

STAGS HORN

September 2009 Vol 2 No 1

We're back! Welcome to a new season, new clubhouse and new Horn. If this is your first time getting the Horn, we hope that you will enjoy this monthly experience, bringing you the news and the nonsense from within Huntingdon & District Rugby Club. The intention is to ensure that as many people as possible receive this by email – if you are getting this second hand or are seeing it in the occasional hard copy that will be produced for special occasions, send me an email on 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 always be contacted on 07717-516315.

Any news articles from all sections of the Club – Seniors, Staggerers, 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 at

WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK

YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD.....

WE'RE BACK AT THE RACECOURSE!!!!



John Steele, CEO of UK Sport, opens the Racecourse Clubhouse in the company of President Neil Greatorex and Chairman John Doonan (blazered).

The Thoughts of Chairman John

Ok, let's get the height jokes out of the way! Yes I have always seen eye-to-eye with the outgoing Chairman, who, by the way, steered the Stags through some very trying times and, like a modern day Joshua, has led us to the promised land!! My thanks to Roy for all the effort, time and enthusiasm he put into this Club, it is much appreciated.

So we are back at the Race Course. I never played there myself, however for many it is a return to the scene of many amusing, infamous and successful times – I hope that this next decade in the life of the Stags will provide such stories for the next generation. Indeed for many club members it will be the first experience of actually having their own club house and boy do they have something to look forward to. I hope that all members will embrace this exciting opportunity. For all club members who have stuck firm with the Stags, in those dark days of training up at Goddy, postponed Saturday and Sunday fixtures at the last moment, long queues at the bar etc – well now you can enjoy your own Club!

I also hope that we can welcome back many past members who used to play at the Reccourse in previous decades and who contributed both financially and through volunteer work when the first extension, the changing rooms and showers, were built back in 1988.

Over the summer a hard core of club members have devoted weekends, evenings and personal profit to getting the club house, changing rooms and pitches ready for Presidents Day and the start of the new season, my thanks to all of them. This effort has had a significant effect not just on the look and feel, but also the structure, of the club house as a whole.

Having our own club house and pitches comes with added responsibility and all members should recognise that a new level of commitment is required by all. We need more volunteer support and I would ask you to please consider helping out in any capacity. Although last season we saw a huge uptake in volunteers – which led to us receiving an award from the RFU – we need to see that doubled this season as there are many new roles that need filling. Seek out myself, any Committee member, age group coach or the Stags Harts Ladies and offer your help as this will make a huge impact on the success of the Stags. You will be surprised as to how much fun and sense of fulfilment you will get from participating in the club's activities.

The Club has spent around £35,000 on fitting out and renovations to the Clubhouse and pitches. A set of rugby posts for example cost £1500. We will now have a paid Bar Steward and have spent £1000 on certifying a number of volunteers to have the NCPLH accreditation so that the bar can function and open. We continue to invest in coach's accreditation and training with several coaches now moving onto Level 2. This obviously means we require income so as to continue to offer excellent club playing and social facilities.

Therefore Club membership is vital as an income stream. I would ask you all to consider the membership that you have with the Club. If your child is a member, perhaps you might consider yourself becoming a Social Member as a way of contributing towards the up keep and rent of the Club House. If you have 2 children as members then a Family membership would be an appropriate contribution. As a supporter on a Saturday, again perhaps a Social Member would be reasonable as you will no doubt wish to have a drink or two and use the general facilities.

We are delighted that many companies have agreed to sponsor the Stags this season in various ways and this will make the new Annual Stags Sponsors Lunch later in the season a great event. We have also had several generous donations from members .

We can very much look forward to all aspects of the new season. On the senior side we welcome several new players, the influx of last season's Colts, a new coach – Damien Whales, Neil Greatorex as Chair of the Playing Committee and Elliott Baldwin as 1st XV Captain. All of these factors together will, I am sure, lead to a successful and enjoyable season at the senior end of the Club. All support is most welcome specially for League games, but on any Saturday afternoon, rather than sitting at home pop down the club and watch the Staggerers, Colts, 3rd XV, 2nd XV or 1st XV in action.

On the junior side, along with our RFU Seal of Approval award through the efforts of Spencer Burgess, who remains as Youth Chairman, we can now boast teams from U7 to U15 inclusive, and an U6 'creche'. We hope that by having our own club house and grounds we will attract more players to the Junior section and see continued success in Festivals and tournaments, plus an increasing number of players aged U12 and above being selected for County representative teams for Hunts & Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

On the Social side, with Sid Millar continuing as Social Chair, we will enjoy events such as Dr Busker and Race Night in our own club house. The Summer Ball gets better and better and this season the Sportmans Dinner speaker can only be better! We also hope to have a few family Sundays when all age groups will be at home. All of these events, aside from being great fun, are also key to providing much needed income for the Club.

Finally on a governance and "run the club" side we have an excellent Committee in place as above. Furthermore our finances are being well looked after by our Treasurer Mark Williams, Matt Griggs steps into the new role of House & Grounds Chair, Mark Garrod is the new Vice Chairman and we are all marshalled and organised by the Club Secretary, Frances Kent.

Therefore we have a lot to look forward to and I hope that you will support the Stags, as the Club is only as good as the members wish it to be and make it.

Now, who fancies a beer at our own bar? Marvellous.

John Doonan

Chairman

VPs & FORMER PLAYERS LUNCH

**SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER – BEFORE THE HOME LEAGUE GAME v
AYLESTONE ST JAMES AT THE RACECOURSE. SUMPTUOUS BUFFET
LUNCH – ONLY £10 PER HEAD. ALL WELCOME.**

PLEASE SPEAK TO SID MILLAR OR DAVE RUDDY TO RSVP.

GENTLE REMINDER TO ALL PLAYERS & MEMBERS

PAY YOUR SUBS ASAP - THANKS

Stags off to a great start

Midlands 2 East (South)

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Adjust
Aylestone St James	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huntingdon & District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leicester Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lutterworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Market Harborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northampton BBOB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northampton Old Scouts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Old Newtonians	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough Lions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Towcestrians	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vipers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Not a ball kicked and we're already third in the table – keep it up lads.

WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK

NEW AND UPDATED WEBSITE COMING SOON.....

What I did on my Holidays No 1

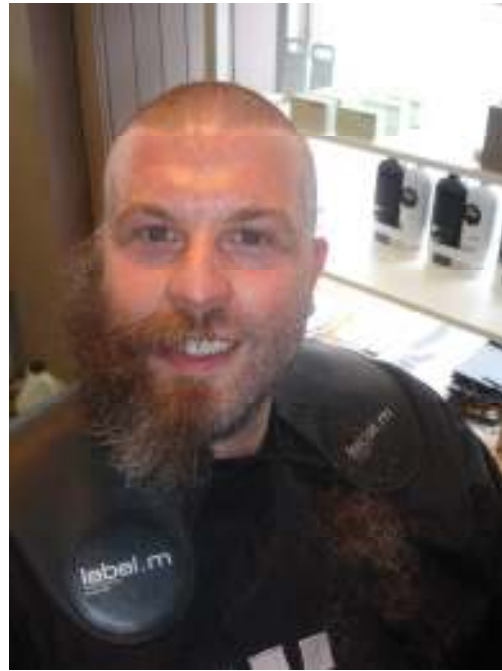


Olaf Durrant and Sid Millar having climbed Table Mountain, Cape Town

Jesus Shaves



Going.....



Going.....



Going.....



Gone

Congratulations to Clubman of the Year and all round media darling, Dave 'Jesus' Moody, who gamely volunteered to have his foliage removed for the club on President's Day, raising much needed funds (contact him at darimoody@live.co.uk to donate).

Thanks must also go to his mentor, Peter Michael, who was there with him at the barbers when the hair went, and also showed much compassion and humanity when Dave finally succumbed to the emotion of the day. Maybe like Sampson, his powers were in his hair – Pete comes from the land of Delilah. The Horn never actively courts controversy, but I think we should be told what dark forces caused the fall of Jesus.

What do you think about the Stags?

As we start a new season back at our club house, it is an opportunity to get some input from you all as to what you 'want' from the Club, so please take time to answer these questions and either email them to john.doonan@expandconsulting.com, or write out the answers and put them in the suggestions box near the bar. Your input is welcome.

1. What do you like about the Stags?
2. What could be improved?
3. What should be the Stags playing ambition at Senior level?
4. What, if anything, have you seen at other clubs that we should be doing/have/implement at the Stags?
5. What social events do you most enjoy?
6. What other social events would you like to see at the Stags?
7. Would you be able to help out in any capacity at the Stags?

Thanks.

What I did on my Holidays No 2



1st XV bright young things, Doug Bentley, Ali Dunsdon and Ben Strangeways outside the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. Must have been a good night lads – the cathedral was fine the afternoon before.

ADVANCE NOTICE – RFU GRAND DRAW STARTS AGAIN IN OCTOBER. LAST YEAR WE CAME A FANTASTIC 14TH OUT OF 687 PARTICIPATING CLUBS / SCHOOLS – CAN WE DO TOP TEN IN 2009/10?



Matt Dawson MBE – Northampton Saints, Wasps, England and British Lions. He’s even prepared to give up flirting with Sue Barker to get a shot at the Staggerers No 9 jersey. But will he accept being third fiddle to Messrs Belchier and Wilcox? Stick to the Foxtrot, Matt.

WWW.HUNTINGDONRUFCCO.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 , OR ON THE CLUBHOUSE NOTICE BOARD.

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

GOOD LUCK, AND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT – IT COULD BE YOU!

What I did on my Holidays No 3



Sam Green from this year's Under 11 squad, at the RFU Fun Day at Twickenham with the GB Cheerleading squad. Good work Sam.

STAGS DIARY 2009/10 SEASON

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	ORGANISER
Sat 3rd October	VPs and Former Players Lunch	Racecourse Clubhouse	Midday	Sid Millar
Sat 31st October	Stags Question of Sport	Racecourse Clubhouse	7.30PM	Roy Shutz
27th November	Dr Busker at the Clubhouse	Racecourse Clubhouse	8PM	John Doonan
19th December	Stags Xmas Party /Disco	Racecourse Clubhouse	8PM	Sid Millar
20th December	Mini / Junior Xmas Parties	Eat N Bowl / Clubhouse	Afternoon	Spencer Burgess
2010				
February	Sportsmans Dinner	TBA		Sid Millar
Sat 12th June	Summer Ball	TBA		Sid Millar

All articles, match reports, photos, nonsense, items for blackmailing teammates etc to me by Friday 25th September for inclusion in the October Horn. Please contribute or you'll get more of my gibberish – you have been warned. Did I mention about paying your subs?