



# Rucking Good News



## The AKRFC Monthly Newsletter: Pre Season Edition 2012 / 2013

### Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of RGN for season 2012/13.

### AK Development Matters

Firstly a big thank you to everyone who has turned up and grafted on the three member's work parties held to date. So far a fair bit of tidying up has been done around the driveway and front car park. The main inside entrance, corridor, toilets, stairway and upstairs bar have been redecorated and work has started on some refurbishment of the changing rooms. The concrete posts around pitch one are in the process of being painted red, white and black by new club President Denis Mallalieu and a new garage door (actually security shutter) has been installed.

Estimates have now been received for the various works relating to installation of patio style doors, pitch side of the clubhouse and work on these will move ahead in the near future. Once this work is completed the main bar area will then be redecorated and club memorabilia redisplayed throughout the clubhouse. This will probably require a further member's work party sometime in August – watch this space on that one. The immediate roof repairs required will also be undertaken in the near future. Discussions have also been held with the captains and coaches from the senior teams regarding improvements to the floodlights in order to extend the training areas available, and thus benefitting all teams at AK. Some funding from the RFU may be available for this, but to do the job to the required spec and maximum effectiveness, further monies will need to be raised by the club. Options for this are currently been looked at and club members will be updated on in future editions of RGN.

So far so good then but still plenty more to do! Tristan Laga from the AK 1<sup>st</sup> Team has taken on responsibility for the refurbishment of the changing rooms, which will include new flooring, benches, ceilings and redecoration. Tristan together with the senior team players will be looking to push ahead with this work over the next few weekends, so if he contacts you for assistance please make the effort to help out – it's all for your benefit!

The further work required around the car parks and pitches will be provisionally subject to another work party on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July. We say provisionally as we need some reasonable weather, so watch out for confirmation on the AK website and by email nearer the date.

Please also remember that the improvements to the clubhouse are primarily 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

### ***Further development fundraising***

As previously reported in RGN, future profits from the annual AK Firework Display will be ring fenced for future development projects. However to ensure the continued development of the facilities at AK we need members to come up with and implement further ideas re fundraising. If you have any thoughts in that respect please contact Dave Elliott.

One idea that is being put into practice for the start of the coming season is a

### ***Kit recycling Scheme***

Debbie Ford from the AK Mini Team section is happy to organise this and what we want from you is any AK rugby shirts and / or boots that your kids have grown out of, but that are clean and still in good condition. These can be brought down to AK pre season (Thursday is a good night when the bar is open and therefore good excuse to stop for a drink!) and these will then be sold for £5.00 each at the Sunday Junior / Mini Player Registration days in September. All proceeds will go to the Development Fund, so please have a good rummage round and bring any suitable items down to AK asap.



### **RFU Club Accreditation Scheme**

In the last edition of RGN, there was an update advising that AK's application in respect of the above, had been seen by Andrew Soutar the RFU's Regional Development Officer and passed on to Twickenham for formal approval. RGN is pleased to announce that official confirmation has now been received from the RFU that AK has achieved the required standard in relation to the various criteria and been awarded Club Accreditation status. Attached to this edition of RGN is a copy of the official notification from the RFU.

An official event for presentation of the award will be organised once the season starts and when officials from the RFU will be present together hopefully with club sponsors and local press. Provisionally AK are looking to hold this on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September and coordinate it with some other presentations. As soon as a date can be confirmed and exact arrangements finalised, the details will be announced on the AK website and in RGN, as we hope to get as many AK members as possible across all the teams attending that event and thus making it a right good do!

### **AK General Committee**

A new section within this season's RGN will be '***Know your AK Committee personnel***', which as well as showing photos of the said guilty parties, will also include some information not previously known about them. They don't know that yet, but will in due course and if they don't divulge the necessary info, RGN will just make it up!!!

At the mo though there are still certain positions vacant on the committee including ***Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Junior Chairman & Sponsorship Coordinator***. It would also be good to get a number of further people onto the General Committee, so there is capacity to deal with other matters as they arise, rather than put further pressure on those already undertaking key roles for the club.

If you are interested in undertaking any of the above roles and / or consider you can assist the club in any such way, please speak to Committee Chairman Graham Makepeace-Warne, Club President Denis Mallalieu or any other AK Committee members.

## Dates for your diary

And there are already a lot of them for the coming season

### ***Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July: Senior Training starts***

There have already been good numbers at the touch rugby sessions, held as a warm up for training over the last few weeks and good to see a lot of next season's colts joining in the sessions. Official training for the men's section starts this Thursday under the new coaching team of John 'hands like feet' Geddis, Andy 'part time tourist' Daldry and Chris 'on crutches again' Nettleton. A professional fitness guy will also be in attendance to ensure some quality sessions, plus Hannah our resident physio for those in the 'twisted sock' category.

So whatever level you play at get yourself down and make sure your mates come down too, so we hit the ground running (literally) at the start of the season.

### ***Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July: Altrincham Festival***

As usual AK will have a float in the Festival parade, which the AK Under 9s for this season are organising AK's contribution to. In their own words

*' Altrincham Kersal will be participating in the Altrincham Festival on Saturday, 07th July 2012 where we have been asked to supply charming, attractive & well behaved children to stand on a flatbed lorry and wave politely at the populace, in a faintly middle class way, as we gently progress through the local suburbs. In the absence of any of the above it falls to us to terrorise the district with our team of borderline juvenile delinquents and artful dodgers and see how many pockets we can pick en route whilst creating mayhem as usual..... '*

Whilst the AK Under 9s are organising this, it would be great to have a good cross section of other AK players of all ages involved on the day, as it is a great opportunity to showcase and recruit players for the club. In that respect we have 2000 'Play rugby at AK' leaflets at hand out on the day. The lorry (kindly provided by Declan McGoff) will be kitted out in AK regalia from 08.30 on the day at the clubhouse and then join the festival parade at St Margarets Road in Altrincham from 10.30ish. The Parade goes through Altrincham and Timperley, normally taking about an hour and half and finishing off at the Grange playing fields near the clubhouse, where those involved from AK usually take the opportunity to partake of some liquid refreshment to finish the day off!

So come on, make the effort and come down and support your club, on what is a great day out!



*Some of the AK Minis at last year's festival*

### ***Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July: Women's 'Try Rugby' day***

The Women's Team have obtained funding from the RFU to run the above day at AK. This is an opportunity for anyone who has ever thought about trying women's rugby to come down to the club and give it a go! The day will run from 12 noon until 4pm - come along for as long or for as little as you want.....

The day will be run by Altrincham Kersal's senior women's team and their coach Tom. Everyone's welcome, the day is aimed at total beginners so even if you've never held a rugby ball before this is your chance to get a taster of the basics in a fun friendly environment!

So if you fancy a go or know anyone that may wish to, please come down and / or get them down to AK on the day. Bar will be open afterwards!



*Last season's AK Women's Team*

### ***Saturday / Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Christie's Challenge***

This year the challenge is to cycle the 150 miles 'Coast to Coast' route from Whitehaven to Robin Hoods Bay in 2 days on the 14th and 15th July. The plan for the challenge is as follows.....

- Meet at 6:00am on Saturday 14th July at AKRFC and travel in mini buses to Whitehaven.
- Start the ride at 9:00am from Whitehaven with the support team transporting all equipment and spare bikes etc.
- Cycle approximately 80 miles on the Saturday to the camp site where tents will already have been pitched by the support team.
- BBQ and beers in the evening.
- Breakfast and then start at 9:00am ish.
- Arrive in Robin Hoods Bay after cycling 70 miles before heading home late afternoon.

Please let Mike Wildgoose (email: [mike.wildgoose@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mike.wildgoose@hotmail.co.uk)) know if you would like to join the team for this year's challenge, which as in previous years will be to raise money for 'The Christie' with the target being for each cyclist to raise a minimum of £400 through sponsorship.

The money raised from this challenge will go towards a New Oncology Unit at 'The Christie' for young patients up to the age of 24 years old. So alternatively if you would like to sponsor Mike and help raise money for 'The Christie' then please either donate on the team web page (link below) or e-mail him with your sponsorship pledge. <http://www.justgiving.com/akrfc12>



***Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August: Senior Men's Trial game against Burnage***

Provisional date - First trial of the season at home against Burnage.  
There will then be an internal development game on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August

Further details can be obtained from team captains and coaches

***Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August: Cheshire Cup game against Chester away. ko 15.00***

***Saturday 1st September: First league games for Senior Men's Teams***

1<sup>st</sup> Team: Vale of Lune (away)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Team: Vale of Lune 2s (home)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Team: Glossop 3s (away)

NB. At the moment the Women's Team and Colts fixtures have not yet been announced.

***Sundays 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September: Mini / Junior Registration days***

Team coaches and managers will no doubt be in touch with you to advise when training starts for the respective teams. However please note that Liz Foster (Membership Secretary) and Mike Meaney (Treasurer) will be available on the above dates for payment of membership subscriptions and to record registration details.

***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!



*Trizzo and Paddy McGeddis in action at last year's do*

**Friday 08th February 2013: AK Annual Sportsman's Dinner**

To be held at The Cresta Court Hotel, Altrincham 7.30 for 8pm. Guest speaker and comedian tbc.

***Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012: AK Annual Ball***

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

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

## AK Sponsors 2012 / 13

AK are pleased to announce that the new main sponsor of AK for next season, is Paul Thompson of Ace Training Solutions



Also on board as sponsors for next season are



A big thank you to all the club's sponsors, whose support is greatly appreciated.

## Membership Subscriptions 2012 / 13

Hopefully RGN has got this right but confirmation / full details can be obtained from Liz Foster (Membership Secretary). In order to attract and recruit more senior players to the club an incentive scheme has been devised.

For every member that introduces a new senior player (male or female) to the club they will receive half of the new player's membership subscription. That assumes of course that the person introducing and the new player pay their full subscription either directly or by standing order. Further details on this will be available nearer the start of the season, but here is a real opportunity for all current players to get their mates down to AK and playing rugby

## Match day raffle prizes

Match day raffles last season were a bit of a disappointment fund raising wise, primarily due to lack of quality prizes. So if any one would like to donate quality prizes for the raffle (ie crates of wine, ipods etc – only joking but I'm sure you get my drift) they would be gratefully accepted and acknowledged in both RGN and in the match day programme. Suitable prizes can be left with Chris Barlow the steward at AK and will be used on suitable match days throughout the coming season.

## AK Website

It would be appreciated if all team managers / coaches could update their team sections of the website with contact details etc before the season starts. Team / coach / team admin photos can also be shown on there. This greatly helps with such as knowing whose who and recruitment, when potential new players and / or their parents at any age group check out the website. Remember we will be handing out 2000 leaflets at the Altrincham Festival, and pre season reports will be going into the local press, which will hopefully generate some recruitment interest and hits on the website, which therefore needs to be up to date.

## Press Reports Season 2012 / 13

For the coming season it is intended to try and get a wider coverage of all AK teams in the local papers (Sale & Altrincham Messenger and Advertiser), rather than just concentrate on the Senior Teams. This was achieved to an extent in the latter part of last season, when AK got some good coverage in relation to Junior / Mini cup successes. Again press reports are a great way of both showcasing the club and recruiting players. Hopefully there should be AK articles in this respect in the local papers over the next couple of weeks.

Press reports have to be with the local papers by lunchtime on the Monday following the weekend games and are restricted to 200 words if a photo is also to be included. Photos have just as much, if not more impact than the reports themselves and also give our shirt sponsors good coverage. The AK Press Officer may therefore have to be selective what is reported each week, within the 200 words limit. To do this though, he needs the following basic info by first thing on a Monday.

The opposition, final score, sequence of scoring and the AK scorer's full names. League position in respect of the Colt's Teams would also be handy plus any high res team photos, which could be used at various times during the season.

These should be emailed to [dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com](mailto:dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com) who will do his best to make sure every team gets reasonable coverage throughout the season, assuming of course he gets the appropriate info in good time.

## Future editions of RGN

So trust that you have enjoyed reading and found informative this first edition of RGN for season 2012/13. The next edition will probably be published just before the season starts in September. Any articles / updates / photos suitable for that edition will be particularly welcome. Also any thoughts for new sections / subjects within RGN – this is a club newsletter. Please email them to [dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com](mailto:dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com)



