

FULLERIANS R.F.C.



**End of Year Report
Season 2016- 2017**

Reports

Chairman	Kevin Brind
Honorary Secretary	Hazel Pidding
Bar/Club Steward	Gary Wall
Honorary Treasurer	Rowan Scranage
Junior Chair	Gary Dollard
Mini Chair	Alban Barnes

Chairman

Well another good year for Fullerians Rugby Club. The young senior squad promoted to London 1 (Level 6) last year found things tough going but we survived (many do not in their first year at this level). Having a great start to the season we then went into a tough October and November but then things improved from January and we were safe in March. It just shows the higher level you go in the leagues the more you have to be clinical as scoring opportunities come around less frequently. Credit as always to the senior coaching staff and of course the senior players who continue to work hard to put four or even five teams out at the weekend.

Our thirds got promoted in merit table league and they also won along with the Merit table cup. Well done guys and keep up the good work.

Next season we say goodbye to David Neale who will become head coach of Amersham & Chiltern who we will probably meet next season. David has been an asset to the club and we will miss him but he deserves his headship and will do well at any club.

The senior coaching team have replaced David with Mike Perera who will not only be the backs coach for Fullerians but will also be the Strength & Conditioning coach for the squad. A real catch for us and I'm sure all at the club will benefit from Mike and Rich throughout next season.

Rich will continue to support the coaches from the minis and juniors throughout the season and will run sessions to help improve communication and delivery of sessions.

The Colts in its third season is a developing project. Some aspects have worked well and we have had many more colts playing senior rugby than last year. However we are aware that some aspects can be improved – games were missed (due to opposition withdrawing) and it hasn't been supported as well as it could due to a number of factors. We are not alone in this as many clubs have struggled in this age group, and we are working to improve things for next season.

Next year the colts will be run by Steve Feasey as they move into this age group supported by his team of coaches and the senior section. This will create a better link between the junior and senior sections and hopefully keep as many of the colts playing rugby at all levels in the club.

On a negative note I need to point out a matter of discipline. We have had to deal with some matters of ill-discipline which has involved several age groups including senior teams this year which disappoints me. Remember we strongly hold the core values of rugby at this club: Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship. Please keep these values in your mind regardless of decisions that may go against you and unruly behaviour. We have to uphold these values otherwise we will lose the love of our great game.

Another fantastic beer festival run by Gary Wall and all the volunteers that helped to make it run so well. Thank you Jo Callender our volunteer coordinator once again. We raised over £5000 over the weekend. The Ball also a wonderful evening raised another £3500 for the club fund. Thanks again to those who support these events.

I am thankful that Fullerians have such a hard working committee who, don't forget, are all volunteers. **WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO KEEP OUR CLUB GOING. PLEASE HELP AND SUPPORT OUR GREAT CLUB.**

Hazel Pidding our club secretary has decided to step down after nearly 10 years on the committee. Her boys have got older and moved on and we thank her for all her hard work and efforts over the years but she deserves her break.

Gary Dollard is also stepping down as junior coordinator but Alban Barnes will be stepping in to his big boots next season. Alban has already made inroads for next year. We thank Gary for his service and he wants to enjoy the break and watch his son play more 1st XV rugby next year.

Sue Dollard is stepping down as mini/junior membership coordinator but will continue as our safe guarding officer. Sue has done 10 years in this role and she has been immaculate and patient in all this time. Caroline Newman will be gently moved in to the membership role and we thank her for stepping in. **THANKS TO ALL THREE OF YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE EFFORTS OVER THE YEARS. THE CLUB IS IN A BETTER PLACE FOR IT.**

The clubhouse tender packs went out to contractors to quote on our clubhouse extension earlier this year but the price was huge. So we have gone back (slightly) to the drawing board for something slightly smaller and affordable. The RFU have changed their tune on what was acceptable for funding so we still tick all the boxes and have our £400-450,000 pot from all parties.

We have next summer to complete it so it is the last role of the dice for us. It will be achievable if we have one last final push in next season to raise money for the clubhouse fund. Please support functions, drink at the bar, come to lunches at the club as from 2018/19 season I feel confident we will have our new / better clubhouse.

In summary, another great but tough year for Fullerians rugby club. Please continue to support, volunteer and get involved keeping our great club moving forward. Enjoy your summer.

Kevin Brind

Honorary Secretary

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all volunteers within our club. Without people giving time to make it work we wouldn't be able to celebrate being Fullerians.

This Season we enjoyed yet again a fantastic Beer Festival and I am sure we all thank Gary Wall for all his hard work in the organisation. Ending also in a profit for the club.

I think it is important to also single out Kevin for a big thank you he continues to give our club a huge commitment and I am sure you all join me in thanking him.

Lastly with sadness it is now time for me to stand down from the main committee I have been on the committee for over 8 years first as Mini's Chair and the as Hon Secretary. I have had the opportunity to get involved in many things at Fullerenes from cheering on the touchline for kids and senior teams, adult touch competitions. Many days volunteering manning stalls counting scores flipping burgers and so the list goes on!!

But now is time for a fresh face that can give the role the commitment it needs and deserves.

Club Steward

It's been a bit of an indifferent year for the bar and kitchen

We started off having to find new staff for the kitchen and bar, the kitchen was the problem and Mark Stringer stepped in to help us out until Christmas followed by Maria who has come in and done a fantastic job.

With the bar we had to trim staff and decided to lay off our glass collectors , I would like to thank Katie and Gemma for there work over the last few seasons, the plus side to this is we've gained two great barmaids in Julie and Gemma.

Running four sides plus Vets doesn't mean better revenue for the club a lot of the time teams cried off against us which ment either one game at home or even no games.

On the plus side we had four fantastic events this season;

Newyears eve saw over 120 people seeing in the new year.

Merit finals day showed what a great host club we can be.

Beer festival was an amazing event with seasoned members saying it had been the best Saturday at the club for years.

The spring ball as ever a fantastic night.

I would like to thanks all volunteers for their dedication to Fullers this season and remember we can't do what we do without you.

Finally to our fantastic staff Tash , Gemma , Julie , Maria and the lads that run the car park, you've been great.

Lastly Mark Stringer a true Fullerians club man thank you.

Have a great summer.

TREASURERS REPORT – Rowan Scranage - 2016/2017 season

Introduction

There have been two focus areas this season financially for the club in 2016/17 (1) To tighten up on expenditure and to try and ensure things go further and minimize expense in all areas possible. (2) To increase the income through of the club to support the professional development of the whole club both in equipment, coaching and facilities.

Both areas of focus are in support of getting the club on a sound financial track and to attract players in order support the goal of developing the new Clubhouse and building the club from strength to strength.

Expense Reductions

As detailed in the accounts that will presented at the AGM, this has been performed across the board seeking to cut small amounts from every area or making every pound spent go further.

As seen in the 2015/16 accounts the club is particularly susceptible to bad weather and the effects on major revenue streams such as the bar and kitchen, in the 2016/17 season we have started the process to create a contingency for such eventualities. The addition of this focus allows the club to financially cope with any prolonged dips in revenue due to adverse weather.

Cost control has also become required with the market increases from suppliers, this is something we expect to see additionally in the upcoming season.

The areas of focus are:

Wages are down £2770* versus 2015/16 but we have delivered more from the same expenditure this contributes straight to the bottom line of the club.

We are also seeking to open the club bar at additional times during the week using trusted volunteers to increase revenue but keep cost the same.

Increased Revenues – Sponsorship, Events, Facilities Hire & Membership Fees

Over the Season 2016/17 there has been an increased focus on how we maximise the inward revenues to the club as can also be seen in the accounts to be presented at the AGM significant progress has been made in the attraction and/or increase of these revenue sources.

Membership fee collection after some initial hiccups using the Pitchero tool the process has worked well and we are considering using this for the Senior Section. Overall Membership is up and fee collection, something we have had always had challenges in has improved significantly, we still see room for further improvement, Jeff Wall has recently take over this area and has chased people right to the end of the season. We would like to thank Simon Caplan for his efforts over the last several seasons. Sue Dollard also for her huge efforts in ensuring that the Minis and Juniors were always ahead of the curve. We are revisiting the costs of membership as the we still offer very attractive membership in relations to other clubs in the local area and versus other sports and with increased costs this is something that will be discussed during the AGM and a proposal made.

Sponsorship has been a focus for the last number of years and has been steadily increasing and in the 2016/17 season has jumped significantly, in part due to the willingness for sponsors to be part of the clubs' recent success in the Senior section and in the Minis and Juniors section due to excellent community and proactivity of coaches.

Sponsorship has increased by nearly 75% from season 2015/2016 to 2016/17

The club would like to thank – Kevin Brind, Sean Mahon, Alban Barnes, Grant Murray, Rowan Scranage and many others who have supported this large increase in the season sponsorship and we need to keep the momentum.

Events has continued to be strong with the Beer Festival and Ball raising significant funds for the clubhouse fund in addition support for the county finals drove additional sales. These events are critical to the long-term cash generation of the club and need to be

The revenue from club functions is now back to the levels of 2014/15 season with 1 less major event (Mini & Junior Country Festival) this is a huge Club achievement and special thanks must go to Gary Wall, Kevin Brind, and Alban Barnes for the organisation of these events along with support of many volunteers.

Facilities Letting This figure is down in 2016/17 on 2015/16 but slightly hirer than 2014/15 this is due to the refurbishment of the car park and preventing rental, not that its complete we have had an increase in demand, we are also receiving more interest in hiring the pitches from new 3rd parties.

Summary

It is particularly important that the club can show that it is an ongoing economic concern, if we are to achieve and obtain certain grants and loans when commencing the building work

As part of a review of the previous year's accounts and in consultation with the club auditor we will be presenting the clubs accounts differently moving forward to allow us to clearly see the operations business of part of Fullarians RFC and that of expenditure relating to the new clubhouse project as this has in previous years not be so clear.

This will clearly allow members and sports bodies to see the financial stability of the club, and that we are building a club for the next generation and not just for today.

The ongoing focus will be to ensure greater levels of control of the Fullarians RFC costs and revenues and we will roll out a new POS and Stock control system for the upcoming season to allow of further optimization in our finances.

The Club is in much better financial health due to the team work of all the Fullarians Membership pulling together over the last season and I would like to say personal thanks for the support and the working towards ensuring we have a great club in the short term and the long term for our members.

Finally, I must report that after several years of service that Kay Hancock has decided to step down as our book keeper and general all around finance support. I would like us all to acknowledge the great work performed by Kay and thank her for the fantastic support, she will be missed greatly.

Junior Chair Report

Another good season has passed us by with little incident but some great rugby being played by the players and delivered by the coaches. We have been very fortunate that the senior coaches are great advocates that the future senior players will mostly come from the age groups so have been instrumental in working with the coaches to help improve the quality, ability and fun by all.

We continued the development and integration of our coaching resources which has worked well and will continue with the support of our senior coaches through next season again. The Aim is to ensure a 1 club ethos throughout developing and supporting the coaches and in turn developing the player's skills enhancing their journey to senior rugby player

We were also gifted with some good inclement weather which resulted in very few games being postponed and a logistical nightmare in rescheduling as experienced in previous years, furthermore supported by the efforts and hard work of our grounds man who managed to keep all the pitches in tip top condition

The Colts has completed another season and thanks to all the coaches involved.

It was good to see a number of the colt's players stepping up and making their debuts into the senior setup.

This is most definitely continuing to be a work in progress and will benefit from year on year tuning and development to ensure we maintain and continue to develop our players whilst ensuring they enjoy their Rugby here at Fullarians RFC

Some of the Age Group Season Highlights

Under 13s

Continuing to increase numbers after welcoming several new players into a happy squad who have represented the club very well this season: need to keep growing for 15 aside U14s next season.

Excellent playing record all season with some fabulous games, including particularly strong performances in away games at Letchworth and Biggleswade, and a very successful County festival for both A (Red) and B (Green) teams.

Tough choices for six awards with so many genuinely deserving of praise for their leaps in performance and attitudes this season: Tom Ph & Faris - Players' Players of the Year; James F & Jason - Coaches Players of the Year; Jack K and Alvin - Most Improved.

U14's

No Update Provided.

U15's

Winning the League 6 title with our B team,
Retaining our position in League 2 with our A team,
Losing finalists in the Harrow 10s, the first time we have entered a 10s tournament.
Attracting a number of new players to our squad, from other clubs and players new to rugby.

We don't split the awards between the A's and B's, we just have awards.

Two Players Player of the season. Lewis Evans and Jayden Whitman-Wilson.
Two Coaches Player of the season. Olli Gilbert and Jo Moody
Two Most Improved Player of the season. Liam Robertson and Josh Cartwright

U16

Most Improved Harry Mclellan

Most Improved Brandon Fowler

Coaches Player Lewis Cannings
Coaches Player Hazzer Samuel

Players Player Hazzer Samuel
Players Player Brandon Fowler

Colts

The principles of the Colts are to enable boys to continue to play rugby and to help with the progression of the boys into senior teams at Fullerians. In this respect it has been a successful season for the Colts.

No Further Details Provided

Minis chair Report

It has been another successful year for the minis age groups at Fullerians RFC. We have increased our numbers across all age groups with new members and it is great to see us grow in size as we are becoming one of the biggest minis section in the county. I strongly believe a lot of the success is very much down to the dedication of the coaches who give up their Sunday mornings, put time in to attend courses and plan for each weekly session they run. They are supported by the hard work of team administrators who week in week out are organising things behind the scene and keeping us all informed. However, there have been a small group of ladies who have helped out across all the age groups. I would like to make a special thank you to the following people who play vital roles:

- Sam Bailey who plans, arranges and organises all our Fixtures for the Minis.
- Sophie Walker who organises all our first aid arrangements at the club.
- Jo Callender who coordinates all our volunteers
- Sue Dollard who coordinates all the membership and safeguarding at the club.

I want to thank all the parents who bring their children down every Sunday come rain or shine. Also for all their efforts when we have asked for help in the kitchen, car park, beer festival or other clubs events. As a club we rely on people to help as we can only survive on volunteers and I know the committee certainly appreciates their time and efforts.

On the playing side we have seen highlights across each of the age groups throughout the year and it was lovely to recognise those achievements at the end of year awards.

However, for me it was lovely to see that every minis age group toured this year. This is amazing for the club and an amazing experience for the children. I certainly enjoyed being part of a 90 strong group going away with the U7s-U10s age groups.

Off the pitch we have tried some new initiatives to increase the support of the senior section by the minis and juniors. Sean Mahon organised the successful "Guard of Honour" at the home games of the 1st XV. We also have introduced aligning senior players to the minis and junior age groups to join them for training on a Sunday morning. We are planning on building on this for the 2017/18 season and again we will need the great support of all the parents.

This year we have continued our club efforts to raise money towards the new clubhouse. A special mention goes to one of our mums, Jules Robinson who raised over £1500 when she completed a 50 mile run along the Thames pathways. Well done and thank you Jules.

We hosted our second Family Fun day and put £1000 into the fundraising pot. We will be holding our next one on Saturday 1st July 2017 and hope to see lots of people there.

Finally, I hope you all have a lovely summer break and look forward to seeing you all back when we start again on Sunday 3rd September 2017.