

## SEDGLEY PARK NEWSLETTER

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#### 1st TEAM

The 1st Team picked up 5 points in November with 3 losing bonus points against Penzance, Plymouth Albion and London Welsh and 2 points for the away draw against Moseley. They were placed at 14th in National Div One. However, a close home win on the 1st December against Pertemp Bees (15-14) and a win away at Rotherham (24-13) moved them to 12th place.

The most senior team in the club will be looking to gain as many points as possible in December and climb the table as they take on Exeter (h), Coventry (a) and Launceston (h).

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#### 3rd TEAM by Chris Evans

As the 3rd Team is social rugby, our season can be quite unpredictable and this year has been no different. On the whole it has been a successful run and we are currently firmly in the top half of the table. We have played games and won when we weren't expected to win, turning up with scratch teams most the time only 15 men. One stand out game was away at Stockport. We turned up late with just 15 men, two of which had never played before. We were up against a strong second team doing well in the league, we weren't expected to do well. Their backs looked dangerous but our strong forward play and good goal kicking earned us a deserved win. The season has had its low points, an away game at West Park St Helens. We turned up with a team of just 12 mostly forwards and got heavily beaten. The rematch at Sedgley hopefully will be a different affair. This seasons' success has been due to some new faces and older ones stepping up their game. We've new players like John Lamprey, Simon Heatherington and Lee Monks who were unknown to us before this season and all now regulars with the 3rd team. Some more experienced players who deserve a mention are Dooley, Chris Hayes and Kobas. All have regularly played which in a team that changes every week is a feat in its self but have also brought something to the team. Dooley has been the sole person prepared to put his heart, soul and body on the line for every game. Chris Hayes has played nearly every position on the pitch and done it well. Lastly Kobas in a year he was set to retire has single handily held the backline together. Overall the first half of the season has been a great success. Some people have been singled out but every one who has put on that kit (which also seems to change every week) has done Sedgley proud. Last year the 3's were the most successful team in the club finishing third place. Let's hope we can do the same again.

#### 4th TEAM by Richard Druce

Mixed fortunes have been the order of the season so far for the Tigers 4XV, a fact reflected in their current mid-table league position. This years squad, as in previous years, is made up by a fine blend of older, experienced heads, younger up-coming stars wanting a taste of senior rugby and first timers who made the decision to come egg chasing a little later in life. This cocktail of individuals makes for a great atmosphere to both play rugby and socialise post game. The 4th XV have travelled further this year than in the recent past; the league taking the Tigers as far afield as Hope Valley (Derbyshire) and the Cup taking them to Congleton. Evidently, the team are not great travellers over long distances as both of the fixtures resulted in losses for the boys (full reports online for both of these fixtures and more!). The 4XV, by its nature is often called upon to support the 3XV who in turn support the 2XV etc. This fact, coupled with various injuries to the core members of the team has meant that on occasion, the team have been short on players. However, ther Tigers who turn out have played with heart and pride in club colours, representing Sedgley Park admirably, regardless of the scoreline. Nevertheless, the more players we can accumulate, the less chance we have of turning up short. So if any readers wish to have a go, please see DOR Mark Knight or Director of Elite Rugby Steve Harrison and they will point you in the right direction.

#### 2nd TEAM by Dave Morton

The 2nd Team plays in the Bateman BMW Premiership of the Miller Homes Leagues. Back in September our boys began with a defeat, 13-19 at Manchester, but an 18-13 win at Preston Grasshoppers got the ball rolling and the team has been in unstoppable form since. Some huge scores have been achieved, 50 more in 7 of the 12 games to date: 75-0 at LSH, 88-0 against Chester and 77-0 against Stockport. As of Saturday evening, December 1st, we sit on top of the table just ahead of Manchester, with 11 wins from those 12 games and 604 points scored against only 85. The team is lead by Sion O'Hare, a former 1st XV favourite, with the equally knowledgeable Paul Morris alongside him in the centre. If further experience is needed, there is always Rich Senior ready to come on off the bench. Rich and Hazzelby are the coaching brains of the operation. However, the main functions of the team - apart from trying to win the league - are to provide cover and depth for the 1st XV and to be a good learning environment for the many talented youngsters moving up from Colts. The team is succeeding on both counts. Particularly pleasing is the number of players on this 2nd XV who started their rugby as Minis or Juniors at the club. In today's 36-5 win against Waterloo, for example, it was 14 out of the squad of 19. Equally exciting has been the brand of rugby played, as might be inferred from the scores. The team is young and their enjoyment of running rugby is obvious. But when it was necessary, as against Fylde, they were able to revert successfully to more traditional Sedgley Park methods.

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#### Future Issues of the SP Newsletter

If you would like to add anything to future newsletters contact Chris Wilkinson and Matt Smith on [spnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:spnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk)

#### Senior Colts by Chris Leader

Having lost a hand full of players from last seasons' team the Senior Colts started the season well with a very impressive performance against last seasons' league champions Altrincham Kersal 9-3. A good team effort from the side that included new faces ensured the Kersal never crossed the Sedgley try line. The only thing that separated the sides on the day was the impressive boot of the Kersal fly half.

Sedgley then travelled down the M61 to Preston Grasshoppers who gave the boys a tuff physical battle and earned themselves a 17-17 draw. The colts were leading until 5 minutes when they conceded two tries.

For their following game their bad luck continued when they were beaten at home to a well organised Glossop team 24-14. Sedgley battled hard and played some good rugby in patches but again tired in the second half. The Senior Colts' first league win was at home to Leigh 36-12 that followed a defeat by Sandbach 38-3.

The next two games Sedgley went unbeaten, beating Kendal 19-3 and drawing 14-14 with Caldly.

In November the Colts started their Cup campaign proccessing through to the next round beating Waterloo in Liverpool.

#### Junior Rugby

Practically every Sunday during the season there are mini and junior games going on at Sedgley Park.

Mini games kick off at 11 with junior games kicking off a little later.

What a perfect way to blow away the cobwebs from Saturday nights' ale, by watching one of our mini/junior games on a sunday.

#### Junior Colts by Greg Byrne

The Junior Colts as a group have managed to field a full 15 players for all the games which is a great acheivement, as previous seasons have seen them struggle for numbers. With new additions to the team the Junior Colts can now field 20 players.

With no preseason training, expectations were not overly great. However, hard work by the management, coaches and particularly the players has lead to some encouraging results.

The Junior Colts have been inconsistant in recent games, but run the top two teams in the league to within 7 and 4 points respectively. Their season has somewhat mirrored that of the 1st XV. Playing well against top teams but not putting away teams at the lower end of the division.

With good spirit in the camp the future is bright for the rest of the season.

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