OAKMEADIANS RFC

NEWSLETTER

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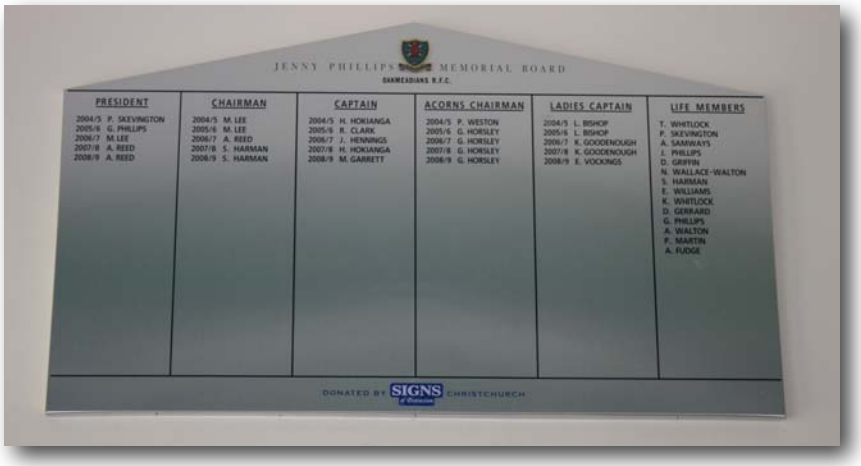
Welcome to Septembers edition of the Oakmeadians RFC newsletter bringing you the latest and greatest news from across the club.....

At long last the season proper has started. The First and Second XV have both won their initial games and the ladies started their season against the league winners of last season, Supermarine. The Colts have played their first matches and the other teams approach their first games eagerly.

You can track the league results through the Oakmeadians and RFU web sites.

And to start the season a new Honours board was erected in the club house in memory of Jenny Phillips on Saturday 20th 2008. Read more in a dedicated tribute later in this edition.



BREAKING NEWS!

As this newsletter was being finalised news was received that 3 of the U16's have been selected to go through to the next stage of Dorset & Wilts county trials. After a gruelling day of matches under a blazing sun Jack Hart, Tom Kier & Matt Ward will be playing in the team next week in the game against Cornwall at which the final squad will be selected. Good luck lads.

And we are also awaiting news as to the selection of two of our girls Under 18s team by the Gloucester Academy.

JENNY PHILLIPS REMEMBERED WITH HONOUR

On Saturday 20th September 2008, the new Oakmeadians R.F.C. Honours Board, dedicated to the memory of Jenny Phillips was unveiled.

Jenny and Gareth joined Oaks in 1983 when they moved from Cornwall to Bournemouth and both soon became an integral part of the club. From the touchline, Jenny was a vocal and partisan supporter, fiercely loyal and someone who's knowledge of the game that was always far superior to that of any of the referees. Home or away, come rain or shine (mostly rain) Jenny never missed a game.

Her post match meals became legendary and all players (home and visiting), spectators and match officials alike benefited from her efforts. Looking back at the kitchen facilities available at the time, those efforts were considerable. Jenny also worked on the committee as Match and Fixture secretary. In this role she was the first point of contact between Oakmeadians R.F.C. and the other clubs in Dorset and Wilts and Hampshire and with the referee's societies. She built some excellent relationships with all the other clubs and organizations that she dealt with and she always did her best to make sure that visiting players, spectators and referees were made to feel welcome. She was an outstanding ambassador for the club. When the invitations to the unveiling ceremony went out, the replies that came back left us in no doubt that it wasn't just Oakmeadians that loved and respected Jenny, everyone did.

The value of their contribution was acknowledged by the club when Jenny and Gareth were awarded life membership and it is difficult to think of anyone more deserving of the honour. I suspect that with typical modesty the only person surprised that Jenny was receiving this award was Jenny herself, to every one else it made perfect sense.

When Jenny was first taken ill, you would have been hard pressed (apart from a very fetching line in headscarves) to realise anything was wrong. To all intents and purposes, it was business as usual. Never complaining, ever cheerful, ever present on the touchline. Sadly Jenny died in September 2004.

A few months later after a 3rd XV match at Swanage & Wareham, the referee enquired after Jenny, Sadly we had to tell him that she was no longer with us. Back at Oaks later that evening and with the earlier conversation in mind, it became obvious that there was no permanent reminder in the clubhouse of Jenny.

The existing Honours boards identify those members who have served the club in senior committee positions and the walls of the bar are covered with team photographs going back many years, but there was nothing to remind us of Jenny. The new Honours Board has put this right.

Clubs like Oakmeadians (not just rugby clubs) all over the country, rely on the goodwill of their volunteers to function and survive. People who give selflessly of their time and labours without thought of payment or reward but for their love of a particular sport or activity and for the friendship and camaraderie that it engenders. Oaks have always been blessed with many such people but in particular we had Jenny. She is greatly missed but the new Honours Board will serve as a permanent tribute to her memory and she will most definitely not be forgotten.

In addition to naming the senior officers of the club, President, Chairman and Club Captain, the new board now additionally lists the Chairman of the Ladies section, the Chairman of Mini and youth section and also the Life members. The ladies section has been very successful over recent seasons and the Mini and Youth section continues to flourish and grow. The new board reflects the importance of these two sections to the overall success and vibrancy of the club.

Rugby Round Up -

Firstly, thank you to all who attended the Jenny Phillips memorial fixture, a great home crowd and a great home win, which I don't think are mutually exclusive!!

On a rugby front, congratulations to Jack Hart, Tom Keir and Matt Ward, who I have worked with and are well deserving of there County selection. Also a mention for Twiz who has developed these lads and the whole squad, the future looks bright.

To the month ahead……..
A great start for all the senior sides! Only a few games in, so please, to the players, do not get ahead of ourselves or sit on our laurels. Our success this year will be based on players training and all of us taking one week at a time. We have strength in depth, a management and medical team working professionally, a growing support base and confidence, all this combined with hard work and an honest approach will mean success, so let's continue to grow and develop individually and collectively.

On our growth, I would like to document how delighted I am with our hordes of new players already adding to the club, buying into the ethos and training hard, and equally I would like to thank the old guard for welcoming players, even if they play in your position. I think this demonstrates maturity and shows what Oakmeadians are about.
For you supporters who are like a nineteenth player in the squad, please continue to come along and cheer on the lads, I look forward to seeing you all.

O2 COMMUNITY RUGBY AWARD
OAKS signed and framed England shirt awarded for being in the top 10 clubs in the country for our community work is now mounted in the club house near the entrance. A matching signed and framed England Womens shirt is on the horizon, and when received will be mounted with the men's England shirt either side of the Jenny Phillips Memorial Board. It will look stunning.

The England Womens shirt is being donated by the Emma Layland.

The frame and mounting of the Ladies shirt will cost £170. If you wish to contribute to this, and be acknowledged on a small plaque within the frame, please contact Paul Skevington e-mail (skev001@hotmail.com).

SENIOR MEN
Please be aware that a 'Senior Players Introduction Information and Player Agreement 2008-9' pack is available at the club house. There is great value to both you and the club if you read it!

TRAINING
Don't feel shy about inviting anyone to come and join in training at Oaks. You can expect to find over 60 people training during the week. The people who organize training work very hard behind the scenes to make it worthwhile. Efforts to increase, and improve, the floodlight is also a lot of work and is going well.

Try getting fed up at training in the best way possible. Jane Hart and her kitchen possee provide excellent nosh on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and it's only 50p. (You won't get better value anywhere in the country!).

RECRUITMENT
Every section of the club can handle more members and organizers. Every effort is made to ensure everyone will get a regular games.

The senior men's run 3 sides (this week amassing over 150 points between them, while conceding only 7) with an excess of players. Just a few more will allow Oaks to run 4 senior sides. Please put the word around to find those few extra bodies for the extra team while the committee look to arrange fixtures, pitches, insurance, kit etc.

Sunday saw 80 new youngsters introduced to the club. We don't know how many will return but they all had a good day and a big thanks goes to our organizers.

OAKS LADIES
Welcome to the Oaks Ladies part of the newsletter where we'll keep you updated with what's happening with the Ladies team, game results, player profiles, socials and more.
This is the first of its kind so be patient, it can only get better!
Our most important news is the arrival of John Akerman to coach the team. John has trained the Royal Navy, the England set up and various teams over the country. His experience and knowledge will hopefully take Oaks Ladies through what is set to be a very hard season.

After a very successful 7's season, Oaks Ladies started the 15's season on Sunday against Supermarine away, last year's league's winners. Supermarine proved to be the well drilled and efficient team they always are and Oaks came out with a loss. Defeats happen and Oaks must use this to work harder at training to assure future success in the RFUW Championship South West 2 league.

Oaks would also like to welcome all the new players that have come to us this season and hope to get many more after Freshers Fair.

Thanks again and yours in Rugby.
James Croker

Rugby Round Up cont -

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

As you can see the web site is filling up with loads of info. Thanks to Richard Pride for his skills and work.
If you want to put anything in the newsletter use the e-mail link on the web site. (info@oakmeadians-rfc.com).

If you have a business card you wish to display in the club there is a board to the right of the bar. (Please check with bar staff first….available for paid up club members only).

The first team produce programs for sale to spectators at their home games. If you have some info or advert to go in to it please contact James Minney e-mail: (lamedos00@ntlworld.com)

SPONSORSHIP

This is not a rich club, and although our sponsorship base is not big it spreads across the whole club. With the integration of all sections showing the strength of OAKMEADIANS RFC there is still room for much needed sponsorship, especially for the OAKS Ladies.
There is not one section of Oaks that you wouldn't be proud to introduce a potential sponsor to, so don't be shy and waste an opportunity..
For details of sponsorship, or to pass on potential contacts, get in touch with Will Croker e-mail (publicity@oakmeadians-rfc.com).
A list of our current sponsors is on the web site: (http://www.oakmeadians-rfc.com/sponsors.html)

CHARITY

Alongside all other activities and charity work we are having a short term collection for Stuart Mangan, a player from Hammersmith & Fulham who broke his neck during a rugby game earlier in the year. Should you be asked to help please show the generosity this club engenders. Thank You.

TOUCH FESTIVAL

Went well but the weather could be better. We should run this alongside the Beer Festival next time. There were 14 teams in all with the Ladies winning the Wooden Spoon.

CLUB CERTIFICATIONS

RFU SEAL OF APPROVAL – This is progressing well and is currently being checked before submission.

HEALTH and HYGEINE – Currently being organised for check with authorities.

HEALTH and SAFETY – Please let Jane Hart know if you are a first aider. We are obliged to keep a list.

Bournemouth Council Fire Safety Officer has inspected. We need an ongoing Safety book with the Evacuation procedure. Please be aware of the book and procedures.

Group	Training Day	Starting Time
Senior	Tuesday & Thursday	7.15 PM
Colts	Tuesday & Thursday	7.00 PM
Ladies	Wednesday	6.30 PM
Girls	Wednesday u14 & u17's	6.45 PM
	Sunday	12.00 PM
Youth	Wednesday	6.45 PM
	Sunday	10.00 AM
Mini	Tuesday & Thursday dependent on age group	6.45 PM
	Sunday	10.00 AM
University		7.00 PM
Old Gits	Thursday	7.00 PM
Touch Rugby	Tuesday	6.30 PM
	Friday	6.30 PM

GETTING TO KNOW YOU….the first of a series of profiles of club members and officers…

James Croker is Oakmeadians Director of Rugby, rejoining the club last season in this position having been a successful first team player in previous years. In the short time in the post he has taken the lead in coaching issues within the club, driving the preparation of the current Coaching Strategy as well as building a strong senior squad who are well placed to assault the leagues in which the men's teams play.

As well as coaching Oaks James is also the forwards coach for both the Combined Services and RAF as well as coaching for the Wooden Spoon Society and has recently been appointed Dorset & Wilts Head Coach.

This dedication to coaching is due to his love of the game, which was first fostered when he watched his father playing rugby for Harlequins at the Stoop. Subsequently James favourite thing about playing & coaching rugby is winning while his least favourite is losing, especially when the team don't give a good account of themselves. (No worries on that score so far this season, with both the First XV & the Seconds winning their initial games!)

Due to his active coaching career James counts many high flight rugby players amongst his close friends and acquaintances so choosing the one rugby player that he most admires could be difficult. James however praised Richard Hill as one player he feels didn't receive the recognition that he deserved.

Congratulations to James who has recently been appointed the Dorset & Wilts Senior Coach and Wooden Spoon Coach.

James Croker proving that he can turn his hand to coffee making as well as coaching…

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International Tickets

Applications for 6 Nations International tickets are invited for the games in 2009. The home internationals are against France and Sctotland.

In order to qualify, applicants must have the following membership status: Sponsor, Life Members, Full Members or VIPs.
Contact Pete Martin: e-mail (MartinP@poolegrammar.com)

AND THEN…

THE BEAR PIT – Please feel free to refer to our sporting arena as The Bear Pit, and we don't dish out honey to any opposition!

PRESIDENT'S MISSING STEP-LADDER SAGA – (From Allan Reed, Our Club President) I have started a massive investigation for my Step Ladder last seen in the new shop. Everyone is under suspicion. Airports and Docks are no go areas in case they are taken abroad. I have recently received an email from stepladder.com with a picture that looks very similar to mine on loan to the Club. attached to it as a copy of the Evening Echo.

Unfortunately those who have them have blindfolded the steps which causes me great distress. They are also demanding unreasonable demands for their return. Between you and me I think I will have to offer them the contents of my savings £1.10.6p. More about this in due course.

NO MORE HORMONES FOR ME THANKS - We have just changed our beer supplier to Greene King because we feel that the beer from our previous suppliers contained too many female hormones (hops contain phytoestrogens).
Last month people working behind the bar on Saturdays noticed the guys turning into women. By 9pm, without fail, players and spectators alike who were drinking copious amounts of beer did the following:

1) Argued over nothing.
2) Refused to apologize when obviously wrong.
3) Gained weight.
4) Talked excessively without making sense.
5) Became overly emotional.
6) Couldn't drive.
7) Failed to think rationally.
8) Had to sit down while urinating.

No further orders from that brewery are considered necessary.

U-15's QUIZ – It is wide ranging, paper based and only £3. Half the money goes out in prizes; other half to u-15 club funds.
Currently being sold by Kid Garrett and his gang!

One of the Ol' Gits was recently heard chatting at the Oaks bar saying he'd read an article on the dangers of heavy drinking, and it scared him to death.
"So that's it!" he said, "from now on no more reading!"

HERE'S SOME JUSTIFICATION FELLAS: -
If you had purchased £1000 of Northern Rock shares one year ago it would now be worth £4.95.

With HBOS, earlier this week your £1000 would have been worth £16.50.

£1000 invested in XL Leisure would now be worth less than £5.

But if you had bought £1000 worth of Beer one year ago, drank it all, then took the empty cans to an aluminum re-cycling plant, you would get £21.

So based on the above statistics the best current investment advice is to drink heavily and re-cycle.
So much for the p**sing it up the wall cliché

going to quit the game!

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Upcoming Socials

October 14 Quiz nite from 7pm. (Suitable for families)
Entry is £10 per team of 6 which must include at least 1 under 16 – if you don't have a child you can coerce for the evening come along anyway but your team will be restricted to 5 adults. Cash Prizes!!
Chicken & chips in a basket etc available to buy £3.50

6th December Adults Christmas party
Come dressed as Mr or Mrs Santa Claus for some festive fun
More details closer to the time…..

27 December Turkey Tag fest
Come along & play in a fun tag tournament. Fancy dress optional!!!
Proceeds will be going to the Poole neo-natal unit.

Followed by Mike Garrett's 40th Birthday Bash in the afternoon/evening.
More rugby/food/beer plus fie show & music

And looking ahead to next year ….for everyone that was unable to attend the RFU "Help for Heroes" game at Twickenham we are planning to run our own event next Easter (12 April) with exhibitions games here at Meyrick Park together with fun & frolics for all the family.

Until then Help for Heroes merchandise can be purchased in the club shop. All proceeds from sale of these items goes to the charity – more details on their aims and work can be found at www.helpforheroes.org.uk.

FOR YOU TO MUSE – KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE
– These are genuine anagrams of some of the Oakmeadians Committee Members:
Anal Elder
Lodger So Horny
Canned Snout
Ever Worn Nag Tits
Crow Killer
Mangy Horse
Retailed Porn
More Sac, Jerk
A Hard Vet
Murkey La Match
and….. Tart Be Randy

So much for your lives in their hands!

The first person to decipher all of these and catch me at the bar will get copious amounts of beer.
(P.S. My name is Spank It Love Gun).

I've had my knee put out, broken my collar bone, had my nose smashed 10 times, lost a few teeth, pulled a few muscles and torn a couple of ligaments, but as soon as I have a bit of bad luck I'm going to quit the game!

Oaks 3rd XV fitness is about fitness for getting to the bar first, and tactics is for getting someone else to pay for the round.

In 1988 after his first game for the club an Oakmeadian went home with a broken nose, a torn ear and three loose teeth, but he had no idea who they belonged to!

JOIN IN THE NEWSLETTER
IF YOU WISH TO ADVERTISE OR PUT A MESSAGE/ ARTICLE / INFO IN THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE SEND IT TO BOTH: HELENGARRETT@HOTMAIL.COM (HELEN GARRETT) AND SKEV001@HOTMAIL.COM (PAUL SKEVINGTON). ADDITIONALLY TELL US WHETHER YOU WANT IT ON THE OAKMEADIANS WEB SITE, WWW.OAKMEADIANS-RFC.COM/NEWS, AS