



# Rucking Good News



## The AKRFC Newsletter: September 2012

### Introduction

Welcome to this edition of RGN. It should be noted that in future RGN will no longer be coming out on a regular monthly basis and in its past format. From now on it will be published as and when considered appropriate, concentrating on what is happening at AK in the coming months. For a fuller explanation on this please see the information provided at the end of this edition.

### RFU Club Accreditation Scheme

This RFU award was officially presented by Adrian Senn (Cheshire RFU President) to the AK Club President Denis Mallalieu (as pictured below), at an event to be held at AK on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September. It is also understood that there will be a further presentation at a future Sale Sharks game, to be attended by Denis and Club Captain Dean Harris. Details of this will be announced once finalised.



The day was also an opportunity to make formal presentations of Club Caps to Will Harrison and Geoff Appleton, who actually was awarded a club cap 40 years ago, but with usual AK (or Kersal as it was then) organisation, Geoff never formally received his cap. There again 40 years for an action item to remain on the Committee Meet minutes is not unknown! Will and Geoff are photographed below with previous club cap recipients Stuart Domville and Roger Salt. Unfortunately Chris Nettleton was unable to make the event, but will formally receive his club cap at a future date.



It was also an opportunity to showcase the improvements made to the clubhouse and the changing rooms, even if there are a few things to finish off as yet. See later on that. Awards were made to Trizzo and Gav for their efforts in improving the changing rooms, as shown below with their tankards and 'Bob the Builder' hats



A big thank you is also in order to everyone else who has contributed in any way to the improvements to the clubhouse, changing rooms and surrounds.

### **Club Improvements**

As stated there are still a few things to be finished off. It's on the agenda in due course to reconfigure the changing room toilets to make them more usable. (Players will know exactly what I mean by that as you don't venture in there without a full protective body suit and series of injections!), and improve the flooring throughout. The club has also now invested in a washing machine, which will in due course cut kit laundry costs considerably. And before anyone asks, NO we are taking in any other washing.

There are still some advertising display boards to go back up plus some club memorabilia, which has been delayed whilst up to date team photos etc are received, enlarged and framed. Most of these have now been sorted and hopefully should be on display in the next couple of weeks, together the old team photos, which were originally on the back wall in the main bar.

One interesting (or maybe not) aspect to come out of the improvements was an old newspaper (circa 1967 when the clubhouse was built) being found. It has references to problems with 'Big Brother' – no not the TV programme but the USSR as it was then. Also the economic crisis the UK was experiencing at that time. Hmmm 40 odd years on and things haven't changed in this country!

### **Future Development Fund raising**

As previously reported in RGN, future profits from the annual AK Firework Display will be ring fenced for future development projects, and longer term a new roof, heating system, enlarged / improved car park, and increased changing facilities are very much on the agenda once we have the necessary funding.

However the next main priority, based on immediate need would appear to be major floodlight improvements, which would benefit all teams training at AK. There is currently possible funding available through the Olympic Legacy Fund, although AK would be in a better position to bid for this if we are in a position to show we have funds of our own to contribute towards this.

In the last edition, the previous '**buy a brick**' or has it is now called '**Be a part of AK's history**' fundraising was mentioned and accompanying this RGN are full details of the latter. There has so far been a reasonably good response to this, but if you want to get 'your name in lights' so to speak for a long time in the future, then you need to act fast. ***The closing date for this is going to be Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October***

Finally as regards AK Development, please also remember that the current improvements to the clubhouse came about through views expressed at the Club Members Meetings back in November 2011. As well as improving the facilities for benefit and rugby experience of AK members, they are also intended to attract more lettings and therefore income to AK. 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

## Dates for your diary

***Saturday / Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> October***

This promises to be a very busy weekend. Firstly throughout the weekend we have a



## ***European Lager Festival***

Staropramen, Mahou, Holsten Vier and Poretta lagers available at various prices, or buy a card for £10.00 and get one of each, or a pitcher of Carlsberg for only £10.00. There will also be a selection of European snacks.



On ***Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>*** it is the ***AK Ex Players Reunion***,

This year's event is being generously sponsored by Brian Benson of the Bowdon Group, with food and a barrel of beer. Rough (and you certainly will be afterwards!) timetable is

- 13.00: Meet for aperitifs and genteel conversation in the Halo Bar
- 13.30ish: Food served
- 15.00: Watch AK 1<sup>st</sup> Team v Manchester in North 1 West – opportunity to reminisce (and maybe exaggerate a little???) about Lancashire Cup games against Manchester from years ago.
- 16.30: Retire to bar for more drinks and start talking bxxxxxxxs
- 18.00: Those still standing, watch ***Super League Grand Final*** and continue talking bxxxxxxxs, if you can still get the words out.

NB: all club members are welcome to stay down and watch the ***Grand Final***

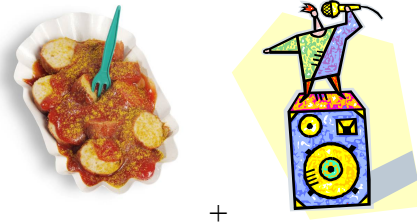


(much better than watching the Sale Shark's prima donnas!) and if you want talk bxxxxxxxs also – there is no law against!

It is also rumoured that a certain current player is celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday that evening at AK. Only your 30<sup>th</sup> Gav Mac – boy you must have had a hard and long paper round!!!



On **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>** the AK Under 14s and Junior Colts are both playing at home kicking off from 10.30ish and lots of club members are required to come down and help finish off the beer from the **European Lager Festival**. We wouldn't want any to go to waste would we!!!!



### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2012: Curry and Karaoke Night**

The Junior Colts are putting on this evening, so please come down to support them. Rumour has it that Doz Leach is cooking, but don't let that put you off. Worth a tenner to see him in a pinny and trying to fathom how a cooker works!!!

Tickets are £10.00 from either Doz Leach or Suzanne Tsiantar



### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November: AK Fireworks Display**

AK's biggest fund raiser (weather permitting), so please firstly make sure you attend and secondly spread the word as far and wide as possible as to what a great event this is. Also remember it only happens through lots of volunteers from the club as follows

- On the Friday and Saturday help set up the fencing and other equipment etc
- On Saturday evening to assist on the gate, bar and stalls and act as stewards around the grounds
- On Sunday help dismantle the fencing and equipment

So anyone available to help on any of those days and / or areas please let Mike Wildgoose or Dave Elliott know asap.

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December: Take Me Out Night at AK**

Following the phenomenal success of last year's event, it's all going to happen again! So lock up your daughters or in the case of the Convilles – your sons, and make sure you are there! See AK website for full details



*Paddy McGeddis interviews (or was it insults???)Trizzo at last year's do*



## **Friday 8th February 2013: AK Annual Sportsman's Dinner**

To be held at The Cresta Court Hotel, Altrincham 7.30 for 8pm. Guest speaker this year is Scott Quinnell, ex Wales and British Lions star, who also played a bit of Rugby League as well. Always a great night and Bertie will be chasing you for tables in the near future, but to reserve please contact him on 07971 870591.



## ***Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013: AK Annual Ball***

Also to be held at the Cresta Court Hotel. More details in due course.

## ***April / May 2013: AK Club Tour to Portugal***

Exact dates to be confirmed, but rest assured the Cardinal and Trizzo are working on it. That probably means we will end up staying in tents in Margate and playing beach volleyball, but what the hell – touring is touring so bring it on!!!!

*Further updates re all events will be shown on the AK website and in future editions of RGN.*

## **Press Reports**

Most weeks AK gets reports in both the Sale and Altrincham Messenger and Sale and Altrincham Advertiser. In the past these have mainly concentrated on AK 1<sup>st</sup> Team results, but over the latter part of last season there were quite a few mentions (and photos) for the AK Women, Mini and Junior Teams.

For season 20011/12 it is intended to continue with a more rounded report of club results and scorers, plus suitable photos. So if you want info (results, scorers (must have full names), photos, county / international call ups etc) re your team published, you need to get the required information to Dave Elliott (email [dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com](mailto:dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com)) by first thing on a Monday morning, as the full report has to be with the respective papers by lunchtime the same day.

Press reports are restricted to 200 words (if a photo is also sent, which probably has much impact as the reports), so it will be a balancing act and some games may go in slightly out of date.

## **Rugby matters**

Previous editions have given a resume of what has happened playing wise over the last month and what is coming up in the next month. However the vast majority of those aspects are already on the AK Website and as regards the AK 1<sup>st</sup> Team 'The Cardinal' is now putting on the website a very illuminating report of each game (little to do with rugby, but interesting and amusing none the less!).



This brings me on nicely to

## Future Editions of RGN

As sole editor and producer of RGN I have given quite a lot of thought to whether RGN should continue to be published and if so in what format.

The good news (I think) is that editions of RGN will still be produced, but the bad news is not on a regular monthly basis, and certainly not with as much content rugby wise. My reasoning on this is as follows

- Firstly not being the greatest with IT or typing skills, it does take quite a lot of time to produce each edition.
- Contributions from within AK (with one or two notable junior coach exceptions) are few and far between. It is also difficult to do a fair assessment of such as 'Team of the Month', if not all teams playing info is available, and / or becomes a lot of additional work for the editor to chase up on.
- As previously mentioned a lot of the info within RGN is already on the website. RGN was never designed to replace the website, which should be the first port of call for club members for info and reporting.
- As a communication tool I don't now consider RGN works all that well, and particularly in comparison to say Facebook, Twitter or text, which seem now to be more up to date ways of communicating, rather than through email or newsletters. Certainly the info contained in recent editions re such as club members working parties seemed to have little impact, based on the relative few who actually turned up for those, in comparison to the total number of players, non players, coaches and parents from the Junior sections the club has.
- Likewise other requests and such as competition items have met with limited response.

So RGN will continue in a somewhat reduced format and certainly I will look to produce an end of season version, summarising what has happened on all fronts throughout the season. However I would suggest to all teams that they make sure any items of interest (reports, photos etc) are uploaded on to the AK Website (it is quite easy to become a member / team admin on there and upload items). Also that all club members should regularly check out the website to see what is going on. RGN to some extent will become a reminder service in that respect and flag up any other items of interest.

The revised format for RGN does also mean that '*Player of the Month – NOT*', will also disappear but doesn't mean that misdemeanours that happen won't still be reported.

So Big Steve you might like to explain how you ended being brought home by your better half, before the team bonding event in Leeds had even started (waste of a hotel room and a good night out methinks). Also on the same event, Mathie how did you manage to end up in an ambulance. There are photos RGN believes but not for publication in a family publication!!!

Dave Elliott (Editor RGN)



