

RUCKING GOOD NEWS



The AKRFC Monthly Newsletter: January 2012

Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of RGN for season 2011/12 and a Happy AK New Year to everyone.

AK Development Matters

A special Development Edition of RGN will be coming out in mid February, which will give an update on relevant development matters.

Membership Subscriptions

There are still some 2nd and 3rd team players, who have regularly turned out this season but to date have not paid or are paying by standing order, their membership subs. It has been spelt out numerous times before guys so this weekend is last chance saloon if you expect all pre match requirements to be in place and free food after your forthcoming home games.

Subs can be paid over the bar, by cash, cheque or credit card and there are standing order forms also available for completion. The onus is now firmly on you guys to get this sorted!

Sponsorship

If you know of any businesses that may be interested in sponsoring AK please let Lindsey Wordley (AK Sponsorship Coordinator) know on 07929 019008 or lindsey_wordley@hotmail.com

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

Wanted Page (preferably alive and kicking)

Thanks to Jonathon Brownlow for his offer to source some tills and longer term a cooker for the club. Also to Greg Maymon in respect of floodlights for the back car park and an entrance gate.

The new Development Buildings Sub committee are in the process of undertaking a replacement / refurbishment review of the clubhouse and surrounds, which they will be reporting to the AK General Committee on early in February.

However in meantime we urgently need

Display cooler: one of the coolers in the downstairs bar recently went up in smoke (literally!) and has had to be binned

Garage Door: again despite being repaired regularly it is just about on its last legs (or hinges). Ideally needs to be replaced with a metal security shutter similar to the other outside entrances in the clubhouse.

So if anyone has contacts or influence in the above areas, for say preferential rates to replace these items (or even perhaps get them free???) or if anyone might like to sponsor a replacement, please speak to Chris Barlow, Mike Meaney or Dave Elliott.

What's coming up soon

Friday 10th February 2012: Sportsman's Dinner:

There are still places available for this event either on a table or individual basis, but you need to be quick and thus ensure the success of this event

The event 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 has now changed to Fergus Slattery (ex Ireland and British Lions back row forward) as pictured below. Not sure what he is doing with that lion but it seems to have a smile on its face! Comedian for the evening will be Josh Daniels with Peter Riley as Master of Ceremonies.



The price for a table of 10 is £400 and or guess what £40.00 on an individual basis. Please contact Bert Weeden on 07971 870591, Mike Wildgoose on 07775 656366 or Dave Elliott on 07858 945531 who is getting together an ex players table, together with zimoframes and memory restorers!!!”

What's been happening in December at AK

Well due to Xmas break plus some waterlogged and then frozen pitches not too many games to report on

Men's Senior Rugby

The AK 1st Team drew at home to Burnage and then went to Morley where they achieved a great win in the mud. They were then looking to take their improved performances into the home game with Lymm the following week, but unfortunately despite some valiant efforts to clear the pitch of surface water, Lymm didn't want to get their kit dirty and the game had to be postponed. Full match reports and some photos can be found on the AK website



AK's defence holds firm against Morley

AK 2nd Team's finished the first stage of 2nd Team Premier League in a very credible 8th position, but went down to Burnage in their first game of the revised fixture list for the second half of the season.

AK 3rd Team lost all their 3 games in December. However their priority with all the injuries and unavailability's throughout the club has been to get a team out each week, which they have been close to achieving so far, with several new faces coming on board. So well done to all those involved and if you are not playing at the mo and fancy a run out, or know someone that does please contact Chris Smith (Manager of Rugby) on 07976 868444 or Chris Dixon (3rd Team Captain) on 07800 179662, or turn up on Tuesdays and Thursday nights at 19.00 for training.

Women's Rugby

Both the Women's Team games due to be played in December had to be cancelled due to the weather.

AK Women are keen to recruit new players. The girls train on Thursday evenings and you should contact Fiona on 07717 807530 or Rhino on 07753 685168 if you are interested in playing or know someone that might be.

Junior / Mini Rugby

AK Senior Colts won their one game in December and continue to do well in the Raging Bull B League having won 9 of their 11 fixtures, currently sitting in joint 2nd place, and they are also through to the next round of the Cheshire Cup. The AK Junior Colts have found it tough in the Raging Bull A League, due to injuries and unavailability's, and narrowly lost their one game in December to Sandbach. They too are also through to the next round of the Cheshire Cup.

In the Juniors, the AK Under 16s had a hard fought 5 – 0 win over Stockport in the Cheshire Cup, followed up with a big win over Wigan. However they then went down to their second defeat of the season, which was again to Warrington. The AK Under 13s and 15s both won comfortably in their only games of December against Liverpool Collegiate

Not many games played for the Minis in December but the AK Under 12s had a big win over Wirral before losing only their second game of the season to Lymm, and the AK Under 10s continued their unbeaten run winning their only game of the month against Wirral.

There are Junior / Mini Team match reports on the AK website to view

RGN December Awards

RGN Team of the Month

Firstly apologies for the cock up last month. The award quite rightly went to the AK Under 10s but the editor put the wrong team photo in. The correct photo of the Under 10s is now shown below. Well done again to the players and coaches of that team.



AK Under 10s (definitely!)

As for the December award, there has not been that much rugby played and therefore not as many opportunities for teams to impress. The two standout teams were firstly the AK Under 16s (again) even if they did lose to Warrington for a second time this season and also the AK 1st Team for their improved performances in December. Such a pity the Lymm again was postponed to really gauge the improvement made.

For Doz Leach's perseverance and for embarrassing himself (yet again) last month by telling his team they would win the November award, (good job you are not a betting man Doz!) the December award does actually go to AK Under 16s, which hopefully this month RGN has got the correct photo for below. Beers on Doz kids – make him pay for the aggravation RGN gets each month!!!!



RGN Player of the Month – NOT!!!!

Remarkably quiet month for nominations, although Bish did suggest the Club President should be nominated again, this for time for his Santa Claus lap dancing routine at the Xmas do. You had to be there to appreciate that – or maybe not but it did win a bottle of bubbly!!!! Well Bish if there had been any photographic evidence??? Yes we know, you are holding it all back for the End of Season Captain's Dinner to try and deflect the flak from yourself.

So the award goes to (for long service if nothing else) James Watson aka Link. For those who don't know Link has returned to live and work (school teacher - work???) in the Welsh Valleys, having been a stalwart prop on the 1st team for a number of years. Link does not just get the award for that, but for probably having the quietest and most civilised rugby going away do in history – a curry with the lads on a Thursday night???? The lads did get him a nice going away present as can be seen in the photo below – oops sorry that's Link with Hannah the physio, saying thanks for all the free treatment he has had. Must have mixed the photos up, maybe due to the animal rights people complaining about the sheep photos!!! Welsh leisure centre joke????



Social

AK Xmas Do (aka Big Kid's Bash)

Top marks to Rob and Debbie for organising a great do. Good food, some well thought out (if not performed!) fun and games and a great DJ who had most people up and dancing with some great tunes. Exception was Goosie who was obviously well struck (as many of his ex's say he should be!) with his new girlfriend. Unfortunately RGN's roving reporter forgot his camera, but we are sure some pics will eventually see the light of day - Bish???

What's happening in January at AK

Men's Senior Rugby

Tough old month for AK 1st Team, starting with an away fixture at 3rd placed Chester. Then they have games against the teams 4th, 5th & 6th in the league - Bradford & Bingley and Lymm at home followed by Birkenhead Park away. Good tests though if AK are to remain in the National Leagues.

AK 2nd Team start the year at home to Vale of Lune, followed by away games against Liverpool St Helens and Penrith, before a home game against Lymm.

AK 3rd Team are away to Liverpool Collegiate and then Burnage, before a home game against Wirral.

Women's Rugby

AK Women's Team are at home to Leos on the 15th before travelling to Novocastrians on the 22nd.

As can be seen all the senior teams have got some really tough fixtures this coming month, so please make every effort to come down and give vocal support to the both the men's and women's team.

Junior / Mini Rugby

The following teams are playing at home on the dates listed.

8th January: AK Under 14s & 16s, Junior & Senior Colts.

15th January: AK Under 13s & 15s plus all the Mini Teams

22nd January: AK 14s & 16s, Senior Colts plus all the Mini Teams

29th January: All the AK Mini Teams

A busy old month at AK then weather permitting, so please as requested in the recent email from Junior Chairman Doz Leach, do park away from the club on Sundays to give due consideration to our neighbours on Stelfox Ave and surrounding roads.

Other dates for your diary

Sunday 8th January: Manchester City v Manchester United



AK will be showcasing Manchester City's FA Cup clash with Manchester United on the big screen this Sunday (kick-off 1pm). The two were drawn together in the third round for what will be the third derby of the season. United edged the Community Shield 3-2 before City sent shockwaves through the football world with a crushing 6-1 Premier League win at Old Trafford



RBS 6 Nations on the Big Screen at AK

AK will be showcasing all the RBS 6 Nations games in their glory on the Big Screen. Got a hunger before the big match? Pie & chips will be served during every game for £2.49 with 4 pint pitchers of any draught beer for £9.99. Times and dates of the February fixtures are as follows with more to be played in March

Sat, 4th Feb 2012: France v Italy (2.30pm) Scotland v England (5pm)
Sun, 5th Feb 2012: Ireland v Wales (3pm)

Sat, 11th Feb 2012: Italy v England (4pm) France v Ireland (8pm)
Sun, 12th Feb 2012: Wales v Scotland (3pm)

Sat, 25th Feb 2012: Ireland v Italy (1.30pm) England v Wales (4pm)
Sun, 26th Feb 2012: Scotland v France (3pm)

So please come down and help improve the bar takings, as well as enjoy the games of course!

Saturday 25th February (provisional) AK Quiz Night

More details to follow on this event, which was very successful last season. You can start getting the old 'grey matter' in practice now by watching old editions of Mastermind and University Challenge – hmmm well maybe not????

Friday 4 to Monday 7 May 2012: Club Tour to Madrid:

Please also note the new date for this event also



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 it's 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 around £220 or less provided we book the flights early. 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....

NB. If you are going you need to have paid at least £100.00 into the tour bank account (details on the AK website) by the end of January and remember this is a club tour with all players and alis welcome to attend, but get in quick!

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

Saturday 17th May 2012: End of Season Ball:



Please note the new date for this event, which has been changed so not to clash with the Minis Tour. AK is breaking with traditional and this year holding this event at the Cresta Court Hotel, who are now sponsors of the club. Chris Barlow will be circulating full details (personal invites as requested by some?) for this event in the near future, but please note some tables have actually already been booked and it is a case of first come first served!.

Clubhouse Bookings

Just to confirm what you should already know, the clubhouse offers a range of function rooms for wedding receptions and christenings through to birthday parties, keep fit classes, and a whole host of other social and business gatherings.

With two bars the clubhouse function rooms are an excellent facility for most functions. The club is available all year round daytime or evenings at very competitive rates with fully licensed bars and catering if required. You don't have to be a member to hire the rooms so whether you want a business meeting with 10 colleagues or a celebration for up to 200 friends our function rooms are an ideal venue.

If you wish to check on availability, rates etc. contact Chris Barlow on 07983 724 106.

Nostalgia Section

No photo last month but to start 2012 in style or was it pink, below is a photo taken after the 10s competition on the Estonia tour of a few years ago, which AK were runners up in. Will put money on it that even though it was pretty recent (but not the best photo) no one can come up with all the names, and a real case of where are they now???? One tourist (clue 'I am a Moslem') was conspicuous by his absence. Names on a postcard to.....



Strange how some faces seem to appear on every AK tour photo????

Future editions of RGN

So trust that you have enjoyed reading this latest edition of RGN. The next monthly edition will be out in early February. 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. Also particularly nominations for the '*RGN Team of the Month*' and '*Player of the Month – NOT!*' Please email them to dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com

