

"Knock-On"

the Newsletter of Aboyne Rugby Football Club – August 2006

Welcome to the pre-season edition of Knock-On a season that starts for the Seniors with a friendly home match against Aberdeenshire on August 28th. So time's short and you'll find a letter enclosed from our new Club captain, Neil Scott, urging everyone to do their bit to make it a really successful season for all sections of the club. The annual ~~messing about with~~ reorganisation of senior leagues took place during the close season and the 1st XV's main target will be to get promotion to a better league as the current one doesn't really reflect the team's ability. We're sure everyone will give Neil their full support to achieve this important aim.

Presidents Patter -

Another season is about to get underway and by the time you read this the youth section's first event of the season, the "Summer Rugby Academy", will have taken place and all the juniors will be match fit and ready for the off. The youth section is as ever very active but Paul Williams the youth convenor still needs more coaches and helpers to meet the increasing demand. *For information generally on youth rugby, contact Paul on 01330 82218.*

Neil Scott took over as Captain from Steve Hillier and so has a hard act to follow but he is tremendously committed and, despite being relatively new to the club, he is making a great job of getting some young blood in and making sure the senior team is fit and ready to go. Neil's rugby league background has put a new slant on training and good numbers are turning up, so the future looks bright, but more guys at training would allow us to practice a much wider range of squad skills. Get your boots on guys!

On the 'older seniors' front, I want to raise a veteran's team, the ultimate aim being to field a team in the Dubai sevens in 2008. As veterans means 'over-35' (*and so includes most of our 1st XV - Ed*) we have plenty of keen mature players who don't want to hang up their boots yet, but the main problem will be finding other teams to play. If anybody out there knows any veterans teams who want a run out – give me a call (*01330 822103*). On the social front – next year it will be 30 years since the club was founded and a celebratory dinner dance will be held in the Victory Hall on 19th May (to be confirmed).

On a sadder note it is with great regret that I have to report the death of Stuart Ballentyne at the age of 62 after a short illness. Along with Nigel Wilkinson, Ian Taylor, John Baillie and Rob Fuchs, Stuart was a stalwart of the youth section during the 1980's. This likeable smiling Geordie of Glaswegian descent was well liked by players and fellow coaches alike and our thoughts are with Stuart's family at this time. His son Douglas continues the family involvement with the club, as he is now back after a period of absence and intends to play for the seniors in the coming season.

Colin Cashmore

End of season news

The traditional closing match of the season - the **Captain's v. Presidents game** - was it's usual enjoyable self and was won by the Captain's XV, Steve Hillier receiving the Nigel Wilkinson Memorial trophy from Pat Wilkinson. We had an excellent turn-out for the game and the ensuing grub and drinks at the Holly Tree - but then the scarper rate rose alarmingly before the **AGM!** However, you will be pleased to know that the select band that *did* attend the meeting voted to keep the **club subscriptions** the same as last year. When you compare our subs with other sports clubs (and the price of child minders!) you will realise that they are excellent value, especially for those with juniors who take out a family subscription. A subscription form is enclosed and prompt payment would very much appreciated.

Club officials elected for 2006-07 at the AGM were:

President	Colin Cashmore	01330 822103	colin.cashmore@nhs.net
Vice President	Mike Fraser	013398 82871	mcfrazer100@hotmail.com
Secretary	Adrian Crawford		adrian.crawford@shell.com
Treasurer	Derek Edge	01330 825083	derek-edge@tiscali.co.uk
Captain	Neil Scott	013398 81042	Captain@Aboyne-rfc.co.uk
Vice Captain	Peter Stephen	01224 584746	
Fixture Secretary	John Colleran	01224 733714	JCOLLERAN@samson.com
Youth Co-ordinator	Paul Williams	01330 822188	arfcyouth@aol.com
Mini Co-ordinator	vacant		
Membership Secretary	Vernon Fawcett	01330 823514	vfawcett@f2s.com
Ticket coordinator/Knock On	Roger Cummins	01339 884324	r.cummins@carlogie1.fsnet.co.uk
Committee members	Andy Keir	013398 80003	Andrew.Keir@robbkeirdesign.co.uk
	James McBeath	013398 86049	jmcbeath@ukonline.co.uk
	Steve Hillier	013398 83321	S.Hillier@macaulay.ac.uk
	Tom Fuchs		fullbacktom@talk21.com

So now you know how to contact just about everyone who matters! And to complete the communications bit, Neil Scott has also found time to start a new web-site (being as the SRU one was such a failure) so don't forget to log on to www.aboyne-rfc.co.uk.
.....it's still under construction but looking good so far.

The Trophy winners for 2005-06 were: Player's Player of the Year – **Steve Hiller**, Clubman of the Year – **Vernon Fawcett**, and Young Player of the Year - **Stewart Green**. **John Fyvie** also won an award of some description...something to do with forgetting to put his socks on before his boots.

Last year on the park.....

The seniors had a very mixed season in 2005-06, the highlights being a return victory at home v Strathspey after a previous heavy defeat, and reaching the semi-finals of the Town & County competition. Lowlights were definitely the inability to field a full XV for the away game against Strathspey and also against Aberdeen University – both eminently winnable games. Not only did we forego winners points but the league penalty system actually gave us a negative points tally for a while! Other disappointing results in the league campaign were losses to Banff (twice) and Peterhead. We have a bit of catching up to do.....

In contrast, the junior sections had a very satisfactory season. As usual there were shortages in one or two age groups which was frustrating for the players when we couldn't raise a team. This was especially so for the U-18s and some of them had no choice but to go to clubs where they could get regular games. However, this is a major problem for Aboyne RFC because these are exactly the guys we need to see coming up into the senior XV. Let's hope we can turn that situation round this season.

At the senior level we really need more strength in depth and new (and old) players are always welcome. If you know anyone who can be persuaded into action, please let them know that training is on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm on the Green in Aboyne and at the same time on Thursdays at Tillybrake, In Banchory.

Golf outing

This year's outing was again admirably organised by John Colleran with 12 players demonstrating a range of swings from the educated (but sometimes rusty) to the plain agricultural scything of the rough. Adie Crawford, our new club secretary, impressed everyone in the car park by producing a brand new set of clubs and trolley but we should have realised something was wrong when he didn't realise that the cellophane protectors were still on the blades! In fact it was Adie's girlfriend who was taking part and he was doing the caddying. Such devotion all day he faithfully towed the trolley up and down the hill by Aboyne Loch, heavily laden with his dozen tinnies of refreshment and producing clubs on demand. However he did learn that there's a little dot that distinguishes an upside down 6 iron from a 9 iron and that even girlfriends aren't happy when you give them a club that's that wrong! Anyway, an excellent day was completed by a peach of a shot to the last green that gave John Colleran the shot of the day while Mike Fraser comfortably won the trophy for the best individual player in the morning and then led his team to a win in the afternoon's Texas scramble. Next year's outing will be in early June as usual so watch out for the announcement of dates etc.

Exiles

Pete Burrows is now playing in a Dubai tens veterans' team but no doubt will have to ease up a bit when Lisa, new son Luke (congratulations both) and the rest of the family join him. Resuming full paternal duties will no doubt come as a shock. **Andy Sharp**, that other well-known character from recent years, appears to be suffering from the heat (or age...) in Trinidad as he now plays in the donkey department of the second row instead of being a back row whippet. Either he's slowed down or it's shadier in the second row.....

Forthcoming Events

Apart from the celebratory dinner/dance mentioned in Presidents Patter, the big event next year (for some at least) will be our biennial tour to **PARIS** for the Six Nations France v Scotland match on March 17th. Adie Crawford has bravely added to his Secretary's burden by taking over the organisation of this not-to-be-missed outing and he will be looking for names and deposits in the fairly near future. So start saving now! We're keen to ensure that we field a full playing side this time so players will be especially welcome - and can also supplement our off-the-pitch Social XV which is always so successful.....

Other events will be announced as we get them sorted out and the preliminary announcements are likely to appear on the website first so please keep an eye on it.

International tickets

We will be running our usual ticket agency for the Six Nations but organising tickets for the autumn tests is a lot of hassle for very little return so please make your own arrangements for that. Last year, the SRU did some very good deals for autumn tickets through the schools so it will be worth checking out what they are organising. It is also the World Cup next year but we have yet to hear what the ticketing arrangements are for that and whether or not clubs will be given an allocation. As soon as we know anything, we'll pass the message on.

Bottom of the page - That's it - The end. Next issue will be in December. Meantime have an enjoyable and successful season.