

Orrell Rugby Newsletter

Issue 3

June 2007

We would like to start this newsletter by thanking all of you for your continued support and the words of encouragement that we have all received. Whilst it has been a difficult and at times a heated process over the past 6 months we believe that this new start will allow us to move forward as one club representing Orrell based on the values that were established by our predecessors and will help to keep alive the great heritage of which we are all proud.

General Meeting

The main purpose of this letter is to invite you to an open members meeting on the **11th of July at Orrell St. Lukes** parish hall. The meeting will start at **7.30pm** prompt. At the meeting members of the management team will discuss their plans for the immediate season and set out the longer term aims of the club. There will not be any formal voting but we want to give all members an opportunity to hear from all the management team, to ask them questions and put forward any of their own ideas. There is an agenda at the end of this newsletter but if there are any particular issues that you would like to see covered at the meeting please contact our secretary, **Dick Fisher** on **07736 802124** or **richard@synapseconsulting.co.uk**. We would also like to take this opportunity to inform you of progress since our last newsletter, we will give you an update on these issues at the meeting.

Finances

We have raised sufficient money through initial membership donations to cover the operating costs of one open age team for next season. The colts and Juniors section also have a sound financial position. We will be launching a development fund in the near future to raise the money we will need to acquire, and develop, our own ground and club house. To start that fund we have received a very generous donation of £5000 from a former Orrell member who wishes to remain anonymous. We have also had a number of sponsors come forward in the past month and have commitments of some £4000 already from them. We would like to thank the Former Orrell Players Society (FOPS) who have donated £2,500 to help us get started. Whilst this is a good starting point we will need to step up our fund raising if we are to achieve our longer term goals. There will be more about that at the meeting in July.

League status

We jointly requested with Orrell RUFC that the RFU competitions committee place us in a league at level 8 which is the level that the Anvils played in last season. We also requested that we be allowed to play under the name of Orrell RUFC. We heard recently our request had been successful and that we will play at level 8 next season in the South Lancs & Cheshire league. A list of fixtures is shown below.

The competitions' committee has said that they are not empowered to allow us to change our name and that we must apply to the Lancashire committee and the RFU governance committee in order to change our RFU membership to the name of Orrell RUFC. We have already written to them to initiate that process.

Orrell RUFC

We have agreed with the Orrell (2005) executive that amateur rugby was the only way forward for rugby in Orrell and that the best way to achieve that was to adopt the Anvils constitution and membership in order to take forward the name and heritage of Orrell. Consequently we agreed with them that we will play as Orrell RUFC next season.

We have had a number of meetings with Orrell colts and junior section and we are delighted to say that they will be joining up with us next season. They will have colts, U16, U14 and U12 sides. We will be making great efforts to integrate them fully over the next 12 months. One of the executives from the junior section will be invited to participate in our general management team meetings.

FIXTURE LIST

| Orrell Rugby Club | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| South Lancs & Cheshire Division Two | | |
| 08-Sep-07 | Ashton on Mersey | H |
| 15-Sep-07 | Wallasey | A |
| 22-Sep-07 | Crewe & Nantwich | H |
| 29-Sep-07 | Southport | A |
| 06-Oct-07 | Dukinfield | H |
| 20-Oct-07 | Sefton | A |
| 27-Oct-07 | Liverpool Coll OB | H |
| 03-Nov-07 | Oswestry | A |
| 10-Nov-07 | Oldershaw | H |
| 24-Nov-07 | Ormskirk | H |
| 01-Dec-07 | Warrington | A |
| 15-Dec-07 | Oldershaw | A |
| 05-Jan-08 | Oswestry | H |
| 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 | |

Fund Raising/Sponsorship

We are extremely pleased to announce a major shirt sponsor of the Open Age side for the forth coming season, **R Banks & Sons [Funerals] Ltd.** This will enable the team to have a fully co-ordinating strip of shirt, shorts and socks.

Times Engineering has also generously sponsored the side and their logo will be displayed on the left sleeve.

Negotiations are ongoing with other potential sponsors to add their logos to the shirts and shorts. There are still spaces available on the shirts and shorts for additional sponsors and if anyone is interested in placing their logo on the kit the please contact **Dave Hewlett** on **07764 576278** or via email **info@hallbridgeinternational.com**. The order for the kit will have to be with the manufacturers by the end of June to guarantee delivery for the start of the season.

We have secured further sponsorship from Batt & Brown [Shevington], Hills Florists [Orrell], MHL Estate Agents, Sandy's Warehouse Ltd [Chorley] and Langtree Homes.

There are plenty of other areas that require sponsorship and enclosed is the list of available options. If you help in any way please do not hesitate to contact Dave Hewlett.

We are aware that there is money available to the Club through the application of grants from a variety of organisations. The Commercial Committee is asking members if anyone would be willing to help to investigate and pursue grant applications. We are keen to have help in this area. There are not enough hours in the day to cover all the various commercial activities and it essential that we maximise the fund availability from these grants. If you can assist then please contact me at the above.

Social Events

We intend to hold two major social events during the season, a "Founding Dinner" and an end of season Dinner. There will be other do's during the season which we will communicate to members.

Constitution

The constitution is now finalised. If you require a copy please email Dick Fisher on 07736 802124 or email richard@synapseconsulting.co.uk.

Development Fund

To ensure the long term sustainability of rugby in Orrell we are proposing to set up a development fund which will be separate from the general running of the Club affairs. The principle of the fund is to build a substantial capital base for the purchase/rent of land, development of pitches and building of a clubhouse. It is intended that money donated to this fund is ring fenced and in the event of the Club not being able to continue, for whatever reason, the money will be returned to investors. We are in the process of consulting our solicitors to explore all the legal implications for such a fund. Once this is completed we will be communicating the structure of the fund to members.

Rugby

We are encouraged that a number of former players have said that they will be playing for us next season and the coaches are confident of being able to put out a competitive side next season.

Training

St John Rigby College Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:00pm **Starts Thursday 12th July 2007**

Trustees

We are pleased to say that we have we now have 4 trustees to provide independent oversight of the management committee on your behalf. They are; Peter Bayman, Martin Beattie, Jack Carrington and Jack Nicholson. We would like to thank them for taking on this role.

Agenda for 11th July meeting

Chairman's Introduction

Treasurer's report

- Last year's Accounts Y/E 30/4/07
- Next year's budget

Secretary's report

- League status
- RFU status
- Constitution
- Next year's membership fee

Director of Rugby's report

- Playing strength
- Key dates/ fixtures
- Match day arrangements

Commercial manager report

- Sponsors
- Other sources of funds
- Long term Development fund

Summary of 5 year plan

- Key objectives and measures for the next 5 year
- Gaps in our team