



# TALKING BALLS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BOLTON RUGBY UNION F.C. JUNE 2006

## NEWS

### FLOODLIGHTS

For the 3rd team pitch, an application for a £30,000 grant has been submitted. The application took a long time to put together as the RFU requirements changed midway through our application and we had to submit further paperwork. I hope we will have an answer to our application by the end of June.

We also submitted an application for Training area floodlights to the sports and arts foundation but it was turned down - too many applications for too little money. The existing floodlight poles will remain, but the heads will be replaced by more modern heads that use less electricity but provide better lighting.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Clubman of the year and the Women's Chair would like to announce that their Wedding at the club on 12 August, 7.30pm is an open invitation.

We'd love to see you.  
RSVP ASAP  
Cheers, Knibby & Stotty

## Uncle Les says ...

"If you have 'borrowed' some club kit, please return it as soon as possible"

## SUMMER TOUCH RUGBY

EVERY THURSDAY IN JUNE @ 7PM  
16's AND OVER. A GOOD WAY  
TO BUILD UP TO PRE-SEASON  
TRAINING



**MAN OF THE MATCH**  
Pete Robb leaves the plate final after he could give no more

## A valiant effort

### BOLTON 10 RUSKIN PARK 19

Bolton travelled to Sedgley Park on the bank holiday Monday 1st May to play in the Lancashire Plate Final. It is some twenty years since the club was last in such an event. Their opponents, St. Helens based, Ruskin Park, had also never won the competition, although they have appeared in three of the last four finals.

Bolton, playing down the slope at Sedgley had all the early play, and should have taken the lead when they were awarded a penalty. Bolton had unfortunately gone into the game without a recognised kicker due to injury and unavailability. Bolton continued to press, but Ruskin's defence was superb. A rare visit into the Bolton half led to the first score. From a Bolton scrummage, the ball was charged down from Simon Beswick's kick to give Ruskin a converted score. Further bad luck was to come on the injury front, when Beswick fell awkwardly resulting in a nasty ankle injury that removed him from the field. Bolton once more having to reshuffle at the stand off position.

Bolton returned with even more desire as their forwards led by Peter Brogan started to dominate the game. Bolton repeatedly pressurised the Ruskin line but failed to convert it into points on all but one occasion, that was reserved for old-stager Pete Marriott to saunter over the line to put Bolton's first points on the board. As the half-time whistle approached, Ruskin had the last word when they managed to pick up a loose ball in the Bolton twenty two and score on the stroke of half time, to give them a 12 - 5 lead.

In the second half, the large Bolton crowd started to make a lot of noise as they helped to drive the side up the field. Ruskin's defence again stood up to the task and from a scrummage just in Bolton's half, their scrum half made a break and sauntered over the try line untouched, leaving an easy conversion. Bolton could have let their heads drop, but didn't and they scored soon after when full back Kriel crossed the line. Chris Turner took over the kicking duties but unfortunately hit the crossbar. Bolton still needed two scores to catch their opponents up, and despite their best efforts in the last ten minutes plus the introduction of all their substitutes the game finished 19-10 to Ruskin Park who ran out deserved winners. Bolton's captain James Brodie can be proud with his team's efforts, and prop forward Peter Robb was a popular choice to be Bolton's man of the match.

Bolton would like to thank a long list of sponsors who helped to make the day special for the players, and a huge thanks to the many people from Bolton who came to watch, we had by far the most supporters of any team in the finals that day and they made the most noise!

## Chairman's Summary

I'll start by saying that I genuinely believe we are the biggest and best small rugby club in the North.

Let me explain ...

We regularly have four adult sides competing, some sides against teams from the big clubs, and remember - some of the big clubs can't manage to field three teams!

We have junior teams representing all age groups. And such is the success of our youth development at the club, TEN of our old Colts are in the first team squad.

This season has seen the club competing for silverware right to the end of the season. The Under 14's ran out Lancs Vase Winners, the 1st XV reached the Lancs Plate Final (and we had the best support there), The Under 16's and Colts battled through to their respective cup semi-finals.

Looking forward, we have three years funding in place for both a development officer AND a community coach.

To top all that we have fantastic, modern facilities. We continue to move onwards and upwards.

For those members who talk down the club - look long and hard at what has been achieved - and stop moaning!

**Clive Nightingale**

## ALAN HOLMES

A big thank you to Alan Holmes, our current development officer, who has decided to go travelling to Australia. He has done an excellent job for the club, developing rugby throughout the borough and within schools. He will be sadly missed.

**Good Luck and best wishes from everyone at Bolton RUFC**

## BOLTON RUGBY UNION CLUB SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

**The Annual Sportsman's dinner held at Bolton School was a great success with many of the regulars saying it was one of the best we had ever had.**

After MC Chairman Nightingale had presided over the usual standing bingo, raffle, watch draw and auction, we were entertained by former England cricketer Graham Gooch.

In his chirpy Essex tone he proceeded to recall amusing incidents during his career. At times the comedian, Josh Daniels looked a bit worried as Graham had us in stitches with his stories and jokes, and knew he was going to be a hard act to follow. Josh could only be described as an "alternative" stand up comedian but it didn't take long for the audience to warm to his surreal jokes. The comments afterwards left us in no doubt we would book him again and Graham, obviously impressed, was seen making notes of his own.

The evening raised over £6000 for club funds and a big thank to all guests, sponsors and especially those who donated a fantastic array of prizes for the raffle and auction.

Also special thanks to Franco at George Maxwell Ltd who has yet again made a very generous donation towards the cost of Junior kit for next season.



## Tourists give a Polish-ed performance!

### JUVENIA (KRAKOW, POLAND) 14 BOLTON RUFC XV 19

Bolton RUFC travelled to Poland over the Easter weekend for their annual tour.

The 32 strong party flew into Warsaw on Thursday before travelling south to Krakow. Saturday was the day for rugby and Bolton travelled to their hosts Juvenia. First on the agenda was to bask in the spring sunshine and watch a Polish first division game between Juvenia and their opposition. The impressive stadium had a healthy crowd of a couple of hundred Polish rugby enthusiasts which was quickly swelled by fez wearing tourists.

After a narrow defeat in their league game, Juvenia put out a second team using several of the players from the first encounter. It was obvious from the start that the level of rugby was perfect, as both teams won ball from set pieces and attacked only to be

stopped at the last moment. Bolton eventually opened the scoring when Greg Abbott playing full back, was the last receiver of a well worked series of interplays, leaving him open spaces to attack from the half way line. With the conversion kicked by Stuart Paul, Bolton went into the break with a seven point lead.

With half the Bolton side changed, it looked as though they might cruise the game as Abbott again crossed the whitewash, the conversion once more kicked by Paul. The next thirty minutes belonged to Juvenia as they scored through their impressive full back. Bolton looked to be hanging on and tired legs where beginning to show. Juvenia equalised when their full back scored again,

this time by a perfectly timed run between his centres. With the clock ticking John Paul Singleton broke the home defence to score under the posts, unfortunately the kick was missed by Paul, and thankfully for him, the home side had no time left to score.

A final score of 19-14 to Bolton. An excellent game followed by traditional warm Polish hospitality.

Our thanks go to our hosts Juvenia who are celebrating their centenary this year. Also to [gopoland.co.uk](http://gopoland.co.uk) who organised the trip and sponsored the tour shirts and to Bolton's Duncan Trench who brought together the tour with his usual diligent efficiency. With the final court of the trip over and the fines administered it was time for the tired group to head back home after another thoroughly enjoyable trip.

**Where are we going next year!**



## FAREWELL

### HARTWIG DRIEMEYER & STEVEN KRIEL

Goodbye and thanks to both our overseas players; Hartwig and Steven. A warm welcome awaits any overseas or new players to the club.



## TOWN RECOGNISES THE CLUB'S CONTRIBUTION

Bolton RUFC had two winners at the Bolton Sport & Physical Activity Awards held at the Reebok Stadium on March 24. Attended by over 350 guests, awards were presented by 'Big' Sam Allardyce and Mayor, Councillor Frank White.

### Steve Knibb, 3rd Place - Coach of the Year

"Steve has volunteered at Bolton Rugby Union Club for five years. He is a proactive member of the committee and a mentor to other coaches. He has increased

membership and turned the U14 squad around from a team that rarely won to a team that rarely loses."

### Les Towler, 3rd Place - Unsung Hero of the Year

"Les has been involved at Bolton Rugby Union Club for 30 years and has held every position at the club. He cleans the changing rooms, manages the calls, does the laundry, carries out repairs, loans out equipment and manages the finances."



## Message from the Chairman Junior Section

With the new season fast approaching the Junior Section can boast a membership of over 180 Junior Members. Junior Training commences at 1030hrs on Sunday the 13th August 2006 with non-contact skills for all.

The Club has one of the best Junior Sections in the area and numbers have increased with the help of the outgoing Rugby Development Officer Alan Holmes who devised the Emerging Schools League in Bolton drawing players from local secondary schools.

The Under 14's last year won the final of their age group County competition spreading the word that Bolton Rugby Club Junior Section can produce winners.

In 2005 the club received the 'Clubmark Award' from Sport England, and more recently Steve Knibb won the 'Coach of the Year' Award at the same awards. The 'Clubmark Award' is awarded to the Club for having an active junior section, specialist children/young people sports coaches, a full understanding of child protection issues that implement best practice in this respect, and an inclusive and equitable approach to all children and young people and a quality programme that will give their children a quality experience in the following categories:

- Duty of care and child protection
- Coaching and competition
- Sports equity and ethics
- Club management

The Junior Section currently has vacancies for Managers/Coaches and also kitchen staff so if you wish to get involved in a 'Flourishing' Junior Section please let me know.

I and all those involved in the Junior Section wish all players, coaches and parents a successful 2006/07 season.

**Mark Turner**  
Junior Chairman



## JUNIOR AWARD PRESENTATION

Many thanks to all those who turned out for the presentation especially the Minis who were presented with their medals from Amir Khan. There were plenty of photographs taken and many autographs signed.

The Minis arrived later in buoyant mood after the Under 14s won the Lancashire Cup and were handed their medals and trophies by their respective Coaches.

All the Minis received medals from Amir and the following people were recipients of trophies:

**Under 8's:** Players Player **Angus Nightingale** - Most improved player **Firth Lord** - Coaches Player **Harry Lewis-Mitchell**

**Under 9's:** Players Player **Jack Robinson** - Most improved player **Sam Davies** - Coaches Player **Karl Fullen**

**Under 10's:** Player Player **Oliver Turner** - Most improved player **Lara McGrath** - Coaches Player **Nathan Felton**

**Under 11's:** Players Player **Matthew Robinson** - Most improved player **Joe Howarth** - Coaches Player **Rebecca Trist**

**Under 12's:** Players Player **Richard Sanders** - Most Improved Player **Myles Barber** - Coaches Player **James Timms**

**Under 13's:** Players Player **Gareth Liles** - Most improved Player **Danny Higham** - Coaches Player **Callum Smyth**

**Under 14's:** Players player **Rhys Pritchard** - Most improved Player **Josh Coates** - Coaches Player **Ollie Pritchard**

**Under 15's:** Players Player **James Newton** - Most improved player **William Murphy** - Coaches Player **Joe Smith**

**Under 16's:** Players Player **Paul Wilson** - Most improved Player **Luke Harding** - Coaches Player **Jack Butler**

## PRESENTATION EVENING 2005/06

**Colts Team** – presented by **Mike Veal**: Most Improved – **James Singleton** - Players Player – **John Veal** - Player – **Chris Cockton**

**Womens Team** – presented by **Marc Burke**: Most Improved – **Theresa Wright** - Players Player – **Fiona Catherall** - Player – **Fiona Catherall**

**4th Team** – presented by **Mark Down**: Players Player – **Pete Catherall** - Player – **Stuart MacDonald**

**3rd team** – presented by **Paul Hunt**: Players Player – **Matt Parrish** - Player – **Mike Brady**

**2nd Team** – presented by **Andy Leigh**: Players Player – **Leigh McDermott** - Player – **Alex Quegan**

**Golden Balls Award for Organisation (and learning how to not tell the truth)**

Picture the scene . . . a busy training session, everyone's puffing and blowing. Mark Bolton liked to make us think when we were under pressure. "Right, sort yourselves into a line in shoe size order, 30 seconds, Go!" Frantic to-ing and fro-ing, as we knew what the penalty was for getting it wrong. Well, most of us knew. "OK, stop, shout it out from that end!"

4 and a half (danny ryder) , 6 + half, 7, 7, 7 + half, 8, 8, 8 + half, 9, 9, 9, ELEVEN and a HALF, 9, 9 . . . Everyone shakes their head in disbelief. The winner is - **Pete Hackin** – thanks for the suicide runs!

**The Sekonda Award for Punctuality**

Peter Hackin has won this award so often that we've stopped giving it out. His tales of why he was late are certainly "out of this world"!

Peter is the only man I know who has stopped and had a car wash on his way to play a game of rugby.

He's also the only one I know who has hired a taxi to follow to the away

ground 'cos he was lost.

However, this year, he comes second in the nominations for this category. The winner of course, exhausted by an extended shopping trip in the duty-free area of Sydney airport, managed to miss his flight and was 36 hours late for the Littleboro' game - **Sam "Crocodile Dundee" Hilton**

Sam will now distribute the gifts he was buying for us all . . .

Presented by **Duncan Trench**, Exec Committee (and former coach)  
**Young Player** – **Tom Keech**

Presented by **Sam Hilton**, 1st XV vice Captain  
**Trainer** – **Chris Turner**

Presented by **Les Towler**, Club Captain  
**Most Improved Player** – **John Keech**

Presented by **Clive Nightingale**, Chairman  
**Clubman** – **Steve Knibb**

**Chairmans Special Award**

For his commitment, perseverance and monetary investment in Michael, Jip, Chris and James. Apparently they have no TV in Horwich!  
The winner is **John Singleton** for the Club Breeding Programme.

**1st Team** – presented by **James Brodie** - Players Player – **Peter Brogan**

Presented by **Paul Fernside**, Rugby Chairman -  
**Player** – **Sam Hilton & James Brodie**

# YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!

Fancy yourself as a budding Dave Hulme? Or have you any funny pictures or stories you want to share with the club? If you have, don't keep it to yourself - email it to: [talkingballs@boltonrugby.co.uk](mailto:talkingballs@boltonrugby.co.uk)



## Keeping it in the family

Five singletons play in one match - is this a record? Mike, John Paul, dad John, James and Chris. John won the Chairman's award for **four** good things he has done for the club!

## CLUB DIARY

### TUESDAY 4th JULY

Senior pre-season starts, 7pm and every Tuesday and Thursday after.

### FRIDAY 14th JULY

BRUFC Golf Day (see website for more details)

### SATURDAY 15th JULY

Caltucker 7's competition at the club.

### SATURDAY 5th AUGUST

Senior pre-season training at 2pm, and every Saturday after.

### SUNDAY 13th AUGUST

Junior training starts, 10.30am.

### SATURDAY 19th AUGUST

Pre-season trial matches vs Ruskin Park.

### SATURDAY 26th AUGUST

1st round Lancs Plate vs Bury at home.

### SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER

Senior League games start.

### SATURDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

Junior League games start.

## VACANCIES

**FULL-TIME CLUB STEWARD  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE &  
COMMUNITY COACH**

Further details from Clive Nightingale

## The Caltucker Cup – the one England couldn't win!

After failing miserably to beat the smaller nation across the border this year in their enthralling Calcutta Cup match, there remains an engaging rumour within Bolton that we may yet see an England team enter this year's challenge.

Established a few years ago between good friends and Old Bolts Jimmy Lever and David Lawson, the Caltucker Cup remains the premier prize to be won at Bolton Rugby Club this Summer on July 15th. Entrants so far include the original Old Boltonians sides, strengthened by recent school leavers, a number of club based sides and the provisional inclusion of two visiting sides. The rules of the game remain based upon a solid and internationally renowned code of Sevens rugby but this is expanded on by the main rule of the day to ensure that everyone has a substantial portion of fun.

Further investigation has revealed that there may possibly be a late entrant to the competition in the form of a highly experienced

Veterans side however numerous attempts to infiltrate this tight network of former players have not produced any real evidence. Food and alcohol will be provided all people have to do is bring down their wallets to support both Old Boltonians Rugby and Bolton Rugby Club and enjoy what we hope will be a very affable affair.

**For further information  
please contact Jon-  
Paul Hardman on  
07818081732 or email  
[jon.hardman@christie.com](mailto:jon.hardman@christie.com)**

## Uncle Les says ...

**Did you know that  
we had over 320  
paid-up members  
this year?**



**CONTACT  
DUNCAN TRENCH  
AND JOIN THE  
BRUFC 200 CLUB  
NOW!**

**SUPPORT YOUR  
CLUB - AND  
REMEMBER ... IT  
COULD BE YOU!**

**LATEST £250  
WINNER: IAN HART**

## MORE NEWS

## OUR NEW AUSSIE RULES!

We've gone all antipodean this season, please welcome Bolton's new signing, Bernard Kubainski who is 24 years old.

Bernard comes to us from South rugby club in Brisbane he has played first grade rugby and his preferred position is hooker. He can also play anywhere in the front or back row.

