



Huntingdon Rugby Club

STAGS HORN

February 2009

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

We will be producing this in an ever decreasing number of hard copies, 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 sort it.

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

The Thoughts of Chairman Roy

Discussions with the Racecourse – An Update

The Clubs solicitors have responded to the receipt of the draft licence with our own comments; there are a fair number of these though they are mostly matters of detail and drafting, none of which, we hope, will prove contentious or time consuming.

We have also had a further meeting with the Racecourse management to clarify one or two operational matters and fill in some gaps. This progress gives us sufficient confidence to start thinking about an EGM which we have provisionally pencilled in for 5.30 p.m. on Saturday 14 March at the Racecourse Clubhouse. Please keep this date and time free, as it is important that all members are fully informed of the Club's future options, and have their opportunity to contribute.

We expect to circulate to all Members the formal Notice convening the meeting during the week beginning 23 February.

Subject to the EGM approving the proposals, we will set about detailed planning of the physical works needed starting with the changing room and showers areas. We will have about 4 months to get everything ship shape for the 2009/10 season and an appeal will go out for volunteers for working parties. We have been fortunate enough already to have had offers from some skilled craftsmen but more plumbers, joiners, electricians and decorators will be needed as well as an army of labourers.

Roy Shutz

Chairman

RFU Grand Draw 2008/9

Last call for RFU Grand Draw tickets, with all returned ticket stubs and monies due back to Sid Millar by 15th February. Please can everyone make a final effort to get rid of the tickets that they have kindly taken to sell on behalf of the Club. The Grand Draw is a major fundraising initiative for the club, and every ticket sold makes a significant contribution to club funds.

There are great prizes available, ranging from £10,000 cash to Cases of beer, and trips to Paris or Rome in the Six Nations, plus much more. Remember, 90% of all money collected stays with Stags, so you will be making a fantastic contribution to club funds.

This year there is the incentive of two free tickets to the Summer Ball on June 20th, to the person who sells the most tickets, so go on, get out there and shift them! It is an easy thing to do, but very effective.

Stags in the City Lunch – Friday 27th February

The next Stags in the City Lunch is on Friday 27th February at the Newman Arms & Pie Shop, Newman Passage, behind Charlotte Street, London W1. Anyone connected with Stags who endures the commute to London, and fancies an afternoon away from the office in convivial company, is most welcome to join the happy band of occasional lunchers. Please contact Sid Millar as soon as possible, if you would like to come along, as accurate numbers are essential for this small and intimate venue.

ADVANCE NOTICE – PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

STAGS SUMMER BALL 2009

SATURDAY JUNE 20TH

BURGESS HALL, ST IVES

PREPARE TO BE SHAKEN AND STIRRED.....

TABLE HOSTS PLEASE CONTACT SID MILLAR

ON simon.millar@uk.lockton.com

Youth News

Congratulations to Josh Doonan and Jack Skidmore from the U14s squad who have both been selected for the Hunts & Peterborough County squad. We wish them well in their up and coming games.

More additions to Cambs County Development squad from the u14s which now includes Jack Summers, Shaun Gomez, Ruari Clark, Sammy Johnson, Michael Ruddy, Daniel Whiles and Adam Burgess. Again well done to you all.

Some great results from the recent triangular tournament at Oundle also featuring Kettering. All teams gained creditable victories with the Stags overall winning far more than they lost!! Well done to you all.

Seal of Approval.

We will be assessed on March 8th by Sam Rouse from the East Mids RFU. More details of requirements for the day will be filtered through the usual channels of team manger and lead coach.

Cancellations.

I am aware many are getting frustrated with the recent cancelled games and training. Please be aware we do our utmost to get these sessions played however as you can appreciate it is out of our hands especially the weather!!

Could I remind everyone that the **Stagschat** is the BEST source for updates on games & training sessions and as a rule if in doubt should be checked **before** you leave on Sunday mornings for the relevant venue.

Also on Stagschat – Minis section are all the relevant forms from registration packs through to the Health & Safety policies all in downloadable format should you require them during the season.

I can confirm that Kate – Foster Collier and Andy Ibbotson are our Club Welfare officers having attended the recent course and their contact details and a picture(so you can see who they are!) will be on the Website again in the Junior / Minis site. I thank them both for taking on this important role for the club.

The membership now stands at its highest level for the junior/mini section with over 200 lads and lasses registered. This is fantastic news and can I take this opportunity to thank Liane Greatorex , John Doonan and Dave Ruddy (Rugby 1st data input) for helping organise this area. Next seasons challenge is to have 250 registered.

Good luck to the U17s on their tour to Portugal this month. I am sure it will an interesting and varied tour with the customary victories in their games thrown in. I look forward to reading the tour report!!

Spencer Burgess
Youth Chairman

Stags Race Night – Saturday March 14th

We were thinking, where would be the most appropriate place to hold a Race Night, and then it came to us – The Racecourse! Starting at 7.30ish, after the EGM, we will be holding the annual Stags Race Night, where you will have the opportunity to win vast fortunes on a series of races that have been run at foggy courses in places that you have only ever heard of on Grandstand.

Entry is a mere £2 per head, and there will be full bar facilities, and a chip van will be turning up to cater for your culinary requirements.

This is always one of the fun occasions in the Social Calendar (not that I am saying that the others aren't fun as well), and all profits will be going to fitting out the Kitchen area at the Clubhouse. So if you want decent post match teas or hot dogs next season, bring plenty of money!

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.

Whilst we don't know at this stage who will be competing, it is certain to be a fantastic game, and a visit to Twickenham is always special. Alan Knowlton is arranging this for us again, so contact him on home@knowltons.co.uk to reserve your places, by March 1st. Cost is £55 adults, £30 children, to include match ticket, return luxury coach transport and picnic lunch.

The club also will receive cashback on tickets sold, so the more the merrier – ticket only option is also available for the independent travellers among you.

Stags Quiz Night – Advance Date for your Diary – 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, and more specific details will be in next month's Horn, but put it in your diaries now.

Trophies, but more importantly, Glory and bragging rights, for the winners, and a good night out for everyone.

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

(IF YOU GOT THIS BY EMAIL, THE APPLICATION FORM AND STANDING ORDER MANDATE WILL BE ATTACHED)

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 FEBRUARY 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 25th February please for the March 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.

Stags Car Stickers

Have you got a Stags car sticker on your vehicle yet? If not, why not?! For only £2 each, you can proudly show your allegiance to the club. Two car family? That'll be only £4 then.

Car stickers are available from Abi Burgess, the club merchandising manager, but will also be available on match and training days. Let's see all the cars in the car park with a sticker, and remind the community just how big and far reaching Huntingdon Rugby Club really is.

WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK

Why are we called “The Stags”

There will be some more detailed information on the history of the Club in subsequent articles in the Horn, specially as we will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary next season. As a start though here is the Borough Seal dating from the 15th century, which quite clearly shows a grand Stags head.



The application of the seal to the bottom of a written document gave that document the same legal force as a personal signature on a contract. The earliest known picture of it appears in Camden's Visitations of Huntingdonshire of 1613.

The seal shows a hunter with his bow and arrows, standing next to a deer being attacked by two hounds, while a bird sits on the branch of a tree. The legend round the edge of the seal says: "SIGILLUM COMMUNATATIS DE HUNTERISOVNE", which means 'Seal of the Corporation of Huntingdon.' The original 17th century engraver probably meant to write 'Hunterisdune' but made a mistake, (probably a forward) replacing the D with an O. The spelling 'Hunterisdune' is itself a false archaism, reflecting what 17th century people believed the original Saxon spelling might have been. It is important to note that a seal is not the same as a Coat of Arms. A seal is usually circular in shape, occasionally oval, but never in the form of a shield. Huntingdon never had a Coat of Arms, though the later Borough of Huntingdon and Godmanchester (1961-1974) did have one.

When we move back into our Club House at the Race Course, you will be able to see and raise a glass to a magnificent Stags head that used to be prominent both there and in the Pavilion at the school.

Future Features

In future editions of Stags Horn we want to introduce or reintroduce some new ideas and features, which require the input of all the readership.

We would welcome contributions from team or age group coaches for Team of the Month, which should be a fun and light hearted look at a particular Stags team, praising and mickey taking in equal measures. You make up the categories, which could include team captain, most valuable player, team highlights, worst haircut, notable victories, most spectacular miss / knock on, team joker, best story /excuse etc etc. As much or as little as your fertile minds can muster up. A photo of the team would also be great – Stags Horn is a bit dull when there are no pictures around.

We are also introducing a feature that can be variously called “Where in the World” or “Who’s in the Shirt? “. Basically we want photos of Stags shirts from around the world to create a gallery in the Club house. Shirts can be worn at famous landmarks, town signs – the more obscure or well known the place, the better, although run of the mill places are also good. For example, anyone going to watch the Lions in South Africa should have some great photo opportunities, as should anyone going to any of the Six Nations matches. Skiing at half term – take a Stags jersey up a mountain. Tour photos (only appropriate ones, obviously), Easter holidays, day trips to Hunstanton etc - all are welcome.

Equally, getting a famous person to wear, or just pose with a Stags shirt, would be great. Well known rugby players would obviously be best, or most of Girls Aloud. All right, anyone vaguely recognisable then. The main thing is that the jersey is on display, proudly, all over the place, and that we record this.

Please send all photos to simon.millar@uk.lockton.com, and if they can get through the spam filter, then they should be publishable! We look forward to your contributions.

SPOT THE BIRTHDAY BOY



Can you guess which 1st XV player was celebrating his birthday after the recent match at Vipers.



Huntingdon Rugby Club

Stags Social Calendar 2009

Month / Date	Event	Location
Friday 6th February	Sportsmans Dinner	Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon
Friday 27th February	Stags in The City	Newman Arms, W1
Sunday 1st March	Spring Curry Evening	Spiceland, Alconbury
Saturday 14th March	EGM followed by Race Night	Clubhouse, Racecourse
Saturday 4th April	Quiz Night	Clubhouse, Racecourse
Saturday 11th April	John Haldane Memorial Charity Match	Hinchingbrooke
Friday 1st May	Night In a Barn (with Beer, Singing & Dr Busker)	A Barn
May (Date TBC)	Stags Golf Day	Wyboston Lakes GC
Saturday 20th June	Summer Ball	Burgess Hall, St Ives
July (Date TBC)	Strawberry Fayre	Great Raveley

**DEADLINE FOR ITEMS, PHOTOS AND ADVERTS TO BE INCLUDED IN
MARCH'S STAGS HORN – WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY– PLEASE
CAN WE HAVE MORE CONTRIBUTIONS & PHOTOS FROM TEAM
COACHES, CAPTAINS, PARENTS ETC**

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