

# GRASSHOPPERS

## RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



### CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

Dear Grasshoppers

I thought it would be a nice idea to catch up and update with you all more or less midway through this 2009/2010 season. The year 2010 will mark our 60<sup>th</sup> 'Diamond' anniversary at Grasshoppers and as you will see from the events chronology below, next year will hopefully be a fun packed celebration of our 'community' the Grasshoppers community which we all enjoy.

#### The season so far .....

##### Senior Rugby

It has been very pleasing to see Grasshoppers putting out 3 regular sides (competitive in the various leagues) as well as an intermittent 4<sup>th</sup>/Vets team so far this season.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> XV it has been a mixed bag so far with some good early wins at the start of the season followed by a run of losses. This weekend, away to Finchley, saw a reversal of fortune with a good win which places us at around mid table. The Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December fixture at home to London New Zealand, a team we beat earlier in the season, will be an important game to win, before the Christmas recess, in order to consolidate a new found confidence amongst a young but extremely talented 1<sup>st</sup> XV squad. **Good luck boys.**

#### London 2 North West

Short Format 

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Adjust
Tabard	11	10	0	1	280	144	136	20	0
Imperial Medicals	11	8	0	3	360	193	167	16	0
Hampstead	11	8	0	3	244	186	58	16	0
Hammersmith & Fulham	11	7	0	4	236	237	-1	14	0
Chiswick	11	6	1	4	219	179	40	13	0
U.C.S. Old Boys	11	5	2	4	220	171	49	12	0
Hemel Hempstead	11	5	1	5	203	190	13	11	0
<b>Grasshoppers</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>-53</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
St Albans	11	4	0	7	221	265	-44	8	0
London Nigerian	11	3	0	8	167	222	-55	6	0
Finchley	11	3	0	8	138	268	-130	6	0
London New Zealand	11	0	0	11	122	302	-180	0	0

Last Updated: Dec 12 2009

Both the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3XV teams have recorded some good wins between them but overall a case of mixed fortunes.

**Junior rugby**, both male and female is progressing well with great turn-outs and some excellent results despite the damp weather of late. Most of the junior sides are poised at mid or top table within their respective league divisions. A concerted push in the new year should hopefully see Grasshoppers junior sides ending up having done very well.

**Mini Rugby** continues to thrive under the overall coordination of Marion Mason and there has been much 'Coaching Development' co-ordinated by Leroy Arbouine.

As usual, everyone involved within the Rugby section has worked extremely hard ..... management, coaches, the sports rehab gurus - Ed and Christina, helpers and players and if we can keep it going into the second half of the season I believe we can achieve great things.

**Netball** continue to do well maintaining the highest of standards traditionally associated with Grasshoppers Netball. Progress continues to be made with the **Junior G's** as they continue to train hard with the Queensmead Junior Netball League series in mind. Proving very popular is the **High5's** group. Big thanks to the superb coaching in both groups.

### **Clubhouse and Grounds improvements**

As some of you will have noticed we are investing in the club infrastructure with a series of improvements both to the clubhouse as well as the grounds.

Women's facilities have improved with the introduction of a dedicated female changing room adjacent to the female toilets. The Sport Rehabilitation room has moved to a refurbished room further down the changing room corridor.

Currently the male toilet area is receiving a facelift with a new floor, and re-worked cubicles, etc. Smells better already! I am sure the chaps will excuse the inconvenience of having to use the porta-loos outside, despite the 'cold snap'. Work on the toilet is scheduled to finish by Christmas.

The clubs heating and showers will also be improved ..... no more barely-warm showers for the last teams in.

A second pitch will be floodlit (the pitch running the other way to the rest of the pitches) which will provide more space for training. Work would have started already had it not been for the bad weather and soft grounds.

It is envisaged that during the summer 2010 the clubhouse will be repainted/decorated.

**The Gym**, yes the shed to the right to the clubhouse, has had some new equipment (new as in additional) put in. It is now a fully functional weight training gym with some cardio equipment. Please make the most of it. The key is behind the bar upon request.

I would like to thank Glyn Bowen and his staff for their hard work so far this year as well as Mark Woodward, our Head Grounds, for preparing superb pitches despite the wet weather. Our valued staff really do keep the place going!.

## Social

There have been a number of social events so far this season, including the popular VP's lunches, and the atmosphere at the club has been generally excellent. This was typified by the Chiswick league clash at home a couple of weeks ago where, despite a narrow defeat to our dear rivals, the 'buzz' at the club was 'magical' followed by a club party which involved everyone as well as the Sharks having a 'send off' bash for one of their boys.

As a club we have strived to really bring the sections of the club together and I believe we have managed to do this. 'Mixed and open' social events are ways of achieving this bonding across sections and I think we can do more around 'social events' to really move this forward. As such I call on, not just the Social Joint Working Group reps (Vinny & Vicky), but anyone who has some time to spare to help develop more social options.

Below are just some of the significant events coming up over the next 6 months.

I would just like to expand on a couple of the big ones which relate to our 60<sup>th</sup> Diamond Anniversary celebrations.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010 - Club 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 'Diamond Ball'** – at the St George's Suite, Twickenham Stadium <http://www.grasshoppersrfc.com/files/GRFC%20Diamond%20Ball.pdf>  
Click on the link to view the flyer or go to our website.

I want this to be a superb event and I would really like **you** to be a part of it.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2010 ,Bank Hol** – End of Season 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "**Celebration of Sport**".  
This will be a fantastic day of sport – a celebration and the order of the day will look something like this (subject to change).

- Mini Rugby world cup and awards (Confirmed)
- Vets Netball seven v Junior G's seven
- Senior invitational Netball seven v Grasshoppers Select seven
- West London Sharks v scheduled League opposition (TBC)
- Chairman's Vets Select XV v Chiswick Vets XV (Confirmed)
- Presidents Select XV v Middlesex Clubs XV (confirmed)

The day will consist of entertainment for children and families and a BBQ whilst the evening will continue with food & drink, music & dancing with an extended bar etc.

## Always looking to improve things

At Grasshoppers we are keen on improving things for members, volunteers, players ...everyone. To help us do this it would be great if you could complete an on-line questionnaire which will be available from the [Grasshoppers Website](#) next week. The questionnaire is anonymous and will only take 5 minutes to complete. The information will be analysed by the RFU and the results discussed with the club. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire (link below) and please mention it to anyone else who has experienced Grasshoppers, even your teachers, ex-members etc. Your feedback is truly welcomed and important to us.

**On that note, I would like to wish you all at Grasshoppers, and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and successful New Year!**

**Juan Murray**  
**Club Chairman**

## **Some Events & Dates - 2009/2010**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 - Players Dinner (Rugby & Netball)

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2009 – 1XV League vs LNZ followed by (Taz & Rach Party)

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2009 - Kids Christmas Party – 3.00pm to 6.00

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 - Club New Year's Eve Party

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010 - VP's 60<sup>th</sup> (Diamond) Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010 - Club 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 'Diamond Ball' – St George's Suite,  
Twickenham Stadium

Thursday/Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2010 - Easter weekend Rugby Tour - Portsmouth

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010 - 1XV Last 2009/2010 League Game

TBA - April 2010 – Senior Awards - Rugby & Netball

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 – Junior Awards Evening - Rugby & Netball

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2010 – End of Season 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Celebration of Sport"-