



Club together

Benjamin Maguire calls on all Chiswick residents and businesses to support and maybe, even, join their rejuvenated and enthusiastic local rugby club

With rugby very much still in the national consciousness after our team's stunning victory in the World Cup last year (and, more recently, for Sir Clive Woodward's abrupt resignation from the sport to the seemingly greener fields of football management), most people living in Chiswick may not be fully aware that they have a blossoming team and club right on their doorstep. Chiswick RFC, formerly Old Meadonians RFC, was founded in 1958 and has been playing good, competitive Rugby at Riverside Lands, Dukes Meadows, Chiswick, since the early- to mid 70s.

The club is now looking for rugby players of all abilities in all positions, as well as any new sponsors – the Chiswick RFC clubhouse is being re-built after the original was destroyed by fire. The club still needs to raise money to fully complete the clubhouse but are hopeful to be using the facilities shortly after the start of the season. Any new sponsors and supporters who would like to participate in this new era for the

club would be welcomed.

The club traditionally runs three teams plus a veteran's team so no matter what ability, we would welcome you to the club. The Chiswick 1st XV is playing at the top end of the Middlesex/Hertfordshire leagues and is looking to break back into the London Leagues in 2005. The 2nd XV have returned to the Middlesex Merit table having made the semi-finals of the competition in its first year. The club also have a fine tradition for entering 7s and 15s competitions.

The club can boast RFU qualified coaches, a physiotherapist and floodlit training facilities. Training is held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30pm sharp. We also operate a pay-as-you-play system, so there are no annual fees to find.

"A few years ago, the Chiswick clubhouse burnt to the ground, and for the past four years we have had to share the facilities of the nearby Rowing Club. All that is about to change shortly though, and the club appears to be in a bit of a positive transition period," says Lewis Hammond, who, like me, used to work for the company

behind *The Green* magazine. "We have recently built the exterior of our new clubhouse, with the main cost being covered by the insurance money. This money is close to running out, so we shall be continuing our fund-raising effort immediately. The clubhouse still needs flooring, a bar, showers, etc. What we really need is some help from our lovely *Green* magazine and its wonderful readers. All our current players read the magazine and love it, and we would assume that the hundreds of members and past players we have will also read it. We really need to make them aware of our plight, so that they can come out of the woodwork and come to the aid of their club. As well as that, we need to try and target some new rugby players to come and ply their trade at the club this coming season."

So come on all you school leavers, students, given-up-for-a-while-and-want-to-play-again, or those who have just moved into the area and are looking for a new club. Give us a call and come and have some fun playing rugby at Chiswick RFC. Chiswick also has a good social membership, so if you just want to come along and have a beer while watching a good game, please do. Our first game is being played on 11 September and there's a full season lined up after that.

Contact Gavin Nichols on 07771768467 or visit the club's website at www.chiswickrugby.co.uk for more information.