

JULY 2009 NEWSLETTER

This has been another challenging (a word we will come across many times in this report) year in terms of the club finances. I would like to once again thank all committee members for their considerable efforts over the year – it is often a thankless task when each month is dominated by having to find more and spend less. I guess this is put into perspective when we look at the local employment situation and we must realise things are probably going to get worse before they get better.

We owe continued thanks to Billy Allen for working extremely hard to process data and provide accurate monthly financial information, which enabled us to take action when needed, particularly as this has been another difficult trading year as you can see from the repeated fall in bar turnover. This is due to several continuing factors; the economic downturn, changing social habits, but we have begun to find more rugby matches being played this past season which helps considerably. We have continued to maximize the use of the club for events (sometimes this can cause friction I know, but it is a balancing act) and raised bar prices to non-members when possible to attempt to offset these factors.

However, we need to be aware that *the trend is still downward* and as can be testified by the many bar closures in the town, trading will continue to be difficult over coming years. This factor when combined with increasing costs and local economic conditions means we will have to continue to *cut our cloth accordingly*.

On the rugby front Andy Rogers and Neil Young have done an excellent job this last season but The club is indebted to *all the people* who are trying very hard to develop a sustainable rugby future – a challenge that must not be underestimated. I would like to single out Neil Cook and Rob Bryce, who are doing a job I know from personal experience to be challenging and I wish all the lads the best on behalf of the Club both in terms of their success last season in winning promotion and the challenge of this season back in D & N 1.

Other sections of the Club are also going from strength to strength; just see the Squash and Football reports that follow!

My final point is much the same as last year – *we need more volunteers, we need to find continued ways of raising more funds and continue to drive down any costs we incur if we want to ensure the continued success of this Club.*

Yours in sport,

CHAIRMAN Adrian Evans

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Redcar can finally celebrate having finished the season in third place and won promotion to Durham & Northumberland One for the season 2009-10.

Since the last newsletter in February it has been a rollercoaster of a ride for the 1st Team who have played some mouth watering rugby alongside some tired looking performances. Team Northumbria won the league with season leaders Hartlepool finishing in second, Redcar had beaten both these teams at home but were blown away by Team Northumbria away in which they played a very strong and changed side from the one that visited Mackinlay Park earlier in the year. The two games against Hartlepool were somewhat closer a strong win at home followed by horrendous conditions and a serious leg break to back row Eoin Carroll all had a huge influence on the end result of a Hartlepool win.

Overall the season has been a success and the coaching team of Dave Reed, Neil Cook and Rob Bryce have proved a huge success, Andy Rogers has proved a good asset as Chairman of Rugby pulling strings for sponsors and events that have all been a great success.

As a team I feel it would be wrong to single any player out for praise but I believe the influx of new faces at the club has had a huge impact on the team both on the field and off it so a big thank you to Chris McRobert, Lydon Metson, James Allison, Tom Taylor, Eoin Carroll, Adam Smith, Greg Robinson and Kaveh Bahadouri who have all played some or a major part in the success of this season.

I would also like to thank the players that have stayed at the club and the young players that have pushed themselves very hard to hold a place in the first team and long may it continue with a very successful junior section we have established over the past 4 years.

The final word goes to the supporters who have been behind us throughout the season and I urge this to continue and for more supporters to follow us on our travels this year, Saturdays are for rugby not shopping so look at the new fixtures and follow the team and club throughout what I believe will be another exciting rollercoaster ride of a season.

Neil Young

JUNIOR RUGBY

The section finished the season strongly, with the u16s and u15s both maintaining large squads and playing plenty of games, the u17s amalgamated with boro and whitby u17s to form a teesside squad of over 23 players, this was due to all clubs involved not being able to put a full side out, this proved a success in maintaining lads playing rugby.

We also had x2 visiting touring sides in march and april, The spanish u18s from catengana proved a strong test for the teesside u17s, with some flowing rugby, however, we were more drilled and experienced than the visitors and won the game 42-19.

The second tour side were a Flint u15s from North Wales. This again was an excellent game with Redcar u15s eventually winning 12-10.

Both tour sides were well hosted by the junior section and enjoyed their visit, with plenty of after match games and celebrations.

The end of season has seen the retirement of Phil Ainsley from chairman of junior rugby

Phil has been in the post for over 5 years and has brought a lot of grant money into the section, thus providing the section with a platform to purchase more training equipment.

We purchased another order of quality training equipment from Rhino rugby to the value of £2200.00 in January, thus completing phase 2 of the plan.

In total we have bought over £4500.00 in the last two years of training equipment for the section to develop their skills and fitness. The YDO Angus Murphy has also stepped down from his post

Both positions will be up for selection at the clubs AGM.

SQUASH SECTION

Chairmans Report for Season 2008/09

2008/09 was a very comprehensive year for Redcar.

Strong junior year with unmatched team numbers and multiple county champions.

Excellent ladies season with increasing new members and division winners.

An excellent year for all teams

Spreading our wings too with secondary schools growing their court usage every week and now set for primary school development.

The season started well, prior to any competitive matches being played with August seeing the official opening of Redcar's two new courts at a cost of £35k. As prime funders, donating £25k, Sport England were guests of honour with the ribbon being cut by the Mayor. The opening proceeded with Malcolm Willstrop and his team, as ever juniors and seniors enjoyed some matches with them prior to playing one another.

Facilities

The ladies changing rooms have been fully refurbished as agreed at last years A G M.

- **We hope to paint Squash club areas and replace all court lighting within the closed season.**

Senior Teams

The increasing interest within players at the club made it evident that we would have to add an extra senior team this year.

A veteran team was also formed which played adhoc friendly's against local sides. Redcar in total therefore entered five senior teams and two friendly teams an increase of two senior teams in 3 years and two friendly teams in this year. All the teams have been formed from in-club members.

Leagues

Four have either won their league or gained promotion by coming second. The other team looked to be in for promotion at the half way stage however two players suffered injuries removing them from the second half.

Four of the top ten points scorers (all divisions) were from Redcar.

In only one of the four divisions in which Redcar play is there not a Redcar player in the top five points scorers. In division 6, the top three are Redcar players.

Juniors

Redcar has the biggest junior section in the county running eight Saturday morning sessions which has seen just over 50 attendees this season covering participants from 5 to 19 years old. Redcar has more England ranked juniors than any other club. 17 players play in the internal junior leagues. There are 5 age group competitions plus 1 blitz each year.

Ladies

The Ladies team won their division.

A 2nd ladies team is now running in the Durham & Cleveland friendly league.

Yet another year with a significant increase in members.

Two of the five top point scorers in Durham and Cleveland leagues are from Redcar.

Squash in the Community

Three secondary schools and a further education college use the courts every week.

Working alongside England Squash (& Racketball), three primary schools in Redcar are being coached and brought into the club for mini-tournaments.

We have worked alongside Billingham Forum to get junior squash started there.

We have a member newly enrolled on the new Community Sports Network and are running 6 sessions on getting adults back into sport.

We worked alongside Tees Valley Sport who have been excellent in their funding with us this year.

We worked alongside Teesside University to develop a website although it was unsuccessful we sourced a website from elsewhere.

Redcar Squash club has launched it's own website (www.rufcsquash.co.uk)

We are currently working alongside England Squash to gain funding for two new courts and changing facilities.

Internal Leagues

Redcar ran 10 internal leagues during the year, updated monthly, competing for 3 prizes totalling £100.

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Internal Competitions

Including the two junior tournaments and the senior and junior internal league competitions, we ran nine competitions in the season. (This does not count the junior tournaments being run at 5 different age groups). I think this is the most of any club in Durham & Cleveland. I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you and give recognition to a number of people who have represented or helped Redcar Squash Club throughout the 2008/09 season.

Mark Wass – Under 15A team captain. In house electrician / painter

John Campbell – Division 6 Player of the year

Gemma Hill – Ladies Player of the year

Katie Clarke – Ladies team captain

Jackie Gardener – Special award for 100 county appearances

John Dale – 4th team captain & junior team captain (under 13's).

Bill Leaver – 2nd team captain & running handicap competition.

**Paul Wilson– 3rd team captain. Running the Over 40's competition
& Isle of Man Blitz organizer**

Dominic Hill – 1st team captain, club secretary & junior team (under 15's b team), also running the club championship and the Blitz night.

Simon Mawson – Club Treasurer.

Jim Morrisroe – League secretary.

David Gray – Court Bookings.

James Morrisroe – Web Site

RRUFC Committee – Help and support.

Derek Young – Help and support

Les Dunn- Club Championship Trophy.

To all who represented Redcar Squash Club in anyway during the 2008/09 season.

Also thank you to all Redcar Squash Club members who continually provide help and support.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal for extra help in the upkeep of our squash section.

Hope you have found this report of interest, should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact myself.

Regards,

John Campbell- RRUFC Squash Club Chairman 2008/09.

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FOOTBALL SECTION

The Football team at RRUFC had another fine season achievements include,

**Redcar & Sunday Championship
Nick Cornick Challenge Cup
Final of North Riding Challenge Cup
Quarter Final of North Riding County Cup**

**Top Goal Scorer - Paul Curry (26)
Player Of Year - Paul Curry
Most Improved - Micheal Smallwood
MOM award - Micheal Beecham**

**This season the team have moved up and will be playing in the
Teesside League Div 2**

**Like to thank all who have helped and supported me this season , and
to all the players who have done us proud.**

**All new players welcome –just come down to the Rugby Club have a
drink and chat with any of the football lads**

**Cheers,
Craig Haley.**