with the highlights a 20-25 home defeat to highflying Jersey in a fine match that could have gone either way and likewise an 8-3 reverse at Lockleaze in the wet against leaders Ealing could easily have been a win. With injuries mounting things got very difficult from then on with a disastrous run of seven defeats in row including four reverses at Lockleaze which was particularly disappointing.

Overall a very good competitive first six months of the season where we proved a match for any side in the division followed by a spate of injuries that tested the depth of the squad and we were found badly wanting. However we have retained the coaching team of Dave Hilton and Kevin Hopkins for the new season and better luck with injuries should see us competitive for the coming season.

Rich Grant

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DINGS CRUSADERS RFC



Back Row

Jake Lewis, Dean Brooker, Juan Enrique DaSilva-Iglesias, Joe Hawksby, Mike Uren, Ollie Hodge, Buster Lawrence, Gareth Lloyd, Ali Crombie, James Oakley, Charlie Taylor.

3rd Row

Darren Yapp (coach), Matt Hudd, Neil Dipple, Scott Weston, George Hooper, Callum Peters, Sheldon Stevens, Waylon Gasson, James Redmond, Alex Guest (coach).

2nd Row

Kelly Clements (physio), Kevin Hopkins (coach), Adam Chapplin, Taylor Stevens, Dean Leadbeater, James Luck, Steve Plummer, Chris Wright-Hider, George Sparrow, Luke Small, Dan Cole, Pierre Tucker, Kevin Spencer (1st team manager).

Front Row

Matt Wright, Harvey Skelton, Sam Cox, James Cooke, Ed Hack, Stean Williams (captain), Sam Caven, Tom Knight, Josh Lloyd, Elliott Goodman and Lewis Blackwell.

Welcome to Old Albanians RFC

We extend a warm welcome this afternoon to our visitors Old Albanians hope that all players, officials and supporters enjoy their visit to our Lockleaze ground.

Based in St Albans in Hertfordshire Old Albanians were founded in 1924 by a group of old boys from St Albans. Their home is 'Woollams' (named after Charles Woollams a local benefactor) one of the largest community based state of the art sports clubs in the country where they enjoy very close ties with Premiership club Saracens who have their entire administration and training facility based exclusively at the Woollams sports club.

After seven seasons in London One Old Albanians were promoted to National Two South in season 2009-10 and enjoyed an excellent first season at this level with a strong fifth place finish with eighteen wins from their thirty starts, topping one hundred league points and one thousand points for, pretty impressive.

Our visitors confirmed their place as a front runner for this seasons automatic promotion with an impressive opening day win over new boys Launceston 31-18 which included a four try bonus point. Whilst it is very early days it is a fair bet that Launceston will be thereabouts next May so it was a very good result for Old Albanians.

Albanians took both our encounters last season, winning 24-20 here at Lockleaze last October in a very tight game that they snatched with a last minute try from their own twenty two and winning much easier in January at Woollams 31-12 when we failed to get going.

Good luck to both sides, may the best team win and all spectators committed or neutral enjoy entertaining afternoon's rugby.

LAST WEEKS ACTION...





DINGS CRUSADERS **v** OLD ALBANIANS

DINGS CRUSADERS

Royal Blue & Black Hoops

ED HAUPT	15	<i>Full Back</i>
CHRIS WRIGHT-HIDER	14	<i>Wing</i>
ALISTAIR CROMBIE	13	<i>Centre</i>
SAM COX	12	<i>Centre</i>
SAM CAVEN	11	<i>Wing</i>
HARVEY SKELTON	10	<i>Stand Off</i>
WAYLON GASSON	9	<i>Scrum Half</i>
JERRY QUICK	1	<i>Prop</i>
DAVE WHEELER	2	<i>Hooker</i>
JAMES LITCHFIELD	3	<i>Prop</i>
OLLIE HODGE	4	<i>Lock</i>
TOM KNIGHT	5	<i>Lock</i>
ELLIOTT GOODMAN	6	<i>Flanker</i>
STEAN WILLIAMS (CAPT)	7	<i>Flanker</i>
BUSTER LAWRENCE	8	<i>No 8</i>
JAMES COOKE	16	<i>Replacement</i>
JOSH LLOYD	17	<i>Replacement</i>
MIKE UREN	18	<i>Replacement</i>
STEVE PLUMMER	19	<i>Replacement</i>
TAYLOR STEVENS	20	<i>Replacement</i>

OLD ALBANIANS

Gold, Maroon & Navy Hoops

RICHARD GREGG	15
CHRIS MAY	14
TERRY ADAMS	13
CHRIS LOMBAARD	12
SAM COLLINS	11
JAMES SHANAHAN	10
JEAN-BAPTISTE BRUZULIER	9
CHARLIE HUGHES	1
WES COPE	2
MARCO CECERE	3
MARC COMB	4
TOM JUBB	5
OLLIE COOPER-MILLER	6
LAURENCE WHITE (CAPT)	7
ANDREW DAISH	8
SCOTT SPURLING	16
MIKE ORMESHER	17
NICK STEVENS	18
MARK EVANS	19
JAMES SPEIRS	20

OFFICIALS: Referee: David Proctor
Touch Judges: Steve Harland and Mark Summerhayes

NATIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 2 SOUTH

TEAM	P	W	L	D	Pts
Worthing	1	1	0	0	5
Lydney	1	1	0	0	5
Henley Hawks	1	1	0	0	5
Redruth	1	1	0	0	5
Southend	1	1	0	0	5
Old Albanians	1	1	0	0	5
Richmond	1	1	0	0	5
Taunton	1	1	0	0	4
Dings Crusaders	1	0	1	0	1
Hertford	1	0	1	0	1
Hartpury College	1	0	1	0	0
Launceston	1	0	1	0	0
Shelford	1	0	1	0	0
Westcombe Park	1	0	1	0	0
Barnes	1	0	1	0	0
Clifton	1	0	1	0	0

Today's Matchday Sponsor



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FORTH COMING FIXTURES

10 Sep	CLIFTON	AWAY
17 Sep	REDRUTH	HOME
24 Sep	WESTCOMBE PARK	AWAY
01 Oct	SHELFORD	HOME

National League Two South Stats

LEADING TRY SCORERS

Player	Team	Tries	Points
Josh Hannam	Lydney	3	15
Brett McNamee	Hertford	2	10
Reuben Haile	Taunton	2	10
Nicholas Simmons	Redruth	2	10
Alexander Nielsen	Worthing	2	10
Alistair Fox	Hertford	2	10
Harry Owen	Shelford	1	5
Thomas Duncan	Redruth	1	5
Buster Lawrence	Dings Crusaders	1	5
Jay Williams	Shelford	1	5

TOP LEAGUE KICKERS

Player	Team	Cons	Pens	Drop Goals	Points
Andrew Frost	Southend	3	2	0	12
Tim Stevenson	Hartpury College	1	3	0	11
Danny Wells	Henley Hawks	5	0	0	10
Rob Richardson	Hertford	3	1	0	9
Harry Owen	Shelford	1	2	0	8
Jake Murphy	Launceston	1	2	0	8
Aaron Penberthy	Redruth	4	0	0	8
Matthew McLean	Worthing	4	0	0	8
Craig Jones	Lydney	2	1	0	7
Luke Giles	Westcombe Park	2	1	0	7

TOP LEAGUE POINT SCORERS

Player	Team	Cons	Pens	Drop	Tries	Points
Josh Hannam	Lydney	0	0	0	3	15
Danny Wells	Henley Hawks	5	0	0	1	15
Harry Owen	Shelford	1	2	0	1	13
Andrew Frost	Southend	3	2	0	0	12
Tim Stevenson	Hartpury College	1	3	0	0	11
Richard Gregg	Old Albanians	3	0	0	1	11
Alexander Nielsen	Worthing	0	0	0	2	10
Brett McNamee	Hertford	0	0	0	2	10
Alexander Mumford	Barnes	1	1	0	1	10
Nicholas Simmons	Redruth	0	0	0	2	10



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Head to Head

1 In 2000 the Rugby 5 Nations became 6 Nations who were the first winners?

Josh	England	1
Elliott	France	0

2 What is the common name for a woman scarf made of feathers?

Josh	Feather Boa	1
Elliott	I don't wear scarves	0

3 The disease tetanus is more commonly known as?

Josh	Rabies	0
Elliott	Ear Infection	0

4 In which 1964 film did Dick Van Dyke star as a chimneys sweep?

Josh	Mary Poppins	1
Elliott	Mary Poppins	1

5 Which Bridge Connects the East Riding of Yorkshire with North Lincolnshire?

Josh	Humber Bridge	1
Elliott	Humber Bridge	1

6 When Dings first reached National League status who were their first opponents?

Josh	Redruth	1
Elliott	Redruth	1

7 In which TV series would you find th characters Adam Carter, Ros Myers & Zafar Younis?

Josh	Spooks	1
Elliott	Spooks	1

8 Which musical artist entered the charts this year (2011) with album Suck It And See?

Josh	Arctic Monkeys	1
Elliott	Arctic Monkeys	1

9 In computers what does the 'E' in Email stand for

Josh	Electronic	1
Elliott	Electronic	1

10 The Nursey End, Pavilions End and St Johns Road are all linked with which sports ground

Josh	Don't Know	0
Elliott	Lords	1



Josh Lloyd
8 out of 10



Elliott Goodman
7 out of 10

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Top Touch Oracle

Well not quite Faraway Places with strange sounding names to quote the song title, but certainly one or two of our fixtures present a decent journey, but how must 'Druth feel having to travel to Southend or Shelford.

For us the only new name as a league fixture is Hartpury College, set in rural Gloucestershire they have carried all before them in the preceding seasons winning promotion at will. I suspect life is about to get a little tougher. We did beat them in our previous 'Cup' encounter.

It is good to be able to get back to Cornwall for a couple of games. For the Cornish, rugby is still a religion and they take it seriously. Suggest at your peril to anyone from 'Druth or Launceston that the only Cornish side is The Pirates. The sound of Trelawney's Army can be heard in many a clubhouse on a dark and dreary night and crossing the Tamar represents more than an away fixture.

All of our fixtures will present a challenge in one way or another, with early starts and long journeys, but on the other hand who wants to travel to Dings on a January or February afternoon.

Last season we saw some of the best rugby we have played since joining the National Leagues all those years ago. Certainly one or two of the tries we scored would have graced any international fixture and remember our lads play for the love of the game too.



However our opponents also played some outstanding rugby on occasions and despite wanting to win all of our games we must give credit where it is due, albeit grudgingly.

It is difficult to spot the favourites this year, but the more monied sides will be looking for a return on their investment! We will continue to offer skill, effort, team spirit in abundance and outstanding hospitality. We will certainly be aiming for as high a finish that we can achieve and let's hope that results in promotion.

As in previous years there is a choice of viewing, you can join the more refined followers on the Top Touch or Get Down and Dirty in the Bear Pit on the Bottom touch. However, wherever you choose to watch, get behind the boys, give them all the support you can and let us create 'Fortress Dings'.

For a fair and reasonable outlook on the upcoming fixtures, and a unbiased comment on the previous game be sure to read the Top Touch Oracle, renowned for fair play and sportsmanship at its' best.

Lets 'ave a gud un.

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the 2011-12
season**

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