



Royston Rugby Union Football Club

President Barry J. Dickins

Chairman David Gee
20 Chapel Lane
Fowlmere
Royston
Herts
SG8 7SD
H 01763 208 047
M 07731 940 350
E david@gee-whiz.org.uk

Secretary Jamie Johnson
29 Honey Way
Royston
Herts
SG8 7ES
H 01763 247 522
W 01920 463 366
E jamie@bluebridgefs.co.uk

WELCOME

TO ROYSTON RUGBY CLUB FOR THE 2007-2008 SEASON

There have recently been a lot of changes and developments at the club and we, the club committee and those members who offer their time to the club behind the scenes, have been working hard to improve the club in a number of aspects. This letter is to help bring you up to date with those developments and to seek your ongoing support to help grow and improve the club further this year.

Where to start? On the pitch we saw an excellent season of results with highlights including the First XV winning their league and promotion, superb wins by junior teams at different ages and six Under 14 Royston players being selected for Cambridgeshire. A great season but we intend to do even better this year and we are already in the middle of preparing for the new season both on and off the pitch.

Off the pitch, communication has been an obvious weakness at the club and we are making great efforts to improve this across the whole club. Central to this is the new club website www.roystonrugby.co.uk designed by Ross Caldwell and a great improvement. This will now be the central communication point with all key club officials having easy access to the site to add the latest news and information – including changes to fixtures and cancellations so please familiarise yourself with the site and go there regularly to keep in touch.

On the site you will see a great deal of news of forthcoming fixtures and events as well as more basic information such as policies etc. There is also a club shop that is being run in conjunction with Sports Kit on the High Street and where club goods can be viewed and ordered – the order being placed with Richard at Sports Kit. Club good include replica shirts, club branded sports wear and some merchandise featuring our latest new member – *Royston Crow* – a cartoon crow who is a senior player with the club but who is rather distracted most of the time as you will come to see.

On the website Home Page you will find a link on the right hand side of the page called **crow links** which takes you to links to overseas rugby clubs who are known as *The Crows*, these include clubs from India, America, Canada and Australia. We will be looking to strengthen links – particularly through the junior section so please keep logging on and up to date.

Earlier this year we successfully achieved RFU **Seal of Approval** Accreditation – this is a quality standard for clubs with Junior Sections that sets standards for safety, welfare and good club management. A good team effort by volunteers meant that we achieved this standard in record time – reflecting well on the existing organisation of the club – but most importantly this has been an important foundation for many of the improvements implemented in recent months and those that you will see as the season progresses.

On the subject of volunteers, this club runs due to the effort and time put in by a small group of people – be they club officials, coaches or those that chip in now and then to make things happen. Needless to say we are in need of more volunteers to help the club to achieve more. This does not mean that you have to join the Committee or sell your soul to the club but all club members would seriously value any help that you can offer to the club in general, to help run club events or to offer contacts, skills or expertise to help the club progress. Specifically we need volunteers to act as team managers for each junior team – this role being to support the team coaches in communication and organisation. We also need volunteers to write and submit match reports to the Press each weekend so that we can reliably increase the amount and quality of press coverage every week. We would appreciate some volunteers to sell raffle tickets now and again or to help run social events. The more volunteers we have the more we can achieve and the less pressure there is on the few that carry the major load on behalf of us all.

The club is planning to have a busier social programme over the next 12 months and we request your support wherever possible to make these events successful. We also have a busy programme around the IRB World Cup with televised games, special events, competitions etc. **Don't watch at home alone – come join us.** The RFU is running a recruitment campaign called GoPlayRugby and the PLAY logo can be seen around the club as well as in national advertising of various forms. Please keep updated by regularly visiting the website for news of club events.

Recruitment is our priority this season and we are looking to attract more members be they players or non-playing members. If everyone would bring along a friend or introduce a new member to the club we would see a significant benefit across the whole club so if you can, please do so.

This year we are reviving the Vice President's Club – a club aimed at the mature member that may no longer play but who enjoys watching the game, talking about the game, would enjoy special social events and enjoys the great club atmosphere. If you know of anyone in your family or community that might be interested in the VP's Club please bring them along or put them in contact with us directly or via the Website.

Back on the pitch you may have seen news that we have made significant appointments amongst the coaching staff, namely the appointment of a new Senior Coach - Luke Green – who is aided by Kevin Green (no relation). Luke is young but highly experienced and qualified and has already demonstrated that he is more than capable. Kevin has significant experience of rugby coaching in an international setting in North America and with the Greek national squad. The standards of training are noticeably increased and this is reflected by an increase in the popularity of the training sessions. We have great expectations that the First XV will be a formidable side and will be serious challengers for promotion again this year. We also hope that these improvements will attract new players or those who might want to train with our squad for fitness training. We have a better thought out development programme for all coaches, support those who seek to improve their levels of qualification and we are always seeking new coaches who love the game and wish to give something back this way.

You may have the feeling that the club is in the news more often these days – and it is! We are putting time and effort to raise the visibility of the club through the local press and by attending local events. Again, if you can help us in any way to get us better known in the area then please let us know how. Even better if you can contribute time to organising something.

The club relies on a number of sources of income to survive and to grow. One source is sponsorship from local companies which comes in a variety of forms. We have a schedule of sponsorship opportunities for the club this year and there are always opportunities ready for the right backer. If you have or know of any organisation that might be interested to sponsor the club in any way please contact me. We are in negotiation and consultation with a number of parties regarding certain improvements to the facilities here at The Heath. The main priorities are provision of additional changing room facilities and improvement of floodlighting for evening training. We will keep you informed with significant developments via the Website.

Finally, with increased effort and activity comes the necessity to make an increase to the club membership fees this year. The change is minimal but may be significant to many. The fees are listed below. In case of hardship or the need to make alternative arrangements for payment please talk to Bev Boardman or me and we will be happy to make arrangements that work.

Senior Member (Match Fees apply)	£55.00
Student Member (Match Fees apply)	£35.00
Junior Member	£35.00
Supporter Member	£15.00
Vice President's Club Member	£15.00

I certainly hope that you will still consider the membership fees good value for money and I am determined that everyone will see and feel significant benefits in the form of improvements across the club. If you do not consider that you are getting value for money then please come and speak to me personally or contact me by email.

For more information please contact:

Jonathan Downes, Coaching Coordinator Royston RUFC Email jonathan.downes@ntlworld.com Phone 01763 231914
Alistair Clare, Youth Coordinator Royston RUFC Email alistairclare@btconnect.com Phone 07909 685030
Neil Burton, Mini Coordinator Royston RUFC Email NeilB@royston-mini-rugby.co.uk Phone 01763 230042