

Welcome

Where has the summer gone? What summer I hear you cry! Well speaking for **Guildford Rugby Club**, the time has absolutely flown by with barely remitting pressure on meeting after meeting and discussions on the clubhouse development. It is all too easy to assume that all will be in order for the new season but believe me there has been a huge amount of work undertaken by many people, not least John Anderson and Rob Houston, and the legacy that is being created is now beginning to seriously take shape. Granted there are still some rough edges, granted it still requires some finishing but I am sure that you will join me in the belief that we will have one of the finest clubhouses in Surrey...when it is finished.

You know what the byword for the summer has been. YET.

Is the roof on yet? Are the windows in yet? Is the bar fitted yet? Have you bought your brick yet? Have you organised something to help the fund raising yet? Mmmm remember Yet I am not finished with that yet!

Talking of fundraising how are we doing. Great effort by Youth over the last few weeks which looks like getting close to £10,000 mark – what a fantastic effort. Well done to all who have participated and a special thanks to el maestro Rod Shea and also Nick Irwin at Broadwater Sports Centre without whom the whole thing would not have been possible. Where does that take us? Well there is some good news and some not so good. Let's deal with the bad. **WE NEED MORE MONEY** as we have some way to go. The good news is that we have had some outstanding efforts and acts of generosity. Those of you that have read the newsletter will



have seen some of these and I have to urge you to maintain your enthusiasm and keep at it.

Here comes another yet. Have you looked at the buy a brick web site? Are you one of those 79 people who have bought a brick or are you possibly one of those people who have not bought a brick YET.

Now to give you a little nudge this programme is today totally free (and no, do not expect that at every game) the cost of producing it has been donated to the club by me. Now please demonstrate your generosity to the club and buy a brick. Actually I rather hope that some of our away supporters buy a brick. What fun that would be in the future for them to come and visit us again and be able to say that they own a bit of our foundations! Come on Chobham, supporters it must be worth it if only for the craic!

Now talking of craic I have an issue that I want to take up. I make no apology for banging on about this. We all enjoy a bit of banter and a few touch line "advisory" comments to the match officials, indeed for many of us that is why we support rugby at this level rather than be an anonymous face in a large crowd at premiership rugby, but towards the end of last season it was felt that the behaviour of some of the crowd began to cross the line. We do not want this club to be associated with boorish, rude and inappropriate behaviour that we have recently witnessed and I

strongly urge you to read the Code of Conduct and remember the words:

Teamwork; Respect; Enjoyment; Discipline; Sportsmanship

Please respect the opposition, they are amateur lads like ours, respect the referee, our players – I actually think they will respond better to praise and encouragement than criticism and abuse, and remember that they are all volunteers and without them we would not have a game. I am sure that you know what I mean and I hope that you will join me in our efforts to maintain standards.

Now then to the rugby today. Today I would like to make a big welcome to old friends and foes in **Chobham Rugby Club** along with all of our Vice Presidents, Sponsors, members and their guests and other supporters present and not least the Ladies in attendance today. With both teams having defeats in the opening fixture last weekend I am sure that they will both be keen to make amends. So let us hope that we have a good game and we can all enjoy it and have a beer in our new club house afterwards.

...and finally why the pre-occupation with the word yet.

Compare these statements and tell me which one feels better.

**Is the club house finished?
Answer No**

**Is the club house finished?
Answer Not yet.**

Have we reached our fund raising target?

**We haven't achieved it
YET!!**

John Hines
Editor