



Huntingdon Rugby Club

STAGS HORN

April 2009

Welcome to the eighth edition of Stags Horn, the invaluable organ of communication for players, members, parents and supporters within Huntingdon Rugby Club.

We will be producing this as a hard copy, albeit in ever decreasing numbers, and also a more readily accessible email version, so if you haven't signed up for the Stags Social Email yet, email me on simon.millar@uk.lockton.com, and I'll add you to the Stags online community. I can also always be contacted on 07717-516315.

Any news articles from all sections of the Club – Seniors, Youth or Minis – will be welcome, as the intention is to make this a very inclusive form of communication. Photos are also very welcome. We will also be promoting social events, fundraising activities and anything else relevant. Please support all of these – they are all for your benefit, and the benefit of the Club, so we look forward to seeing you there.

For up to date information on events, issues and fixtures, you are advised to consult Stagschat on

WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK



Toby Flood (Leicester & England) dreams wistfully of being a Staggerer

The Thoughts of Chairman Roy

There is a raft of good and interesting news elsewhere in this edition of the Horn so I will concentrate mainly on the subject of the racecourse.

First, though, I must refer to our Seal of Approval award. A number of people contributed to this achievement but the man who pulled it all together and drove it on is Spencer Burgess and we should all acknowledge that without his efforts we would not have gained this accreditation in such quick time and with so little fuss.

President's Day has traditionally been on a Sunday early in May. This year, and for a number of reasons, it has been put back and is scheduled for Saturday 22nd August, we hope at the Racecourse. This event has been a real success in recent seasons at Hinchingsbrooke and the format will remain broadly the same this year.

The licence for the use of the premises at the Racecourse is due to start on 1st July. We thought that would be a good date for the AGM. It is provisional at the moment but we hope to confirm it soon.

These plans are dependent on the conclusion of the discussions over the licence. By the time this Horn is published the vice chairman and I will have met with the Racecourse managers. We then hope to agree the addition of just 18 words to one sub clause. If all goes well the licence can then be signed and the hard work can begin.

There will be barely 4 months to get ground and building into readiness for the new season. The secretary has a list of volunteers to work on this; she needs more. If you have not already put your name down please email her at frances_kent@tiscali.co.uk. There is a particular need for skilled people, electricians, plumbers, carpenters for example.

For all this we need money. This is not a general appeal for funds. It is an appeal for members to sign up to the 100 Club. Participation in this is so shamefully low I am embarrassed to say how many are in it. To save me future shame, sign up now. Sid Millar has the forms.

Roy Shutz –Chairman

RFU Grand Draw 2008/9

As a final update, we had a winner in the club! Dave Moody, AKA Jesus, a stalwart of both the 2nd XV and Staggerers front rows, as well as U6 minis coach, won 48 cans of Guinness in this year's Grand Draw. We're not sure how he is going to spread this wonderful prize around the membership, but people said that before about a few loaves and some fishes, and look what happened.

Well done Dave, much deserved, and thanks again to everyone for their support.

Stags Quiz Night – Saturday 4th April

The popular Stags Quiz is on Saturday 4th April, at the Clubhouse at the Racecourse, starting at 7.45pm. Who can beat the reigning winners, captained by the Brain of Ramsey, Matt Griggs? Ten rounds (probably) of general knowledge questions, with perhaps a little sports bias, designed to test devotees of both Mastermind and The Weakest Link. The evening will probably be suitable for those 16 and over, although smaller children are welcome. Full bar facilities available, obviously.

Trophies, but more importantly, Glory and bragging rights, for the winners, and a good night out for everyone, as a dry run for future Saturday nights of fun at the Clubhouse next season (hopefully).

STAGS SUMMER BALL 2009

SATURDAY JUNE 20TH

BURGESS HALL, ST IVES

PREPARE TO BE SHAKEN AND STIRRED, AS
JAMES BOND COMES TO ST IVES.

TABLE HOSTS PLEASE CONTACT SID MILLAR
ON simon.millar@uk.lockton.com

Guinness Premiership Final – Saturday May 16th

This is the end of season finale at Twickenham, and Stags are running a coach trip which is open to all players, parents, supporters and friends. Very much a family day, the coach will leave from Hinchingsbrooke, and will pick up at the George in Buckden and somewhere near to the Wyboston/Eaton Socon turn off on the A1 (TBA). We'll even drop you back there afterwards.

A picnic lunch in the Car Park at Twickenham will be included, which will cater for both adults and children alike, in terms of both food and drink.

There are still one or two spaces left on the coach, and we have secured a few extra tickets. The cost is £55 adults, £30 children, to include match ticket, return luxury coach transport and sumptuous picnic lunch with full liquid refreshments, and you should speak to Roy Shutz to snap these last opportunities up.

Wooden Spoon Rugby Clubs Golf Championship

Mike Francis has asked me again to mention this fantastic event. It is a national golf championship for rugby clubs that he organizes for Wooden Spoon, the rugby charity. Stags entered 2 teams last year, but the club can enter as many teams as it wants. Each team consists of 4 players – they just need to be golfers & Stags club members - so playing, Social, Parents etc all qualify. We will be entering at least a couple of teams at Diss Golf Club on 15th May.

Anyone interested in playing should contact Mike direct, and he will put teams together as names come forward. I am instructed to point you to the website for further details – www.rugbygolf.co.uk – and Mike can be contacted on 01480-497744, or on mike.francis@stradbroke.co.uk

Stags Golf Day – Wyboston Lakes Golf Club, Thursday 28th May

Another date for your diary, and a chance for the sporting all-rounders in the club to display their prowess a little closer to home, and remove their lights from under bushels (as opposed to removing their Titleists from under bushes).

Coffee and bacon rolls at some un-Godly hour, followed by eighteen holes of Stapleford on the water featured course at Wyboston, in two person teams, and then a carbo-loaded lunch and prize giving.

This always a good day, and caters for all standards of golf (your correspondent went around with only three clubs last year, to avoid the temptation of trying to thrash the ball, and inevitably ending up in some foliage).

Cost is £40 per player (ladies most welcome), to include coffee and food, and please feel free to bring your friends and make this a big social and sporting occasion.

Contact Rick Wilcox to register your team on 07778-777328.

WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK

STAGS 100 CLUB

THE STAGS 100 CLUB IS A MONTHLY LOTTERY, WITH A SPECIFIC NUMBER ALLOCATED TO EACH PARTICIPATING PLAYER. MONTHLY DRAWS ARE MADE FOR CASH PRIZES OF **£50, £25 & £10**, AND THERE ARE ADDITIONAL SUPER DRAWS IN JUNE AND DECEMBER FOR A VERY EXCITING **£250**.

ENTRY IS ONLY £5 PER MONTH, PER NUMBER, PAYABLE BY STANDING ORDER – YOU CAN HAVE AS MANY AS YOU WANT! APPLICATION FORMS AND STANDING ORDER MANDATES FROM SID MILLAR – 07717-516315, OR SIMON.MILLAR@UK.LOCKTON.COM

THIS IS A MAJOR PART OF THE CLUB'S FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES GOING FORWARD, AND AT PRESENT THE ODDS ON WINNING A PRIZE EACH YEAR ARE REALLY, REALLY GOOD! THIRTY EIGHT PRIZES EACH YEAR. PLEASE RETURN THE FORMS TO SID MILLAR, 5 BRIGLAND CLOSE, HUNTINGDON PE29 6GF ASAP, TO BE IN THE APRIL DRAW.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT, AND GOOD LUCK!

Advertising

We are still keen to encourage advertising in Stags Horn - £5 for a small advert, £10 for a quarter page advert. Circulation is approximately 250 (and growing) by email and more in hard copy, but all will be solid Stags people, keen to support their fellow club men and women. All ads to me by 27th April please for the May 2009 edition. If you have your own business, let the Stags community know about it, so that they can support you, while at the same time you will be supporting the Stags.

Autumn International Tickets – Argentina & Fiji

We have received an opportunity to get some advance tickets for two of the Autumn Internationals planned for Twickenham later this year. I understand that New Zealand will also be playing, and possibly Australia, although the latter is still to be ratified by the IRFU. Top price tickets for these matches against the major nations are likely to be in the region of £75 each.

However, clubs are being offered the opportunity to purchase category A tickets for England v Argentina on November 14th and England v Fiji on November 28th at the discounted rate of £45 for adults (normally £65), seated in the Lower Tiers of the West or East Stands, which is possibly one of the best views in the ground (subject to availability). Junior tickets are only £10. This discount is for the month of April only, and only via clubs. In addition, for every ticket purchased (including Junior tickets), a £10 voucher for the Twickenham Rugby Store will be issued, which makes this a fantastic deal.

Should you wish to purchase any tickets, and there is no limit on the number that you can buy, please send a cheque payable to HRUFC Ticket account for the appropriate amount plus £2.50 per ticket Stags handling fee, together with a note confirming your address, which match you require tickets for (you can go to both!), and the number of adults and child tickets you are applying for. All applications, with money to be in by Thursday, April 23rd please, to take advantage of the discounted offer – please send to Sid Millar, 5 Brigland Close, Huntingdon, PE29 6GF. You will be able to purchase tickets through the club nearer the time, but it will be at the normal rate.

Club History

We have recently been contacted by Mike Ruston, a Staggerer from a few years back, who has provided us with the following slice of history regarding the club.

“Club history: All the land now occupied by Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, Police Headquarters, Fire and Ambulance Station, housing was, in 1950s open farmland all the way to the Stukeleys. Farmed by Harry Raby senior. Father of George, Harry and Sam. Harry senior let the club use a field for a pitch and they changed in a cowshed ! Maybe Roger Juggins and Gordon Ascroft played there. They then moved to a field up St Peters Road, Huntingdon farmed by Roger Juggins. We lived then at 8 St Peters Road. The industrial estate and Oxmoor did not exist in 1950s, all open fields. They bathed in the building on the playing field on the right as you go up St Peters Road, before you get to St Peters School. Hot water provided by 2 x 45 gallon steel drums mounted on a brick plinth with a fire below. As a young lad, below 10 years old I can see my Dad and other players building it.

As a school boy, I played there for the club, on that playing field, when the club was based there, before moving to the Racecourse about 1964. Then off to Hinchingsbrooke School, now back close to where it all began, 60 years ago.”

Thanks for that Mike – we are piecing together a definitive history of the club, and any further reminiscences are welcome.

Stags Wines and Port

Don't forget the range of fine wines and Port that we can offer through the good offices of TJ Wines of St Ives. Magnificent Merlot, Splendid Sauvignon Blanc and Cheeky Chardonnay, to go with the Pretentious Port - all good drinkers, and reasonably priced by the case - £65 for case of 12 bottles of Wine, £60 for 6 bottles of Port. Delivery to the Club on training nights / mornings, or at matches, as required. Mixed cases available – why not buy one to try with a friend. You'll never go to Tesco's for your bottles of Mother's Little Helper ever again!! Orders to Sid Millar – email as on front cover.

Sainsburys Bag Pack – Saturday March 28th



Using the good offices of Terry Eastcott, Sainsburys hosted the junior & mini sections for a Bag Pack last weekend, and very successful it was too. Aside from the cash raised in donations, there were quite a few enquiries from potential new players about joining next season as well.

Final scores on the doors are as follows;

U6/7 = £247.18
U8/9 = £228.54
U10 = £255.47
U11 = £282.69
U12 = £219.69
U13/U14 = £267.61
Sainsburys = £250.00

Total Raised = £1751.18

Well done to every one who took part or helped, and to those people who put their change in the buckets on Saturday. And thanks again to Terry Eastcott for arranging it all.

WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK

Stags around the World

Vice Chairman goes to Hong Kong, and meets former Stags (and Timmy Mallett).

Oliver Leitch (U9s) started his rugby career at the mini Stags 3 years ago, inspired somehow by coach Neil Greatorex. His father, Charles, turned out regularly in the back row for the 2nd XV and the Staggerers. The family now live in Hong Kong, where there are over 15 rugby clubs. Charles has retired from playing after his last game at the Stags saw him collect a dislocated finger, but as with all rugby Dads has turned his hand to coaching. Charles and Oliver are members of the Sai Kung Stingrays Rugby Club. It is the newest of the rugby clubs in Hong Kong, but already has over 200 junior players. Hong Kong rugby is most famous for the Hong Kong Sevens and it may be that Oliver is the first Stag to have played at this prestigious event as there is a minis competition at the same time as the main event.

I had often heard about the Hong Kong 7s, so was fortunate to find myself at a loose end last weekend and took up the offer of going along to the Saturday games. After a full monty English breakfast in the Flying Pan in SoHo, we headed off to the stadium in fancy dress. I had expected a few sights, but was amazed to see the effort that most people had put into their costumes for the day. The South Stand is the party stand. I would describe it as the Hollis Stand at Edgbaston on steroids. Although no pink Zulus were spotted, everyone from Hulk, Superman, Chairman Mao, Little Bo Peep and Snow White were there. And Timmy Mallett. A superb day out. The atmosphere was excellent especially with me the only bloke in the stadium supporting Portugal against the hosts Hong Kong. Portugal did eventually win the Bowl beating Uruguay, Tonga won the Plate competition beating Canada and Fiji won the Cup beating South Africa, all hinging on the last conversion of the game.



Timmy Mallett is a Staggerer in Hong Kong

More photos needed by you on your travels in a Stags shirt please for the next edition.

John Doonan

STAGS DIARY 2009

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	ORGANISER
4th April	Quiz Night	Racecourse Clubhouse	7.45PM	Sid Millar
2nd May	Hunts & P'Boro Cup Fnal	TBA	TBA	Tim Furbank
15th May	Wooden Spoon Golf	Diss Golf Club	Probably early	Mike Francis
16th May	Trip to Guinness Premiership Final	Twickenham	10.00AM	Alan Knowlton
28th May	Stags Golf Day	Wyboston Lakes GC	Crack of Sparrows	Rick Wilcox
20th June	Stags 007 Summer Ball	Burgess Hall, St Ives	7.30 PM	Sid Millar
1st July (possibly)	AGM	Racecourse Clubhouse	7.45PM	Roy Shutz
Advance Notice for your diaries				
22nd August	Presidents Day	Racecourse Clubhouse & Pitches		TBA
27th November	Dr Busker at the Clubhouse	Racecourse Clubhouse	8PM	John Doonan

RFU President's XV Recognition Awards 2009.

As you may be aware, Stags have been awarded a runners up prize in the RFU President's XV Recognition Awards in the More Volunteers category, which gets us £100 and a trophy! This is in recognition of the number of people who have got involved across the club over the past twelve months, dramatically reducing the workload on the few who have kept the club going during recent years.

Well done to all the volunteers who have stepped forward this year to help out at age group, committee level and associated roles that help run the Stags at Junior and Senior level. Along with the SoA award, this shows how far we have come over the past few seasons and bodes well for our intended move.

**DEADLINE FOR ITEMS, PHOTOS AND ADVERTS TO BE INCLUDED IN
MAY'S STAGS HORN – MONDAY 27TH APRIL – PLEASE CAN WE
HAVE MORE CONTRIBUTIONS & PHOTOS FROM TEAM COACHES,
CAPTAINS, PARENTS ETC**

WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK