



# Old Pauline Football Club

Founded 1871—136th Season

# Rugby Newsletter

September 2006

## A New Look for a New Season

Welcome to a new season at OPFC. I hope you have all had a great summer and are fired up with enthusiasm for the new season. Our new changing rooms are ready; the extension to the bar looks fabulous; and other than wanting a bit of rain to soften the pitches, everything is set for another successful season.

A special welcome if you are new to the club. Whether you have just left school or university, or are new to the area, I am delighted that you have elected to play for the Old Paulines and look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks.

Over the summer we have had a few changes in the club's administration. After three years Duncan has decided the twin pressures of a high-pressure job and a young family do not afford him sufficient time to continue as chairman. We all thank him for the qualities he brought to the role and look forward to seeing him continuing to play on Saturdays – and take advantage of the wonderful new crèche facilities. Other playing fathers please note!

Charles and Tim are continuing in the roles as Secretary and Treasurer - thanks to them both. Please make their job as easy as possible, particularly by paying subscriptions and match fees on time. Chasing money is one of the most boring aspects of rugby club admin and the less time spent on it the better for everyone.



Thanks to all the guys who are joining the admin team, especially to Nick, Ali and their team of captains and vice-captains for the vital role they play in making sure that we can field as many as six teams most weekends. This season we're hoping to strengthen the links between players and non-players with more social events to create a greater community feel within the club. We're also looking to involve more of the playing membership in contributing behind the scenes.

Our aim remains to provide quality, enjoyable rugby to players in all our teams. In recent seasons all teams have participated in League and Merit Table competitions and it is great to see the success that's been achieved at all levels. Long may it continue and I hope this season all teams challenge for honours in their competitions. Success breeds success after all and we can be proud, not only of the number of teams we field each week, but of the standard of rugby that is played throughout the club.

*John Howard*

# Late Season Revival Secures Mid-Table Finish

A very difficult third season in the London leagues for Old Paulines ended with the team finishing sixth out of ten. Injuries and unavailability resulted in a changed team every weekend, making it difficult for the players to gel and for new coach Vaughan Evans to work his magic. OPs flirted with relegation for long periods of the season while Old Wellingtonians and Dorking ran away at the top of the league.

Thus, the season came down to winning four of the last six fixtures.

A hard-fought 17-16 victory over London Cornish got the ball rolling. OPs were 16-7 down with 30 minutes remaining when a try from Chris Clark and a late kick from skipper Dave Evans got us out of jail.

Then a 15-3 loss away to high-flying Old Wellies meant OPs were under the cosh and a visit of fellow strugglers Old Amplefordians meant a real dog-fight was in store. OPs came away 10-6 winners. Two tries from new skipper Will McIntosh inspired the team to victory - along with Dave Ryan and Chris Clark doing superbly behind a rapidly retreating scrum.

A trip to Trojans and another nail biter followed with OPs emerging deserved 16-14 victors in a game involving five yellow and one red card (a bit like the soccer really!) with Dave Ryan and Adrian Clark the try scorers.

Just to keep the punters interested, OPs then decided to lose to Cobham before the final game, Alton away, which OPs deservedly won 22-14. But the final result was irrelevant in league position-



ing because of poor admin from OAs, while even worse admin from OWs meant they got relegated instead.

On a sadder note, OPs say a fond farewell to Charlie Ryan, Ed Hayward, Brandon Roberts, Marty Heath and the unquenchable John Nolan who are all moving to foreign climes, the north or the vets next season.

Luckily new captain Macca has very small boots to fill. With the coach staying on there is plenty to build on for next season. The 1st XV should be confident of a successful season ahead.

*Evsy*

## Reunion Lunch Saturday 21 October for Former Players, their Wives and Guests

This very popular event is the best occasion to catch up with your erstwhile colleagues. We meet in the Bar from noon and move through for Luncheon promptly at 1pm.

Colets have new catering arrangements this year, so we are expect this to be one of our biggest and best-ever functions. At £20 per head for four courses and coffee, it will be very good value.

Please return your application (on the enclosed Subscription Proforma) as soon as possible.



# 12 Go Mad in Cornwall

The OPs went to England's sunny coastal town of Newquay for the two-match Easter tour. A sociable and enjoyable affair, but a lesson for all tours – take more than 15 players.

The party set off on the Thursday evening and after a long five hour journey booked into the stunning seaview hostel, which had kindly opened the bar for those keen to sink a few pints before bed.

## Friday's match Vs Bodmin

Fortunately, the oppo took pity on us only having twelve players on tour and managed to muscle up a few extras. In a disastrous first 20 minutes the lads conceded four tries to nil with the OPs trying to play expansive rugby from their own 22 on a number of occasions. The OPs then tightened things up and started to dominate up front – Chris Clark and Brandon Roberts going over before half time to give us a sniff of getting back into the game. The second half was very similar to the first with the home side increasing their lead early on. However OPs finished the game the stronger side – Jim Glanville and Simeon Thompson scoring from memorable forward drives.

Result: Lost 42–24

## Saturday's match Vs Wadebridge

Again with a depleted team, most of whom were suffering from the previous night's antics (Chris Clark's fault mainly), and the

Crawshhhh still asleep, the game quickly turned into a try feast. The oppo's very young and energetic team scoring a flurry of tries either side of the halfway point, their fly half and wing especially impressing the OP's napping full back!

Result: Lost 54–10

*Macca*

## The Front Rower's Delight

For all those on Saturday who did not show  
There is something you all should know  
Although we played against a lesser team  
On paper an easy match it did seem  
17-0 up half time looked like we'd won the match

But defeat from the jaws of victory we tried to snatch

With the ref giving penalties against us galore

17-14 quickly became the score

By now we were in a bit of a state

Time for the flair players to step up to the plate

Richie Renwick had the ball just inside their

22

The defensive line formed there was still loads to do

Give me the ball from the prop was the shout

NO! said the crowd he's surely too far out

But the ball was taken by him at full pace

With determination etched all over his face

A step to the left, a step to the right

Who could stop this man in full flight

A dummy sold with slight of hand

The opposition looked to be running in sand

The defence tried to hit him high and low

But I'm afraid to say they were far too slow

After the opposition he did roast

Finished the score under the post

Broke a lifetime record is what he did do

Because this season he has scored two!

*John Nolan*



# International Tickets 2006–2007

On the bright side, next season has a very full autumn and 6 Nations programme. Let's look forward to a hugely successful season for England as a prelude to the World Cup.

The 2006–2007 season will see OPFC receiving 64 tickets for each of New Zealand and the two South Africa matches. We hope for a similar allocation for the 6 Nations games. The status of the England -v- New Zealand game on 5 November is still uncertain, with a legal judgement imminent at the time of writing. The game, allegedly intended to celebrate the opening of the new South stand at Twickenham, faces the possibility that the RFU may not be able to select its first choice players from the Premiership clubs.

Also in the news, the RFU has introduced a fifth price band, with seats priced at £40 (depending on the match) against £48 in 2005–2007. These seats are, however, located in the back rows of the corners of the upper stands and we will receive only 4 tickets per match. Otherwise, prices have been increased and the RFU has continued to pull seats into the more expensive bands, so OPFC will receive 64% of its tickets in band 2 (£65 or £60) and 19% in band 3 (£55 or £50).

2006/07 will be the final year of the initial three year minimum allocation system to Clubs. The challenge for OPFC will be to maintain, or even increase, its allocation for the next three year period, which means recruiting and retaining more playing and non-playing members. No points are scored for mini and junior rugby. We may be in danger of a reduced allocation as we have lost a

significant number of non-players in recent years. I believe we should be promoting the quality of our rugby, genial conviviality, facilities and social scene. We need to persuade our old faithfuls back to TD and to retain playing members once they hang up their boots.

The international ticket application form is enclosed with the Newsletter. Please return it as soon as possible, filling in your details legibly, fully completing the boxes, getting your sums right and enclosing your cheque. Every year a few fine minds scrawl their addresses or omit the postage or generally mess up.

*John Ellis*

*International Ticket Secretary*

One of the major jobs we want to get through this season is a thorough update of the club's members. Increasingly we communicate with people via e-mail and through the club web site – [www.opfc.org.uk](http://www.opfc.org.uk). We still, however, need to have up to date addresses and phone numbers for all our members, both playing and non-playing, so we can make sure that all relevant documents – fixture cards, subscription forms, international ticket application forms etc. – get sent out.

Please ensure we have the correct contact details for you by sending a note of your details to Chris Jackson, the new Membership Secretary, either by e-mail to [membership@opfc.org.uk](mailto:membership@opfc.org.uk) or by post to 28 Roding Mews, Kennet Street, Wapping, London E1W 2JN.

If you no longer wish to receive information on the club, please notify Chris and we will take you off the circulation list.



# Ditton Draw 2004–2005

As another season begins, the OPFC Committee has reaffirmed its policy to provide keen and competitive rugby in pleasant surroundings at the lowest possible cost.

The annual subscription is just £55 for players (£10 for students in full-time education) and £45 for non-players and there can be no other club offering such value for money.

However, to balance the books and to allow monies to be released to improve our facilities and playing conditions extra funds must be found.

The **Ditton Draw** is an easy way for you to contribute towards club funds with a fair chance of recouping your outlay! £15 buys you an entry into the monthly Ditton Draw for a period of twelve months, with payouts as shown below. The more units sold, the more money prizes on offer and each £15 ticket your purchase will cost less than 29p per week.

Complete the Ditton Draw section on the enclosed form and send to the Honorary Secretary without delay. The first draw of the 2004–2005 season takes place on Saturday 2 October.

## PRIZES

- 12 a year drawn on the first Saturday of each month.
- 1 of £20 a month per 30 tickets sold
- 2 x £50 prizes a year

## COST

- £15 per ticket.



## PRIZEWINNERS

The names of winners will

- be posted on the noticeboard in the club
- appear in newsletters throughout the season
- be published on the OPFC website at [www.opfc.org.uk](http://www.opfc.org.uk)

## 2005–2006 Ditton Draw Winners

Patrick Burke	£40
Ray Burton	£20
John Arthur Cope	£20
Geoffrey Cretin	£20
Tim Cunis	£20
John Ellis	£70
S.G.H. Green	£40
D.E.J. Hunt	£40
Brian Jones	£20
Peter King	£40
Charles Madge	£40
Jeff Percy	£50
Chris Roberts	£40
Paul Shiner	£20
Ken Somper	£40
Ian Warren	£60

# Duty Officers Wanted!

**To: All Rugby Players, past and present**

- If you have, or are about to hang up your rugby boots for the last time, why not put something back into your club and join the list of duty officers?
- A duty officer helps, enormously, to ensure the smooth running of the club on match days, whilst simultaneously brings the following personal benefits:-
- The opportunity to keep in touch with the club.
- The chance to take the piss out of your mates from the safety of the touchline.
- Fantastic (and subsidised) lunches before home league matches.
- The pleasure of joining a dedicated band of like minded ex- players who have a great time together (and keep the barman occupied!).
- A chance to influence the International Ticket Secretary.
- The possibility of getting to know Tim Cunis, (better?).
- Having a lot of fun!

Please give Ray Burton a call and volunteer to do just one Saturday of duty between January and April, to see if you enjoy it.

**Full training will be given.**

**Ray Burton: 01932 346641 or [duty@opfc.org.uk](mailto:duty@opfc.org.uk)**

We play a contact sport. Fortunately very serious injuries (as defined) are statistically rare and the Committee cannot recall any such case among the OPFC's membership. However, many of you will be aware of the serious injury to an opposition player in a game involving one of the OPFC's teams last season, so please think carefully about what the implications would be if this should happen to you.

## **Long Term**

As from this season, the RFU provides personal accident insurance cover to clubs. In addition to this cover, the OPFC is taking out the maximum additional voluntary cover. For those over 18 years\*, this provides lump-sum compensation (see table opposite)

Different rates apply for younger players and service personnel have different terms. Additional benefits apply to under 25s in full time education.

Death by natural causes is not cov-

ered. Please read the brochure or policy for precise details of the cover.

If you have not paid your OPFC annual subscription, you may not be covered.

## **Short Term**

If your income is at risk where you are unable to work following a sporting injury, then Sports Injury Insurance can help to see you through an otherwise difficult time.

The OPFC does **not** carry insurance for loss of earnings as a result of injury while playing or refereeing rugby games. The Club strongly recommends that you give this matter your careful attention.

You can protect your income by purchasing your own personal accident and sports injury insurance and the RFU or Marsh, the insurers, will be pleased to advise you of the relevant terms and meet your personal needs.

Visit the RFU website on [www.rfu.com](http://www.rfu.com) for further information.



# Bits and Pieces

**Annual** subscriptions and match fees have been kept at the same level as last season, presenting excellent value for a club with such great facilities. Please help Tim by paying your subs by the end of September (and qualify for the £10 early payment discount in the process). And make your captain's life easier by paying your match fee each week when you play – it's the biggest pain having to chase up outstanding debts.

**We need** a new Referees' Manager to co-ordinate with London Society and our own club refs to ensure that all matches are covered. If anyone has the time to help out, please contact John Howard on 07729 265286 or [jhoward@onetel.com](mailto:jhoward@onetel.com)

**The first** team in club colours this season will be the recent school leavers who play against the St Paul's School 1st XV at Barnes on Weds 30th August (kick-off at 4.30pm). The team will be skippered by Cameron McLain, last year's captain of the school team and winner of the 2006 OPFC Trophy for the outstanding contribution to rugby at St Paul's.

**On 2 September** we field in a team in the annual Combined London Old Boys (CLOB) Cup, a highly competitive start to the season. Supporters are most welcome to cheer on the 1st XV squad at

Old Walcountians ground in Banstead.

**The following** day, Sunday 3 September, sees an OPFC Under 21 team compete in the 'Cronk Cunis' National Festival at KCS Old Boys ground in Motspur Park. And yes, it is the very same Cunis – who not only organises all OPFC fixtures, but finds time to stage a festival for some 44 teams, all designed to promote the joys of 'old boys' rugby. Thanks to Be Pringle, who is organising the OP team; your support would be much appreciated. The festival kicks off at 10.00 am and continues throughout the day.

**St Paul's School** has just returned from a successful and enjoyable tour to Canada. OPFC was delighted to provide commemorative ties for the tour party. We wish all school teams a successful season and hope to see many of the players at Thames Ditton in future years.

## Key Dates

2 Sep 12.00  
Club Trials for all, followed by a BBQ  
2 Sep 13.00  
1st XV at CLOB Cup at Old Walcountians  
3 Sep 10.00  
Under 21s in 'Cronk Cunis' festival at KCS Old Boys, Motspur Park  
21 Oct 12.00  
Former Players Reunion Lunch at Thames Ditton  
4 Nov 19.30  
Dinner/Dance at Thames Ditton  
23 Dec 12.30  
Club Day at Thames Ditton featuring Captain's XV v Chairman's XV, special OP student match and much more!  
28 Apr 19.30  
Annual Awards Dinner  
**For a full list of events, see inside the front cover of the Fixture Card**

Death	<b>£20,000</b>
Permanent total loss of use of one limb/sight in one eye	<b>£25,000</b>
Permanent total loss of use of two limbs/sight in both eyes	<b>£100,000</b>
Permanent total disablement from usual occupation	<b>£50,000</b>
Permanent total disablement from gainful employment	<b>£625,000</b>



# Club Captain's Report

Last season wasn't the club's best in performance terms but we still fielded six sides most weekends, got a side through to a merit table final and kept the 1st XV in London South West 4 with a mid-table finish. Onwards and upwards to 2006/2007.

It's official, the World Cup is over. There's no excuse for not attending training every Monday at Barnes and every Wednesday at Thames Ditton. 7.30pm sharp. See [www.opfc.org.uk](http://www.opfc.org.uk) for further details, or email [training@opfc.org.uk](mailto:training@opfc.org.uk).

Once there, you'll find we have several new captains and vice captains. A huge welcome and thank you to these guys for volunteering: through them we are able to thrive as we do. They are:

Will McIntosh	1st XV Captain
Simon Hewitt	1st XV Vice Captain
	7's Captain
Sam Bennett	A XV Vice Captain
John Hunt	3rd XV Vice Captain
Sam Lawrence	5th XV Captain
Buster Dover	5th XV Vice Captain

And thanks to those people stepping down—particularly as they're all taking on other roles within the admin side of the Club. These are:

Ali McDonald	Club Captain Designate
Dave Evans	1st XV Co-ordinator
Chris Jackson	Membership Manager
Moose	Tour Committee
Duncan Gordon-Smith	Creche Co-ordinator

As ever, we need to recruit players. OPFC is a well supported club because we all get on. there is great loyalty and we play with people we like and respect. And long may it continue that we play for fun. However, we also have guys who want to move the club up the leagues, so we particularly need to recruit players who are prepared to train and play

every week. If you know of any guys who fit this bill please contact Dave Evans or Will McIntosh. Anyone is welcome, but tight five players are at a premium.

You can also tell potential recruits that the facilities at the club just get better and better. We have now got impressive new changing rooms, an extended bar and balcony and a huge crèche. If you need to put your child in the crèche while you play you will not have to pay a match fee (Duncan etc. please note).

How about touring? Last season we sent a small sample of the playing membership to Cornwall over Easter. We are planning on sending significantly more numbers overseas this Easter. Amsterdam? Prague? Ireland? Please feel free to let me know preferences before the beginning of the season (by e-mail: [clubcaptain@opfc.org.uk](mailto:clubcaptain@opfc.org.uk)) and also what you would be prepared to do to help.

There is already a committee looking at a big tour to far, far away places in 2008 so watch this space...

Simon Hewitt captains the 7's side this season. In the past, our internal 7's and Club dinner have clashed with Middlesex 7's the next day. This season the Middlesex 7's are the week after the annual dinner. We also aim is to enter a side into several competitions after Christmas and have a stab at doing well by our playing rather than breathing on our opposition. We have several stars who enjoy playing down the sides but love 7's and turning out at Middlesex.

As usual enjoy your rugby make your captain's lives easier by confirming availability early in the week and don't cry off on Saturday morning.

Cheers.

*Nick Jewell*