

Bulls' Bulletin



**UNDER 7
CUP -WINNERS**

Autumn Newsletter

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to another issue of our rugby club newsletter, the Bulls' Bulletin. I'm pleased to report we have several new members this year - at the time of writing, our numbers in the Mini and Junior sections are around 130; well up on last year. If you are one of the newbies, I hope our more established members are making you feel welcome.

From the senior section of the club, we've also seen new recruits, including dads of younger players, which enhances the family feel of the club and members of last year's Under 17 squad have fed numerous players into the 1st and 2nd XVs.

Our World Cup screenings were well attended - it was nice to see faces from all sections of the club coming together. I was gutted about England's performance, which will probably be better remembered for off-the-field antics (and what happened to JW's kicking?) but well done to Wales for getting as far as they did.

Look out for Grand Draw tickets, which will be available now. Tickets are only £1 each (though I'm sure you'll want to buy more than that!) and you could win up to £10,000. The great thing about the draw is that the lion's share of income from ticket receipts comes back to the club.



Mark Smy
Chairman

Coming up this month is the return of the popular quiz - I hope you got your tickets in good time, as they have sold quickly and numbers are limited this time round.

Rugby World Cup



As well as an opportunity to watch some nail-biting matches, the World Cup was an opportunity on the social side of things, too, as many people came together for Mark and Terry's World Cup breakfasts and on the night before the final, there was our World Cup Party. We were entertained by singer, Steve Lake, supported in his own inimitable way by Bar Manager, thesp and self-styled Director of Comedy Ollie Scott. Catering for the event was provided by Fleming, Smy & West indoor catering.



October Run-Out

The first run-out of the season saw our senior players indulging in a cultured affair, involving a boat race or two and lashings of ginger beer. After a resounding win that afternoon over Wellingborough O.G.s by 53 points to 3, the gentlemen were able to reflect modestly on their new position of being top of the League.



Launch of Sport Makers

Sport Makers, an Olympics legacy programme funded by the National Lottery, aims to recruit tens of thousands of new sports volunteers aged 16 years and over to organise and lead community sporting activities across the country.



School tag tournament

The School Sports Partnership's autumn tag tournament was hosted at St Ives Rugby Club on a sunny but exceptionally windy afternoon. Half a dozen teams entered from schools in St Ives, Holywell and Somersham, with Westfields ending up as tournament champions. Many thanks to our rugby club volunteers who refereed all the matches : Paul Cox, Josh Dear, Max Dominy and Andy Kirby.

Living Sport, who will deliver the programme locally, chose St Ives Rugby Club for the launch of the programme in Huntingdonshire. Sport Makers are the people who directly make sport happen at the local level. Some Sport Makers will organise sport for themselves and their friends, colleagues and neighbours. Others won't be taking part themselves, but will be doing all those other things that make the sporting activity possible.

The programme will aim to recruit 40,000 volunteers nationally over the course of the programme. Look out for notices in the near future about relevant workshops if you wish to get involved.



Mini Rugby - The Season So Far

Numbers are healthy for all age groups in the mini rugby section - those squads which opened the season without enough to make up a team have now recruited more members and can now be sure, if everyone's available, of playing together without having to ask the opposition to loan us players.

After a few weeks of basic training, St Ives played host to Ely rugby club for a bit of match experience in advance of the Cambs Cup. The big news of that tournament was that our youngest players brought home the County Cup for their age group.



George Alexander, lead coach for the U7s writes "The St Ives U7s gave a great display of rugby at Ely for the Cambs County Cup beginning with three convincing wins in their pool over Shelford, Saffron Walden and Huntingdon B. A total of 14 tries was scored by Ollie Giglio and twins Ellis and Gregor Strong. A close semi-final against the Stags A team finished 5-4 to the blues, with Charlie Heal adding his name to the score sheet.

The final saw our young Bulls take to the field against Royston in a tense game, with St Ives coming from behind to level the score 4-4 at full time. Tries were scored by Ellis Strong, Gregor Strong, Charlie Heal and Ralf Falkner. A nailbiting sudden death extra time followed, during which Royston made some brave defending against a determined St Ives attack, but it was not enough to prevent Ollie Giglio breaking across the try line to clinch it."

A thoroughly deserved win and great teamwork. George tells us that by the end of October, the team remains unbeaten. With the largest squad of players in quite some time, the U7s are really enjoying their rugby and will be aiming to continue with more excellent play.



The Under 10s, pictured above in action against Stags, started the season with an increase in both playing squad and the number of coaches. After a tentative first season adjusting to the transition from tag to contact, they have already recorded their first win and draw of the new year, which has all helped give the team renewed belief and determination for the rest of the season.

Squad numbers for the Under 11s are looking good, with new players turning up almost each week. Friendlies have been played at home against Ely and Huntingdon, with an away fixture in Wisbech, which saw the boys matched against both Wisbech and Boston.



In the Cambs Cup, our boys were unbeaten in the pool stage with two wins and a draw, conceding no tries. Cambridge A team came close as one attacking drive crossed the try line, but the Ives defence was strong enough to hold them up and force them back. They were unlucky not to progress to the next stage - that honour being taken by Cambridge, who had scored more tries in their other matches. Up to the end of October, the U11 tally for the season stands at 6 wins and a draw.

Junior Rugby - The Season So Far

UNDER 13

The new season started for the St Ives U13's with a whole host of changes; a full sized pitch, two extra players, handoffs, mid week training and a trip to an unusually warm and sunny Bourne. The result didn't go our way that day but since then the team's game has improved beyond recognition. With a solid defence and a relentless attack the last two games against Huntingdon (won 15-0) and Ely (won 27-0) are hopefully a pointer to a successful season which will culminate in a tour to Wales next Easter.

Eight players in the current squad were invited to trials with Hunts & Peterborough U13's and put in strong performances, many of whom will hopefully be recognised in the upcoming squad announcement.



Local Company Sponsors Youth Rugby

Pictured here are Steve Beeby (far left) and Steve Peacock (far right) of Men & Vans, St Ives, who have kindly sponsored the U13s' new playing kit. Both Steves wish our youngsters the very best for a successful season.

*Under 15s ready
for their cup-tie
with Ely Tigers.*



UNDER 15

Our older team in the Junior section has recruited new players this season and despite early defeats at the hands of larger squads from Peterborough and Ely, lead coach Ollie Scott is delighted at how our boys are pulling together.

As well as having several friendly fixtures scheduled over the season, they will compete in the East Midlands U15 League.

The pool stage, played between November and January, includes Peterborough and Oundle at home with away trips to Kettering and Rushden.

Scotty reports that he is also looking forward to playing St Neots later in the season and that he and assistant coach Josh Dear believe good things are round the corner.

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Senior Rugby - The Season So Far

Jim Robinson, our first team Captain writes " The first team is currently buzzing! We had a good pre-season with impressive numbers at training and plenty of strength and fitness work done. We then had three pre-season friendlies against Ely, Biggie and Cantabs, when we tried some different combinations and implemented the game play which we had been working on in training.

Our first league game against Thorney ended up being a good bonus point win and avenged the result the previous year. We followed this up with convincing wins against Stamford Old Boys away and then Wellingborough OG's at home.

Our first real test of season came in the away fixture against Aylestone Athletic who beat us on their patch the year before. We ended up with another bonus point win and sat handsomely at the top of the table. We got knocked out of the Midlands Cup by a very good Old Wheatleyans outfit in Coventry and then at then of October was a top of the table clash with Oundle. Last year we conceded over 50 points in this fixture without scoring and on paper it looked another difficult proposition. We absolutely dominated them from one to fifteen. Our pack destroyed them in the scrum, won more lineouts and controlled the play for 80 minutes. We walked off with an impressive 27-7 victory. There have been numerous first team debuts awarded - Darius Kwong, Max Dominy, Jordan Hugill, Sam Griggs, Ronan Delaney, Tom Moffitt, Nathan Dewar and Luke Slade. The strength of our squad and the numbers attending training are the reasons behind our current success and we aim to carry this through the season. "



Jim Robinson (left) First Team Captain.

Jordan Francis (right) Second Team Captain

"Impressive numbers at training"

Tuesday and Thursday nights 7:30



LONG SERVICE

In this snippet, we take a moment to acknowledge the contribution made by players over a long period of commitment.

Nathan Dewar, now donning his boots for the seniors in both first and second teams, has represented the club every season since he was five and a half, back in 1999. His accolades include Player of the Year three times and was voted Players' Player at U15.

Nathan also played for Cambridgeshire and Eastern Counties, captaining the county side from his second season from U14 to U16.

Handing off, aged 11, probably not allowed now lads. The keen-eyed observer will notice in the background James Hunter in the scrum cap.

James joined the year after Nathan but he too has represented the club every season since 2000 and was U16 Players' Player. As well as club rugby, James has been a regular for East Midlands and now pulls on a jersey for our senior squads, where his impact is appreciated by all - an inspiration for our very youngest players.

The second team also participated in pre-season friendlies before opening their up and down campaign in the Greene King Merit League. The opener was an away match against Cottenham Renegades with a home match the next week against Ely Development, both of which were narrow defeats for the Bulls. The third outing was much more on the money as the lads travelled to Biggleswade, beating their third team 56-0. A bruising encounter followed down in Harlow, and a frustrating loss at Newmarket in the unseasonable October sunshine took the gloss off, but the lads were bouyed up by a convincing home win over Wendens Ambo at the end of October.

St Ives RFC 1st XV : Midlands 4 East (South)

Saturday 10th September St Ives 33 - 12 Thorney
 Saturday 17th September Stamford College Old Boys 3 - 53 St Ives

Saturday 1st October St Ives 53 - 3 Wellingborough Old Grammarians
 Saturday 8th October Aylestone Athletic 7 - 43 St Ives
 Saturday 15th October Old Wheatleyans 35 - 26 St Ives (Cup)
 Saturday 22nd October St Ives 56 - 3 Corby
 Saturday 29th October Oundle 7 - 27 St Ives

Forthcoming fixtures. Kick off 14:15 until clocks go forward, then 15:00

Saturday 12th November St Ives vs Westwood
 Saturday 19th November St Ives vs St Neots

Saturday 3rd December Northampton Mens Own vs St Ives
 Saturday 10th December St Ives vs Old Newtonians
 Saturday 17th December Stoneygate vs St Ives

Saturday 7th January St Ives vs Stamford College Old Boys
 Saturday 14th January Wellingborough O.G. vs St Ives
 Saturday 28th January St Ives vs Aylestone Athletic

Saturday 4th February Corby vs St Ives
 Saturday 18th February St Ives vs Oundle

Saturday 3rd March Westwood vs St Ives
 Saturday 10th March St Neots vs St Ives
 Saturday 24th March St Ives vs Northampton Mens Own
 Saturday 31st March Old Newtonians vs St Ives

Saturday 14th April St Ives vs Stoneygate
 Saturday 21st April Thorney vs St Ives
 Saturday 28th April St Ives vs Bury St Edmunds 2 (Friendly)

Top of the table, as of 29th October 2011

	P	W	F	A	Diff	Points
Northampton Mens Own	6	6	295	46	249	29
St Ives	6	6	265	35	230	29
Old Newtonians	6	5	260	69	191	26
St Neots	6	5	224	81	143	25
Oundle	6	5	186	39	147	24
Stoneygate	6	4	181	94	87	15

FACE GROWN & HAND BRUSHED

MOVEMBER

During November each year, Movember is responsible for the sprouting of moustaches on thousands of men's faces in the UK and around the world. The aim of which is to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and other cancers that affect men.

Some of our members have followed the lead of 1st XV Captain, Jim Robinson, to support Movember this year. You can have a laugh at the stubbly progress or, better still, make a donation to this good cause by visiting :

<http://uk.movember.com/mospace/1384936/>



QUIZ NIGHT
FRIDAY 25th NOVEMBER

£7.50 INCLUDES FISH & CHIPS

SOLD OUT

Booking essential - tickets from

RFU GRAND DRAW Tickets are now available

We are pleased to announce that the RFU Grand Draw tickets are now on sale and with a cost of only £1 each, we're sure you will want to snap up a few. Why not take a few books to sell among your work colleagues, friends and family ?

With the following prizes, you shouldn't be short of interest. Quite apart from the first prize of £10,000 there is a host of other prizes including, but not limited to a couple of TAG Heuer limited production Aquaracer watches, a couple of prizes of £1,000, a weekend break for 2 including 2 nights accommodation for England v Scotland, several pairs of Six Nations tickets with hospitality, signed shirts, an I-Pad2, champagne plus many more.

Ask for tickets at the clubhouse on matchdays.

TTFN - we expect our next newsletter to be issued in January.



ST IVES RUGBY CLUB
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