

# Gordon League RFC

## News update



Following on from our recent Newsletter, we would like to update you regarding the coaching team for the forthcoming 2020/21 season.

We are extremely pleased to announce that Jake McMahon will be re-joining us as Head Coach. Luke McMahon will also be returning as the new backs' Player / Coach.

We all look forward to welcoming them back to the club and look forward to working with them to implement their development plans, which hopefully they will be able to share with you soon.



## Introduction from Simon (Swiller) Morgan - Players Rep

“Hello everybody. I hope you are staying safe and well during these difficult times.

My first memories of the Gordon League are as a young boy watching 3 teams play at home on a Saturday afternoon and me standing behind the posts catching the ball, as a player kicked for goal and this is what got me in to rugby.

I then started my rugby career at GLRFC playing in the junior set up u12's, u13's and u14's before moving away and playing at different clubs before returning back in 2004 and I haven't looked back since.

There have been some real highs and lows at the League over the past 16 years for me, playing at Kingsholm in the Combination Cup Final, earning promotions, relegations and a few injuries along the way.

It is with great pleasure that we can announce the appointment of Jake McMahon (Head Coach) and Luke McMahon (Backs' Player Coach) both of whom grew up around the club and the club is a massive part of their life and their passion and enthusiasm when talking to them about coming back to the club in their respective roles is obvious and makes the hairs on your arms stand up with excitement about what the future of the club looks like.

I hope you will all join me in welcoming them back to the club and share the same vision and positivity they show in making Gordon League great again.”

## Jake McMahon – Head Coach

Jake started his senior rugby at Gordon League RFC where he then moved on to Lydney RFC for a brief spell before moving out to Australia to play for Griffith-Uni Knights on the Gold Coast, in the Gold Coast Premier League.

Jake returned to England to captain his boy-hood club Gordon League and lead the club to promotion as the youngest ever Club Captain.

Jake captained Gordon League for 3 seasons, seeing one promotion and a 2<sup>nd</sup> team final triumph at Kingsholm.

Jake then went on to pursue his coaching career, to coincide with his day job as a Community Rugby Coach for the last four years with England Rugby.

He took on the Head Coach role at Old Cryptians RFC, winning back to back County Cups, becoming back to back South West of England and Midlands Champions at the relevant level. In addition to reaching the semi-final of the Intermediate National Cup for the last two seasons!

Whilst as Head Coach, Old Cryptians RFC gained promotion last season ensuring one of their best-ever seasons!

As well as Jake's playing and coaching achievements, he is Part Owner of Little Monsters Rugby and employed by England Rugby as a Community Rugby Coach where he is very active and is developing into a great young coach.

### **Jake says:**

"I've had a great couple of seasons with a great club in Old Cryptians, I am really proud of what the club managed to achieve in such a short time. However, from the outside looking in, it has been hard to see my boy-hood club slip down the Leagues and struggle on the field at times.

I'm really looking forward to get back to Gordon League RFC and bringing a more professional, fun and competitive dynamic back into training and around the club.

I appreciate it's a big challenge and a gamble, but I'm confident I can engage new, existing and past players to come together to move the playing side of the club forward.

I also look forward to helping our younger players at the club and push them on to play attractive rugby and fulfil their potential.

Having spoken to the Gordon League Senior Management Committee I am glad to hear they have a sustainable five season plan to boost the club in the right direction and I am glad I can give back and play a small part in doing that."

## **Luke McMahon – Player / Backs' Coach**

Luke started his senior playing career with his boy-hood club Gordon League RFC. In his first season with the club he made a big impression, winning Players Player and Most Promising Player awards.

At the time 19 year old Luke then took the leap to National League outfit Cinderford RFC, making 15+ appearances for the Forest club.

Luke then embarked on an exciting opportunity in the home of rugby – New Zealand, playing for town club Foxton RFC.

After an impressive season with Foxton RFC, Luke was selected to represent Horowhenua-Kapiti Rugby Football Union in the Heartland Championship!

During that season Luke and Horowhenua-Kapiti made the Meads Cup Final losing narrowly.

Before leaving New Zealand, Luke was selected to play in a pre-season match for Horowhenua-Kapiti -v- a power-house of New Zealand rugby, The Wellington Lions.

Further to playing in New Zealand Luke helped out in the community coaching the Foxton RFC youth teams.

After leaving New Zealand, Luke signed a semi-professional contract for Rugby Club Lousa in Portugal, where he had another great season in the sun before returning to England.

Feet firmly back in England, Luke signed for Old Cryptians RFC and helped them in the last season's fantastic National Cup run and League winning season!

Luke finished top point scorer for the Club and the respective League.

As well as Luke's impressive playing achievements he is also Part Owner of Little Monsters Rugby.

He has worked closely on developing mini and junior rugby in both England and New Zealand.

Luke is keen to work hard and develop as a coach to progress and enhance all sections of the club, including mini, junior and senior rugby.

#### **Luke says:**

"I'm really looking forward to going back to Gordon League. I'm looking forward to coaching the men's and also juniors, as well as putting the red stripe back on and playing some good, hard, winning rugby."

## **Sam Goatley – Skills Coach**

Sam has had a fantastic playing career playing senior rugby with Clifton RFC, Cinderford RFC, Bury-St-Edmunds RFC and Gloucestershire County as well as representing Gloucester A, to name a few!

Sam has continued to develop and progress through the leagues and now plays for Championship outfit Hartpury RFC.

Sam has spent time in New Zealand and parts of the UK playing top competitive, hard rugby.

With Sam's experience in the grass roots games and growing up in the city, he understands the makeup of Gordon League RFC and the new vision. This coupled with his family connections throughout the club, makes him a perfect addition.

Sam will be helping out around his busy playing and training schedule and will bring lots of new ideas into training.

He will also bring a winning and professional mind-set, this will help younger players and make training exciting and competitive.

Thank You Sam.

## More to come...

Gordon League RFC will announce an additional player coach to add to the coaching set up within the next couple of weeks.

We will also be announcing a players meeting, followed by naming the Club Captain, team Captains, 1st team Manager and other senior positions in the very near future.

See you all at pre-season training, hoping to start on the 30<sup>th</sup> June.

## Another welcome

The Junior section at Gordon League welcome Jake and Luke McMahon to the club.

“The committee members are all excited and challenged by the new opportunities which will come in the future.

Age group coaches will benefit from further skill development opportunities and further enthusiastic support for their roles.

The long-awaited girls' rugby will also restart as soon as possible, with the full support of Jake and Luke.

They will build on the established relationships with local junior and senior schools and help push on the participation numbers in our active sport proposition.

The engagement with both Hartpury and UoG will also progress as students and tutors continue to value our section for their undergraduates.

We are two years away from our 'second wave' of lads graduating to adult rugby with the new 20/21 season U15's being the oldest current age group. The 2nds team from 19/20 season, and a few first team appearances from our graduates, have already confirmed the value of an all age group junior section, with more than half a dozen boys playing great adult rugby at the club.



The integration of the club juniors and seniors will continue to develop with Jake and Luke, they have our full support, and we look forward to a fun and challenging time ahead.”



The future's bright, the future's red and white.