

RUCKING GOOD NEWS



The AKRFC Monthly Newsletter: Pre Season Edition August 2011

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of RGN for season 2011/12.

AK Development Matters

The AK Development Committee has continued to meet and progress matters over the summer. A brief update resume of relevant issues is as follows.

Development fund raising has continued throughout the close season and RGN understands that circa £18,000 in total has been raised to date through member's efforts. A meeting of team fundraisers was recently held under the chairmanship of Mike Wildgoose and a calendar of fundraising events (including Xmas Draw) has been organised for the coming season. Details for some of these are included in the '*Dates for your diaries*' section later in this edition of RGN and full details in relation to fund raising matters for the new season will be circulated by Mike in the near future.

Planning permission in respect of the new changing rooms has been applied for and we await the results of this from Trafford MBC.

A very positive meeting was recently held with Andrew Soutar the RFU's Regional Development Officer, to discuss development issues including the club's future intention to apply for the RFU's Whole Club Seal of Approval. In relation to this Andrew appeared reasonably impressed with the work completed and progress made to date. Some suggestions were made re additional requirements which are now being actioned. One of these is for Andrew to run a Development Workshop at AK, which will take place on Thursday 22nd September starting at 19.30. Apparently these workshops have proved very beneficial at other clubs where they have been held. Obviously we will be looking for a good turn out of AK members at that event, when there will be the opportunity to fully discuss development matters relating to the club. Further info on this workshop will be circulated nearer the time.

As a forerunner to this event the RFU has a club survey, which needs to be completed by as many members as possible. This can be completed electronically and will be sent out under separate circulation in the near future with a deadline for completion of early September. The results of this survey will be used as the basis to lead the debate at the following workshop, so please make every effort to both complete the survey when circulated and also attend the workshop. Remember this is your club and we need your support and ideas to move things forward.

Also don't forget the '**Buy-a-brick**' appeal, details of which have been shown in previous editions of RGN. That will be your chance to have a lasting reminder of your personal contribution to AK development for all to see.

Utility Warehouse

In conjunction with Development matters, please remember the benefits of the above for you and AK. Details are on the AK Website and by calling FREEPHONE 0800 131 3000 to find out how much you could save. Please quote Scheme number: C50193 - Altrincham Kersal RFC

What has been happening / will be happening at AK pre season

Sponsorship

The Eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed the additional sponsor's logos on the first page of this edition. We are pleased to announce that Halo Furnishers have agreed to remain as main sponsors of AK for the coming season. We are also pleased to announce the continuing support from J Davidson and Dunne and Gray Solicitors. We also have new sponsors in the Cresta Court Hotel, who will be hosting both the AK Sportsman's Dinner and End of Season Ball in the coming season. See the '***Dates for Your Diary Section***' for further details on those. As always AK greatly appreciates the support given by local businesses to the club.

A number of other sponsors have also provided support for Junior kit, which is covered later in this edition.

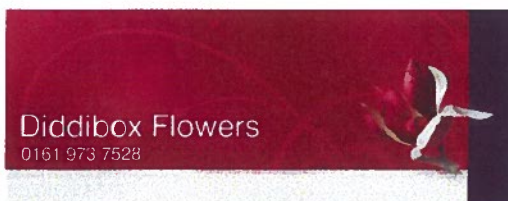
If you know of any other businesses that may be interested in sponsoring AK please let Lindsey Wordley (AK Sponsorship Coordinator) know on 07929 019008 or lindsey_wordley@hotmail.com Lindsey is also looking for player sponsors for the forthcoming season so expect a call !

Other AK Offers / Fundraising



Cartridge World are always looking for any sort of ink cartridge to re-cycle – so if anyone has any form of ink jet or laser cartridge that they no longer require can they please bring them to the club and deposit them in the Cartridge World box provided behind the bar. The club will get money for everyone that we provide. Time to look out any old cartridges you don't use or our languishing in an old printer.

John Emerson hopes to have some promotional vouchers to give out at start of season as well for people to get money off filled cartridges.



Alison the owner of this Sale based florist has offered a 10% kick back to the club on all floristry bought from her by AK members and their friends. Her flowers are fantastic and are much cheaper than the other main line florists. Diddibox deliver locally and nationally and as well as bouquets also cater for funerals and particularly weddings. Diddibox can be reached by phoning Alison Ludlam on 07914 340139 and please remember to mention that you are an AK member.

Men's Senior Rugby

Training started for the seniors at the start of July under the continued coaching of Dylan O'Grady, Andy Daldry, Chris Nettleton and Brian Collier. It has been good to see many of next season's Senior Colts joining in together with many of our previous very successful Senior Colts Teams. This conveyor belt of

talent from the Junior Section continues to greatly benefit the club. It is also good to see Josh Dyson back from university and signed up for the new season.

The 3rd Team are training on Saturdays from 14.00 through now to the start of the season and are making a determined effort to recruit new players. So if you fancy a game or know anyone that does, please come down on Saturdays or speak to Diko on 07800 079662.

A number of trial games and a Cheshire Cup game have been arranged as follows

Saturday 13th August: All senior teams v Eccles at home ko 15.00

Saturday 20th August: 2nd Team squad away at Southport (including the odd lemonade or 3 afterwards!)

Monday 22nd August: 1st Team squad v Wilmslow at home ko 15.00

Saturday 27th August: AK away at Northwich in the 1st round of the Cheshire Cup

Players should speak to the coaches and / or captains to get full details re the trial games

The AK 1st Team start their season in National League 3 North away to Penrith on Saturday 3rd September. This will be a coach trip leaving AK at 11.00 and all support on the day will be welcome as the lads kick off their season with this tough away trip. The AK 2nd and 3rd Teams are at home that day to Burnage 2s and Bowdon 2s respectively. All fixtures for the new season in respect of the senior men's & women's teams are now shown on the AK Website



Full contact at training



*Trist & JP said I wouldn't dare publish this
HmMMM - schoolboy error!!!*

Women's Rugby

The AK Women's Team have also started training under the watchful eye of coach Mike Jackson, now fully reconstructed after allegedly being broken into pieces on tour! The girls are training on Thursday evenings with specialist sessions over the weekends. Details are shown on the AK website or speak to Mike.

A trial game away at Mosley is being planned for Sunday 4th September and the first league game of the season is the following Sunday against Waterloo at home, when all support will be welcome as the girls kick off their season in North 1.



Synchronised touch????

RGN also understands that the women's team had a very successfully and eventful tour to the Isle of Islay, with a theme of 'my big fat greek wedding'. RGN were promised some photos but these have not materialised as yet. Obviously a case of what goes on tour stays on tour or as RGN prefers to think, maybe they just could not get a wide angle lens big enough to cover requirements????

Junior / Mini Rugby

There has been plenty of junior / mini training activity at AK during the summer as the respective teams prepare for the coming season. Junior and Mini registration days are planned at AK from 10.00 on Sundays 4th, 11th and 18th September, when training sessions will also take place. Speak to respective team coaches for full details and for fixtures details for the season.

Club polo's (shirts that is, not cars!) will be available for all junior / mini players as part of their membership package this season. There will also be coaches jackets available for the – yes you guessed it - the junior / mini team coaches of course. This has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of the following



New kit supplier

AK now have a new kit supplier in Raging Bull and a wide variety of AK kit can now be obtained on line direct from this supplier. Full details of the range of kit and how to order are shown through a link on the AK website.



Altrincham Festival

AK was well represented at the above by some exceptionally well behaved kids from the AK minis. Pity the same couldn't be said of their parents, especially once they discovered the beer tent at the festival grounds and in particular the India Pale Ale at over 6% proof!!!! The AK President would like it to be known there is no truth in the rumour that he was drunk in charge of two grandchildren, but will admit that the beer was b..... strong!!!

It is also understood that the coaches from last season's Under 7s and 8s, who organised the AK float in the parade, enjoyed themselves so much they have agreed to do it again next year or was that just the beer talking???



Quiet, shy and well behaved AK kids at the Festival – well maybe not?????

Jean & Alec Forbes

Club stalwarts Jean and Alec, as pictured below, recently celebrated their Diamond (60th) wedding anniversary at AK. As Jean let slip she had been 'knocked up' that very morning by the postman (in the nicest possible way of course!), who was delivering a congratulations card from no other than Her Majesty the Queen. RGN has to say that having seen the card and the Queen's facial expression on it, it appeared more of a sympathy rather a congratulations card!!! Does she never smile – the Queen that is??? There again having been married to Prince Phillip for all those years maybe you can understand why???? Off to the Tower with you I can hear the Royalists amongst you say.



Congratulations also to

Mike Meaney (what a name for a Club Treasurer!) and John Wilks on being elected Honorary Life Members at the AGM for their valued and well appreciated services to AK over a number of years. Also to Lee-anne (aka Rhino) Cardus and George Tsianter on being elected Honorary Vice Presidents. All very well deserved awards!



*Wife Liz leads the applause for Mike's Life Membership!
Mike's obviously not too sure!*

Also congratulations to Graham Makepeace-Warne on being elected Chairman of the AK General Committee



GMW (just so you know who he is!)

Club refurbishment

Those that have been to the club of late may well have noticed the newly refurbished chairs in the downstairs bar area. This is soon to be followed by some curtaining that can be lowered to cover the club shields and honours board on the walls, and produce a marquee effect for lettings and dos at the club.

Officer of the day responsibilities

Pip Thomas the coordinator for this role is looking for some additional volunteers to take on this important task on match days. If you can spare the odd Saturday during the next season, to come down before the games to put out and then later take back in the post protectors and flags, plus ensure the referees are looked after please contact Pip on 07718 757046 or email him on pip_thomas@hotmail.com

Fitness at AK

The main room at AK continues to be rented out for

Box Blast – every Tuesday night

Zumba Dancing – every Wednesday night

Both great ways of keeping fit and helping the finances of the club.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 24 September 2011: AK Season Kick Off Fancy Dress Party:

This will be the first development fundraiser of the season, so let us make it a good one with a full clubhouse on the night. There will be prizes for the best costumes



Saturday 08th October 2011: Sponsored Lunch for AK Junior & Mini Coaches

Formal invites will be sent out for this nearer the time, but all AK Junior and Mini Team coaches are to be invited to attend a lunch and drinks prior to the AK 1st Team game against Birkenhead Park. This as a thank you for the great work you all do for the club.

Saturday 5th November 2011: AK Fireworks Extravaganza:

This is AK's biggest fund raiser of the year requiring 'all hands on deck' to assist in the setting up before and clear up after the event, plus lots of helpers on the night. AK will need bodies on the Friday before to help set up the fencing etc. On the Saturday we need as many guys as possible to act as stewards and gatekeepers on the night, and finally some more bodies on the Sunday to help with the clear up operation. Mike Wildgoose and Dave Elliott will be making approaches for help nearer the time so please make every effort to provide your support to this event.



Willing helpers before and at last year's event and the fireworks were pretty good too!

Saturday 12th November 2011: AK Ex Players Reunion:

The traditional reunion do with lunch and few 'lemonades' before, during and after the AK 1st Team game against Sandal. Lots of reminiscing on the lines of 'the older I get the better I was!' as well as do you remember that game in 19?? Well ask 5 people on that subject and you are sure to get 5 different versions of what actually happened. You might actually get 10 once the beer starts to flow if you ask at different times!!! Again formal invites will be sent out nearer the time.

Friday 23rd December 2011: AK Xmas Do and Development Fund Raiser:

We are going to be resurrecting the traditional Xmas do and consider the timing is ideal. Most will be finishing work that day prior to the Xmas break and parents won't yet be tied up with the Xmas present wrapping and hiding. This will be a great way to start the Xmas break so make sure you are there. Further details to come on this but note the date.

Friday 10th February 2011: Sportsman's Dinner:

This is being held at The Cresta Court Hotel, Altrincham with a 7.30 for 8pm start. This is always a top night and the guest speaker will be former England and British Lions lock forward Martin Bayfield, who has also appeared in several Harry Potter films as the body double for Hagrid (Robbie Coltrane). Comedian for the evening will be Josh Daniels with Peter Riley as Master of Ceremonies.



The price for a table of 10 is £400. Please contact Bert Weeden on 07971 870 591 or Mike Wildgoose on 07775 656 366.

Saturday 5th May 2012: End of Season Ball:

AK is breaking with tradition and this year holding this event at the Cresta Court Hotel, who are now sponsors of the club. Chris Barlow will be circulating details for this event in due course, but please note the date now.

Friday 11 to Monday 14th May 2011: Club Tour to Madrid:



The Alley Kats are heading to the Spanish Capital for a weekend of rest & relaxation after what is sure to be a long hard season across the board. Renowned for its rich culture, bustling galleries and inspired architecture, the beautiful city of Madrid will be the backdrop to our little adventure.

2 fixtures have been confirmed and the tour committee are currently finalising costs, however, it is expected to be £200 or less provided we book the flights by mid September. A full itinerary will be made available at a later stage but potential activities include coffee tasting, museum visits, pottery classes, tapas lessons, salsa dancing & maraca morning....

To register your interest - stick your name & details on one of the forms located on the notice board by the 1st XV changing room or behind the 'Halo Lounge' Bar.

Any problems like needing a note from your mum or a letter on official AK notepaper stating that you have been selected for tour and it is too great an honour to turn down, just speak to JP Singleton- 07943 814 361 Trizzo Laga- 07827 962 031, or Bean Harris (BA Hons, BSc, 3rd deg burns, or Lashpig...Captain)- 07581 255 117

There are also various other dos in the planning stage for next season, which once confirmed will be announced in RGN and on the AK website.

Future editions of RGN

So trust that you have enjoyed reading this new season edition of RGN. The next monthly edition will be around the start of September and back to the usual format and content. Any articles and photos relating to AK are very welcome, particularly any relating to gossip or rumour, as are any thoughts on the content of RGN. Please email them to dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com

