Appendix 5

Rugby Report – AGM 2021

Intro

As we all know a very unusual year on all fronts and the playing side of the club has been no exception. It must be commended the commitment from all the staff and players. Like cricketers during this May everyone has been off and on , up and down the various stages set by the RFU. Numbers at training have been consistently around 30 – which under the circumstances is testament to the enjoyable & infectious culture built with in the senior playing squad. Although the frustration of not being able to play a fully competitive game in nearly 16 months is clear it feels like the squad has tightened in many ways in the face of adversity.

Playing Squad

As ever keeping our squad together is always a challenge with the talent we are blessed with. I delighted to be able to share the everyone has re-signed for the 21/22 season. As ever things do not stand still and to ensure we mount a credible title challenge we've recruited well again bringing in 8 new players to the senior squad:

Drew Fray

Chris Roddey

Ev Wynne

Aaron Wilman

Josh Degroot

Brendan Berry

Dan Martin

Simeon Meek

It also really pleasing to see our talent coming up through our M&J section. The following players have all joined the senior training squad from the Colts:

Played:

Harry Marchington

Jack Callaghan

Will Richardson

Sam Brown

Archie Cracknel

Not played but trained:

Carl Droy

Alex Davies

Alex Jakubowski

We do have 1 player leaving us – Mark Irvin – who has taken a coaching opportunity at neighbouring Sandbach. We'd like to thank Mark for his contribution on the pitch and wish him all the best in his new role. We look forward to welcoming Mark back to the club any time should our paths cross in the future – all be it from opposite sides.

Recent Fixtures

Obviously very limited amounts to report here. The highlights would be the recent fixtures against Sheffield Tigers in which an extended 1st XV squad played home and away in the adapted current form of the game. We lost both fixtures: away 31/21 and at home: 33-19. It was great for the players to get some form of game time against a National 2 outfit. During both games we saw glimpses of the talent at our disposal. It is also worth noting how well the Full House Competition was supported by all at the club. On both occasions the day was a huge success and got all areas of the club involved.

Coaches

We are now lucky to have a stable coaching set up in the senior teams. There has been 1 change of note with Pete Langley stepping down as 2nd Team coach / manager. I'd like to thank Pete for all his hard work training and organising the 2nd team over the last couple of seasons. Langers will always be a respected friend of the club and we hope he stays involved in some way. Stepping into this role is Russ Tomlinson – Russ will bring bags of enthusiasm and energy with him. Given our strength & depth in the 1st & 2nd teams squads the future looks bright – and creating a competitive environment for the places in the 1st XV will only drive the development & progression of the teams.

The note has already gone out to all the players – pre season starts on the 29th June and we look forward to having 'proper' games of senior rugby back at Priory Park in August as we get ready for the league in September.

Thanks to all club members for your continuing support.