

PRFC NEWSLETTER

Pittsburgh Rugby Club

March 6, 2008

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Important Reminders!

Get ready to start paying your Spring dues! Contact Lori Altenderfer to make payment arrangements or you can pay your dues in full by seeing Ron Holloway or Jess Ezykowsky at practice!

Men's dues are \$125 and women's are \$100.

Please remember to check www.usarugby.org to make sure you CIPP registration covers you through Spring 2008!

Letter From The Vice President

Hello all. Our fearless leader, Dave Alexander, is out of town and the task of addressing the troops has fallen to me. Not a problem, I love to talk about our Club. Much has been happening behind the scenes these first couple months of 2008. To be a successful club on the field we must first be a successful club off the field, so we're working very hard toward that effect. The officers have held meetings with the different committees and outlined a plan for the upcoming year. We've made big plans folks, so we're going to need everyone to roll up their sleeves once in a while and lend a hand. That being said, if anyone has an idea that they feel would benefit the Club please let us know,

we'd love to hear your thoughts.

Major strides have been taken already in laying the groundwork for a successful campaign on the field. We have a new and improved practice field, the men secured a new coach and both teams have picked up a substantial amount of new players. Recruiting is the lifeblood of any team my friends, so *always* keep your eyes peeled for potential players.

Off the field a lot of our focus this coming year will be on introducing rugby and more specifically, the Pittsburgh Rugby Club, to the masses. Details will be announced in time but I promise you that by the end of 2008, instead of the blank

stare we're all used to seeing when we tell someone we play rugby; we'll finally get a nod of recognition. I can't tell you the number of times I've said "No, it's not the game with the little bats, that's Hurling or no, it isn't the game where referees wear funny hats and point their fingers when a goal is scored, that's Aussie Rules. Uh, well sure, they *are* pretty cool hats I guess, but that's not what I play."

2008 will bring us even more players, more sponsors and more opportunities than ever before. And from all this hard work off the field, will come even greater success on the field.

See you out there,
Dan Talbert

The Coopers Lake Tournament is Saturday, March 29th! If you are able to help with set up or during the tournament, please email pghrugbyangel@yahoo.com!

What's Going On?

Event	Date	Location
Broomball	Mondays	Mt. Lebanon Ice Rink
Practice	Tues/Thurs	Phillips Park, Carrick
Coopers Lake Tournament	3/29/08	Coopers Lake Campground

Special Events & Other Stuff!

URGENT - But don't panic

Submitted by Brian Wood

On the sidelines, I often ask my players to attack with more "URGENCY". In other words, I see that we have compromised the defense's organization and have a potential scoring opportunity. To capitalize on the defensive lapse, we need a greater sense of urgency. Work rate must increase to further pressure the opposition. Most often we need faster ball - either from the break-down or the distribu-

tion from player to player. At no time does this mean "attack with panic". Any lapse in sound decision making will jeopardize the scoring opportunity or, worse yet, result in loss of possession and a quick transition scoring opportunity for the opposing team.

Some keys to consider; first there must be the RECOGNITION of the scoring opportunity; next the team must COMMUNICATE the existence of

a fragmented defense and scoring opportunity. ACTIONS/DECISIONS then follow...which may include some risk.

In conclusion, when you hear the team yell "urgency" - work harder. There is an opportunity that needs to be exploited. However, don't compromise possession and make sure each subsequent action/decision builds upon the continued attack of the defense's weakness.

2008 Cooper's Lake Collegiate Tournament

Saturday, March 29, 2008

This year's tournament is just a few weeks away!

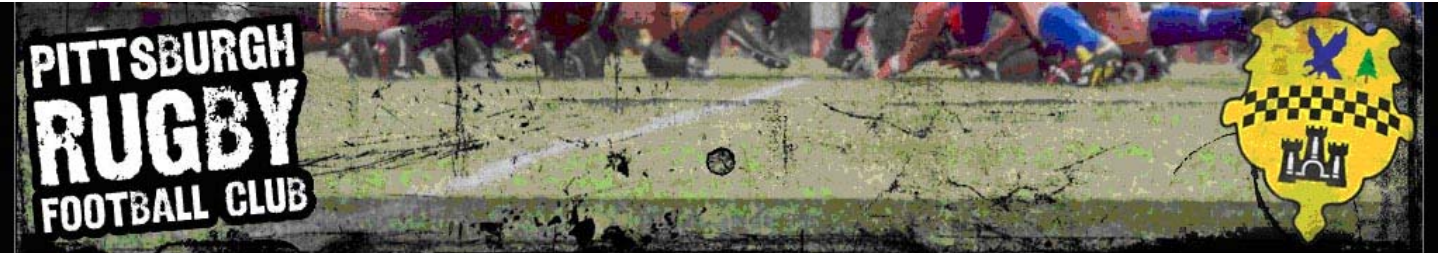
This year's tournament will feature 16 women's sides, 18 men's sides, a high school match and the Angels vs. Buffalo for the feature match of the day. As of March 1st, only two of the collegiate sides have yet to pay.

We need club members who are able to help with set up Thursday & Friday before the tournament. If you're available during the day, please inform a member of the Executive Board. We also need a lot of help at the tournament!

A **strict** NO-ALCOHOL policy will be in effect this year. This is a requirement from the owners of Coopers Lake Campground. We will be counting on the club members to help enforce this policy. Any players or fans violating this rule will be asked to dispose of all alcohol, or asked to leave the premises. A violation could also jeopardize a collegiate team's ability to participate in the tournament in the future.

A sneak peak at the new pghrugby.com home page!

It's almost here! The newly designed pghrugby.com will be up & running shortly. Many thanks to Jeff, who has created a great site and been incredibly patient with me during the many design changes! Also, thanks to club members who have quickly provided information and input, especially Alex Gralia and Katy Rank Lev who have made suggestions and found problems I would never have thought about or noticed! We hope that everyone likes the new site design and finds it to be what they have been looking for from the PRFC!



- HOME**
- SCHEDULE
- CONTACTS
- RUGGERS PUB
- WHAT IS RUGBY
- WANT TO PLAY
- COLLEGIATE TOURNAMENT
- STEEL CITY 7S
- BREWFEST
- SPONSORS
- PHOTO GALLERY
- MERCHANDISE
- LINKS

WELCOME

to the NEW Pittsburgh Rugby Club website!

Spring practices have started!

Men: Tuesday & Thursday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Women: Tuesday & Thursday 7-9pm

Where: Phillips Park, Carrick
[Click here for directions and important parking information!!](#)

Please join the Pittsburgh Rugby Football Club as we raise Dough

When: Wednesday, April 2, 2008
Time: 11am – 11pm
Where: Uno Chicago Grill at the Waterfront
205 East Waterfront Drive
Homestead, PA 15120
Time: 11am – 11pm

[Click here for the coupon to present to us raise up to 20% of net sales.](#)

Interested in playing rugby in Pittsburgh?

New & college players are always welcome!
Click on the **"WANT TO PLAY "** link to the left and send us an email or show up at the practice location above!

The 2007 Pittsburgh Brewfest was a great success! Thanks to the brewers, attendees and companies who donated raffle prizes!

- The top three beers from the Brewfest, based on attendees votes:
1. Breckenridge Vanilla Porter
 2. Ithaca Apricot Wheat
 3. East End Big Hop IPA

MEN'S NEXT GAME

South Pitt
March 22nd

WOMEN'S NEXT GAME

Coopers Lake Tourney
March 29th - Buffalo

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER



Do you own a local business in need of advertising?

ADVERTISE HERE!

All current and former players in good standing can advertise businesses
in the Newsletter for free!

Contact Claire for info: pghrugbyangel@yahoo.com

▶ Spring 2008 Schedule

This schedule is tentative and is subject to change. Check the website regularly for updates.

Angels				Men		
Result	Opponent	Location	Date	Location	Opponent	Result
	Buffalo	Coopers Lake	3/29	Coopers Lake	Coopers Lake Tournament	
	OPEN		4/5	Boyce Park	Eastern Suburbs	
	Doylestown	Boyce Park	4/12		TBD	
	Scioto Valley	Away	4/19	Away	Happy Valley	
	Harrisburg	Boyce Park	4/26	Away	Erie (tentative)	
	Rites of Spring	Baltimore	5/3	Baltimore	Rites of Spring (tentative)	
	Akron	Boyce Park	5/10	Away	Harlequins	
	NOVA	Away	5/17		TBD	
	Mystery Tour	???	5/24	???	Mystery Tour	

Rugger's Pub Update

Televised Rugby Matches: The Pub will be showing Six Nations matches whenever possible throughout March. Check your email for updates.

Stop down and see the new paint job! Club members spent a weekend in February removing pictures, patching and painting the walls.

Check out the Rugger's Pub MySpace page throughout the month for events, specials and new additions to the beer & liquor selection! Thanks to those of you who have visited our page and added us to your friends!

When rugby was more than just a game...

Submitted by Kev Wright

When rugby was more than just a game.....

The year was 1981. Nelson Mandela was in prison in South Africa. The "Super Powers" of world rugby at that time were New Zealand and South Africa. In both Countries the sport of rugby is as close to any religion you could think of. South Africa were scheduled to tour New Zealand to play a 3 match test series to decide the best team in the world. New Zealand and South Africa just wanted to play sport....but politics started to get in the way. South Africa at that time had a "Whites only selection policy". The New Zealand Government had a policy of "No politics in sport". There was considerable opposition within New Zealand to oppose the tour but there was also about half the Nation that believed the Governments position was correct..."No politics in sport".

The tour went ahead with the Prime Minister of New Zealand taking a stand and allowing it to happen. The South Africans arrived in New Zealand for their tour and the three match test series that would decide the best team in the world. The traditionally peaceful Country of New Zealand would now encounter violence over the next 2 months that split family's apart. Half of the Country were for the tour and half were against. As the South Africans prepared for their first warm up match against the province of Waikato....anti tour protesters sneaked in to the ground the night before and covered the ground with broken glass. The game was called off just before kick off. Twenty thousand rugby fans that had packed the stadium had to be controlled by police as they burst outside the stadium to search for the protesters and release their rage.

The next few scheduled games before the first Test of the 3 match series against New Zealand were now played under circumstances that New Zealand had never seen before. At each game there was 20,000 Anti Tour protesters outside the stadium separated from the 50,000 rugby supporters by cops and

barbwire. When the opposing sides met before or after the game...it was riots in the streets.

New Zealand won the first Test of the series...South Africa won the second. Tied at one all...the Third Test would decide the series and determine the best team in the world. The Third and deciding Test will go down as the most bizarre game of rugby ever played.

To set the scene....

As I walked to the ground to watch this epic encounter...barb wire lined the streets. On one side was us...on the other side were the "anti tour" protesters who threw every container that they had at us. The police kept us all apart as did the barbwire.

To match the drama of the whole 6 week tour the deciding match would also be dramatic. New Zealand took an early lead however the protesters were not done just because we were now seated inside the stadium. The protesters had found a pilot that could fly a small plane. As the game was being played with 40,000 people watching...the plane started to "Dive bomb" the ground. As it made every sweep over the ground it would also drop bags full of flour like bombs on the players below.

Unbelievably...the game went on. The field was covered in white flour bombs as the plane made its sweeps and as it made each dive I ducked my head...such was how close this idiot put all of us at risk. He made his upward climb only a matter of feet/inches above our heads in the south stand. The Ref had to stop the game from time to time...but the game went on. As I write this and try to describe this its hard to believe that I am not making this up.

The game was a thriller. This match decided the best of three and at one win each would crown the Worlds best.. Despite the unbelievable circumstances both teams played outstanding rugby. The plane made another dive and New Zea-

lands outstanding prop Gary Knight took a direct hit on the head from a flower bomb as he was running up field. It virtually knocked him out but he recovered after a short break and carried on.

I have been to many "Test Matches" to watch my beloved All Blacks....this game had more than just two great teams battling it out...it had every distraction possible.

The final Drama.....

With one minute to go in the third and deciding match of the series the score was locked at 22 points each. Both teams had survived the unbelievable scenes of protests all game. In the final few seconds of the game New Zealand were hot on attack and at the breakdown were awarded a penalty. The kick was a good 45 meters...on a hell of an angle...the wind was blowing....the airplane was still dive bombing and Alan Hewson was asked by the New Zealand Captain to kick the goal and win the game...which of course would also win the three match series and decide the "unofficial" world champion.. I remember thinking this is a hell of a kick in the best of circumstances. Hewson looked to the sky so he could time his kick between the next approach of the dive bombing plane and then hit that ball to use the wind to drag it between the goalposts. Final score.....New Zealand 25....South Africa 22.

I cannot do that match justice trying to write about it.....Barbwire....family's split in half depending which side you took....police and guns that New Zealand had never scene before or since....a plane that could have killed thousands of us if he got one of his dive bombs wrong.....a player that was "felled" in mid game by a flour bomb from the sky....that was a day when "Rugby was far more than just a game".



Guess who?!?!

Guess who this lovely couple is!! I can't guarantee a prize for this one, but since no one guessed last month's answer - it was Mike King's dog, Genghis! - I can maybe work something out!

The first person to email Claire with the correct answer - who both people are- wins!

If you have a picture you'd like featured here, **PLEASE** email it to pghrugbyangel@yahoo.com

Who's In Charge Around Here?

As some of you know, each member of the executive committee has taken on the responsibility for specific club activities. Please continue reading to find out the Executive Committee contact and the chairperson(s) to contact:

Dave Alexander: Overall Club Liaison

- Fields - Practice & Match Fields
- Marketing
- Major Events: AGM, Ruggers Pub, Permanent Field, Men's Coach, Youth Rugby
 - Coopers Lake (Claire Preville)
 - Brewfest

Dan Talbert: Recruiting & Volunteering

- Recruiting (Dan Talbert, Jaimie Sullivan)
- Volunteer Events

Lori Altenderfer: Finance

- Annual Budget
- Dues Collection (Ron Holloway, Jess Ezykowsky)
- Merchandise (Christianna Elash, Jack McLaughlin)

Claire Preville: Communications

- Website
- Newsletter
- Club Equipment (James McCoy, Jenny Ovide)
- Yahoo Groups

Executive Committee Update

Christy Lust: Women's Convener

- Club Fundraising (Kelly Holloway, Jessica Landis)
- Match Secretary (Tricia DiBasilio)
- Team Equipment (Jenny Ovide)
- Social (Jess Ezykowsky)
- Match Reporting (Katy Rank)

Mike Wilson: Men's Convener

- Club Sponsorship
- Match Secretary (Adam Oakley)
- Team Equipment (James McCoy)
- Social (Chris Yohe)
- Match Reporting

2007 PRFC Executive Board

Dave Alexander	President	david.alexander@yahoo.com
Dan Talbert	Vice President	djtal10@att.net
Lori Altenderfer	Treasurer	laltenderfer@gmail.com
Claire Preville	Secretary	pghrugbyangel@yahoo.com
Christy Lust	Women's Convener	christy.lust@nepinc.com
Mike Wilson	Men's Convener	pghrugbymike@gmail.com

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or have something to contribute, please email Claire Preville.