

The Wanderer

WRFC NEWS November 2019

A huge thank you to everyone involved in our World Cup breakfasts. Over two hundred guests enjoyed the final (well at least the breakfast) on the 2 November. We have had some fantastic feedback from our visitors and the hard work done by the many volunteers have certainly brought the club together. Whilst there were many many people involved in making the breakfasts a great success I do have to single out AJ, Martin Swinerton, James Rich and Sammy Carter - for their fantastic work. Here's to 2023!

A key element of all our functions is that we learn



from them and constantly look to improve what we offer to players, members and guests. If you have views about how we can make further improvements talk to Stuart James or Ned Anderson, our Directors of Bars, or me directly.

And we do need more volunteers for the bar – if you want to help please let Stuart know.

Club Name

One of the questions we have been wrestling with is our name. Officially we are Worcester Rugby Football Club – WRFC - but many know us as the 'Wanderers' reflecting the absence of a

permanent home for many years. WRFC often confuses us with our neighbours the Warriors – WWRFC and many continue to use the 'Wanderers' or 'Wandies' as shorthand for our club. And just to add more confusion we also play at Cummins Farm and at Westons.

We would all agree we need to retain WRFC – it is an important part of our heritage and history but, at the same time, somehow hold on to our more familiar name the 'Wanderers'. We have decided therefore to continue to use WRFC as our official designation but name our home ground 'the Wanderers – the home of WRFC'. This means we can all continue to holla 'come on you Wanderers' from the side lines! We will over the coming months look at how best we promote Wanderers around the club and on the web site. The first visible change is your monthly newsletter...

To further help our identity and direct our visitors we have now received planning permission for two new large signs promoting the club, giving details of upcoming fixtures and directing people to the entrance. The signs will be located on our land adjacent to the Pershore Lane roundabout and along Offerton Lane. We are now looking for sponsors for the signs which will be erected in early 2020. If you may be interested in sponsorship, please contact Sammy Carter.

On the pitch

November has seen another good rugby month for the club putting out numerous teams to fulfil all fixtures including the first official game for the Saxons team who travelled down to Cheltenham Tigers. The first team has seen mixed fortunes with



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two wins and one loss. The notable win was the evening kick-off over at Kidderminster. Whilst a depleted 1st team were well beaten by Lichfield there were a number of outstanding individual performances especially from those stepping up



from the 2nds underlining that we are beginning to develop some depth. The second team are in a great

run of form; currently top of the league playing some good rugby with plenty of their players supporting the 1st XV when needed. The various team managers and coaches are working hard to keep momentum going and we hope to even field a vets team in the first week of December.

Cheered on by modest but vocal support the 2nds had a good win over an understrength Ludlow at the end of the month.



Under u18s and u15s girls are progressing well in their pools matches in the North Midlands cup as are the u16s boys who through to first round. The u15s and u14s have their first matches next month.

One inevitable consequence of our success is the pressure on pitches for training and games. To help plan and manage the pitches better I have established a small sub-group of Martin Swinerton, Grounds Chair, Niall Crawford, Director

of Rugby and Tim Cunliffe M/J Chair to oversee the allocation and use of pitches.

1st Team Fixtures in December

Saturday 7 December – Whitchurch – Home

Saturday 14 December – Ludlow – Away

Saturday 21 December – Newbold – Away

KO 2.15

Christmas Car Raffle

Don't forget you only have until the 22 December to win a fantastic Suzuki Christmas present.

Win this car for Christmas



See website for details
<https://worcesterrfc.rfu.club/>

Tickets, which are available from the club and through all teams, are £20 and importantly proceeds go to the club. The draw will be on Sunday 22nd December after the Mince Pies are eaten and carols sung.

University of Worcester – Student Links

As part of our growing links with the University of Worcester (the Wanderers is home of the two men's and one women's teams on a Wednesday



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afternoon) we are delighted to have two university students undertaking their research projects at the club. Amelia Faulkner will be looking at senior player and member communications and Eleanor Woodhall will be working girl's rugby. If you are approached by either Amelia or Eleanor give them your time. Not only will it help their studies but also provide useful information to the club about how it can improve girls' rugby and communication generally.

Christmas and New Year

The annual Christmas Carols and Mince Pie festivities are on Sunday 22nd December. Organised by the M/J section everyone is welcome to enjoy Christmas carols from the Worcester Youth Brass Band. There is no charge and it would be good to see senior players and members join in on the event. The bar is open as usually with festivities starting around 11.30.

Apart from the Warriors v London Irish match on the 28 December the Clubhouse and Bar will then be closed until after the New Year break.

Andy Cross

Many will already know that Andy Cross, Bar Manager, who has been with the club for a number of years leaves at the end of December. Andy has played a key role in establishing the bar service in the new clubhouse and on behalf of all players and members I would like to thank him for his hard work over this period. We wish him well for the future. Andy's successor will be announced shortly.

NMRFU CENTENARY CELEBRATION DINNER

Saturday 20th June 2020.

Voco St Johns Hotel,
651 Warwick Road,
Solihull B91 1AT.

Black Tie and Cocktail Dresses.
Reception 7.00pm for 7.45pm.

Guest Speaker is Will Greenwood MBE and Master of Ceremonies is David Duckham MBE.

Tickets £75.00 each and tables are for up to ten.

Ticket reservations – please contact Charlie Hemmings, charliehemmings@btinternet.com or 07967 259379.

Discounted overnight B&B accommodation available at £89 single occupancy or £99 double occupancy at St Johns.

Please contact reservations@stjohnssolihull.co.uk or call 0121 712 7601 quoting North Mids Dinner and the date

(offer only available until 3 April 2020)

Dinner Sponsorship packages available on request

You may also have noticed a number of small changes in the food and beverage provision. We are continuing to talk to a variety of suppliers to help improve quality and costs. Further changes are planned and as mentioned previously if you have any views (and you haven't already bent my ear!) speak to Stuart or Ned. We are listening.

Have your say...

We promised to invite your views on subscriptions and charges for the 20/21 season. Jim Goodman will be inviting you to have your say in December. We want your views on Membership categories,



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subscriptions and other charges and will consider the feedback in the New Year. A decision about subscriptions and charges for next season will be made in early Spring.

Also the RFU are inviting you to help shape the future of the Adult Male game. The RFU have set up 'listening panels' to discuss the structure of the Adult Male competitions at Level 3 and below. This includes areas such as length of season, number of games played and how best to utilise knockout or cup rugby. The RFU are looking for contributions from a range of people involved in the game from players, to committee members and club administrators.

The December dates and venues for these listening panels are below:

2nd December – Peterborough

2nd December – Bridgewater & Albion

4th December – Silhillians

4th December – Havant

Please see the below link to sign up. For those not chosen to attend the listening panels, or who are unable to attend the scheduled panels, please feel free to send your feedback to:

competitions-development@rfu.com.

If you have any queries please email competitions-development@rfu.com.

Club Shop

We are looking to launch on-line shop end of January with an extended the range of clothing for all sections. More details to follow.

And finally...



We raised £155 at the world cup final for the Colts social fund – pop and crisp only of course. Thank you to everyone who contributed. I am grateful to Paul Holmes and Andy

Atkins the team managers for their hard work to re-establish the team after a seasons gap. It has been a tough first season for the young players but despite the more experienced opposition the Colts have shown considerable skill and determination. I am sure we will see the players and the team go from strength to strength. Please give them your continued support.

And don't forget your raffle tickets and mince pies and carols on the 22nd!

Steve Lloyd
Chair

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