



## Club Newsletter

### October 2009

Since the last newsletter, which was indeed my first, one heck of a lot of things have been going on, not least of all the new season starting that is now in full swing. It's fair to say we are having a good start, our 1<sup>st</sup> XV, who as you will know are enjoying success again this year, and that's down to the hard work everyone is putting into this squad from coaches to players and management too. So too it must be said for the 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, Vet's and Colts, with some good results being notched up between them. None of this happens without a lot of support, which you will appreciate, is down to volunteers, a subject I will touch on again later in this newsletter.

The last time I put "fingers to the keyboard", the old adage of "pen to paper" is fast disappearing these days, I wrote about the commercial side of the club activities and Concept XV, it is with some sadness that you will have seen the news of our decision to close that company. Despite a lot of hard work and effort put in by many, the commercial reality of running a bar and restaurant in these difficult economic times led to the decision to close that operation. What is left now is a rugby club, our rugby club, which needs everyone's support to keep it moving forward. We are working through the issues of running the bar and catering needs for ourselves, and you will see that so far we have managed this with the tremendous help of many volunteers. Without this kind of help it simply wouldn't be possible, so my thanks to everyone who has stepped forward at this time of change.

The club is open for functions, both rugby and social ones, so please promote the club, use the club, and let everyone who asks know we are here and we are available. If anyone wants to know more about booking a social event, function or anything else, call the club number; leave a message or email [info@derbyrfc.com](mailto:info@derbyrfc.com).

#### **Whole Club SOA & WCDP**

What, I hear you say is all that? The RFU Seal of Approval and Whole Club Development Plan, something we signed up to some years back and achieved the first part of the SOA for Junior Rugby a couple of years ago. Right now we are going through the process of getting our club accredited for the whole club and not just juniors, Graham Darby is heading up this task up as CVC (Club Volunteer Coordinator), so if he starts asking you daft questions, he's probably on about that! (Well, maybe!)

#### **New Lights**

Yes, there they are, not that everyone instantly noticed I have to say, and despite so many objections, we have them and the additional training lights are being well used throughout the week. We are trying to organise an evening fixture at the moment and have a bit of a celebration night to mark the first game under the new "match lights", not to mention the useful additional street lighting we will offer to the local residents of course (joke!)



### **Support for the Club**

It would be remiss of me to not make mention of this in the light of some tremendous pre-season work undertaken by two gentlemen, I think that's what they are! George Giles and Paul Richardson took up the challenge to work on the advertising and sponsorship campaign, contacting all of our current and some past supporters of the club. The result has been a superb new programme for the season, some much needed additional sponsor boards and more match day sponsorship than of recent years. There's still a couple of match days available I think, so if you know someone who might want to use a 1<sup>st</sup> XV match as an opportunity to entertain guests at the club, let me know. But that's not all, we have other people working on future opportunities too, so there's plenty more going on even now the season is well underway.

### **New Club Shop**

If you haven't yet been lured into the new shop, and I'm not talking about Westfield here, go and see Karen, Annette and Vanessa in the club shop. There are goodies galore, we have all new kit for this season, supplied this year by Puma. The new gear looks great and there's plenty of leisure wear too, go on, treat yourself! Opening times are shown on the website, but in brief, Wednesday and Thursday evenings plus Saturday and Sundays and if that's not convenient, you can buy online too!

### **Speakers Dinner, a Great Success!**

As part of a new drive to get new people interested in the club and supporting it, the idea of a speaker's dinner came about. Jane Kirk and Richard Lucas put together the first of what will be three such events this season, starting with a splendid evening with dinner and guest speaker John Bentley, ex England and Lions whinger, sorry winger! It was a sell out, with the help of sponsorship from Russell Rigby and Nick Alexander, the evening was enjoyed by club members and some new business contacts too. The next one is already fully booked, Martin Corry being the guest on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, which we hope will again be a night to look forward to and remember. There is a further event planned for the end of the season, but more on that one nearer the time.

### **Unwelcome visitors**

Some of you will have been aware of the recent problems we had with Travellers. Can I reiterate the importance of everyone being vigilant about the club and our property. Make sure everything is locked up when finished with, especially the gates, these guys are still about and can soon come back, so please keep a watchful eye on things, and if you spot something or someone you think might be up to no good, let us know.

Well, that's enough of me for now, I'll save a bit for the next time, see you in the club!

Regards

Martyn Murney