



## Information for all Reading RFC members May 2010

Dear Members,

Many thanks to all members that attended the **Main Club AGM on Wednesday 28th April** and to those that sent their apologies for their support, it was greatly appreciated by all Executive Committee.

I also wish to thank those who were not at the meeting for supporting me as Chairman in my first year, unfortunately for you the meeting agreed for me to carry on for another year! On behalf of the newly elected Executive I would like to provide the following information and attached documents for your perusal.

Should you have any questions or comments you wish to ask please do so, if we don't know what you are thinking we can not try and help.

- 1) Minutes of the AGM** - these will be circulated again with the calling notices for **next years AGM**, which will be held on **Wednesday 27th April 2011**.
- 2) Chairman's Report**- I feel it may be useful now to receive a copy of my report to the AGM (attached) so you have a copy of my views on last season, as read out at the AGM.
- 3) Executive Committee for 2010– 2011 season is as follows:**

**President** - Mike Reynolds

**Chairman** - Craig Hunter

**Hon. Secretary** – You will read that on the night **Heather Allan** was elected as Hon. Secretary, since then Heather has had to step down for personal reasons, **Donna Clark** who offered to volunteer to support Heather this season has kindly stepped forward into the role of Hon. Secretary. I would like to thank Heather for all her hard work and look forward to seeing her again soon. I also thank Donna for stepping forward to help.

**Hon. Treasurer** – Julie Blakey

**Facilities Chairman** – Mark Everett, congratulations to Mark as he was awarded the Hons Cap for 2009 – 2010 season, for his tireless work with Facilities projects and countless other things, thoroughly deserved.

**Membership Secretary** – Matt Healey

**Chairman of Rugby** – Andy Clark has taken on the role this season, the meeting thanked Kevin Rackley for his efforts last season and delighted to say Kevin has carried on as 1st XV Manager for this coming Season. Thank you both.



Reading RFC Ltd, Holme Park, Sonning Lane, Sonning, Berkshire RG4 6ST  
T: 0118 969 6592 F: 0118 969 6593 E: enquiries@readingrfc.co.uk W: www.readingrfc.co.uk

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**Youth Representative** – Dave Swan is the current Youth Chairman until the Youth AGM which is being held on 16th June when he will be stepping down. Huge thanks to Dave for all his hard work for the Youth and whole club, especially his work in achieving Whole Club Seal of Approval for RRFC. For this and all his other work Dave was awarded Hon. Vice President award for 2009 – 2010.

**Commercial Secretary** – This position was not elected on the night but we are having discussions with a few members to take up this post, more details to follow. Joanne Leigh who carried out this role last season stepped down due to other commitments, but delighted to say has offered to run the Winter Ball again this season, which was a huge success last year. The date for your diary for this years **Winter Ball is Saturday 27th November 2010**, don't miss out. Thank you Joanne for all your work and support last season.

- 4) Membership fees** – without members we can not achieve anything and without members paying membership fees we can not operate the business. Matt Healey and others have done a huge amount of work leading up to the AGM regarding membership fees. On the night the Executive proposed membership fees for 2010 – 2011 season, which, with the exception of Youth Fees were accepted by the meeting.

The meeting agreed to let the Executive conclude these discussions about Youth fees in the best interest of all parties. These have now been finalised and I attach three documents for your perusal, Membership forms for Senior & Youth club members, and an additional document outlining the benefits each category of membership offers.

The Youth section membership is not due until they return in September and will be collected as normal by team managers and Youth Membership Secretary. However for Senior club members we now need you to complete the relevant forms and return to the club as requested as soon as possible. Any questions about membership specifically please contact **Matt Healey** [MembershipSecretary@ReadingRFC.co.uk](mailto:MembershipSecretary@ReadingRFC.co.uk) or me [Chairman@ReadingRFC.co.uk](mailto:Chairman@ReadingRFC.co.uk)

- 5) RugbyFirst** - in the next few days Matt Healey will be transferring all members data to RugbyFirst website – see membership forms for details – once set up will enable us to have one central and secure point to store and manage data, but also send out information quicker and more efficiently to all members or targeted at specific teams or sections. Matt will be circulating details about how this works very soon
- 6) Reading Youth Rugby** – since the AGM the Youth section have held a 2nd SGM, at which they agreed to merge back into main club. This is excellent news, as it has taken a number of years for the two groups to come back together, having seen the Youth Section split due to the well documented issues at RRFC. This process started way back when Hugh Crabtree was Chairman, he and many others have helped this become possible, so thanks to Hugh and all. Those of you who wish to understand more about this matter please contact me and I will be pleased to discuss.



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**7) Club Events** – these are much needed to help the club survive, I have already mentioned one the Winter Ball in November I would also like to promote another excellent event, The Megabash, organised by Hugh Crabtree and many volunteers. Hugh has kindly provided the following summary, but see attached flyer for further information:

*'Megabash at Holme Park – 2010 Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd August – This fantastic event is in its 7th year at Holme Park in 2010. It started as a wedding anniversary in 1988 and is now a great weekend for all the family and set to grow. It produced £3000 for the club last year and with your support it can do better this time. Of course we'd be delighted to welcome you on the day if you wish to pay on the gate but there are significant savings if you get your tickets in advance (from the club bar) and arrange to travel with friends in full car loads. There will be an evening session on Friday 20th August to make sure the beer is okay and enjoy some acoustic music. The main event is on Saturday 21st August and includes 8 bands to entertain you, a real ale bar, DIY BBQ (or purchase from the club kitchen), bouncy castle, classic car display, great company and of course good weather! Wise Megabashers camp Saturday night at least. Emailed updates to members and friends will follow with details of the bands and other important stuff. If you haven't yet experienced the relaxed and fun atmosphere of Megabash, then make 2010 your debut year.'*

**8) Facilities & Projects** - Mentioned in the report by Mark Everett is information about current and proposed facilities projects at our Club. Some of these have now started –

**The Gents toilets** in the changing rooms are having major refurbishment, which will benefit many members at the Club and also help us to rent out our facilities to non members, please bear with us whilst this work is carried out;

**Hard standing behind squash Courts for storage for Ruby Kit for all sections**, is in the process of being completed. **Can you help** we are on the look for 10ft Steel Storage containers or old site office units. If any member can help please contact me [Chairman@ReadingRFC.co.uk](mailto:Chairman@ReadingRFC.co.uk) to discuss further.

**Floodlights on training pitches** – are in need of upgrading, with support from the RFU grants and profits from last seasons Winter ball the lamps will be replaced in time for the new season, this will make a huge difference.

**Pitch Maintenance** – during April we had a visit from Keith Kent, RFU Head Grounds man responsible for Twickenham's fantastic pitch, who discussed how and what we need to do to get our pitches back to a decent playing surface. Since his visit we have met with various contractors recommended by the RFU to give us quotes to carry out this work. The costs to do a major refurbishment on all 3 pitches would be in the region of £15,000, quite simply we can not afford this amount. However we need to build these costs into our budgets and set up a 3 year plan to improve the pitches and thereafter ensure a regular maintenance plan is put in place every year.



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As mentioned above, the Toilets and Floodlights had to take priority, so this means the Pitch maintenance work we wished to carry out has had to be put on hold for another season. Included in this project was the old **Bonfire Corner** – now known as Healey Corner – which has been designated for new training area for our Mini section. The work on this was going to be delayed another year like the rest, however we have been offered support by a local company called **Smallwoods** - [www.smallwoodcc.co.uk](http://www.smallwoodcc.co.uk) who have agreed to take on the project of weed killing, harrowing and over seeding, with the hope it will be ready in time for start of the season in September. Fingers crossed the weather and everything else works in our favour but we owe a huge thanks to Jon Hollands and his team for invaluable and generous support.

**What does this mean for the 3 pitches?** We have agreed for the pitches to be sprayed with weed killer, this is taking place Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May all being well, once this has been given time to work, we hope to over seed as much as we can afford and as soon as possible, and like Healey Corner hope the weather helps us for once. If anyone wishes to know more details about what Keith Kent suggested, review the quotes we have received or wish to donate money specifically for this project Mark Everett or I would be delighted to hear from you.

**Some very good news** – Dave Stubley the Funding officer from the RFU for the South West, having visited Holme Park with Keith Kent noted our goal posts not being in best order and at that stage suggested he might be able to help us. True to his word we have now received a set of new posts for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV pitch, which we will be erecting in time for the new season. A big thank you to Dave for his support.

**Reading RFC website** - the Executive Committee we have decided to refresh our website to meet the needs of Reading RFC for all sections of club. To help us through the transition we have agreed to use the Pitchero Website template that a lot of clubs use, this is not our preferred choice as very impersonal but will be used as a temporary measure while the work on our new website is carried out.

This work will be carried out by Dave Swan and George Troughton and others from the Club, at no cost to the Club. They will be approaching other members to help them with this specialized work, and also for content to go on to both the Pitchero site – they will make contact with each group to get the data they require. The aim is we will use Pitchero for maximum of 12 months, to give the guys a chance to carry out the work in their own time. Any questions or suggestions please contact – [Webmaster@readingrfc.co.uk](mailto:Webmaster@readingrfc.co.uk)

**9) Sponsors & sponsorship** – In conjunction with Members and events, **Sponsors** are without question vital to RRFC, I would like to thank every sponsor of RRFC for their support and contributions in 2009 – 10 season and for those that have already committed for 2010 – 11 season. Without your support it would be extremely difficult, maybe impossible, to run the Club, so thank you.



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I have mentioned above that we are in process of speaking to members for the vacant post of Commercial Secretary on the Executive Committee, who will create a new Commercial Team to work on behalf of every team section in the Club. I would like to thank **Matt Newman** a member, U10's parent and sponsor of the Club, who has stepped forward to be the Youth Commercial Secretary role, to be proposed at their AGM 16<sup>th</sup> June, thank you Matt. I will be speaking to every team manager / captain asking them to nominate or ask one person to join us on this team. If we achieve this it will make a huge difference.

If you are interested in sponsoring the club and wish to discuss how and what is available please contact me [Chairman@ReadingRFC.co.uk](mailto:Chairman@ReadingRFC.co.uk) to discuss further. We value our sponsors and work with them as Partners to ensure they receive what was agreed and they get value for their support.

I hope that I have not bored you with this information but it is important that we keep you updated on what has happened and what is happening at your club, but also we need your help and support to achieve what we would like to achieve.

As mentioned at the start of this message, we need members to let us know **what you dislike** and **what you like about your club**, we can only try and improve things we know about. Most things come down to money, **however** many things can happen without money by you the members stepping forward and *volunteering your time* for cutting grass, coaching, painting, car parking duty; *contacts* - who can you introduce to the club who can help us in any way, *lastly membership and player recruitment* by asking your friends and family to join us. The more members we have the more we can do and it could well help us make it cheaper for everyone.

Thank you again for your time, please contact me at anytime should you wish to discuss anything further.

Regards

Craig Hunter  
Reading RFC Chairman  
Reading RFC Club Office 0118 - 969 - 6592  
Mobile 07798 - 844202



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