



# Huntingdon Rugby Club

## **STAGS HORN**

June 2009

Welcome to the tenth edition of Stags Horn, the sexy, yet dependable organ of communication for players, members, parents and supporters within Huntingdon Rugby Club. This is the last Horn of the season, but don't fret – we'll be back louder and prouder than ever, before you know it.

We will be producing this as an occasional hard copy, and also a more readily accessible email version, so if you haven't signed up for online version, email me on [simon.millar@uk.lockton.com](mailto:simon.millar@uk.lockton.com), and I'll add you to the Stags e-community (on the basis that you will only get sent the Horn or other Stags information). I can also 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.

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

**[WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK](http://WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK)**



**The Greatest collection of Stags Blazers ever assembled in one place, plus two other blokes**

**(L-R - John Doonan, Derek Watkins (President, East Midlands RFU), Gordon Ascroft, Sid Millar, Brian Williams (President, RFU), Roy Shutz)**

## **The Thoughts of Chairman Roy**

Before moving (for the final time) to the favourite topic of the Racecourse, it is worthwhile to have a reminder of some achievements of the year just ended.

On the administrative side we obtained, in really quick time, the RFU Seal of Approval, were runners up in The RFU Presidents Award XV in the More Volunteers category, organised our entry in Rugby First, and were in the top thirty clubs in the country for fund raising in the RFU Grand Draw.

On the playing side, two of our mini age groups were joint County cup winners, we were finalists in the Hunts & Peterborough cup, Won the Old Boot tournament, and came second in the East Midlands Directors league.

Well done to everyone involved in all of these varied endeavours.

At the time of the Special General Meeting on 14th March, an early completion of the Licence with the Racecourse looked probable. Since then, however, there were lengthy discussions on the right to terminate clause and, after that was satisfactorily resolved, the Racecourse raised the question of a "cap" on its obligations to re-imburse the Club for capital expenditure should the licence end early. Though this question has also now been settled there has been a further period of uncertainty and delay. We now have access to the Clubhouse, Building Regulation approval is being sought in respect of the structural alterations, and working groups are being organised.

The deadline for completion is Presidents Day on 22nd August when House and Ground will be formally opened. Before that the committee looks forward to a good turn out of Members at the Annual General Meeting at the Clubhouse on 14th July

**Roy Shutz**

**Chairman**

## **Tescos Schools and Club Vouchers**

If you have any of these lying around, please can you send them to Charlotte Oldwood, who is collecting and counting these on our behalf. They must be with her by June 24<sup>th</sup> please, so that we can get them in on time, and a collection box will be present at the Ball for anyone who is going.

Please post them to Charlotte at 8 Earning Street, Godmanchester, Cambs PE29 2JD

Many thanks - this will help get us some free kit for the minis next season, so get searching.

### **Did you know.....?**

**That playing representative rugby for Hunts and Peterborough in the East Midlands RFU, is the same sub-county standard as playing for Cambridgeshire in the Eastern Counties RFU? So congratulations to the many Stags players who have played for either in 2009.**

**Hunts & Peterborough RFU, to whom Stags are affiliated, are producing a year book for the first time for the 2009/10 season, which will be circulated around the eight clubs in the sub-county – anyone wishing to advertise for the modest price of £50 per ad, should contact the H&P Chairman, Andy Moore, direct on 07710-205015.**

## **Stags Swing to Success**

Tom McCreadie captained Stags to a fine performance in the recent Rugby Clubs Golf Championship at Diss Golf Club. The Championship is played across the UK, with rugby clubs competing to become National Rugby Clubs Golf Champions. The day at Diss was a qualifying round and Stags won through to the Regional Final in September with something to spare.

In true Stags style, the team of four travelled with only three players, but were able to persuade Mike Francis, who was running the event for Wooden Spoon, to leave the comfort of the Registration desk for the delights of the golf course.

Playing as two pairs, the team enjoyed success in blustery conditions on a course that combined an interesting mix of Links, heath and parkland features. Tom and his partner, Chip Wood played with a pair from Woodbridge RFC and amassed a worthy 37 points, while Mike was mostly a spectator, as Nick Wilcox caressed the ball into each hole. The pair scored 39 points, giving the team a combined total of 76 points. Nick was unlucky to miss out on the Straightest Drive prize, as his tee shot went further than the line that had been placed down the middle of the fairway. The Bishop's Stortford playing pair wanted Nick to receive the prize as his ball would have been closest to an extension of the line, but Mike F said he would not be able to show his face, if he awarded Wilcox a prize on a sympathy vote.

However, at the prize giving ceremony, Mike F was delighted to award Stags 2<sup>nd</sup> place on the day, behind the home team of Diss RFC. The top 6 teams progress to the Regional Final at Gog Magog GC on 9 October, at which Stags will try to reach the National Final at Walton Heath GC. Readers of the Horn will be disappointed to learn that Cambridge RFC's team failed to qualify for the next round. The Mighty Stags march on.

**Mike Francis**

## **Guinness Premiership Final – Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>**

About 50 Stags of all ages had a fun day out at the Guinness Premiership Final, boarding a coach down to Twickenham to watch Leicester v London Irish, with some impromptu Sporting Trivia questions flying around the back of the bus. We arrived and parked near the ground and were mightily impressed by the picnic that Sid had organised. The odd April shower did nothing to dampen the atmosphere, although a few of the Stags blazer brigade were slightly concerned about the porosity of their much commented-on garments. The kids had a big impromptu game of rugby against 2 or 3 other clubs who had also opted for a coach and picnic adventure. We soon weaved our way through the North car park, with a few of the oldies (actually only one – Ed) bemoaning how it is now a big rip off bar, when in times past it was the chance to grab some grub and a drink with friends out the back of a well stocked car. The kids though seemed to enjoy the various rugby themed amusements, and also the sight of a few London Irish Lord of the Dance attired supporters.

Once inside the Stadium in high in the South Stand, we spotted a number of our St Neots RFC cousins! The game itself was entertaining without being a classic, but kept the crowd on edge until the final whistle with Leicester crowned as champions, leaving anyone of Irish descent upset for about the length of time it took them to get back to the Guinness tent, even at about £6 a pint!

We Stags got back on the fun bus and headed back up the A1, entertained by some of the younger folk who had obviously learnt one verse of one WWII song from a mischievous grandfather or great uncle. A splendid day out, and thanks to Roy for organising the tickets.

**Our Roving Reporter**



Geordan Murphy (Leicester, Ireland, British Lions) told Ian McGeechan that he was unavailable for selection for this Lions trip to South Africa, as he was hopeful of making the Staggerers Old Boot squad. And displace Paul Lawrence or Huw Williams? Don't be silly, Geordie, you deluded fool.

## 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](mailto: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!

[WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK](http://WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK)

# STAGS 007 SUMMMER BALL

SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 7.30pm – 12.30am

BURGESS HALL, ST IVES

If you are not already on table for the Stags Summer Ball, then

**YOU'RE TOO LATE !!!!**

**HOWEVER, THE STAGS SUMMER BALL WILL RETURN IN 2010, SO  
BOOK YOUR TABLE EARLY**



## Another Stag in the Pink



**And doesn't he look comfortable with it.**

**Please send me your holiday snaps, preferably in a Stags Shirt (even a pink one) from around the world, and I'll publish them in the Horn. All photos gratefully received.**

## **Stags Twenty20 Cricket at Kimbolton CC – 24<sup>th</sup> May**

The Stags fielded a team that included one U13s in George Furbank, two U14s in Jack Skidmore and Josh Doonan, captain Andy Rampley, Nick Wilcox, Lou Skidmore, Ian Gould, Mark F-C, Tom McCreadie, last minute volunteer Ölaf the Durrant, and Mark Garood.

We played against Waresly first and struggled to contain them to 150, off 12 eight ball overs. There were two wickets for Jack Skidmore, one a catch from Lou Skidmore, two for Josh Doonan, and one from Wilcox. Garood displayed some very safe hands (and dodgy knees), and Ramps, despite having sliced his finger open the previous evening, ably kept wicket. When batting some of the Stag big guns, having not played cricket let alone Twenty20, for many years, struggled to get their eye in. We ended up well short, despite both a few mighty swipes from Tommy Mac, and Gouldy and our adopted Viking pillaging a fair few towards the end, so we ended up scoring more than Kimbolton IIs and the Hazbeebbs had scored against each other.

The next game was a very exciting game against the Hazbeebbs. This time we batted first with consistent scoring from most of the XI. Again a few big hits from Tom got the DJ going, although our Chairman found all the noise bothersome! Anyway we posted a decent score, of which I can't remember due to the very pleasant pints of Squirrel Nutkin from a local micro brewer. We then had to defend the score and at one point we looked in spot of bother, however Jack Skidmore bowled an excellent leg spin delivery that had the Hazbeebbs best batsman dancing down the track, leaving Ramps a straightforward stumping. Further wickets fell to Wilcox, Josh, and a catch in the deep by young Furbank. Mark F-C also took a very good catch on the long on boundary, but had to use the boundary board for balance and so the catch became a big 6, more noise from the DJ, more shaking of the head from our Chairman. So into the last over and the Stags Barmy Army, by now swelled with various Millars, Burgesses, Furbanks, Goulds, & Huttons voiced their encouragement, and were rewarded with a thrilling finale. The Hazbeebbs needed a run from the last ball of the over to win, but the Stags kept their calm and got a run out to ensure a draw. A great day out, we have already been invited back next year and I would encourage all to attend, even if not playing. On the playing front there will be serious competition for places as those that donned the whites played very well indeed.

**John Ourlot**

# **DON'T FORGET**

## **STAGS AGM – RACECOURSE CLUBHOUSE**

### **TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY – 7.45PM**

**ALL CLUB MEMBERS WELCOME – YOUR ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT**

## **PRESIDENTS DAY – RACECOURSE**

### **SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST – Time tbc (see Stagschat)**

**ALL WELCOME – BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY FOR LOTS OF FUN**

## Who are the reigning Olympic Rugby Champions? – France v USA 1924

The final was played at Colombes stadium, Paris on 18 May 1924 before 50,000 screeching, drunken Frenchmen who were oblivious to the FOC's public appeal for calm. Paris bookmakers set the odds at twenty to one; the points spread was twenty and no wonder: The French national rugby team was one of the greatest ever assembled, and included on its roster the legendary Adolphe Juarraguy, said to be the fastest rugby player alive. By comparison, most of the American players hadn't touched a rugby ball until six months earlier. The mob packing Colombes Stadium fully expected an easy gold medal for France to open the Paris Olympic Games.

As the team entered the stadium from a tunnel, they noted that the Olympic officials had elected to install a tall wire fence around the stadium to restrain the crowd. The US chose 45 minute halves, betting that their fitness and stamina would outlast the French. USA agreed to 90 minutes over French protests and started the match.

France intended to take its revenge, but from the kickoff it was obvious the American players intended to avenge their treatment by the French (they were openly spat upon in the street). Two minutes after the opening whistle, Adolphe Juarraguy received a pass on the wing, and the crowd roared as its hero set off for the American line. But from out of nowhere came "Lefty" Rogers, Stanford's basketball captain, who levelled the famed Frenchman with a tooth-rattling tackle. On the next play Juarraguy's stride was broken by another Rogers tackle. Then it was the turn of All-American and Rhodes Scholar Alan Valentine who had sprinted the width of the field to hurl his 210-lb bulk into the off-balance Juarraguy. "And that was the end of him," says Charlie Doe. Oblivious even to the sound of the howling crowd, Juarraguy was carted off the field bleeding, "like a sack of potatoes". At halftime the score was only 3-0 in the USA's favour



USA v France – 1924 Olympic Final

In the second half the French defence crumbled in the wake of a series of ferocious American attacks. With a humiliating French defeat imminent, the crowd began earning its reputation for thuggery (many foreign teams refused to play in Paris because of French rugby hooliganism at that time). American supporters were being beaten up in the stands, and their bodies passed down to the field to be collected by ambulances. "I thought they were dead," says Norman Cleaveland. "We were sure it was only a matter of time before they got their hands on us." The match finished in uproar, when Nelson, one of the US reserves, was flattened by a walking stick.

When the final whistle blew, the score was 17-3, and the French crowd was hysterical. "They were throwing bottles and rocks and clawing at us through the fence, recalls Cleaveland. After the medal ceremony, the American rugby players were escorted to their locker room by dozens of gendarmes, but they remain Olympic Champions.

**This is a contemporary newspaper report of the final, and no national stereotypes are intended. Honest.**

## 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 – STILL ONLY £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 a case to try with a friend. You'll never want to go to Tesco's for your bottles of Mother's Little Helper ever again!! Orders to Sid Millar – email as on front cover.

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> August please for the September 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.

## Blazers

Don't be the only one without one – they look great, feel great and even smell great (to start with, anyway). Chicks dig them – ask Spanner. If you want to look as elegant and distinguished as the male models on the front cover, contact Mark Foster Collier on [mark\\_fc@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_fc@hotmail.com) or 07880-784865.

STAGS DIARY 2009				
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	ORGANISER
20th June	Stags 007 Summer Ball	Burgess Hall, St Ives	7.30 PM	Sid Millar
14th July	AGM	Racecourse Clubhouse	7.45PM	Roy Shutz
<b>Advance Notice for your diaries</b>				
22nd August	Presidents Day	Racecourse Clubhouse & Pitches		TBA
27th November	Dr Busker at the Clubhouse	Racecourse Clubhouse	8PM	John Doonan

**DEADLINE FOR ITEMS, MATCH REPORTS, PHOTOS AND ADVERTS TO BE INCLUDED IN SEPTEMBER'S STAGS HORN – SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST – PLEASE CAN WE HAVE MORE CONTRIBUTIONS & PHOTOS FROM TEAM COACHES, CAPTAINS, PARENTS, FORMER PLAYERS ETC –ANY RUGBY RELATED NONSENSE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.**

**WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.CC.UK**