

Old Johns Rugby Club



Inside this issue:

St. Johns 2012-13	2
BUCS Fixtures 2013	2
BUCS 1st XV Table	2
BUCS 2nd XV Table	2
St Johns Heritage Room	2
Jim Hamilton 1987-90	3
Annual Events	4
Club Tie	4

Wanted!!

The Club is looking for volunteers to form a Committee to organise the Club Reunion.

If you are interested then please contact
nic.humphries@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com

Old Johns Rugby Club 2013

Happy New Year Everyone!

This is an exciting year for the Old Johns Rugby Club with Old Johns weekend fast approaching and the 1st Reunion dinner since the Club was re-established.

Details of the Old Johns Weekend are below. This year will hopefully see the weekend really being established in our Clubs annual events and our commitment to seeing a 15-a-side game being played every year.

There has been considerable movement behind the scenes over the Festive period. The Club has met with the University Alumni Society agreeing support from the Society to help retain and recruit 'Old Johnsmen'

& aid the organisation of Old Johns weekend and the reunion. We are now the first recognised Old Johns Club.

A 1st draft of the mentoring scheme has been drawn up by Chris Wilson (2002) and the Club is currently working with the University as to how this would be delivered to the current St. Johns Rugby Club. We will keep you posted as this develops.

The reunion on Saturday 27th October will take place in the University. More details will be announced over the upcoming months, but the Club would like to have a committee to organise the dinner. If you are interested

in being part of the reunion committee then please contact Nic.

Finally—within this newsletter is an update on the current St. Johns 1st & 2nd XVs, they are having an excellent season. A brief piece on the St. Johns University Heritage room that John Maw is creating. A look into Old Johns Exile James Hamilton (1987-90). Details of the upcoming Old Johns weekend & some dates for the diary. Enjoy the read.

Nic Humphries
Old Johns Rugby Club

If you would like any further information then please contact the Club or visit the Club website.

Old Johns Weekend—8th to 10th March 2013

Old Johns weekend 2013 is fast approaching. Here are the details planned:

Saturday 9th March:

2.30pm Cross Keys
Scotland v Wales
5.00pm Cross keys
Ireland v France
Move to the Union.

Sunday 10th March:

1.30pm KO Old Johns Match
Uni Sports Pitch, Haxby Road

Meet at Sports Pitches at 12.30pm.

3.00pm Union
England v Italy

If you wish to play can you please contact us and we will compile a match program.

John Maw has kindly supplied a Cup for the match that will be presented after the match

at the Students Union to the winning team.

Nothing has been planned for Friday night, but if you wish to organise anything then please contact us and we will spread the word.

We look forward to seeing you over the weekend.

York St. Johns Rugby Club 2012-13

Upcoming 1st XV Fixtures

23.01.13	Hull (A)
30.01.13	Huddersfield (A)
06.02.13	Leeds (H)
13.02.13	Newcastle (H)
20.02.13	Leeds Met (H))
27.02.13	Northumbria (H)
13.03.13	Huddersfield (H)
20.03.13	Leeds Met (A)

Upcoming 2nd XV Fixtures

23.01.13	Leeds Met (A)
13.02.13	Leeds (H)
13.03.13	Leeds Met (H)

www.bucs.org.uk

Season 2012-13 for St. Johns is showing great promise with both the 1st XV & 2nd XV enjoying good league form & the 1st XV romping through to the Northern Conference Cup Final.

The 1st XV are pushing for the lead in BUCS Northern 3B with recent convincing victories over Leeds 4th (24-5) & Teeside 1st (27-5). With a series of home matches St. Johns including the top of the table clash against Northumbria (27th February) - they are in an excellent position to be league champions come the end of the league season.

The 1st XV also have reached the BUCS Northern Conference Cup Final via victories over Northumbria 2nds, Teeside 1sts & Leeds Met 3rds.

The 2nd XV have enjoyed a positive start to their league campaign with notable victories over Hull 3rd (28-7) & Leeds Trinity (41-31). Again a couple of big matches are to be played over the next 6 weeks but hopefully the 2nds can maintain their form and chase the top position.

BUCS Rugby Union 2012-13—Northern 3B

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Northumbria 3rd	7	6	0	1	227	18
2	York St. Johns 1st	6	5	1	0	118	16
3	Newcastle 4th	7	5	0	2	72	15
4	Huddersfield 1st	6	4	0	2	80	12
5	Leeds Met 3rd	5	2	0	3	-28	6
6	Leeds 4th	5	1	1	5	-55	4
7	Sheffield 3rd	6	1	0	5	-173	3
8	Hull 2nd	8	1	0	7	-241	3

BUCS Rugby Union 2012-13—Northern 5B

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Leeds Met 4th	3	3	0	0	79	9
2	York St. Johns 2nd	2	2	0	0	31	6
3	Leeds 6th	3	2	0	1	25	6
4	Leeds Trinity 1st	4	1	0	3	41	0*
5	Hull (Scarborough) 3rd	4	0	0	4	-176	0

Next Fixture

Weds 13th February

York St. Johns 1st XV

V

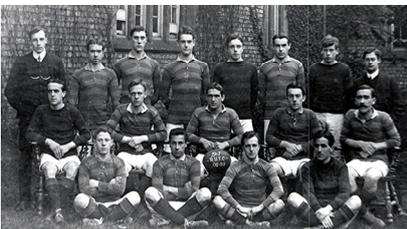
Newcastle 4th XV

Venue: York St. John University
 Sports Centre, Nestle Rowntree
 Park, Haxby Road. YO31 8TA

York St. Johns University Heritage Room

A Heritage Room has been created at York St. Johns University. The room holds records of the University and the Sports & Societies dating back to the late 1800s.

John Maw who is behind the creation of the room has supplied the vast majority of records



1908-09 Rugby Team

from his own extensive collection including a huge record of the Rugby Club. The first records of the Rugby Club date back to 1892 (the club was first founded in 1883). The collection includes team photos, fixtures & results plus a huge variety of photographs and newspaper clippings.

If you have any memorabilia, photographs or newspaper clippings that you would like to donate to the Heritage Room then please contact the Old Johns Rugby Club and they will liaise with John Maw.



Pat Neale (1985 Old John) presents John Maw with a donated St. Johns Rugby Shirt. The shirt was donated by Guy Lovgreen (1999 Old John) to the St. Johns Heritage Room.

Please check the Club Memories Pages on our website to see all the updated photos.



IN THE SPOT LIGHT — James Hamilton (1987-90)



St Johns RUFC: 1987 - 1990
Captain: 1988 - 1989
Chairman: 1989-1990
Studied: Design and Technology & Human Movement.

Jim at St. Johns

The 1st Club Chairman was Jim in 1989-90. The Club created the post to provide a balance between playing and organising.

Jim studied Design and Technology & Human Movement and did his utmost with then Principal Dr. McGregor to get the course changed to Sport Science. The College were suffering with the intake of men & the Rugby Club Freshers' were dwindling. The course has now been changed.

He played for Harrogate RFC during his College times and travelled across with fellow team mates Ian (Delboy) Wilson, Mike (Lurch) Ruthen and Andy (Major) Taylor who all carried on playing for Harrogate after college - Ian Wilson went on to play in the Yorkshire Cup Final and won in 1991.

Jim decided not to complete his honours degree when at the end of 3rd Year the opportunity to play the rest of the season in South Africa arose. He played for a club in Durban before returning and joining London Scottish (Jim played in the Scottish District Championship).

When playing for London Scottish Jim joined a Design and Project Management company in London, but when they got a contract with Gateway Supermarkets to take over the property division and design the new Somerfield concept he was sent down to Bristol. There he joined Clifton RFC in the 1991/92 season and toured Canada.

In 1993/94 Jim wanted to play at a higher level and chanced his luck with Gloucester. It was a period of change in rugby at the time with the game quickly moving toward professionalism - Mike Teague had just moved to Moseley and Barry Corless took over as Director of Rugby at Gloucester after many good years leading Northampton.

Jim trained hard through pre-season and was selected for the first game of the season at outside half at home to Blackheath. However he couldn't play due to a family wedding and ended up playing in a mid week game against Lydney - which turned out to be the worst game of his life and they lost 0-3 - much to the Gloucester faithful's disgust!

Making a come back after that proved hard but he had a great time at Gloucester, had a handful of runs in the first 1XV and toured with them to Ireland (where they won the Kinsale Sevens for the first time - and won £2000 to go drinking with - which they did! An 18 year old Phil Greening was amongst the squad that won - who went on to hook for England and captain the England Sevens team (As Jim recalls he was also the best Elvis impressionist he has ever met!).

Whilst at Gloucester Jim set up on his own with the aim of designing and building gyms (picking up on the growing trend for health and fitness at the time). He spent the next three years struggling by, but in

the end designed over 100 gyms, of which just seven were built! Jim also took a Masters degree in Construction Management and then qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and joined the RICS.

London Scottish lured him back in 1995/96 and Jim had a couple of good seasons back with them, his favourite memory being the only time he captained the 1st XV which was in a one off game against Llanelli at Stradey Park. They were getting beaten up in the first half and he said to the lads at half time "come on lads you can hear we have some good support - they're all shouting Scottish". He was tapped on the shoulder by our prop who bluntly reminded him the crowd was a sea of red and they were shouting Scarlets, not Scottish!" Enough said, they continued to get hammered!!

Jim finished with Scottish in 1998 when Jani De Beer dropped his 5 goals for South Africa and came to London Scottish. He joined Newbury but after operations to knee and shoulder injuries was advised not to play again and so took up motor racing instead!

This coincided with Jim getting married in 1998 to his girlfriend from college days - Penny Meeks, who after ten years of suggestions finally got him to go down on one knee. Pen was widely known to the boys as Bob or Meeksy as she was invariably treated as one of the boys (and had a remarkable adventure with them when Scotland won the grand slam in 1990 - but that is another story).

In 2000 Jim took his racing license at Silverstone. In 2002 when his daughter Molly was born (as he had lost his road driving license) he bought a 1989 Van Diemen FF1600 - which he raced at Castle Combe Circuit and around the

UK for the next seven years. The motor racing bug completely got to Jim and year after year he tried to win the Formula Ford pre 1990 championship and ended up second or third each time - until with a last ditch attempt in 2007 he won it - and hung up the driving gloves. Jim qualified as a Race Instructor and joined the Castle Combe Racing School team as one of their instructors.

The itch did come back for rugby though and Jim re-joined Clifton RFC for a few more first team games playing up to the age of 36, then spent some happy muddy afternoons on back pitches around Bristol and Gloucester with the 2nd and 3rd XV's.

Work took over after and Jim joined Faithful and Gould (International Project and Cost Management Consultants) and became their Head of Marketing and Business Development in the UK before he moved to Davis Langdon and became a Partner in 2004.

They started up and developed a Project Management division which grew to over 350 people and then took it overseas to Europe and the Middle East.

Story continued on Page 4.....



Jim & Family on the dunes in the South of Qatar.



Old Johns Rugby Club Annual Program

Old John Weekend
St. Johns Charity 7s
Old Johns Reunion

Friday 8th March - Sunday 10th March 2013.
Sunday 20th May (10am Registration at York RUFC).
Saturday 26th October 2013.

We are on the web!!
www.oldjohnsrugbyclub.com

Articles Wanted

We would like to hear from all Old Johns from all eras of the History. If you have any photos, stories, match or Tour reports then we would love to have a copy of them. The Club newsletter would also like any profiles or updates to add to the next issue. If you would like to feature or write an article then please get in touch.

Did you know?

Russian Prince Alexander Obelensky left Russia to move to England in 1917 where he was granted citizenship. In 1936 he was called up to the England squad and scored 17 tries in 4 games.

Club Tie



Ties are on sale through the Club website.

Under the spotlight—Jim Hamilton continued from Page 3.

In 2007 Jim was asked to move to the Middle East to get the Project Management business going properly over there and after a brief spell in Dubai, based himself in Doha, Qatar. No one had ever heard of Doha then and so it was a great place to go and get lost for a while - which he did.

But Doha had great ambitions and in 2010 won the right to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup - and hence Jim is still there five years later and now involved full time on the planning and development of all the stadia and training sites - whilst it is still just under ten years away, it is akin to building a nation from scratch with an enormous amount of infrastructure that includes a new road system, rail system, airport and ports - all to be built before 2020.

In 2009 at the turn of 40 years old Jim was talked into running the Marathon des Sables with one of his oldest rugby pals from junior days,

David Choules, ex Wasps scrum half. The MdS is really only for fully certified nutters and involves running the equivalent of six marathons back to back across the Sahara desert in just seven days. It pretty much nearly killed them but they raised over £5000 for Parkinsons Disease and was probably one of the most satisfying and knacker things Jim has ever done - his feet are still a mess four years on.

Qatar has been great for Jim and the family—they have had a ball. His kids Molly, now ten and Archie, now six have had a great school to go to and have loved all the sport and opportunities that expat life has offered them. Pen has carried on working and is a Year One teacher at the same school as their children.

Jim's rugby career had a bit of a renaissance when he went out to Qatar. He had done his homework and knew there was a club there, but little did he imagine that he would have five

more good years of rugby, playing all over the Middle East in places from Bahrain to Beirut and represent the Qatar National team when they finally achieved IRB status - Jim ended up with four caps against Uzbekistan, Jordan and Lebanon(x2).

Jim's thoughts are of what next - nearly six years away seems like a good stint and they are considering heading home soon. They are looking forward to some good home cooking, pork pies and a pint of proper ale around a coal fire - and of course a few visits to the local rugby club for minis training on a Sunday.

Finally Jim says "Had I not gone to St Johns, I would have not have met my long suffering wife Pen or had the pleasure of watching two kids grow up - St Johns I guess is a college for life as our great guider and inspiration John Maw would say!"



Left: Qatar National Team—HSBC 5 Nations Division 4 Champions. They won promotion & will now face China in May.

Many thanks to Jim for his story.