



PWRFC News



Philadelphia Women's Rugby Football Club, Inc.

January 2002

Spring 2002 Schedule

March 16th - Doylestown scrimmage (A)
March 23rd - Morris (H)
March 30th - Boston (A)
April 6-7 - MARFU's (A)
April 13th - OFF
April 20th - Ruggerfest (A)
April 27th - OFF
May 4th - DC Furies (H)
May 11-12 - Sweet 16's

Note from the Captain

By Melissa

Fitness, fitness, fitness.....and.....

A reminder for everyone about the savings plan for Sweet Sixteen's! Since 1997, Philadelphia Women's Rugby has qualified as one of the top 16 women's rugby teams in the country. If we all continue with our fitness routines (shameless plug for the workout bible) I expect us to achieve this goal again this spring. ☺ The venues for the tournaments this year are Sacramento, CA and Blaine, MN.



Each year, we have been able to fundraise enough to cover the cost of hotel rooms and transportation, leaving only airfare for each player to pay. We have great fundraising projects lined up for the spring, so we should hopefully be able to do this again. This means that if we were to go to the venue in Sacramento, each player would be responsible for a plane flight costing about \$300.

Daunting when you first hear it, but doable if the money is put away in small pieces. Heather-

Michelle, our gifted treasurer, has offered to keep track of money saved by individuals. \$25 sent to her in January, February, March, April, and May will add up to \$125 which you will get back when it's time to pay for the trip. If we go to Blaine, MN, you could have the money back, or we could roll it over into saving for something very cool, like a tour to Ireland. If you have any questions, please contact me or Heather-Michelle. Again, the plan is not mandatory, but if you think that you might have a problem paying for a flight in May, please consider doing something to help yourself save.

2001 AGM Results

By Mac

The Annual General Meeting convened at Heather-Michelle Stewart & Donna Widman's home on December 1st, 2001. After dining on fabulous food and drink provided by our members, the Julia Child's and Martha Stewart's that they are, the actual meeting commenced.

Congratulations to all the player award winners!! As Meg and Beast explained - the former board and selectors had an incredibly tough time being able to name just one person for these awards as the quality, dedication, and contribution from everyone were so key to the incredible success PWRFC all had last season.



The winners are:

Most Valuable Rookie - Laura Blume and Leslie "UConn" Rosa.

Most Valuable Veteran - Heather-Michelle Stewart

Most Improved Player - Lisa Perry

Congratulations to Melissa who was awarded the team's Bobby DePaul Award. This award is voted

on by the entire team. It is (in brief) an award honoring that person who symbolizes the spirit of rugby and the spirit of Philly Women's Rugby; it is an award that honors spirit and attitude.

2002 PWRFC Board:

President: Kristin 'Mac' McCarthy
Vice-President: Vicky Crosier
Treasurer: Heather-Michelle Stewart
Secretary: Angie Fick
Captain: Melissa Wagamon

An extremely well deserved THANK YOU to Meg Thompson who served this team as your president this past year. Many of you don't know this - but Meg hadn't originally planned on being in the "hot seat" when the AGM for last year rolled around.



There had been some emotional bumps in the road leading up to the AGM - and the team found itself with no one who had accepted a nomination for the office of President. It's a hard and usually thankless job. Meg was sitting there minding her own business when she was approached by the team leaders and was essentially begged to take the reigns of a team that had started to show some fractionalization. Meg selflessly agreed, and ended up being rewarded with one of the more emotionally tumultuous years in Philly's history. However, this team stuck together through a really hard time due to everyone's never-say-die spirit, due to everyone's pride in being a member of Philly Women, due in large part to a board and slate of administrators who kept this team together and at the helm of that administration was Meg. She continued to hold the reigns even through her own personal tragedy with the sudden loss of her mother, and I felt her doing so needed to be acknowledged and applauded by all. So, thank you Meg, for all your work, sacrifices, and efforts this past year.

The Rookies provided the entertainment which led to unbridled laughter and general nuttiness. In my own biased opinion, Fall 2001 Rookies rule!!!

New Board has First Board Meeting

At the special "short session" that took place on December 10, the new board quickly got to work. The following chairs have been filled with the following individuals.
Field Chair (fields@pwrfc.org) - Travis

Fundraising Chair (fundraising@pwrfc.org) -Meredith

Public Relations Chair (PR@pwrfc.org) - Patti
Pumpkinfest Directors (pumpkinfest@pwrfc.org) - Mac and Melissa
Recruiting Chair (recruiting@pwrfc.org) - Flynnie
Referee Chair (referee@pwrfc.org) - Vicky
Social Chair (social@pwrfc.org) - Meg
7's (Philly7s@pwrfc.org) - OPEN (until then, Vicky has agreed to remain the contact person)
Match Secretary (matchsec@pwrfc.org) - Fick
Webmaster (webmaster@pwrfc.org) - Heather-Michelle, Donna, and Fick

ITT's Feature Five PWRFC Players

By Fick

On December 8th & 9th, five of Philly's finest joined the MARFU squad in sunny Tampa, FL to participate in the 2001 Inter-Territorial Tournament (ITT's). Those making the trip were Melissa Wagamon, Heather-Michelle Stewart, Donna Widman, Meredith Hegg, and Beast. We are so proud of all of them!! ☺

Results: 12/8

The Northeast defeated the Mid-Atlantic Sharks by a score of 36-17 to advance to the championship match. The Northeast was the first to gain points with a penalty kick in the first three minutes from the foot of flyhalf Megan Moir. Mid-Atlantic answered back just 10 minutes later when center Heather Hale sprinted 45-meters for a try, converted by flyhalf Kristen Baja.



Northeast center and captain Hedwig Aerts found a hole and made her way through for a converted try. Mid-Atlantic added three more points from a penalty kick by Baja minutes later. Northeast scrumhalf Claudia Morales-Bennett scored a converted try following a series of rucks only minutes later followed by Ellie Karvoski, putting the half time score at 17-17.

Results: 12/9

The Pacific Coast Grizzlies defeated the Mid-Atlantic Sharks 40-15 to take third place. Entering the tournament reining champions, the Pacific dominated the match. Pacific scrumhalf Diane Schnapp scored first for the Grizzlies, taking advantage of a Mid-Atlantic penalty. The try was unconverted. Pacific center Jane Mitchell quickly

followed with a second unconverted try, resulting from a 15-meter sprint.

The Mid-Atlantic scored its first points of the half when center Heather Hale burst through Pacific players for an unconverted try. Then Pacific fullback Laura Cabrera demonstrated her speed, scoring Pacific's first converted try two minutes later. Winger Meredith Bagley completed the conversion. Bagley also kicked two penalty kicks before half's end, putting Pacific ahead by a score of 23-8.

Mid-Atlantic flyhalf Kristin Baja converted one penalty kick. Cabrera and Schnapp each had their second tries of the day in the second half, while prop Tracy Benning also scored for Pacific. Bagley converted one conversion. Mid-Atlantic center Meg Madden had the last try of the game with 14 minutes remaining as Baja completed the conversion.

PWRFC Readies for the 1st Annual Collegiate Clinic

The First Annual Women's Collegiate Clinic will be held Sunday, February 10, 2002 at the Armory on the campus of Drexel University from 1pm to 4pm. Numerous collegiate women from such schools as Drexel, Temple, Penn, West Chester, University of Delaware, Shippensburg, Ursinus, College of New Jersey, Bucknell, St. Joe's, Lafayette, and Muhlenberg will descend upon the Philadelphia area to attend this free clinic. Many coaches will be participating, among them Joe Kelly, MA Sorensen, and others, just to name a few! For additional information, please contact Trish Flynn, our Recruiting Chair @ recruiting@pwrfc.org

Important Dates

March 4th-First practice @ 7:30pm, Papa Playground
March 9th-Paintball with Brandywine WRFC
March 1st or 2nd-Beef & Beer, more details to follow!

Reflections of a Career

By Beast

Angie asked me to write a little something about my retirement. This is what I came up with.

Once upon a time, a girl went to college and by pure accident discovered something truly amazing and wonderful. The Game of Rugby.

That was back in the days when I only brought my cleats and a mouth guard to practice. Before the days of the extra-large kit bag. Before the lawn

chair, the umbrella, the cooler, the 3 pairs of cleats for different field conditions. Before the little Ziplock baggies of everything. When I could get wasted on a Friday night, play ball on Saturday, and get wasted again. With little lasting ill-effect.

That was back in the days when a try was worth 4 points. There was no such thing as lifting in line-outs. And the back row could break off the scrum before the ball was out. Aaaahhh, those were the days...

But something happened along the way. Along the way I learned the Game. Over the course of years. The Game changed. The kit bag got heavier. Headgear took the place of electrical tape. And the body slowly, ever slowly, wore down.

When I played in college, I never thought I'd play at Club level. When I started playing Club, I never thought I'd be any good. When I played Representative level, I thought I'd been to the mountain.

I used to lie awake at night and wonder what on earth I would do with myself during the off-season. I'd get stomach aches just thinking about the last game of the season. I'd get stomach aches thinking about the first game of the next season. I would twitch in my sleep, like a dreaming dog, imagining myself executing a play, or running the ball, or making a tackle.

Then slowly, ever slowly, my thoughts changed. I started laying awake at night, thinking of all the things I would do with my free time once we reached the off-season. I'd make laundry lists of places I wanted to go, things I wanted to do, new sports I wanted to learn.

Then I started twitching in my sleep, thinking of all the things I could do when I retired. All the vacations I could take. All the golf and tennis I could play again.

If my back spasms resolved.
If my knees stopped hurting.
If that hematoma went away.

I have given the best active years of my life to this Game. And it has given back to me, in countless ways.

I got my first tattoo with my Rugby coach.

I smoked my first joint with my Rugby coach.

I have met some of my best friends through Rugby.

I have met some of my most exciting lovers. I have experienced my funniest moments.

Through weddings and births and deaths, and everything in between. Over so many, many beers. I have no regrets.

I tried to leave gracefully.

Not a moment too soon, nor a moment too late.

I love this Game.

I love the people who play this Game.

Even though none of us play it for the same reason. We each and every one of us have something in common. A Jungian collective Rugby unconscious.

If I were asked to give one piece of advice [which I haven't been, but knowing me, you know I'll give it anyway], I would say, "Play each game as if it were your last." Because you never know when that time will come.

Commit to not only learning your position, but to learning the Game.

Commit to personal fitness.

Commit to having the time of your life.

Because it is.

~Beast

A Special Thanks!

By Lisa P.

I just wanted to thank everyone personally for all their kind words and congratulations from last night. You touched me more than you'll ever know and much more than I could eloquently express. There is SO much I want to say about the intense spirit and greatness of this team but words seem so inadequate. Every time I think about the love and pride I feel for each and every one of you I have to keep getting up from the computer just to stop myself from being overwhelmed. :)

I came into this game pretty late in life and it's been a tough haul all the way. But, that's why I play. It's hard as s*** and it's as close to being a gladiator as I will ever get. I also play in hopes of having a season like what we just finished. A

season where EVERYONE had their place on the field, where EVERYONE was valued and respected for anything they could give to the team, and where encouragement flowed freely-no price tag attached. A season where we FINALLY had some damn FUN for a change and we won BECAUSE of these changes in the team philosophy not because winning at all costs was the only thing that mattered. It's funny because when I was B-side, I had nearly the same feeling for my fellow B-side Bombers yet it was deemed 'divisive to the cohesion of the team'. Having fun was not 'appropriate' to my designated rugby role-sideshow punching bag. I guess this team proved how wrong THAT theory was. :D

I've had many discussions with some of you about how different this season was and why that is. When I first arrived here I was gung-ho, fresh out of collegiate play, ready to learn higher level rugby and excited about the game. By the time of the KHY bomb I was discouraged, unhappy, dreaded practices and really only kept playing for the fitness boost even though I kept getting hurt on a regular basis. I didn't like the kind of player I had become-sloppy, unfit, complete loss of confidence, and the love of the game had finally been hit out of me. When the bomb dropped I was stunned to say the least, however, I began to realize that this might be a huge opportunity to rebuild the team into something I hadn't seen since college. I was not disappointed to say the least. I am proud, once again, to be a rugby player, to be a member of THIS team, this fine Philly team, and to claim each and every one of you as my teammates.

I wish you ass-whompin' fun and great success for the Spring. I have played my last season with this wonderful team and it was such an honor to go out this way. Next year, I will be with the Cincy/Dayton Flying Kelts but I will ALWAYS remember this season as the truest and best Philadelphia team. PumpkinFest2002 will be my return as we hope to enter the Kelts in the social division. So, I'll be back in one way or another. :D

Thank you, Philly women, for staying true to the spirit of Rugby and for honoring me in such a wonderful way last night. I love you all!

"Philadelphia Women...Noice!"

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It's so easy! Access any of the above web sites by going to WWW.PWRFC.ORG and clicking on one of the above links. Then make your purchase and a percentage of the purchase price will be sent to PWRFC!! It's the easiest way to contribute to our club! The next time you want to purchase a CD on Amazon.com, send flowers to that special someone on Proflowers.com, or buy some rugby gear at Ruggers.com, remember to access WWW.PWRFC.ORG first! When you are there, take a few minutes to check out some of the changes to the site!

It's a Boy!!



Lisa 'Huff' Henrich gave birth to Christian John Henrich, Jr. ("CJ") on Tuesday, January 8 at 9:10 a.m. He was 19 1/2 inches long and weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. Both mother and son are doing great!

Temple University WRFC Presents...

The Ultimate Drink-Up!

@ Static Night Club
(2nd & Bainbridge)

February 8th, 2002
Doors Open at 9pm



\$5 Cover

\$1 off with your CIPP Card

*Dancing*Drinking*DJ*

Basketball Fundraiser to Benefit Blackthorn High School Rugby Program

By Flynnie

Marshall Sturm of Blackthorn RFC is organizing an outing to the Palestra to watch Penn basketball as they go up against Yale. Tip off is 7:00 PM and the cost of the ticket is \$12.00. The event is a fundraiser for the high school program, both the boys and girls. Following the game, attendees will be adjourning to The New Deck Tavern for libations. The New Deck is about 3 blocks from the Palestra and has great beer on tap and the kitchen is open very late. This is a good evening out during

a time of the year when not much else is happening.

Please email him with the number of tickets you want. Thanks!

Marshall Sturm
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Movie Review: Hedwig and the Angry Itch

By Meredith

If you think you've got it bad, just remember, if your sexual anatomy is intact, you're doing better than Hedwig. The only thing Hedwig got out of a botched sex change operation was a stellar name for a punk-rock band. Brilliantly blending elements of Broadway rock musical, Christopher-Guest-mockumentary-style moments and cartoon, this movie is one of the best I've seen all year. John Cameron Mitchell wrote, directed, and starred in this screen version of his off-Broadway show, and I desperately wish I could have seen him live. As Hedwig tells you a story of growing up as Hansel in East Berlin, busting out into the US punk-rock scene, and suffering serious heartbreak not once but twice, you will laugh, cry, and dance in your seat. The sometimes surreal imagery always sings true, there isn't a moment in this movie that seems forced or gimmicky. If this movie doesn't make you smile, I don't know what will!



Happy Birthday!!

Kerri O'Malley	1/4/76	(A)
Dawn Folliard	1/12/74	(A)
Chey Coats	1/14/76	(P)
Dawn White	1/21/75	(A)
Althea Rodgers	1/26/75	(A)

Coming in February: The Love Issue...

So grab that special someone and curl up with the next volume of PWRFC News!

Editorial Disclaimer: all attempts have been made to verify information, keep this below an R rating, and protect the innocent. Email me at secretary@pwrfc.org with your suggestions, contributions, and news. -Fick