

Guys Kings and St Thomas RFC

Newsletter

September 2008

I am pleased to enclose the fixture card for the current season. It is testament to the resilience of the club and its officials that we enter the 165th season intact. Last year was not auspicious. The First Fifteen were demoted for failing to honour two league fixtures and the Club lost huge sums of money on the annual ball. Both of these were due to weak student organisation. So what is new you might ask. There was more bad news as this season unfolded. It was announced by KCL that the playing fields at Honor Oak Park would close for demolition of the clubhouse and the laying of two all weather pitches. These had been planned for a long time but the abruptness of the announcement left the rugby club looking for alternative venues. Home games this season will now take place at the Beccehamians ground, Sparrow Den, Corkscrew Hill, West Wickham. The next bit of glum news to lighten your spirits is that based on some arcane formula, the Rugby Union has changed its home international ticket allocation process so we were offered just 5 tickets per game this season compared with the usual 30. On appeal the number was increased to 12. You will thus be very lucky to receive any international tickets this year although matters may improve in the season 2009-10.

On the bright side, the Club remains indebted to your continued enthusiastic support. We have also gained some sponsorship and Prof. Bob Walton in California has bought a supply of socks and shorts for the First Fifteen. He was disturbed by the sartorial clashes exhibited by so many players.

The Club had a great tour to Barbados at the end of last season. A full account in the Gazette is awaited. The Penguins (Vets) also had a successful tour to Italy. That report is in the current

Gazette. The past v present games were greatly enjoyed. The present side won the first fifteen tussle but the vets won the second fifteen clash and regained the Scanlan Memorial trophy. The Scanlan bursary for 2007-8 was awarded to the captain Mark Halls. This year there was no application for the entry rugby scholarship.

Please note that the past v present games this season will be held on April 25 2009. There will be a ball on the same day. This is being organized by Pat Gush whose enthusiasm and vision are going to ensure a really terrific event. He is asking supporters to rally to the club at a difficult time by organizing tables of 10 and giving him notice of your attendance. Would you consider organizing or participating in a table of your playing colleagues? Details can be obtained from Pat Gush at 10 Oakhurst Close, Chislehurst, BR7 5LF or email pat@gushie.co.uk.

The United Hospitals Cup and Plate finals will be as usual at the London Welsh ground on Sunday March 8th 2009. You can presume we shall be in one or other of these finals. The UH Sevens competition starts at 13.00 on Sunday October 12 at the London Barts ground in Chislehurst.

You will see from the fixture card that I have resigned from the presidency and my successor is Geoff Koffman. In the minutes of the summer RFC Committee meeting it was noted “. . . Dr Gibson has stood down from his second term of presidency so that he can concentrate on his playing”. I rather like that.

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