



**REEDS
WEYBRIDGE
R.F.C.**

Reeds Weybridge RFC Newsletter

Welcome & Thank You

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, as we as a Club prepare for life at level 6 in Regional 2 South East and say "good bye" to yet another successful season.

Playing Update

On the playing side of things, whilst we suffered to some extent from a COVID induced "extended" season, we continued to make progress at all levels with the 1st XV securing their 6th promotion in 7 playing seasons by finishing runners up in London South West 2, our 2nd XV finishing runners up in the Surrey Championship, and our U21's winning a Club organised U21 tournament.

Whilst we also suffered from a greater number of playing injuries and absenteeism than usual, we took the opportunity that presented to accelerate our progress in effectively integrating U18 - U20 alongside the Seniors to maintain the player path-way we are so proud of and which is key to sustained success and unearthed a number of younger, talented players, from within our own ranks who performed with panache for the 1st XV and which we are really excited about.

We were also proud to run our second Reeds 7's tournament in May which, whilst small, was of a very high quality with most teams comprising invitational sides. Reeds performed creditably, losing in the semi-finals of the Open section of the tournament. Our aim is to build on this success and become an established tournament in the 7's calendar.

We were also delighted to continue our association with the Grace Dear Trust Charity – more on that charity below – and by dint of a lot of hard work led by Club Captain Josh Brown we were able to put on a magnificent touch rugby event that was extremely well attended and which raised a significant sum of money for the charity. Long may that association continue.

Looking forward we are excited by the new league re-structuring which has taken effect and which see us, after a lot of work behind the scenes by Nige Connell and Ed Peters to ensure we were placed in the correct league, take our rightful place in Regional 2 South East (the old equivalent of London 1 South). The challenges don't get any easier!

Buoyed by all this, there is a clear sense of purpose around the Club as we prepare for the new season which starts on 3rd September and, as usual, we have adopted a structured approach to our new season involving a mix of strength and conditioning, unit skills, pre-season fixtures, and combined training sessions. Given the persistent hot weather and rock-hard pitches, Surrey have confirmed, in the interests of player welfare, that the Surrey Reserve leagues will see their season start on the 1st October however 1st XV rugby commences 3 September subject to pitch newly introduced protocols related to player safety. This has inevitably affected pre-season and we have had to limit ourselves to opposed training run outs. London Irish Wild Geese kindly hosted us at Sunbury in August and we saw enough progress there to be happy we will be ready for 3 September start.

To support our campaign at level 6, and thanks to the ongoing support of our sponsors and patrons, we have increased our investment in the coaching side of things and are delighted to announce that we have secured the services of a dedicated backs coach. A further announcement will follow.

Our 2nd XV meanwhile will ply their trade in the Surrey Championship against some very strong sides.

Positively, our U21's will continue to be captained by Ollie Tack and will play in Surrey's U22 competition this season.

Meanwhile, work is in train to publish a fixture card for those who would like one but in the interim, you can also access the fixtures for our 1st XV via the link below.....links for fixtures for other teams will follow once the season's start date is confirmed

First XV

<https://www.englandrugby.com/fixtures-and-results/search-results?team=17645&season=2022-2023#fixtures>

The Grace Dear Trust (GDT) Charity

As many of you will know, the Club has been working extensively with GDT over the last few seasons to raise awareness of mental health issues with young people particularly in Elmbridge.

We are hugely grateful to The Grace Dear Trust for bringing their message, "It's ok not to be ok" to Reeds Rugby and would take this opportunity to remind everyone that the Reeds Family and the Charity are never more than one, confidential chat away.

Anybody whom would like to know more, or whom would also like to volunteer please contact Hope Dear - hope@thegracedeartrust.co.uk



Reeds Weybridge RFC a View from the Touchline - some reflections by John Gough -Reeds Supporter of the Season

As I sit here with fingers poised over the keyboard about to type this master piece I realise that at the age of 71 my memory is not as good as it was 10 years ago, but, having re read last season's amazing match reports by George Spinks it has enabled me to extract thoughts from the deepest parts of my grey matter and relive what I think was a wonderful season of rugby for Reeds.

Played 18 matches, of which I was able to support 17, won 14, drew 1 and lost 3. Got promoted once again and could have won the league as well but that was not to be. Reeds was always going to have to defend their record of wins and promotions so was always, as far as the opposition was concerned, the team to beat. I do not think that was down to them being the better team on the day, but more down to us not getting it right. That is not a criticism of the team, or a denigration of the opposition, but a fact that you cannot win all of the time even if you want or expect to.

The team has been well led by the 2 Co Captains and with Billy relinquishing this position after a number of years of leadership. I am sure his replacement will do equally well. I think the team has always given their best, even if we the supporters on the touchline do not think so, after all we are not on the pitch taking the punishment that the opposition is throwing at us. At the end of the 80 minutes providing everyone has given their best, including us the supporters, whether it was win or lose we should always be happy with the result.

I do think that at times during some of last season's matches we lost some discipline on the field. This is understandable, it is a very physical game, adrenaline is high and incidents occur that some team members are not happy with. But retaliation is not always the best course of action. After all, if you alienate the referee then he will always be looking at you and a yellow or red card may be shown when a penalty would have been enough. This is only a comment not a criticism.

My highlight of last season must be the last match at home and the last try of the game. The elation and celebration both on and off the pitch was quite something. I asked the try scorer afterwards how many tries he had scored and his reply was "that's my first one" suffice to say that he got a well-deserved reward at the presentation dinner.

So, to next season. As I look at the fixtures most of the teams are unknown to me and once again there is going to be some travelling required for some of the away matches. But have no fear the barmy army, as some of us have been nicknamed, will once again be there in force. There is one team missing from this league who I know we are all keen to meet but I am sure the rest will give us a good run for our money. Will we do as well? only time will tell, but we go into next season with a record second to none and once again will be the team everyone wants to beat.

At the Presentation Dinner I was fortunate to be presented with the supporter of the season award, for which I would like to thank the Club for choosing me. It was my first full season supporting the club and I have made many new friends and look forward to their company this coming season whatever the weather! I have been asked why I support Reeds and the answer is simple. I admire the commitment and dedication put in by the players. They give up 2 nights a week to train and most Saturday match days when they could be out doing other less strenuous activities, and we must not forget the coaches, physios and numerous others who also give their time freely to keep a wonderful team and club at the top of the game. Also, it's cheaper than having to pay to watch Esher!

Keeping in touch with the Club?

The Club is currently reviewing its contact listings to ensure these are up to date. If you know of anyone who would like to receive periodic e mails and newsletters from the Club but who currently does not, please ask them to drop a with their contact details, including email and mobile phone, to Trishca Rae @ trishca.rae@googlemail.com and she will be sure to add your details to our systems!

Some dates for your diaries

Fixture card production is underway, meanwhile the 1st XV first 6 fixtures are listed below which contains an interesting mix of new and old opposition:

Reeds v Dartfordians (Home) 3 September

Reeds v Battersea Ironsides (Away) 10 September

Reeds v Old Reigatian (Home) 17 September

Reeds v Farnham (Away) 24 September

Reeds v Chichester (Home) 1 October

Reeds v Guildford (Home) 15 October

In all cases, please look out for more details nearer the time bearing in mind that pitch condition are being monitored by all Clubs.

Social Membership and Patrons Schemes

The Club now operates a new social membership and patron's scheme and have written out to current patrons and social members to progress membership renewal. If you are yet to become a patron or social member but would like to please see details below

Social membership costs £60, and benefits include:

- Full membership of Reeds Weybridge RFC and use of facilities.
- Access to the 6 Nations and International Ticket Ballot.
- Free Entry to all HOME league and Cup games.
- Right to vote at the Club AGM.
- Invitation to all pre-match lunches.

Patrons Membership - costs £250, and provides members with additional benefits over and above Social Membership including:

- One free annual Patron's lunch.
- A Patron's Tie. Note, any ladies wishing to become a patron will receive a Reeds branded golfing umbrella.
- Free travel on the Players' coach when operated for CUP games.
- Your name on the Patrons section of the Club website

If you are interested in joining either, please email ReedsRFCpatrons@gmail.com.

Playing Membership

Details concerning playing membership for the new season have been issued and given the current economic situation new have decide not to increase fees providing membership is played in one tranche. Where phased payment is requested then overall costs will rise to cover increased levels of administration. Any questions please contact Jes Isaacs (jeremy24.isaacs@gmail.com).

Please also note that playing members are able to secure a £50 discount on their membership for each £250 touchline banner sponsor they secure. You simply need to provide details of the sponsor to Mark Sukiennik (mark.sukiennik@sky.com) and he will ensure the banner is ordered once payment has been made.

As ever thank you for your support – we look forward to seeing you on the touchline in the very near future!

Go Reeds!

Ed Peters - Chairman Reeds Seniors