



Following a great home win (28-15) against Thanet Wanderers a few weeks ago, the lads next game was at Deal & Bettshanger, for what can only be described as a mud bath rather than a game of rugby! The lads fought hard in atrocious conditions but unfortunately lost the game 31-12. As you can see from the photo, it was hard to decipher who was on what team and I'm glad I wasn't washing the kit!! With only 3 more league games for the 1XV this season, our young squad certainly has everything to fight for with the points in these games deciding final league positions for all teams. The Nomads have a few upcoming friendlies arranged and following the end of the league season on 6th April, the men start their campaign in the Papa John's Cup with a home match against Thanet Wanderers on the 13th of April.



The Ladies have been enjoying training and playing both league and friendly games with the joint Cranbrook/Maidstone ladies' team, giving all the ladies at both clubs plenty of quality training and match time. The Inner Warrior held at the club was a great success, with recruiting and rebuilding the Cranbrook team going well, hopefully with a view to re- entering the RFU leagues as a Cranbrook team next season. Next Sunday they are away at Maidstone playing Edenbridge Ladies and on the 23rd March will be hosting Gravesend in a friendly match on Sands- do get along to cheer on our ladies!

The Falcons (Colts) have had a great season to date, with good numbers this year from the outset, winning most matches and only suffering one heavy defeat. The boys seem to appreciate being treated as a greater part of the club, with mid-week training, playing on Sands and social media team selection all contributing to that. Looking ahead to next season the Colts are looking to recruit new players to the squad at both U17 and U18 so please do get in touch with Fran on 07646 643243 if you'd like to be part of this great squad!



The juniors have been enjoying competing in the Kent Waterfall and League competitions, as well as training and friendly matches, with some great results across the section. The U12's have won both waterfall matches played since Christmas with one more to play, the U13's are currently sitting top of their waterfall pool (with one game in the hand), the U14's have had a mixed season following moving up in the Kent pool system but with new players recruited and tour to Leicester in a few weeks' time it's all positive, while the U15's have also had a mixed league run with good results and some hard defeats, but are coping well with the step up from U14's and also looking forward to their tour in April.

The junior girls continue with great success in their training and matches, in their joint teams with Tonbridge Juddians and Tunbridge Wells Girls. This Sunday saw the club host the U16 Weald Warriors team v Ashford in a Cup game where the Weald Warriors battled hard in horrid conditions to secure the win (10-5). Congratulations to Player of the Match, Cranbrook's Lily A. The joint U14's Girls team recently were crowned Kent Champions, where they were awarded their winners medals by England Red Roses Captain Marlie Packer.



The mini section has been getting stuck into some great home and away training and festivals since Christmas with trips to Hastings, Canterbury and Edenbridge. The U8's and U9's are on parade for a guard of honour at the 1XV home game vs Dover on Saturday 16th, also playing in an exhibition match at half time. They are then building up for the Minis Kent Festivals across 5 locations with a total of 11 teams out entered. The 3rd Fergie Gask Shield tournament taking place on the 14th April is always a highly

contested and enjoyable morning for the minis. The Minis tour is all organised with 78 tourists heading to Leicester for a long weekend.

The cricket season organisation is well under way, and thanks must go to Lucy Grigson for all her work on continuing to ensure Cricket at Cranbrook continues. Lucy really does need a few extra pairs of hands to make sure the age groups run smoothly so please do get on touch with Lucy on grigsonlucy@gmail.com if you are able to help out over the cricket season this summer.

Club Lunches- The last club lunch of the season, The Sponsors & Volunteers Lunch, will take place on 6th April (kindly sponsored by Angel Fish Travel), prior to the 1XV hosting Crowborough (3pm KO). As with all club lunches, this lunch is open to all club sponsors, members, and guests, but this lunch gives the club another opportunity to thank our Sponsors and Volunteers that give go generously of their time and support across the season. If you would like to attend, then please do reserve your place with Chris at chris@mcveighparker.co.uk asap as places are likely to sell out quickly.

The opportunity for anyone to take charge and organise one, two or all of these lunches is always open. Should anyone wish to utilise their own children and friends as staff and arrange the whole lunch from bookings to chef to serving please register your interest Chris who would be only too helpful to discuss.

Tom Chantler Memorial Lunch- 20th April. (Kindly sponsored by The Ridge Golf Club) Bookings via Chris please.

SAVE THE DATE- Harlequins Summer Camp at CRFC- Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th August 2024- more details to follow ASAP

Clubhouse Development- Things are progressing well with the work towards submitting a new planning permission, hopefully in early summer. The draft plans are back from the architect, and the team are confident that these encompass what we are trying to achieve to secure the future of the club. Whether we like it or not, the current clubhouse is rotting from the ground up and we **MUST** take action now to ensure that we have a club for generations to come! At the Sponsors and Volunteers lunch on 6th April, the development team will be hoping to “launch” the current plans in story board format so that **EVERYONE**

can see what is trying to be achieved. This development is obviously going to come at a cost, but hopefully if we all pull together as a club, we can reach our goal to have a clubhouse that is practical to be used by the members and the whole local community, which is environmentally sustainable and can take us through another 50 plus years of Cranbrook Sports Club. If you'd like to chat further, would like to be part of the fundraising team or indeed, can help the club either with services or help financially, then please do get in touch as the development team would be happy to discuss further clubhouse@cranbrookrugby.com

500 Club- The club has for many years run a "500 Club", with monthly draws made and prizes won. We would like to "relaunch" this and invite new members and supporters to sign up to the monthly cash draws. For £5 per month, you could be in with a chance of winning a share of the monthly "pot". Please contact Lyndsey Posey on cranbrook_ladies_team@outlook.com to be part of this monthly club fundraising draw. The monthly winners will be contacted directly and announced on our social media pages.



Walking Rugby- The club held a great 1st session of walking rugby last week, where the ladies started to learn the skills needed to play walking rugby. Lots learnt, brilliant skills on display, hearts pumping, lots of smiles and giggles, with delicious cake to finish the afternoon. It was good to welcome so many ladies to Cranbrook RFC that have never been to a rugby club before, and even better, they want to return! The next session is **Friday 15th March at 2pm- ladies of all ages welcome**. This initiative is being run in partnership with Highgate Hawkhurst WI, and our Club President Tim Fagg is leading the coaching of the ladies. For more information, please contact Rachel.fagg@yahoo.com

Become a Referee? - As you may know, we currently have two club members that are refereeing for the Kent Society of Referee's. Both Steen and Isaac are thoroughly enjoying the experience that being a county ref brings (as well as putting their hands up to ref club junior matches when they can). The support that they both receive from the Society in the form of ongoing training, match day assessors and thus, the assistance with their progression through the Refereeing Levels means that they would really recommend that if anyone else is considering a role as a referee, to pick up the whistle and go for it! The Kent Society of Referee's are running an "Introduction to Refereeing" course at Aylesford Bulls RFC on Sunday 12th May (9-4pm). If you are interested in attending or learning more then please contact admin@kentrefs.co.uk

Volunteers- As we all know, the club is run by volunteers for its members, but for it to continue to thrive, develop and grow, we are looking for a few more people to help out with a few tasks please! The few roles that we need help with asap are:

- * Marketing (including website, internal marketing & social media presence)
- * Fundraising
- * Cricket Team Managers (for matches and tournaments so not necessarily every week)
- * Club Social Secretary (to organise club social events such as quiz nights, discos, wine tasting)

If you can help at all, then please do get in touch with Michelle at michelleforknallcrfc@gmail.com

Next Weekend (A busy weekend of matches & Festivals for CRFC!)

Saturday 16th- 1xv v Dover 3pm KO (with U8 & U9's Guard of Honour & exhibition matches)

Sunday 17th- Ladies away at Maidstone v Edenbridge 2pm KO, U16 Girls away at TJ's

Mini's away at Kent Festivals, U12's home match v Maidstone, U13's home training, U14's home match v Ashford, U15's home match v Sittingbourne, Colts home match v East Grinstead