

THE GRANGE Road Gazette

Autumn | 2019



Golden Lions Roar Again!

LX on Tour

The Newsletter of

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

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CLUB AND UNION OFFICERS

CU RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

President	Professor Sir L K Borysiewicz (Wolfson)
Chairman	Ian Peck (Magdalene)
Executive Secretary	Austin Jessop (Fitzwilliam)
Board Secretary	
Treasurer	Chris Ewbank (St John's)
Playing Committee Chair	Scott Annett (Clare)
Development Committee Chair	Jeremy Macklin (St John's)
Communications/Marketing Chair	Jeremy Macklin (St John's)
Captains	Stephen Leonard (Emmanuel), Fiona Shuttleworth (Pembroke)

CU RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Chairman	Dick Tyler (Fitzwilliam)
Secretary	Deborah Griffin (Homerton)
Treasurer	Austin Jessop (Fitzwilliam)
RFU Representative	Ian Metcalfe (St Catharine's)
College Rugby Representative	Sam Woods (St Catharine's), Elisha Clark (St John's)
College Rugby Administrator	Philip Oliver (St Catharine's)
Disciplinary Officer	Daniel Pett (St Edmund's)

The Chairman reports on recent activity at the Club.



The sudden and deeply sad loss of Nigel Pett has been a major blow. Nigel made sure that our corporate governance was always as it should be, and he will be much missed. I am delighted that his son Daniel has agreed to pick up where Nigel left off by helping within the Committee structure, with his focus being with CURFU, the body that oversees College rugby.

Otherwise, 2018/19 season was, in many ways, a frustrating year. All teams had some exciting and memorable matches at Grange Road but with the exception of the women's Varsity match, we lost to Oxford at every level, men and women. The matches were all hard fought but, none the less, a review of results over the last ten to fifteen years suggests that we need to look at how we go about things. Consequently, Scott Annett is in the process

of planning the playing side for the next five years in order to ensure we give ourselves every possible chance of performing well both during the term and in all the Varsity Matches at every level.

The on field prospects to 2019/2020 are encouraging. There are some significant new joiners to support a number of returning Blues in the men's side. After three outstanding years, the men will need to rebuild their side as a result of departing old Blues, but they still look strong. There will be a much greater emphasis on the XL, under 20 and Tigers teams to build some depth into their squads and to reverse some losing trends in their respective Varsity matches. It is also encouraging to note that the Cuppers Finals day is becoming more of an event and is as hard fought as it ever was with five different finals. College rugby continues to thrive, probably as a result of now playing league matches on a Saturday to accommodate academic studies during the week.

Jeremy Macklin and his Varsity Match Company Ltd colleagues continue to work incredibly hard on making the Varsity Match at Twickenham a day to remember on and off the field. The work to maintain and improve attendance as well as make the day more relevant in the rugby calendar is both innovative and tireless. Andy McGahey and Jeremy Macklin work manfully (and successfully) to engage with our local sponsors who support the Club and, without their help, would be very exposed and to our sponsors, we are extremely grateful.

At Grange Road, the above average rainfall in June and some new irrigation equipment, meant the grass was able to re-establish itself in the nick of time. At one point in late May the playing surface looked dire, but Dave the groundsman has managed to pull it round and the pitch will look at its best for the first match of the season.

We continue to work with the University in progressing the longer term strategy for the ground and reports into the planning and the feasibility of a 3G pitch are now well advanced. However, in the meantime, the ground begins to look tired and unloved, and Chris Ewbank and Austin Jessop are working on where we can find sufficient finance to repair and redecorate the facilities so that we can be proud of them once again.



All of the above, I hope, gives all old blues, men and women, some confidence that there is no complacency, indeed quite the opposite, there is a determination to build the momentum to make playing rugby at Cambridge University the experience that it ought to be at all levels.

Ian Peck
Chairman CURFC

PLAYING COMMITTEE

Scott Annett

The 2018/19 season involved some huge steps forwards for the club under the outstanding leadership of Kate Marks (Murray Edwards) and Nick Koster (Queens'). Most notably, the players worked extremely hard over the summer to fundraise for a new gym facility. Thanks to the generous support of Prism Architecture, this project was completed in November. The Prism Performance Centre, located next to the Comber stand, has already made a huge difference to the strength and conditioning provision offered by the club, while also helping to further integrate the men's and women's squads. In the long term, there is no doubt that this space will help to raise performance standards, while also ensuring that we continue to develop a diverse, inclusive and competitive rugby environment.



That being said, the players and coaches compete in the here and now, and overall the Varsity Match results for 2018/19 were disappointing. The CURUFC women managed a hard-fought win over the Other Place (8-5), in what was a superb advertisement for women's rugby. The physicality and skills on display all contributed to a finely balanced fixture. Vice-Captain Emily Pratt (Emmanuel) scored the Cambridge try in the first half, to which Alice Elgar (Girton) added a penalty in the second half. This 8-0 lead proved to be crucial, as Cambridge eventually conceded a

try in the final minutes of the game. In fact, it is worth nothing that this try was the first to be scored by an Oxford woman at Twickenham, in what was the fourth women's Varsity Match to take place at the home of English rugby. This defensive record is an outstanding testament to the work of the women's coaching team in recent years.



For the men, the Varsity Match result was an extremely disappointing loss (16-38). There were some excellent performances on the day, particularly from Captain Nick Koster (Queens'), who put in a monumental shift in the backrow. Unfortunately, after an extremely close first half, which saw a Cambridge try disallowed on the stroke of half-time, the Dark Blues pulled away after the break. The final score did not reflect the competitiveness of the encounter, though there is no doubt that Cambridge were defeated by a more experienced side, who were deserving of victory. Having lost a number of the senior members of the 2017 squad, one of the most positive aspects of the men's season was the large number of undergraduate players to emerge and benefit from the opportunity to play 1st team rugby. The vast majority of the Cambridge squad are returning in 2019 and undergraduates such as Joe Gatus (Corpus Christi), Sean McMahon (Gonville & Caius) and Joe Story (Trinity) will be better players for their 2018 experience.



Below the 1st teams, the club recorded three Varsity Match defeats. The LXs side lost (6-9) in an intense,

of players continues to look healthy, this defeat demonstrates the competitiveness of women's rugby at Oxford and Cambridge.

Unfortunately, the U20s fixture proved to be a far more one-sided affair (0-33). CURUFC were outclassed by a more experienced and physically dominant Oxford team. The U20s had played some excellent rugby throughout Lent term, though with hindsight the squad lacked enough testing fixtures. Overall, there were a number of positives to be taken from the U20s programme. Young players like Zac Bishoff (St John's) and Michael Miller (Gonville & Caius) demonstrated potential and should progress to LXs or Blues squads over coming years, while James Elms (Magdalene) provided outstanding leadership in bringing together and shaping the squad. And yet these points notwithstanding, the gulf in class between the two teams was a clear reminder of the scale of the challenge facing CURUFC as we work toward winning more Varsity Match fixtures on a regular basis.

With this in mind, a full review of playing is in process and a number of changes have already been implemented. We are looking closely at our coaching provision, training structures and the overall experience offered to our younger players. The club will be sending a touring LXs squad to Montpellier in September as part of pre-season, which is the first LXs pre-season tour in a number of years, while coaching provision for the women's development days has increased to reflect the growing enthusiasm for women's rugby in Cambridge. Next season, the CURUFC Tigers and U20s will be playing more regular fixtures in Michaelmas term and there will be a renewed emphasis on strength and conditioning for all players at the club. Suffice to say, every single Varsity Match matters and the coaches, captains and players are determined to deliver a successful future for the club.

Scott Annett
Director of Rugby

compelling contest at Grange Road. Captain Tom Wilson (Girton) once again put in a huge performance in the front row, and he was very ably supported by Tim Lindsay in the second row (St Catharine's) and Tom Walton in the backrow (St John's). This was a game that the LXs ought to have won, and indeed probably would have done so, had they not lost the ball over the Oxford line midway through the second half. Despite the defeat, there was a great deal to take from the match, particularly given the one-sided nature of some of the previous fixtures at this level, and yet the coaches and players were all deeply frustrated that a lack of game management and decisiveness in attack prevented a largely dominated LXs side from recording a Varsity Match win.

The CURUFC Tigers were similarly squeezed out in March, losing (5-10) to the Oxford Panthers. The team was captained bravely by Elisha Clark (St John's) and the Tigers demonstrated outstanding spirit throughout the game, often defending for long spells with impressive resilience and determination. Hilde Schneemann (Darwin) added real edge to the CURUFC pack, while full-back Hannah Vandersluis (Peterhouse) displayed an extremely effective kicking game that looked at times like it might be the difference between the two teams. This is the first fixture at 2nd XV level that the CURUFC women have lost in recent years, and while the pipeline

LX Club Tour to Marseille

Scott Annett



The LX club has recently returned from its three day tour to Montpellier. Following an early morning departure on the Friday, the squad were straight into training in the afternoon. The session was coached by former England international Alex King, who focused primarily on handling skills and decision making games. The squad trained well and certainly earned their “arrival beers” later in the evening. At dinner, the players were introduced to former Blue Tom Whitford (1995), who is now the team manager of Montpellier.

The playing squad was relatively cautious in its approach to Friday night beers, in part because they had been warned that the Saturday session would be coached by a special ‘guest’ coach. The same approach was not followed by the management team, who were a tad sluggish on Saturday morning. Sebastian Barker and Jim “Grandad” Ashworth took the team to watch the Montpellier team run, while Kieran “the compass” Hegarty and Scott Annett attempted to retrieve the forgotten water, balls and bibs.

Fortunately all was in place in time for the

afternoon session, which was coached by former Scotland Head Coach Vern Cotter. This session involved practising animal noises (seriously), off load technique, and passing, followed by some fitness games. The players thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and carried their momentum into an early evening court session.

Sunday was a more relaxed day, with the squad watching Montpellier take on Bordeaux-Bègles, which was a lively encounter that finished 17-17. After the match, the team finished their trip with a quick visit to the beach and some delicious paella in a local restaurant. We can confirm that were a few eyebrows raised at the display of obligatory CURUFC budge smugglers.

All at CURUFC would like to thank Tom Whitford and Sebastian Barker for their help in arranging the trip. In addition to this, the team would not have been able to make the trip without the generous support of the sponsors, Prism Architecture, BlueBridge Education, Urban & Civic, Price Bailey and Piggin Great Hog Roasts.

Old Girls Alumni Match

The CURUFC women defeated their illustrious predecessors (13-12) on a sunny Saturday afternoon in September.

The fixture was an outstanding advertisement for women's rugby, with some free-flowing attack and tough defence on both sides.

There were six CURUFC Captains involved on the day, including both Fiona Shuttleworth (2019) and Kate Marks (2018) playing for the current women, and Jess Gurney (2013), Nikki Weckman (2015), and Lara Gibson (2017) representing the 'Old Girls'. In addition to this, Alice Middleton (2016) supported both teams energetically from the sidelines, as she continues to recover from a serious knee injury.

CURUFC was delighted to unveil a new board in the main clubhouse on the day as well, which recognises the contributions of all those women to represent the University between 1988 and 2015.

The current success and growth of women's rugby at the University of Cambridge would not have been possible without the efforts of all those players.



Q & A

Stephen Leonard - Men's First Team Captain

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How did you get into rugby?

I started playing rugby when I was 6 years old at my local club, Newcastle Emlyn RFC (Clwb Rygbi Castell Newydd Emlyn for our Welsh-speaking readers). Coming from West Wales, joining a rugby club would have been inevitable but I feel that I started earlier than most as I followed in the footsteps of my older brother and my dad, who had been a talented rugby player in his youth.

When did you start playing for CURUFC?

I started playing for CURUFC in 2015, my first year at Cambridge. I was lucky enough to be a squad member in the 2015 Varsity Match before playing my first Varsity Match for the u20s in 2016. It is fair to say I rapidly fell in love with the history and

traditions of the club, which is largely the reason I never question whether I will be coming back for another season.

What are you studying?

I am on an MBPhD course, which combines a medical degree with a PhD. I have finished 4 years of Medicine, including one year of clinical medicine spent on hospital wards. I will now take a step back from clinical medicine for 3 years to carry out research looking at cancer immunotherapy at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute. After this hiatus I will return to medicine to finish my medical training. Fingers crossed I will be leaving Cambridge as a Dr Dr.

Who has been the most influential person in your rugby career to date?

My dad. I have grown up listening to him telling stories of playing in the 70s. These range from hitchhiking to get to his match for the Midlands to hitting a teammate for starting a fight with his brother who was on the opposite team. Dad has driven me all over Wales to play for my club, county, region and country and has always been my number one fan. Even now, he makes sure I keep him up to date with what is going on at CURUFC and will watch every game when it is put online.

What do you have in mind for the team this year?

We are extremely lucky to have 15 returning Blues this year meaning there are heaps of guys who have trained and played under James Shanahan (head coach). This continuity has meant that our baseline level of skills, power and fitness are better than where we began last year and so I am hoping we can raise the bar in terms of the standards we set ourselves across the board. With the addition of post-grads with some professional experience I am confident we achieve this and put ourselves in the best position possible come December 12th.

Do you wear or do anything lucky before a match?

I just make sure I have my gumshield on me when we go out to do the warm up, which is less of a lucky charm and more of a "it would be awful to lose a tooth just before kick off".

Where will you be in 5 years time?

I will have just graduated from Cambridge, probably beginning my first rota as a junior doctor and wishing I was back at Grange Road chucking a ball around with my best mates.



Q & A

Fiona Shuttleworth - Women's First Team Captain

How did you get into rugby?

I started playing rugby when my twin sister, Jenni recommended we both attend one of the university-led development days. We attended the sessions on the first two Sundays of term in our 2nd year, and then the head University coach, Jack Baird, invited us along to train with the University team. From then the rest is history! My first match was against Bristol University in that year, playing centre for a full 80 minutes (I swiftly moved onto back row from then)! The weather was so bad, 10 minutes in it was hard to tell who was on who's team we were so covered in mud, and to top it all off, I forgot all my shower stuff and a change of clothes... including underwear! But it is safe to say, I was hooked from then!

**What are you studying?**

I have recently started my 5th year as a Veterinary Medicine student at Pembroke College.

What has been the most influential person in my rugby career?

I have learnt a great deal from a huge amount of incredibly talented sports women since I first joined rugby. I have made some of my closest friends on the team, had the honour to be captained by some of CURUFC's greats; Alice Middleton, Lara Gibson and Kate Marks and have three incredible coaches. Jack Baird is probably the most influential person to me - having started rugby at University being a complete beginner, he always provided words of support and motivation that kept me playing and kept me wanting to be a better rugby player and really push myself. I don't think I would be in the position I am without his commitment to the squad, coaching and support.

What do you have in mind for the team this year?

Last year was an incredible season for the women's side of CURUFC - winning the Varsity Match and the league are two incredible feats, and a testament to the hard work we put in as a women's side each year. I am super excited to the captain this season. We have been promoted into the premier league - which means we will be playing top universities across the UK - so we can show our talent, and really push ourselves to play the best rugby we can. Since the launch of our promotional video we have had a huge amount of women interested and excited to start playing rugby in the university! This season we have development training sessions and matches running throughout Michaelmas and Lent terms which will help to really drive the standard of women's rugby in the university and hopefully lead to a clearer pathway for women to get involved with rugby in Cambridge.

Do you wear anything/do anything lucky before a match?

In my 3rd year I took part in my college 'secret santa', and I received a WRU rugby stress ball. I take this to all my games - home, away and varsity - as a good luck charm before the games!



COLLEGE RUGBY

John Naylor

Men's College Rugby

For the 2018/2019 season the league campaign for Men's college rugby was played in four leagues, with regular promotion and relegation every 3 weeks.

It was highly competitive throughout the season leading to three different winners of Division 1. Gonville and Caius winning the first round, Downing taking the title just before Christmas and St John's finishing top of the table at the beginning of Lent. Fitzwilliam/Sidney were the biggest improvers going from Division 3 to second in Division 1 over the course of the season and Homerton were the pick of the lower Divisions finishing strongly and winning their play off.

Cuppers quickly followed the conclusion of the league campaign with the University players chomping at the bit to get involved.

With a much more elaborate waterfall style to the competition and the chance to play in one of 5 finals at Grange Road, the new format resulted in more games played over fewer weeks. In the last week before term ended there was a bumper packed

week of rugby at Grange Road. On Monday evening the Boot Final saw Magdalene overcome St John's 2's 44-7, with Magdalene only running away with the match in the last 15 minutes.

Wednesday saw a Cup Semi Final double header. First to play were Caius v St John's which turned out to be a great advocate for college rugby and in which Caius won 27-17. The match was refereed by Rowan Kitt who is an international TMO.

Drama in the second semi-final saw the floodlights blow out during the second half between Fitzwilliam/Sidney and Downing with Fitz/Sidney slightly ahead on the scoresheet. However, Downing regrouped winning the replay 15-0 on Easter Sunday.

Back to the last week in Lent term. Due to the floodlight failure, the Bowl Final on the Thursday was reduced to 30 minute halves so the match could be completed in daylight. Homerton were the winners as they overcame a late onslaught from Hughes/Eddies/Wolfson to win 24-15.



Finals Day was played on the first Saturday of Easter term with 3 finals all being played at Grange Road. The Shield Final kicked off the day which was hotly contested between Queens' and Pembroke/Girton. This was arguably the most entertaining match of the day with the result 29 v 31 in Pembroke/Girton's favour. Outgoing Blue's Captain Nick Koster scored 4 of the 5 Queens' tries but it was Blue's scrum half Chris Bell who kicked the winning conversion.

The Plate which was between Churchill and St Catharine's followed. St Catharine's did themselves proud and put up a good fight but in the end Churchill were a bit too powerful, the final score being 31 v 12 to Churchill. Oliver Vij scored the try of the match with a great individual run from scrum half.

The climax of the day was the Cup final between Downing and Gonville and Caius, as the rain started to fall. This limited the Caius exciting back line and Downing's dominant set piece took full advantage of the conditions. The first of their tries coming from a driving maul which Will Slaughter profited from. The second half was a very physical affair with both teams trying to break the other down. Downing's superior scrum started to take effect getting two push over tries which Olly Smart took advantage of making the final score 19-0.

Women's College Rugby

In 2018/19 women's rugby took a new direction with every college player invited to training on a Tuesday evening under the guidance of four newly recruited coaches. Throughout the season they played internal matches as well as practised their skills on a regular basis. In the Lent term all the players were involved in at least one Tigers match with the Varsity match unfortunately going in favour of the other place by a margin of 5 points.

For 2019/20 we will expand this approach, hopefully getting greater numbers involved. They will get the opportunity to develop the skills required to play as well as playing contact matches.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT CURUFC

Don't miss the following key events.

2019

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Wednesday 13th Nov | Men's First Team v British Police Away
Pre match dinner at 6pm for past players.
Please contact Nykki for information. |
| Wednesday 27th Nov | 72nd M.R. Steele-Bodger XV v CURUFC Blues
Lunch at Selwyn College 12.30pm |
| Tuesday 3rd Dec | Colleges XV Varsity Match
Grange Road. 2.30 KO |
| Wednesday 4th Dec | LX vs Greyhounds Varsity Match Away
Iffley Road, Oxford. 2.30pm KO
LX Club reunion: brunch at Vincents Club, after match
drinks at a venue tbc. Further details to come. |
| Thursday 12th Dec | The Varsity Matches Twickenham.
In the Rose Room:
10.30am pastries and prosecco
Post match gatherings |



Blues Men

19.09.19 - 7.00pm vs. Loughborough University
25.09.19 - 7.00pm vs. Durham University
07.10.19 - 7.30pm vs. Cambridge City RFC
12.10.19 - 3.00pm vs. Welsh Academicals
16.10.19 - 7.30pm vs. Coventry
25.10.19 - 7.30pm vs. *Trinity College Dublin (Away)*
06.11.19 - 7.30pm vs. Crawshays Welsh RFC
13.11.19 - 7.30pm vs. *British Police (Away)*
20.11.19 - 7.30pm vs. Pacific Islanders
27.11.19 - 3.00pm vs. Steele-Bodger XV
12.12.19 - 3.00pm vs. Oxford University at Twickenham Stadium
15.01.20 - 7.30pm vs. Penguin International RFC
22.01.20 - 7.30pm vs. Spoon AA
29.01.20 - 7.30pm vs. RAF
05.02.20 - 7.30pm vs. Army
12.02.20 - 7.30pm vs. Navy

Blues Women

21.09.19 - 3.00pm vs. Old Girls
25.09.19 - 3.00pm vs. Durham University
09.10.19 - 2.00pm vs. Cardiff University
16.10.19 - 2.00pm vs. *Bristol University (Away)*
23.10.19 - 2.00pm vs. Swansea University
06.11.19 - 2.00pm vs. Oxford University
13.11.19 - 2.00pm vs. Sussex University
20.11.19 - 2.00pm vs. *Cardiff University (Away)*
27.11.19 - 2.00pm vs. Bristol University (Venue TBC)
12.12.19 - 11.30am vs. Oxford University at Twickenham Stadium
17.01.20 - 2.00pm vs. Army
22.01.20 - 2.00pm vs. *Swansea University (Away)*
29.01.20 - 2.00pm vs. *Oxford University (Away)*
05.02.20 - 2.00pm vs. *Sussex University (Away)*

COMMUNITY & CHARITY

The Lion's Den Day, with Prism Architectural

For the third year running, Prism has helped us bring this great day to Grange Rd. Anton Price the CEO, and Michelle Marriott, work tirelessly alongside CURUFC staff and volunteers to open up our club to the community. 130 girls and boys drawn from the U8 and U9 sections of local rugby clubs take part in a skills session with our International Sevens Stars Ollie Phillips and Charlie Amesbury, as well as 2018 men's Captain Nick Koster and the rest of the Women and Men's squads.

The day also sees a touch tournament for local businesses, albeit with some late grafting of some of the Club's players to boost performances. The standard improves every year, with the final this year won by the Charity Partner of the event, Kandal Light... honestly..!!



COMMUNITY & CHARITY

Active support for local and national charities.

The players again took part in “PowerHouse Games” providing inclusive sporting opportunities with local schools and disabled children.



They also worked with the charities Leonard Cheshire and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation (in their Urban Beach clean programme), offering them visibility and fund raising opportunities. Both are also supported at the Varsity Match.

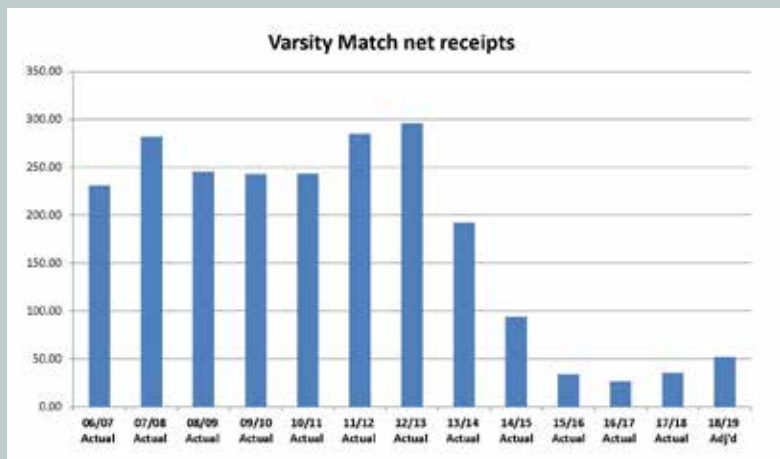


Both Captains have chosen to support My Name's Daddie as the club's chosen charity, for which funds will be raised during the course of the year.



Development Campaign

Jeremy Macklin



Ian Peck in his message talks about a solid determination within the Club to get ourselves sorted. Nowhere is this truer than in the search for alternative financing for the Club. The team of staff and volunteers had to face the sudden decline in the finances when the big Varsity Match sponsorship deals, and their incumbent marketing support, fell away in 2013.

The annual £250k chasm that opened up in the Club finances then takes some effort to redress, but through trimming the sails and focussing on key activities in sponsorship and the Red Lion Campaign, we have now reduced the underlying CURUFC annual deficit to £75k. At the same time, the Varsity Match team has developed a range of hospitality and business-friendly seminars as a way to stabilise the annual return from the Twickenham fixture. (See Pages 20-21).

We have also been in discussions with the University regarding our situation. Over the last two years they have helped to bridge the gap, to develop joint plans for the development of Grange Road, and currently we are discussing how they can help our financial situation with support for planned maintenance and Health and Safety issues at the ground. The Capital Fund built up in the good years has covered the recent financial problems, but will only cover the next couple of years whilst we strive to improve our income further.

The sponsorship team of volunteers have been preparing for the 2019/20 season throughout the summer. We have a full match day programme, close to 70% coverage of pitch hoardings, a full match day sponsorship programme. Over 3 years we have taken the sponsorship revenue from £20k to £70k, and have a target of £90k to help further reduce our deficit. To this we add the other revenue of the Steele Bodger match which is now a massive event.

As we look forward to the 150th anniversary celebrations in the 2021/22 season, we hope that there will be an even greater appetite for support.

Please contact Andrew McGahey if you might be interested in sponsorship of the club.



The Red Lion 150 Campaign goal is to have £150k cash available annually by the end of the 2021/22 season, to enable us to provide the playing resources that are needed, to ensure that future players can enjoy the same Cambridge Blue rugby experience which has made a difference to all of our lives. There have been 177 contributions to the Campaign so far and through these generous donations we already have £65k of annual cash already secured. This comes from a mixture of regular giving and from income on the Campaign Investment Fund of £140,000 being created from larger one-off gifts of £5000 and over.



As we enter the second stage in the campaign, we are slightly tweaking the team and I would like to introduce James Howell (former Development Director at Gonville and Caius) and Jackie Boyle (Development Office, Sidney Sussex), who will be in touch with you shortly.



We also have the evergreen Dick Greenwood (1962, Captain 1963), who has volunteered to come onboard to roll out the Legacy programme, announced last year to welcome members to the Canon Gray Society.

Rob Heginbotham will continue in his role of organising Red Lion 150 Campaign events. These events help bring past players and members together, such as the Rugby World Cup opening dinner in September, (see Pages 18-19) which raised nearly £11,000. As part of our 150th anniversary festivities we are hoping to put on a dinner in London, a ball in Cambridge, and are currently underway with a book celebrating the history of the Club.

We need your help, so please respond generously.



Rugby World Cup Dinner - September 2019

140 Club Members, Alumni, Sponsors and Guests enjoyed a memorable evening at St John's College on the opening day of the Rugby World Cup. Apparently the CURUFC event was one of four being held in the Cambridge area on that very day – two of the diners at St John's were tackling their second event within 6 hours, having heard Will Carling speak at a lunchtime gathering!

As well as marking the start of the tournament in Japan, the dinner is part of the events programme for Red Lion 150, and funds raised on the evening will support the campaign.

We were delighted to welcome the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stephen Toope, for what we believe is his first official CURUFC event. Unfortunately, his predecessor and current club president, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz was unable to join us due to illness, but Professor Mark Bailey proved an able deputy as always.

A fine evening allowed guests to enjoy a champagne reception in New Court and on the backs before heading for dinner in the magnificent St John's College Hall. The evening followed a unique format. Each course was themed around one of the four home unions, and in similar vein between each course, we were treated to a musical interlude from Coll Reg, who are all former Kings Choral Scholars and by Rugby Blue Rob Stevens, RWC and other memories from a CURUFC legend, and then an auction lot – all related to that country.

Eric Peters (Scotland), Mike Hall (Wales), David Quinlan (Ireland) and Rob Andrew (England) all provided tremendous insight and entertainment, and then participated in a Q and A at the end of the evening, chaired by Professor Bailey in his own inimitable style. David Quinlan, despite professing surprise at being asked to appear in the same stage as the other luminaries, surely has a brilliant career as a public speaker ahead of him if he ever gets bored of being a Lawyer!!

An entertaining game of RWC "True or False" was also held and guests also had the opportunity to participate in an RWC "Total Points scored" competition – the Red Lion 150 organisers are now apparently debating furiously about what to do about "Typhoon Haggis" and its influence on who will win the £200 prize!!

We would like to thank all the successful bidders for the 4 Auction lots on the evening, which raised over £11,000, namely Stu Eru (CURUFC Captain 2003), Sean Doran, Mark Duffy and John Slater-Fearn.

The evening was an undoubted success, and this was evidenced by the throng that gathered in St John's Bar until well after midnight, where we were also joined by new recruits Flip van der Merwe and James Horwill, who were busy with their MBA induction week. It would appear that they are going to fit into Cambridge life extremely well!

A few hard-core Alumni from the 1980's era managed to find their way to Rob Andrew's rather plush St John's guest room, where further refreshment, in the shape of port, sherry and madeira was the order of the early hours!!

An excellent evening all round, and the club would like to thank everyone who attended for their support, and we look forward to welcoming you to more Red Lion 150 events in the near future.



VARSITY 2019

Jeremy Macklin

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The Varsity Match day continues its transformation.

It remains an opportunity to watch the top student rugby players from England's two great ancient universities renew their rivalry. But the annual battle of the Blues is leading the charge on women's sport, on inspiring students from the widest range of backgrounds to aspire to study at Oxford and Cambridge, as well as opening up to business and charities. We are most grateful to our sponsors, especially the Rhino group, whose generosity allows this match to survive. So this year there will be plenty of activity at Twickenham.

The women's match, played at Twickenham since 2015, which is already one of the biggest crowd-pullers for the women's game in the UK, this year sees a Light Blue team rebuilding after two wins on the trot, so they will need your support. To continue our celebration of women's sports, the day programme includes a pastry/prosecco reception at 10.30am followed by gatherings at lunch time post women's match and again post the men's match, both in the Rose room.

There will be a day-long programme of sport and outreach activities, woven between the key matches, providing a focal point for 1,000 disadvantaged school children to find out about opportunities and support to study at Oxford and Cambridge.

The Varsity Talks, with 4 TED-talks before the rugby, will offer opportunities for businesses to mix with thought leaders from Oxford and Cambridge on business-critical subjects. The events can be accredited for CPD points.





Leading Oxbridge experts present their insights into the challenges that industry leaders face in tomorrow's dynamic business arena.

A series of engaging talks to promote thought leadership and networking, including a premium ticket to The Varsity Match at the East Stand facilities, Twickenham Stadium.

SPEAKERS



DR KC LIN
CHINA AND THE CHALLENGES FOR A POST-BREXIT BRITAIN

Ten Saffron Lecturer in Politics and International Relations and Deputy Director of the Forum on Geopolitics, University of Cambridge



DR CHRIS BICKERTON
BUSINESS AS USUAL? THE STATE OF EUROPE AFTER A DECADE OF CRISIS

Reader in Modern European Politics, University of Cambridge
Official Fellow at Queen's College, Cambridge



LUDOVIC PHALIPPOU
THE EVOLUTION OF ASSET MANAGEMENT

Professor of Financial Economics, University of Oxford Saïd Business School



DR EMILY SHUCKBURGH
BUSINESS AND ITS ROLE IN CLIMATE CHANGE

Director of the Cambridge Carbon Neutral Futures Initiative

PROGRAMME

10:00
SPEAKER SESSIONS

13:10
BUFFET LUNCH

17:00
INVITATION TO JOIN THE VARSITY GATHERING

09:30
REGISTRATION

11:30
WOMEN'S VARSITY MATCH

15:00
MEN'S VARSITY MATCH

TICKETS

£285 PER PERSON

INCLUDING A £10 DONATION TO OUR CHARITY PARTNER LEONARD CHESHIRE. PARTICIPANTS GAIN 15 CPD POINTS.

[MORE INFO](#)

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PAST PLAYERS



Dennis Gethin - Blue 1965/66

Old Blue Dennis Gethin will step down as the president of the WRU after the World Cup in Japan after 12 years.

Dennis enjoyed five years at full back for Cardiff RFC alongside the likes of Gareth Edwards and Barry John.

Gerald Davies CBE - Blue 1968/69/70

Gerald, a Welsh former rugby union wing who played international rugby for Wales between 1966 and 1978 has been elected as the new president of the WRU.

He is one of a small group of Welsh players to have won three Grand Slams.



Mark Robinson - Blue 1997/98

Old Blue Mark Robinson has been named New Zealand Rugby CEO. Mark was a Cambridge Blue in 1997 and 1998 and then went on to play for Canterbury Crusaders and New Zealand (9 caps) between 2000 and 2002.

He was chief executive of the Taranaki Rugby Union from 2007-2012 and was elected to the New Zealand Rugby board in 2013. Robinson has also represented New Zealand on the World Rugby council since 2014.

CURUFC wish Mark every success in his new role.

CURUFC Old Blues Golf Match v OURUFC 16th April 2019 at Denham Golf Club

Cambridge won the annual golf match 4-3½ in spite of Oxford claims to a 4-4 draw.

The 2019 CURUFC Old Blues Golf match v OURUFC was a Cambridge win, and those involved who do not like the mere thought of ever losing at anything to anyone wearing a dark blue uniform should be satisfied with the outcome.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day hosted by Denham Golf Club, which has a very Cambridge feel at the moment, with Club President Ian Hodgson, who won Blues in the early 80s for Cricket, Tennis, and Squash, and Captain Chris Morrish both Hawks Members. We started the day with lunch and drinks, and played golf afterwards. There was a great mix of camaraderie and competitiveness on show throughout. If you are interested in playing in the game in future, please contact Simon Attfield on simonattfield@hotmail.com or 07717 156921.



OBITUARY | Nick Pett

Nick started refereeing with the East Midlands Society and then joined CUDDRS in September 1972. He became a prominent and active member of the Society and served on its General Committee which appointed and graded referees when the society was joined to Eastern Counties for administration. He reached Level B1, the equivalent of the current Level 6, and then participated in the restructuring of the society's management in 1991.



Nick was a lay preacher and was the chair of his local Parish Council. His commitment to public service and role as a devoted public servant was an example to us all especially in times when some shy away from the time, commitment and responsibility involved. Nick gave his time by the bucket load. He was a tireless advocate of the need for strategic overview as well as attending to the detail. Those at the council wrote of him *'At times his resolution to achieve things meant that occasionally others needed to follow in his wake to smooth the waters after the power boat had motored through! His strong and vibrant personality meant that meetings were lively, often infused by snorts and giggles.'*

At CURUFC we certainly recognise those reflections. Nick joined the General Committee as the CUDDRS representative, chaired the Disciplinary Committee, became Executive Secretary in 2013 and upon incorporation of CURUFC in 2016 became Board Secretary. He was a keen advocate of good Minutes, clear reporting and kept the Club on track with Health and Safety. He was a huge advocate and supporter of the modernisation of the Club. Only now he has gone does the Club truly appreciate the work he did, often unsung but diligently and loyally undertaken. He is deeply missed around the Club.

OBITUARY | MSB



Micky Steele-Bodger was one of the most famous names in rugby, having been an England and British Lions selector, president of the Rugby Football Union, Chairman of the International Rugby Board and president of the Barbarians.

In Cambridge, the Gonville & Caius graduate has been most widely known for inaugurating our annual Steele-Bodger XV match, which is held every November and shuts down the city.

Micky played for Cambridge in the Varsity Match in 1945 and 1946 and the traditional fixture began when Windsor Lewis asked Micky, as a then current international player and recent Blue, to raise a team to test Cambridge ahead of facing Oxford in the Varsity Match. The first game was held in 1947, celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2017, and during that time Micky only ever missed two matches.

RFU president Chris Kelly said: "Micky was a rugby man through and through and devoted much of his life and passion to the game." "He was greatly respected by all who knew him and will be hugely missed. "We are all proud to have shared his enjoyment of our sport and are indebted to him for the many roles he served with such distinction and especially grateful to his wife, Muff; his children, Guy, Duncan and Clair; his nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren for sharing him with us."



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