



The Ram's Review

SHIPSTON RFC: DELIVERING FINE SPORTING PEDIGREE SINCE 1963. Newsletter Date: 11/09/09
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Club Updates

- **Missing:** One Shipston rugby player. Answers to the name of Wobbles. Last seen in the it's natural habitat of the Kaz Bar, but believed to have fled the country. Do not approach if found as is likely to offend. If found please return to club.
- **Dean Richards** of 'bloodgate' fame: Leicester player, England Lions player and of course Shipston Rugby Club opener and now.....? We here at the Review wish him every success in his future career what ever it shall be. I hear there is a new image of the game committee starting up. Maybe they could put him on that.
- **Club shop is open.** Everything you need in one place—card machine available. See Andy 'Del boy' hunt on match days.

Brave New World

The Swallows have migrated back to warmer climes; the first chill of winter air starts to turn the leaves; the hectic harvest has been and gone. Autumn is beginning to bite as the nights draw in. Traditionally, a time when life slows down. That though was why rugby was invented. To bring a touch of panache to another wise dreary time of year. This year more so than ever before with a fresh new chairmen, captain and

coach.

In this, the second issue, we've tried to serve up a little news from over the summer months along with a few helpful features that will hopefully help you navigate the changes to the new ELVs and some advice on insurance packages that are available for rugby players.

There is currently a position open for first team match reporter. Anyone that can turn

their hand to a bit of writing here and there and who regularly watches the games is urged to come forward. Lets try and make sure that we can get a match report into the papers every week this year.

If there is anyone else who also wants to contribute anything to the review—comment, ideas, jokes, photos— please let me know.

Let the season begin.

Rogers Ramblings; harvested from our President's mind.

So brave new world eh! A new season; new chairman; new club captain; new secretary; new treasurer; new junior/minis secretary; new coach; plus some new faces ready, willing and able; already bringing in new sponsors for the first team strip. The club has ordered warm up and warm down suits, match balls and even balls which bounce in the wrong direction. We never had those in my day; we never had a fitness coach (or indeed fitness). The new website is up and running thanks to Andy Hunt. Even the agendas for committee meetings have altered for the new look 12 men and 2 ladies committee, with four computers contriving to make an extremely well organised and efficient meeting. I do however

miss Richard Slatters uncompromising approach and he will be missed having done many years sterling service.

Some things though never change at the committee meeting: Clive's rants, his grubby bits of paper, the presidents incoherent and rambling discussions on shirts, keys etc. Still thanks to the new efficiency it had finished by 9:40 which gave myself Mash, Maxi Lesley and John Rhodes - yes he's back on the committee, how I have missed his brooding presence - a chance for a couple of beers at Baggy's Horseshoe; apparently the spiritual home of SRUFC now. The pitches looks in great shape, Faulkys beer is passable all said and done best of luck to everybody in their new roles.

Apparently the silver ware is already rolling in with tug of war wins at Brailes and Whichford. Congratulations to Gez and his team for winning the Paddy Padbury Shield.

I've been wondering, re minis and juniors, whether we should have a club cup for say most successful team or best turned out or tried hardest just a thought let me know. Also don't forget prawns 'n' pirates tour to Whitby and the Sundowner ball. PS Turn the bloody lights off when you leave the club!!!!

Kind Salutations

President Roger Hawkins



In the News.

The latest round up of all things you need to know - ever.

Bulging biceps and bellies. Vets win.....err tug of war at Brailes Show.



The veterans thirst for world domination has spilled out of their traditional rugby field and into the new sport of tug-of-war. The vets plumbed for this sport as the next logical step in attaining their place in the pantheon of sporting heroes who are able to excel at more than one sport. The sport also is one of the few where an expanding waistline can also increase your winning ability.

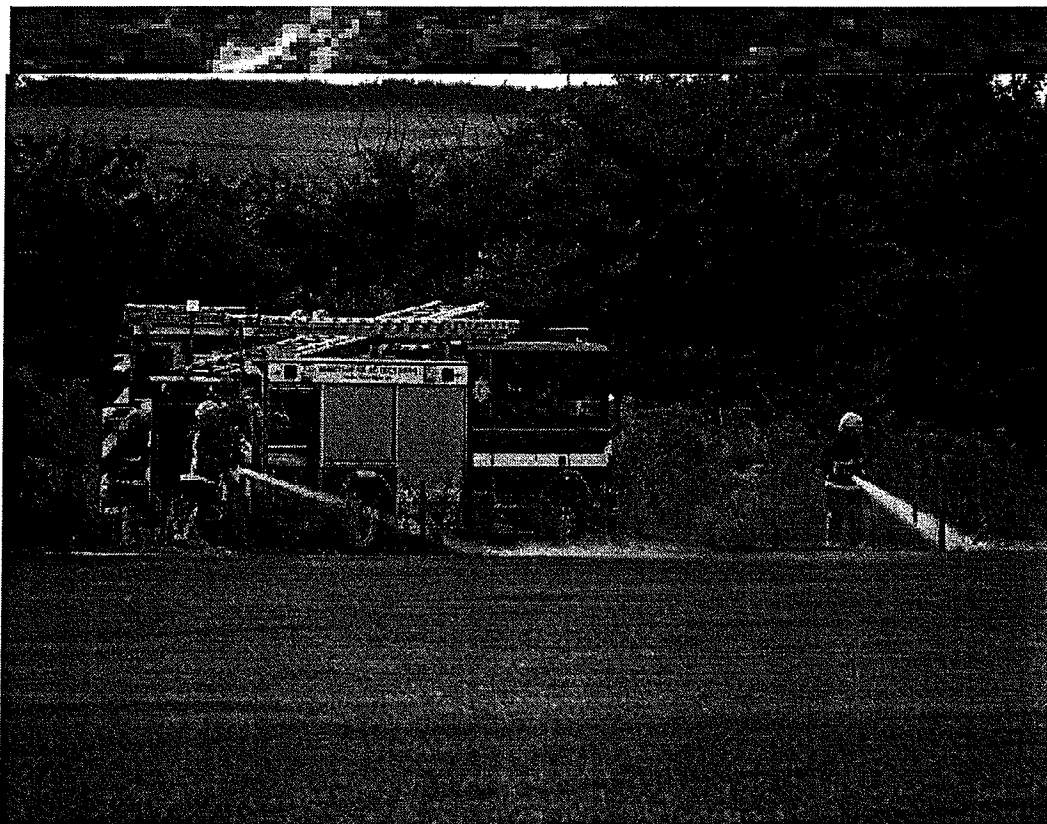
They came up against the Epwell pie eaters who use their

famous pie eating skills to deadly effect on the tug-of-war field. They faced the Epwellians in the final who are, as Mash will tell anyone who cares to listen, semi-professional. Turning up with hob nail boots and a warm up pie to aid their pull. Undaunted the Vets took on these giants of the South Warks tug-of-war scene and came out victorious. Truly men of men. Worryingly their gained trophy now takes pride of place as the largest trophy in the cabinet.

Take the strain..... The vets show of their pulling prowess making it onto the *front* page of the Stratford Herald none the less.

Shipston wingers so hot they set the ground on fire!

Review Reporter: Andy Hunt 28/06/09



Just before the start of the AGM.....

So is this the proof at last? Many at Shipston have long believed that our Wingers can literally cause the raw earth itself to burst into flame as they speed on past....

Or is it proof (no matter what the weather is like now) that back in May it actually was hot and that we were looking forward to a good summer this year!

Or perhaps (and this is probably the most likely situation) some reprobate kids actually set fire to one of our pitches!

Whatever the cause of the blaze, we just wish we'd turned up earlier with the camera... We'd have loved to show you the valiant efforts of Spenny and Roger Hawkins to put out the flames before professionals turned up

Match report: Harbury Tournament

New season; new success.

Harbury tournament
29/08/09

Shipston turned out some impressive performances to clinch top spot at the Harbury tournament. The new coach and fitness regime appeared to be paying dividends for Shipston as the level of fitness,...

The tournament format was ten minutes each way with the full compliment of fifteen men.

In rugby the old dictum of 'the first hit counts' is a great truism of the game. Shipston opened their account with a brilliant style of rugby that raised the tempo to a level that could not be matched by their opponents. Straight from the kick off Shipston shined with the greater desire playing the ball classically, sweeping it down the line of the backs one way and then back across the park to score in the corner. After this initial blitz on the opposition Shipston rested slightly on their laurels and allowed their opposition to begin making the play. This first score of the game remained the only difference between the two teams. Shipston's new winger Cohen was having an excellent

debut game showing plenty of gas on the wing. Unfortunately due to a slightly dubious tackle Cohen's game was cut short necessitating a visit to hospital, later confirmed as a fractured collarbone. Shipston then suffered some disciplinary issues, as their Captain was sin binned. Shipston steeled themselves and focused their energies back into the game coming out convincing winners in the end. There then followed a lull of over an hour for Shipston as the combination of the air ambulance and fixtures conspired against them. Shipston fronted up against their old adversaries in the form of Old Leamingtonions. Shipston suffered from some further penalties issued against them for infringements. In the end no team could force the scoreboard in just ten minutes and the game remained scoreless. Shipston next game up against the highly regarded Old Bugly in what promised to be a hotly contested encounter. matched that with the time ticking down it looked destined to end up in another scoreless encounter. The

Shipston scrum had been strong all day with front row Tom Bealey and Andy Hunt, with the newly returned Theo, in dominant form. In a last minute scrum Shipston's tight five, rallied by their new captain Ash Bonner at five, raised their strength for one last effort and pushed the opposition scrum onto the back foot. The pressure forced the ball to spill out the rear of the scrum to be picked up by Will Dyche. Fly half Tom Rance took the ball from the ensuing scrum and calmly stroked the ball over for a drop goal that provided the only difference between the two teams when the final whistle called. Shipston had the home team favourites to face in the last game of the evening. Electing to follow on straight after their previous game against Old Bugly Shipston were already fired up. The fluidity that Shipston had shown in their opening encounter returned. Shipston began to rack up the tries as the Tom Rance's distribution and Tom Corby's running began to pick holes in the Harbury defence. Shipston finished the convincing winners. Things could just get interesting.



Munchkin kicks for goal



The Winning Team

In Rugby.....

The latest news in the game

Rugby at the Olympics



Cornwall take on the Wallabies in the first Olympic final. If you look closely you may be able to spot a young Scab.

Ever dreamed of that gold medal hanging around you neck confirming you at the apex of sporting achievement? The dream just got a bit closer to reality with the 'recommendation' for inclusion of rugby into the Olympics for the first time since 1920.

Rugby had a short but interesting start in the Olympics being contested intermittently from 1900—1920. Rather strangely that well known rugbying nation the good old US of A are the gold medal leaders with two to their name. The predictable Wallabies are there with one gold medal after beating Cornwall in the final. Apparently Cornwall was not actually a nation but represented Great Britain by proxy as the national team was touring New Zealand. Great to see

that there was no fixture clash cock ups back in the old days.

The new format will see the game being played in the sevens style to enable the games to be concluded in good time. The original games never saw more than three teams battle it out for the right to call themselves Olympics champions. Times have changed significantly from those earl games and ideals to the supercharged Olympics that we watch now. The superpower countries vying with each other to top the table is the order of the day. This though is the great hope for the IRB. Inclusion into the Olympics will unlock vast amounts of funding for teams, such as China and other non-traditional rugby countries, to be able to develop their game.

Could this be the start of a new era were rugby moves beyond the countries of the commonwealth to be truly global sport? Only time will tell.

First step before we celebrate rugby's global rise is to get behind the bid and help push it through the final hurdle when the bid goes before the IOC panel in October.

Sign the petition at www.olympic-rugby.org and make it happen.

It's back: The rolling maul returns as well as some Elvs going in the opposite direction

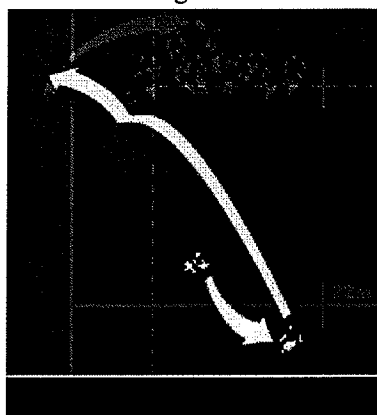


Not since the Elvs fled west from Middle Earth has there been such an exodus of their kind as many of the new ELVs are to be dropped this season. A certain type of rugby fan gets very excited by the rolling maul that had been slain by these ELVs. This type suffered greatly last season where their raison d'être was virtually erased as the new ELVs took hold of the game. This season

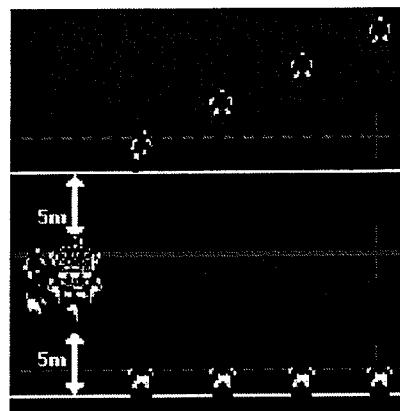
some kind of reason will again prevail. The old knarled players of yesteryear will be pleased to see some kind of order restored and those who's tries tried up last year will rejoice with renewed enthusiasm. as many of law variations will be red carded to history. The two main rules that are staying are listed below. Word on the street this year is that the referees will be extremely hot at the breakdown.

The idea is that they wish to reinstate the breakdown as a contest rather than just an instance for the team in possession to recycle the ball. Support at the break down will imperative this year for the team to gain the ascendancy. Full list of changes on the back page.

“ A certain type of rugby fan gets very excited by the rolling maul ”



The ball has to bounce before going into touch if the ball is passed back into your own twenty two.



The 'five metres behind scrum' rule still applies.

Spot the Ball Competition



...Here's the second team fresh from their victory at the end of last season. . The joy of victory radiating from their faces as they reveal in their hegemony. From Birdies Ginger locks to Kench's perfect coiffure a team of athletes;

every single one. In homage to their famous victory they get to grace the pages of the review in this new feature spot the ball. It's the old familiar game known to us all. If you can spot where the oval ball is in

this sporting picture you will be admired by friends and peers alike.

Be careful, look closely and see if you can spot the discrepancies that lead you to the ball.

The Reassurance of Insurance

It maybe about as exciting as a dead cat but unlike a dead cat insurance is important for anyone who can currently hold down a job. It may have escaped you notice that rugby is not for the faint of heart and is officially a contact sport. Many of you will no doubt no from grim experience know that injuries are part and parcel of the game. The odd bruise and cut is what is expected in the game week in week out. But just around the corner lurks the spectre of serious injury that can out rule you out for a while. Already this season we've had one serious injury.

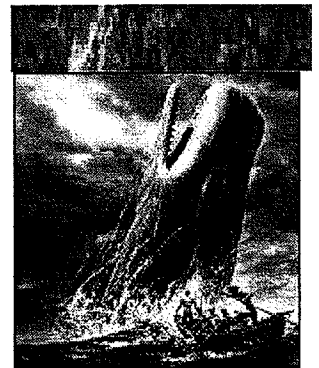
In this country we're all lucky enough to be covered medically for any injury suffered but its when time off work is needed that the full impact on injuries can be realised.

The club currently has only very basic insurance taken out for you when you sign up and it is extremely unlikely that this will cover your wages if you need to take time off work. For this reason it is recommended you get further cover especially if your self-employed and have no wage protection from your employer. The RFU advise that "*Amateur sports personal accident insurance*

is a cost-effective way to ensure individuals are compensated in the unfortunate event of an accident resulting in a bodily injury."

There are a range of available plans that specialise in sports insurance. The price is based on what type of coverage you want and can go from the reasonable to the quite high.

A Google search will bring up the main contenders. In the future we hope to bring a more detailed run down. If you have any experiences let us know.



Club tour is off to Whitby this year.

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

Date: 13th-15th

Price: £80

Contact: Andy Hunt or Clive Brooks

ELVs Changes

ELVs recommended to be passed into law:

Law 6 - Assistant referees allowed

Law 19 - Kicking directly into touch from ball played back into 22 equals no gain in ground

Law 19 - Quick throw permitted in any direction except forward

Law 19 - Positioning of player in opposition to the player throwing-in to be two metres away from line-out and the line of touch

Law 19 - Pre-gripping of line-out jumpers allowed

Law 19 - Lifting in the line-out allowed

Law 19 - Positioning of receiver must be two metres away from line-out

Law 20 - Five-metre offside line at the scrum

Law 20 - Scrum-half offside line at the scrum

Law 22 - Corner posts no longer touch in goal

ELVs not recommended:

Law 17 - Maul, head and shoulders not to be lower than hips

Law 17 - Maul, pulling down the maul

Law 19 - Freedom for each team to determine line-out numbers

ELVs sent for further examination:

Sanctions and free-kicks



SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR R.U.F.C



Annual Ball

on

Friday 16th October 2009

7.30 p.m. till late

Bookings for tables now being taken - Please lodge your interest early to avoid disappointment !

Please see: Pete Gardner

Tel: 01608 662493 Mob: 07774 715520

