

Dear Member,

## **BRFC Members Newsletter – August 2018**

“With four games to go we looked safe to stay up. Then some remarkably unusual results involving those teams around us happened that put our league position under extreme pressure.” These are the opening remarks to my last years newsletter and I feel it is déjà vu for this edition – what is going on! Despite valiant efforts, particularly in our last, must win game against Wimbledon, Redruths disappointing loss at Old Reds meant we were relegated and so we begin a new season against familiar local Devon clubs. We can once again look forward to welcoming old friends Brixham, Exmouth, Newton Abbot and newcomers Ivybridge and Exeter University to Pottington Road. This year the top two Devon Clubs at the end of the season will play off for the Devon Senior Cup adding another edge to the fixtures. I hope you will continue supporting us with your membership subscriptions and vocal presence on match days.

### **Committee Changes**

Following the recent AGM Ian Stanton was elected as Chairman to succeed Craig Bulley. Those who are very long in the tooth may remember Ian’s Chiefs debut as a feisty 18-year-old flanker back in the seventies when his family moved to North Devon to take over the George Hotel in Braunton. A little more reserved now, but still passionate about the Club, he has earned this opportunity to lead the Committee and we wish him well in this important role. Otherwise all remains more or less the same with President Trevor Edwards, Treasurer David Jemmett and Secretary Alan White continuing in their posts.

### **Playing Matters**

For family reasons Steve Perry has decided to join Exmouth this season and we thank Steve for his honest efforts over the last few years which culminated in our Senior side punching above their weight in National 2 for two seasons. He leaves with our good wishes and blessings in the hope that he remembers his time with us with fondness. We are very pleased that Bryn Jenkins will take over as Head Coach ably assisted by the experienced Jake Murphy. With most of last years players remaining on our books we hope the experience gained at Level Four will see us do well in the coming season. Director of rugby Jeremy Chugg is determined to continue his work to integrate all teams to create a seamless path from Youths to Colts to Seniors. To this end a team of coaches including the hard-working Scott Warren, Pat McManus, Lewis Joce and Chris Drayton has been appointed to further these aims. Finally, a big thank you to Gus Meredith who has tirelessly led the Colts coaching team for the last four years with outstanding results and has decided to stand down this season.

### **Mini & Juniors**

Junior Chairman Russ Copsey said “What can you say about the mini and junior section other than they continue to flourish with record numbers of boys and girls filling the squads in all ages. A particularly pleasing outcome was the fantastic growth of the girls’ section culminating with the U18’s playing their first home game which I had the privilege to referee. With the RFU’s core values of Team Work, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship foremost, the dedication and enthusiasm of the coaches and helpers are producing not only skillful rugby

players but children with an ethos that will help stand them in good stead for life. So, hats off and a huge thank you to all the volunteers for their hard work on and off the pitch.

### **Membership Fees and Home Game Admission Charges**

To be fair to our loyal supporters and visiting spectators, following much discussion, your Committee has decided to reduce Club Membership fees and Gate Entry charges to a level consistent with other clubs in our new league. The new entry charges for home league games will be Non-member £8, Red member £5 Silver member Free. New membership prices can be found on the Membership Application Form attached or available on the club website. I hope you will agree that the charges represent very good value and if you think we are selling ourselves too cheap then please consider making an additional donation – it is the most effective way of helping the club provide and maintain the excellent facilities we all enjoy at the club.

### **International Tickets**

Members only may apply for tickets for England's home games through Trevor Edwards on the application form enclosed with this newsletter. Please reply directly to him.

### **Fixture List**

At the time of writing not all the fixtures have been finalized, particularly in the case of the Tics and Colts. In the meantime, a preliminary copy fixture list is attached for a heads up while the final version is being prepared. The final version will take the same format as before (credit card size) and will be issued with your new membership card.

### **Close Season Improvements**

Our trusty band of volunteers have been very busy during the summer break carrying out vital maintenance work and adding new facilities. The first you will notice is a kiosk (looks like a conservatory) built at the front of the clubhouse to keep the programs and gate staff dry on rainy days. Our sincere thanks go to Camel Glass, the Barnstaple Boys Secondary School Reunion team and to those that donated to the abandoned wall tile project for their invaluable assistance. You may also notice the work done on the main grandstand covering the old wooden facias with plastic cladding. New extract fans installed in the changing rooms should improve the ventilation in these areas while the Ground staff have spent many hours cutting, strimming, weeding and fertilizing all the pitches and are now praying for rain to finish the job.

### **Club and Player Sponsors**

Our grateful thanks go to those companies and individuals who support us so generously with their sponsorship and donations. Quite frankly, without their support we would not be able to provide the first-class rugby and leisure facilities we all enjoy. Hopefully we will repay your support with our patronage.

Yours Sincerely

Trevor Shaddick  
Membership Secretary (01271 379195)