

Orrell Rugby Newsletter

Issue 5

January 2008

Chairman's Notes We are now over half way through our first season as amateurs and it now seems a good time to take stock of our progress. We are currently riding quite high in the league, have established a good playing strength when everyone is fit and have had excellent support on match days. I would like to thank our sponsors, the players, the coaching team and all the members who have given us and the team their support and encouragement. I would particularly give thanks to Angela and Sue who organise a very successful raffle every home game. In addition Angela and her husband David Howarth also sponsor the 'Orrell man of the match' award each week. We have included here a summary of our position in each area of activity and a common theme emerges that we have exceeded our expectations on all fronts.

The progress we have made gives us the level of confidence in the future to re-energise our search for a home of our own. In this regard we are reconvening the Land sub-committee. I am still looking for any volunteers who would like to get involved either now or further down the line. The chairman will be writing to all members in the next 2 weeks to explain our need to solicit funding pledges from members please keep your eye open for it arriving, read it and respond as you think appropriate.

Secretary's Notes At the time of writing we currently have 293 paid up members for the current season even though we have had 378 people who have paid membership since our rebirth. Only members for the 2007-2008 season will be eligible to vote at the AGM which is to be held in July. If you have paid after the 30th April 07 and have a black membership card with 2007-2008 printed on it, then you are a current member. Can I urge all the hundred or so who have not paid this season to join as soon as possible.

The subscription has been retained at £5 although if you wish to donate a larger sum, feel free to do so. A tear-off strip at the bottom of this newsletter can be used send in your subscription. Please send your subscription to our secretary Richard Fisher, address details are on the reverse of the tear-off strip, or simply hand over the cash to any of the management team. If you are an existing member just enter your name and the amount of your donation. If you are a new member please tick the new member box and complete all your contact details so that we can include you in our regular mailings.

The agenda for the AGM will be sent out at least 28 days prior to the meeting. One of the main items will be the adoption of the constitution which be made available to all members two months prior to the meeting.

A special thanks to Martyn Ashcroft who has developed the Web Site and Mark Ratcliffe (Ratty) for providing all our stationery and Membership cards

International Tickets

Our allocation of tickets for the home internationals from the RFU was fairly small. Four for the game against Wales on the 2nd Feb and five for the Ireland game on the 15th Mar. In addition we applied for and received four additional tickets for the Wales game and two for the Ireland game. Due to proximity of the Wales game, and as a token of thanks, the committee decided to offer the Wales tickets to our major sponsors. However we have decided to offer the Irish tickets to our members. These will be offered for personal use only as a two twos and a three (unless somebody wishes a single ticket in which case there will be three 2s and a 1) In the event of over subscription we will put all members who express an interest into a draw. If you wish to be considered for the tickets please contact Dick Fisher on 07736 802124 or email richard@synapseconsulting.co.uk or contact any member of the committee by the 31st January 08 stating the number of tickets you require.

Web Site

Our web site at www.orrellrugby.co.uk continues to be developed and within the next month we will be adding pictures of games etc. Any feed back on how site can be improved to help our members would be gratefully received. Use the 'Contact Us' link if you have any comments or suggestions

After Match Facilities

Since the last newsletter we have been using the Delph Tavern as our after match venue. It is the intention to continue using the Delph until at least the end of the season. So if you cannot attend the match come and join us for a drink after the game at the Delph.

Supporters Lunch – Date for your Diaries

We are going to arrange a Supporters Lunch before the game against Wallasey on the 8th March. The venue is at the Vale Royal and will be a Carvery. Cost is £15.00. Please let us know if you wish to attend so that we can make arrangements for the catering. Please contact Graham Winstanley on 01257 423223 or norah.winstanley@btinternet.com

FIXTURE LIST

| Orrell Rugby Club | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| South Lancs & Cheshire Division Two | | |
| 08-Sep-07 | Ashton on Mersey | Won 31-22 |
| 15-Sep-07 | Wallasey | Lost 13-43 |
| 22-Sep-07 | Crewe & Nantwich | Won 16-3 |
| 29-Sep-07 | Southport | Won 22-12 |
| 06-Oct-07 | Dukinfield | Lost 3-19 |
| 20-Oct-07 | Sefton | Won 7-25 |
| 27-Oct-07 | Liverpool Coll OB | Lost 9-35 |
| 03-Nov-07 | Oswestry | Lost 29-0 |
| 10-Nov-07 | Oldershaw | Drew 18-18 |
| 24-Nov-07 | Ormskirk | Won 11-5 |
| 01-Dec-07 | Warrington | Won 11-18 |
| 15-Dec-07 | Oldershaw | Won 12-16 |
| 05-Jan-08 | Oswestry | Won 15-3 |
| 19-Jan-08 | Liverpool Coll OB | A |
| 26-Jan-08 | Sefton | H |
| 09-Feb-08 | Dukinfield | A |
| 16-Feb-08 | Southport | H |
| 01-Mar-08 | Crewe & Nantwich | A |
| 08-Mar-08 | Wallasey | H |
| 29-Mar-08 | Ashton on Mersey | A |
| 12-Apr-08 | Ormskirk | A |
| 19-Apr-08 | Warrington | H |
| 26-Apr-08 | Play-OFF | |

Kick off Times

Please note until the end of February all Home kick off times will be 2:30 pm and revert to 3:00pm from March onwards.

Newsletter 1

continued overleaf

Cut Here

ORRELL Rugby Membership Season 2007-2008

Amount _____ Tick if new Member

Make Cheques Payable to: OARUFC

Post to address overleaf

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Forename | |
| Surname | |
| DOB | |
| Address | |
| Town | |
| Post Code | |
| Tel No | |
| Email Address | |

Finances

We currently have £15,000 in the bank and whilst this will comfortably see us to the end of this season we are already planning for the future and further fund raising continues to be a priority.

We have been delighted by the support at John Rigby with the income generated from the raffle and programme sales exceeding our expectations. This income which is currently approx £200 per home game, adequately covers the costs associated with the match, including hire of the pitch and after match meals for both teams at the Delph.

We are continuing to receive membership monies for this season with the average being paid well in excess of the £5 fee. Your donations are gratefully received and are vital to maintain our success this season and beyond.

Our plans to acquire our own clubhouse and pitches continue to gain momentum and therefore once again we look for your support with any ideas or contacts who might be able to assist us.

Rugby

Since our last newsletter in October, we have played eight games, winning five drawing one and losing two, leaving us in third place in the league one point behind Sefton, who we play at home in two weeks. The highlights have been the win at Sefton by 25-7 who were unbeaten up till then, and the 18-11 away victory at Warrington with a much changed side, that included six players playing out of position.

On the player front our injury nightmare is easing, David Wane, Steve Raffel, Richard Sheils, Michael Caldwell and Peter Sprung are back playing, with long term injury victims Mark Hewlett, Nick Beal and Andrew Unsworth back in training.

Add to this the recruitment of Steven Ormesher back from rugby league, big second row Phil Kelly who's moved from Yorkshire, and managing to talk two old goats out of retirement in the form of Jeff and Steve Huxley. Another old Orrell favourite Steve Taberner did a fantastic job for us at the height of the injury crises, unfortunately he injured his knee in the game against Oldershaw.

The above players coming back have offset the loss of Aussie centre Ryan Benjafield who we hear has signed for Workington R L F C and Chris Brand to Swinton Rugby League Club.

While rugby is a team game we must take this opportunity to thank some people, first prop Martin McKeown (Scouse) he is the only player to play in every game this season, travelling from Kirkby to train and play, in this age where players want £100 to walk across the road to play, it is more remarkable because Martin doesn't drive and relies on public transport and lifts. Being a qualified nurse Martin is also our cuts man, stitching the players up after games, saving the lads hours of waiting in casualty departments.

Next is David Wane who will play in any position asked of him, never complaining and giving it his best shot. I'm sure if we asked him to run touch and make the tea, he would do so with the same effort and success he puts into playing.

Next is Jeff Huxley who since we talked him into playing has been an inspiration to everyone. He hasn't missed a match and more important hasn't missed a training session, his experience and enthusiasm is invaluable to the younger players in the squad. It is no coincidence that since David Wane came back from injury and Jeff started to play we haven't lost a match.

Last but not least is our medical man Ian Ollerton, Ian is probably better known in rugby circles as a top class rugby league referee, and more recently as a super league video ref. He was one of the first people to volunteer his help when we started to plan for this season,

and what a marvellous job he's done treating the players both on and off the pitch, and with our injury list has he earned his keep.

If asked at the start of the season if we could be one point off a promotion place with nine games to go, I think we would have accepted that with open arms. So we are looking forward to an exciting run in, with more high's and low's along the way. One final thank you from the coaches and players goes to our supporters, the home crowds have been fantastic, and when we play away to see more Orrell supporters than home fans, gives the players a great lift. Thanks to all of you.

Juniors

If you know of anyone between the ages of 10 and 15 (as at 31 August 2007) who is interested in playing rugby to come along to training at SJR at 6.30pm on a Wednesday night. The Junior Section are looking for people to help with coaching the juniors and refereeing matches on a Sunday morning.
Contact Mark Gaffney on Tel: 07920 218 219

The Juniors are the future of rugby in Orrell

Sponsorship

If I had been told in January 2007 that Orrell Anvils would be substantially in credit in January 2008 I would have been a little sceptical.

The fact that this is now the case is testament to the generosity of the club members and the numerous sponsors who have been persuaded, cajoled and bullied into donating money to the Anvils! On behalf of the Executive I would like to express not only their thanks but also my personal thanks to everyone who has helped achieve this very healthy financial position.

The Club is in the enviable position of having all the remaining home games fully sponsored which is fantastic. As the fund raiser for the club I would never discourage anyone from donating more money this season. However if there are companies or individuals who are contemplating supporting the Anvils then I would very much like to discuss the situation with a view to sponsorships of next season 2008/9.

As the numbers of players increase then development of a 2nd XV is essential and also the present U16s will form a Junior/Senior Colts side. With these healthy progressive steps forward on the rugby field comes the inevitable increases in expenditure. Therefore it is paramount that fund raising is increased. I will be looking at all areas to maximise exposure for potential sponsors, including touch line advertising, logos on shirts and shorts as well as match day sponsorship.

Please contact me on the email below if you are interested in sponsoring Orrell next season.

Once again many thanks for all the donations so far this season.

I would be grateful if anyone would be willing to help in the area of grant applications. There is potential for the Club to apply for a variety of grants and I am keen to develop a small group who are willing to explore all the avenues to bring as much funding into Orrell as possible. This will be increasing important when the Club starts to identify land and ultimately build our own Clubhouse and pitches. Any volunteers?

Finally many thanks to the businesses and individuals who have sponsored the Club thus far.

For those inspired by the commitment of all the players and helpers please contact me if you can help in any way.

Dave Hewlett: Tel: 07764 576278: or email: info@hallbridgeinternational.com

Return Membership Subscriptions to:

R Fisher
2 Lawns Avenue
Tontine
Orrell
Wigan
WN5 8UQ
Tel : 01695 624153