



# Purley John Fisher Rugby Football Club

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1<sup>st</sup> September 2009

Dear Players & members

## Rugby Season 2009/10

Welcome to the thirteenth season of our club, and for all of you who don't yet know, the first season of my chairmanship. Before I talk about this year's season, I'll just let you know the outcome of last year.

### Last Season

Our last season as Purley John Fisher was a season of re-building. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV, following the retirement and loss of a number of key players that had formed the core of the side for the last number of years, started the season with numerous new faces. The hard work of John Cox the 1<sup>st</sup> XV captain, and Spencer Casey the new club coach who came to us from Teddington RFC, ensured that we maintained a mid table position at the end of the season. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV produced a number of gutsy performances against strong opposition and I think a lot of credit must go to the players who stepped into the 1<sup>st</sup> team positions for the first time to represent the club.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV captained by Peter O'Donnel, although they had an enjoyable season was not as successful as Peter may have hoped. However as the 1<sup>st</sup> team needed so many of the previous year's 2<sup>nd</sup> team players, Peter also found himself in a position of re-building his team. Peter's approach and hard work in putting his team together every Saturday ensured that fixtures were met and the spirit of the team was kept high.

For Tony Mawer the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV captain, last season proved to be one of our most successful seasons at 3<sup>rd</sup> team level for both games played and wins. With the climate of player shortages that we experienced last year throughout the club, the fact that we played so many 3<sup>rd</sup> team games, is a credit to the hard work and determination by Tony.

Unfortunately the vets captained by Jim Brannigan met Sutton & Epsom RFC, the previous year's winners, in the first round of the Evergreen Cup Competition. The Vets did not bring to the game the dominance they showed in the previous season, and came second in the battle. With the cup run finished before it began, many of the vets decided that watching rugby was a better option than playing it, and they would re-group for the 2009/10 season's cup challenge.

Even through this period of rebuilding, the club still proves to be a force to be reckoned with in both local rugby and beyond.

My thanks to all the captains who put in so much time and effort to make sure there were fifteen players on the field by Saturday, and to Chris Doyle for ensuring we had an opposition to play, and a referee for the game. I would also like to thank Martin Bruck and Nick Crumplin for their efforts throughout the season. Both Martin and Nick have stepped down from the Chairman and Treasurer positions they have held for many years.

## This Season

As the dawn breaks on the season ahead of us, there have been some changes, and some exciting new developments during the summer. The team captains remain the same as last year, and are

1 <sup>st</sup> XV	–	John Cox
2 <sup>nd</sup> XV	–	Peter O'Donnell
3 <sup>rd</sup> XV	–	Tony Mawer
PJF Vets	–	Jim Brannigan
Club Coach	–	Spencer Casey

I am pleased to welcome back as Club Coach, Spencer Casey, who, last year produced some of the most enjoyable training sessions many of the players have been to. Jeff Sweetman and Peter Knott will also be helping Spencer coach the players during the season. With all of these coaches on board we can improve our level of rugby in both forward and back play to take on the challenge of all the club's in our league.

We have been joined this season by a number of returning players and new players to the club in both forward and backs positions. These players will strengthen our 1<sup>st</sup> XV playing squad, providing us with some new inspiration. We welcome them to the club, and hope they will enjoy representing the club on the field and relaxing in the club house.

For those players who have not yet been, training is every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 7.30pm. Our season's campaign starts on September 12<sup>th</sup> against Sevenoaks, so training now is imperative. The training takes the form of technical and skills training on a Tuesday and team and forwards/back training on Thursday. So all players let's make an effort to attend training throughout the season.

Our main aim this year is to consolidate our position in the league, with a goal of winning it. In addition to this we want to grow the club and provide an enjoyable and successful environment for both the players, sponsors and their families. For this we need the commitment of all members and players in the club, as it is only through a team effort that we will be able to achieve this.

The new fixture card has been produced and as well as being issued to members is available on the clubs website for download. The website has been revamped and all club information, dates and news will be posted on the website on a regular basis, with reminder emails sent from the site. So if you need information about anything relating to the club, visit the website [www.pjfrfc.co.uk](http://www.pjfrfc.co.uk) . All members need to ensure that their details on the website are up to date for the reminder emails to be effective. For those senior members of the club who do not have access to the website or emails, Mick Tidy has kindly offered to forward all information by post. This is a great help and will ensure that no one is forgotten.

As you can see from the fixture card, this will be a rigorous season, so the more preparation we do the better. This year we would ask all 1<sup>st</sup> XV players to travel to all league games in Club dress comprising of Trousers, shirt, Club Tie and Navy Blazer. This helps us to look and feel like a team, and is an area that I know Spencer the club coach is keen on.

The first game of the Intermediate Cup will be a home fixture against Bognor on the 31st October.

Our links with The John Fisher School remains strong, with the club entertaining Mat Gold, the schools new Head of Rugby and the school's Possibles vs. Probables game in August. We are still looking at ways to improve and strengthen our links with the school and align ourselves with the young players, so this year we have taken the bold decision to change our playing shirts design and bring it in line with the shirts that the school wears. Our objective is that it smoothes the transition of players from the school to the club, as the young players will now have an affinity with the club through the playing colours and shirt design, and through this we hope to see more of them. We have also changed the shorts to white and the socks to black and white to reflect the Purley element of the club.

Due to the introduction of a new Championship league by the RFU, just below the Premiership league, all the National and London leagues were restructured. The result of this was that all teams were promoted (be it in name only) by one league. Therefore this season the club's 1<sup>st</sup> XV will be playing in the London 2 South East League and competing in the Intermediate and Surrey Cup competitions. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV will be playing in the Surrey County Alliance Merit League, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV will be playing in the Surrey County Combination 3 Merit League. Once again the Vets will be competing in the Evergreen cup competition.

The Clubs Academy Squad, made up from leavers from the John Fisher School, were entered into the Cronk/Cunis National U21's Festival this season, which was played on 31<sup>st</sup> August. After winning all their games in the knock out rounds, they finally won 17-7 against Pangbourne College in the final of the Bowl Competition. The winner's trophy and shield are now a fixture in the clubhouse, and we will be returning to the competition next year to defend our title.

Turning away from the playing side of the club to the management side of the club, there have been a number of changes over the close season. The new committee has been elected with some new members in the position of Chairman, Treasurer and Rugby Manager. David Hastings has been invited back by the new committee as the club's President to continue his long role of involvement in the club. The new committee is as follows:

<i>President</i>	-	Dave Hastings	<i>Website Manager</i>	-	Martin Cripps
<i>Chairman</i>	-	Richard Cebreiro	<i>House &amp; Grounds</i>	-	David Cebreiro
<i>Secretary</i>	-	Steve Bruck	<i>Equipment Officer</i>	-	Nic Potter
<i>Treasurer</i>	-	Andy MacHugh	<i>Youth Director</i>	-	Steve Brown
<i>Rugby Manager</i>	-	Sean O'Reilly	<i>Fixture Secretary</i>	-	Chris Doyle

The committee is always open to new ideas and thoughts from all the club's members, so if you have any suggestions please don't keep them to yourself, as you may have a good idea or lead we may not have considered.

The clubhouse has also been through a few changes, with the decorating of the back bar and main hall. The club is also the proud owners of new LCD TV's and plasma TV screens replacing the old televisions with the one of the LCD TV's mounted behind the bar. An new fixed projector screen and ceiling mounted projector has also been added to the club to improve watching the rugby, and both the new TV's and projector have been connected to a new audio system to enhance the sound quality and volume at the club. The club now can offer the best facilities anywhere in the area to watch the rugby or any other sport save being at the games live.

Following last season the front door has been replaced with a new double steel door unit and all the windows have been replaced and external protective mesh screens fitted to prevent the windows being damaged. Thanks to Dave Hastings and the Old Purlean's Association for the new LCD's and Plasmas, and David Cebreiro for his hard work and effort in repairing and decorating the club.

A new till and cellar system has been installed at the club which will allow us to reduce our wastage at the bar and manage our cellar stock levels accurately, and the committee has appointed a new Bar Manager Martin Perkins to oversee the running of the bar. Martin will oversee the management and stock takes of the bar. The club is also preparing to be registered as a "Community Amateur Sports Club" which will allow us to claim Gift Aid on any Donations to the club including the Patrons payments, and will also allow us to reduce our rates payments. The club is also negotiating with a number of breweries with a view of changing to the brewery which offers the best prices and service to the club. All these changes are being implemented in order to reduce the clubs out going costs, improve our profit margins and increase the available money for improvements, and increasing the money available to spend on the members and the playing side of the club.

Discussions with the local council have taken place with an aim of general improvements to the outside of the club, and so far the council has agreed to incorporate the land behind the club, previously the site of the youth centre, within our new lease agreement. The committee is also in discussion with the local council in attempt to get control of the old training ground in front of the club. This land would be used for a new third pitch at the club

and some hard surface courts. These discussions are only in the early stages and may take some time to finalise.

This Season the club will be producing a new match programme for each home league game, which will include information on the new merchandise available at the club, adverts from our new club sponsors, general information and contacts for other rugby clubs. The club has also put together a new sponsorship brochure detailing the sponsorship packages and opportunities available at the club for this season, so if you know of any person or business who may be interested in a spot of sponsorship or advertising please contact the club's Sponsorship Officer Doug Flower on Tel: 07771 825 800 or email: [D.Flower@fthfs.co.uk](mailto:D.Flower@fthfs.co.uk).

And Finally...

This season the club has changed the method in which it will be collecting membership and match subs payments. We have decided that to reduce the amount cash the club handles, to create a more regular cash flow, and to reduce the impact on members of paying the membership at the beginning of the season, all membership and match subs will be collected by means of standing order payments over the whole year. The club will be actively chasing membership and match subs payments this year. The club has set five membership bands:

Student	-	£5/month	(members who are a student or unemployed and who play more than 5 games a season)
Member	-	£10/month	(members who plays less than 5 games a season – Match Subs to be paid for each game)
Patron	-	£15/month	(members who wish to donate an additional £5 per month to the club)
Playing Member	-	£20/month	(members who play more than 5 games a season – Match Subs included)
Playing Patron	-	£25/month	(playing members who play and wish to donate an additional £5 per month – Match Subs Included)

The Membership Standing Order Mandates can be downloaded from the club's website [www.pjfrfc.co.uk](http://www.pjfrfc.co.uk)

The club is also introducing a new member's loyalty card which will allow members additional benefits when purchasing drinks at the bar. The scheme will only be rolled out to members paying a membership standing order to the club, and the cards will be delivered and distributed within the months of September and October

We have also reviewed the 200 Club Prize Draw and to participate each numbered ball will be £5/month. A prize draw will be held at the end of every month with a prize win of £100, with a Christmas prize draw and prize win of £1000.

I hope I have covered all the areas of interest, but if I have not, I am always available at the club bar for a chat.

I look forward to meeting you at the club during the season, and having a chat over a beer. But until then...

My Best Regards

**Richard Cebreiro**  
**Club Chairman**