



Chairman's Report

2012/2013 Season

In my time at the Club as player, coach, DoR and now in my third year as Chairman, I cannot remember a season as memorable as the last one.

On the playing front, I would like to praise the work of Andy Foley as Head Coach and DoR, whose unerring passion, drive and energy are plain for all to see. Most significantly, Andy has worked tirelessly to recruit new players, develop the potential of up and coming young players, whilst also recognising that there is no substitute for experience, by utilising the skills of older players, who still have the ability to play at this level.

This is all underpinned by an excellent coaching infrastructure aided by the introduction of Lee Evans at 1st XV level, who has been hugely influential as has Richard Weston, in his first season as Mustangs Coach. There is also a true and collective spirit evident in the playing ethos, engendered by Club Captain Ben Williams.

The resultant effect of this is that the 1st XV smashed all league records, retained their regional cup title and were once again semi-finalists in the RFU Senior Vase competition. The Mustangs had a resurgence and the 3s have continued to show that they are a force to be reckoned with. Elsewhere, we still managed to provide a competitive and social standard of rugby to suit all by regularly fielding 6 sides

Whilst often a Club's success is judged on its playing performance, there has also been a huge amount going on behind the scenes, which has undoubtedly contributed to and underpinned what we have achieved as a Club collective.

Most notably this includes (and in no particular order):

- Two highly successful youth rugby festivals as a result of the endeavours of the youth committee and in particular the work of Charlie Goodbody and her event team. The events not only provided a high quality and enjoyable experience for all but they also raised significant funds to help support the youth section.
- The formation of the Mote Sports Federation (MSF), which allows the rugby and cricket clubs to jointly manage the site for mutual benefit and which in turn has provided us with an opportunity for extended lease and all year round access to the pitches, training areas, pavilion and Tabernacle etc..
- The RFU Presidents XV Runners-Up Award for Player Safety and Welfare. The Club was chosen for its work in raising funds (in excess of £7K and

awareness of the Injured Players Foundation (IPF). The adoption of the IPF as our charity was in-part in response to the spinal injury sustained by Tom Hughes. In this regard, I would publicly like to praise the swift actions and professionalism of Club Physio, Anna Rooke in dealing with the incident so well.

- The Award for Exceptional Volunteers by the RFU:
 - Trevor Langley for his role as Rugby Club Liaison and his influence on the formation of the Mote Sports Federation.
 - Allan Crosbie for his long service as a key member of the youth section.
 - Bob Hayton for his work with the IPF.
- Recognition of our playing success, with features in Rugby World and Rugby Club Magazines (twice).
- Becoming an RFU approved O2 Touch Rugby Centre. This will enable us to attract additional members to the Club and meet the sporting needs of our local community.
- The procurement of 4 x portable floodlights (part-funded by the RFU) to ensure that we can provide continued training facilities for all users by maximising the space available and by preserving the use of the floodlit training/playing area.
- Substantial off-season rugby pitch renovations to preserve and improve our playing surfaces and to meet increased demand of usage.
- A strategic alliance with Maidstone Football for reciprocal marketing and collaborative promotional opportunities.
- The formations of close links with Maidstone Borough Council to promote the rugby club in the Maidstone Community through various forms of media.
- The forging of strong business links and commercial opportunities provided by Bob Hayton and his team. Of particular note are the swathes of advertising boards that fringe the 1st XV pitch.
- The continued success of the Capital First, online membership system, to maximise subscriptions and allow us to meet the increasing costs of running a Club of Maidstone's size. Many thanks to Mike Laurenson for his role in this.

- Our community coaching outreach initiative - the continuation of our community work and the establishment of new links with a number of schools and Colleges to provide coaching support and to help provide a sustainable pipeline of home-grown future players.
- The formation of the Old Maidstonians which has created a formal link between Maidstone Grammar School old Boys and Maidstone Rugby Club. Both have always enjoyed a close and beneficial relationship with many of the school rugby squads at all levels also developing their rugby skills by representing the club at youth level. Well done to Andy Foley and Jonathan Davies for your work on this and we look forward to the forthcoming planned fixtures.

To achieve all this, I am as always, indebted to our volunteers who do so much of the unseen work that keeps the Club running so efficiently. This includes all those who give up their time freely and willingly for the benefit of the Club . you know who you are, so take a well-deserved bow!

In particular I would like to thank Bob Hayton (Deputy Chair), for his relentless work in gaining much needed sponsorship (amongst a huge amount of other things) to enable a Club of our size to continue to develop and provide the things that many of us take for granted. I would also like to acknowledge the huge amount of time and effort that Bob Beney as President, has put in on behalf of the Club . as have other Club Officers.

I would also like to say a sincere thank you for the continued support of our sponsors, spectators and players, who as a collective make Maidstone Rugby Club such a special place to play or be involved with.

As you are all aware, I have stepped down as Chairman. Development aside, I believe that the Club is in a very good place and I wish my successor all the very best moving forward.

Thank you.

Andy Golding
Chairman (2010 . 2013)