

Colchester RFC AGM - 26.04.18 - Presidents Report

All in all, a very successful season both on and off the pitch. Our 1st XV performed extremely well back in London 1 North and finished the season with a 100% Home record and in the process defeated all teams. If we can maintain the core of our players I am sure we will be challenging for promotion next season. I look forward to match days against our old friends Sudbury and Southend who have come up and down into the league respectively.

As a club, we are blessed with one of the largest mini and youth set ups in the region for whom we provide a safe and enjoyable environment to play rugby. Last year I mentioned that one of the key challenges our club currently had was to retain players as they leave our Youth set up, at U16's, and enter the Colts age group. Sadly, this is still a key challenge as many of our players decided not to return. This resulted in only x1 Colts team with most of the players being U17's. This did give a great opportunity for our younger players to shine and next season we should be a stronger unit.

Off the pitch our match day experience is second to none. This is quite remarkable considering the large numbers of club members and partners who attend. There is a lot of hard work that goes into organising match day lunches and I would like to thank our lunch co-ordinator Maggie Whiteman for all her hard work. We also have in place a catering team who can deliver up to 200 covers of good food, from our small kitchen, all within a tight timeframe. Thanks to Dawn Cook and her team for feeding us so well this season. We also have a great team behind the bar who always serve us our drinks with a smile on their faces. Thanks to Claire Seller and her team.

Our club has always been very generous when it comes to raising money for charities. This year we have raised circa 7k for these charities which is £2000 up on last season and as a club we should be very proud of this. I was especially touched by the significant amount of money raised for my niece Fifi's charity fund.

Colchester are very fortunate to get tremendous support from our partners and thanks should go to Richard Parker (Commercial Manager) and his family for all their hard work pulling this all together. Richard has decided to step down from this role which leaves a void we need to fill as soon as possible. New partners are in the pipe line and we hope that our match day experience will entice our current partners to sign up again for next season.

Your committee puts in many hours of work behind the scenes that makes our club tick. I would especially like to thank our Chairman Karl O'Brien for all his hard work and commitment he has given to our club. This includes manning the burger van on festival days!

This season we have been incredibly fortunate to have had Jon Smith (Senior Chairman), Cheryl Bourne (Mini Chairwoman) and Steve Humble (Facilities Manager) join our Exec Committee. They have all been fantastic additions and I would like to thank them for all their hard work. We also thanked Stuart Pritchard for his many years of service and I hope that he enjoyed his season in the back benches. Stuart Waters has taken on the role as Membership Secretary and is doing a grand job. I would also like to welcome on to the Exec Kim Waters as Ass Hon Secretary. Kim has excelled in all her volunteer roles to date and I see this as a great appointment for our club.

Our Patrons scheme has been a great success. I would like to thank John Powell and Colin Perkins who have managed this scheme since its inception and are now stepping down from this role. Welcome to Matt French, my fellow Brat Pack member, who is now taking on managing this scheme.

We are blessed with many volunteers throughout the club who we could not do without and each one of them plays their part in making our club the special place it is to play and enjoy the game of rugby. Thank you to you all.

Negotiations are ongoing with Colchester Borough Council with respect to the potential move across the A12. At present your Exec does not have an offer on the table which we believe is in line with our club's requirements. I will be commenting on the status of a move later in the meeting.

Colchester Rugby Club should be proud of our achievements both on and off the pitch and I am personally already looking forward to next season.

Brian Borges