

# Welcome

24th October 2009



Our visitors today – **Guernsey RFC** – are visiting us a little earlier than last year. I see on looking back at my notes that they visited us on 20th December and that co-incided with our Xmas lunch. This year our Xmas lunch is going to be held on 5th December. Yes I know that is ridiculously early to be having a Xmas meal but it is the only 1st XV home fixture in December. In fact we have an odd imbalance in that we have 5 home games before Christmas and then 7 in the second half of the season. Any ways, make a note in your diary for the 5th December, cajole a guest or two and let's make it a great occasion. Reality Finance are sponsoring the game, we face local rivals in Effingham and if that does not take your fancy then the Baa Baas will be on the telly versus the Kiwis. That has the makings of a great day. Oh yes and just to add to the day there will be a warm up game on in the morning.

Now talking about the vagaries of the fixture list I note that our opponents today must feel slightly put out as they are facing their second away fixture on the trot as they faced Weybridge Vandals last week. Looking at the league and

how the teams are faring it seems apparent that those teams that can achieve away wins will be in at the shake up at the end of the season. In that respect Guildford's win at Ember Court against a well organised London South Africa may well prove to be most valuable. It was certainly a tense finish and the result could have so easily gone the other way had their kicker converted the last minute penalty. Such are the vagaries of sport.

So hands up who has enjoyed watching the Heineken Cup games over the past couple of weekends.

Bring it on. I really enjoy these encounters and there is no question it is a big step up from the Premiership. Though talking of a big step up who noticed the young ginger haired wing playing for London Irish in their game against Leinster the other day. Yes none other than Tom Homer. Unless I am very much mistaken this is the same Tom Homer who played so well at flyhalf for London Irish at Sudbury when we met them last year. Well done Tom.

So back to today may I on behalf of **Guildford Rugby Club**, make a big welcome to all the

players, officials, and supporters of **Guernsey RFC**. I also extend a warm welcome to all of our Vice Presidents, Sponsors, members and their guests and other supporters present today. My proofing editor has said that I have not paid due regard to our visitors today so I wish them good luck... but not too much.

Another date for your diary Friday 6th November. This will be the inaugural networking group Initiated by The Best of Guildford and will meet at the rugby club for the first time on Friday 6th

November. See their page in the programme and pass it on to all who think it may be of interest.

And lastly can I also point you in the direction of my appeal for 1st XV position sponsorship. This is a vital link in creating the right framework for the boys to thrive so we would appreciate your support.

**Enjoy the match  
and see you in the bar  
afterwards.**

**John Hines**  
Editor