

RUCKING GOOD NEWS



The AKRFC Monthly Newsletter: September 2011

Introduction

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

AK Development Matters

The AK Development Committee is due to meet this week and a fuller progress report will be included in the next edition of RGN.

Development fund raising through member's efforts currently stands at circa £18,000 in total.

AK still await the results from Trafford MBC of the Planning application in respect of the new changing rooms.

There has been a good response to date to the RFU Survey issued to club members as per the link below, which is also accessible through the AK Website. The deadline for responses is Sunday 11th September, so if you haven't had chance to complete the survey please do so by that date.

<http://survey.rfu.com/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=m443164>

Following on from the survey there will be a Development Workshop at AK on

Thursday 22nd September starting at 19.30

This will be led by Andrew Soutar the RFU Regional Development Officer for Greater Manchester. These workshops have proved very beneficial at other clubs where they have been held, so please make every effort to attend. Remember this is your club and we need your support and ideas to move things forward.

The first development fund raiser is scheduled for Saturday 24th September and will be a Fancy Dress do. See '***Dates for your Diary Section***' later in this edition for more details. There is a bar extension so no excuses let's make it a really good season opener with a full attendance.

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

Sponsorship

Lindsey Wordley has been doing a cracking job in her new sponsorship coordination role, with several new sponsors / programme advertisers coming on board. AK expect to have a new match programme in place in the near future, and 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 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 are 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 mention that you are from AK

What's been happening to date rugby wise

Men's Senior Rugby

Successful trial games were held pre season against Eccles, Wilmslow and Southport (2nd Team).

AK 1st Team then played Northwich away in the Cheshire Cup but were unable to break Northwich's two year home winning run, going down 16 to 6 in close fought game. The following week AK travelled to Penrith for their first league game in the National 3 North. With several players unavailable and late changes to contend with AK were always going up against it, which it proved as they went down 36 – 5. Wet conditions, further injuries on the day and some strange refereeing decisions also didn't help matters. A full match report and photos can be seen on the AK Website. At least the coach trip back was enjoyable, especially for new physio Hannah and her friend Sally!!!



Debut boy Danny Marshall on the charge against Penrith



Coach trip back from Penrith

AK 2nd Team lost their first league game of the season going down 30 to 22 in a close fought encounter. Injuries during the game to two of the AK backs having a deciding factor.

AK 3rd Team also went down to Bowdon 2nd Team in their league game.

Despite the three defeats it was good though to see several ex and current Senior Colts making their senior debuts throughout the teams. As an amateur club it is so important that as many juniors as possible come through on to the senior ranks.

Training for the Senior Teams continues on Tuesdays and Thursday nights and the 3rd Team in particular are keen to recruit new players. So if you fancy a game or know anyone that does, please come down on training nights or speak to Diko on 07800 079662.

Women's Rugby

Seems that 'breaking' coach Mike Jackson on tour might not have been that good an idea as he has now stepped down from coaching the girls. Tom and Diko from the AK 3rd Team have offered to take over the coaching duties in the meantime. The girls are continuing to train on Thursday evenings and still keen to recruit new players. Speak to Fiona on 07717 807530 or Rhino on 07753 685168 if you are interested or know someone that might be.

Junior / Mini Rugby

The Senior Colts kicked off there season with a somewhat depleted squad, but put up a spirited performance before going down to Trentham. The Junior Colts also lost their first league game away at Broughton Park.



Action from the Senior Colts game

The AK Under 15s played a friendly against Lymm and were narrowly defeated. A full report of this game is available on the AK Website.

For the rest of the AK Junior / Mini Teams the first Sunday in September was dedicated to training (and registration for the season). All those registering received a new club polo shirt and the coaches have now received their new Coaches jackets as pictured below



What's happening in the rest of September at AK

Men's Senior Rugby

AK 1st Team play their first home game in National League 3 North against Morley on Saturday 10th September. All support for the lads would be appreciated. The AK Under 8s will be undertaking ball boy duties for that game. The 1sts are then away to Lymm and home to Chester on the following Saturdays.

AK 2nd Team ironically travel to Penrith next Saturday, something that has already been taken up with the respective league fixture organisers! They are then home to Lymm and away to Preston Grasshoppers on the following Saturdays.

AK 3rd Team travel to Marple 2s this weekend and then play Caldby 3s at home and Liverpool Collegiate 2s away.

Women's Rugby

AK's very own satnav team actually start their season in North 2 with two home games on Sunday 11th September with a 14.30 kick off against Waterloo and the following Sunday against Buckingham. Again all support for the girls would be greatly appreciated.

Junior / Mini Rugby

The Senior Colts leagues are being reorganised and a new fixture list is awaited. The Junior Colts should be at home this Sunday but RGN is finding it hard to get sight of the updated fixture lists on the Raging Bull League website!

The AK Under 13s and 14s are both at home next Sunday to Preston Grasshoppers kick off 10.30, with the AK Under 15s & 16s both away to the same club.

All the AK mini teams will be training throughout September at AK

It would be helpful to RGN and the Webmaster if the Junior / Mini Team Coaches / Team Admins would upload their fixture lists on to the AK website asap.

Other News

Breakfast at the Rugby World Cup

The following games will be shown on the big screen at AK this weekend

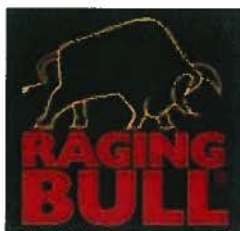
Saturday 10th Sept at 09.30: England v Argentina

Sunday 11th Sept at 09.30: Wales v South Africa

Club will be open at 09.00 on both days with bacon butties etc available, so please do come down and support your country

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.



Congratulations to

Will Harrison

Apologies but this one was one I overlooked in the last edition of RGN. At the AGM Will was awarded a club cap as shown below for his outstanding contribution to AK as Club Captain over several seasons.

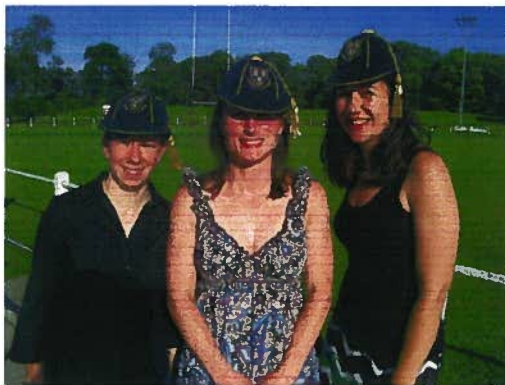


Women's Team Cheshire Players

Pam Read, Amy-Jane Dutton and Kate Morley as pictured below were presented with Cheshire County Caps at Chester Rugby Club during Cheshire RFU AGM on 14th of July

County Caps were awarded for women playing in 8 or more games over the seasons 2005-2010, with County lapel pins being awarded to all those playing in 1 or more games. Pam, Amy-Jane and Kate were the only women eligible for caps, having represented Cheshire in more than 8 games, showing that AK women are at the heart of women's rugby in the county. Amy-Jane has so far represented the county in 12 games, Pam in 9 and Kate in 8. Last years AK captain Lauren 'Bendy' Worthington had played in 5 games and was eligible for a lapel pin, as were many other AK Women's players past and present.

These awards came about due to Dr Vicky Muir's (Cheshire Women's Team Manager and ex AK Women's Team Captain) battle with the Cheshire RFU to get Women County players the same recognition as the men.



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 shortly for this, 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 Jos 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 traditional 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:

Madrid



Fri 11th - Mon 14th May 2012

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 in the

changing rooms or behind the 'Halo Lounge' Bar. NB. This is a club tour so all players and alis are very welcome to come. 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 this season, which once confirmed will be announced in RGN and on the AK website.

Nostalgia Section

Photo below is of Wes Hesford's 'All Star 3rd Team' of the mid to late 1990s??? Some very fresh face young lads and maybe some not quiet so young but still very much around!!! Quite a 3rd team by any standards though looking at the personnel and at least three there who went on to play well beyond AK 1st team level. There are at four players on the pic who whilst I can remember them playing, I can't remember their names – yes I know it's an age thing! So this should be quite a challenge for anyone to name them all. It would be good if anyone can, just to refresh my old grey matter. You will note as usual Rob Worsfold just turned up for the team photo shoot. Another twisted sock no doubt!



For Jobbo's benefit this is the last team photo I have! He did ask the question how come I was on every team phot published in RGN, the answer to which is pretty b..... obvious!!! Anyway looks like I will now how to resort t going though old tour photos and see if there are any suitable for a family publication! That should be interestin with such as dodgems / dead ants on the IOM, balconies / broomsticks in Anglesey and dolphins in Galway to nam just a few!!!!

For the really old members of the club, whilst I was in Devon last week I passed Wiveliscombe, which I believe Kersal as they were then, went on tour to even before I joined the club – mid 1970s ??? Confirm 1970s not 1870s. Very muddy kit brought back I seem to recollect???? So there's some nostalgia for you!

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 September. 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 '*AK Team of the Month*' and '*Player of the Month – NOT!*' Please email them to dave.elliott29@ntlworld.com

