



One from the Archives with Jim the Younger

Having been minute secretary for the club since 1854 I have recorded all the club's highs and lows and would like to share some snippets with you.. For the first instalment we go back to the scandal of 1899 ...

Harry Thornber had been a prominent member of the club for over 20 years - Captain and President and even President of Sale Rugby Club at Heywood Road and a Justice of the Peace. At each AGM it was customary to propose a vote of thanks to the outgoing President. In 1899 this was not proposed and there was no reference to this prominent member of many years.

There was no mention of him in the next two years either. However the club minutes in 1901 recorded that the chest of drawers belonging to Mr Thornber would be appropriated by the club in lieu of his son's subscriptions. In 1902 the Council voted to hold a collection for Mrs Thornber. There was no mention of the cause of his disappearance and his family's falling on hard times.

There is no further mention in the club minutes, but it is understood that he had left the family home for an unspecified reason and was buried in Finchley Cemetery, London many years later. It does not do to speculate, as there may still be family members in the area ...

We held a cricket trios' day in September to celebrate Glyn Robert's 13 years as club president. 36 members from all playing sections came together for a fun days cricket and barbeque. We were blessed on the day with some great weather and everyone who took part agreed that we should make it an annual event.

In the final Hassan Khan, Nigel Davenport and John Graves beat Matt Millward, Lionel Thompson and Ian Sexton.



Sale golf day

A golf day was held on the 16th of October supported by 21 members across all sections. We were well looked after by Sale Golf Club, who hosted our stableford tournament. In the evening a dinner and presentation was held at the club. Congratulations to Rick Halkon who finished the winner.



If anyone is interested in joining the cricket section please speak to Mike Wilkes (07921 758890) about senior cricket, or Rick Halkon (07545 447359) about junior cricket. Alternatively you can e-mail cricket@salesportsclub.com.

The ladies hockey section always welcomes new players of any standard - beginners who've never held a hockey stick through to international players! There's a place here for all of you and we would love to welcome new members to the section. If you are interested in playing or getting involved in any way please contact Beth Millman - bethmillman@hotmail.com

The men's hockey section are equally interested in hearing from new members, please contact Mark Roberts on 07799 658 193, or Mark.Roberts@veolia.co.uk

If you know anyone that may be interested in joining the Spartans, then please get in touch either at the club or by emailing recruitment@villagespartans.co.uk

For anyone wanting to take up tennis please contact Joe Holt on 0161 969 2016 or joe.holt01@ntlworld.com

For anyone interested in junior football please contact Peter Donnelly on 07971 115050.

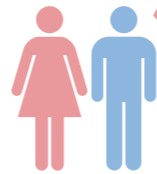
If anyone has any positive suggestions or ideas on how we can improve the bar service please contact Mike Halkon on 07813 075229, or by email at mikehalkon@hotmail.co.uk

+stop press+++

The club has recently been awarded funding by Sport England to employ a full time Coaching and Development Officer for the next 3 years After a rigorous selection process Rick Halkon has been appointed. This will be a major boost to all the sporting sections, helping them to grow and develop for many years to come.

We could not do it with out you, a big thank you to ...
... everyone who helped with the refurbishment, open day, trios day, golf day and this newsletter: Jamal Benzafar, Pete Donnelly, Mike Halkon, Caroline & Carl Hardicker, Iain Harrop, Alan Herron, Joe Holt, Matt Mardie, Andy & Matt Millward, Alex & Rob Moore, John O'Donnell, Rod Owen, George & Christine Richardson, Glyn Roberts, Matt Savka, Matt Whiteley, Hannah Williams, Russ Wyatt, Jim Younger.

People talk...



Players of the Future in the hockey section - Caroline Blakey has just given birth to her first baby, a little girl - still awaiting a name at the time of going to press, congratulations to her and husband Adam. Congratulations as well to Katy and Si Hands who have also had a little girl, Rebekka Sophia - a little sister to brother Alex. Theresa & Martin D'Cruz are not far behind them, their prospective new member is due in April 2010

More inter-hockey matches are on the way, with both Hannah Williams & Nick Buchanan, and Danielle Boothman & Mark Roberts getting engaged.

Cricketer Jamie Broadbent tied the not with his understanding partner Becca a few weeks after the end of the season.

Our Aussie friends John Taylor and Claire Madden returned home after 3 years at the club, they'll both be missed on and off the field!



I have been working with George and Christine to improve the offer to members, we've started by introducing a weekly newsletter and a bar snacks menu. This has been done based on feedback from members, if you have any positive suggestions to improve the bar service further please let me know.

The weekly newsletter will keep you informed about upcoming events as well as any changes to opening hours to accommodate live sport. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please e-mail information@salesportsclub.com

We have some great live sport coming up on the big screen including all the Man Utd and Man City games and well as the international Rugby season.

Christine is introducing a 2-course Sunday lunch served from 13:00 till 16:00 priced at £5.95 (subject to a minimum of 12 people having made a reservation by 9pm on Friday evening)

Please ask about function room hire at the bar or on 0161 973 7250 for any forthcoming parties or events!

Welcome



Welcome to the first edition of "Sale Sports News", our bi-yearly look at what's going on throughout Sale Sports Club. We've come up with this temporary title, but would love to hear from you if you've got a better suggestion.

I am really pleased that we've managed to attract some 'new blood' to the council that is enthusiastic about changing and developing your club for the future. We have already started to make some changes that you'll have seen.

We have refurbished the foyer and function room, which seems to have an impact as we were fully booked in the final quarter of 2009. Thanks must go to those volunteers who have worked on foyer; smoking area and general clear up of house frontage. Our initial focus has been on making some quick changes to improve the club's commercial performance and improve the communication with and amongst the members ... of which this newsletter is part of the plan.

I have also met with all the section committees to ensure there is broad support for our emerging strategy, as well as talking to Sport Trafford and other key stakeholders. We will shortly be turning our attentions to more long-term priorities and establishing a 5-year development plan for the club. We have a duty to ensure the club survives for another 150 years and need to put in place the foundations for a long and successful future.

We hope to have something more concrete to present by the AGM in March next year, but in the meantime we will ensure that the membership is consulted. Rest assured we will need your help and support along the way!

Finally, I would like to say how pleased I am with how well the Trio's day and Golf day went. It was brilliant to see all the sections coming together and having a great time, we would love to hear any ideas you may have for future events.

Rob Moore - Chairman



CRICKET FOOTBALL HOCKEY RUGBY TENNIS SALE SPORTS NEWS

We have lift-off - our new sports facilities are officially launched

The Club celebrated the official opening of our new sporting facilities on Sunday 12th July 2009. In recent years we have installed a 4-bay synthetic cricket net system, relayed the cricket square and completely refurbished six tennis courts. These new facilities were made possible through grant funding totalling £153,451.

Guests included Paul Goggins MP, Councillor Roland Griffin, Karen Keohane (Sport England) and David Humpage (Cheshire County Cricket League), who were joined by the Friends of Sale Tennis Club and former cricketers who made valuable donations towards these projects.

The guests enjoyed a reception held at the club, followed by an opening address from Chairman Rob Moore and a tour of the new facilities.

The event went really well thanks to all the members who volunteered on the day.

Between the posts

Manchester Village Spartans RFC is 10 years old this year and celebrating with an excellent start to the 2009/10 season. The lads have racked up an impressive string of wins and an excellent league position, having only lost to top of the table Hope Valley so far this year. The Spartans are second in the Miller Homes Division 5 East, and 4 points ahead of 3rd place Aldwinians 4s.

The team's success couldn't have been achieved without the expert instruction of Elaine Vasey, a full-time RFU Rugby Development Officer, who became the Spartans Head Coach at the beginning of this season after 3 years as assistant coach. The team also benefits from regular sessions with professionals from Sale Sharks and other specialist coaches, all of which is enabled through grants and the team's fundraising activities.

The Spartans have also attracted record numbers of new players and supporters this year, many of which had never picked up a rugby ball or watched a rugby match prior to first coming down to Sale Sports Club. It's a great testament to the club, who believe in offering the opportunity to play competitive rugby union to all, regardless of ability and sexuality.

LADIES HOCKEY

Cross sticks

The Ladies Hockey section boasts three teams all playing in the Cheshire League. The 1st team is in Division 1 following an unlucky last minute relegation last season and is currently in 2nd position chasing promotion. The 2nd team plays in Division 3 following two very successful seasons resulting in back to back promotion, and are currently in very respectable 4th position. The 3rd team has also enjoyed a couple of successful seasons and is now in Division 5.

The 1st team is keen to regain their place in the Northern Feeder League; the 2nd team is hoping to finish in the top 3 of their new Division with the 3rd team aiming to finish in the top half of Division 5. Games are played on Saturdays from September through to March with training sessions taking place every Tuesday night with new coach Paul Masterson.

There is also a strong and ever growing junior section coached on a Tuesday by Sarah Rowley and managed by Sarah Pinches, tournaments are played on Sunday's throughout the season at Belle Vue.

The section welcomes a new Social Secretary this year, Sophie Stephenson, who has so far hosted a very successful Pub Golf Night in September, followed by a fabulous Halloween Party - the ballroom barely recognizable beneath all the brilliant decorations, well done to Sophie and Jenny Maroulis! There are several social events planned throughout the season. The infamous Curryoke will be returning soon.



MEN'S HOCKEY

Penalty corner

After a disappointing season last year for Men's Hockey, all 3 men's teams have started the season well in the Kukri North West Hockey League. The 1st team are placed 4th in Division 5 (South), the 3rd team are currently 5th in Division 10 (South), but it's the 2nd team who lead the way, having only dropped 2 points so far, they lead the way in Division 8 (South).

Training takes place on Tuesday nights - juniors 7-8 pm and seniors 8-9 pm at William Hulme Grammar School, and we are always looking for new members, of any ability. You don't even have to know the rules or even have played the game, just come along.

All match reports, upcoming fixtures, information on training, contact names and numbers, upcoming events are on the website at www.salehockeyclub.co.uk

Some of the crowd are on the pitch...

FC Sporting Sale is the football arm of the club and currently has 7 teams represented at U9, U11, U12, U14 and U16 and has approximately 90 members.

The club trains on a Friday evening at Brooklands Sports Club and plays matches on Saturday's (U9's) and Sunday's for all other age groups at Sale Sports Club.

The club which started in 2001 boasts the finest junior pitches in Manchester which are on the outfields of the cricket square and has a further 3 pitches on the other side of Clarendon Road.

Last season saw another successful season for the club with promotion being achieved by the U11's who also got to the cup final. The U12's and U16 teams also gained further promotions.

All of the teams have started the current season in a strong fashion with the U16's leading the way and being currently 7 points clear at the top of their division. It is hoped that further promotions will be achieved this season and we welcome our U9's who have joined the club for the first time.

Results can be viewed on the Timperley & District Junior Football League website at www.timperleyjuniorfootball.co.uk



Snail Racing...

The popular Snail Racing night is heading back to the club soon. It is always an enjoyable evening so please support this event. The proceeds raised will contribute to the funding for our new Coaching and Development Officer, which will turn our club from good to great! Sarah Roberts is once again co-coordinating with the help of the section social reps.

Whoa Speed lines!



You cannot be serious



Tennis diary dates
Joining Day is set for Saturday 20th March, from 12 noon followed by an American tournament starting at 1.30pm. 22nd May is Tennis AGM and Wimbledon draw (5pm), an American tournament will be run from 1:30pm.

Sale Tennis Club plays in both the North East Cheshire and the South West Manchester summer leagues. Our results last year are as follows :-

Men			
1st team	NEC D4	P10/W5/D0/L5	Stay in division
2nd team	SW Manchester D2	P14/W6/D1/L7	Stay in division
3rd team	NEC D7	P10/W8/D1/L1	Stay in division
4th team	SW Manchester D5	P12/W10/D0/L2	Promoted
Ladies			
1st team	NEC D3	P10/W3/D1/L6	Stay in division
2nd team	SW Manchester D1	P16/W4/D5/L7	Stay in division
3rd team	SW Manchester D2	P16/W4/D2/L10	Relegated

The NEC winter leagues are now underway also and Sale have entered 4 teams, usually playing on Sundays with occasional matches played midweek under floodlights. They are 'mixed' teams and provide the opportunity for members to continue with competitive match tennis throughout the winter months.

Our captains do a tremendous job putting out teams as, with cup competitions, the Club plays well over a hundred fixtures throughout the year. Overall, the results this summer were pleasing as we have tried to introduce a number of new members into the teams this year. Most players find the standard they play at challenging with the men's lower division teams in particular making good progress.

Current thinking is that seven teams is about right and we are not expecting to field any more this summer, although we will keep this under review over the winter months. Everyone is invited to join in with team tennis so if you are interested just speak to one of the team captains.

The 2009 Club Tournament took place during October. Preliminary rounds were played over a short, intense, two week period culminating in a 'Finals Day' that saw Nad Duvnjak (Mens Singles), Paul Gozam/Nick Fletcher (Mens Doubles), Louise Hewitt/Kath Sutherland (Ladies Doubles) and Ian Sexton/Louise Hewitt

(Mixed Doubles) emerge as champions. Well done to them! There was an enthusiastic response to this competition and all matches were played in a tremendous spirit and keenly contested.

The annual Strawberries and Champagne Tournament took place eventually after a number of postponements due to bad weather. The wait was worthwhile however as the sun was shining and everyone was able to enjoy this relaxed 'get together'. Paul Tucker and Vanessa Behrsin won a 'play off' against Ian Sexton and Simone Douglas to take the prizes and provide the remainder of us with some entertainment whilst finishing off the champagne.

In addition to these club fixtures and tournaments, there is the opportunity throughout the year to take part in more relaxed competitive tennis at Saturday 'Social Tennis' (2pm - 6pm) and Monday 'Club Night' (6pm -10pm). At these sessions, you turn up and join into a 'four' (doubles games only), play one set and then come off court. You then mix in the next players waiting and start another doubles game.

The ladies are now running a regular social session on Tuesday evenings from 6.45pm, all ladies are welcome, please contact Louise Hewitt on 07791 584836.

Short fine leg



Dust has settled on another Cricket season, one that saw a large increase in membership and a good deal of success on the field. The 3rd XI, captained by Mike Wilkes, had a tremendous season. They won division 3 east with a game to spare and reached the cup final, losing narrowly to a team two divisions above them.

We established a new 4th XI in 2009, which also won their division. They played most of their home games at Sale Moor, a relationship we are looking to build on in the future.

The 1st XI finished 3rd in their league and narrowly missed out on promotion to division 1. We were very disappointed not to go up and will be working doubly hard in 2010 to make sure we go one better.

The 2nd XI finished 10th in division 1, a satisfactory finish given we were promoted in 2009.

A full season of junior coaching and matches was completed, although another wet English summer saw a lot of games cancelled. We ran 5 teams from under 9 up to under 18, with many of the under 18 squad playing regularly for the senior teams.

We also delivered 280 hours of coaching in schools through the Chance to Shine programme. The combination of our new facilities and this coaching has seen membership top 117 in 2009, a key indicator of the health of the section.

Mike Halkon (320 runs & 48 wickets) was named Stefan's Jewellers club player of the year, with Hassan Khan (947 runs &

34 wickets) 1st XI player of the year, Matt Millward took the 2nd XI vote and Dan O'Donnell the 4th XI.

Dom Gandy (835 runs) took a hat trick of awards; being named 3rd XI player of the year, under 18 player of the year and most improved player. Another junior, Rory Woodward (35 wickets), secured the young player of the year award. Last, but by no means least, Caroline Hardicker was awarded the Eddie Harrop plate for her off-field contribution to the junior section in particular.

The season in review was the first played on the newly relayed square. With only 6 wickets available Russ and Sean did a tremendous job preparing a surface for us every week. With the full square available in 2010 we should see the wicket

improving over the coming seasons to become one of the best in the county.

Rob Moore has now stepped down as cricket chairman after a successful seven-year spell. The new committee led by Mike Wilkes and Matt Savka are now making plans for the 2010 season and developing a plan to further develop the section over the next 5 years.

