



SCRUM DOWN

Issue Number 9

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THE MOVE TO MONKTON LANE

Things are progressing very quickly with regard to the move to the new ground, with Stax, the leisure provider, looking to complete the land purchase in March/April of 2010. As there is a condition that they cannot open their facility until the rugby club pitches are playable, this means that work on the pitches will be a priority, and hopefully we should have pitches ready to play on for the start of the 2011 season.

However, the down-

side of things moving so quickly is that we, as a club, need to make sure that we have sufficient funding in place to make sure that we can pay for our share of the project, and over the next couple of months we will be asked to support a number of events/activities. Various grants are being applied for, but the main committee is determined not to leave the club heavily in debt, and therefore every penny raised counts.

To ensure that the project becomes a certainty it is in our interests to ensure that we do everything that we can to aid the club, so please do support everything that you can and don't be shy in coming forward to offer any particular areas of expertise that you might have that could be of use.

If you haven't already seen the plans they are on the wall in the clubhouse, and we will be the envy of other clubs.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome back to everyone after what has hopefully been an enjoyable festive period.

Once again the Inter-Club Christmas match took place with some lighthearted touch followed by a more serious game involving contact afterwards.

It was great to see a

number of returning players back from their studies, and Gollum also did well to escape injury in his annual match, although his son Ritchie fared less well thanks to the efforts of his dad!

We now need to get as many players as possible back to training to work off the excess and to en-

sure that we continue to build on the promising last month before the enforced Christmas break. All senior training will now be held at the club, and even in inclement weather something purposeful will take place although players would be well advised to bring trainers with them.

Stop Press

With the current snow and cold weather it is essential that all players try to keep themselves as fit as possible, both with CV workouts that could be completed in the gym, and with core strength and muscular endurance activities that can be done at home.

1ST XV NEWS

We have had a tough start to the season in the 1st team, but we are all working hard to try and turn around a string of poor results.

During pre-season training it seemed clear that we had a stronger group of players to choose from than we did last year and it was also clear that competition for places would be fierce. Unfortunately, due to injuries and unavailabilities we have been unable to test our belief that our playing squad is stronger than last year and have used over fifty players already this season.

However, we have started to turn the corner and over the last few weeks we have put together some better performances. Firstly we drew 3-3 at home to second place Old Whitgiftians, before scoring two tries and falling just short

23 -13 against Old Walcourtians, and then recording that elusive first win with a good display against Old Freemans.

It is no coincidence that these results have followed the three weeks in which we have been able to make the fewest changes to our match day squad and there is some consistency coming through now. If we can keep some consistency in selection, training, and playing, we will continue to win games - there is no doubt about that.

In other news we have seen Barry Warner come in as Head Coach and Karl Brown has stepped down after doing the job for over two seasons. We all thank Karl for his efforts in guiding the club through what was a very challenging time. We also wish Barry all the best as he comes in and tries

to sort us all out into a team who will go on and win matches.

Please continue to make an effort to get to training, regardless of which team you are in and what position you play. The more people we have at training the more work we can do and the better everyone becomes as a result.

Finally, and this is the case for all teams, not just the 1st XV, make sure that you inform your captain of your availability every week and when you are notified that you are playing for a team, please respond promptly - we do not have unlimited hours in the day or pockets deep enough to continue chasing people throughout the week.

Blackie

*"Loser's quit when they are tired.
Winners quit when they've won."*

- Unknown

Wanted

The club is looking to recruit people to help with a number of roles to help keep moving the club forwards. In particular someone is wanted to take over the running of the bar, and if you are interested (or know someone else who might like to find out more about this vital role) please talk to Nigel Rooney or Keith Harding.

PLAYER PROFILE: FRAN MEAGER

Occupation:

Agar Installer

Nickname:

Brutus

Position:

Blindside Flanker

Heroes:

Mick Skinner/Mike Teague (fellow blindsides renowned for their con-

versation.

Favourite Saying:

"It doesn't hurt!"

Worst Kept Secret:

Fran's application to MENSA

Ambition:

To go through a whole game without being sent to the sin bin or breaking a facial bone.

Greatest Achievement:

Not dying after taking the fluid replacement directive too seriously on the 2008/2009 pre-season tour to Cirencester.



Fran getting ready to make a tackle!

Vets News

These are **strange times** for Farnham Vets.

- ☺ The Christmas break sees us sitting close to the top of the Surrey Vets League Division 2 – do we fancy Richmond, Esher, Barnes, Roslyn Park *et al* next season?
- ☺ Our first league game saw Harlequins, of all people, accusing us of not playing in the spirit of the game
- ☺ There have been sightings of that Farnham Vets rarity, *a proper backs line*.
- ☺ The team has developed (through much Thursday night touch and tactical discussion in the bar) an ability to *run and pass*.
- ☺ Our only loss of the season probably arose from having *too many* substitutes.
- ☺ It turns out that it's bad to drink Guinness while being spun around on your stomach – *but it can be done*.
- ☺ We find that Cheese and Wine is always enjoyable after the last fixture before Christmas - *but it seems the fixture isn't essential*.
- ☺ We find that, even with a sat-nav and a player whose been there before, it is still possible to arrive at a game some 10 minutes after kick-off.
- ☺ Smiler has scored a try

Actually that last one isn't true – the times aren't that strange yet.

2ND XV NEWS

Farnham 2s have begun the 2009 season under new captain Andy James, who having represented the first team for a number of seasons, has taken on the challenge of captaining the 2s. Andy has taken over this season as Keith Moore was unable to continue in the role but the new captain insists he is reaping the benefit of all the hard work put into the team by Keith last season.

Following a great victory over Haslemere 1s in a pre-season friendly, the season started rather flatly with two merit loses. However despite this slow start to the campaign, they have put in a number of good performances, with the highlight being a 57-10 victory over Merton 2s. This sees them remain close to the top of the Merit table only a few points behind the leaders. With a try count of 38 tries in nine games, the twos are playing some attractive attacking rugby and reaping the rewards.

The Seconds remit to challenge the first team and provide strength in depth has already been tested this season and those that have had the honour of representing the first team have not been found wanting. And the 2s themselves have been fortunate to be able to call upon the 3s and hopefully they have benefited from the experience and will no doubt be involved more as the season progresses.

At the halfway stage then, Farnham 2s are optimistic for the remainder of the season and subject to availability and injuries, of which they've had their fair share, will be looking to finish near the top of the league. This team is slowly developing into a formidable unit and are enjoying their rugby, the smiles on their faces there for everyone to see. Long may it continue!

Andy James

3rd XV News

Well the thirds have had a good start to the first half of the season, with a few good wins, a couple of losses but also unfortunately with five games where the opposition never showed or cancelled. This mid table position is good going into the second half of the season. I have recruited some old faces and new ones to the club and with the talents that are coming through I don't think it will be long before we boost the wins column on the results table and start to push players up through the teams.

I will say that we need everyone throughout the club to train when possible to ensure the club goes from strength to strength.

Woody

“It's better to have tried and failed than not to have tried at all.”

Mystery Player Competition

Which Farnham RFC player was used for the cartoon below?

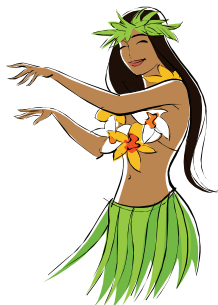


www.Farnham
rugby.org

Upcoming Social Event

Saturday 6th February 2010

Hawaiian Extravaganza



Dress in Hawaiian and then get drunk!

Simples!

“The breakfast of champions is not cereal, it’s the opposition”.

- Nick Seitz

Farnham Sevens

Saturday 24th April 2010

Entries are already being received for this well established end of season event, catering for teams of both a serious and more sociable nature.

Entry forms can be obtained from Club Captain

Karl Brown at bugsybrown@btinternet.com.

Make sure that you don’t leave it too late to get your team together and entry in.

Academy News

This has been a frustrating season so far for the Academy, but with a number of positives to be taken from it.

The season started with news Chipstead, Warlingham and Dorking having to disband teams at Under 17 and 18 age groups through lack of numbers. This did, however, mean that Dorking had created a new combined Under 17 and 18 team that needed fixtures, so we went over there for an friendly fixture that resulted in a satisfying 29-12 Farnham win, with many passages of high quality and entertaining rugby.

We were keen to build on the momentum from that first fixture, and had four games lined up over the following six weeks, but it wasn’t to be – Guildford, Vandals and Effingham all had to call off fixtures through lack of numbers and then we had to cancel the Twickenham fixtures as the pitches at Farnham sank beneath the waves. And for all four fixtures we had a full side ready and eager to play some mysteriously!

We have, however, been gradually increasing our numbers, in spite of a surprisingly long injury list, considering the dearth of rugby. A Facebook page is now used to give details of fixtures and to confirm availability, and guests to the site have also been recruited to play. With the demands of schools rugby decreasing after Christmas the squad should be further strengthened so we are confident of a successful and enjoyable second half of the season.

As I said at the beginning of the article, we have to take positives from the season so far:

- ☺ Unlike many Clubs, we still have a side.
- ☺ It wasn’t us that had to scratch fixtures.
- ☺ We are unbeaten up to Christmas!

Paul Keogh
Academy Manager