



THE PILL

NEWS and VIEWS from ESHER R.F.C.

No. 1
JULY 1971

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Your Editor comments

This is a new venture for Esher R.F.C. The pill (you may not remember, but most of us once upon a time used to call the ball the pill, so don't think we are in the birth control business!) is specifically designed to give you - faithful Member - all the news and views that are associated with our great Club. You may criticise this first issue,, but as with all things they have to have a beginning. Too many of us have criticised the Club, your Editor included. I hope The Pill will bring a closer unity to all Members. Some issues may give you a good belly laugh, others may make you say 'What a load of cock'. The policy of The Pill is to be informative, provocative and humorous. All in all I hope you like this very f4rst issue of an Esher R.F.C. newsletter. Your comments and contributions will be more than welcome.

Your Captain, John Clouston, reports on last Season and the forthcoming

There were many amusing incidents last Season, both on and off the field. John Phillips was seen to be hobbling painfully after one weekend, and when enquiries were made as to how the injury occurred it was found that a certain table on which he was standing could not take the strain. By the way, this table happened to be in a pub!

As a result of Derek Trethewey's antics on the field at kick-offs and lineouts. some bright spark has bought him some goal posts so that he can practice his heading. The joker explains that this is the official method used by the Fijians.

In addition to this. a prop, who shall remain nameless, and who often suffers from backache after games, has bought Geoff Toms some new boots with 9" soles on!

If the rumour is true that some 1st XV members have bought me a pot of glue for next Season so that I can pick the ball up easier, I am afraid I'll have to drop the lot of them!! Mind you I would think twice before dropping Rob Brooks and Peter Barber because they now share a pair of weighted boxing gloves.

The new Cardinal's Captain, Tim Bale, is regarded as being the 'fruitiest' player of them all. Never a week passes without the proverbial strip being performed and usually well at that. In fact a certain discotheque in Halifax came to a sudden halt to witness one of the acts and it is rumoured that Tim came away with a 'prize'. The top couple of sides seem well endowed with artists, what with Mike Farr and his repertoire of songs, and Reg Pearce on a drunken evening joining in with the swing of things and speaking with a slightly slurred voice. Reg is teetotal!!

The Abbots. too, seem to have had a great time socially, if Peter Haines, the Captain, is anyone to go by. Many is the time that Peter is still in the Clubhouse with some of his cronies, notably the St. George's Weybridge contingent of Chris Marsh, John Boddendam. etc. It is hoped that many of the promising players from last year's Colts and Priors will make names for themselves on the field. but also in the bar under the expert guidance of Peter Haines.

The Priors

"TITS HAS RETIRED" - so read the headline in last month's Rugby World, as the rugby fraternity throughout the Country sat back shocked at this news,

Andrew Titheridge, to give his polite name, has retired as Captain of the Priors having bravely taken Ollie Haines' place halfway through last Season. The respect shown by his players is reflected in the great improvement of the team in the second half of the Season. A great performance by Tits who assures everyone that this Season he is aiming for top honours, and will, he estimates make the Extra "A" by Christmas.

Chris Longleather's 'A' must hold the unique record of having lost practically every game before Christmas and not being beaten thereafter. All the players persevered through the hard times and, in fact, enjoyed themselves into the bargain. Let's win a few more next Season. Chris,

The "B's" continue to thrive with Mel Brown's squad consisting of about thirty iron-tough exponents of the game, followed by St. J. Lucas-Lucas whose team plays as successfully on the field as serves behind the bar, A record was set earlier when at least two of the "B's" were seen at training on the same day!'

The Colts continue their success under the leadership of Leon Collins. Most of last year's team are either at University College or too old for next year's Colts, so Leon has a difficult task this year.

The Expendables as successful as ever, continue to advertise the name of Esher throughout the Country by their amazing results. It is wonderful to hear people talking of this team when playing in Northumberland or Cornwall. John Phillips continues as Captain for the 4th year. Perhaps this is his last?? We hope!!

The Social Committee have been hard at work during the Summer and announce that the Annual Captains Cocktail Party will be held on August 29th. You might remember that last year the Captain was rather under the weather (or table!) and if you wish to come with wife, girl-friend, or just self, please contact me at -

38. WILDCROFT MANOR, PUTNEY HEATH, LONDONS S.W.15.

Tel. No: 01 - 788 8981

Demand is always very great for this event, so think about it quickly. Further advices will follow soon.

As mentioned previously, this Newsletter will be printed every so often for everyone's interest and amusement and if you have anything you wish said, give the information to your Captain or, if a non-player, to someone on the Committee. This will then be passed on to the Editor of The Pill!

TRAINING STARTS FOR THE 1ST. SQUAD ON JULY 20th., AND OTHERS ON AUGUST 19th. We are going to have a marvellous Season, and we ARE going to be fit.

The best of luck to every Member.

JOHN CLOUSTON
1st XV Captain.

DRINK-IN - JULY 21st.

To get the Season off to a cheery start, there will be an informal beer tasting at the BULL'S HEAD,, West Clandon (on the A247 - turn left off the A3 after Ripley. coming from Esher). John Brown (ex-Surrey London Irish, Esher Expendables and all pubs West of Southend) is 'mine host'. All members and non-playing members with their wives, girl friends. mistresses. together with prospective Members, will be welcome.

Remember the date WEDNESDAY, JULY 21st. 8 p.m. 'till throwing up time'. Food will be available.

DEPARTURES AND NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS OVERSEAS

It is with regret that the Club says farewell to three stalwart players, namely Bill Downey, John Fisher, Bob Wylie and Tony Bacchus.

Bill Downey leaves for Hong Kong in July, where he will be working for Jardine Mathieson - he will be 'our man' in Hong Kong. We hope to hear from Bill frequently.

John is moving to Plymouth and hopes to play against Esher when we travel down there later in the Season. Thanks to him for his help last season as Captain of the Cardinals and. although the team was not very successful, a great spirit existed due to John.

Bob is moving to the Midlands and also hopes to play against Esher, for Nuneaton, that uncompromising team we did very well to beat last season. The best of luck to Bob who was Captain of Esher the season before last. Let us hope that he regains his County place next year.

Tony, newly married, has gone farther afield to Nairobi in East Africa. He has already met Pat Orr, the ex-Harlequin hooker, David Allanson, the ex-Rosslyn Park England trialist, and one or two other ex-notables. Tony will be returning to this country in a couple of years when he will be-most welcome back at the Club.

Peter Cranfield is now living in Beirut and is due to visit England in August - we hope to publish news from him in the next issue of The Pill.

Johnny Goddard spent three months in England last winter and came to see us all at Hersham - it was marvellous to see him again; he has now returned to Melbourne.

Bernard Branfield, last season's stalwart Social Secretary, is now married and living in New Zealand where. no doubt. he is enjoying the British Lions' tremendous success. We hope to hear from him and his news will be passed on to you.

Your Social Secretary reports

MUSIC ON THE BOUNTY

It is hoped that nearly 200 Club Members and guests will be heard floating down the Thames in late August or early September on a Riverboat Shuffle. It is even anticipated that most will return.

Tickets will be available shortly P.O.S.H. only (Port Out Starboard Home) or is it S.P.L.O.S.H. (interpretations invited).

I am sure you will all want to support this existing venture which will include discotheque music, dancing, food and drink; fishing will be frowned upon, swimming forbidden.

Other events on the Social Calendar for 1971-72 are likely to include an Annual Dinner which will take place in London. This will be the revival of the old "annual" dinner which was last held over 20 years ago, was it really 1949?

Most clubs hold an annual dinner, so how about helping to revive an old Esher tradition in October 1971?

The occasion will be a formal function in one of London's smart Hotels. Wellington boots and raincoats will NOT be worn! George Walker has promised NOT to throw beer!

Social Dates for your diary - Season 1971 - 72

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| 1. | CAPTAIN'S COCKTAIL PARTY | - | SUNDAY, 29th AUGUST |
| 2. | RIVER BOAT SHUFFLE 5 September | - | DATE TO BE DECIDED
END OF AUGUST BEGINNING SEPTEMBER |
| 3. | ANNUAL DINNER | - | FRIDAY, 29th OCTOBER |
| 4. | NOVEMBER HOP | - | SATURDAY, 20th NOVEMBER |
| 5. | CHRISTMAS DRAW AND DANCE | - | SATURDAY, 18th DECEMBER |
| 6. | MID-SEASON DANCE
ST. GEORGE'S HILL, WEYBRIDGE | - | FRIDAY, 4th FEBRUARY, 1972 |
| 7. | MARCH HOP | - | SATURDAY, 11th MARCH, 1972 |

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OUR FUTURE

The Club's future depends so much on getting hold of good playing members to help us get those wins we badly need, so PLEASE PLEASE, if you know of anyone who might like to join Esher, let Tony Till - the Club Secretary - know all; his address is 25 Motspur Park, New Malden. Telephone: 942 1380.

Non-playing members as well are urgently needed ... Fathers, Mothers. Brothers, in fact anyone who you feel would enjoy coming down to Hersham - our facilities now are second to none, so use your influence!

A final word from your Editor

As you now know, The Pill is a new idea, Let's hope it continues to publish regularly - its future depends on we Members.

AS I have already said at the beginning, if you have any news, views, comments, births, marriages, etc., to report, please let me know. The more you let me have, the more informative and entertaining The Pill will be.