Dear member,

I have recently taken over the chair of the Rugby Section of Warlingham RFC from Pete Wrightson who has done a great job over the last 3 years. I may have met some of you over the years, either as a player or the club physio, but, if not, I hope to soon at one of the club events.

Apart from introducing myself I believe that we all need to know what the future holds for our club.

The rugby committee has been working on a 5-year plan that we are about to embark on which will probably affect most members in some way, all for the good. Some members have already contacted me and discussed various things they would like to change or be implemented. For me this is how it should be; the club survives because people care and want to be involved and have a say in the club’s future.

After 3 long seasons our Head Coach, Ben Stobart, has decided to step down to concentrate more on his business and family commitments. Ben has brought considerable expertise and commitment and has led the First XV to a top four position in London SWII League. This was a great achievement and we thank him heartily for his efforts for the Club. Paddy Dennien, who has been an integral part in this season’s First XV coaching, has agreed to take Ben’s place as Head Coach and as a club we will give him all the support he needs. Paddy already has his own ideas on developing the playing side of the club and the future is in good hands.

The circular, the Blue Book and general information on what’s happening in and around the club have all been raised and not just about rugby. We are already looking at how best to get information out to members whether by email, post (as well as Facebook). If you would like advertise you business/service in the Blue Book or programme now is the time to let us know. We are also looking at a revamp of the circular to make it more appealing and interesting to read. These last two issues apply to the whole of the rugby section and I would like to see greater involvement of players, parents and social members of all areas, from minis right through to the seniors.

On 27 & 28 June we are having a club ‘makeover’ weekend courtesy of NatWest Rugby Force RWC15. We applied for and received a grant of £1,500 which we must use to improve the clubhouse for all. There is a sizeable ‘to do’ list which includes clearing up, washing down, minor repairs, painting, etc. We need as many volunteers as possible to help out over the weekend, all
to prepare the club for the Rugby World Cup and for next season. So if you can help out on either day, even if just for an hour or two, please let us know (but the longer the better!). The younger members are included and will have a brilliant arty session where their efforts will be displayed in the clubhouse. More details are on the club website.

As you’ll know, things still happen at the club after the end of the Rugby season. We have;
- Car boot sales virtually every two weeks,
- On the 4th July we have a whole club summer party with all sections Netball, Lacrosse, Rugby League and Cricket all attending
- 19th July we have the Classic Car show and,
- England QBE RWC15 warm up matches which start in August.

The organisation of all these events and the behind the scenes preparation for the season are done by volunteers and we need more people to help out. It may sound like hard work but they are actually social occasions where we all have good fun, some banter and the opportunity to make and build on life-long friendships…you may be surprised by what your fellow members get up to!

It will take time and effort for us to implement the 5-year plan but we can start with putting in place the few things mentioned above. The most precious thing that anyone can give is not necessarily money….it’s time. Your time is precious and valuable and we understand you have to share it around. But if you can offer a little over the weekend of 27/28 July, it would be appreciated by a lot of people.

If you want to help in anyway and influence the legacy of Warlingham RFC here’s your opportunity.

Best regards

Peter Mattison
Chairman
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