



CONGLETON RUFC

Newsletter - August 2011



A Season of Success

Last season was a 'Season of Success' in many ways. Although results in some areas may have been disappointing the drive and enthusiasm in the Club was clear to see. Suffering from the departure of 18 players from the previous season the 1st XV rebuilt and put in some good performances. Carl May will continue to develop this squad this season with Dominic Cardall. Following injury, Jeremy Lea handed over the 2nd XV captaincy to John Goodwin who continues this season. The 2nd XV has a good blend of Youth and Experience which will be built on this season to integrate more of the Colts.

The Junior Colts had a good season and reached the Semi-Final of the Raging Bull Plate only losing by the smallest of margins. Moving into Senior Colts the players from the previous season are now welcome to join this squad (U19s) who play in the Raging Bull Senior D League. Another good season is expected.

Junior Rugby also had some success with the Under 13s reaching the Final of the Cheshire Plate only to lose to Dukinfield in a good tempered match. A number of this squad were new to the game but put in excellent performances. The 14s turned round their run of bad luck with some great results towards the end of the season and the U15/U16 developed into a very competitive team.

For Mini/Midi Rugby we continue to attract new members and the increase was again higher than the numbers lost to the game. This growth has seen improved performances and more parents getting involved in coaching and management roles.

Off the pitch the momentum continued building up to the Annual Dinner, Presidents Match and 150th Year celebrations. Although not fully supported, partly due to a wedding in London the dinner was again a success with Steve Diamond and Pete Anglesea attending and getting involved in some good banter with the members. This season we are reviewing the format of the Dinner and more will be announced on this as the season progresses.

The President's Match proved to be as competitive as usual with the President's Team running out narrow victors. We expect to repeat this again this season depending on the final format of the end of season celebrations.

To celebrate the end of our 150th year of playing rugby in Congleton a festival weekend was organised with a marquee in the park. The weekend started with all the Youth Teams attending a Presentation night in the marquee supported by Sale Sharks and Local Radio. The Saturday hosted a Festival Of rugby ranging from U7s to Veterans. Sale FC joined us with the U7s and Longton, Leek and Heaton Moor provided the opposition for the Juniors. Acton Nomads and Linley provided the opposition for 1st Xv and Vets respectively. Something similar is being considered for the end of this season but cost could be restrictive.

No rest in the summer however as Andy Jones decided it would be a good idea to go for the World Record for the Longest Rugby Match, a mere 24 hours and 6 minutes would be enough. With 22 players from Congleton and 22 from various parts of the Country the Bear took on the Lions with 1600 points being scored and the match surpassing the previous record. At present we expect verification from Guinness World Records during September. It was another fantastic event which proved that even a small Club can achieve great things with the right motivation. As well as the record we estimate that at least £10,000 has been raised for Charity.

Chairman's Message

It was, as expected, a difficult season for the Senior Rugby last year mainly due to the large number of players who moved on from the Club at the end of last season. In addition to this the availability of regular players has also contributed to the difficulties. There were occasions when we were unable to field a 2nd XV and also those when we had 28 players available. This all contributed to the results. The Playing Committee should be commended for sticking to the task each week to ensure that as many members as possible had matches.

For Mini & Junior Rugby, things continue to improve and my thanks for this go to all the people who contribute to the running of the section particularly the newly formed Mini & Junior Rugby Committee. We also recorded probably our best season to date in terms of achievement on the pitch.

Catering remains an area of concern with no-one coming forward to form a Catering Committee. It has therefore been left to the usual faces to try to resolve this area and to date nothing has been finalised although there are three or four options open. Help is required to manage whatever solution is decided upon.

Funding & Finance - We have now formed a Finance & Funding committee which has started to review the Club's position. This committee will meet regularly and report back to the General Purposes Committee on concerns and recommendations. Having more people involved in this area will help as we move forward in the coming years.

The Council has also recently withdrawn some of the services provided to us at reduced cost and we now need to work out how we get the pitches marked each week and also provide regular maintenance. This decision has been taken under the overall cost cutting pressures on the Council. Again help is required in this area as I am certainly not an expert in Pitch Maintenance.

This season we plan to field a Veterans Team on six or seven occasions and those fixtures planned to date are in the Fixtures Card and on the Website. This will help more people remain involved in the Club and allow some to continue playing for a few years outside of competitive Rugby.

The End of Season Celebrations and the World Record Match proved what we can achieve if enough people get involved. We all now need to build on this wave of enthusiasm to continue to provide Rugby and Social Events for the whole Club and the Community.

Many people will be asking 'what about relocation?' This area has also suffered from the introduction of Cheshire East and will continue to be hampered by cost concerns in the local authority. We can no longer expect help from the council so will have to go it alone. There is not a plan at the moment although there are many suggestions. Any help that can be offered would be welcomed. 14 acres of land would be a good starting point!

At the EGM in August the increases proposed to the Membership Fees were approved. This mainly means an increase in Junior Membership, but with this the Club will provide Shirt, Shorts and Socks so everyone will be turning out in the same kit and look like a real Rugby Team. This has had an impact on Family Membership as well. Kit will be issued on Registration Weekend 3rd / 4th September. Details will be published separately for these dates. Kit will be refreshed every 2-3 years.

Rus Williams rus.williams@tiscali.co.uk 01260 272685 / 07932 380163

Membership and Match Fees

Senior Playing Members 18 or over	£60.00	
Junior Playing Members Under 18	£60.00	Applies to Full Time Students
Family Membership	£100.00	
(Covers 1 Senior playing Member and any Junior or Full Time Student Children)		
Vice Presidents		At least Full Playing Membership
Social Membership	£25.00	Parents of Juniors receive this Free

Senior Match Fees remain at £5.00 (£2.50 concessions)

Concessions are available where appropriate - speak in confidence with Rus Williams or Matt Smith

Mini & Junior Membership Fees & Registration

To manage collection of Membership Fees and Issue of Kit there will be two opportunities. Saturday 3rd September in Congleton Town Centre between 10:00 & 13:00 and Sunday 4th September on Hankinson's Field between 10:30 and 13:00.

Ibinline with RFU Regulations U13 and U17 players need to be re-registered. Please download the Registration Form from the Club Website (Documents) and bring it with you on the day. DP Sportswear will also be present so that orders can be placed for other Club merchandise. All Age Groups will be on Hankinson's Field and the Park for this weekend.

Fundraising

Fundraising can be free and easy.

Sign up to www.easyfundraising.org and register Congleton Rugby Union Football Club as your chosen cause and then every time you shop online do it via easyfundraising.org and money will be donated to the Club. It is as easy as that.

The more members that register and shop this way the more money can be raised.

XMAS Puddings and Chocolate Puddings

The Order Form for Xmas Puddings and Chocolate Puddings are now on the Club Website (under Documents) Please support this fundraising by placing your orders with Diane Lea no later than Sunday 13th November.

1st XV Captain

The 20011/2012 season will be upon us in a matter of weeks, and once again I am very proud take on the role of Captain of Congleton RUFC.

Although last year's overall results may have been disappointing, I don't feel that they were an accurate reflection of the tremendous effort and commitment shown by the team as a whole. It can be very easy to put a shirt on and take to the pitch when things are going well and results are going your way, however, it takes a lot more guts and determination to do it week in and week out when your team is languishing at the bottom of the table struggling to find that elusive win.

Never was this more apparent than in the game against Capenhurst, when, for the first 20 minutes, we played with only twelve men, yet still managed to hold them to a draw. It was this courage, tenacity and spirit that made me so proud to lead the 1st XV onto the pitch last season and to do it again this year.

Last season had many positive points; we saw some of our Colts make the jump to Senior Rugby with the likes of Adonis Davies and Scott Summerfield becoming regular key members of the 1st XV. Credit has to go to the mini and junior coaches for their role in these players' development.

We also saw some slightly older faces doing their bit for the club with Dominic Cardall coming out of retirement, Stan Handley becoming a regular 1st team player again and the likes of Steve Vandersteen, Al Winship, Steve Massey, Nick Hodson, and Anthony Clowes all stepping up to the cause, often at short notice. These are the true club men in my eyes and I am extremely grateful for their contribution.

A huge thanks has to go to John Goodwin for his help and support last season. Being second team captain can be a thankless task, and one made even harder when he has to let players go from his own team to fill gaps in the 1st XV. This, he always did, without question. He even came away with the 1st XV himself on occasion! For this effort alone John thoroughly deserved his award of clubman of the year at last season's annual dinner.

Two more people that should be recognised are Dominic Cardall and Rus Williams. Dom's efforts both on, and off the pitch are commendable. He coaches, fills in as 1st team captain when needed, and he is always a source of great help and support to me. Rus does an incredible, and often unrecognised, amount of work for the Congleton RUFC, and without his extraordinary efforts, (which include filling numerous positions on the committee), we wouldn't have a club.

Looking ahead to next season I am optimistic that we can improve greatly on last year's results. We have the players, we have shown that we have the determination, it is just up to us all, as members of the club, to show the willing and belief. As always, we need the numbers down at training if we are to see the results we want and need to lift us off the bottom of the league. We need to train regularly as a team in order to compete with well drilled, organised teams, but I am confident that we can do it.

Most importantly, as last year, let's enjoy our rugby, as that is what it's all about.

Carl May - 07795 148304

Junior Rugby

Last season saw the section looking to re-invent itself. The key to this is getting the product right and actively marketing the club. Whilst we have made good progress, the forthcoming season will see this transformation continue and accelerate. So what changes will you expect to see:

We are introducing a new kit across the age groups, incorporating the new logo we introduced last year. Shirts, shorts and socks will all form part of the membership fee and provide a uniformed appearance for the club.

The financial support provided by Plus Dane and Congleton Inclosure Trust will see our presence in the local community boosted, with the club actively working with Schools and Community projects. We have built strong links with our Community Rugby Coaches and will step up our support of in curriculum and after school clubs. Our support of school competitions will also grow and you will see Congleton RUFC being aggressively marketed in both primary and secondary schools in Congleton, Biddulph and surrounding areas.

We are going to widen the support / training activities available to the players. A weekly fitness session was introduced last year, using Sam Kelvey's knowledge to run the sessions. We need to increase participation and will look to use the Leisure Centre facilities to cater for larger numbers. The coaches have been actively attending training courses and this will continue this season, to ensure we provide the best coaching support we can to the players.

On the social front, our committee has already planned a series of events to cover the whole season. The events we held last year were a great success and if you haven't attended so far there will be plenty of opportunity to join in. We are planning some club outings to Sale on a Friday night, and there are embryonic plans for a tour towards the end of the season.

In addition, to the activities detailed above, we need to utilise the clubs greatest strength - its membership! We currently have approximately 200 Mini and Junior players, we are looking to increase this to 250 by the end of the season. So please spread the word, bring a friend and join in with all the activities we have planned. Our collective efforts will continue to transform the club, ensure greater success and provide a great experience for players, coaches and parents.

If you're gonna be a bear - be a grizzly!!

Matt Smith
Mini & Junior Chairman
01260 298880
07775 545291

Club Website

Register as a Member on www.pitchero.com/clubs/congleton to keep up to date with Team information and News.

Forthcoming Events

Friday September 16th - Paella & Pints

An evening of Spanish Party fun at Stock at the Pavilion from 19:30

Tickets £10.00 per person

Contact Peter Owen - mobile - 07740 92333 - email thepeterowen@gmail.com

Friday October 28th - Big Night Out at Sale Sharks

On this evening Sale Sharks host Leicester Tigers and tickets are available through the Club.

We want to make this a 'Big Night Out' as Congleton Under 7s and Under 8s will be playing in the Half Time Tag Matches. Ticket Prices will be advised nearer the time and coach Transport will also be available. Season Ticket Holders are also welcome to travel on the Coach.

Please advise Rus Williams of your Ticket requirements and Coach Spaces as soon as possible.

Rus Williams - 01260 272685 / 07932 380163 / rus.williams@tiscali.co.uk

Key Contacts

Chairman	Rus Williams	01260 272685	07932 380163
Player Development	Dominic Cardall	01260 277943	07980 236187
1 st XV Captain	Carl May	01782 543450	07795 148304
2 nd XV Captain	John Goodwin	01782 436166	07970 438990
Coaching Co-ordinator	Mike Somers	01260 280270	07795 348632
Bar	Nigel Davenport	01260 272171	07940 854088
Social	Cat Meehan		07816 029723
	Pete Owen	01260 281655	07740 923333
	Carl May	01782 543450	07795 148304
Treasurer	Mike Broadbent	01782 511693	07724 900354
200 + Club	Ken Williams	01782 379168	07831 380970
CB Representative	Bob Lewis	01260 270497	
Club Safeguarding Officers	Rus Williams	01260 272685	07932 380163
	Steve Massey	01260 281635	07710 004716
M&J Chairman	Matt Smith	01260 298880	07775 545291
M&J Secretary	Ian MacArthur	01260 289409	07515 833893

RFU Code of Rugby

Everyone involved in Rugby in England, whether as a player, coach, referee, administrator, parent or spectator is expected to uphold the Core Values of our sport.

Teamwork - Respect - Enjoyment

Discipline - Sportmanship

- Play to win - but not at all costs
- Win with dignity, lose with grace.
- Observe the Laws and regulation of the game.
- Respect opponents, referees and all participants
- Reject cheating, racism, violence and drugs.
- Value volunteers and paid officials alike.
- Enjoy the game.



Mini & Junior Key Contacts

All Sunday Training will commence on Hankinson's Field and the Park on Sunday 4th September unless advised separately by your coaches / team managers.

Where there is mid-week training available this will be advised by the Coaches.

Age Group			Contact
Under 7s	Shane Swindells	01260 278399	07830 304929
Under 8s	Steve Vitta	01260 290080	07884 202369
Under 9s	Lee McFarland Andy Bygrave	01782 514094 01260 281392	07846 557713 07954 342846
Under 10s	Andy Smith Ian MacArthur	01782 522780 01260 289409	07970 785344 07515 833892
Under 11s	Matt Smith	01260 298880	07775 545291
Under 12s	Tim Bainbridge	01782 522926	07802 207996
Under 13s	Paul Holland	01782 520075	07533 362279
Under 14s	Andy Jones Mick Jackson	01260 275802 01270 873109	07774 442620 07753 839125
Under 15s	Mike Rhodes Paul Bernardi	01260 277382 01260 271989	07788 567321 07775 546986
Under 16s	Chris Allen	01260 277404	07979 736798
Under 17s	Stuart Hobson	01260 297711	07876 125333
Under 19s	Jeremy Lea	01260 290228	07887 717370

To view all details of the Mini & Junior Teams on the Website Parents will need to register.

www.pitchero.com/clubs/congleton/