

The Wanderer

WRFC NEWS February 2020

Dear Members and Friends

A bit more than my usual introduction this month...

The rain and flooding continue to dominate all our lives and our sympathies go out to our members, friends and local businesses touched by the flooding. Our pals in Hereford and Pershore are also having a bad time of it and I am grateful to the 100 Club for their kind donation to Hereford RFC appeal to help them get back on their feet after the floods have subsided. And thank you to players and members for being understanding when we have had to cancel training and matches sometimes at short notice. Whilst our pitches are generally holding up well – well done the Grounds team - many of the areas between them are saturated and more bad weather is forecast. We will keep it all under review

Six Nations at the Club		
Saturday 7 th March	England vs Wales	4.45pm
Saturday 14 th March	Wales vs Scotland	2.15pm
	Italy vs England	4.45pm
See Club posters for Bar opening times		

We had some fantastic feedback from the 'Ideas Night' run earlier this month by Tim Cunliffe and Tom Reeves. We will report fully next month once we have had chance to digest the suggestions and, more importantly, look at how the Management Committee and members can turn great ideas into

reality. At our Committee meeting last Tuesday we made a firm commitment to support this work and the enthusiasm of our members.

Resulting from the Ideas Night President Jim has challenged the Management Committee to be more transparent in its business and constantly reminds me that we made a commitment in the Strategy to be more open. We have made a good start - with the newsletter, seeking member views on fees for next season (more later), holding our meetings on a Tuesday and Thursday so we have chance to talk to players and coaches and we recently set up an email suggestion box to capture members ideas.



A good start yes but I would be the first to say not yet good enough and accept that we must do more to make our work accessible to all. A key step will be, from early next month, publishing a monthly financial summary and the Management Committee notes so members can have a better understanding of our finances and also see what the Management Committee is getting up to. Whilst there is still work to be done on our financial reporting I feel the figures are beginning to give a clearer picture of the club's overall



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financial performance and health. I have asked Henry to set up a member's area on the WRFC website, so the information is easy to find.

Worcestershire Wooden Spoon - St George's Day Quiz

 **Wooden Spoon** The Worcestershire
The children's charity of rugby
Wooden Spoon branch have booked out our clubhouse on the 23rd April for a quiz night. Please look out for details and give them your full support – perhaps putting a team together and having a fun night raising vital funds to support children and young people with disabilities or living in disadvantage.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 21st March pre-match lunch for both WRFC 1st XV v Lichfield and Warriors v Gloucester.
- From 12.45 £17.50-£21.50 ph

Saturday 4th April pre-match lunch for WRFC 1st XV vs Ludlow 1.00pm £15.00 ph

Saturday 18th April Sponsors pre-match Lunch. WRFC 1st XV vs Droitwich (last game of the season). From 1.00pm £15.00 ph

Saturday 25th April Presidents night. See details.

Saturday 16th May Presidents and Volunteers day. Details to follow

Wednesday 24th June Club AGM

On the Pitch

Niall Crawford DoR Senior Rugby

We continue to expand our player base largely due to the hard work of the team leaders and our growing reputation for friendliness, inclusiveness and quality rugby. Strong playing numbers and top quality (albeit sometimes soggy) pitches have meant we have not had to cancel any home games and have fulfilled all our other fixtures with our opposition. This means that we are, at times, fielding 5 teams - including the Colts who play on a Sunday afternoon.

The 1st XV currently sit 9th in the league table. They are working hard to finish in the top half of a league that is very competitive with some



opponents providing a stiff challenge. Despite mixed results the players, several stepping up from the seconds, have shown considerable heart and a desire to improve - Austin Ruddock and Louie Weston showing performances of note. Our last two games against Stourbridge and Newbold were close affairs losing by a total of 3 points. We did however pick up 3 bonus points which, along with the win on a wet Friday night against Kidderminster, have helped strengthen our league position.



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The second team had a fantastic start to the first half of the season finishing top of the league at Christmas. The league has now split creating, as we saw with the 49 – 54 win against Newbold last Saturday, a tougher pool of opponents for the second half of the season.

The 3rd XV are also experiencing success and are being supported by players from the MA and Saxons squads. The 3rd team are on the hunt for a cup this year after beating Stourport in the first game. The tireless job Ian Wearing does to get a team out is much appreciated.

The MA team are fine tuning their preparations for the Cork international tournament where they will meet teams from several rugby playing nations. The MA are working hard to raise funds for the Cork competition so if you get chance please support their money-raising efforts.

Our 2nd team and Mixed Ability squad have also been winning the plaudits of the referees. We have had some great feedback, not only their respect to the refs but also other teams. Well done...

The Saxons team, launched earlier this season, is going from strength to strength and have after their warm up games officially played their first IRG game

We continue to work hard with our re-established Colts. Paul Holmes and Andrew Atkins have done a great job with a young bunch of players. They have had some very competitive games in the Sunday league against well-established clubs and older players. Our players have shown

considerable skills and determination and their first win must, surely, be just around the corner.

1st Team Fixtures in March

Saturday 7th March Sutton Coldfield – Away 3.00

Saturday 21st March Lichfield - Home 3.00

Saturday 28th March Whitchurch – Away 3.00

Tim Cunliffe Chair M/J section

Two greats will be joining our coaches on St David's day - Jonathan Davies and Jonny Arr will help run our



U16s and Colts training session. The event will be on Pitch 1 from 12.00 – 13.15.

A special thanks must go to our Club member and supporter, Paul Evans, who bid for this prize at an auction during an event held in London for Jonny Arr's testimonial year with the Warriors. From all of us - thank you.

The u15 girls have had great success in the national cup. They are in the last 4 of the Midlands Division with games being played on 1st March at Mansfield.

The u14s, u15s and u16s boys teams have all progressed to the North Mid Cup semi-finals to be played by 15 March.



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And finally, the Worcester Mini Festival u7s to u12s will be on the 19th April.

Annual General Meeting

Believe it or not we are already preparing for the AGM which will be held on 24 June 2020 at 7.00pm at the clubhouse. Shortly we will be inviting nominations for the Management Committee for next season. Closing date is 30 April so if you fancy joining the Committee get your nomination in early.

We are looking at tweaking our club rules - to bring them closer in line with the RFU model rules. Jeff Crawshaw will next month let you know about the changes we want to make at the AGM and seeking your views. The Management Committee believe the changes to be modest and hope they will receive member support. We will make a final decision once we have had member feedback.

Information Screen – Clubhouse Bar

Hopefully you have already seen the new information screen above by the bar in the Clubhouse. The screen has been generously supplied and fitted by Brown & Fincher of Droitwich. We will use the screen to promote club activities, advertise events and keep members informed. We will also use it for paid advertising and we already have several companies signed up. Please give it a glance when you are next in the Clubhouse. If you have any club news you want to promote or might be interested in advertising please speak to Brian, Bar Manager.

End of Season Dinner

The end of season dinner and awards night will be held on Saturday 25 April 2020 at the clubhouse. Tickets are £40.00 for a top quality three course Indian themed dinner. We have player awards, an after-dinner comedian and will hear from Alex Grove who is swimming the channel for a local charity. Look out for booking details but note **no pay - no play!**

Meet the Management Committee

Jeff Crawshaw - Honorary Secretary



I have been associated with Club since 2000 when the Crawshaw family moved to Worcester from Hull, where, despite a life-long affiliation to rugby league, I had been a coach with the Hull Ionians M/Js.

Alexander – Crawsh to most people other than his mother – joined the M/Js under the excellent team management of Adrian Marskell. And Crawshaw jnr. is still playing. I also joined the M/J coaching team as backs coach and had several fantastic years both on the pitch and on the tours. Helping children grow into young adults and develop not only rugby skills but also life-skills such as loyalty, teamwork and friendship is very rewarding. If you are a parent and wondering if you should get involved – do so - we have a brilliant M/J set up under Tim C and you and your off-spring will have a great time.



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As with many of us that have come through the M/J years eventually the children outgrow us – deep voices, beer and late nights... and it was time for me to retreat from coaching and take up photography. And that's where I have been for the last 10 years - pitch side at the Colts and then the 1st team.

I decided to retire from my business this coming year and in a moment of weakness agreed to stand as secretary replacing the outgoing Geoff Adams. I didn't really know what the role entailed and hadn't previously been involved with the running of the club. Needless to say, it has been a vertical learning curve and I am grateful to many people – Geoff, Jim, Steve and the many others for their patience and help during the last 7 months. As Steve has already touched on the we have work to do but it is fascinating and rewarding stuff. We are building on a fantastic legacy and there is much to be optimistic about. I will continue to do my best and when my term is over it will be back to the photography...

Jeff

all sections and I am grateful to all those who gave up their time for this important work. As well as mastering the fundamentals such as accessing the RFU's Game Management System (GMS) which hosts our website, participants were able to start creating and editing their team's information page, creating news items and match reports with pictures and documents and then displaying them on the website. I am is hoping to create a group of WRFC experts who can, with the help of modern technology, be supported remotely. If you have any thoughts on what training would help you – let me know.

We hope you find our WRFC web site becomes more interesting and informative over the coming months and seasons. Have a look at the Saxon's site which show just what we can do to promote teams and the club – well done Saxons!
<https://worcesterrfc.rfu.club/teams/worcester-saxons/465839/profile>

WRFC Website Development

Henry Catherwood IT and Data Manager

Earlier this month we held our first training session on how to update our new, RFU provided web site. We had a great turnout with representatives from



The RFU Web Site Service – What Is It?

The RFU's Club web site service is provided free for RFU affiliated clubs.

Suitable web site data is automatically shared from GMS ensuring that it is always up to date.

There are no intrusive third-party adverts and no added menu items taking the user away from your site to a third-party commercial site.

All adverts are added solely by the respective Rugby Club (us) and defiantly not by the RFU or any third parties.

The sites functionality is impressive and increasing over time. It is easy to use with many impressive features that covers the core requirements of



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most clubs. It does not, as yet, provide everything that some paid for site services offer but we are pleased with the progress to date.

Subscriptions and Charges

A small number of members gave excellent feedback to Jim on subscriptions and charges. Feedback suggests that members like the simplicity of the current approach but there is also some concern about whether the increase in car parking charges for the Warrior's games is putting off visitors. All indications suggest not and income is up on last season. We are currently asking other clubs in our area for information on their fees etc. and will consider all the information before we make a final decision. It is still not too late if you have views. Send them to Jeff at: secretary@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk

Membership Database and GMS

On the subject of GMS and subscriptions you may have heard of our need to move our membership data base across to GMS. Our current IT system is no longer fit for purpose and the RFU offer a secure system which will allow us to manage player and patron membership and subscriptions; and give members the ability to directly update their personal details and communication preferences. Our plan is to ask every member to register on GMS and over the summer we will be telling members what they need to do and also offering hands-on help for those, like me, that might find GMS a little daunting. We are also asking everyone for an email address so we can use it to keep members informed of club matters.

Whilst our membership numbers look healthy – 309 patron members, 232 playing members and

373 M/Js. A number of members (too many) have not paid or only part paid their subscriptions for this year. We will be asking these members if they wish to pay and continue as members or, if not, the club will, sadly, have to stop their membership.

And Finally...

We have decided to move the volunteers' day – a day to thank and celebrate the hard work of our many volunteers to the Presidents day on Saturday 16th May 2020. The move allows us to organise a more family orientated day. We might even enjoy some dry weather! Details to follow...

Steve Lloyd
Chair



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Want to un-subscribe?
Email: secretary@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk**



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