

## **Secretaries Report for Ryton Rugby Club AGM 13<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

This year we saw some changes on the committee with Matty Roberts coming in as an assistant to the treasurer (something he intends to continue with as soon as he returns from his wandering around the fleshpots of the far east.) Would also like to add that Jordan McKie is helping out in Matts absence, and in fact both of them will be standing as assistant treasurers for this coming year.

Dave Scott took over from Mick Roddam as chairman of rugby. Unfortunately, approximately mid term, Dave had to resign from this position due to work commitments, and we were pleased to welcome Bryan Glendinning as his successor. Ray Hardman volunteered to take on the mantle of team secretary this last month and is prepared to stand for the post this coming year.

Gordon Wright replacing Robin Wannop as our County rep, while Robin himself was installed as Durham County RFU President for this year.

### **Rugby**

John Murray will be giving a more in depth report later on but I will endeavor to summarize this season with the following observations.

During the close season John Murray was reappointed as club coach, with Rob Scott as 1<sup>st</sup> team Captain.

It was also decided that we would enter our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams into the Northumberland leagues. The idea behind this was to introduce more competition into their fixtures and it was also hoped that the knock on effect would lead to less late cry offs by players.

Any concerns about how the 1<sup>st</sup> XV would fare in Durham & North 1 were soon dispelled, for after a somewhat shaky start, losing our first few league games, we began to put together a strong winning run which enabled us to move rapidly away from the bottom of the table to the security of mid table.

The second half of the season has not been anywhere as successful and I am sure that injuries and availability played as much a part as anything else.

1stXV also reached the semi final of the County intermediate trophy for the second successive season.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> team has really suffered more than any other team this season because of injuries, availability and having to supplement the 1<sup>st</sup> team and their results have reflected this.

Special thanks to Mark Forster for his efforts that must have seemed at times to be against impossible odds.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> team under the captaincy of Steve Williams has enjoyed a very successful season. Not only has their inaugural league campaign been a success they also managed a couple of heavy scalps in the County Cup, before losing narrowly to the firm favorites Westoe.

This team has not only been a success on the field but also in the bar after games they have been some of the clubs best customers. If only there was a cup for arguing amongst themselves, they would walk it.

Special mention to Steve William's linguistic skills which have been severely tested when he has had to converse not only to posh bloke but also to Thomas at the same time.

Sadly the 4<sup>th</sup> team has only managed a few run outs this season and this has been down purely to the lack of numbers available for selection. They have however, recently, enjoyed a couple of midweek games recently against Winlaton .

U 29 floodlit league had a mixed tournament and results reflected this.

## **Youth rugby**

### Mini /Midi & junior Section

At present this section has a total of 84 boys registered.

Broken down these figures represent

Mini/Midi -18 under 10's and 19 under 12's

Junior- 21 under 13's and 26 under 14's

During this season the group has had a mixed set of results, but have overall been very good.

This includes U13's semi final County Cup

U14's quarter final County Cup.

U 10's semi final County Cup

This group is very good when it comes to fundraising, and their combined efforts through bag packing, providing refreshments, and raffles and collections netted them a considerable sum.

These youngsters are definitely the future of the club and anyone who watches them, whether in training, playing matches or just socializing in the club can't help but be impressed at how comfortable yet committed they are to the club.

Last year saw the first tour for this group to Southport, which was a huge success.

During which the under 13's had an impressive win over Preston Grasshoppers, and the under 13's reached their final where they were beaten by one score.

All of what I have eluded to in this section would not be here at all if it were not for the coaches who, week after week, give not just their time but their reserves of patience in order for this to happen at all. To those gentlemen we are most grateful

This season we have hosted Durham v Northumberland u15 A and B teams, and the regional u17 competition.

Special mention about the Ryton 1<sup>st</sup> XV competition, held last August, was once again voted a success. This is to be repeated this August as part of our 125 anniversary celebrations, so please as many as possible try and attend whether it is to help (something that is always appreciated) or just to support the event.

Thanks to Gordon Jude and his associates for preparing and maintaining our grounds to the expected high standard, and to Bob Hurst for looking after the changing facilities.

Thanks to Audrey Callan for providing the catering for all the senior events including the county games and also to all of those who stop the youngster from going without on a Sunday.

### **Funding and Finance**

I would like to use this opportunity to explain some more about this section, which is run by DF and CT.

Whilst sponsorship deals with firms and parties interested in supporting the club, funding and finance looks at alternative methods of providing fiscal support. This can be through various schemes through the RFU, lottery grants, and even landfill tax or in the most recent application Awards 4 All.

Whilst we have yet to receive any direct reward for these two guys endeavors, they have been able to build a solid foundation and awareness of how to approach each different application and I am sure that they will receive their just rewards eventually.

An example of how things can appear to go wrong can be highlighted in the a4a which was submitted to our local RDO for progressing in October 04, Subsequent inquiries to see how the application was progressing revealed that our application was still on his desk 3 months later. Feeling frustrated but unbowed our intrepid duo have doggedly progressed until last month our application finally was submitted for consideration. We await their decision.

The leek club, bridge and old time dancing continue to support the club

The social side whilst comparatively disappointing to last year has still contributed to the clubs coffers.

It should like to point out that this situation is being addressed and a new social setup will be looking once again for support from the members for any future initiatives.

I would also like to add that we continue to receive good income from various functions that are held throughout the year

### **Sponsorship**

We continue to benefit from having once again our 3 main sponsors, BMI, A1 industrial trucks and Global Manufacturing, on board and long may it continue. Would also like to mention Ian Mordue for his continued support for the 3<sup>rd</sup> team through M&S distribution Dave Hall and Dave Fisher have worked extremely hard to build on last year's success, and I am pleased to announce that they have managed just that. Although they lost some previous business they have more than made up for that with new business.

All money raised goes back into the club and if anyone knows anyone who might be interested in sponsoring the club please contact either Dave Hall or Dave Fisher.

Thanks also to Judith Hall for continuing to run the club shop successfully and she is always open to ideas from any members for any new products etc.

### **Bar**

Willie McKie would like to thank Carole Brown and all of her staff for all their endeavors during this last year, and he would like a special mention to thank Katie Hunter, who has had to leave in order to complete her Nursing degree, her lovely personality and the pleasant way she carried out her job is sorely missed.

Willie also wishes to pass on his personal thanks to Pat Murray who also left our employ this year.

### **Club Membership**

	2004	2005
Life Members	7	7
Vice Presidents	52	63
Senior Players	83	91
Youth Players	70	81
Non Playing Youths	17	11
Students	9	13
Senior Citizens	61	65
Club Members	280	329

## **Ground**

This year we spent just over £4500 on treating all 4 fields. This includes verti draining and sand application (to improve drainage), applying quality feed, infilling worn areas with top soil and seeding, plus weed treatment to fields and to perimeter and field fences.

Whilst this is a lot of money I hope you agree that the fields are looking in great condition. We think this money is being spent wisely and as the condition of the fields improves so the gap grows between this type of expenditure. For example we are spending this every 2 years but will now look to leave for 3years and so on.

I can't talk about the fields without saying just how great a part Gordon Jude plays in this. Gordon gives up a huge amount of his time in preparing and marking the pitches, and is irreplaceable to this club. He doesn't receive any remuneration for his efforts but always he has our heart felt thanks.

That just about wraps up my report for this year, but before I do finish I would like to place on record my thanks to all my colleagues not only for their support throughout the year, but for their own individual contributions, most of which is unseen but never the less vital.

**Dave Berwick**  
**Hon Secretary**  
**Ryton RFC Ltd**