



Huntingdon Rugby Club

STAGS HORN

March 2009

Welcome to the seventh 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.

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

Members will have received notification of a Special General Meeting to be held on 14th March. A few words about the proposed agreement and arrangements for the meeting may be useful.

After lengthy discussions on heads of terms, the Racecourse solicitors (Nockolds) sent to the Clubs solicitors (Solomon, Taylor and Shaw) a draft licence on 15 January. We replied with our amendments on 30th January. We were told by the racecourse on 18th February that they had that day responded to Nockolds with regards to the suggested amendments. Our solicitors are therefore waiting for the travelling draft to learn of that response.

It is possible, though unlikely, that all will be agreed by 14th March. It is reasonable to assume, however, that some 95% of the document will be settled and that which remains should not be too controversial or take too long to resolve. Accordingly, we are confident that the meeting may go ahead.

As to the conduct of the meeting, it will start promptly at 5.30 at the Racecourse Clubhouse. After an introduction there will be an opportunity for questions to be put to the committee. The matter will then be open for debate. Dependent upon the result, there may then be some discussion on practical arrangements.

The bar will open at 5.00 but will be closed during the meeting, re-opening thereafter, until 11.00, during the subsequent Stags Race Night which I hope you will all support. I will see you there.

Roy Shutz

Chairman

RFU Grand Draw 2008/9

A big thank you to everyone who sold or bought RFU Grand Draw tickets this year, which saw a record 2,830 tickets sold by the club. Early indications from the RFU show that we are likely to be in the top 20 clubs & constituent bodies in the country for ticket sales, which shows us punching well above our weight in terms of club size.

This has been a major part of our fundraising efforts this year, and also supported the Under 17's Tour to Portugal (see below). However, there are probably quite a few of you who didn't get the opportunity to buy a book or two of tickets. This is something that we hope to remedy next year!

STAGS SUMMER BALL 2009

SATURDAY JUNE 20TH

BURGESS HALL, ST IVES

**PREPARE TO BE SHAKEN AND STIRRED, AS
BOND COMES TO HUNTINGDONSHIRE!**

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

Wooden Spoon Rugby Clubs Golf Championship

Mike Francis has asked me 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@stradbrooke.co.uk

We will also be holding a Stags Golf Day, hopefully in May – more details to follow soon.

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Youth News

With the bad weather hopefully behind us we have started to train and play games at last. Reports of various exploits from the minis/juniors to follow in this report.

Not a huge amount to report on other than games and also the impending Seal of Approval assessment on March 8th.

The Move.

I suspect this will already have been reported in this month's Stags Horn but all members should have received notification of an SGM to take place at Brampton Racecourse in our intended new clubhouse on Saturday March 14th at 5:30.

This is an exciting time for the club as a whole and it is not often, if at all, that you get the chance to move en-block to a new ground in your rugby career. I thank everyone for their patience and determination to keep things going whilst at the school and hope you will all see the benefits of having our own clubhouse, pitches and being in charge of our own affairs when, as is hoped, we move to our new home.

I do hope as many of you as possible can make it and it will be followed by a "Race Night" organised by our Social Sec, Sid Millar.

The School.

Please note that due to maintenance work being carried out by the school on the main field we are unable to use these pitches for playing or training after Sunday April 5th.

The games left after this period are away, however the minis also have a training day in April so teams wishing to train will have to make alternative arrangements.

MOBBS

Well done to the U10s who made it through to their area final unfortunately losing to a very strong Luton team.

Also congratulations to the U12s who played 5 losing just the 1 game at their Mobbs tournament to pick up overall 4th place

County Cup.

Well done to the U7s & U9s squads both of whom made it through to their respective final's and drew. They both share the spoils and are county champions. Full match reports on Stagschat.

Also well done to the U13s, who lost in their semi final by one score to a strong Shelford team.

The U8s were unlucky not to go through to the semi finals of their tournament losing out on tries scored. A tough way to exit.

I think we can all see that from the results above the minis/junior playing section is in fine fettle. It is down to a combination of hard working coaches/volunteers/parents and players. I am particularly pleased to see a winning ethos running through the club as well as all teams playing in the right spirit. We should all be very proud of the various team's performances.

Spencer Burgess
Youth Chairman

Under 17s Tour to Portugal

In the February half-term the Stags U17's Youth Team decided it was time to spread their wings a bit, and flew off to Portugal for a tour which I'm sure we will all remember for a long time to come!

After much fundraising helped by the Club we left, on February 14th. Despite all being rather tired as we'd had to wake early, we were all buzzing with excitement for the trip, aided by the recounted stories of those who had been to our destination before. However, our journey was unexpectedly delayed as a passenger on our flight suffered an unexpected attack of some sort and had to be dropped into a hospital in France mid flight. Despite this delay, we made it to Portugal safely. We all stepped out of the plane aching (a little legroom wouldn't have gone amiss!) into the brilliant Portugal Sun, the albinos among us covering up to avoid burning, and were soon on our way to Browns (our resort).

Upon arrival we were in awe. The facilities were incredible, the scenery beautiful, and the villas pristine. After finding our way to our rooms, settling in (and of course watching the England vs Wales match!), it was straight into some games! We played 5 a side football on the pitch provided in our teams (decided by the coaches) that we would be in for competitive events throughout the tour, getting more and more competitive as the games progressed, with "Yendley's Yeomen" eventually winning the football. After 3 hours of this, some of us decided to take a dip in the pool, only to find out it was freezing and instantly leaping back out again, heading back to our rooms and relaxing for the evening. Throughout the week, we played many more of these competitive events, including beach volleyball (won by the "Hesketh Heroes" in a final against "Turner's Tartars"), Trivia games (won by the Tartars), Go Karting (won by the Yeomen) and Tennis (won by the Heroes, giving them the overall victory).

Each morning we rose to a Full English breakfast at approx 0900 to be told the new tour rules. These rules were to be kept to at all times whilst on tour, and were punishable by all means of peculiar tortures decided by coaches and players alike. However, there was a twist; we were also to stick to 3 different rules decided by the players committee which changed every day, making it a challenge to avoid said cruel punishments. The most memorable of which included a solo rendition by James Turner of "Jerusalem," (which it must be said was hilarious!), many laps of the freezing pool, and wheelbarrow races across the sand, all with much pointing and laughing from team-mates.

Over the week we played 2 Portuguese teams, and were surprised to find ourselves playing U20s and, in the case of Loulé, even a 24 year old man. In our first match we were a man down, and despite this and some simply terrible refereeing, we managed to scrape a win 22-14 against Vilamoura, and a considerable victory of 40-12 over Loulé. The Portuguese were incredibly nice and hospitable, playing fairly cleanly and being friendly in the bar afterwards over games of pool, darts and table football. Top try scorers were Alex Anthony with 3 and Greg Southgate + Tom Morgan with 2 each.

Near the end of the tour we went out into Vilamoura and shopped around, with instructions to get a picture with a Portuguese person and to buy the most useless item possible for fewer than 5 euros, which yielded an uncut key amongst other items. We had a thoroughly good night (so much so that many of us went back the next night), and were disappointed to be leaving so soon. The whole flight back was spent asleep by most, exhausted from a thoroughly good time. I personally was disappointed that I had to leave, but was glad I had had such a good time there. I look forward to our next tour, and hope it meets the standards set by this one.



U17 Tourists and Coaches

Stags Race Night – Saturday March 14th

Final reminder for the Club Race Night, which will take place after the Special General Meeting on March 14th, starting at 7.30pm. You will have the opportunity to win vast fortunes on a series of races that have been run at foggy racecourses 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, and it would be great to see a good turnout of Stags players, supporters and parents – all are welcome. The profits from the evening 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 hoping to run a coach trip which is open to all players, parents, supporters and friends. Very much a family day, the coach will leave from Hinchbrook, 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, or speak to Roy Shutz, to reserve your places, by March 8th latest. 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. **Please note, however, if we do not get sufficient numbers, the coach option may be withdrawn on cost grounds, and it will be a ticket only trip.**

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. Full bar facilities available, as you would expect.

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

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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 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.

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.

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Sainsburys Bag Pack – Saturday March 28th

The Mini section will be carrying out another bag pack at Sainsburys, Huntingdon – times as follows

10.00am – 11.00am	-	U6's & U7's
11.00am – 12.00pm	-	U8's & U9's
12.00pm – 1.00pm	-	U12's
1.00pm – 2.00pm	-	U13's
2.00pm – 3.00pm	-	U10's
3.00pm – 4.00pm	-	U11's

The social contact from each age group is asked to gather names of players available to pack, and coaches/parents available to support. Each age group will be required to meet in Sainsburys 15 minutes before their packing time. This is an essential health and safety requirement.

This has the potential of raising over £1,500 for the club, and getting us some great press coverage – So please make sure all players and coaches are wearing their Stags kits, and support this event!

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Stags around the World



Following the request in last month's Horn, we have received the following entries, for Stags shirts (and blazers) seen around the world. Above are Sid Millar & Chris Durrant outside the GPO in O'Connell Street, Dublin, and also Mike Kinaszczuk in the highest cellar the world – 1,151 feet above the ground in the CN Tower, Toronto.

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

STAGS DIARY 2009

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	ORGANISER
14th March	SGM	Racecourse Clubhouse	5.30PM	Roy Shutz
14th March	Race Night	Racecourse Clubhouse	7.30PM	Sid Millar
28th March	Bag Pack	Sainsburys, Huntingdon	10.00am onwards	Terry Eastcott
4th April	Quiz Night	Racecourse Clubhouse	7.45PM	Sid Millar
15th May	Wooden Spoon Golf	Diss Golf Club	Probably early	Mike Francis
16th May	Trip to Guinness Premiership Final	Twickenham	10.00AM	Alan Knowlton
20th June	Stags 007 Summer Ball	Burgess Hall, St Ives	7.30Pm	Sid Millar

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

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