



C H E S T E R

RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

WWW.CHESTER-RUFC.CO.UK

“IN TOUCH”

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2016

All

Welcome to the first monthly update of developments at Hare Lane. Please feel free to send me your feedback!

On The Field

Pre season training has started with great enthusiasm and numbers - we've been averaging over 50 lads per session - and there is a real buzz around the place, created in no small part by our new coach, Jan Van Deventer.

Many new faces, lots of new ideas and inclusive sessions have created an atmosphere of enjoyment and optimism, and it's been great to see how the players have responded to Jan's sessions - despite the fact he pushes them to the limit! Jan is being assisted by fellow countryman Cecil van Onselen, (another very welcome new acquisition to our coaching staff), Nick Joseph, Dave Connelly, Stuart Boothman and the Pain Meister himself, Shaun Strudwick.

It's also really encouraging to see so many of the Colts players training and interacting with the senior guys. This can only be a good thing and I hope we can continue to build on this throughout the season.

As is always the case, as we gain new faces we also lose some old ones, and this season we will be without three long standing stalwarts of our 1st XV. Rhys Hayes, Will Bown and Gavin Woods have all decided to move on, and we will of course miss them, both on and off the park. However, they have all given this club tremendous service over the years and they owe us nothing, so they take with them our very best wishes for the future. (Well, with the possible exception of Rhys of course, who has joined league and local rivals Caldys.....!)

With the season fast approaching our first warm up game has been arranged for Friday August 19th, kick off 7.30 pm, against RGC at Chester, which will be followed by a Cheshire Cup game at Hare Lane on the 27th August against Stockport. I'm hoping to see a big crowd for both games to support our new squad in action.

By the way, lest I should forget, the Devas pre-season training is also going really well, and apparently not without some degree of discomfort! However, as Confucius used to say, “no pain, no gain girlfriend.....”

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REGISTERED NUMBER 28288R VAT NO. 160 2020 31



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Off the Field

Subscriptions

As announced at the AGM in May, we have taken the decision to increase subscriptions for this forthcoming season. A decision of this nature is never taken lightly, but subscription prices have remained unchanged for a number of years, and it was felt that we couldn't postpone the inevitable any longer.

The biggest increase will undoubtedly be felt at U6 level. However, we agreed on taking this action only after bench marking our current subscription costs against numerous other activities in the area for the same age group. Amongst others, we looked at two local football clubs (neither of whom have facilities anything like ours), Boughton Hall CC, Rugby Tots, the Northgate Arena and several other rugby clubs.

As a result, whilst we've set our new tariff closer to the top end of the scale rather the bottom, we are still some way off being the most expensive club/activity to join in this area. A quick calculation to work out how much parents will pay on a cost per session basis will, I believe, show conclusively that our prices remain reasonable and competitive, despite the increase.

The full subscription price list can be found on the club website.

Bar prices

To offset the bitter taste of price increases, I'm delighted to announce that members will enjoy cheaper beer this season! From September, once a member has paid his/her subscriptions, their membership card, when swiped at the bar, will automatically discount the cost of their beer.

We haven't finalised definitive prices as yet, but suffice to say we envisage beer costs will be reduced to around £3.00 per pint. We're also looking to see if the same process should be applied to one or two lines other than beer, and we'll advise accordingly during the next few weeks.

By the way, we'll be introducing a strict "**no membership card, no discount**" policy – **with no exceptions** - so don't say you haven't been warned!

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Panto

This year will see the much anticipated return of the club panto! (Oh yes it will.....!) So we're on the lookout for volunteers to act, sing, play in the band, costume design, apply makeup and generally help out in the production. (We're particularly keen to find a producer and a pianist.)

The panto is a major undertaking and requires a great deal of planning and support – so please, if you're interested, contact Pete Craven on peter.craven1964@gmail.com ASAP!

Water Heater

We're about to make a small capital outlay by installing a new water heater in the club house. Not only will this give us hot water behind the bar but also – wait for it...in all ladies' loos too! (Praise the Lord I hear you girls say..!)

Break in

It's disappointing to report that we recently suffered a break at the back of the stand, losing some strimmers and a mower in the process. However, thanks to Simon Gibson, u9s coach and club sponsor, these items were quickly replaced with higher grade, more efficient equipment. My sincere thanks go to Simon for his speedy response and generosity!

Of course there's no point in having good equipment if there's nobody to use it – and so I'd like to formally thank Roger Davis, Mike Dangerfield and our beloved President, Joe Youdan, for all their hard work around the ground throughout this summer.

North Wales Crusaders Rugby League

You're probably aware we have hosted some RL games this summer, with the final match coming up on August 14th. These have been entertaining games and I'm delighted to say that both players and officials alike have been mightily impressed by our club and its facilities. My thanks to Lorenzo Mansutti who has successfully co-ordinated these events for both clubs.

Squash (written by Ian Walton)

Did you know that membership of CRUFC also allows you access to our three on-site squash courts?

With over 75 players, of all ages and abilities – ranging from beginners to international – and courts available 365 days a year, Chester Rugby Club offers some of the best value squash in the Chester

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area. For CRUFC members, access to the courts is free, and the court fee is only £2 per player for a 40 minute session.

Players who want to enjoy a social game are free to play at any time, or join in one of the two weekly social club sessions. For those who want to play competitively, we have four teams playing the Northwest Counties Squash League and one team playing in the North Wales League. In addition to the social benefits of playing friendly matches or competitively, squash is considered to be one of the healthiest sports.

Forty minutes on the squash court provides an impressive cardio respiratory workout, and the extended rallies and almost constant running builds muscular strength and endurance in the lower body, whilst lunges, twists and turns increase flexibility in the back and abdomen. Once you get into it, squash is tremendous for cardio respiratory endurance, muscular strength and flexibility.

Chester Rugby Squash Club Key Facts

- England Squash Accredited Level 2 coaches available for group or private coaching
- Coaching and Development sessions on Saturday mornings
- Social club sessions on Monday evening 7-9 and Saturday afternoon 4-6
- Competitive League squash played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings

Contact Ian Walton on 07871 595 210 to find out more.

M&J Survey

We've recently issued a membership survey to all age group parents, with the aim of obtaining a better insight as to how to improve the overall M&J experience. Once the results have been collated and analysed we'll issue the findings to all, hopefully via the new database facility which should be ready to go within the next few weeks.

Bunnies Nursery

I'm delighted to report that Bunnies received a glowing report following the recent Ofsted inspection in early July. Due credit must go to Karen and her team for achieving such a high standard, and of course to young Billy Evans for keeping his beady eye on proceedings. Bunnies has made a significant financial contribution to the Club for over twenty years now, and an extremely positive Ofsted report such as this will help ensure this valuable revenue stream continues to flow in the future.

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Annual Finance Meeting

The 2015/2016 financial year ended on 30th June, and we intend to hold the Financial General Meeting in mid September - much sooner after year end than has previously been the case. As always, this will be an extremely important meeting and I would therefore urge as many members as possible to attend. Due notice will be given once a definitive date has been agreed.

And finally for now.....

I've heard many people commenting over the last few seasons that they feel the clubhouse has lost something of its identity as a rugby club. Well, I'm pleased to say we've listened and done something about it.

The old team photographs have been repositioned in the dining area, and the lounge – now known as “The Sin Bin” as chosen by the players – is undergoing something of a transformation.

Once it's completed, I doubt there will be any future ambiguity as to whether we're a rugby club or not!

My sincere thanks to Pete and Alison Simcock for their time and patience in regard to this matter!

Best regards

Dave Maloney

Chairman Chester RUFC

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