

PRFC Newsletter

Pittsburgh Rugby Club

October 2008

Letter from the President

This month I want to get right to the point and let everyone know that I will not be standing for re-election as president of the club at the AGM this year. Due to significant personal issues that most of you are aware of, I plan to move away from Pittsburgh sometime in the first half of 2009, and I do not want to leave the club in limbo. This way, I will be able to ensure a smooth transition to the new president.

It has been a challenging and enjoyable time for me overseeing the progress of Pittsburgh Rugby Club over the last two years, and

I expect both teams to continue improving over the next few years. The Coopers Lake Tournament and Brewfest have both become very successful events, and each year the organization and planning is getting more efficient. The Steel City 7s has the potential to be a third significant event for the club.

You Executive Committee has done an outstanding job this year, and has shown the benefit of a strong team working towards a common goal being much more effective than relying on a single individual doing all the work. It

is encouraging to see additional workload being handled willingly by other club members too.

Please start thinking now about who you, the club members, want to see in the role of president for 2009. This is not a decision to be taken lightly or left until the last minute. If anyone has any questions you'll see me on the sideline at most of the remaining home games, and my contact information via email or phone is available to everyone.

Dave Alexander
President

What's Going On?

Event

Fall Practices

Hoagie Making

Brewfest

Special Events & Other Stuff!

Date

Tues/Thurs

11/6/08

11/14/08

Location

Overbrook Middle School

Wilson's House

Barroom - Station Square

Come on, pay up!!

A whole new season is upon us and it's time to pay dues again. Please contact Lori Altenderfer to make payment arrangements!

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

Make sure you complete your CIPP registration ASAP. Contact Claire if you need assistance registering.

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PRFC Player Profile



Name: Claire Preville

Position: ?? Flanker recently...
But basically anywhere...

Years playing rugby: 10 or so?? I can't remember. A year or two in college... then I joined PRFC in the Spring of 2002.

How did you start playing rugby: in college, I met someone who was on the men's team. I had NO idea what rugby was. So I watched a match and he talked me into it.

With PRFC, I decided to attend a coach a coaching clinic and met Talbert & Muturi. A few days & guilt trips later, Talbert had talked me into playing again. True story, I swear. It's all Dan's fault.

Favorites:

Food: PIZZA. And I'm a simple pizza lover. Pepperoni, light sauce. Sometimes mushrooms.

TV Show: LOST

Players Choice Questions:

What is one thing about you that few people know?

Well, I am a first generation American. Dad is from Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Mom is from Glasgow, Scotland. I have one sister, who is married & lives in Florida. What you may not know is that I have two older half-brothers, two nieces, and a nephew - all my brother's kids. AND the big, breaking news - my sister is pregnant & due in May 2009!!

Claire Preville

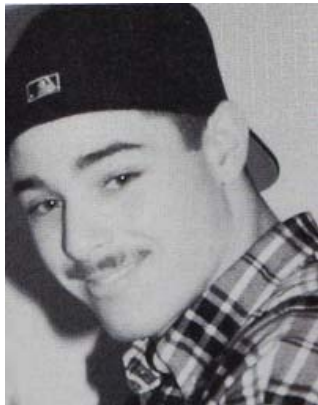
Most memorable rugby moment:

I know I should pick a game I played or something, but given my admin role as well, there are too many to count with the PRFC. But there is one admin-related thing that stands out right now. Understand, this club is like my family (especially since my family deserted me and moved to Florida!) But my favorite moment has to be this past year's Coopers Lake Tournament. Yes, it was rough getting started the week prior, but the Friday night beforehand and the day of the tournament, our club members really came together and made it happen. We did so much in such little time on Friday. And on Saturday - honestly, in all my years here, we have never, ever had such a smooth tournament and had tear down end so early and get back to the South Side that early - never. It was like a dream came true. And I thank all of you for that. :-)

➤ Fall 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
W	Buffalo	Away	9/6	Home	Rochester	W
W	Cleveland	Home	9/13	Away	Indianapolis	L
--	IUP	Home	9/20	Home	Louisville	Cancelled
L	Detroit	Away	9/27		OPEN	
	Ann Arbor	Home	10/4	Away	Scioto Valley	
	Midwest Playoffs	Chicago	10/11	Home	Dayton	
	TBD		10/18	Away	Detroit	



Who Am I?

Here is this month's "Who Am I?" Let me know who you think this month's person is!!

If you happen to have a old or embarrassing picture (old yearbook, childhood photo, college) of a current member, feel free to send it electronically to Claire (pghrugby-angel@yahoo.com) or give it to her to scan.

(If you have complaints about being included, please do not email Claire. Instead, email Talbert. His idea.)



Answer to last month's 'Who Am I?'

Last month's "Who Am I?" was the wonderful Christian Heath. Many thanks to Christian for volunteering his photo for use in this feature!

Angels Mid-Season Update

Submitted by Brian Wood

By all accounts, the Pittsburgh Angels are having a successful season. The team thumped their opponents at Tackle Cancer 10's to take their third consecutive championship title.

With the rust shaken off, the ladies traveled with 26 players to Buffalo and cruised to a 39-0 win (27-0 half). The following week was for redemption. The Iron Maidens of Cleveland defeated the Steel City team in 2007, but this year the Angels triumphed with a 24-10 victory (12-5 half). With a bye the following week, player combinations were mixed up a bit to face California University of PA and

Indiana University of PA. Despite some questionable decisions and "flung" balls, experience, organization and superior fitness facilitated easy wins.

The weekend of September 27 was the much anticipated match-up between Pittsburgh and Detroit. The Motown women have been crowned Division II National Champions in three of the past five years. This year, the Angels players were ready for the challenge. Training in the week leading up to the match was especially sharp. Knowing Detroit's strength, the ladies relentlessly rehearsed field-

ing kicks, counter-attacking, rucking and attacking the gainline at pace. On game day, the Angels put forth a valiant effort and only trailed 10-0 at half. At the final whistle, Detroit handed the ladies their first loss of the season 27-5. Credit to Detroit for a well-deserved win and outplaying the Angels, but one was left wondering about some "curious law interpretations".

League play winds up on October 4 vs. Ann Arbor. It is still possible of the Angels to earn the #4 seed for the Midwest Championships on October 11 & 12.

Men's Mid-Season Recap

Submitted by Kev Wright

The mens ream started the season with a couple of warm up games against Buffalo and the Harlequins. The idea was to "punch above our weight" somewhat so that we would be ready for our first league game. The theory paid dividends and we won our opening league match against Rochester. The final score suggested a hard and intense encounter but in actual fact Pittsburgh always looked the more capable team. A couple of "Soft" tries kept the Rochester side uncomfortably in the game despite Pittsburgh easily dominating both territory and possession. It was a welcome relief when the final whistle went and a deserved victory was taken. MVP of the match was Cowboy who with his tactical kicking kept Rochester pinned around their own 22 for much of the game.

The following weekend required an away game against Indianapolis and the long 7 hour drive that comes with it. Injury and unavailability hurt us badly and we traveled with barely enough players to field a side... which was hugely disappointing as we had

a chance to capitalize on winning our first game. However travel we did and I personally want to thank the players that fronted up for us and made that trip. The result was far from what we would have liked and we were well beaten but many people showed commitment and were there for the team. An example is Kane and Christian who reorganized their weekends to make the trip to give us much needed numbers when we desperately needed them. Christian was awarded MVP at the Indy social and showed his prowess by EASILY beating the A and B side MVPs that Indy put up against him in a "drink off race". Manion drove a bunch of us home in a van trip that bordered on reaching legend status and I awarded myself MVP of the Van trip home due to my efforts of talking the Ohio cops out of charging us with drinking in public.

Louisville was to travel to us for our 3rd game of the competition season but with very late notice canceled on us. At the time of writing this I presume that we will be given the

competition points for this but I have yet to have it confirmed that it is actually regarded as a forfeit rather than a reschedule. So at this point we have won one and lost one or possibly depending on the forfeit decision won two and lost one. We have been hit hard with injuries this season losing key players for different matches such as Cowboy... Lemme... Zach... Chang... Julio... Pete... Raz to name but a few. The unavailability of others at different times has also compounded the problem.

We have definitely progressed as a team this Fall and we have the potential to win big in the future. The key is obviously for us to have all players available when we need them.

All players available all of the time is not realistic... I understand that. However we must travel strong... and changing your starting lineup by more than half for an away game does not cut it. Winning your home games in this League is not enough to give yourself a shot at the playoffs.

Kev

Angels Rookie Missions

Submitted by Katy Rank Lev

This season, the Angels have enacted a new technique to help welcome the rookies into the fold. Every week, the rookies carry out a "mission." These range from polling the team to calculate our average age (27.5) to researching rugby history (why a 'try' is called a try) to steeping themselves in Angels lore (who scored a try at Nationals in 2006?). Rookie Ashley

"Butter" Lively commented that the missions are a great way to get to know her fellow rookies and establish a sense of togetherness. The missions, all in good fun, get rookies talking not only to one another, but force them to speak to the senior players on the team as well as our coach. Because it takes 35 players (not just 15) to win a national championship, the

Angels are eager to involve everyone in their season goal. This fall's rookies include Lively, Lauren Rosso, Dana Sassano, Michelle "Meat" McGraw, Shayla Sims, Tiffany Gibbons, and Jessica Varner. Stay tuned for a very special end-of-season ceremony to mark the moment these ladies become full-grown Angels.

PRFC Player Profile



Name: Joe Cortese

Position: Prop (despite my recent

methamphetamine diet).

Years Playing Rugby: 10, since 1998.

How did you start playing? That's a funny story. I was walking through the UC Quad during my freshman year at Tulane, and it happened to be club sports sign up day. This tall skinny Asian guy grabs me and says, "Hey, we need big guys to play rugby." Me: "Rugby, what's rugby?" Tall Asian guy: "Don't worry about it, we're having a party tonight. There will be lots of girls." Me: "I'm in!" It was all downhill from there.

Joe Cortese

Favorites:

Beverage: Sweet Tea (or beer)

Movie: The Blues Brothers

Players Choice Questions:

If you could be a celebrity who would you be, and why?

I would be Vincent Chase. Seriously, that guy lives the life.

What's one thing about you that few people know?

I'm a big fan of blues music. I went to see BB King a few months ago. The Blues Brothers answer makes a little more sense now, doesn't it?

We are participating in an inkjet, laser toner, and cell phone recycling program. Please collect these items from home, office, family and contact Ron or Kelly Holloway (rondean10@hotmail.com or klake7678@yahoo.com) for info on where to drop them off.

2008 Pittsburgh Brewfest

We continue to get things ready for the Brewfest! We have a number of brewers signed up and have already started to sell tickets on the website! Tickets will be available for club members to purchase at the beginning of October. Contact Lori or Claire for more information.

A new addition this year is the judging of the beers. We will have a popular vote where attendees will vote for their one favorite beer at the event. We will also have celebrity judges. For more information on the celebrity judges, see the website: http://www.pghrugby.com/Brewfest_Judges.html

[pghrugby.com/Brewfest_Judges.html](http://www.pghrugby.com/Brewfest_Judges.html)

We are going to need everyone's help in the weeks leading up to Brewfest and on the day of the event to make this a success! If you'd like to volunteer to work in any of the areas below, please contact the assigned person.

Tickets - Lori Altenderfer <laltenderfer@gmail.com>

Venue - Christy Lust <christy.lust@nepinc.com>

Brewers - Claire Preville <pghrugbyangel@yahoo.com>

Volunteers - Dan Talbert <dantalbert10@comcast.net>

Marketing - Mike Wilson <mwilson@ctbiofuelse.com>

Judges & food - Chris Yohe <cjyohe@gmail.com>

Door prizes & auction - Jess Landis <jessica.landis@nepinc.com>

Venue Decorations - Nicole <calipanthergirl@yahoo.com>

There will be a lot more information coming over the upcoming weeks. Please spread the word to friends and family to buy tickets ASAP!

Happy Birthday!

Name

Ashley Lively, Lyndsay Monaco
Michele Myers
Sarah Erickson, Greg Shannon
Paul Chang
Matt Winalski
Christy Lust, Jess Zambon
RD McKinley

Upcoming PRFC Birthdays

Date

October 1st
October 3rd
October 12th
October 15th
October 20th
October 24th
October 29th

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, Lori Altenderfer)
- Merchandise (Christianna Elash)

Claire Preville: Communications

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

- Yahoo Groups (Christy Lust, Mike Wilson)

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
- Social (Chris Yohe)
- Match Reporting

2008 PRFC Executive Board

Dave Alexander	President	david.alexander@yahoo.com
Dan Talbert	Vice President	dantalbert10@comcast.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.