

FARNBOROUGH RUFC

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June 2021

Welcome to the Farnborough RUFC Club newsletter "Boro Focus".

In the newsletter will you find articles about the club and its management from key Executive Committee members .

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The Club's website can be seen at:

www.farnboroughrugby.co.uk

Stay Safe & Enjoy the issue

ED

NEWS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Robin Moses

Dear Members

I hope that all of you and your families and friends are continuing to keep safe and well, and that you have had the two vaccinations, or at least one – and if you have not that you will very soon. Obviously, things concerning the Covid pandemic are looking better and we all hope that the 21st June 2021 step on the government roadmap to recovery is achieved (with a government announcement regarding this on 14th June 2021). As you all will know, there are a few worries regarding the Indian, Vietnamese and Nepalese Covid variants which could mean that all things are not relaxed from 21st June 2021. However, we all need to be positive looking forward.

As reflected in the messages later in this newsletter from other members of the Club Board of Directors/Executive Committee, your Club is progressing well on many fronts. The good work conducted by many from the start of the pandemic to today has paid off big time in ensuring that the Club is financially and otherwise stable (albeit from a planning point of view and looking at budgets, we still need financial support from all members to see us through the 2021/2022 season – more on that shortly). Further, training has been taking place for a while now and all is ready looking forward to summer 10s and 7s and then the normal leagues starting in September. We already have the 1st XV fixtures in Hampshire League 1. It will be really good getting back fully to our raison d'être – the playing of normal rugby! In addition, the bar is now open on Thursday and Friday evenings, and on Saturdays and Sundays!

The real good work on the clubhouse since the start of the pandemic up to today is mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, including in the messages from Jak Thomas on Health and Safety and General Maintenance, and Raymond Batey on the proposed clubhouse extension. It should be noted that after recent review of the extension plans and related quotes received, for a number of reasons the design and positioning of the extension may not be the same as the original design etc.

Another project that the Club is involved in as part of its community work is the West Farnborough Man Shed (WFMS) project - which is in association with Rushmoor Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, and the National Association of Men in Sheds to which the Club is now affiliated. The WFMS will be run to help people (1) in retirement to enhance their lifestyle, alleviate loneliness, help their mental health and learn new skills through interaction with one another and the local community, and (2) who lost their jobs due to the effect of the pandemic, including those who need mental health support. They will be able to get practical advice, help and support from the agencies of government, employment and local companies to help restart their lives. There will be a Council funded large Portacabin installed to the right side of the clubhouse (as you look at the clubhouse from the car park), fully equipped for instruction and socialising. Club members produced and updated the plan for the Man Shed and the fencing (with three lockable gates) that would be erected enclosing the Man Shed and the access to it – and the rest of the side of the clubhouse,



..... and all around the pitch-side of the clubhouse including the patio to the clubhouse left hand pitch side corner. The plan has been submitted to the Council's Head of Planning, and dialogue is ongoing (also encompassing other Club related requirements). We hope now that the Covid situation will allow progress, and that the project will be up and running for 1st September 2021. Watch this space!

With regard to weekday hires of the Club (bringing in much needed income), WW started again on 15th April on Thursday evenings, Slimming World started on 18th May on Monday evenings, and 19th May on Tuesday afternoons through to the evenings. The Collar and Lead Club (puppy training) is likely to start again on Wednesday evenings post 21st June. We are also in a dialogue with a well-known local organisation about a hire that will pretty much take up all remaining vacant daytime hire slots for the majority of each year. I will provide an update on this if and once a contract is signed.

Related to the above and indeed the messages from other members of the Club Board of Directors/Executive Committee, I would like to record my thanks for the superb efforts put in over many months by Chris Collett, Tom Moore, Maria Carbone, David Thorley, Jak Thomas, Lauren Utton, Raymond Batey, Lee Kirkham, Tony Thorley, Daryl Brown, Fiona Strudwick, Tracy Playfoot, Ian Smith, Steve Gotting and others – all working 'behind the scenes' to help keep your Club going.

Finally, I cannot finish without referring to the Rushmoor Community Lottery. I know that it has been mentioned to you all many times by newsletter and general e-mails that this Lottery is a steady and easy source of much needed income for the Club. If you join the Lottery through the Club's link and buy one or more weekly tickets (one ticket only costs £1) - then you are directly supporting your Club as half of the money comes back to the Club. Do not forget that in addition to helping your Club, by being in the Lottery you have the chance of winning free additional tickets through to cash prizes from £25 up to £25,000. Indeed, there have been a number of 'big' winners since the turn of the year – with three supporters winning £250 each. So far since the Lottery started, there have been 319 winning numbers of Club 'supporters' – i.e., some 'supporters' have won several times! Please see more on page 10 of this newsletter, including the link to click on to join the Lottery. Many thanks in advance for helping your Club.

Yours in Rugby

Robin



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MESSAGES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Chris Collett

Dear Members

I hope this message finds everyone well.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for supporting the club through these uncertain times. It's been a trying season and a lot of hard work has gone on behind the scenes to keep the club functioning and I would like to thank the Executive Committee/Board of Directors for all the hard work and time that has been spent doing this.

There is light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully some form of normality will return soon.

Clubhouse News

The ladies' toilets have been refurbished, and as some of you may have seen they look fantastic. The showers are also in the process of being overhauled and will be ready for use soon. A massive thank you to Fiona Strudwick for organising all the materials and deliveries. Also, to Daryl Brown for all his hard work in the fitting out of the ladies' loos and showers. Thank you to Andy Thacker for his help with the showers; your help is greatly appreciated.

There are various projects in the planning phase and we are all ways on the look-out for will volunteers to help with these; if you wish to volunteer, please drop me a line. As we are now fully open, it is great to see members returning and having a beer or 2. We are open on Thursday's evening (after training), Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays from midday.

Playing Side

Training for the senior sides is now in full flow and great to see the players out there getting ready for the new season in September. The new season is a new challenge and I hope the players and coaches are looking forward to it as much as I am (restrictions permitting). The Minis and Juniors have been going about their business for some time now, and it is great to see all the players now out on a Sunday enjoying themselves - and credit to all the coaches, first aiders, managers and volunteers for all their hard work.

Entertainment

There are various functions in the pipeline, so please keep an eye on Club communications for details and where possible support these functions.

Once again thank you for your support and thank you to all our wonderfully volunteers - without you, we would not have a Club.

Yours in Rugby

Chris



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A local garage in Farnborough

David Thorley

Dear Members

Training

Training continues on Thursday evenings 19:00-20:30 for Senior and Colts players, where we have seen a good turnout most weeks. We remain at stage D2 on the return to rugby roadmap set out by England Rugby. At this stage we are able to hold contact training (excluding scrum and maul) and 15 a-side adapted laws. Work continues to progress to stage E1, which will include full contact training.

Head Coach

We have recently advertised for a new Head Coach at Farnborough RUFC. We have had some interest in this position and will work over the next few weeks to determine who is best suited for this position. We are still accepting applications if any members know of people that might be interested and are suitably qualified. Please see the advert on the Club Facebook page for more information.



Rugby against Cancer 10s Tournament

We have entered a 10s team for the Rugby against Cancer tournament at Portsmouth Rugby Club. This will take place on 28th June 2021. We are proud to be supporting a good cause and would encourage family and friends to come and support the guys on their first outing since the Covid pandemic started

Pre-season friendlies

We have secured pre-season friendlies (both double-headers) against Aldershot & Fleet RFC and Staines RFC. The home games are currently scheduled for 21st August 2021 and 4th September 2021 respectively. More details will follow nearer the time.

Yours in Rugby

David



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CLUB SHOP NEWS

by David Thorley, Shop Manager

The shop has been very busy on Sunday mornings, since the Club re-opened in April 2021. We are regularly re-stocking the shop to ensure that we have a range of sizes for key kit. Additional kit can be ordered via the shop on Sunday mornings or via the website link below.

This month's popular item has been the tech t-shirt. It is a lightweight, breathable t-shirt and only costs :

£7.15 for youth sizes and £8.95 for adult sizes.

You can get your initial added to the sleeve for free too. This t-shirt is great for players and supporters alike.

To visit the online shop use this address :

www.fitnessforsport.co.uk/online-sports-shop-plymouth/Farnborough-RFC-Junior-KitShop-c44384143



100 Club

Farnborough RUFC 100 Club was founded in the 1970s and is a valuable revenue stream for the Club.

We are currently trying to increase the membership of the 100 Club from the current 80+ to over 120 members.

Many current members of the Club are currently not enrolled – so please see Lauren Utton (ask at the bar) and get the standing order form – it is just £5 per month, and you could win a big prize!

Great Monthly Prizes

£200.00, £100.00 and £50.00.

Membership is not restricted to Club Members; family & friends can also join



Remember..... you have to be in it to win it !!

The 100 club is drawn every month.

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MESSAGES FROM YOUR FINANCIAL

Director/Treasurer, Tom Moore

Dear Members

This has been one of the most uncertain and stressful years regarding the financial running of the Club. First a lockdown, then just receiving 12% of membership subscriptions due to furlough and lack of forethought by some members that we still had to pay our utilities, insurances, rental, grass cutting and general maintenance. We then lost all our hires of the Club – worth around £20,000. Then an open up under Covid restrictions (costly), and then a second lockdown.

My wish for the 2021/2022 season is that we never have a repeat of this stressful period. Thanks to our savings account surplus, Government grants administered by Rushmoor Borough Council totalling £17,300, and an RFU grant of £50,000, all achieved despite the never-ending form filling, we have come through.

The grants are regulated regarding what we can spend them on and are subject to strict monitory controls and reporting. The finance team of Ian Smith, Jim Carden and myself have had to take on this extra burden.

I'm sure you will notice the clubhouse improvements where some of this money has had to be spent on, largely dictated by Covid and Health & Safety, staff safety and not least the safety of our members. This is all thanks to Chris Collett, Daryl Brown and Fiona Strudwick and helpers.

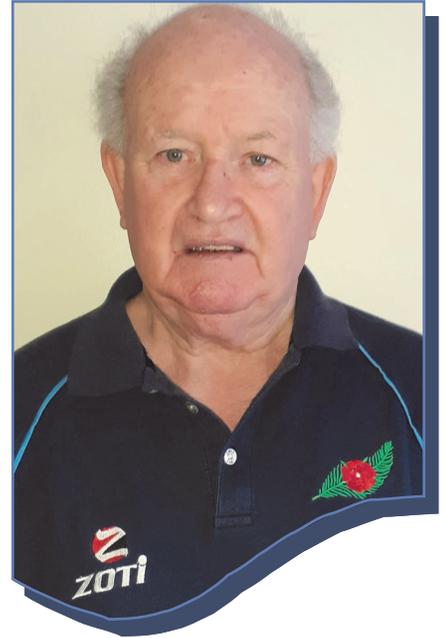
We must also retain exact details of 6 months running costs related to the RFU grant going forward.

There is much to do in the Club, not least to rebuild the playing side, so I ask you all to help in any way you can even if it is just paying your annual subscriptions.

Remember IT IS YOUR CLUB.

Yours in Rugby

Tom



ANOTHER REMINDER TO

Please Join the Rushmoor Community Lottery

Dear Members

We recognise that the Rushmoor Community Lottery has been mentioned to you all many times by newsletter and general e-mails, urging you to join that Lottery – but it is important to your Club that we remind you once again as the Lottery is a steady and easy source of much needed income for the Club. Your Club is registered as a local good cause with this Lottery, and if you join the Lottery through the Club's link and buy one or more weekly tickets (one ticket only costs £1) - **then you are directly supporting your Club as half of the money comes back to the Club.**



Do not forget that in addition to helping your Club, by being in the Lottery you have the chance of winning free additional tickets through to cash prizes from £25 up to £25,000. Indeed, there have been a number of winners since the turn of the year – with three supporters winning £250 each. The draw takes place every Saturday. So far since the Lottery started, there have been 319 winning numbers of Club 'supporters' – i.e., some 'supporters' have won several times!

There was a reasonable response to the general e-mails sent out on 1st January, 4th February and 27th March 2021 urging members to join the Lottery - with a good number of new people now buying Rushmoor Community Lottery tickets each week. On the money front, £7891 has been raised by the Club ticket buyers to date.

On a somewhat negative point, your Executive Committee has again conducted some analysis of the list of Club members and others who are included on the Club administrator's Rushmoor Community Lottery 'page' as being 'supporters' of the Club. There are 116 names on the list but only 60 are actually buying (116) tickets each week. Some of those not showing as paying each week have never bought tickets, and some have not bought tickets for a while, and after the upsurge from the January, February and March general e-mails a further number have stopped buying tickets.

Bearing in mind the number of members the Club has versus the number of members and non-members (friends and family) regularly buying Lottery tickets, roughly speaking only 14% are currently buying Lottery tickets!!

Thus:

- if you are one of those on the Club administrator's Rushmoor Community Lottery 'page' as being 'supporters' of the Club, but you are not showing as paying each week and have never bought tickets, or have not bought tickets for a while, it would be much appreciated if you could you update your 'status' to buying tickets each week as soon as possible,
- if you, and indeed by encouragement your family and friends, have not yet joined the Lottery at all through the Club's link we humbly ask that you and your family and friends do so as soon as possible to provide much needed income to the Club in these very difficult times.

It is easy to set up your Lottery account through the Club's link on the Club's website (see next page), and a direct debit is made on your bank account on a monthly basis.

Please help your Club by joining/re-joining the Rushmoor Community Lottery and buying tickets each week - and also encouraging your family and friends to do likewise, thereby increasing the money coming back to the Club providing much needed income.

Click below to buy tickets from the Club's Lottery Page:

www.rushmoorlottery.co.uk/support/farnborough-rugby-club

Many thanks in advance for helping your Club.

The Club Executive Committee/Board of Directors
3rd June 2021



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FROM THE CHAIR OF THE MINIS & JUNIORS

Tracy Playfoot

Dear Members

What can I say about the last few months? Well firstly, we are all absolutely loving being back on the pitch again. As I walk around on a Sunday morning, it is fantastic to see so many children, in every age group, laughing and enjoying themselves – although it has to be said, they aren't laughing so much during the fitness drills! We have also enjoyed seeing the return of matches. Last weekend the U13's hosted Basingstoke RFC, resulting in a massive Farnborough win of 90-10

This week I have sent out a survey to the Mini and Junior parents. So far, I have had back 103 responses which is brilliant. These have allowed me to highlight areas we need to do a little work on and I will feedback in due course. Above all though, they have made me incredibly proud to be part of such an amazing club and community as countless times the words welcoming, friendly, inclusive, and family came up which is exactly the type of environment we want to promote for the club.



We are all looking forward to being able to hold some social events again. At the moment we are planning to hold a family picnic and water fight after training on the 13th June and on the 11th July, we are holding our End of Season Presentation. Although, this year it will be a little different to previous years it is set to be a fantastic event. We are holding the full event at the Club this year, we have booked 7 different types of inflatable games/castles etc. Please keep your fingers crossed for good weather!!

Tracy



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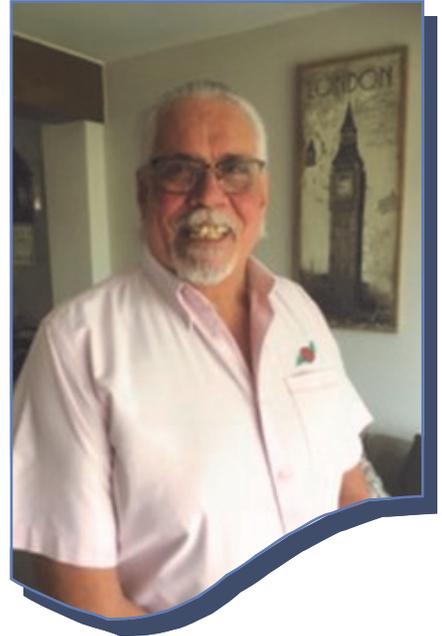
News of any live Lions games being shown at the Club will appear in a general e-mail will come out on 14th or 15th June.

Manager, Jak Thomas

“Securing Standards in the Clubhouse – Safe Operation and Maintenance”

So here we are again, hoping for a safe and healthy reopening of the clubhouse and, dare we say, a return to playing rugby across all age groups and competing once more against our friends in rugby from other Clubs in and around Hampshire. However, before we open fully and start planning for a successful 2021/22 season, there's much to do.

Firstly, it is great to be able to report that 14 months of Covid restrictions have seen significant improvements made to clubhouse infrastructure. Over and above previously highlighted general repair and redecoration of the general fabric of the building, the showers and ladies' toilet accommodation have been refurbished – or at least work is nearing completion on these - and we are indebted to Daryl Brown and our chairman Chris Collett who have organised and executed most of this work. Pat them on the back and thank them next time you see them folks.



Next, in the short term, because of this 'work in progress', member and visitor access is limited to clubrooms and toilets, albeit in compliance with Covid rules; please stay out of changing rooms and shower area for now until work is completed and tools and materials are removed. We will let you know when these areas have been made ready for reoccupation and use – well before the commencement of the 2021/22 playing season.

Finally, I can confirm that a pre-opening inspection and risk assessment has been completed by Tony Hepworth (Clubhouse Manager) and myself, making sure that appropriate measures are in place for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of members and visitors using the clubhouse and grounds. This included utilities - gas, water and electrical systems – and fire and emergency equipment and procedures such as fire alarm, extinguishers, and emergency lighting. The general, cleanliness, repair and decorative condition of clubrooms and operating areas such as kitchen and bar service areas, and furniture and equipment therein were assessed and found to be in good condition; a tribute to the great work done by key club members and staff during Covid lockdowns over the last 14 months.

APPEAL FOR HELP

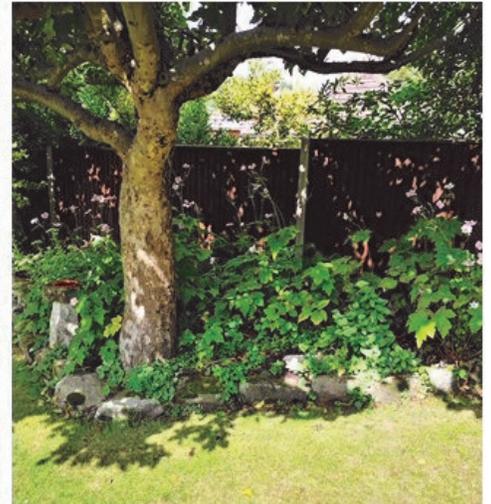
We need volunteers to help with the repair, maintenance and upkeep of standards in and around the Clubhouse. We have limited resources, especially after Covid impact on income. Anything we can do ourselves saves money and enables us to move the Club forward with pride. If you can spare time to help out a couple of times per month or on an ad hoc basis please let us know - call Jak Thomas on 07778 515308.

Jak



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Call, email, or see me at a first team match.



NEWS FROM THE CLUB GROUNDS MANAGER,

Raymond Batey

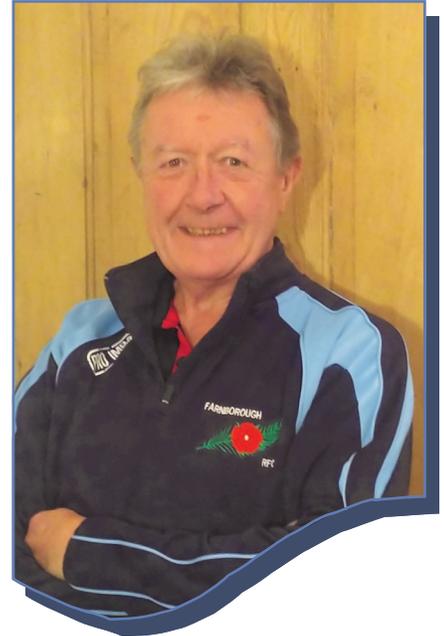
Obviously, nothing much has happened on the pitches game wise since my last note, but they are being continually maintained, so that we're in a good position once we have regular game time.

With the football pitch, we are now in a position to mark it out, so that pre-season friendlies can take place and the league can advise if they think it is now playable.

We are considering purchasing a ride on grass mower, so that we can do the pitch cutting ourselves, instead of paying a contractor to do it – this is in the early stages of progress.

On the extension front, we've managed to get some funding from the RFU, which should allow us to progress with the review of the design and location, and getting revised quotations from building firms.

Not much more I can say at this point I'm afraid, except to say let's look forward to a new season – WITH GAMES!



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RECOVER give players time to recover fully as you would with any other injury.

RETURN all players must follow a step-wise Graduated Return to Play (GRTP) and must not go back to rugby/sport until they have been cleared to do so by a doctor.



RECOGNISE, REMOVE AND IF IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT! RFU.COM/HEADCASE

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**RUGBY'S VALUES
MAKE US
WHO WE ARE**

HOCKEY WORLD CUP IN LATVIA

Josh Tetlow: Playing for GB Men's Ice Hockey Team

Josh played rugby for Farnborough from the age of five and half up to Colts.

Josh, who just turned 23 in January 2021, is currently representing Great Britain in the Ice Hockey World Cup in Latvia, playing against the best in the world (Canada, USA, Russia, Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden, etc.)

If you would like to watch GB, all games are being streamed on Free Sports. Josh has been in the starting line up in all five games so far, and was awarded Player of The Game after the Denmark Game.

His team, the Nottingham Panthers, have just won the 2021 UK Elite League Series Playoffs, where he was singled out for his professionalism and game play.

It goes to show with self-discipline, self-belief, dedication and some luck you too could represent your country.

Well Done Josh





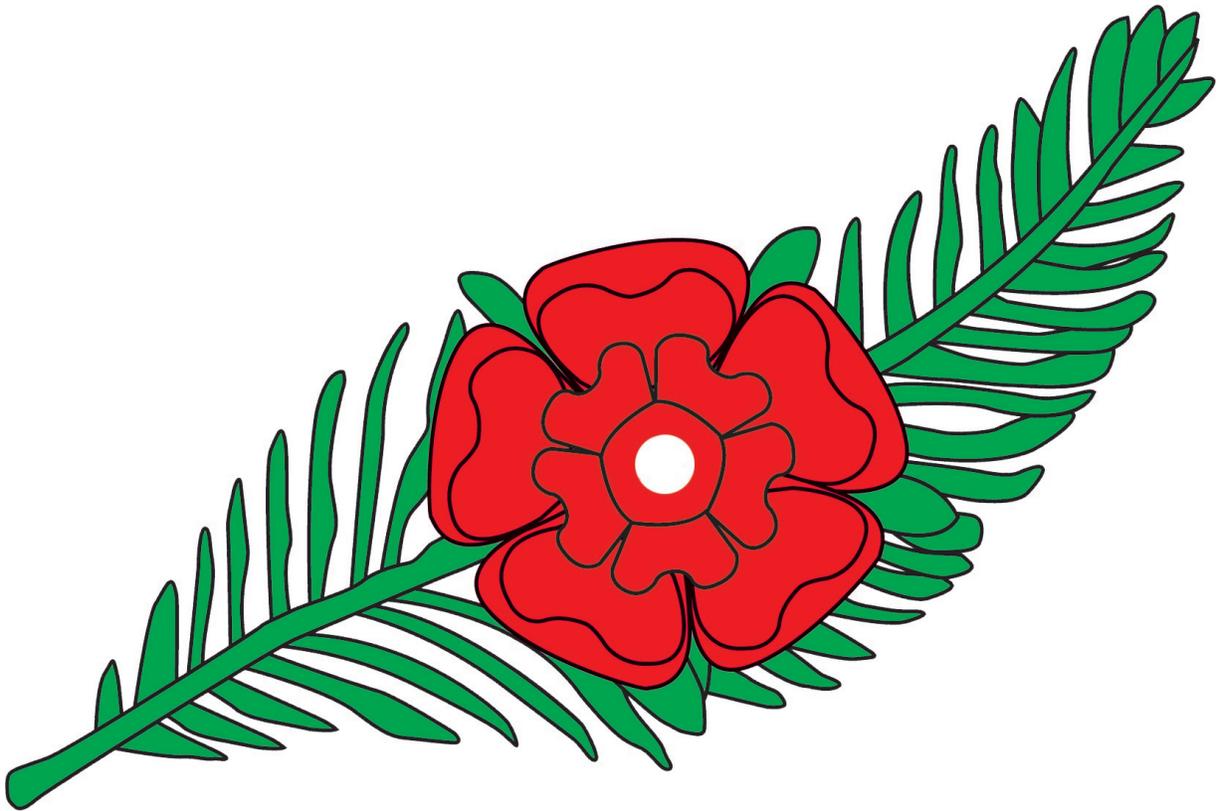
News of any live games being shown at the Club will appear in a general e-mail will come out on 14th or 15th June.



Racism and any form of discrimination is not acceptable in rugby, in sport, or in the world we live in.

Solidarity, integrity and **respect** are the core values of our game.

Rugby united against racism.



“Boro Focus” is the club newsletter of Farnborough Rugby Union Football Club Limited
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