

The SNOOT!

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Features

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Thanks for all your gossip and thoughts.....keep them coming in!

Our correspondents are everywhere....

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS.....www.drhc.co.uk.....thanks Nicky

Rambler at the Commonwealth Games!

One time Beaver, Badger and Keeper for the Men's 1st XI James 'FAZ' Fair has been selected as England keeper for the Melbourne Commonwealth Games. The holder of 6 England Caps, his performance on the recent England tour to South Africa clinched his place. Some years ago he set his heart and mind on Commonwealth Games and Olympic selection and his dedicated commitment has brought results. Club members may occasionally see James training on his own and your correspondent has seen him at the end of one hard session, on his hands and knees with exhaustion. That's the route to the top and a splendid example for our young members with international aspirations. Well done and good luck

Dinner Dance 2005.... the bits we remember...

A great night was had by all and everybody looked fab. The booze as flowing and towards the end of the evening some (well OK a lot of) dodgy dancing was observed along with a possible romance blooming in the pig sty!! Big thanks must go to Dilys and Anne for organising such a fantastic night.

Ladies 3rd XI triumph in Cup!

Faz!

The Ladies 3rd XI won the Cheshire Cup for Ladies 3rd and 4th teams with a fantastic win against giants of the NorthWest, Bowdon Hightown. Three goals down at half time, with the game seemingly beyond them, they stormed back in the second half to win 4-3, with a brace of goals for Vicky Howell and Linsay Cochraine. Bowdon Hightown were stunned and our ladies who play in a tough league, proved themselves the best 3rd XI in the North-West. Captain Ruth Fearnall collected the trophy to wide applause from an appreciative crowd. A big thanks to Amy Brickland and Ruth Wheeler who stepped in at the last minute to play after the team found themselves a player down. Joint players of the match were Amy and Vicky

The future looks bright!

It was a proud day for the Club on Sunday 22nd January when Cheshire U13s played Lancashire U13s at Tiverton. For the first time in years Cheshire won, and won convincingly by a margin of 5-0.

At one time or another the Club had seven of its Badgers/Beavers on the pitch in Cheshire colours. They were Lewis Ankers (keeper), Josh Guy, Martyn Lear, Jonny Verity, George Fearnall and brothers Harry and Ed Peel. The future looks bright!

Delboy let loose....

"Never in the field of hockey has so much been owed by so many to so few" - or a phrase very similar can only have been made in reference to the few dedicated club members who have, are and continue to ensure the future of our most enviable and thriving Hockey club. The key to this success is the strength and depth within the club brought about by the youth development policy. Without those who tirelessly drag themselves to Tiverton weekly now on cold Sunday mornings and many other days to harness the un-bounding enthusiasm of our junior members, we would find ourselves joining those clubs we pity in the annual struggle to find new talent.

Junior hockey was the brain-child of Phil Ravenscroft, David Evans and John Heath who in the 1980s encouraged players to bring their children along for a knock around on a Sunday morning. Their idea soon developed into an institution with children from outside the club coming along too. Their legacy passed to Richard Fair whose decade of dedication latterly joined by Linda Johnson continued and expanded on the founder members success. Often up to 130 children would be seen packed into the Asto on a crisp Sunday morning. Colin Bona took up the reins for the new millennium applying his renowned business acumen to the problems of managing the enthusiastic hoards. The simple solution - under 11s one week, over 11s/under13s the next! Bribery and Colin's Liverpool tact ensure sufficient coaches for each session. He and his predecessors have been ably assisted by many such as Peter Langley, Kelly Hill and Colin Mumme-Young, (the latter two of whom could almost field a National league side of their own with their talented offspring).

More recently Penny Brown has taken on the unenviable but essential task of administering the details of all club members under the age of 18 years and junior hockey's adherence to the increasingly strict legal requirements relating to the care of children - (anyone know a good lawyer!).

The current coaching champions are Nigel Mullis, Nick Furnell, Trish "that married a yank and came back"* , Emma and Naomi as well as all those players and parents who regularly give up their time to assist in youth training. They assist from the juniors to the badgers (John Heath) and beavers up to the under 21s. It is thanks to these few and their forerunners that we are reaping the rewards on the pitch and the awards off it.

As a result the last few years has seen the Men's 1st team's average age plummet. Although this statistic wasn't helped by the likes of key veteran Mike Cope who finally hung up his first team shirt in 2004 just shy of his silver anniversary. Pre-season and post season friendlies regularly see sides fielding only 2-3 players over the age of 20. With the exception of DC and yours truly (hopefully - 'if selected') it seems our days in the 1s are now numbered once we've hit 30.

With super stars representing England/Cheshire/North West in their spare time such as Will Mumme-Young, James Wilson, James Spencer and Kieran Harris. We're a youth force to be reckoned with as our recent results reflect.

With the likes of Phil Johnson, snapping at their heels and Tom May, Charlie Henry, Matt Mellor, Will Whitaker, Ben Lamont and Stuart Mackintyre waiting in the wings to bolster the 1s and 2s over the next few years the future is bright.

This season saw 4 players leave the 1s to pursue higher education, at least that's what they tell us they're up to at university, but seeing the bags under the eyes of Steven Hill recently (when we including our youngsters stuffed Newcastle

5-1) there seems to be a significant element of invaluable "lower education" going on as well. Depleting as the loss may have seemed, the current youngsters James Wilson, James Spencer, Kieran Harris and Stuart Roberts (Mentally a similar age at least!) quickly stepped up to the mark and are revelling in their new responsibilities and the cudos of playing 1st team hockey which they thoroughly deserve. Once a Rambler always a Rambler. Such is the lure of our great club (particularly for those that have played elsewhere) that in time and life choices permitting, those other ex-junior members who have gone on to greater things (including James Tweddle, Titch Mumme-Young, Jimmy Hill and James Fair to represent their country) will return as the backbone of future teams to ease the passage of the next generation of not only superstars but players at every level. The current 1s skipper Graham Alwood is an excellent example of a product of the club. Rising through the junior ranks to reach the pinnacle at only 21 can only be matched by the likes of Will Carling and Johnny Wilkinson. He has done wonders over his 3 years in charge with the assistance of player-coach Matty Allen and DC to move us nearer and nearer to promotion. This year we are regrouping and setting down the foundations for next year's push to achieve our goal.

There is however a downside to the youth policy which is seeing the demise of some of the more traditional elements expected of a Ramblers team. The trademark tweed jackets/cardigans, corduroy trousers/moleskins and brogues/highly polished Chelsea boots sported most successfully by the consummate country gent and our Chairman Steve Cheshire have been replaced (in the main) by hooded tops, baggy jeans and footwear for all terrain. Gone is the penchant for some of the more cultured refinements of Cheshire life such as a night the theatre or opera, having been usurped by 'artists' such as "Son of Dork", "Notorious B.I.G." and "Goldie Lookin' Chain" who ever they may be! Even the vernacular has been sexed up from "super game of hockey chaps" to "booyakasha", "boss game" or "well good" which, according to Kieran Harris, basically all mean the same thing.

The upside to progress generally is the ease with which we are informed of selection and match times. Gone are the carrier pigeon and runner systems of old to be replaced by text messaging, e-mail and web site access.

It seems then that evolution is a way of life as is our fine club and to embrace them both requires an understanding of Deeside Ramblers' timeless core principles established in 1946 which are the same today and will remain so for ever so ensuring our future success: -

Commitment to the club by all, to all at all levels enables us to be and continue to be the envy of clubs nation and worldwide!

I rest my case....
Del Boy.

* Colin Bona's attempt at remembering Trish's surname - an example of 'Liverpool tact'!



Yet again Del-boy makes sense of 1st team tactics...

*Is that
Gooders....h
e's got nice
legs....why
haven't I seen
them before?*

*Bex
Clarke*

*Beware.....
ears are
everywhere...
even when
you are on the
pitch!
Keep the
quotes coming
in.*

What goes on tour.....Some tales from the Vets

The attempt by Harvey & Stammers to break the world record crossing from Gibraltar to North Africa by night, Well this feat is supposed to be a none powered event in a rowing boat, These two Herbert's took the challenge literally, Selecting one boat each for their adventure to North Africa, PISSED. These boats are over 14 feet long, weighing about ½ of a ton a piece, and sits in the sand over a 100 yards from the waters edge, no oar's, no sense, no torch, how they ever thought to find North Africa in the dark, Lord knows. There they lay becalmed on the beach, Until some time later they were rescued by a Spanish waiter in the same state, kindred spirits, on his hands and knees crawling home to his flat in Madrid. The remainder of the story I am afraid as the title says, What happens on tour.....Stays on tour. Unfortunately for our two intrepid adventurers the Snout has paid handsomely for the whole story, Watch this space. (ANON....chicken!)

CAPPERS IN COCKERMOUTH.....When the Men's veteran's were drawn to play Cockermonth Vets, away in Cumbria in October, half the side decided to travel up the night before. After a few social beers in the town on Saturday night they were meandering back to their quarters when Phil Brown noticed a brawl going on in an allyway – one man on the ground receiving a good going over. Rhino, the “enforcer” invited the assailant to cut it out. Whereupon the assailant, built like a brick outbuilding and being 6’5” tall charged at our gallant little group of peacemakers. Colin “don't mess with me mate” Bona, utilising his Territorial army unarmed combat skills, dropped him with one blow. The rest of the squad sat on the brute to ensure no further trouble, when the original victim got up off the floor and said “You can't do that...he's my brother”. Bouncers at a nearby club, having seen the incident and to ensure no further trouble, invited our peacemakers into the club for sanctuary. Oh and by the way.....Cockermonth were beaten 3-0!



Pig in Agony.....Auntie Piglet has gone skiing...back soon...

‘ELLO ‘ELLO ‘ELLO.....WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UPTO?

In early December the Mens 1st XI had a superb 3-2 win at Doncaster. They overcame a tough team, coming from behind, and with only 10 men. Why 10 men? Gwynny failed to appear. Some over exuberant activity the night before had brought him to the attention of the Merseyside Constabulary. When, the following morning he couldn't remember his name, he was kept in a small, secure room and was still there when the final whistle blew. When DC was asked where the absent player was he replied “he's in the Nick”....beat that!!!
If you have heard a better excuse let us

know.....we can't have Gwynny having all the fun!

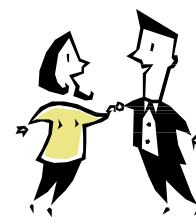
Television viewers watching BBC's ‘Traffic Cops’ on the 12th Jan 2006 would have seen the Mens 5th XI midfield dynamo Mark Jones acting as co-pilot in a Cheshire Police car chasing 2 stolen motor-bikes. Mark is known in the team as “Constable”, to distinguish him from another Mark Jones in the team, known as “Sergeant”. Did he catch his man? Just like his performance on the pitch.

Any problems...place in the envelope in the clubhouse or email thesnout@hotmail.co.uk and Auntie will sort you out!

Sad farewells.....

O.R “ROCYN” JONES. One of the founder members of the club, Rocyn, a Welsh international inside forward died shortly before Christmas. He had a prodigious talent with the stick, using one of those quaint ‘L’ shaped sticks. Your correspondent witnessed him win a wager by flicking a ball the full length of the grass pitch where the current All weather pitch is situated – not a scoop, not an aerial; all along the deck.

ROBERT “Show me a barn door and I will run through it” KIRBY. Bob, a stalwart 3rd XI player in the late 60's and ex-paratrooper, died in December. He was a fearless centre forward. With no great guile but a good eye and ruthless energy, those assets gave him a tally of 36 goals one season. We could do with him now!!



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The Publication formerly
known as 'THE PIGLET'

Operation Pigsty

Deeside recognised at Award Ceremony

At the Town Hall, Chester on the 16th Jan 2006 the Club Chairman Stephen Cheshire and Club Youth Development Co-ordinator Colin Bona were presented with the Chester City Development award in recognition of the Clubs commitment to youth development. Two junior Club members also received awards, Jemima Cope (Capt of the North U16s) and Catherine Verity, a Beavers stalwart showed another side of her sporting talents, that of sailing.

The Club was also nominated by Chester City Council for the BBC sponsored Sport Cheshire Awards. Additionally David Linton was nominated for Volunteer of the year and William Mumme-Young as Young Achiever of the Year. Whilst none of the recommendations achieved the Cheshire Award it shows in what great esteem the club is held by Chester City Council.

Left picture of Steve and Colin collecting the Award.

The Snout Needs YOU!!

The Snout has recently entered into the new technological era. We are now online! We need more stories, comments, reports, quotes....we accept anything....big or small! We are not fussy.....you may have seen us in the bar!

Contact us at thesnout@hotmail.co.uk

Or if you are antiquated like Simon Anderson use the envelope on the noticeboard in the clubhouse. If you want to put an advert into the Snout donate generously to the fundraising and you will have your wish!

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