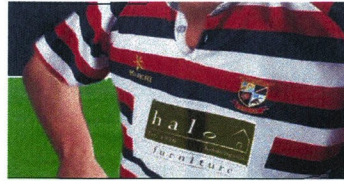


RUCKING GOOD NEWS



The AKRFC Monthly Newsletter: August 2010:

Introduction.

Welcome to this first issue of RGN for season 2010/11, in a slightly revamped format. Contributions to RGN in the way of articles, photos, gossip or rumour are always welcome and should be forwarded to dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com

Club Development

The last edition of RGN advised that the club was looking to redevelop the changing facilities, and an AK Development committee was now in place, with the following work streams identified and respective team leaders appointed.

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Facilities Development Project | Dave O'Hagan |
| • Communications | Graham Makepeace-Warne |
| • PR | Mike Massey |
| • Facilities Upgrades Plans & Costings | Dominic Leach |
| • Business Planning | Dave O'Hagan |
| • Fund Raising | Mike Wildgoose |
| • Grants & Loans | Kate Morley |
| 2. Ongoing Club Management & Development | Dave Elliott |
- This includes the Whole Club Development Plan and Whole Club Seal of Approval.

Since then the following has happened

- A further meeting has been held with RFU officials to advise them of AK's development plans and the approach being taken. The outcome of the meeting was very positive, particularly as regards the feedback on actions being taken by the AK Development Committee, and meeting the required criteria for RFU loan funding and associated grants. Some further useful advice was provided by the RFU officials, as regards taking matters forward.
- The Team leaders within the Development Committee have met to take stock of our current position, and future requirements / actions. A further meeting is planned for early August.
- Those within the Fund Raising Sub Committee have met and come up with a number of fund raising ideas, which the Development Committee are now looking to formalise and will be announced in the near future. All monies raised through these events will go into a separate Development bank account.
- The AK committee have agreed in principle to a full rebuild of the changing facilities, although the final design will be subject to further consultation.

In summary then, it really is now 'all systems go', with a Development Committee and work stream volunteers in place, development criteria / processes identified, provisional building plans drawn up and probable sources of external funding and grants available identified. A substantial amount of funding will also need to be raised by the club itself to cover the shortfall between the total development costs and external funding, as well as in the longer term, the repayment of the RFU loan, which is actually interest free. This will have to come through the ideas and events being organised by the Development Fund Raising Sub Committee, and we trust these will receive the full support of all AK members. Future editions of RGN will give details of these events, and also progress made with all the development aspects.

Utility Warehouse

In conjunction with Development matters, please remember the benefits of the above for you and AK. Details are on the AK Website and by calling FREEPHONE 0800 131 3000 to find out how much you could save. Please quote Scheme number: C50193 - Altrincham Kersal RFC

What's been going on over the summer at AK

Sponsorship

AK is pleased to announce that Halo Furnishers will continue as the club's main sponsor for season 2010/11. A big thank you to Charlie and Tim Oulton for their continued support of AK, which is much appreciated.

Altrincham Festival.

Those who have seen the local papers will have noted that the AK float got pretty good press coverage. A good cross section of AK members (plus one 'cross dresser' as seen in the photo below!) turned out on the day, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, handing out leaflets to anyone who looked reasonably fit and might want to think about playing rugby at AK at any level. A big thank you to everyone who turned out, as you did a great job of selling AK that day.



PS. There is apparently no truth in the rumour that the guy in the union jack dress is JP, doing his penance for his indiscretions at the AK ball – there again I'm sure I've seen those legs before somewhere!!!!

Christie's Charity Bike ride

Several AK members took part in a 100k cycle ride round Anglesey recently. The event organised by Mike Wildgoose raised funds for The Christie Cancer Hospital in Manchester. Due to a combination of bloody awful weather (it piddled down all day!), lack of road signs (what else would you expect in Wales!) and some poor map reading (resulting in those that did the 'full route' actually completing nearer 120k), it took most of the riders well over 8 hours to complete. Therefore it certainly met Mike's criteria as a 'challenge', in line with previous year's challenges such as the Yorkshire 3 Peaks & Sandstone Trail walks, plus Transpennine Trail cycle rides.

First back to camp having completed the full route was Mark 'Berty' Weedon, which was hardly surprising as he had a bike which probably cost more than all the others put together, and he has supposedly been training for a triathlon! I suppose even you can't 'twist a sock' and be injured on a bike Berty! However the star of the day was little Abi Coleman, who despite being only age 6, and having only learned to ride a bike a bike earlier this year, managed to complete 50k of the route. Abi can be seen with her dad Paul at the front of the photo below.



PS. For those ladies familiar with sites such as 'Dating direct' and 'Match.com', you will no doubt recognise the guy, two in from the right of the photo. If you don't, he would like you to recognise him – young(ish) free and available!!!!

Work Party

Some of you may have noticed that the trees around the clubhouse have been somewhat decimated, and that there is a pile of dead branches in the middle of the back car park plus some logs adjacent to the front car park. By way of explanation, unfortunately our esteemed treasurer, now known as the 3Ms (Mad Mike Meaney) ran amok with a chainsaw a few weeks ago. Fortunately he is now well on the way to a full recovery, as some of his mates have paid for him to see a shrink re his aversion to trees! All we need now Mike is for you to come back with a wheelbarrow and clear the car park??????? Thanks though to everybody who did turn up to do their bit that day.

Cultucker 7s at Bolton RFC.

AK entered a team in this event, and comfortably got through their group games despite one rather physical encounter against a real set of bruisers from somewhere or other. Two further games in the knock out stage were won to put them into the final against Preston Grasshoppers, who they had already beaten once in the group stage matches.

For the first two minutes or so of the final AK never touched the ball, but defended well to stop PGH scoring. Then two long range tries from Sean Rogers and JP Singleton, both converted put AK 14 – 0 up. As Smithy would say 'there is no substitute for pace'. Not sure how he would know that but????? Unfortunately PGH had their own flyer, who scored twice before half time to make the score 14 -12. After initial early pressure from PGH in the second half, it was then all one way traffic as AK ran in further tries from Sean and JP, plus Paul Edwards (2), and Rich Harding to give a comprehensive 47 – 12 victory and the Cultucker trophy, as shown below.



Senior Training

This commenced early in July with good numbers down for sessions initially led by Scott Pearson (ex Sale Sharks). The sessions have been very well received, (well at least by the ones able to catch their breath and speak afterwards), and it has been good to see a good number of last year's Senior Colts down at these sessions, together with the women's team.

Puts a whole new emphasis on the mauling aspects! Training commences 19.00 sharp every Tuesday and Thursday.

Trial games have been arranged against Bowdon away on 14th Aug and Eccles at home on 21st Aug. Speak to the coaches for further details. The 1st team have also been drawn away against Wirral in 1st round of the Cheshire Vase on 28th Aug.

Season 2010/11

Men's Senior Rugby

AK will continue to run 4 senior men's teams next season. It has been agreed through the Playing Committee, which includes last year's captains that there will be no Vets team as such next season, just teams 1 to 4 picked on merit. To assist in this respect Roger Salt has volunteered to undertake the post of Chairman of Selection. As an ex captain and coach of the 1st team, plus coach of several very successful AK Colts teams, Roger is seen as an ideal choice for this role.

Dylan O'Grady, Andy Daldry and Brian Collier are continuing as the Senior Men's coaching team. Team captains are as follows.

1st Team: John Geddis with Matt Hulse as his vice (in the nicest possible way!)

2nd Team: Sean Clayton

3rd Team: James Wade

4th Team: To be decided

The teams will be in the following leagues next season

1sts – North 1 West. **2nds** - Bateman Premier League. **3rds** – Division 4 South. **4ths** – Division 5 South.

Women's Rugby

The Women's team remain in Championship North 1 and will therefore remain as the AK 'Satnav' team, with fixtures in Norwich, Carlisle, Newcastle, Northampton, Birmingham, Leeds and Liverpool. They will be captained by Lauren 'Bendy' Worthington for the forthcoming season, and have already been down training with the guys on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Unfortunately the girls have lost their Sale Sharks coaching duo from last season and are therefore looking for replacements. If you know of anyone who may be interested please contact Rhino (Lee-Ann Cardus) on 07753 685168.

Mini / Junior Rugby

The AK Senior Colts will be playing in the Raging Bull League A this season, with the Junior Colts in the respective Raging Bull League B.

Mini / Junior registration days will be on the 05th, 12th and 19th of September, when new style kit will also be available. This has been made possible by generous sponsorship from the following
Bollington Insurance, The Brasserie, Red Ltd, Air Products, Symantec, MaxBox, Maple Dental Surgery, Dunne & Gray, La Boheme Restaurant, Daturm Contracts Ltd, Kathryn and Freddie, McGoff & Bryne Ltd, Carlton Power, StraightFreight Ltd, Manchester Car Park, D H Welton & Co, Tsiantar Architects, B J Helec Ltd, and Systematic Ltd.

Other news

New AK Website

Thanks to the efforts of Mark 'Berty' Weedon, Graham Makepeace-Warne and Dos O'Sullivan, AK will soon have a new website based on the Pitchero format used by many other UK rugby clubs. The new AK Pitchero site is currently being updated and should go live in the near future. To fully access the site you will need to register your details, so watch out for future announcements on this.

Dates for your diary

Sponsored lunch for Mini and Junior coaches:

Following the success and last year's event, all mini and junior coaches plus their better halves, will be invited to a sponsored lunch on Saturday 16th October, prior to the first team game against Wilmslow. This as a thank you for your efforts and the great work you are doing with the kids at AK. Formal invites will be sent out in due course

AK Ex Players Reunion:

This is scheduled for Saturday 13 November, prior to 1st Team game against Broughton Park. Usual format with lunch, a few 'lemonades' and something on the lines of 'the older I get the better I was' - rugby wise that is, being talked for most of the afternoon and evening! Formal invites will be sent out nearer the time

AK Firework display:

This will take place on Saturday 6th November. Those who attended last year will no doubt agree it was the best display yet, so we will be looking to at least emulate that performance again – weather permitting of course. As usual volunteers will be required on the Friday before to help set things up, on the Saturday to man the gates and stalls, plus security and stewarding, and finally on the Sunday to clear up. Remember this is potentially AK's biggest money spinner of the season, but it can only happen with plenty of support from club members. Further details will be available nearer the date, but in the meantime if you need further info please speak to Mike Wildgoose or Dave Elliott.

AK Sportsman Dinner:

This will take place on Friday 28th January at the Cresta Court Hotel. This promises to be great event, as the guest speaker will be Dean Richards (ex Leicester, Harlequins and England), who should have some very interesting tales to tell methinks! To book a table please speak to Berty on 07971 870591

RGN Caption Competition

A new addition for this season's RGN. Just for fun, but the best suggestion each month will receive some free drinks at the AK bar. All responses (that are at least printable!), will be shown in the following month's RGN, and the winner announced. This month's entry is a photo taken at the Bowdon 7s in May, with AK playing Acton Nomads.



Caption suggestions (please keep them reasonably clean) should be sent to dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com Likewise if anyone has any suitable photos for this section (again clean ones only), please email them to the same address.

Future editions of RGN

The next edition of RGN will be coming out in the w/c 30th August. Whilst I would like to keep this a fairly concise (but obviously informative and amusing) publication, articles and photos relating to AK matters and members (the funnier the better) are very welcome. Please email them to dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com

Future editions will also be available via the News section of the new website.

So trust that you have enjoyed reading this the first edition of RGN for 2010/11, and here's looking forward to a successful new season, both on and off the field!!!!

