

SRUFC

END OF SEASON REPORTS



Well another season has come to an end. Thanks to our main sponsors **LKAB** whose sponsorship is now into its 5th season. Thanks also to RJE engineering, John Leggott College and North Lindsey College construction department for their partnerships. Along with AB Ports for their contribution.

We started the season playing Bromsgrove and played, I'm told, as though we hadn't played rugby together for 2 years. Despite having no regular centres with Will Robinson having a serious knee injury which will probably keep him out until Christmas, meanwhile Oli Wood managed approx. 15 mins for the season. James Dyson and Will Harrison had stepped into the breach which definitely helped, from then we went on a run of 8 games without defeat including an away win at the eventual league champions Newport (Salop) and getting us in Rugby World as Team of the Month for October. Our run ended once more at our bogey team Syston. Our next home fixture saw local rivals Sheffield arrive and leave with only a losing bonus point. The run up to Christmas was less successful and we went to Bridgnorth with a team made up of 15 of the 18 players from the pathway which also bodes well for the future.

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Unfortunately we came away empty handed. A loss at home to Broadstreet and a draw at Burton saw the end of 2021.

The New Year saw a mixed return with a win at home to our other local rivals Doncaster Phoenix and a heavy defeat away to Dudley K. Revenge was then had by then league leaders Newport who were in the middle of a 15 match run undefeated. We then went away to Nuneaton and snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. We then lost to Oundle at home, fortunes then changed slightly with an away win at Paviers on a day more suited to water polo than rugby and good bonus point home wins against Sandbach & Syston. A loss away to Sheffield followed by probably the best game of the season at home against Bridgnorth, which coincided with the LKAB hospitality day, where a rare drop goal in the final minutes by the Peter Pan of Scunthorpe rugby club Tom Foster put Scunthorpe saw us take a 7 point lead into the time added on by the referee only for Bridgnorth to secure the ball from the kickoff and score a converted try. Leaving the score at 48-all. Scunthorpe then won a penalty in front of the posts for MoM Josh Clarke to convert the last kick of the game and keep his 100% record for the day and the final whistle. The league season finished with 2 high scoring defeats away at Broadstreet & home against a good Bromsgrove team. Thanks go to Simon for keeping the pitches in good order throughout the season and subsequently we missed no home games at Heslam Park.

So to the team overall. Throughout the season we used 38 players, including returns for 2 "retired" players Gareth Mist and Nick Syddall. 2 players managed the complete season these were Liam Brunt and Tom Foster who also managed to complete 500 league games for the club which by any standards is an incredible feat this doesn't include any cup or preseason games played over the years. At the end of season supper, 1st team Honours went to Josh Lugsden as top try scorer and young player of the season, Players player was Ben Hyde and the Player of the season (AKA Nobby Clarke Memorial trophy) was Tom Foster a well deserved accolade after 14 seasons as captain.

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On the hospitality front, lunches were again generally very well attended throughout the season, The 3 Charity lunches went well, benefiting Breast cancer, Pancreatic cancer and our Tackling it Together. Thanks to our lunch sponsors, Lincolnshire Mountain rescue, Mini/Junior section, JC Holland, Reg Joseph, RJE & Grayton Engineering, the Robinson Family, RNS accountants, Scunthorpe RUFC golf society, Heineken and Sam Jacobs Memorials this season and to all the people who attended the pre-match lunches. Thanks go to Julie, Elaine ,Sherri & Laura and all the staff for preparing the lunches, prior to Peter Hunt our new chef who started recently who has made a good impression to date with his home cooked food. I would like to thank all player sponsors for supporting the players along with the ball sponsors throughout the season for supporting the club. A big thank you goes to all sponsors of the new pitch side hoardings on the new fencing which looks fantastic. The club would like to give thanks to photographers Bill and Maria Rhodes whose dedication to photographing many matches throughout the season through all weathers and the many functions throughout the year.

Dates for the near future, we have resurrected the Uncle Joe's Pudding Club and the dates are 19th June (Fathers Day), 17th July and 7th August, should you wish to have a meal on these dates please contact Denise Marsh with



LKAB COLTS



When we started our coaching journey with this group of fabulous young men we initially were worried about the numbers coming back out of Covid, needn't have worried, as one of our players said to us just yesterday, it must be amazing to be able to see so many coming up and have so many to pick from.

This year we went into the Yorkshire U18 Premier League with approx. a 60/40 split in terms of 17's and 18's respectively, our first cup game this year we ran into the eventual winners of not only the Yorkshire cup, but also the National Cup, recently finding out they host 2 North of England Players and a Hull FC 1st team player, needless to say we were dispatched in the first round, unfortunately because we lost by the most points we dropped out of all competitions, which usually we drop into a shield or plate, this is even more frustrating as we went on later in the season to beat the finalists by over 50 points!

The league we finished 4th out of 8, and with well established teams folding at U18 level we were buoyed by the fact we were going away and had enough players to loan the home team so we could have a 15-a-side game!!! Numbers at training and games have been fantastic, and we look forward with gusto to next year, where we welcome a new cohort of u17's into the fold, silverware is the aim, but if we manage to get the lads out playing and enjoying their rugby that is the main.

We continue to flood the senior teams with players and the likes of Chris Murray-Auckland, Kai Barrett, Sam "Chips" Lythgoe, Dom Crawford and Lorcan Chambers have all slotted in seamlessly to the 2nd and 3rd teams, come January we will have many more going and training with the senior set up, and hope to get more playing from 1sts to 3rds and who knows enough to make a 4th team.

Off the field there are too many to thank, but special thanks must go to all the sponsors and the lads loved having an identity of their own in the playing, shirt, shorts, socks and the warm up tops, we are more than grateful for this and at least it stops us playing in the away kit meaning we are back with the green on our back.

We hope to continue the relationship we have built with our sponsors long into the future.

LKAB STAGS



A difficult season with many fixtures for 1 reason or another and limited to only 12 games for a full season.

With Covid still looming over the country the rugby season was upon us. Preseason had gone well but some injuries were picked up across both 1st and Stags, hopefully this wouldn't impact on the season. The Stags captained by George Mason and Vice-captain Jack Rowbotham were at the helm on the pitch with Martyn Graves and Craig Kirwin running the side-lines. With the core of the Stags missing due to injury and work commitments, this would be a hard difficult season ahead.

First game of the season should have been Sandal who pulled out due to Covid issues. Not a great start. A friendly for the second weekend saw the Stags take on Selby. This would give the Stags their first chance to play rugby. A tough game which the Stags should have put to bed by half-time but Selby fought well, and the game ended 32-24 with a win for the Stags. Hull Ionians at home became the 1st league game of the season despite horrendous weather conditions, the Stags were victorious and won the game 23-10. Next away to York at the start of October the weather was far better with both sides using running rugby. The match being played at such pace with both sides displaying some good rugby skills. Only some dubious decisions had the Stags with 3 tries disallowed, meaning the game ended York victorious 24-17. Moortown drop out of the league but still honoured their away fixture. Another victory 14-7. Again, a mixed squad with S. Green, R. Goodyear, O. McNeil, K.Owen and J. Samuels stepping up from the Patriots. Storm Arwen in full force as the Stags travelled to Driffield. The Stags battled well against a physical side but came out victorious 10-0.

5 games prior to Christmas saw us win 4 and only lose one and all of December without a fixture.

Rugby started again for the Stags on the second week of January, meaning 6 weeks had passed with no rugby. A friendly match against Selby, the Stags fielded yet another mixed squad but had E. Bell, J. Goodison and S. Fisher back in the squad. The Stags won another hard-fought battle against a strong Selby side, final score 18-8.

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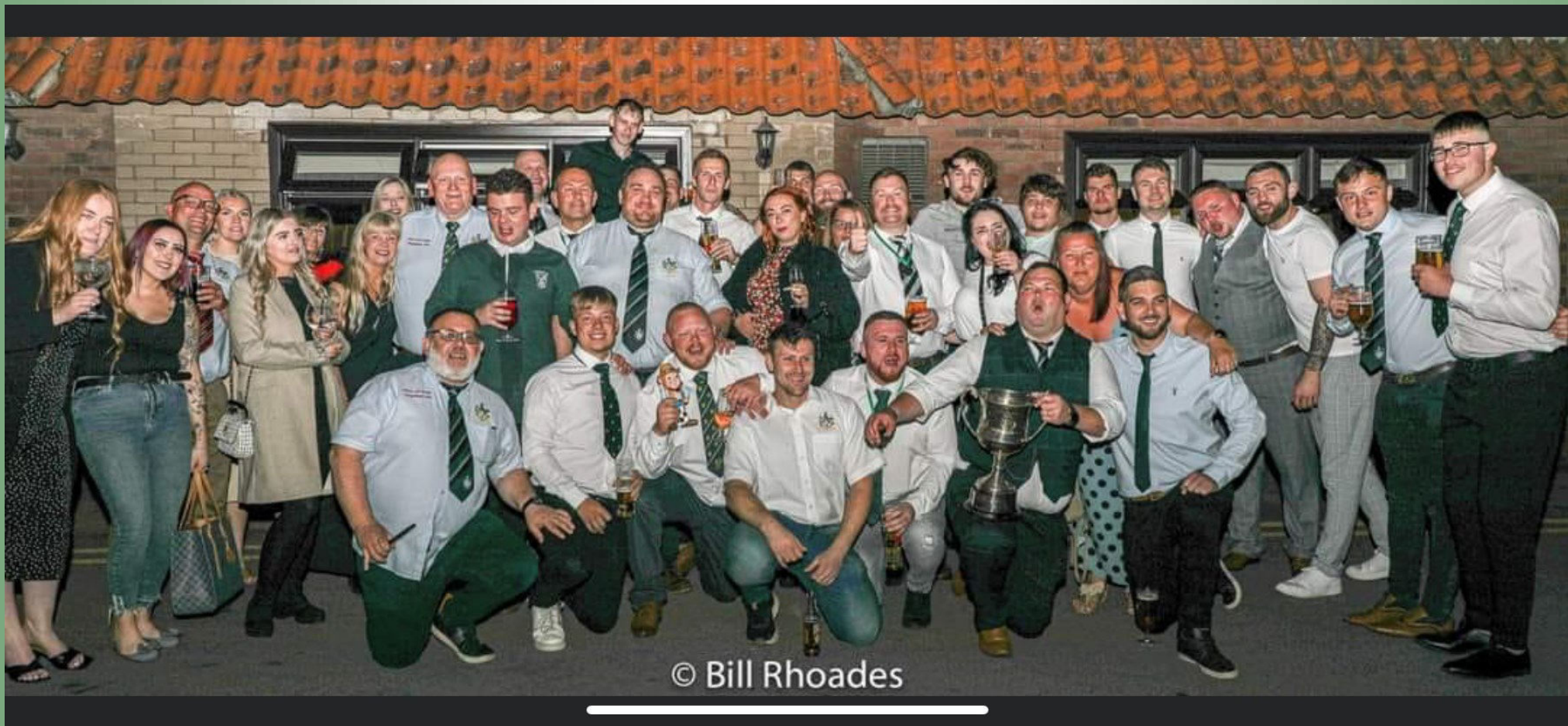
End of January saw Sheffield travel to fortress HESLAM, a strong Stags side faced the Yorkshire squad in what would be a match to forget as the visitors won 57-5. Cleckheaton at home next in weather fit for amphibians. Stags 10-0. 2 games then were played 1 home and 1 away to Hull Ionians. Having previously beaten them this season in the league, these would be some physical games. The Stags had a mixed squad again and fought well between equally matched teams, final score 18-15 to Ionians, who scored a penalty with the last kick of the game. Away to Ionians, brought again a few changes. Wet and windy conditions meant it would be up the jumper rugby again. Both sides played well, Ionians winning 5-0. Ionians' coach even stated that it was a well-balanced game and would have been happy with a draw.

Away to Sheffield- A bare squad of 15 with only C. Graves on the bench meant this would be the Stags biggest test of the season. The game kicked off with only 13 Stags on the pitch as traffic issues meant some Stags were stuck in traffic. Sheffield started strongly with 2 tries in quick succession. The Stags regrouped and showed 100% commitment and threw their bodies on the line in what was to be a dogged performance and probably the most commitment shown by the Stags all season. The Stags fought back and gained a penalty try when Sheffield's scrum was penalised. The game ended with the Stags losing 33-19, an excellent performance by the Stags despite the loss.

Last game of the season- Bridgnorth brought their second team along with their first team to play at HESLAM. Bridgnorth only had brought 12 players but fortunately the Stags were able to loan them some to even up the squads. A good display of running rugby by both sides with the Stags coming out victorious 37-5. The game was played in good spirits and M. Stow played prop for Bridgnorth got the well-deserved, man of the match. The players who have been available every week deserve a medal!! It has been a tough season mentally and physically for all involved with the Stags, with only 12 matches played all season. We won 7 and lost 5, considering the core of the Stags was minimal, Patriots stepped up and some colts had to shine, not as bad a season as it could have been.

Consistency, strength in numbers and the commitment from all available players will need to be monitored and all aspects improved on. We need to rebuild to move forward, to keep the Stags at the level they are more than capable of playing at. We go again!!

SRUFC PATRIOTS



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1st full season back after the Covid outbreak, we have been fortunate to field a team every week and amassing 33 games this year.

10 friendlies, 21 league games with 18 wins 2 draws 1 loss, not a bad season at all.

Winning the league took us through to the playoffs where we beat Malton and Norton to make the final, losing to Barton in the final by 3 points.

We have had massive highs this year, beating teams like Pocklington and BP Chemicals who both boasted impressive undefeated runs. From pre Covid where we were always a mid-table team, to this year where we have sat top of the table from start to finish has been incredible.

It's also great to see some of the lads progressing up with R Goodyear, K Owen, G Hale & S Green all having appearances for the 1st team, next year we will continue to grow and develop and with guys pushing on into the 1s and 2s we will have to adapt new positions and train new roles.

To win Scunthorpe team of the year 21/22 was a fantastic acknowledgment of how far we have developed.

The biggest low of the year was losing our brother Jamie so suddenly after a short illness, he smashed into the team a few years back and became our "wrecking ball" he will always be our brother, a "true Gentleman".

Over the summer we will train and progress, preseason starts mid-June, You guys have already voted me back in for another year of torture, so payback over the summer will be sweet.

As ever if there is anybody out there that either wants to get back into rugby or try it for the first time, give me a call we don't discriminate, any size, age, fitness, anything goes, you just need to be a little mad.

WOMENS SECTION



A huge thank you to all our sponsors this year.

Our brand new sponsor, Summers Day Campers came on board to support us this season. We all had training tops, hoodies and water proofs. What a way to include the whole one team ethos. LKAB also supported us again for the 2nd season. It's great to have sponsors supporting both the male and female game.

RM Kealey Butchers came onboard again sponsoring our players of the match celebrations, we thank them. Xpedite have supported us numerous years now and we are appreciative of their continued support. All our sponsors are invaluable and we are thankful for them.

To start season we had a successful tour to Scarborough. It was great fun and a fantastic way to bond as a team after the drama of the last 2 yrs.

We were pretty much coaching ourselves, at the start of the season with guest coaching coming from Cyril, Tony W, Lewis M. We're thankful for them for volunteering their time to us, they were a great help. Thanks to Tim R, he helped us in our search for a full time coach. We had a couple of people interested in the position. Sam Fell came onboard and has been part of the team, he has lots of enthusiasm for the game and we hope he continues to grow into the role.

We've had a very successful year. Our goal was to field a full team in every game and we managed to achieve that, most games having 2 or more subs.

Played 16 won 8 drew 1 and lost 7, finishing 4th in a very competitive league

5 girls joined us from the pathway bringing the total to 7. 7 junior girls have come through to play in the womens team, it's amazing. Thanks to the coaches who take care of them as they start their rugby career.

We have 2 players representing the NLD, Ewa Jasek at U18 age group and Cassie Milestone representing the women. Cassie has won oppositions player of the match in all 3 of her games for the NLD.

The NLD face Cornwall in the Gill Burns County Championship Final to be played at Richmond next week.

Huge thanks to the committee who help move the team forward and do so much work behind the scenes, we just couldn't manage without them. Thank you ladies! A special Thank you has to go to our Captains, Cassie has been a great VC this year, a real support to Becky and the team. Becky Clark leads the team with a smile. Her organisation skills are top notch and the team appreciate all the work she puts in to prove we are a success



SCUNTHORPE RUFC
MINI JUNIOR SECTION



At the start of the season it felt a little strange all told, we worried about the numbers coming out of covid it seems that actually more people wanted to get back to 'normal' than ever before, the wonderful environment created by our volunteers and parents only shows in the numbers coming and remaining with us. No more evident than this is our current under 13's group led by Samantha Potter and Jono Clark, in an age where the children must pick between football and rugby due to the space not being there for both sports to run, the under 13 group historically has lost numbers, this year it grew!!! This spurred on the side to go to the NLD finals and win the shield!

Other exploits in the juniors goes well to show Rugby in Scunthorpe is in a healthy place. In the minis (6-12's) we have seen more than ever and again to pick out one particular group the u8's have had to split their team into 2 sides due to the amount of numbers available!

Our girls set up thrives and we have the added complication in that we will have new age banding to look out for next season. The girls at u15 managed to field a full 15-a-side team for the first time and saw 3 girls get recognition from the Notts, Lincs and Derbyshire representative rugby. We also saw ex Mini junior player Jorja Lyons get the womens' player of the year, Lillie Richardson, Ella Nutbrown and Ewa Jasek (also got representative honours and an invite to the England Centre of excellence) graduate to senior rugby.

Schools rugby is back and we have had a host of entrants at all age groups and look forward more to our junior tag competitions coming soon at the schools.

All in all a fabulous season and we look to push our numbers next season to an unprecedented 350 kids playing. We continue to offer a shirt to all children who turn up to play and sign up to the team, this is something we couldn't do without the fantastic support of the sponsors who we are forever in their debt. The difference the sponsors make to the children and the Scunthorpe community as a whole can not be underestimated and long may the relationship between us continue.

All in all a superb season and one where everyone involved needs to be congratulated we hope more follow our path and achieve much more success.

We look forward to greeting you all again next season, The new fixture list will be out I've no doubt in the near future.

Scunthorpe Rugby are always keen to hear from people and businesses who would like to support the local community and Rugby in the Scunthorpe and surrounding areas for those who wish to know more please contact . graham.migdalski@ntlworld.com

Till the Green Machine fires up again thank –you and stay safe.



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