

RUCKING GOOD NEWS



The AKRFC Monthly Newsletter: April 2012

Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of RGN for season 2011/12.

AK Development Matters

No doubt you will have noticed some changes that have taken place within the clubhouse, to make it more attractive for lettings etc. Further improvements will be continuing throughout the close season (see later on this). So if you have a special do coming up or know someone that has, please do consider using the AK clubhouse for your event. Club Steward Chris Barlow will be happy to discuss your requirements and can be contacted on 07983 724106

Discussions are continuing through relevant AK Committee personnel to finalise further work projects to be undertaken throughout the summer. These will include employing contractors for some repair work to roofs and guttering, plus the installation of patio style doors / security shutters on the pitch side of the clubhouse and some work to improve the current floodlights. It is also proposed to hold a number of club member working parties throughout the summer to continue the programme of improvements that is being put in place, particularly in relation to redecoration of the clubhouse both inside and out, some updating of the changing rooms and work on the approaches to the clubhouse and surrounds.

Work schedules have now been put in place for these events and dates for these have been provisionally agreed for the following Saturdays, starting at 10.00am.



12th May, 9th June & 23rd June.

On the latter two dates England Rugby are playing in South Africa, and whilst the kick off times for these games don't appear to have been set as yet, it is hoped that we can coincide the end of the work parties with the start of these games and have a few beers and a bbq. We may also need an additional work party in August for a final tidy up pre season, but a decision on that and notification will be made nearer the time.

A lot of the improvements proposed can only be achieved if we get good numbers down for these working parties, which will be well organised and coordinated with appropriate equipment available.

In that respect all the club asks is that every senior player and supporter plus junior coach and parent turns up for at least one work party. That way we can rattle the work off quickly and everyone can feel they have contributed to the well being and development of the club. Further info on these working parties will be displayed around the clubhouse and advertised at all forthcoming end of season dos.

In the longer term it has been agreed through the AK General Committee that all future profits from the AK Firework Display will be specifically allocated to future development projects. These have been provisionally agreed as replacement roof and heating system for the clubhouse, plus improvements to the car park, changing facilities and training areas (floodlights). Costings for this work are currently being obtained and will be built into a 6 year Facilities Development plan. This will take the club up to the start of season 2018 /19, which just happens to be the 50th anniversary of when the club first played at Stelfox Ave. It should also be note that 4 years after that is the 125th anniversary of the formation of the club, which will no doubt be something else to formally celebrate.

At the AGM in April (see later in this edition for full details) there will be an 'AK Development Presentation' which will be an opportunity to for every club member to get a full update and ask any questions re development matters.

Finally a request from the AK Facilities Improvement Sub Committee. Do we have anyone in the club or has anyone contact with someone who is involved in an electrical contracting company and who would be prepared to give us some related advice on installations and costings. If so please contact Dave Elliott (07858 9455361) or Jeff Atkins (07825 755689)

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 21st April 2012: Captains Dinner Awards Night



The usual format or should we say mayhem, with captain's speeches (no pressure there then!) and Player of the Year Awards for the senior teams. There will also be a few 'RGN alternative' awards, for which there are already plenty of potential candidates. All players, coaches, supporters and Alis welcome to attend and it will be good to see both the Junior and Senior Colts in attendance.

Please also note that it has been agreed that this year all men's team players will wear shirt and AK tie or at least an AK polo shirt – no excuses on that one!

Thursday 26th April 2012: AK Club Annual General Meeting

The formal notice for the AGM will be going out to Club Members in the near future. Please note the clubhouse will be open from 19.00 and there will be a drinks offer on beforehand. At 20.00 sharp there will be a presentation on AK Development aspects, prior to the formal AGM agenda starting with the usual reports from all sections within the club (eg. Playing, Secretary, Treasurer etc).

Remember AK is a member's club and this is your opportunity to get an update on all relevant issues and contribute according to matters being discussed in relation to the club's ongoing and future development. Please therefore make every effort to be there.

Please also note that the AGM is the time for club members to 'stand up and be counted' as regards volunteering for roles on the General Committee. At the moment certain key roles need to be filled such as ***Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Chairman of the Junior Section, Sponsorship Coordinator & Social Coordinator.***

There is also the need for additional Committee Members or just volunteers to cover specific issues / tasks as and when they arise. Included in this is someone to organise the sale of match day

programmes before 1st Team games next season, as Paul Fallon is standing down from this role after 10 years tremendous service.

Those currently on the AK General committee are already fully stretched with their current roles and we really do need some additional bodies to both help run the club effectively on a day to day basis, as well as develop the club in the future. Please therefore give some real consideration to what you can contribute in that respect and / or speak to Graham Makepeace-Warne or Dave Elliott before the AGM.

Saturday 19th May 2012: End of Season Ball:

There are still a couple of tables and a few places available on other tables for this event, which is being held from 7pm until late at the Cresta Court Hotel in Altrincham, with a 3 course dinner, DJ and live band, auction and raffle.

To book please urgently contact Chris Barlow on 07983 724106 or chrisbarlow69@btinternet.com

What's been happening in March at AK

Men's Senior Rugby

Despite their best efforts the AK 1st Team have been relegated in their first season back in National 3 North. The one win of the month against West Hartlepool wasn't enough to keep them up and as injuries again started to take their toll, there were defeats against Waterloo, Sandal and Rossendale. AK 2nd Team lost their first game of the month away at Vale of Lune, but then rattled off four great wins against Liverpool St Helens, Broughton Park (home and away) and Lymm. This leaves them in second place in the North West Premier 2nd Team League.

AK 3rd Team won two and lost two of their fixtures and have done really well in fulfilling all their fixtures despite a shortage of players at times this season.



Danny Marshall on his way to scoring against Rossendale

Women's Rugby

The girls recorded their second win of the season with a great 57 – 5 win over Team Northumbria. They did also lose in the month to the three top teams in the league, but well done again for fulfilling all their fixtures despite shortages of players at times.



Katy McWhirter scores against Team Northumbria

Junior / Mini Rugby

AK Senior Colts went out of the Cheshire Cup at semi final stage to Lymm and likewise in the League Cup to Rossendale, which was a disappointing end to what had looked like being a good season. The team did though finish second in their league and good to see most of the players take the field for the senior teams this season. The Junior Colts had a real revival in the March with wins over Oswestry in the Cheshire Plate Quarter Final and Liverpool Collegiate in the League Plate Semi Final.

The AK Under 16s had good wins over Stockport and Old Brodelians in friendly games and beat Ellesmere Port to reach the Cheshire Vase Final. The AK Under 15's had good wins over Wilmslow and Rhyl in friendly games and also beat Chester to reach the Cheshire Plate Final. The Under 14s won the Plate Competition at the Caldys Festival before bowing out of the Cheshire Plate to Sandbach.



AK Under 14s at the Caldys Festival

The AK Under 13s and 12s both went out of the Cheshire Cup at the semi final stage, but have continued to be successful in their friendly games.

In the Minis AK Under 8s won the Plate Competition in the Vale of Lune Festival, whilst the Under 7s reached the semi final at their age group. The AK Under 9s, 10s and 11s have continued to be generally successful in their games.



AK Under 8s with the Vale of Lune Festival Plate

RGN March Awards

RGN Player of the Month – NOT!!!!

Ignoring Trizzo's (as photo below) and Alec Forbes (see later photo) respective out of order conduct in the pub on the way back from the Sandal game, there are two major contenders from the same team and actually in the same match this month



AK 2nd team were playing Broughton Park and in the end won comfortably. However their cause was not helped early on first by winger Louis Taylor, who after bursting through several tackles and showing good pace to go for the corner, then tried to do a 'Chris Ashton' swallow dive to score the try. Problem was that the ball slipped from his grasp and the ref noticed to disallow the try!!! Shortly afterwards skipper Ben Davis broke away from well inside his half and beat man after man on a run towards the Broughton Park 22. With one man to beat and at least four AK players in support he did the unselfish thing and decided to pass the ball. Problem was that the pass was more like one from an American Football quarter back and about 3 yards forward. Even the supporting AK players did not wait for the ref's whistle on that one.

Going to give Louis the benefit of youthful exuberance on this one, so the award goes to Ben as skipper. Who says open sides don't need hands???



Louis and his no try!

RGN Team of the Month

A very difficult decision again this month. Mention must be made of both the Women's Team on winning their only their second game and keeping it together to the end of the season. Likewise the AK 3rd Team who won two games last month. The AK Under 8s also come into contention having won silverware at the Vale of Lune Festival.

Two other AK teams have had it tough this season but kept it together and then had some success as the season draws to an end. Firstly the AK Under 14s for winning silverware at the Caldly Festival and also the Junior Colts on reaching the League Vase Final. Award therefore this month goes jointly to both those teams. Well done to all the players and coaches on those teams.

AK Quiz Night

Well done to Rob and Debbie for organising a great event. Haven't a clue who won and whoever did was probably more to use of Google on mobile phones than any particular intellectual ability! Also not sure how 'donkey derbies' (see photos) fit into quiz nights but it went down well on the night in more ways than one!



What's happening in April at AK

Men's Senior Rugby

AK 1st Team are just playing for pride now but will hopefully go out on a positive note in their last two games of the season against Burnage away on the 14th and the final home game of the season on the 21st against Penrith, who could well need a good result to avoid relegation.

AK 2nd team have one game left away to top of the table Burnage on the 21st, as they look to consolidate second place in the league.

AK 3rd Team have two away games on the 14th they are at top of the table Warrington 2nd Team and then on the 21st at local rivals Bowdon 2nd team. It would be good to see the team finish the season in style so please make yourself available for selection if about and fit.

Women's Rugby

The women's Team have now completed their fixtures for the season. They are now actively looking to recruit new players for next season so please spread the word and let Rhino know of any interest on 07753 685168.

Junior / Mini Rugby

As earlier mentioned the AK Under 15s, 16s and Junior Colts all have finals to look forward to, which will be played in early May. The Under 13s and 15s are both at home in friendlies on the 15th. All the Mini Teams are at home on the 15th and then involved in respective Cheshire Festivals on the 22nd.

The Junior Awards day has been set for Sunday 20th May in the AK clubhouse. Further details on this will be issued by Dominic Leach in due course.

Congratulations to

Jack Conteh the AK Under 15's captain on being called up to the Sale Sharks Academy EPDG (Elite Player Development Group). Jack has played his rugby at Altrincham Kersal from Under 8's level and joins team mate Matt Anderson in the EPDG at Sale Sharks.

Calum Robinson from the AK Junior Colts on being selected for the Cheshire Under 18s Development Squad.



Calum in action for the AK Junior Colts

Callum Yates and Nathan Bailey on being selected for the Cheshire Under 20s



Nostalgia Section

Bit out of left field this one, but the AK Club Tour to Madrid in early May now has a tour theme of ‘Alec Forbes lookalikes’, who most will know as stalwart of the club. So Ebay and second hand shops in the area have been inundated with requests for blazers, grey wigs and moon shaped spectacles, as 24 Alec lookalikes aim to travel ‘incognito’ to Spain. Watch out for the photos, the ones that can be published that is, in the next edition of RGN.



Tourists to note Alec’s AK attire or was it his chat up technique???

Future editions of RGN

So trust that you have enjoyed reading this latest edition of RGN. The next monthly and final bumper end of season edition will be out in late May. Any articles and photos particularly relating to end of season Junior / Mini Finals, Festivals & Tours will be particularly welcome. Also in due course Player of the Award details from each team for inclusion in that edition.

Please email them to dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com

