



**SARACENS**

## **SARACENS AMATEUR RFC**

**Bramley Sports Ground, Green Road, Southgate, London N14 4AB Phone/Fax: 02084499101**

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.**

**Dear Member,**

As a retired Headteacher of some 20 years experience, I am aware of the need to be approachable and accountable. During my four years of Chairmanship I have spent considerable time at the Club in connection with the former and this report is part of the latter.

I have been reading of late the works of Gervase Phinn (not the usual run of the mill name for someone from a South Yorkshire mining village), who recounts his time as a School Inspector in the Yorkshire Dales. When asked, in his interview for the post, he included in his reply that to have the ability of Janus (a Roman God) would stand him in good stead. I would say that is true of this position.

So, on reflection, what have I achieved and been instrumental in developing for the future of the whole Club? I have fostered community links locally with Barnet Athletic Club, local schools, Chase Side Cricket Club, and supported Saracens Community Projects such as Blast, (girls into Rugby) amongst others. These are now firmly embedded in our culture.

As a home owner in Majorca, I am involved in the Balearic Rugby Federation (what a great game Rugby is for meeting people ). This was initiated through the Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister for Sport, two personal friends, both Rugby fans, who introduced me to the Technical Director for Rugby. We set up a project, now in its fifth season, which includes exchange of players, coaches, tours and residential training programmes. In May of this year we launched the first Palma Beach 7 a side tournament; local/national press and TV were present, with Maggie Alphonsi as Saracens Ambassador to open the tournament.

We are currently working in cooperation with GISPI, a club near Florence in Northern Italy, under the Erasmus plus sports programme, this will be worth over 60,000 euros for Youth Rugby development. Exchanges on the same principle as the Balearic project have been running for three years.

The Clubhouse resources have continued to be enhanced with sponsorship from Marstons Brewery, and the generosity of Members giving their time for free. The time and effort spent upgrading the Fitness Room has been rewarded with increased Member usage; we have an active Judo Club and Zumba Class and a dedicated physio room available for private treatment. The sub committees are active on your

behalf, the Social Events are being used to raise funds towards upgrading the floodlights.

This in some ways is looking backwards, if you spend too much time doing this you have less time to press forward, it is time to focus on this, hence my reference to Janus. This “character” was the Roman God of “beginnings and transition” usually depicted as having two heads (note: NOT TWO FACED ), since he looks to the future and to the past. What do we as Members want for SARFC future? Several years ago we produced a working document, “The Future of Bramley Road” setting out a vision for the Club, it is a working document and sets out an option for a two story club house fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. There have also been discussions over the past 12 months, undertaken on behalf of the Committee, by myself and Charles Portsmouth with Edward Griffiths CEO at Allianz, regarding an option to relocate.

These, I stress, are only options; both require further work, meetings, presentations during the coming months, to provide you as the Members with information to come to an informed decision through a vote as to which route you wish SARFC to travel.

As Chairman of SARFC, whichever route you choose, whichever choice you make, I undertake to implement that decision without evasion, equivocation or mental reservation of any kind.

**Peter G Haigh**  
**SARFC Chairman**