THE HOWLING WOLF

RUGBY CLUB NEWSLETTER . MARCH 2014



President's Welcome

Welcome to our special memorial edition of Howling Wolf.

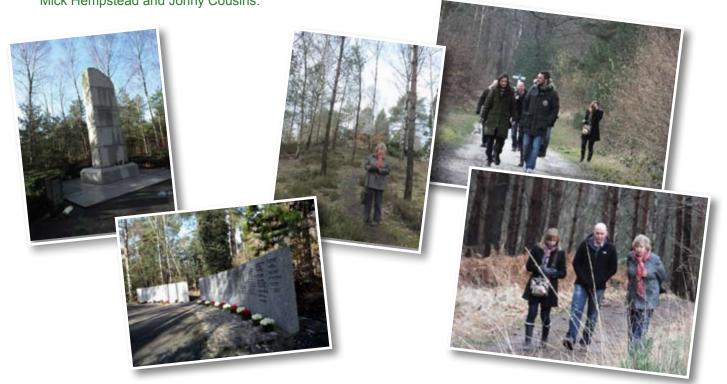
This season has been a historic one for our Club as we compete, for the very first time in our 89 year history in National League rugby. It's a proud achievement and, for those, like myself, who have a long association with Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club, it's one that forty years ago seemed quite unimaginable.

2014 is also a season that brings a painful reminder to us of the events of four decades ago, when on 3rd March 1974 a party of players and friends of the club flew to Paris for the weekend to watch and play rugby, never to return.

Much has been reported about the events of that fateful day when 18 of our players, officials and friends were killed in one of the worst ever air disasters in aviation history, so I will not repeat the facts. Except to say that back in Bury it left ten wives widowed and twenty-one children fatherless. The impact on their lives and the countless mothers, fathers and siblings left behind was, and still remains, monumental. The shock, devastation and endless grief was huge. The club, the rugby community and the town rallied as best it could. Mayor of Bury, Robert Elliott, started a fund to help the families and together with donations from virtually every rugby club in the country, raised £128,000.

For many years afterwards the club struggled to survive, relying on other clubs to loan players so we could fulfil matches. But slowly it did recover, largely due to the determination of the victims' friends and colleagues at the Club who held our rugby community together.

Last week marked the 40th anniversary of the air crash and several of the families, including our own youth Chairman, Gordon Ellis, returned to Ermenville Forest outside of Paris where the aircraft came down. He was joined by his mother, Sue Whittley, widow of 1974 club chairman Bryan Ellis, sister Anna, Doc White Mick Hempstead and Jonny Cousins.



Last Saturday we also held a memorial lunch ahead of our 1XV and WolfHounds matches against East Grinstead to mark the day and honour those who perished. Many of the families and friends from 1974 joined us for what was a day of mixed emotions. Smiles, laughter and good memories were intermingled with sorrow and poignancy as many stood to give speeches.





It was followed by a magical display of rugby by our players securing a 13-8 victory against tough opponents and watched by a huge crowd. Arguably, the best performance of the season. Thank you to so many people who joined us for such a special day. The 18 will forever be a part of our club and will never be forgotten. But I for one know that those who lost their lives back on 3rd March 1974 would be proud of their club today.



Lost but not forgotten - Bury honours the 18

Rugby club pays tribute to the men who died in air crash 40 years ago



A huge crowd turned out at Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club as the town paid tribute to those that lost their lives in a plane crash 40

Saturday's match against East Grinstead was the backdrop to a special day to commemorate 18 of

the club's players and officials who were among 346 that died in

the 1974 Paris air crash.

Dozens of friends and family of those who died reunited to or mose who died reunited to mark the crash's 40th anniver-sary, with special scenes off the pitch matched by an Inspiring 13-8 win for the home side. Youth chairman Gordon Ellis

was eight-years-old when his

father Bryan, who was club

chairman, died in the accident. He said: "It was a celebration. I didn't know how it was going to go – you never do – but it couldn't have been better. It emphasises not just what Bury is about, but what rugby is about. It was just the right tone."

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Remembering

Brian Arthur David Cain Laurie Cornish David Cowell Richard Coult Bryan Ellis Peter Green Nick Jones Stuart King

Graham Levet Tom Marriage John McClinton **Rex Morley Gregory Rynsard Robert Savidge** Mike Tilbrook **Mike Whitehead Peter Withers**









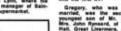




















They leave ten widows and 21 children...













Saturday 8th March 2014

1XV and WolfHounds matches against East Grinstead to mark the day and honour those who perished.





In honour of the Paris Air Crash victims, 85 club members and friends will be taking part in a Memorial Cycle Ride on 7th-11th May 2014 from the crash site in Ermenville near Compeigne to Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club. The 310 mile challenge is the brainchild of Austin Cornish, son of Laurie. A big thank you to him and to event organiser Andy Spetch and event co-ordinator Lizzie Cross from St Nicholas Hospice for making this happen. It is hoped that the Memorial Cycle Ride will raise thousands of pounds for two causes – St Nicholas Hospice and Floodlighting of Youth pitches at the club. The anniversary of the disaster has raised the awareness of the Memorial Cycle Ride. For those who have missed it do tune into BT Sport's coverage and interview with Austin.

For full details of the challenge, to view further coverage or to donate please visit **www.memorialcycleride.co.uk**

To those taking part in the cycle ride or supporting our cyclists, a big thank you in advance.

We know it will be an amazing, if arduous challenge.

We will be arriving back at the club on the afternoon of Sunday 11th May. Please join us.

Jerry Lowden President

Funds raised for St Nicholas Hospice via the Memorial Cycle Ride will contribute to a very special service operated by the Hospice - Nicky's Way: Children's bereavement service.

Nicky's Way is an award-winning programme for bereaved children and young people, and is available to anyone in need, regardless of whether the person they have lost was known to the Hospice. Lasting for six weeks, the programme includes a range of activities, supported by a group of adults. The programme gives the child information that helps to make sense of any questions they may have, as well as offering companionship and a safe place to express how they are feeling.



St Nicholas Hospice is a community based charity which works alongside patients, their family and friends to enable people facing life shortening illnesses to live life to the full and support them through what is a very hard time in their life.

For more information visit www.stnicholashospicecare.org.uk

Member of the Month

Our interview this month is with Sue Whittley (nee Ellis). Sue was the first woman member of the club, first female member on the executive committee - which she served on for 14 years - and the first female honorary member.

When did you first get involved with the club?

I reckon I first went to watch rugby in 1959 when we ended up afterwards eating cheese rolls in the Priors Inn. I became the first lady member of the club in

September 1961 and I still have the ticket to prove it, signed by the

Treasurer at the time, R. Skelton. On the back is written 'Congratulations on being the first Lady member of the Bury St. Edmunds Rugby Club'. A very proud moment so I have always kept it! I was Social Chairman in the 1986/87 year.



Earliest memories are of games, doing teas and singsongs in the old clubhouse - those were the days!

What is your greatest rugby memory?

My greatest rugby memory is probably having lunch at Twickenham with Dickie Jeeps before the match against France in memory of the plane crash on 3rd March 1974.

What couldn't you live without?

Things I could not live without - my family, friends and white wine!

Who would you like to be stuck in a lift with?

Who would I like to be stuck in a lift with - Ian Botham, Andy Murray, (to talk cricket & tennis), David Attenborough and Gordon who would probably make sure I said the right things!!

If you could have one super power what would it be and why?

My super power would be to eradicate cancer and make the world a calmer place to live in for future generations.

What would you like to see the club achieve this season?

The club is doing very well so top of the league would be good!

What do you feel are Bury's 3 best assets?

Three of Bury's best assets are the location of and the grounds, the clubhouse and the clubs' volunteer members (especially those who have known it and served it for a long time.)

Thank you from Gordon Ellis

On behalf of the relatives and friends of those who died in the Paris Air Disaster I'd like to say a massive thank you to Bury Rugby Club for the kindness and hospitality shown towards us on Saturday - a very fitting memory to our loved ones. *Thank you.*



Message from the Chairman

I'd like to start by saying how extremely proud I am of the way the whole Club has rallied together to mark the 40th anniversary of the plane crash. I had the pleasure of meeting many relatives, friends and players at the time, before last Saturday's home game and they have all been very touched and moved by the way the Club has paid tribute to their lost loved ones.

As I said in my address at the pre-match lunch, we also owe a huge debt of gratitude to those who worked so hard to keep the Club going during the dark days. The club could have folded, but instead it rebuilt laying the foundations for our eventual rise to National 3 Rugby, along with our thriving youth and mini sections, which are the envy of most Clubs in the region, providing our youngsters with unrivalled opportunities to not only enjoy our sport but to develop their skills and abilities.

Last Saturday the 1st team and the WolfHounds produced terrific displays that honoured the memories of those lost. This was followed up on Sunday by a minute's silence by all of the youth teams, then producing more passionate and absorbing rugby.

Finally, I was touched when, on Saturday night, I bumped into Russell Ward who is Chairman of Bury Town Football Club and he told me that in honour and respect for the Rugby Club they held a minute's silence before their game. This was a lovely gesture and demonstrates what a wonderful community we are living in Bury St Edmunds.

Hopefully the wet weather is now behind us – based on last weekend let's hope spring has arrived for good, enabling everyone to enjoy a fantastic final two months of the season.

Mike Robinson Chairman



What's on this month?

Home Fixtures 2014

Sat 15th March Showing RBS Six Nations.

Italy vs England @ 12.30. Wales vs Scotland @ 2.45pm

29th March vs. Dorking – sit down @ 1pm – 9 places left

2014

Sun 27th April Mini's Presentation Day

Sun 4th May Greene King IPA International 7's Tournament

Weds 7th–Sun 11th May Complegene to Bury Bike Ride

Sat 17th May Club Dinner and Presentation Night

Fri 6th June Club Ball TBC AGM

Please see club website for more information www.bserufc.co.uk



Exciting, Exhilarating Rugby | Featuring 16 specialist sevens teams

RUGBY SEVENS AT BURY

16 Team Elite Tournament and 8 x Team Open Tournament

FEATURING









LEICESTER TIGERS

SARACENS

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

WORCESTER **WARRIORS**

Rugby celebrities present throughout the day & Childrens Entertainment

Trade Stands | Corporate Hospitality | Hog Roast | Beer Festival

£7000 Prize Money

Hosted by



Sponsored by



Greene King IPA International 7's Tournament

The annual GK IPA 7s Tournament on Sunday 4th May 2014 is but a matter of weeks away now.

The event is once again shaping up to be a showcase for fantastic rugby with a packed line-up of top named clubs and international sides already signed up including **Northampton Saints, Leicester Tigers, Worcester, Ireland, Nigeria and Belgium.**Alongside the elite tournament there will be two open competitions - for local male sides as well as, **for the first time a four team women's competition featuring our Bury ladies, the Foxes.**

Another new addition this year is the introduction of fancy dress – a long tradition for 7s tournaments – which the GK IPA 7s have decided to adopt. Anything goes but given the date of the event we're pretty sure people won't need much encouragement to dig out the Darth Vadar or Luke Skywalker costumes!

Naturally the beer festival will be even bigger and better this year and will run from Friday through until the last drop is drunk!

The event is one of the highlights of the club's calendar and is a great advert for our Bury Rugby. But, as ever, it can only happen with an army of volunteer help. If you are able to assist on the day to make this event run smoothly please email Simon Lord at simon.lord@defra.gsi.gov.uk

There are printed A4 posters and A6 flyers in boxes in the snug bar.

Please feel free to pick up and post or hand out wherever you can.

A4 Posters can be put up at work (we can email PDFs for you to print), in public buildings, pubs and other Rugby club's noticeboards.

For those travelling to away matches or festivals please take a few to hand out or put on cars. We also have some large pvc banners to put up around the town and prominent places, *contact Jane if you can help.*





Director of Rugby's Senior Playing Report

It has been a busy few weeks at the Greene King IPA Haberden with the weather finally allowing the season to get back into full flow.

The 1st XV have played 5 fixtures since our last newsletter and have recorded 3 wins, a draw and a loss. We had an eventful arrival in Guernsey in early February but the squad were fully focused on the task at hand and put on a super display of controlled rugby in difficult conditions, running out 24-12 winners. A physical encounter followed against 4th place Tonbridge in a 23-23 draw which was a pleasing turn-around from a heavy defeat in the reverse fixture earlier in the season. A convincing win at Thurrock was followed by a one point loss at Westcombe Park before the players put on the performance of the season against East Grinstead to record a 13-8 win on what was the 40th anniversary of the air disaster.

The Wolfhounds have had 4 wins on the bounce with superb victories against Southend, Diss, Shelford and East Grinstead. Pleasing performances from Junior Academy players such as Spetch, Deeming, Hicks, Ballum & Jeacock have seen them gain more experience of senior rugby, being guided by some older heads.

The Wolves continue to remain top of Suffolk Merit 1, but in the top of the table clash against Ipswich 2s, came out on the wrong side of a narrow defeat that may well decide the overall outcome of the league. Once again a mixture of senior figures and Academy players continue to show the importance of developing our future talent in these competitive fixtures.

The Junior Academy have now successfully reached the semi – finals of the Eastern Counties cup where it looks likely they will face Colchester. A convincing win against Ely was followed with a one point defeat at Stowmarket but the gaining of the losing bonus point has seen Bury top the group and give them the potential of achieving some well deserved silverware.

Now the Spring sunshine has arrived we have a couple of midweek fixtures at the Haberden over the next few weeks with Royal Welsh arriving on 26th March to face an invitational Wolverines squad. This will give supporters an opportunity to view a squad consisting of our own talent and some talented players in the surrounding area. This is followed up on Wednesday 2nd April when St Joseph's College visit the Haberden to face a Bury U19s side. This should be a cracker of a game with both sides blessed with pace and skill. We look forward to seeing both of these fixtures being supported by our loyal band of followers.

Gavin Hogg - Director of Rugby





Rugby Academy

Now Recruiting for September

Aimed at 16 year olds who will complete their GCSE examinations in June, the Academy will give players an insight into a professional programme in an Elite Rugby environment

Based at the Bury St Edmunds campus and using the high quality facilities at Bury St Edmunds RUFC, the programme provides aspiring young rugby players who are serious about their sport with the opportunity to combine regular training with their academic studies. This is a fantastic opportunity for participants to improve as players, learn more about the game and complete an academic course suitable to their interests and abilities.

Academy members will be supported and managed by the college's experienced coaching and teaching staff. Together they will supervise their academic learning, strength and conditioning, their technical and tactical development and competitive programmes, inspiring players to achieve their sporting ambitions whilst gaining academic qualifications.

Players will represent the College in a range of fixtures from 15 aside to 10 aside and 7 aside competitions and are encouraged to

represent their club sides at the weekend as part of their on-going development.



Facilities

- 4 Rugby pitches
- Modern changing facilities
- 3G Rubber crumb training pitch

(suitable for full-contact rugby)

Fully equipped strength and conditioning gym



For Further Details on how you can be part of the new intake in September, contact Gavin Hogg hogggavin@hotmail.com 07817486066

Youth Update

Under 16's

The last 5 games have been a successful re-birth for the U16's with really good wins against Hadleigh (24-15) and Southwold (47-19) in February. This was followed by a couple of really hard Cup games against strong opposition resulting in a 40-15 loss against Sudbury and a 39-15 defeat against a seemingly hungry Ipswich YM.

The final match, a festival game against the Haverhill Barbarians, finished with the Bury U16s winning in style, 53-24.

The squad are playing expansive and skilful rugby. Combined with great spirit and huge smiles on and off the field, their enjoyment is infectious. The quality of rugby being played and determination to succeed shows all their potential. For them, the future places in the Academy next year are beckoning, and, who knows when they





Foxy Ladies

Suffering a defeat at home against Abbey, after being undefeated since November, was a sobering game for the Foxes. As such the ladies went in fighting last Sunday and were back up to form away at Harwich, playing their best technical game to date. Working hard over the recent weeks on both dominating from the front line and set pieces that could give any team a run for their money, they were able to come away with the massive score line of 68-0.

Continuing this hard work and development, the foxes had a training session with Mike Tidder from the RFU where they did some work on technical skills within the scrum, effective tackling positions and core stability. Off the pitch, the Foxes are heading to Twickenham Stoop to support the England Ladies in their Six Nations game against Wales.

On the 29th March, Foxes will be attending the last pre match lunch where they will be holding a raffle to raise funds to continue our progression. Amongst other prizes there will be a rugby ball signed by the hosts of BT Sport Rugby Tonight.

Scrummage practice, Fox style



Mini Madness

Matches/Bad Weather

The nightmare with the bad weather may well be over (a foolish statement as I am no meteorologist) but we played games on Sunday 9th March. It was great to see the Sunday 'buzz' return to the club and some great rugby being played on our boggy but playable pitches. Thank you to Hadleigh and Ipswich YM for playing at Bury. There were mixed results as ever but a great morning of rugby was had by all.

Coaches Tops

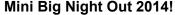
You may well have noticed our coaches sporting snazzy tops. Our model (pictured here) is Coach Aaron from the Under 6s. He likes sherbet dib-dabs, sushi and dancing in the moonlight.

A big thank you to Terry Sands at Samurai for supplying these tops free of charge. http://www.samurai-sports.com/

Minis Tour 2015

Dates for your diary although it is some time away. We are proposing to run a Minis tour in Easter 2015 to Wiltshire. The format will be similar to previous tours in

that we will be based at a suitable establishment with the players playing rugby on the Saturday and Sunday and undertaking activities with KG Sports in their down time. For the parents, there will be tours of the many stately homes in an around Wiltshire followed by cream teas and riverside walks. We may if everyone is good, partake of a local beverage or two. More information will be circulated nearer the time.



This is the hottest ticket in town. Saturday 22nd March is the date for your diary and it should be a fantastic night. All proceeds will go to St Nicholas Hospice and the club – see the poster below. This is bound to be a great success and if this is the case it will be an annual event.





PLUS music, comedy, games & raffle

Come along & have fun with fellow Minis parents

Funds raised go towards the Memorial Cycle Ride

ickets available NOW See Olly Jackson or ask behind the bar... Limited availability!!!!

In association with The Bury 40th Memorial Cycle Ride, St Nicholas Hospice & Bury Rugby Club we are delighted to announce the first Bury:



OOMPAH NIGHT!



Join us for a night of Bavarian Singing Eating, Drinking & Dancing.

AT THE RAVENWOOD HALL HOTEL

Friday 30th May 2014 7.30pm till late...

TICKETS: £39 pp. includes traditional Bavarian meal.

CONTACT: to book your place or table of 10 go to: www.buryoompah.co.uk alternately email: hello@redfoxexecutive.com or phone: 01284 715055



For further information check out <u>www.buryoompah.co.uk</u>
All proceeds will go The Bury Memorial Bike Ride in aid of St Nicholas Hospice & Bury Rugby Club.

Wanted - Your club needs you!

Youth Fixture Secretary and Referee Co-ordinator

Can you spare an hour or two per week to help the boys play rugby?

Please contact Gordon Ellis on 07768986466 or gordon.ellis10@me.com

Easy Fundraising

Visit our external club shop: http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bserufc

Our webshop has over 150 big name retailers including NEXT, Amazon, HMV, Marks and Spencer and Littlewoods to name but a few, so go shopping in our webshop and take advantage of the lower VAT rate.

Bury St Edmunds RFC receive a percentage of what you spend so you'll helping your club whilst you shop!

And finally...

Austin with RBS Six Nations Trophy



At last a Bury shirt gets his hands on the big trophy!



Join the

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a month

Personal 1-2-1 Training is available for: Strength and conditioning, weight loss & improved fitness Fitness assesments &

individual gym programmes also available.

Monday 8am - 9pm Tuesday 8am - 9pm Wednesday 8am - 9pm Thursday 8am - 9pm Friday 8am - 8pm Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 9am - 1pm

Please call us for more information:

Jane Spetch - Club Manager 01284 753920 . 07500 554598 clubmanagerbserufc@btconnect.com



If you would like to join the gym please contact Jane Spetch to arrange an induction. The induction is mandatory for health and safety reasons and is a one-off cost of £10.00. Membership for the general public is £12.00 per month. Gym membership is £50.00 per year for family members and vice presidents of the rugby club. Players gym membership is included in their Rugby Club fees.

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All the latest club information including match reports and fixtures are available on the website **www.bserufc.co.uk**

Let us know your thoughts and follow the comments by joining our facebook page or follow us on twitter @BSERugby



Please see our website for our full fixtures lists for the season www.pitchero.com/clubs/burystedmunds

The Howling Wolf - Editor: Rebecca Haywood, Graphic Designer: Di Jackson