

# WRFC NEWS...

## September 2019

I am delighted to have been asked to edit the September newsletter. We have had a positive reaction to the newsletter and as Steve mentioned last month, we hope it will be the best way to keep up to date with rugby and Club matters.

As well as the latest news about the Club and senior teams I have taken the opportunity to tell you about my aspirations for the M/J section this season. There is a lot of change happening within the club, the new clubhouse being the most visible and a new Club committee, that's committed to building a solid foundation for the club's future. The one constant in all this change is the high quality of rugby that is displayed by our young



players. This is a result of the coaching that is provided by our highly motivated, skilled volunteer coaches who focus on improving every player's skill and

maximising every child's enjoyment from rugby on Sunday mornings. The standard of rugby is always high across the Worcester RFC M/J Section.

We have a very healthy squad of some 400 children, spread across 13 age grades, along with their parents/guardians who enjoy rugby on a Sunday morning. Our age grades range from under 7s to under 16 and include three thriving girls' teams at under 13, 15 and 18.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the time and effort of the volunteers that turn out every Sunday (and often other times) to support the teams and coaches. This is the area where we need more help to drive the M/J section and the club forwards. Our Age Group Managers and M/J Section Committee have lots of brilliant ideas but not enough people to make them happen as quickly as we would like. We need all types of



people to help the M/J section grow, please talk to your age group manager or a member of the M/J Committee to find out how you can get

involved and make a big difference to your child's rugby future.

Steve Lloyd and I met earlier this month to talk about how we can further strengthen the links between the M/J section, the senior teams and the Club. Steve and I are agreed that the new clubhouse has given us the opportunity to really create 'one club' and be the envy not just of the region but across the RFU.

Having a Colts team is central to this plan. Colts rugby provides the key link in the pathway from M/J rugby into the Senior



teams, we are committed to developing and sustaining a Colts team. Plans are being formulated with the current under 16 and under 15 age groups to ensure future transitions to colts are a success.

To further these links, we have also agreed to invite mini section teams to 1st XV games to form a guard of honour at the start of match, to play at half time and followed by a complementary meal. Paul "Knotty" Knott (Mini Vice Chair) will be leading on this initiative. I've also extended an invitation to the Club Management Committee and senior players to come and see what happens on a Sunday morning, to meet with our players, parents and volunteers.



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We recognise the need to continually improve our coaches' skills, in addition to RFU coaching courses, Gav Vickers (Club Coaching Coordinator) is planning to increase collaboration between coaches from different age groups by sharing best practice and experience. Hopefully we can extend this across the whole club by involving Senior players and coaches where possible.

We want to hear from you about how we can improve our Club. A good example this week was a parent highlighting the importance of providing information on food allergens. From now on, the kitchen will display allergy information and we are also asking Age Group Managers to provide any allergen information so that, where possible, we can provide suitable alternatives.

I end by wishing you all great success in the 2019/20 season and a reminder that success is not always measured by the number of victories achieved by the team but can also be measured by the enjoyment, skill and performance improvements made by each and every individual within the team.



**Tim Cunliffe**  
Mini Junior Chair

### On The Pitch

The 1<sup>st</sup> team have seen mixed fortunes at the start of the season. Losing by a point to Droitwich in the first game of the season and then winning by a couple against Newbold. Last weekend saw a heavy defeat to DK (last year's runners up) which masked a close fought match for 60 minutes before injuries and a more experienced team got the better of us.

Playing numbers have been excellent with several mixed ability players stepping up to the thirds and seconds.

Worcester's Colts returned to Weston's with a fantastic spirited display against Luctonians. The Worcester team was represented by mostly under 17's playing - in a league of mostly Under 18's. The game was won 24 - 33 by Luctonians but the spirit, skill and determination on display from the Colts gave our supporters huge hopes for the future of Colts rugby at Worcester. With highly talented players coming through the age groups the future of Colts rugby looks strong. Some of this Colts squad are certain to be challenging for a 1st team shirt over the coming years.

### World Cup Rugby at the Clubhouse

We had a fantastic start to the World cup rugby weekend. Bars and kitchen staff worked brilliantly to keep our many customers watered and fed – so a big thank you to everyone involved. World cup dates for your diary:

#### Sunday, 29 September

Australia v Wales 08:45

#### Saturday, 5 October

England v Argentina 09:00

#### Saturday, 12 October

**England v France 09:15 Wooden Spoon Breakfast (look out for details)**

#### Sunday, 13 October

Wales v Uruguay 09:15

Japan v Scotland 11:45

And all the knockout rounds and final

Call 01905 455118 or email

[WRFCclubhouse@outlook.com](mailto:WRFCclubhouse@outlook.com) now to book your breakfast £10.00 or bacon and egg roll.



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## WRFC Tour Fundraising & Charity Business Luncheon

The club hosted another highly successful business lunch on 6th September. Over 150 guests enjoyed a fantastic Chanterelles lunch and the insight and wit of the excellent Ian Robertson, former Scottish International, TV & Radio pundit.

The incomparable Phillip Serrell once again expertly managed the Auction prizing open wallets and squeezing the last few pence out of guests – all for a very good cause. A donation of £500.00 was presented to John Gibson, Chair of the local branch of the rugby charity, The Wooden Spoon.

Once again, we are indebted to our sponsors: Alastair Ralph Racing, Mark James Complete Building Services, Anja Potze, Piston Gin, Copper Beech House & Stuart James, Will Orgee & Bruce Friday.

Huge thanks also to the Luncheon's Main Sponsor, Hallmark Hulme, their support over the years has been the rock upon which the Luncheon has been founded.

The planning for next Year's Event is already underway, put Friday 4th September in your diary & remember, book early to avoid disappointment!



## International tickets

Paid up members can apply for international tickets through Bryan Radford.

There are no Autumn Internationals because of the World Cup but there are two home six nations matches against Ireland and Wales. We are awaiting the final allocation at each price, but prices are unchanged from last season. The application form is on the website. Contact Bryan Radford

[bryan.radford@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk](mailto:bryan.radford@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk) for more information

## Membership Subscriptions and Charges

In case you haven't yet seen the message from Steve about membership subscriptions for 2019/20 please have a look on the WRFC website. In summary the subscription for patrons has increased to £75.00 but there will no longer be charges for car parking or the season ticket for this year. For your £75.00 you can:

- Watch a WRFC match
- Use the clubhouse and buy food and drink
- Obtain a discount ticket for drinks
- Park a car without a charge on WRFC match days (subject to availability)
- Park a car without a charge on Warriors' match days (subject to availability)
- Apply through the ballot for international tickets
- Vote at the AGM

Visitors (non-members) will be charged a £5.00 per person entry fee for WRFC 1st team matches and on Warrior match days this will be replaced by a £10.00 per car charge for non-members. There is, as far as we know, only one clash with the WRFC 1<sup>st</sup> team and the Warriors. This is on the 7<sup>th</sup>



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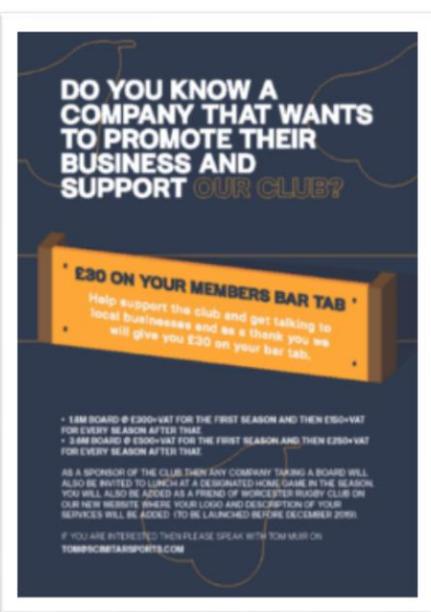
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December. Warriors fixtures will of course change and be added to so we will keep you posted.

I know some members did not receive the email from Steve and we apologise for this. This is due to WRFC IT problems (more on this below).

We have had some feedback on the changes - in the main supportive. The changes have also thrown up arrangements that had been long forgotten and a couple of members have questioned whether the £10.00 Warrior match day fee for non-members is too high. We have decided to stick with the plan and level of charges for now but keep it all under review.



The changes are only intended for this year whilst we decide what we need for the longer term.

Our current approach has grown incrementally over many years and has become, out of necessity,

complex and increasingly difficult to manage. Now we are firmly established in our new clubhouse it is the right time to review what we do and shortly Jim Goodman, President, will be in touch with all members to seek their views and ideas about how we can best we can organise the membership categories, subscriptions and other charges for next season and beyond.

Some members had already paid the higher rate before we made the change. If you have done so you have three options open to you:

- Carry the monies forward as a credit into next season
- Add it to your bar discount card (if you have one)
- Have the money repaid

Please let Jeff Crawshaw, Secretary on [secretary@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk) know your preferences and we will make the changes as quickly as possible.

Finally, can I remind everyone we have a 180 car parks spaces – when they are gone they are gone. So don't be late for your WRFC fixtures!

### 1<sup>st</sup> Team Fixtures

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September Old Hales Home 3.00pm  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October Hereford Away 3.00 pm  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October Stoke on Trent Home 3.00pm  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October Kenilworth Away 3.00pm

### Membership Cards

AJ has been issuing membership cards during the month. If you haven't yet got your card contact him on:

[subscriptions@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk](mailto:subscriptions@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk)

### Email and the new Website

Email is the best means to keep in touch with all those involved with the club but continues to challenge us. It would appear that many email



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providers regard WRFC as spam and reject emails sent by the Club. Henry Catherwood, Chair of the IT committee is working hard to resolve this long-standing problem and I would ask that you bear with us over the next few months as we tackle the gremlins. In the meantime, we are looking at an alternative provider that might be regarded more agreeable than our own.

We will put all our news and messages on the new website so please make a note to regularly check for up-dates. The website is still under development and it will be a few months before we have all rugby and club information available from it.

### Coaching Matters

#### North Midlands Youth Forum

Bob Parker, North Midlands Youth Forum Secretary has forwarded to clubs notification for the next NM Youth Forum meeting. The Agenda includes the direct impact on the 'whole Club' including a potential loss of League points for infringements of Regulation 15 (mentioned in last months newsletter).

#### Law and Regulation Changes

The NM RFU have prepared a slide deck for the law and regulation changes which will have an impact on games at the and how they are officiated - the deck is available from

[secretary@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk) or  
[dor@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk](mailto:dor@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk)

### Clubhouse Bar Opening times

*Not world cup dates – see earlier article*

**The Clubhouse Bar will be open:**

**September to April inclusive:**

**Tuesday to Thursday 18:30 to 22:00 hours**

**Saturday Noon to 22:00 hours**

**Sunday 09:30 to 16:00 hours**

**July and August:**

**By arrangement with WRFC Bars Ltd.**

Hours are subject to change and we will adopt a common sense and sensible commercial approach so please check in advance.

### And Finally...

Your Clubhouse wifi password is...

**Welcome!!**

**Not on our email circulation list?**

**Want to un-subscribe?**

**Email: [secretary@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@worcesterrugbyclub.co.uk)**



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