

Orrell Rugby Newsletter

Issue 4

October 2007

This newsletter has been sent to all Anvils members as usual and all those who were members of ORUFC last year. We are now one club taking the Orrell heritage forward and would like to invite everyone interested in preserving rugby union in Orrell to join with us.

We have now played 5 matches, winning three and losing two. Our first match resulted in a 31-22 points victory against Ashton-on Mersey. After all the off-field activities it is good to get down to concentrating on the rugby. We would like to thank the players and all the supporters who turned up, around 200 in total, and hope that we can build on this good start as the season progresses.

Annual Subscriptions

We would again like to thank you for your continued support and remind you that annual subscriptions for **2007-2008** are now due if you have not already paid. They have 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 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.

Finances

We currently have a £14,000 in the bank. Whilst this is a good position, from a standing start, we must recognise that we have had 2 large donations, which may not be repeated. These together with one sponsorship deal account for two thirds of that total. We therefore need to maintain the search for more sponsors, benefactors and other sources of income in order to reduce our financial risks.

We have to pay for our training and playing facilities. Our annual operational cost to put one team on the field is £9000. Every extra team will cost an additional £3000 p.a. Additionally we are trying to build up a reserve to initiate the project to acquire our own club house and pitches. There can be no complacency so if anyone has ideas or contacts that might help please let us know.

Web Site

We now have a new web site at www.orrellrugby.co.uk. This is still being developed but match reports appear on the day after the game. We are still developing the content but will make increasing use of this channel to keep every one posted so please take a look. Use the 'Contact Us' link if you have any comments or suggestions.

After match Facilities

We have been using the Navigation pub for after match socialising and to provide hospitality for our visiting opposition as it is very convenient for the ground. However for the next six weeks it will be closed for refurbishment and so we will have to use an alternative venue. This will more than likely be the Delph Tavern but please look on the web site for further details. Please come along after the game and join us in building a good rugby club atmosphere.

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	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	

FIXTURE LIST

Kick of Times

Please note that from November until the end of February all Kick off times will be **2:00 pm** unless otherwise advised.

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	

Our own facilities

We are constantly being asked, how is the search for our own ground progressing? The position is that we know that there are land owners in the area who are willing to rent us land on a long lease. They are less likely to sell us land. This is of course subject to planning permission being granted. There are also grants available to help with the set up costs.

Whichever option we end up pursuing we will need to be able to convince the land owner, planning authorities and grants agencies that we have a sustainable long term future. This means that we need that we need to have a 5 to 10 year plan which sets out our goals. We already have the plan but need to provide some evidence that those goals are achievable. This starts by showing that we can field a team every week, that we can grow our playing strength, membership numbers and financial reserves.

We have made a good start on all these fronts but will need a little more time to give us the confidence to make the longer term commitments. We will be re-establishing the land committee in the next few months and would welcome volunteers to participate in its work, any relevant experience is helpful but not essential to your being able to make a contribution. Please contact Tony Havlin if you would like to help. Tel: 07802 788356 or email: tony.havlin@blueyonder.co.uk

Oswestry Game

On the 3rd November the 1st XV are away at Oswestry and the Club is looking into the possibility of arranging a coach for the team and supporters. This will depend on whether there is sufficient interest and most importantly the total cost. There will be approximately 20 places for spectators at a probable cost of £20. Anybody wishing to travel on the coach please contact Dick Fisher on 07736 802124 or email richard@synapseconsulting.co.uk or contact any member of the committee.

Rugby

On the playing side the first two important things to report are, the offer, and acceptance, of the club captaincy to Neil Liprot. Neil is an experienced and versatile player who can give us cover in all the back positions.

Add to this former Orrell player Steve Nicholas acceptance to coach the side, being in his early thirties he gives the coaching panel a player's view of what's needed in training, and will also play if needed.

We have now played our first five games, and already experienced the highs and lows of league rugby. We went into our first match without any warm up games due to our opponents, Bay Horse RUFC from Lancaster withdrawing from the Lancashire Plate competition, but with a fantastically enthusiastic crowd behind us we managed to pull off 31-22 victory over Ashton on Mersey. Playing without the ball for long periods, our defence was outstanding, with Mark Hewlett's brilliant individual try rounding off a memorable day.

Our preparations for the game at Wallasey were hampered by eight players, who featured in our first match, not available for various reasons. Having only a small squad meant we went with a bare fifteen and only one replacement, coach Steve Nicholas, on the bench. Inside the first twenty minutes we picked up two more injuries, one which needed hospital treatment, which left us playing most off the game with fourteen men. A disjointed first half left us

trailing 21-3, but a spirited second half performance saw us trail by 28-13 with one minute left on the clock.

Now down to thirteen men, and our injury toll rising, Wallasey scored two converted tries in that final minute to win by 42-13. While we are all bitterly disappointed with the result, these players proved that we may have lost our club, our ground and everything that goes with it, but the heartbeat is still there and you can't buy that.

The following week we played Crewe & Nantwich at home, and hit top form to gain an excellent 16-3 victory. We then went to Southport and although playing poorly came away with a 22-12 win, and this poor form carried on to our next game against Dukinfield at home, losing 19 points to 3.

Although some of the performances are disappointing, we have come a long way in a short time, remember we didn't have one player at the end of June, but we are up and running and once we build up our strength in depth, we will have a very competitive side.

The Colts have had a very good start to the season, after losing the first game, mainly due to finishing it with eleven players, they have won their last four, rattling up some big scores in the process.

Fund Raising

The fund raising received a terrific boost after the splendid first win. Three people have offered to sponsor 4 full match days which is magnificent. Another member has pledged £100 to sponsor a game and a group of supporters have pledged £100 to sponsor the away game to Crewe and Nantwich on 1st March 2008 which was totally unexpected.

At the present moment in time I have the following sponsor slots to be filled on home match days: 3 matches at £100 each, 3 referee slots at £25 each, 3 match balls at £50 each, 5 laundry slots at £25 each and finally 6 refreshment slots at £25 each. If anyone is willing to pledge their support for any of these slots please do not hesitate to me.

I am also looking for a sponsor for the players kit bags. A sponsorship of £400 will cover the cost of the bags and the printing costs including the sponsor's name. I appreciate this is a substantial cost but I feel that when a team arrives at a game looking "professional" in their appearance it immediately puts doubts in the minds of the opposition.

With the development of our own website the sponsor's logos will be displayed on the site giving further advertising exposure to their businesses.

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. Thanks Dave Hewlett:

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

Return Membership Subscriptions to:

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