



# Blandford Rugby Club Newsletter

Issue 1

## Chairman's Message

August 2012

The new season is almost upon us and it is hard to believe that we have had the summer break. Whilst the players have been enjoying the rest the committee have been busy working away on a number of areas to ensure that everything is ready for September. This year we have a new Vice Presidents Secretary in Mike Jones. Also new to the committee are the Club Captain, Matt Cowlard, along with Marc Ricketts as 1st XV Team Captain, assisted by Ben Jones. Ben Ryan, has taken on the role of 2nd XV Captain after his sojourn in the Sahara. While the Academy Chairman for this season is Jason Bowerman.

We have been successful in our application to become a registered Community Amateur Sports Club, thus allowing us to claim back the gift aid tax element on any donations, but those making a donation must complete the "Gift Aid" form.



I would like to extend my appreciation and those of the club members to all of our sponsors who have agreed to support us for the 2012/13 season. I would also thank all those of you who no matter what the weather stood on the side lines encouraging both our teams. Your support and encouragement mean a lot to all the players. I, and the players look forward to your support during the 2012/13 season.

Our first pre-season friendly will take place on 25th August at home against Lytchett Minster RFC at the pitches of the Blandford School, kick off time 1430.

## YORKSHIRE



Home of John Smith's Beer,  
Yorkshire Puddings, location  
for the battle between King Harold and the  
invading Vikings at Stamford Bridge,  
Home of Ripon RFC and York RI RFC  
**It is also the location for Blandford RFC**  
**2012/13 Tour**

Matt Cowlard assisted by Andy Williamson have been busy arranging the tour for the 2012/13 Season which will depart Blandford on 29th March to travel to Yorkshire.

Both Ripon and York RI RFC have confirmed timings for the planned games. Spaces on the tour are limited so if you have not yet put your name on the list and are interested in attending contact Matt at the earliest opportunity to discuss your being part of what is looking to be an exciting and entertaining weekend.

## Whole Club Approval



Work on achieving the RFU Whole Club award is well underway and most of the documentary evidence has been submitted to the Rugby Development Officer for review. Once we have held the Development workshop to determine where the club wants to progress to both on and off the pitch the process will enter its final stages. This will mean that once we have been granted the award we will be able to use the Accredited Club logo on our paperwork.

## Club Membership Fees

Club Membership fees for the 2012/13 Season are:

VP - £25 plus a minimum gift aid donation of £50 = £75 (Single) Remember you need to complete a gift aid form when paying your fees.

Adult Player - £150 (which incorporates all match fees)

Student/Vet Player - £75

**Note:** Vet Player Category is for those who do not play in any 1st or 2nd XV games.

Occasional Player - £50 + £5.00 match fee per game

Single Social - £25

Family Social - £30

Academy (Junior Player) - £55

Additional Academy Player(s) - £30

VP, Adult Player and Student/Vet fees can be paid by Standing Order. If you already pay by this method please remember to update the payment details with your bank. **Only you can do this not the club.**

## Beer Festival

We will be holding a Beer Festival over the August Bank Holiday Weekend, (24 - 26 August) with Friday being by invitation. Saturday open from 1200 until late with hot food and a disco after the pre-season friendly against Lytchett Minister RFC. Sunday open from 1200. Come along and enjoy some rather good beer and cider!



## VP Days

We have already the first VP Days, which will be on 29th September when our 1st XV will be playing Bridport and the 2nd XV will be hosting Weymouth III and will be held at the Clubhouse. Full details will be sent to all VPs shortly.

There will be additional VP Days organised for later in the season. If you are interested in becoming a VP please contact the VP Secretary Mike Jones at [mjbjones@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbjones@hotmail.com) to find out more information.

## Academy News

The 2011/12 Season for the Academy will commence on Sunday 9 September.

We have distributed to all the schools in the area information about the club during the closed season as part of our ongoing recruitment drive.

The introduction to the younger age groups of the Shaping the Game regulations will provide our youngsters with a new and exciting way of playing rugby.

The Academy are planning to hold a "Taster" day on 23 September. Full details will be sent to all parents and published on the website once finalised. It is hoped to arrange a visit from a "Rugby Celebrity" to attend the event.

## Blandford Carnival



Blandford Carnival is taking place on Saturday 8 September and we are hoping to take part with a float/walking entry. The exact category is yet to be confirmed. If you are interested in helping with or taking part on the night please contact Louis on 01258 452410 This is a great chance to raise the profile of the club and recruit new members

## Reminder

Please ensure that you provide either Moe or Joy with any changes to your contact details in order that we can provide you with all current information. If you have changed your e-mail address please ensure you write the new address clearly, so that we can get it correct on our records.