



Fairford RFC Newsletter

Number Sixteen
August 2017



Gloucestershire RFU Volunteer of the Season – George Ellis

At the end of the season we nominated George for a Gloucestershire RFU volunteer award, out of the 100's of nominations we are delighted to announce that George was awarded Gloucestershire RFU volunteer of the season. Congratulations George, it is very much deserved and we are utterly delighted that your herculean efforts and dedication has been recognised.



George Ellis formed the club in 1995 with a few other like-minded individuals to play rugby in his own small town. He has been instrumental in the club's progress and success since then. George has played in the front row until age and injury put him into playing retirement. He has refereed games for both Senior and Junior teams. He has also coached the first XV. He has been an active committee member and has driven the club forward in many ways. He has cooked a huge amount of post-match meals for the opposition, which have ranged from a full sit-down Christmas dinner to his specialty of a full roast pig. He has led after match 'sing songs' with traditional and wholesome rugby entertainment. He has led the club in the annual FRFC carol-singing event, which raises hundreds of pounds for the local hospital fund. He has arranged, hired and driven buses to the away games and to Gloucester matches at Kingsholm for the players and supporters. He has run and organized the club's tour in England and abroad. He has managed, arranged and run a multitude of fund raising events from a School dinners night (where he dressed up as a dinner lady) to an open-air music/beer festival event which attracts hundreds of people each year. These have galvanised the club and provided the wider community with wonderful local nights out. His catering company also has employed many of the players and supporters over the years. He even made the club's first scrum machine and installed the posts at our home ground. Only last month, he was marking out the pitch! George managed the RWC events at Fairford in 2015, which were a superb success and once again shone a bright light on the rugby club in the community. In summary, every club needs a George and Fairford owes him so much from his selfless dedication over the years. The club made George their first Honorary President last year.

New Website

We have been working hard behind the scenes on a new website for the club, (seniors, juniors, mini) that brings all our information and social media into one hub. For those who do not have Facebook / Twitter access you will be able to follow all updates through the new website. We hope you like it as much as we do (feedback appreciated): <http://fairfordrfc.co.uk/>

Please join George and our merry band of volunteers.....

Would you like to get involved and support Fairford Rugby juniors and minis on a Sunday morning? Can you spare us 2 hours of your time every 3-4 weeks? Want to boost your CV? We are looking for volunteers to help each week on Sunday mornings. We have several different ways in which you can get involved and the more volunteers we have then we can put a rota together and take it in turns for all the roles. We have fantastic facilities at Fairford Rugby club so please volunteer your time to help keep it great!

Types of roles available:

- Buttie van - we will provide the necessary training and certificate that is required.
- Car park marshals – (home games only) can you spare us one hour before the match starts to direct our visitors to the car park?
- Kit store – helping to sell our kit to club members
- Set up/take down – can you spare 30 – 45 minutes before and/or after training sessions and match days to set up ready for the kids?
- Baking cakes for bake sales on match days
- Coaching – any age group, training and qualifications available

What's in it for me?

- Support your Fairford Rugby juniors and minis club & local community
- Free online Food Hygiene Certificate course (2-3 hours to complete) for Buttie Van roles
- Meet new people and make new friends
- Boost your CV with new skills and a volunteer role

If you would like to know more and get involved then please email Emma Bishop at emma-bishop@hotmail.co.uk (Photo by Paredes Photography)



Fairfest Friday 21 July to Sunday 23 July – Walnut Tree Field, Fairford



Message from Scott Cohoon, President, Fairford RFU: A message of thanks to the community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported 'Fairfest'. Fairford RFU along with the Outside Inn Company put together a phenomenal weekend of food, drink and entertainment for everyone in and around the community. A huge thanks to George Ellis and his team from the Outside Inn Company and a massive thanks to all the volunteers from the Club who without, this event would not have been possible. Although the weather conditions were far from ideal, everyone made an effort to attend and the fantastic music on Saturday evening attracted a huge audience. It also created an opportunity for the rugby club to fundraise and put that money back into our community through our sporting activities. Thanks again for everyone's support and hard work. (Photos curtesy of Beamer)

Roaring Rugby Summer Camp – Thursday 10 & Friday 11 August

Chris Andrew and his team at Roaring Rugby are partnering with Fairford RFC to run a Summer Rugby Camp from the Cricket Club at on our Leafield Road pitches. The rugby camps are now one of the most popular events on our

calendar and are often a sell-out. **We recommend that you book your place ASAP there are only 7 slots left!** <https://www.roaringrugby.co.uk/booking/>



Coaches Training Sessions – Sunday 22 & Sunday 29 August 1030 to 1200hrs.....**WE NEED YOU!**

Our coaching coordinator Jonny has organised some additional training sessions for our fabulous junior and minis coaches, on Sunday 3 and Sunday 10 September. Dave Bull has volunteered his time (again) to take our coaches through their paces and share skills and techniques ready for the new season. In order for the sessions to be successful, we need our junior and mini's members to turn up and participate:

- **Sunday 22 August – CONTACT only** – Under 9's upwards (Jonny and Jonathon's group (under 8's from last season) onwards)
- **Sunday 29 August – NON-CONTACT** – Under 8's and below (Dave Jackson's group (under 7's from last season) below)

Both sessions will start at 1030hrs and a great way to ease us all into the new season. We hope to see you all there. Any questions please contact us on the usual email address / or through our Facebook page.



2017/18 Season and Membership – Get it on your calendar!

Our Junior and Mini's 2017/18 Season will start on Sunday 10 September 2017. The first three 2017/18 season training sessions will be free and we encourage you to bring all your friends and family to give it a go. Please, please, please spread the word: Sunday 10 September / Sunday 17 September / Sunday 24 October. The official opening day of our season will be Sunday 1 October. If you sign up for membership before or on the 1 October, you will receive a free Fairford RFC branded Boot and Kit Bag. **We can confirm that for the 2017/18 season Membership is £70 first child and £30 for additional child(ren).** We hope you agree that this value for money.

Primary and Secondary School Programme - September and October 2017

We have offered all local primary schools free training sessions with Fairford RFC junior and mini coaches throughout September and October 2017. This year we have focussed on primary school years 5 and 6, in an attempt to tempt new players to join our under 10 and 11 teams. Those participating (some having accepted our invitation of up to three sessions) are Southrop, Meysey Hampton, St Lawrence's (Lechlade), Fairford and Cirencester Primary Schools. Working with Gloucestershire RFU, the club has instigated a three-way relationship with Farmors Academy to develop a rugby programme for our under 12 team / Year 7. We hope that all these programmes will spread the values of rugby amongst our community and continue to attract healthy interest and membership to the club.



Fairford CofE Primary School
Actively Learning Together
in a safe, happy environment built on a strong foundation of Christian values

Southrop Church of England Primary School



Meysey Hampton
Church of England Primary School



Fitness for all – Summer Touch Rugby

The club is running fitness sessions for all, no matter the level of fitness or skill. The session focuses on Touch Rugby (similar to the tag rugby but for adults) held on Thursday evenings, 6.30 pm at Coln House School. It is open for those 16 years plus and run by one of our level two coaches. Arrive in sports kit, trainers with a bottle of water. Come and join in and get fit for summer and the start of the 2017/18 rugby season.



Fairford RFC Summer Touch Rugby

Ladies and Gents Come along for a run out!
All welcome Whatever level of skill or fitness

TOUCH RUGBY
O₂ TOUCH



FairfordRFC@FairfordRFC



Fairford RFC

THURSDAYS 6.30pm
COLN HOUSE SCHOOL,
FAIRFORD, GL7 4DA

Seniors Tour 2018



On Fri 18 May to Mon 21 May 2018, the club will be travelling to participate in the Flanders 10s Open Rugby Competition held in Dendermonde Belgium. The biggest 10s competition in the world, there will be 4 competitions running concurrently, The Elite Men's Cup, The Men's Beer Cup, The Men's Veteran Cup and the Ladies Cup. There will be approximately 96 teams participating throughout the competition, with an approximate 8000 people in attendance. Fairford are planning on travelling with 40 of the finest tuned athletes to participate in The Men's Beer Cup competition. If the elderly (over 35) contingency allows they will also be entering a team in to the Veterans Cup. The group format runs through the Saturday and the Sunday morning with each team then being placed in a final group to dictate the overall position on the Sunday afternoon. Each team can expect to play in at least 4 matches with the possibility of 7 should they reach the final. The finals are then played on the main stadium pitch in front of a capacity 6000 crowd. (No pressure). With the club growing on and off the field an overseas tour has been well received by the Senior Section with 34 spaces being taken up already. With all funds being raised through personal contribution and fund raising events, any sponsorship or assistance with fund raising will be greatly appreciated. The tour committee of Danny Briggs, Ben Goodey and Chris Tanner would welcome any input and look forward to leading the club in its first overseas tour in over 10 years.



Pitches open for all members and friends to use out of season

We are keen that members continue to use the Leaffield pitches over the summer months. We will keep the pitches mown and marked out and encourage you all to come and use them to keep your rugby skills fresh, meet your friends or hold family picnics. It is a community asset and hope you will make use of this offer. Please enter through the Leaffield Road gate and take all your rubbish home and hope to see some of you over the summer months at the ground. George Ellis is happy to cater for your needs, evening opening the cabin so you can use the kit and has even offered to bring the buttie van and bouncy castle if you want to hold family events. Please contact George direct: georgellis@btinternet.com



The Boot Exchange – we need your old boots!

Parents and Carers have requested that we run a 'boot exchange' and we are very happy to oblige. Young feet grow very quickly and new boots are expensive. If you have any unwanted studded boots that you are happy to exchange or pass on, please bring them (MUST BE CLEAN) to the cabin on a Sunday where they will be labelled by size and put into a box until a new owner comes along. We are hoping that everyone will participate and are expecting a mass exchange at the start of the new season! If you have boots that need a new home, please add them to our collection so we can get swapping.



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**CRAIG COHOON
WATERSPORTS**

Your Feedback

If you are receiving this newsletter but no longer wish to please email Lindsey at rugby@fairfordrhc.co.uk. If you have feedback on the Newsletter or content that you would like to added to the next edition (September 2017) please contact Jenny at gaslane@hotmail.com