



# The Ram's Review

SHIPSTON RFC: DELIVERING FINE SPORTING  
PEDIGREE SINCE 1963.

Newsletter Date:  
27<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Inside this issue:

Six Nations Speshul	2
Six Nations Speshul	3
Wobbles Tower & Rugby Facts	4
Women's Rugby & Clive's Clichés	5
Sevens coming!	6

## Return of the Bo\*\*ocks.

"Nothing is ever new. It's the same old Bo\*\*ocks rehashed". That is how our august President Roger Hawkins greeted the great news that the Rams Review was making a come back after years prowling in the wilderness. As you can see the old guard is thrilled that the review is making a come back. The newer faces out there fear not. The Review stands for fearless reporting even when things such as the

truth get in the way. It will be here to guide you through your rugby experience from fresh faced Colt to cantankerous veteran who knows it all. It will titillate and even make attempts to inform on slow news days. This edition we have our Six Nations Speshul, 1st team round and other page filling entertainment. As this is the first edition of the new review there are plans afoot to make it even better next time

around. I know, I know that will be hard but we like a challenge here. The plan is to make it Bimonthly from the beginning of next season to bring you even more guff. New columns and article ideas up for inclusion next issue are dear Deidre, letters page and old boys, old stories. Thanks to all our current contributors

So is with great pleasure I preset to you the new review rehashed and rebolloxed.

## Club Updates

### Warmington cooling?

- Edward Graham Charles Warmington is currently out of retirement. Watch this space to keep track of his capricious tendencies. Should he retire? Answers on a post card to: Edwards brain - location unknown.
- Shipston RFC are currently applying for entry in to the new sport 'underwater rugby'; apparently our pitch meets the specifications but we have not received the appropriate swimming lesson yet
- Happy hour has now been extended to happy two hours courtesy of John 'happy two hours' Faulkner.
- An interesting new breed of potholing is now available thanks to the new complex of gravel chasms that have appeared at the end of Mayo Road. The new sport is known as car potholing; all you need is a car and the will to reach SoS RFC.

## Rogers Ramblings; fresh from the lush pastures of our Presidents mind.

My first ramble must be of my great sadness when I heard of Trevor Morse's demise. Not all of you would have known him but he was a good solid citizen in every respect; a prop forward who won player of the year when Alasdair Elliot was captain and he described him as "a reliable honest hardworking player." It was he who finally got me to start using a computer regularly with Stodge - it aint difficult!" South Warwickshire will be a poorer place without the countryman that he was. On behalf of the club I extend our deepest sympathy to Caroline Morse and Trevor's family .

On a lighter note I was very pleased Will Dyche has taken on

the SRUFC newsletter (see article above); anything to improve communication has to be a good thing. It was done in the early seventies and was known as the Rams Review, still I don't suppose many will remember that . At the moment I am attempting to rejig the 2nd and 3rd team pitches. With a bit of juggling we will have room for a 4th pitch and a training ground above, and to right, of the clubhouse

Our thanks go to Simon Bosley who has increased the area of land which we lease to include the little triangular field located the other side of the hedge, top left hand side of the ground. We are not sure what we are going to do with it - any ideas.? We also

now lease the old railway line from the last house on the left of Mayo Rd to the gateway which will be cleared of thorns eventually! Could barely get into the club on Saturday; three teams at home and plenty of spectators; couldn't get into the ground on Sunday, minis everywhere thanks to Freesty organising a tournament - just brilliant If you didn't get to the sporting dinner you missed an excellent evening. Thanks to Spen and Les for all there hard work. Clive 'the minstrel' Brooks wouldn't forgive me if I did not mentioned the excellent tour of Ramsgate. Not sufficient to organise one he is organising another to Whitby in late April. Give him your



### Six nation Speshul

**'Six nations, five countries (& one principality), four play, three wins for England, two-way aerial ping-pong and one 'Grand', grand slam winner!'**



**The RBS Six Nations Trophy. (RBS is an acronym of the Robbing Bankers Society, don't you know)**

Another year and another six nations has come to pass. It has been a bit of a rollercoaster with some good rugby, some incredibly bad rugby. Brian O'Driscoll not content with being man of the tournament is also angling to known as the sage of the tournament with his unique insight that we explain in the article below. We also have the a take on how to tackle England's bane; their indiscipline in the promotion of the new rugby law degree.

The fact remains though should we try and stop England in their

brave pioneering of the new 14 man game?

Old bastard such as Brian Moore are always carping on about the good old days and the lamentable discipline in current England team. This is all smoke and mirrors' and hot air as far as I'm concerned. It disguises the fact Danny Care et al are true visionaries or the progressive of the game. England are foremost in the pioneering of the 14 man game claiming that it is more pacy and exciting than the existing format.

People are in haste to blame all England's ails on indiscipline but it was another noble rule breaker that gave us the great game of rugby union. He was a certain Mr Webb-Ellis who blew away convention as he picked up the ball and ran. Danny Care et al we salute you

Are we on the cusp of a brave new game? I think so.

### Quote of the Six Nations

**Quote of the Six Nations, like the title, went to the Irish with Brian O'Driscoll keen to lay claim to all accolades going.**

*knowing not to put it in a fruit salad."*

The above chestnut –or should that be tomato – of philosophy come courtesy of Irish Legend Brian O'Driscoll. There has been various interpretations about what his salad based metaphor is based upon, most of which is mere conjecture by febrile cretins.

Here at the review we are deep thinkers often pondering over the meaning of life; can a pea roll faster than a Polo, is Smurfing morally acceptable and has anyone used a Biro until it's actually run out. After warming up on such cerebral matter we turned our cannon to O'Driscoll's poser. After much deliberation and in an attempt to kick this debate out of the kitchen before too many cooks spoil the brew - here is the phrase rendered translucent.

We have concluded it means: An Irishman without any Guinness is knowledgeable; an Irishman with a belly full of Guinness is full of wisdom and will bore you senseless at the bar with this for approximately two hours until he either falls of the bar stool, knocking himself unconscious, or actually consumes so much alcohol that the elongated syllables pouring out of his mouth no longer can claim to be coherent and you have to conclude that his cognitive abilities are some what impaired.

We took a trip to the local Irish bar the 'Builder's Craic' to test our theory and lo we found it to be true. Here is a transcript of one sage's pearls of wisdom:

"I'm Irish I'm Irish I'm Oirish. But I'm from the modern, sophisticated Oirland. So no more talking of potatoes here. Tomatoes, now they're the future, they're fruit apparently. Let me tell you about tomatoes..

Any fool of a Munster man can spot a tomato, but only an intelligent Dubliner like myself knows what a fruit salad is.....[sadly this is the point when are sage became separated from his bar stool, otherwise who knows what we might of learned]"

Other pundit's guess at the meaning range from it being code for O' Driscoll's coming out to his view on why Martin Johnson has had about as much success as a eunuch trying for a family in his management of England.

Any answers that claim to be better than ours can be sent to the editor for appraisal; it could get into the next edition.



*"Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad."*

*Brian Oh Driscoll*

## Laying down the Law; Johnson's Laws.

Martin Johnson has laid down the law and stated that that all players who wish to get into the team in the future must have a law degree and current player will be able to take up a one year law degree to help them come to terms with the notion of laws and the consequences of breaking them.

"We'll teach the bastards" claimed Martin Johnson.

When questioned that this might not be the most

convenient way to address England's woeful discipline Johnson replied

"it's the best way, it's the only way. The game is now so complicated that only someone holding a law degree will be able to navigate its intricacies. When players, our players, are up to speed they will be able to avoid punishment and rattle of the legal jargon to show the referee the error of his judgement. If we can quote the rules to the referee such as rule 3 sub paragraph three explains

that I am perfectly within my right to rip the ball at that instance he will have to listen. In my day we just complained about him being unfair but times change and in this professional environment we need to know the rules inside out."

Commentators from some sides of the media have just suggested that they should all just stop acting like chumps and get on with winning some games before we slide below Timbuktu in the world



**Do you have your Rugby law degree yet?**

## The Ram's Guest section with Loose Pass. rounds up the 6 nations courtesy of PlanetRugby.com

\* The death of the rolling maul has emasculated

\* Wily old-timers appear to come good in Lions years. See Chris Paterson, Mark Cueto, Joe Worsley, Gethin Jenkins and

\* The ELV that spawned aerial ping-pong is a godsend (literary from the heavens) for Ireland's former Gaelic footballers. Watch now as the Wallabies raid the

\* The rest periods permitted by the deal between the clubs and the RFU bore fruit on the field. Witness Riki Flutey's mugging of Sébastien Chabal and Julien Malzieu being left for dead by

\* Italy must consider restructuring its domestic game - the gulf between their overseas-based stars and what is being produced locally is worrying in

\* Mauro Bergamasco, for all his

\* It's still not a good idea to get on the wrong side of Martin

\* There's more to Danny Cipriani's exclusion from the

\* Jerry Guscott's drinks rounds are getting cheaper and cheaper.

His public verdict on Nick

\* For a man who has coached

two of them, Warren Gatland's grip on the historical intricacies of the Home Union rivals is rubbish. As the Stereophonics remind us, it's the dastardly English who are perennially in

\* Rugby is turning into soccer - 'axing' and 'calls to go' headlines abound. Actually, it's probably worse: Marc Lièvremont has been in charge of France for 15 games, Italy's Nick Mallett has also been in charge for 15, England's Martin Johnson for nine. Felipe Scolari was granted a full 36 games before his

\* Sergio Parisse doesn't have any British or Irish grandparents.



Enjoying the Craic...



## Wobbles Column: Our man in the know gives the run down on the first team's season.



*“Tom Rance played with intelligence and maturity, when he wasn't fighting crime”*

Does this mean he doesn't use intelligence and maturity in the Police force?

### Motivational Quote Corner

*"No leadership, no ideas. Not even enough imagination to thump someone in the line-up when the ref wasn't looking."*

*J.P.R. Williams' nugget on how to lose and still piss off your opponents*

It's difficult to know where to start. It is probably appropriate to mention at this early stage that the win rate hasn't matched that of last season and in this short article the reason for this will

It is important to go way back to July 2008 when pre-season training began. The numbers attending were good and the enthusiasm seemed to be there and spirits were high. Everyone felt we were 'going places'. Perhaps this optimism wasn't sufficiently backed up, there were new personnel and players leaving for pastures new to ply their trade in university rugby, so lets pick the story up at the start of the season and the Harbury

Things looked good as Shippo lost a close run final and particular mention should go to Rich 'Rhino' Glover who put in a dazzling display to signify his

Other new additions to the Shipston line up included Tom Corby and Tobias Jones who both made the step up from Colts rugby and performed consistently

A pre-season trip to Camberley produced a loss and didn't really provide a reliable indicator on Shippo's form going into the league season. Also, in the same game, man mountain and captain Alex Ray received a red card for

season. Rumours around the club made the team think great things were expected of them and possible promotion hopes a reality. So with the weight of expectation on their chiselled shoulders the first team played Woodrush at home and won. Cheers erupted around the club and the team hailed as one that could go far. Everyone had forgotten the EDF cup exit the

The party atmosphere didn't last long however. Defeats to Dunlop, Bedworth, Pershore, Upton-on-Severn, Worcester and Ledbury left Shippo languishing in a dismal league position. The jam had gone from the donut and was replaced by the taste of

However, it is important to mention now the home victory against Ledbury. Spirits were pretty low. It appeared that Shipston had nothing to lose but everything to prove. The Rams produced a performance worthy of champions. This game signified the emergence of powerhouse prop Rob Wilson who showed unrivalled strength in the scrum. This was made possible by the help of his front row colleagues Matt 'tubby' Corby and Tom 'Senor' Beelez. The second row of Ash 'Ben' Bonner and Guy 'the bionic man' Loveridge provided the push necessary and they were assisted

by the back row of Alex Ray, James 'under the thumb' Plumb and Andy 'Jason Statham' Hunt. Mention should also go to Adam 'roll back the years' Renardson who provided solidity in a

Now it is important to mention the backs and the shining lights throughout the season. Toby Jones was a welcome addition at scrum half, Will Davies was cool headed at fly half, Tom Corby awesome at centre. Rich Wilson was awesome where ever he played and we all hope he gets the England call up one day that he truly deserves. Tom Rance played with intelligence and maturity when he wasn't fighting crime and Ed 'it's what I do' Warmington scored many good tries. Dave Graham provided wisdom, Phil Hall pace and Liam

Rounding things up and a couple more players need mentioning. Will Dyche came in and played admirably at flanker when needed, Sav Savage came back strongly after breaking his hand and hooker Sam Green proved at revelation in the tackle and from the penalty kick. Apologies if I have missed anyone out, lets hope Shipston can continue to build and let me say it's been an honour to be part of a potentially great team.  
SHIIIIIIIPPPPPPOOOOO!

### Rugby Facts: Comment is just people talking crap; facts are always right otherwise, technically, they're lies.

- A 'try' is so called because originally the act of touching the ball down over the opposition's line then enabled the team to try kicking at goal (later called a conversion).
- The first two international players to be sent off were both New Zealanders (Cyril Brownlie and Colin Meads). Surprise, surprise.
- Twickenham was the scene of the first ever streeker at a major sporting event, when Michael O'Brien ran across the pitch in 1974.
- The Rugby World Cup trophy was made in 1906 but had no association with rugby football until it was awarded at the end of the first Rugby World Cup tournament in 1987

## Man Up!

In case no-one noticed, rugby has gone pro. The 'Modern Game', is getting pretty far away from the traditional approach still enjoyed by the unpaid masses in the mud most weekends. Protein supplements, Hilton hotels, players unions, diet plans, drug busts, even gym sessions – professionalism has all the problems and the money to go with it that the amateurs do not. Apparently the missing link is the modern, amateur, low-profile female sport. The woman's game has a Six Nations and a World Cup, each mirroring the high profile man-version. However, these competitions remain blissfully amateur.

So lets consider the details of women's rugby. While at first glance it seems to combine the high glamour of international tournaments with the relaxed 'camaraderie' of amateur contact sport I can only fear it will not live up to this mighty billing. It is played by women after all.

### Clive's Clichés

A few you of you dear readers may be lucky enough to receive regular missives from the great Clive 'Old Scab' Brooks. There have been critiques from certain quarters that it can often verge on the unintelligible with liberties in grammar and syntax being taken left, right and indeed centre. Sadly the Ram lacks 'editorial space' to bring you all Clive's offering so we've decided to create a written mash-up of all Clive's perambulations on the fourth teams adventures this season using the wonders of cut and paste. Does it make more sense than the original? You decide.

Rob 'Arctic' Fox did managed smoothly across the thick pack ice. With the weather easing, the decision was made to switch to Tewkesbury. Sunshine skies of the Kent Coastal Region breezed to cope with the unmapped narrow roads. For a few brief moments the whole party scuffed the chorus of John B.Sails and some caribou hides.

Contracted driver, John Hart (torn in places and one with horns still attached) and changing weather conditions pulled hard as far as Woodstock. The travellers justly proud of their efforts in earning the full Guy 'Grizzly' Loveridge feeding. Chief seal tracker, along with the driver and

So - why do they play? Surely no woman would ever admit rugby is a good recreational activity to blow off steam, bash people and escape from the missus would they? In my opinion the very idea of a team is anathema to womankind. When they associate with their girl-friends it often appears it is to trade compliments and build confidence by insulting (read 'gossiping') absent girl-friends. To men, rugby is a game played for fun as a group with your mates. For women – it looks like competitiveness gone mad.

Therefore - how hard a sport must rugby be for women? Before you bite my head off about women bearing children and being bigger and stronger than Peter Stringer, that's not what I mean; if children can take it, why not women. No. It's hard because of hormones. Out of the forty four women potentially taking to the pitch an average of four will have a time of the month imbalance marking them

the helpless Saracens had the final word. Solid ball with Andy Powell dealt with his first few cases of frostbite 'finger cases,' caused by the extremely small disagreements. Chains being swirled emerged into the nearest large building: the White Hart Station. Unless a repeat of the confidently announced two wheelers and even Four Stroke positively brandished, parkas. Underneath his substantial Anorak Chris 'Big Pistons' Baker discovered billy cans, Kendal mint cake, axes, harpoon guns. A prolonged spell of unarmed combat over, panniers proved too much, especially for the Vespa of Clive Brooks. Whispering broke

as particularly dangerous. The other forty will just be pissed off. Probably because Jane playing at scrumhalf didn't look at me when she said hello this morning, or because they think they might have wobbly arms like Emma the hooker, (and from what I heard about her she might well be taking after her position) or because they're just having a fat day and feel ugly. You get the feeling hair pulling is only the start of it.

Basically – a women's rugby pitch is a dangerous place to be. Not for any serious reason either. Rather because it's all so decidedly and gloriously amateur. So congratulations ladies! A fourth straight Six Nations. The only problem is that if they have too much success they might get even more competitive and emulate professionals. I'm not sure our West Country town centres can take fighting, drink-driving,



*“Out of the forty four women potentially taking to the pitch an average of four will have a time of the month imbalance marking them as particularly dangerous.”*

The Beast from the East takes us through the dangers of women's rugby in the professional era.



### Club tour is off to Whitby this year.

The theme is whaling/pirates— basically anything vaguely nautical.

Date: 24-26 April

Price: £80

Contact: Andy Hunt or Clive Brooks

7777777

# Shipston-on-Stour Annual Sevens Tournament

**Saturday 2nd May 2009**

**Team Registration Starts at 12:30**

**First Match Kicks off at 1:30pm**

**Maximum of 9 players per squad with a min of  
2 Shipston RFC registered members**