



Blandford Rugby Club Newsletter

Issue 2

Chairman's Message

July 2011



As you are all aware it has been a strong season for the club with the 1st XV gaining promotion to Southern Counties along with a fantastic run not only in the Dorset & Wilts Plate Competition which we won but also the Southern Counties Senior Vase where we unfortunately lost in the final to Alchester.

The celebrations culminated in the Annual Dinner Dance where the Annual Players Awards were presented. We are hoping to be able to use the venue at the school for other events during the 2011/12 season.



The 2011/12 season sees us celebrating our 35th anniversary year and there will be a number of events to celebrate. Full details of the events planned so far are included in this newsletter.

Clubhouse Improvements



As a result of a generous donation by Henry Wates we have been able to fit a new roof to the clubhouse. We have also successfully built the new bar which has been a huge success with the regulars. Due the work undertaken by Brad Windeatt ably assisted by Marc Ricketts and other club members the Patio has been re-laid. It is hoped to install a second TV screen before the World Cup starts in September.

Unfortunately we are not able to fund a complete re-surfacing of the car park but we are hoping to be able to improve the drainage and stone it.

Coaching and Training Equipment

Our coach Chris Curtis arrived early last season and made a great impact on the training regime and the teams. He has been ably assisted by Mike Pyrgos and Andy Marriott, all will be continuing with us in the upcoming season. Chris will also be assisted by Rodney Hutson. We have also found a Rehabilitation trainer in Warren Vasey who will be attending training on a regular basis to put the players through their paces with fitness and conditioning exercises. He will also help players return from injury by providing them with structured exercises.



Thanks to a grant from the RFU we have been able to purchase a set of mobile training lights which have improved our training facilities. It is hoped to purchase another set of these lights which will enable us to remove the old floodlights which are installed along the bottom of the 2nd XV pitch.

In preparation for the new season we have a number of pre-season games organized. Full details of these games will be announced on the website once finalized. The first of these is already confirmed for the 6th August when we will host Thatcham who will be bringing two teams. Kick off is at 1200 and after at the clubhouse for a BBQ and to watch the International.

PLAYERS: Remember you must be registered with the RFU to be eligible to play for the club and be a paid up club member for insurance purposes.

Club Membership Fees

At the AGM the following fees were agreed for the 2011/12 season:

VP - £75 (Single)

Adult Player - £150

(which incorporates all match fees)

Student/Vet Player - £75

Note: Vet Player Category is for those who do not play in any 1st or 2nd XV games.

Single Social - £25

Family Social - £30

Academy (Junior Player) - £50

Additional Academy Player(s) - £30

VP, Adult Player and Student/Vet fees can be paid by Standing Order. If you already pay by this method please remember to update the payment details with your bank. **Only you can do this not the club.**

Academy News

The last season might be ended and the new one some time off, but the young players of the Academy have not lost the drive to play rugby. They have been attended a monthly Beach Day along with family and friends at Knoll Beach, Studland. Exciting rugby has been played under the guidance of some of our coaches. The children have been equally competitive in the building of sandcastles and hole digging but with the wonderful location who can blame them. Forthcoming Beach Days are advertised on the Website. All are welcome to attend.



Beer Festival

We will be holding a Beer Festival over the August Bank Holiday Weekend, (26 - 28 August) with



Friday being by invitation. Saturday open all day with a band in the evening, plus hopefully a Hog Roast and Sunday open all day. Come along and enjoy some rather good beer!

VP Days

We have already organised two VP Days, the first of which will be on 17th September and will be held at the School restaurant. The after match players refreshments will also be served there before we return to the clubhouse. We are hoping to invite as many former players as possible to celebrate with us on that day.

On 19th November, our 1st XV will be pitted against North Dorset, who were our sponsoring club when we joined the RFU. The George Frampton Memorial Cup/Badger Cup will also be contested in this match. Again refreshments will be served at the School restaurant.

There will be additional VP Days organised for later in the season. If you are interested in becoming a VP please contact the VP Secretary Matt Hillyard at mhillyard@live.co.uk to find out more information.

The 2011/12 Season for the Academy will commence on Sunday 4 September.

We have distributed to all the schools in the area information about the club during the closed season as part of our ongoing recruitment drive.

Parents of existing players will receive during August the Pre-Start letter with information about the new season.

Blandford Carnival



Blandford Carnival is taking place on Saturday 10 September and we are hoping to take part with a float/walking entry. The exact category is yet to be confirmed. If you are interested in helping with or taking part on the night please contact Louis on 01258 452410 This is a great chance to raise the profile of the club and recruit new members

Reminder

Please ensure that you provide either Moe or Joy with any changes to your contact details in order that we can provide you with all current information.

Up coming Events

Senior Pre Season Training



Pre Season training will recommence on Tuesday 12th July starting at 1900.

Sessions will unless stated otherwise on the website be at the school pitches.

Pre Season Training Game



Saturday 6th August we will be hosting Thatcham RFC who will be bringing two teams to take part in a pre-season training game. Kick off will be at 1200 hrs at the Bryanston School pitches and will consist of 2 20 minute sessions.

This will be followed by a BBQ at the Clubhouse where we can relax and watch the England v Wales International which kicks off at 1430.



1st XV v Bridport

1st XV will travel to Bridport for a pre-season Friendly match on Saturday 3rd September.

1st Game of the Season

Saturday 10th September is the first game of the 2011/12 season for our 1st XV. Our opponents will be Devizes. Kick off will be at 1500 on the Blandford School pitch. Come along and support the team.

Clubhouse Clear Up Day



Saturday 16th July will be a Clubhouse Clear Up day. Commencing at 1100.

We need volunteers with a wheel barrow, trailer (to take rubbish to the tip) and painting skills to undertake a number of task to prepare the Clubhouse for the start of the 2011 season.

Bacon butties for volunteers will be available.

Beer and Cider Festival



August Bank Holiday Weekend will see the club in conjunction with the Isle of Purbeck Brewery hosting our first Beer and Cider Festival.

If you are interested in sponsoring a barrel of either beer or cider please contact either Justin Frampton or Kieran Mitchell.

You will have the chance to select which in your opinion is the best barrel and enter into the prize draw to win a visit to the Purbeck Brewery.

Friday 26th August: Sponsor Invitation Night

Saturday 27th August: From 1200 until late, come along and watch the England v Ireland match. The evening entertainment will include a BBQ and Band. We will also be saying farewell to our young Kiwi Paddy.

Sunday 28th August: From 1200 Club

Double Header

Saturday 17th September will see both our teams at home with the 1st XV pitted against Sherborne while the 2nd XV will face Verwood.

This will also be the first VP Luncheon of the 2011/12 season, which will form part of our 35th Anniversary celebrations.