



**End of Year Report
Season 2015- 2016**



Reports

Chairman	Kevin Brind
Honorary Secretary	Hazel Pidding
Bar/Club Steward	Gary Wall
Honorary Treasurer	Allan Pidding
Junior Chair	Gary Dollard
Mini Chair	Sarah Koumi

Chairman

Kevin Brind

Chairman's Report 2016

Well what another fantastic year for Fullerians Rugby Club. The young senior squad promoted again as Champions. Back to back promotions and now we are in London 1 (Level 6) which is the highest we have ever been since the leagues were introduced and one league off national level.

Senior head Coach Rich Hoskins with our new backs coach David Neale have been quite simply outstanding. What they have brought to the club, not just the senior section but also with the coaches meetings for all at the club, has been fantastic and we are seeing the benefits of their input throughout all sections.

Planning has already gone into next year with a strength and conditioning coach coming on board and new equipment for all members to enjoy!

The other senior teams continued to do well in their leagues and the 2nd XV also earned promotion. The 2s, 3s, and 4s also just lost out in the semi- finals of the Merit table cup competitions. The vets only paid 6 times this year but it was the opposition that bailed on us on most occasions so once again we are still the only Hertfordshire team that can push out 5 senior sides. Well done to all and especially the Captains.

The Academy (Colts from next season) in its second year kept some players playing rugby and we saw 13 young men progress into the senior club. Thanks to Clyve Hancock for his two seasons as head coach. Next year Tim Horne and Gavin Jakeman will take over of the academy/Colts with the goal to keep young players playing and progress them when ready into the senior section of the club. This will link with the senior coaches Rich Hoskins and David Neale to help with that progression.

We had our fourth and best Beer festival this year and it went down very well indeed! Thanks once again to Gary Wall and his team but also Jo Callender for coordinating the volunteers. Our May Ball once again never seems to disappoint and we raised over £3500 on the one night. Thanks for those 230+ for supporting this great event.



In June 2015, 14 more mature Fullerians walked Hadrian's Wall, 84 miles in 3 and half days. Many a blister I can tell you but thank you to all those who sponsored us to help the clubhouse fund and Peace Hospice. This June it is the Isle of Wight so 70 miles in 3 and half days is easier (hopefully). Look out for sponsorship on this walk on the website.

As you know last year we spent £20,000 on the clubhouse with half coming from the RFU in improving our social space. This was to help with the ambience for the RWC 2015 but no amount of money would have helped England! However, they came back in the 6 Nations and won the Grand Slam.

Our new car park did arrive in September and we have been enjoying the smooth ride into the grounds. **Watford Borough Council have awarded us £200,000** for our clubhouse extension and with grants and loans from the RFU and our own savings we have almost £400,000.

We still need more funds so hopefully **you can all join in fund raising activities next season and events to reach our target of at least £500,000. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.** We aim to start work next April 2017 and it will probably be in two phases depending on finances! Watch this space or think of ways of how you and your age group / team can fund raise. Also keep in touch with activities on the website.

Fullerians are still blessed with a hard working committee who, don't forget, are all volunteers. On that note we need you all to help volunteer more next season. If people don't then we have to pay others and then of course our membership will have to go up to cover this increase in wages.

Sarah Koumi is stepping down as Minis Chair and we will combine the minis and junior chair as youth coordinator where Gary Dollard will step in. Thanks so much to Sarah for her efforts over the last few years.

Allan Pidding is also stepping down as treasurer after the last five years. He has also done a fantastic job with keeping us all in check and the accounts are in much better order thanks to his and Kay Hancock's efforts. Our thanks go to Allan but of course he will continue with his coaching of the under 17s next season.

I would also like to thank all the committee once again for giving up their spare time to help the club keep ship shape and running efficiently. Well done and thank you!

In summary, this has been another fantastic season for Fullerians rugby club. Please continue to support, volunteer and get involved to take our great club forward next year and beyond. Enjoy your summer.

Kevin Brind



Honorary Secretary

Hazel Pidding

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. Unfortunately despite lots of reminders we still only raised a £1000 from the sale of our RFU raffle tickets and I hope that we can have a real drive forward to gain more sales this coming season.

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 organization. Ending also in a profit for the club. Moving into next season we now have Jo Callender as our volunteers coordinator so if she comes calling please get involved where you can

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.

Club Steward

Gary Wall

Club Steward Report

The start of the season promised so much with England hosting the World Cup unfortunately they were knocked out after the group stages, we had good attendance at all group games and the added bonus of a touring side from America and a charity organisation from the French rugby federation.

We were hit hard by senior games being cancelled due to opposition cry offs often too late in the day to get replacement fixtures. We then had a few weeks off after Christmas due to waterlogged pitches.

Events went very well with lunches and the New Year's Eve party being sold out, the beer festival was a great success with the Saturday being the most amazing day but I must say everybody needs to buy into this event as we could have sold out had Sunday been busy.

I would like to thank all volunteers for your help, remember we can't do it without you. Special thanks to Jo Callender, Sue Dollard, Helen Brind and Mark Stringer for your help getting our events off the ground.

Final thanks go to Sam Nelson (kitchen) and the ever reliable Tasha and her merry team for their hard work this season.

Cheers
Gary



Honorary Treasurer

Allan Pidding

A Challenging Year in terms of Income for the Club. Gross Revenue down on the previous year of £7k (4%). The Club achieved a small Net Profit before adjustments for non cash items of £347.

The drop in revenue was primarily a result of a reduction in bar sales of £12k, (17% down) as most of you are aware due to the poor weather after Christmas this year the Club lost a number of weekends due to our pitches being waterlogged.

Kitchen Sales remained about the same on the same period.

Kit Shop sales up £4k on the same period last year.

Donations and Sponsorship income down £2k on last year

Membership income over both Senior and Junior / Mini Section up £3k on the same period last year an increase of 5%.

Kit Shop sales were up £4k on the same period last year an increase of about 40%.

We have seen a big increase in Wage costs this year , following a VAT inspection last year we were obliged to switch some of the regular Bar staff onto a PAYE basis, and the additional costs of the Senior Coaching Team has meant an increase of £5k or 10% on the same period last year .

The Bar and Kitchen continue to show a profit and better management of the Kit shop stock has seen the shop turn a good profit.

This year we have seen significant expenditure in terms of professional fees (£17k) as we continue to move forward with plans to develop the Clubhouse these monies are being met from the Clubhouse funds which are accounted for in a separate Bank account.

The Beer Festival and Spring Ball continue to be good fundraisers for the Club and both turned a profit this year, as agreed the profits from these events will be transferred to the Clubhouse account. The success of these events is down to the contribution of our volunteers and in particular the efforts of Gary Wall and Kevin Brind.

During the year in addition to the usual maintenance around the Club we have invested further funds in some new Floodlighting and a new scum machine.

Copies of the draft Profit and Loss will be available at the AGM and I am happy to field any questions.



As in previous years the Club is reliant on Sponsorship to help fund the playing side of Senior / Junior and Mini Section alike. If any member wishes to or knows a willing Sponsor for Club generally please contact Rowan Scranage / Kevin Brind or Allan Pidding.

Finally thanks to Kay Hancock for all her support in her role as bookkeeper over the past 12 months.

Junior Chair

Gary Dollard

The season started well with little incident and we were extremely lucky considering some of the inclement weather which resulted in very few games being postponed and a logistical nightmare in rescheduling as experienced in previous years.

We were successful again this year in a number of ages representing Fullerians in the end of season Cup, Plate and Shield Finals.

During this current season we focused on 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. 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

The Academy has completed its second season and thanks to Clyve Hancock and his team of coaches and match day managers. For next season the Academy will be fronted up by Tim Horne and Gavin Jakeman with support from the senior coaching team, Clyve Hancock, Spencer Craze and the current U16 coaches moving to the academy next season.

It was good to see a number of The Academy players making their debuts into the senior setup, with one player making regular appearances for the 2nd XV and making his debut and representing the 1st XV in a completely new position and others playing from 2nd XV through to the 4th XV which is a great achievement.

There are a four of the U18's who have been playing at Fullerians since U6/7 who are now moving to University, Work etc. and hopefully continue to play their Senior Rugby at Fullerians either when on holiday from University or more regularly. We have set up a Facebook Group for these to remain in contact "Fullers Alumini"

This is most definitely 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 Fullerians RFC



Age Group Season Highlights

U13's

Highlights

- The Tour to Southport and playing, and beating, a team from Portugal, Belenenses RFC. Let's hope we can Tour there next year!!!
- The Tigers beating Staines 33 nil at home. Staines were used to dominating the forwards and had the biggest 12-year-old we'd ever seen. Our pack Leader Sam Turnock led the way and the whole pack knocked him backwards all day long. Even some of the backs joined in....
- The Lions provided some fantastic running rugby, on some nice firm ground at Cheshunt, running out comfortable 29 nil winners.
- A low point – the changing rooms at Stevenage, which didn't look like they had seen a mop for three years. Our U13s were horrified and that is saying something....
- Our inaugural end of season awards, where 32 of the 37 boys made it along together with 50 odd parents. A good night and a good session from the judge.
- Reaching the Semi-finals of the Harrow 10s Tournament. A good first effort – lets win it next year...
- Special Mention to Charlotte Fredrickson who gave up valuable time from playing at OAs and serving in the Royal Navy to coach our boys.
- A mixed squad match – Lions forwards and Tigers backs played Tigers forwards and Lions backs. I think the match ended 7-5. It goes to show what strength in depth we have in our squad.

The awards went to

- Lions
 - Players' player - James Foley
 - Coaches' Player – Kaden Elsey
 - Most Improved – Sam Turnock
- Tigers
 - Players' player - Miles Watt



- Coaches' Player – Thomas Connor
- Most Improved – Jeevan Lalli

- Both teams finished 4th in their league. The Tigers on points difference.

U14's

Had a good season, even though it seemed to peter out after Christmas with cancelled games and fixtures that we could not rearrange. Highlights would be;

- Fielding a B team and managing to fulfil all of their league fixtures this season, the first time at this age group that we have had two teams,
- Maintaining the A team's place in League 2,
- The B team reaching the semi-final of the County Shield, going out in a spirited display to a team two leagues higher,
- Our B team defeating Hampstead in a League 7 fixture, coming back from 32 nil at half time to win with the last kick of the game,
- Our A team defeating Hitchin at Hitchin, on a day when everyone thought that the game would be cancelled because of the snow on the ground.

- Our A team finished 5th in League 2, a position skewed by not being able to complete our final fixture with Tring.
- Our B team finished 2nd in League 7, but may not be promoted depending on whether Stevenage get a 5-point win for their cancelled game vs Hampstead.
- We have 3 players in the County Development Squad.

Sadly, we will be losing Terry Gibbons as a coach next season as he is moving to Oakham, which will be a big loss to us and the club. Thank you Terry for all you have done.

U15's

- U15A Division 2. Won 5, Lost 1. Finished 2nd in league.
- Made final of Harrow RFC 10s tournament, but beaten by Saracens.
- Coaches' Player Award: Josh Edwards. Most Improved Award: Sam Harrison. Players' Player: Ross Adams.

- U15B Division 6. Won 1, Lost 7. Finished 7th in league.
- Made final of County Plate Comp. Lost to Hertford.
- Coaches' Player Award: Sam Wright. Most Improved Award: William Pepper. Players' Player: Angus Finnegan.

In addition, two further awards were handed out.

- Iron Man Tackler of the Year Award: Harry Samuel



- Individual Contribution Award for his commitment and flexibility to the squad both on and off the field: Monty Rennoldson

U16

The Under 16 continued to put two sides out in Herts-Middx Leagues as well as helping fulfill some of the U17 fixtures.

- The U16A squad had on the whole a very successful season finishing 2nd in Division 2 behind Ruislip. The highlight of the Season was a win away against Ampthill despite a depleted squad.
- The U16B squad had a mixed season in Division 5 finishing 3rd out of 4 teams.
- The whole squad had the opportunity to play at Allianz Park in September against Lutterworth for the Curtis / Kowalski Cup.
- Euan Wiley and Michael Oneykuru have played in the Saracens Academy U16 this season
- Neither squad progressed to the stages of the Herts Cup Finals day.
- Awards Players – Curtis Woodham / Gareth Evans. Most Improved - Ben Yeo / Ed Penfold. Coaches Players – Theo Adamou / Jamie Lovick .

Academy

The principles of the Academy 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 Academy.

- One Academy player Charlie Dollard has played for the first team this season whilst a further six were selected for the second team and in total 11 current Academy players played for the senior club this season, whilst a further 17 of last season's Academy players have played for senior sides at Fullerians this season including four in the 1XV.
- The senior Academy U18's struggled with numbers having only 15 registered players, one of whom was at boarding school, however with the support of junior Academy players they competed well in Herts Middlesex Division 2 finishing 4th and defeated a strong Tring side in the league and lost narrowly to the eventual finalists Bishops Stortford in the National Colts Plate.
- The junior Academy U17's had a strong season with a number of the boys stepping up to play for the Academy 1st team, we also had seven new recruits which bodes well for next season.



- The U17 A team reached the final of the County Cup where they were beaten by OA's, the boys competed well in Division 1 of the Herts Middlesex League however suffered from player injuries and unavailability which made it difficult to regularly field their most competitive team.
- The U17 B team had a successful season with the help of the U16 age group and won all their matches in Division 4 of the Herts & Middlesex League to be crowned champions.

Mini Chair

Sarah Koumi

Another positive season for the Minis. Firstly, a huge thank you to all parents who give up their time each weekend to keep each age group running smoothly, be it coaching, admin or first aid, your help is greatly appreciated. Recruitment across most age groups has been quite high this year notably with some fantastic new recruits in the U11. We do need to look to drive recruitment of new players forward every season however. The children enjoyed many matches this season with the climax coming at the County Festivals. Various age groups have enjoyed success this season and we should have their trophies on display in the clubhouse.

This has been my last season as Mini Chair and I would like to thank all of you for your support over the last four years.