



Knock-On



the Newsletter of Aboyne Rugby Football Club - April 2007

CALLING ALL OLD BOARS!

To mark the club's 30th anniversary, all former players and members are invited to an Old Boars stag dinner in the **Victory Hall, Aboyne on Saturday May 19th 2007**. The price includes a top quality three-course meal - and there will, of course, be a bar to soak up your spare change. There are also three excellent home-grown speakers in the form of **John Low, Peter Mitchell and Philip Strachan**. This will be a traditional old fashioned rugby dinner, offering the chance to meet and greet old faces and friends from the past, as well as the young whippets of the current generation. Accommodation is available at the Huntley Arms Hotel, recently refurbished and reopened under new owners.

Tickets are limited and demand is already high. Ensure your place at this historic event by contacting Robbie Dow now on **dow.glassel@btinternet .com** or **07721-444945**.

Tickets are £30 each and cheques should be made out to Aboyne Rugby Club and sent to Robbie at Salisbury House, 19 William Street, Torphins, Banchory, Aberdeenshire AB31 4FR.
Book your ticket NOW and don't miss out on this wonderful occasion.

CAPTAIN'S XV V PRESIDENT'S XV ANNUAL RUGBY MATCH

Before the AGM on **Saturday 28th April** we will have our annual intra-club match on Aboyne Green. All members, players and former players, are very welcome to join this light-hearted entertainment. Please bring your own kit, including a rugby shirt if you have one (as colourful as possible) and **assemble on the Green by 2 pm**. Come prepared for Champagne rugby (or Iron-Bru rugby if you're under 18)!

AGM - HEAR AND BE HEARD

The Annual General Meeting will be held at **6pm on Saturday 28th April 2007 in the Holly Tree Tavern at the Loch Kinord Hotel** in Dinnet. Proceedings will include the prize-giving and election of Office Bearers for the season 2007-2008, as well as the usual reports on the state of the Club. *This is your chance to have your say about the running of the Club and to elect those you want to see on the committee, so come and make the most of it.*

Details of the current committee members and their availability for re-election are shown at the end of this newsletter. If you would like to nominate someone for any position on the committee, please check that the person is willing to stand and return the nomination slip. More than one person and/or more than one position may be nominated – use extra paper if required.

Note: there is no formal dinner after the AGM (we're saving that for the 30th anniversary celebration) but no doubt an informal night out will follow!

Will current holders please return their trophies to Colin Cashmore before the AGM (we know who you are!).

LEWIS BEDDIE TROPHY

The club has decided to award a new trophy to recognise those who devote time and effort to the development of youth rugby on Deeside through the Club's large and thriving Youth Section. The trophy will be awarded for "significant contribution to youth rugby in Aboyne RFC" and will be in memory of Lewis Beddie, who was a stalwart of Aboyne Rugby Football Club, having been an active playing member since his schooldays, and latterly coach of the Aboyne Women's team. We are very grateful to Lewis' parents who have generously offered to provide the trophy.

ABOYNE ABROAD

Aboyne Tourists hit Paris in Springtime

Aboyne RFC were accompanied once more on their biennial tour to Paris by the Scottish National team. Although the National side went down to their French counterparts, Aboyne Tourists managed a memorable victory in their first fixture - a very open and good-spirited game against Clichy. After watching the International on Saturday, the guys enjoyed a tour dinner and soirée - and spent the rest of the night commiserating on the French victory. So it was that a slightly depleted Tour side went to our old friends and rivals at St Denis on the Sunday and got substantially beaten - though you should have seen the beatings being handed out by players in the Premier division match that followed ours! No handbags there!

Everyone had a good time, several doing 'le tour' for the first time, including captain Neil Scott and young players Steve Shirlaw and Beaner Green. To balance out the youth, Aboyne's oldest player and tour legend Roger "Le Roublard" Cummins made the trip and played both fixtures. He also led the singing, which apparently greatly impressed the lady Mayoress of Clichy! The tour saw a number of weel kent faces along the way including Keith Mair and a small selection of his extensive family, and Martin Anderson who even pulled his boots on for the St Denis match. We were also accompanied by a party from club sponsor Baker-Hughes, including Piper Alex Simpson, who did an excellent job of entertaining everyone in Clichy town hall.

ARFC thank Clichy and St Denis for receiving us so generously and entertaining us so royally – we look forward to returning the favour next year.

And all the tourists owe a big debt (some in cash!) to Ady Crawford for his excellent organisation (often under trying conditions thanks to recalcitrant French hotel owners) and for subsidising the club guys via his large collection of Air Miles. Good on yer Ady!

Pete Burrow Banters - ramblings from Abu Dhabi

Despite hanging up my boots earlier this season the lure of a run out in the Gulf Coast Veterans 10s at this years Dubai 7s was too great and with a spring in my step I started training again with Dubai Hurricanes. I had tried to track down Andy Whitaker -



even went to Singapore to find him but he was lost in the rain forests of Indonesia with an expired visa and no way of getting out of the country. He did eventually turn up and we trained hard and forced our way into the 2nd X, along with another former Aboyne "star" Campbell Kinnear who has recently moved to Abu Dhab. So Aboyne had 3 ex-players at the event - surely some sort of record for a Scottish club?

Keen to avoid a repeat of last year's box-lifting injury, Andy avoided IKEA for two weeks before the competition but still ended up in the medical tent before half time in the first match with what turned out to be a trapped nerve. Campbell was also unfortunate, suffering a cracked rib in the pool games. Our team reached the final of the Plate competition, losing to Cairo in a tight game. By this time I was hobbling along the sidelines with a damaged calf/achilles - I knew I should never have attempted to sprint for the line! Despite his initial setback, Andy did make it all the way through without further injury and played a blinder in the final.

Once again the entire weekend was a great festival of rugby, despite the uncharacteristic torrential rain which made the pitches resemble Aboyne Green on a bad day. One would have thought that the Scottish national team would have excelled in the elements but they went down to some embarrassing defeats against the likes of Portugal and Zimbabwe.

My boots have been dried off and polished, stuffed with paper and the laces ironed in preparation for a long lay-off until next September when it will all start again!

CAPTAIN'S COMMENT

This year has been good for the seniors and at the moment we are joint top of our league. With only a few games left we still have good numbers at training and we are looking to build on this season and take a step up next year as hopefully we will be promoted into a better league and better standard of rugby.

I would like to thank all the players and everyone who has helped the club this year and hope that you will all do the same next year. I also hope we will see more people getting involved more with the club.

YOUTH SECTION

U18 – this year, Aboyne established a joint U18 team with Mackie Academy FP's. Although the team was registered as Mackie (and appears as such on the SRU website), the majority of the players are from the Aboyne club and, considering that they have little chance to train together, the team has developed well and finished sixth in the North Development League.

U16 – the U16 team finished a highly commendable eighth in the competitive Caledonia Premier League and also reached the semi finals of the Caledonia Cup. The strength of the group is indicated by the numbers selected for the North East Hurricanes representative squads - nine players for the U-16s and five for the U-15s. In addition two U-16s were selected for the Caledonia squad and, in fact, were playing for the Caledonia team on the day that we lost in the cup semi-final. Well done all of you – a real credit to your coaches.

Next Season Aboyne is expecting to field teams in both the U18 and U16 Caledonia Premier Leagues.

Mini's - we now have steady numbers of about 30 a week, although numbers are a bit lacking in the P6 section. We have five regular coaches - Mike Fraser, Nick Edgar, Paul Morris, Steve Hillier and Alun Rees - and 'Jonny's hotshots' star Jamie Moorish has been along helping for several weeks as well. The Mini's are looking forward to 3 tournaments at the end of the season -

Grammar on the 29th April, Mackie on the 12th May and Aboyne's own tournament on the 26th May. As always we're looking for more coaches and parent helpers but more importantly more kids to join in!

Coaching - we now have 18 active coaches in the youth section and 6 of these also attended a grade 1 refereeing course.

Micro's - are flourishing with approx 20-25 turning out every week to be trained by their six regular coaches - Andy McMurtrie, Graeme Nixon, Gavin McCall, Mike Steven, Roger Lightowler & Chris Angus-Hankin. As with the Minis, they are always needing help, either as coaches or parent helpers, so please don't hold back there's a job for everyone!



Aboyne's Ross Nicols (P4) - 6th from left - was picked as a mascot for the autumn international against Australia.

Forthcoming events

28 April – Captains v Presidents followed by the AGM

12 May – Aboyne U18 sevens (The Green) – to be confirmed – please check website after 30 April

19 May – Old Boars Night

26 May – Festival of Mini Rugby, Aboyne Green

To be announced - Golf Outing, Loch of Aboyne

And later in the year – congratulations to Derek and Suzie Edge who have pooled their talents and are expecting a new club member at the end of September. Derek assures us that that the baby will be a winger.

(And hopefully won't hang up its boots prematurely like Dad did!.....Ed).

The Committee of Aboyne Rugby Football Club 2006-2007 is:

Office	Current Holder	Available for re-election?
President	Colin Cashmore	No
Vice-President	Mike Fraser	Yes
Secretary	Adrian Crawford	Yes
Membership Secretary	Vernon Fawcett	Yes
Treasurer	Derek Edge	Yes
Fixtures Secretary	John Colleran	Yes
Captain	Neil Scott	Yes
Vice-Captain	Pete Stephen	No
Youth Convenor	Paul Williams	Yes
Ordinary Member	Roger Cummins	Yes
Ordinary Member	Steve Hillier	Yes
Ordinary Member	Andy Keir	No
Ordinary Member	James MacBeath	Yes
Ordinary Member	Tom Fuchs (Acting Vice-Captn)	No

If you would like to nominate someone (or yourself!) then please do fill out the attached slip and return it asap to

**Mr A Crawford,
Secretary Aboyne Rugby Football Club,
3 Hartington Road,
Aberdeen. AB10 6XT.**

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Office Bearer Nomination Slip

I would like to nominate

For the position of
on the committee of Aboyne Rugby Football Club for the season 2007-2008.

Proposed by: (Your name)

(and signature).....

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