

# RUCKING GOOD NEWS



## The AKRFC Monthly Newsletter: November 2011:

### **Introduction**

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

### **AK Development Matters**

#### ***Planning Permission***

Firstly the good news that planning permission for the new changing facilities has been granted by Trafford MBC. On that basis the AK Development Committee together with George Tsiantar as architect are looking to produce detailed costings in relation to either a complete rebuild of the changing rooms or alternatively an extension to and refurbishment of the current changing rooms. Once those costings are in place we will have a better idea of how much the club needs to raise through it's own fund raising and in obtaining grants and loans from other organisations such as the RFU. More can be explained on this at the forthcoming club meetings, details of which follow.

#### ***Club Members meetings***

All club members should have recently received a letter from AK Committee Chairman Graham Makepeace-Warne, inviting them to attend either of two meetings being held in the clubhouse on

***Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November commencing 19.30 or Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November commencing 21.00***

The intention of these meetings, which are expected to take only about one hour each, is to explain the club's current financial situation in general terms and the detailed position in relation to what is now required to drive forward the development process. Please remember that AK is a members club and therefore every member (players, social members, coaches and parents) has a part to play in influencing its direction and supporting the Club Committee. These meetings are designed to give every member the opportunity to get a good understanding of what is required to run the club effectively both from a management and finance point of view, as well as influence the future direction of AK in relation to the day to day running of the club, as well as its future development both playing and infrastructure wise.

***Please therefore make every effort to attend one of these meetings in order to show your support for the future well being and development of AK, and so that as a members club we can address the challenges we face and move positively and effectively forward together as a club.***

#### ***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

## Sponsorship

AK now has a new match day programme which looks really good. Copies can be obtained by attending 1<sup>st</sup> team home games and paying at the entrance, rather than coming across the fields or over the brook to gain free admission – yes we know you are !!!! Big thanks to Lindsey Wordley and Graham Makepeace for obtaining the sponsors and putting the programme together. Obviously also a big thank you to all the sponsors for contributing to the programme. As always AK greatly appreciates the support given by local businesses to the club.

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](mailto:lindsey_wordley@hotmail.com)

In that respect thanks to Sean Kington coach on the Under8s for arranging the donation from Liverpool Victoria



## Wanted Page (preferably alive and kicking)

Due to the usual wear and tear plus heavy usage, certain key items in the club need to be replaced. These are

***Kitchen cooker:*** despite being repaired and serviced regularly our current industrial size cooker is just about on its last legs, which doesn't go down well with the 'chipmonsters' on a Sunday morning.

***Bar Tills:*** we currently have only one fully working till in each bar, which caused considerable queues at the recent firework display.

***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 model, please speak to Chris Barlow, Mike Meaney or Dave Elliott

## ***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 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](mailto:pip_thomas@hotmail.com)

## ***Membership Subscriptions***

Very much under the 'wanted' category! It seems yet again that we have the situation where the vast majority of the Juniors, Women's Team and social members have paid their subs or are paying monthly on standing order, but on the men's teams, particularly the 2s and 3s, quite a few guys playing regularly still have not paid their subs.

Guys its not rocket science to work out that it costs money to maintain pitches, run showers, pay ref's expenses, provide kit and launder it, as well as provide food after home games. Believe it or not that is what your subs are intended to at least partly cover. So to those that haven't paid yet please get your finger out and pay this weekend! Payment can be made by cheque, cash, credit card or by completing a standing order form which are available behind the bar. Name and shame lists will be put on the website in the near future and in future editions of RGN.

Remember we are a members club not a charity!!!

## What's been happening in October at AK

### *Men's Senior Rugby*

It has continued to be a tough old season with all three men's teams probably now playing in the top leagues that are attainable whilst we retain our amateur ethos. Having a number of last year's first team squad unavailable or injured to date has not helped the cause either. To date in 33 players have stepped out on the 1<sup>st</sup> team, which is well more than the whole of last season, and several have been debutants. Hopefully though the experience gained will in the long term benefit both players and the club throughout the teams, particularly once we start getting some players back into action. Also particularly pleasing has been the number of Senior Colts who have stood up to be counted by turning out on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams.

Since the last issue of RGN the AK 1<sup>st</sup> Team were narrowly beaten at home by then 3<sup>rd</sup> place Birkenhead Park and the following week lost to top of the table Darlington Mowden Park, despite having just as much territory and field position in the game. They then travelled to Beverley where they managed to snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory. Having led 20 – 7 with 20 minutes to go, and having battered the opposition for the first 20 minutes of the second half but being unable to score again, they eventually lost 29 – 27, but at least got 2 bonus points. The following week AK produced probably their best performance of the season to beat Waterloo at home, with Tony O'Connor scoring a hat trick. They were though unable to maintain that progress last week going down to West Hartlepool away.

Full match reports and photos for each game can be found on the AK website



*Tony O'Connor scoring his second try against Waterloo*

AK 2<sup>nd</sup> Team's performances have also been a bit of a rollercoaster having lost to both Chester and Macclesfield they produced a great performance to beat Caldby, but then had a disappointing away defeat at Liverpool St Helens.

AK 3<sup>rd</sup> Team finally got off the mark with a well earned win against local rivals Lymm. Their priority though with all the injuries and unavailability's throughout the club has been to get a team out each week. So 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> Team Captain) on 07800 179662, or turn up on Tuesdays and Thursday nights at 19.00 for training.



*AK 3rds v Winnington Park 2nds*

## ***Women's Rugby***

Like the Men's Teams the Women's team have found it tough again in North 1 with injuries, pregnancies (does that count as an injury?) and unavailability's not helping their cause. Having put up two spirited performances against Carlisle and Leos, they finally won their first game for two seasons in beating Novacastrians 14 – 10. A great performance from the girls and well done to coach Tom Howarth.

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.



*Action from the AK Women v Carlisle Women game*

## ***Junior / Mini Rugby***

AK Senior Colts have continued to do well in the Raging Bull B League having won 6 of their 8 fixtures and currently sit in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, which is really good considering they were struggling on numbers at the start of the season. Well done to all the players, coaches and managers on the team for that achievement.

The AK Junior Colts have found it tough in the Raging Bull A League, due to injuries and unavailability's. However they recorded a really good draw at Lymm last time out with a full squad, so hopefully things are looking up for them.

In the Juniors the AK Under 16s have won their last 5 games (as Doz Leach regularly reminds RGN) and have only lost one game to date. Likewise the AK Under 15s have won their last 3 games.



*AK Under 16s after a recent win*

In the minis AK Under 12s won the Manchester Plate and the AK Under 11s have won their last 3 friendly fixtures as well as putting in a good performance in the Manchester Festival. The AK Under 10s have been in top form winning their last 4 fixtures after going undefeated in the Stockport Festival and the AK Under 8s won the Fair Play award at the Manchester Festival.

And please note there are lots of Junior / Mini Team reports on the AK website to view

## RGN October Awards

### *RGN Player of the Month – NOT!!!!*

As usual a number of nominees to choose from which have been whittled down to !!!

One overlooked from the previous month was Tom Howarth as shown below for his literal 'sick as a dog' impression at the last Fancy Dress do. You had to be there to appreciate that one, so if you were not – tough! and well done to the medics on the Women's Team for looking after him.



Trizzo (and once again sorry Mrs Laga!!!) for sleeping on the coach all the way to West Hartlepool. Heavy night before we understand



Bish for wanting to do a Mario Balotelli (Manchester City) impression by letting off his £70.00 firework in the coach toilet and then the services coming back from West Hartlepool .

Eddie Clare for bearing his bum out of the upstairs bar window, during the women's game against Carlisle. There is photographic evidence but it's not a pretty sight and definitely not for a family publication

But the award has to go to Deano and Si. Having returned from West Hartlepool and donning high vis jackets to act as stewards at the Firework Display, they obviously undertook a well thought out risk assessment and considered the queue for the ladies loo was highest risk area on the night as can be seen below. Obviously the women of Timperley and surrounds pose a real threat to AK, or was Bish still trying to get in there to let off his firework or maybe you two were just auditioning potential contestants for the ' Take Me Out' night??????



## ***RGN Team of the Month***

Lots of potentials here for differing reasons

AK 3<sup>rd</sup> Team for managing to get a team out every week, despite the number of injuries and unavailability's in the club. Well done to Dicko and others on the team and remember guys once past Xmas it is all home or local games for the rest of the season.

AK under 16s for being unbeaten over the last month and likewise the AK Under 11s and 10s. Well done to the players and coaches from those teams.

But the award goes to (and I know I will get stick for this as usual but being a masochist – what the hell!!)

AK Women's Team for winning their first game for two seasons. It is a really tough league they are, with lots of travelling but they have stuck at and in my opinion well deserve this month's award. Something for you to celebrate on the way up to Newcastle this Sunday girls!!!

## ***AK Firework Display***

Ok so this actually happened in November (now there's a surprise Guy Fawkes night in November???) and turned out to be an excellent night all round despite a slight hiccup at the start of the display from which Smithy's ticker is still recovering!?!?!? Thank goodness for that spare generator – for the fireworks – not smithy's ticker!!! Biggest crowd ever recorded at the do, which has greatly helped the club's bank balance.

No photos I'm afraid but a massive vote of thanks to Mike Wildgoose as organiser again (even if he did sneak off on the night for a wedding reception – hmmm rugby players getting married during the season? – well of a sort it was Paul Ads). Also to Goosie's faithful assistant Allan Williams for a massive personal effort over all 4 days and to everyone who helped out on the Friday and Saturday setting up, on Sunday clearing up, and to everyone on the night who helped with such as the gate, stewarding (except Deano and Si of course!!!), bar, stalls and burgers etc. A massive effort from members across all areas of the club which was much appreciated.

## **What's happening in the rest of November at AK**

### ***Men's Senior Rugby***

AK 1<sup>st</sup> Team will be home this weekend for a first ever fixture against Sandal from Wakefield. Looks like being a busy day with the Ex Players Reunion Lunch starting at 12.30, and then the sold out 'Take Me Out' night commencing at 19.30. After that it is 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Rossendale away.

AK 2<sup>nd</sup> Team are also at home this weekend to Stockport followed by a rearranged game against Vale of Lune on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov at Broughton Park (for floodlights I assume) and then away ironically to Broughton Park on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

AK 3<sup>rd</sup> Team travel to Birkenhead Park this weekend, followed by Broughton Park at home.

### ***Women's Rugby***

AK Women's Team are back on the road with trips to Newcastle and Buckingham on consecutive Sundays this month.

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***

Both the AK Senior & Junior Colts are at home on the 13th November against New Brighton and Stockport respectively, and the Senior Colts will again play New Brighton at home on the 27<sup>th</sup> in the Cheshire Cup, the Junior Colts having received a bye in the first round.

There is at least one of the other Junior Teams at home on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of November

The AK Mini Teams are all at home to Macclesfield on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

So why not come down and view the 'chaos' on a Sunday morning / early afternoon, as the future of AK takes the field. It would be helpful to RGN and the Webmaster if the Junior / Mini Team Coaches / Team Admins would upload their fixture lists and results on to the AK website asap. Without that info it makes it difficult for RGN to give a resume of the last month's results and also make due consideration for the Team of the Month Award. If you need help with this please contact Bertie at [mweeden@graingerplc.co.uk](mailto:mweeden@graingerplc.co.uk)

Mini and Junior team coaches should also note that some of the AK senior players are willing to come down on a Sunday to assist with training sessions. This worked well recently with the AK Under 8s & 9s, so if interested please speak to Club Captain Deano, who is particularly keen to come down on the Sunday morning after the 'Take Me Out' night at AK – well maybe not!!!



*AK 1<sup>st</sup> teamers Link, Deano and Gav with the AK Under 8s*

## ***Other News***

### ***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. Good time to start thinking about Xmas presents – remember to put some AK kit on the Xmas lists kids and mums & dads also! Full details of the range of kit and how to order are shown through a link on the AK website, and samples are on display in the clubhouse.



### ***Congratulations to***

Matt Anderson, Danny Hough and Jack Conteh on being called up to the full Cheshire County Squad. Matt, Danny and Jack have been quite rightly called up from the Cheshire east Development squad to the Full County Squad. The coaches, players and parents at Under 15s are proud of these lads and wish them well at County level. Well done

Mike Meaney (AK Club Treasurer) on receiving an 'Unsung Hero' award at the recent Trafford Sports Awards Evening. Mike's wife Liz originally misheard the announcement and thought he had been nominated for the 'Well hung' hero award. As can be seen below Mike was somewhat perplexed by that!!!



## Dates for your diary

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011:** We have a double booking here. Firstly there is the

### ***AK Ex Players Reunion:***

The traditional reunion do with lunch at 12.30 and a few 'lemonades' before, during and after the AK 1<sup>st</sup> 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??, or in Dave Elliott's case 18?? 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 from the same 5 people once the beer starts to flow if you ask at different times!!!

### ***Take Me Out - AK Fundraiser***

Please note this event is now a complete sell out and if you haven't got a ticket you will not be able to attend. Sorry but tickets have been available for some weeks now and we have to keep the numbers restricted to 150 as per Local Authority Guidelines for Health & Safety reasons.

### ***Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November – O'Neil Sale***

The sample sale runs from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm with fantastic prices starting at £ 5.00 (*Nb. Cash Only*).

Mens, ladies, boys and girls clothing with loads of bags, beanies, and New Era caps. Clothing from Bedroom Athletics, O'Neill and New Era. Footwear from Globe and slippers from Bedroom Athletics. New Era 5950 caps and 9fifty snapbacks. Beanies from O'Neill and New Era.

It will be a great opportunity to buy your self something or to buy a Xmas present for someone.

### ***Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011: Altrincham Kersal Rugby Club Big Kids Christmas Bash***

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, a time to show love for your children, a time to spend precious moments with family, a time for good will to all men. But hey what about you – you've worked hard all year, you've battled round the Trafford centre - twice and you've still got to wrap all the presents. You deserve a treat - some me time!! So sod the kids, Auntie Ethel and peace on earth for one night and come out and have a good time, a few drinks, a dance and laugh with your mates at Altrincham Kersal.

We are having a **"Big Kids" Christmas Bash"** (Definitely no children allowed)

#### What to expect

- All the fun of a Christmas party
- Mulled Wine & Hot Roast Christmas Supper
- Live music & Entertainment
- Fun & Surprises
- Disco dancing to dodgy tunes until your feet hurt.

**Time:** 7.30 pm till Late. **Tickets £10 pp.**

To order your tickets please contact

*What people said last year\**

**“Wow what a fantastic time we had”**

**“Never knew you could have so much fun at a Rugby Club”**

**“Brought back the true meaning of Christmas”**

**“God bless us one and all””**

*\*Actually, we didn't have a party last year these are statements we have made up to encourage you to come along, and in view of the sell out on the 'Take me out' night it would be best to get your tickets early.*

***Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012: 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 and tickets are now on sale. Please contact Bert Weeden on 07971 870591 or Mike Wildgoose on 07775 656 366

***Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

***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 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 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. Deposits are now being taken and need to be in asap to ensure your place and price quoted. This is a club tour with all players and alis very 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

### *Nostalgia Section*

Last month's photo was taken on a 3<sup>rd</sup> team tour to Whitley Bay circa 1996, and before the game against Rockcliffe. There was no chance of naming all the players (unless you are George Bugnoli the organiser), as with all good tours we had managed to lose a few along the way and had to borrow at least 3 Rockcliffe players. That being the case no one seemed that bothered to try and name the players last time round. Not even George Bugnoli who made no mention of the lady??? with the whip either!!!!



This month's photos relate to a unofficial end of season 'mens v women's' game around about the late 70s, possibly early 80s. Some real blasts from the past on these photos including 3 men who played on the women's team to bolster the front row. There were a few other photos taken at the time but a bit too risqué I'm afraid for a family publication!!!

There should be a few of you still about who can name all the men's team but even I haven't got a clue as to who most of the women were, although some should be able to name a certain someone masquerading as a transvestite on the front row right of the women's team. Answers on a postcard or email to .....



### **Future editions of RGN**

So trust that you have enjoyed reading this latest edition of RGN. The next monthly edition will be around the end of November. 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 nominations for the '*RGN Team of the Month*' and '*Player of the Month – NOT!*' Please email them to [dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com](mailto:dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com)

