

# Old Johns Rugby Club



## The start of a new period in our Club

Hello and welcome to the 1st Old Johns Newsletter, a bi-annual production aiming to update the Old Johns Rugby network with regular news from the current crop of St. Johns, as well as news of events and updates from Old Johns around the globe.

Without doubt, the aim of the newsletter is to deliver a message that for our Club to maintain its proud traditions, the importance of all Old Johns contacting the Club is paramount. If we have an active group of members then not only will the Old Johns reunion be a success, but we can aid the current Johns also.

With a united Old Johns club we can re-unite friends through a well organised succession of Old John's weekends and events.

The new website [www.](http://www.oldjohnsrugbyclub.com)

## The History of York St. Johns Rugby Club

John Maw, Old John and current president of the old Johns Rugby Club, is currently writing a book on the history of the rugby club.

Although John has already a comprehensive record of the Club dating back over 100 years he has a couple of sea-

[oldjohnsrugbyclub.com](http://oldjohnsrugbyclub.com) has been viewed over 600 times but has only seen 43 members indicate their support of the Club. We would like many, many more Old Johns to contact us!! All that we ask is that you spread the word about the Old Johns Rugby Club.

The aim is to have 100 members by June 2012 (stretching back through the decades from the 'naughties' to the 60's). With a view of an annual increase of 20 members each year. All Old Johns that contact us can have as much or as little input into the Club as they wish—all we ask is that you supply us with your contact details so we can update you on our progress!!

Apart from holding with tradition of hosting reunions the Club has two other 'strands'.

**Mentoring scheme**—designed to support the current St. Johns through 3 areas:

1. **Committee**—support on running the Club.
2. **Volunteering**—a community scheme delivering a Tag Program.
3. **Career**— support on leaving Further Education to employment.

**Foundation**— Still within the planning stage and will go out to members for consultation prior to any confirmation.

The basic format will be a non-profit organisation that will either provide backing to or deliver a community rugby scheme to children from difficult backgrounds.

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

John can be contacted on his facebook page—  
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/john.maw7>

John will return all photos or documents that he receives.

### Inside this issue:

St. Johns 2011-12	2
BUCS 2011-12	2
The Exiles Part 1	3
The Exiles Part 2	3
The Exiles Part 3	3
Old Johns Weekend	4
The Vision	4
Club Tie Revealed	4

### Special points of interest:

- [www.oldjohnsrugbyclub.com](http://www.oldjohnsrugbyclub.com)
- Calling all Old Johns—the history of the club.
- York St. Johns RFC News
- Old Johns Exiles
- New Club Tie
- Old Johns Weekend: 9th—12th March 2012

**Did you know?**

A "try" is so-called because the act of running over the line and touching the ball down originally carried no points and merely allowed the team to try for a kick at the goal. The rules were eventually changed to make tries, rather than goals, the best way to score points.

**Next Fixture**

Weds 18th January

Huddersfield 1st XV

V

York St. John 1st XV

Venue: Lockwood Park, Brewery  
Drive, Lockwood. HD4 6EN

**Remaining Fixtures:**

18.01.12 Huddersfield (A)  
25.01.12 Sheff Hallam (H)  
01.02.12 Leeds (A)  
08.02.12 Northumbria (H)  
15.02.12 Leeds Met (A)  
22.02.12 Teeside (H)  
29.02.12 Sheffield (H)  
07.03.12 Huddersfield (H)  
14.03.12 Teeside (A)

[www.bucs.org.uk](http://www.bucs.org.uk)

**York St. Johns Rugby Club 2011—12****YSJ Lions — the story so far**

A cold Wednesday in mid-October saw the 2011/12 York St John Lions, kick off another BUCS league. This time representing the University in the Northern 3B league after the whole table system was dealt a facelift in the summer of 2011. We were coupled alongside teams such as Northumbria University's 3rds and Teesside 1sts. A few miles were to be notched up this season!

The season wasn't off to the best of starts, with the second XV from the rugby club having to fold due to a lack of intake during the tireless recruitment drive throughout the first few weeks of the semester.

The positives that could be drawn from the second XV folding was that the first XV would have strength in numbers, (or so was the plan). And the boys who didn't manage a game on the Wednesday would have strength in numbers, (or so was the plan). And the boys who didn't manage a game on the Wednesday would have the opportunity to play for York RI 2nds at the weekend.

Our season on the pitch began with a promising performance against Sheffield University's 3rds, a pre-season friendly organised at last-minute and a team that barely knew each other thrown together and told

how to play! With a guest appearance in the referee jersey from Gary Pidgeon, it would be impossible to come away without a W. Evidently not, and having the lead until the 78<sup>th</sup> minute, the foot slipped completely off the gas and seemed to land on the brake as Sheffield were allowed to run in two very easy tries.

The opening game of the BUCS league travel to Sheffield University to take on their 2<sup>nd</sup> team. After narrowly losing out to their thirds at our place, we knew we were in for a tough fixture. The first ten minutes saw Sheffield run in three easy tries, but the St John Lions put up a fight and took them to half time without another point being scored. Unfortunately for the Lions, Sheffield came out firing after the half time interval and after a well fought second half, the final score was 46-0.

The next two games seemed to follow the trend set by the 1<sup>st</sup> XV and resulted in us being turned over on our own turf by Leeds University 3rds 32-6, and saw us travel up to Northumbria University and put in our best performance so far, only to lose out 22-5 and face an even longer journey home!

The following Wednesday was cup week, and we were to travel to Bradford University 1<sup>sts</sup>. They

are a league below us, and even though we had more injured players than we did available, there was a sense of confidence on the bus there. The game began as many of the lads envisaged, with us leading 15-0 at half time. The second half saw a spirited fightback by the Bradford side, only to be crushed by another try from the Lions meaning the score lay at 22-17 with minutes to spare. A lack of composure saw the St John side lose the ball, only to watch the Bradford side spin the ball out wide and manage to scored under the posts. Resulting in another loss for the Lions, this time 24-22.

The final two games before the Christmas break could not have been more different, a weakened side, during reading week, saw us crushed 43-3 to Leeds Met 3rds. Although the lads must have taken this onto Sheffield University, where we faced their 3rds on what was literally an uneven playing field. Only conceding three points from a penalty all game seemed to be the key as the big prop and new recruit Paddy Waines went crashing over the whitewash, resulting in the first win of the season for the Lions, beating Sheffield 8-3.

The lads have been extremely busy in the first half of the season, a tour to Croatia is booked for over Easter, with just over 20 of the boys representing the Lions on foreign shores. Two of the boys are heading to Zambia as part of the Tag Rugby Trust in July, along with a few of the girls, and fundraising is underway for that.

We have a few ideas regarding charity days in the pipe line so keep your ears to the ground for news on the charitable efforts of the club. There will also be the annual 7's tournament towards the end of the year so keep your ears tuned in for news on that one!

Kris Starkey YSJRFC Chairman.

**BUCS Rugby Union 2011-12—Northern League**

		Pld	W	D	L	Pts
1	Leeds 3rd XV	6	5	0	1	15
2	Sheffield Hallam 2nd XV	5	4	0	1	12
3	Huddersfield 1st XV	5	4	0	1	12
4	Leeds Met Carnegie 3rd XV	6	3	0	3	9
5	Northumbria 3rd XV	6	3	0	3	9
6	Teeside 1st XV	5	1	0	4	3
7	Sheffield 3rd XV	6	1	0	5	3
8	<b>York St. John 1st XV</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>



We would really like to hear from any overseas Old Johns. If you wish to contact us then please email: [nic.humphries@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com](mailto:nic.humphries@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com)

#### Did you know?

Rugby balls are shaped the way they are because the original balls, made by a cobbler near Rugby School, were fashioned from pigs' bladders. These bladders naturally became oval-shaped when inflated – a grisly process which literally involved blowing into them like balloons.



Creating a community of lifelong friendships

## Exiles News — Craig Hutchinson (Cragga)

**Name:** Craig Hutchinson  
**Age:** 30  
**Years at St. Johns:** 2000-2003  
**Degree:** Sports Studies & Physical Education  
**Playing Positions:** Wing, Centre, Fullback  
**Board Positions:** Chairman, Social Secretary, Porn Secretary  
**Awards:** St. Johns Sports Personality of the Year 2003  
**Hometown:** Barnsley, South Yorkshire  
**Current city:** New York City  
**Occupation:** Freelance sports coach, broadcaster, writer and actor.

Despite being Chairman of the rugby club, Craig was often fined at the social for his

footballing tendencies. It was these tendencies that led him to a job coaching "soccer" in the United States after leaving St. Johns.

This job saw him live in California, Texas and several years in Boston, Massachusetts before joining the Major League Soccer team the New York Red Bulls as a youth de-



**Craig broadcasting on US TV**

velopment coach.

While at the Red Bulls he strangely (given his outrageous Barnsley accent) landed the job of team correspondent, giving game reports and previews on camera and interviewing some of the biggest names in the sport such as; David Beckham, Thierry Henry, Alessandro Del Piero, Gareth Bale, Partick Viera, Harry Redknapp, Franz Beckenbauer and many more.

No longer with the Red Bulls, Craig still lives in New York City and works as a freelance sports Coach/Broadcaster/Writer and even finds time to pop up in the occasional Hollywood movie.

## Exiles News — Alex Smith (Woof)

**Years at St. Johns:** 1999-2002  
**Degree:** Physical Education & Geography  
**Playing Position:** 7 **Board positions:** Fixtures Sec. 2000-2001, Chairman 2001-2002  
**Home Town:** Oakham in Rutland  
**Current City:** Sydney, Australia

**Occupation:** KooGa Account Manager, NSW.  
Alex is currently living in Sydney, Australia with his wife Briony (Old John 1998-2001) and 1 year old son Charlie. He has been in Australia for 6 years now and is officially a dual citizen but he will still strongly support anyone playing against

Australia.....even Wales!!

Alex currently plays for the Hills Rugby Club in Sydney's Suburban Rugby Competition. Having never played anywhere else but 6 or 7 he now finds himself playing number 8.....he is thinking that perhaps retirement is calling.

## Exiles News — John Paul Hogan

JP—currently lives in New Zealand and writes about the experience of the Rugby World Cup 2011. JP was a St. John from 1999-2001.

It's been great to be in New Zealand for the Rugby World cup. The whole country is rugby mad. At first I didn't think we would come across tickets too easily but in the end I managed to watch Scotland v Romania & Ireland v Italy live which were both great games. Being a good England fan I decided to part with \$300 to hopefully see

England in the semi final only to be bitterly disappointed and see France go through to play Wales. Both I find hard to support...

We watched the Irish team train when they came to Queenstown. Surprisingly they were always out on the piss! I was also in the pub when the England team walked in. Managed to have a good chat with Chris Ashton, Nick Easter & Ben Foden. They were tossing an actual dwarf (vertically challenged person) in the pub that night! It wasn't me before anyone

makes a comment.

I visited a winery and met an older gentleman who turns out went to St Johns many years ago and played alongside the legendary John Maw. Small world.

All in all it's been great to be here though. I'm looking forward to getting involved when the season gets started here again although I think I'm probably gonna be on the receiving end of some big hits from some of the Islanders! Affectionately known here as coconuts!!!

**Old Johns Rugby Club Temporary Committee 2011-12:**

Chairman:	Nic Humphries	nic.humphries@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com
Vice—Chair:	Nathan Ashman	nathan.ashman@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com
Social Sec:	Gary Pidgeon	gary.pidgeon@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com
Liaison Officer:	Angus Miller	angus.miller@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com

Website: [www.oldjohnsrugbyclub.com](http://www.oldjohnsrugbyclub.com)  
Tel: 07921 082934

**The Vision:**

The Old Johns Rugby Club is dedicated to building a family of Old John members focused on the creation of a community of life long friendships.

These friendships can maintain and build traditions for the future, not only within the Old Johns Club, but also through our foundation and its work with children from a challenging background.

The vision is to use our camaraderie, expertise and passion of rugby to help create a thriving rugby club and foundation.

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In order to complete this mission we need support from all Rugby Old Johns. All we ask is that people contact us and become a member of the Club.

There are 2 memberships:

1. Active member - Interested in Events, Club News & Re-unions.
2. Silent member - Just monitor the 'going ons' of the Club through the website and bi-annual news letter.

Please contact Nic on: [nic.humphries@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com](mailto:nic.humphries@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com)  
Or visit our website: [www.oldjohnsrugbyclub.com](http://www.oldjohnsrugbyclub.com)

**Old Johns Weekend**

Old Johns weekend is the 9th—12th March 2012.

**Friday 9th March.**

Meet Cross Keys 8.00pm.  
Little pub crawl to Union.

**Saturday 10th March**

Wales v Italy 2.30pm  
White Swann  
Ireland v Scotland  
5.00pm  
Harkers

**Sunday 11th March  
11am KO**

York St. Johns XV  
v Old Johns XV  
York RI RFC

The Old Johns weekend is a tradition for all new Old Johns. Over recent times we have managed to complete the annual York St. Johns XV v Old Johns XV fixture on the Sunday morning of the weekend.

This year we would like to invite all Old Johns to attend the weekend and either observe the fixture or take part!!

We will meet on the Friday night for a drink and chat



**Old Johns Match 2008**

about the previous year before revisiting old haunts.

On the Saturday we will watch the 6 Nations Matches before a mini social and reunion with the local pubs.

Finally on the Sunday will be the annual fixture v the current St. Johns XV. The fixture will be at York RI Rugby Club- Kick Off at 11am.

If you are interested in attending then please contact Angus Miller—Old Johns Rugby Club liaison Officer on:

[angus.miller@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com](mailto:angus.miller@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com)

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

**Did you know?**

Since its inception, the first game of every world cup has been kicked off with the same whistle. The whistle was first used in a 1905 match between England and New Zealand – the All Blacks won 15-0.

**New Club Tie**



Black, green & gold stripes with Club Badge.

Will be available on the Club website from February 2012