

## Focus on the Royal Blues—March 2013

### As the Season nears its Climax

RBSRFC 1s team has had a good run of matches and is enjoying this season a lot in a highly competitive league. The fact that all but one of the four defeats got the club losing bonus points shows the fight we've put in week in week out and here are the league positions with only four of the eleven teams having won (including "walkovers") more than half their matches.

In fairness we should acknowledge that a good few of our victories this season have been ones in which we permitted the opposition to earn a bonus point – which is a further reminder of how tight this league is and how hard the club needs to work to stay in the top half of it.

Team	P	W	D	L	w/o	c/o	F	A	Diff	BP	Pts
Erith I	16	10	0	1	5	0	533	136	397	0	61
Beckenham IV	17	13	0	1	2	1	532	180	352	0	61
RBOS I	16	10	0	5	1	0	382	216	166	3	52
Met Police I	16	8	1	5	2	0	365	251	114	1	49
Blackheath Bandits	17	5	1	7	1	3	315	437	-122	1	35
Foots Cray II	16	5	0	10	1	0	233	376	-143	1	35
O Elthamians III	16	3	2	10	0	1	299	372	-73	3	31
HSBC II	15	5	1	4	1	4	258	365	-107	0	31
O Alleynians IV	14	3	1	10	0	0	228	364	-136	2	27
Brockleians II	16	3	1	9	0	3	169	408	-239	3	27
Bromley III	13	4	1	7	0	1	202	411	-209	0	26
Sidcup IV (w/d)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

With a maximum of five more league matches to play, including Erith who are above us at this stage and assuming we can refix the snow-affected fixtures v Footscray & MetPolice, it could go one of three ways. We could stick roughly where we are, we could climb higher up the table or we could slip down. We continue to work hard on training and encouraging numbers to be available and on selection and game management with a view to trying to scratch our way up that last place or two to end in top or second rather than the really very satisfying third place we sit in now.

COME ON YOU BLUES!

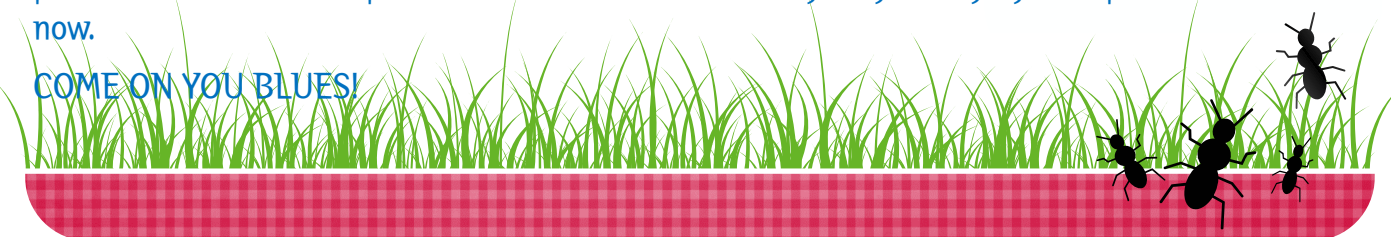


#### Important Dates

17 - 19 May: Caso RFC  
Steve's French Weekend  
This is the 50th anniversary of our International Matches

19 April Club Supper:  
More info to come on this soon....

Look out for the new RBSRFC Website, it's on its way.



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## Another Season of Progress for RBSRFC

If anyone thought RBSRFC is only about a single team in a particular local league leading those obviously too good or too weak for that side to have to accept they train without chance to play or they need another club, that person is out of date.

Last season 3 matches were played by RBSRFC 2s, this season 5 such matches have been played, 1 the opposition cried off, 1 is scheduled still and 1 more is hoped for late in the season if we can get enough support by way of player numbers and find an opposition.

Selection works on the basis that first we give starting positions to anyone who has trained and not started for the 1s, then we give starting positions to those who have not trained but are players of prior seasons and keen to play, we also try out friends of club players who want a run out and we entice those who wonder if they should have retired from the sport when they did to return and enjoy the 2s pace of the sport we all know and love so much.

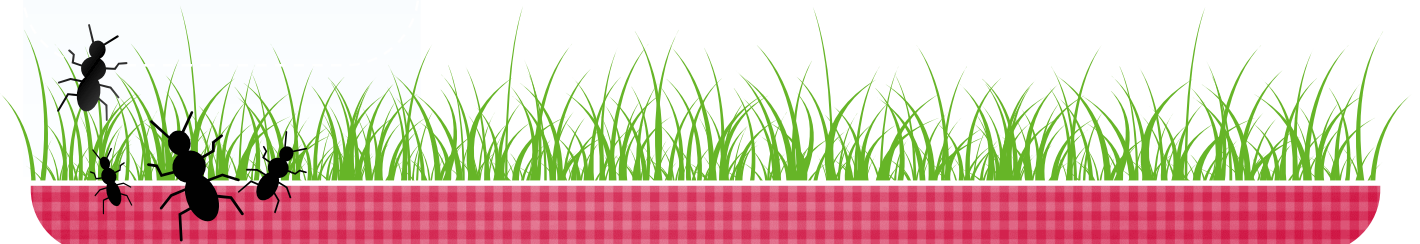
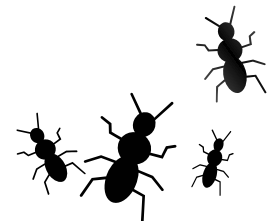
Results have been good with two matches won despite tough opposition making it look unlikely, one (as in a third) match turned around against the odds uphill at Beccs' ground second half, one lost spectacularly (but 'd be cross with our HonFix if every match were easy!) and plenty to play for as the season draws to a close.

I put it to some of the readership that this might be a good way to reengage with the club and have some fun. Contact me if you are tempted, please!

COME ON YOU BLUES!

Rufus Ballaster – Captain RBSRFC 2s 2012-13

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## RBSRFC link with Whitefoot Lane Warriors RFC

Encouraged by our local RFU representatives to get involved with one of their key projects in the area, RBSRFC has enjoyed a great relationship with WLWRFC for a couple of years now. WLWRFC is a junior section only club and RBSRFC only has a senior section so the synergy is good – add in the fact that the clubs' grounds are a mere 2.5 mile drive – according to Google Maps – apart and we see why all of the linking up makes such good sense.

So far we at RBSRFC have:

- ensured some extra adult (CRB checked) players are at the Sunday morning WLWRFC training sessions to offer more coaching/mentoring

- sponsored some of the post training session food for the young players

- sourced some kit for WLWRFC (balls kicking-tees etc)

had some of our players lead fundraising initiatives for players kit (shorts socks etc) to help WLWRFC look the part increasingly well

assisted with administrative functions every club has to do in the modern world.

On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013 an initiative led by Tim Dunford (RBSRFC committee member responsible for recruitment) saw 18 WLWRFC players attend a training session at our ground rather than theirs on a Sat early afternoon rather than a Sun morning. After their 90 minutes of hard work, supported by 4 coaches of whom 3 were RBSRFC members, we fed them and offered them a (*soft*) drink and encouraged them and their parents to stay and watch the RBSRFC 1s take on - and beat - Old Elthamians 3s by 11 points to 3 in a league match.

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*"To hear Whitefoot Lane Warriors cheer on RBSRFC as "OurTeam" was a pleasure"*

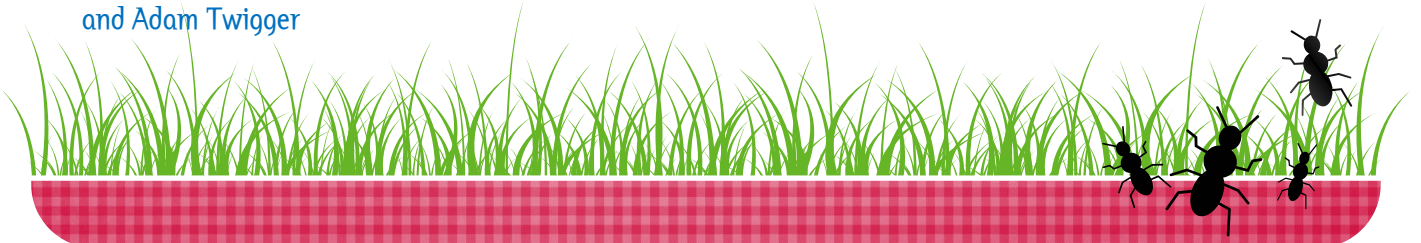
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To hear WLWRFC cheer on RBSRFC as "our team" was a pleasure and this event should be repeated to continue to encourage the teenagers to see RBSRFC as their natural progression for the point when they hit 17 and deserve to play the man's version of the sport!

[There was also a slightly amusing irony that poor Tim Dunford having organised the event so admirably had urgently to work all weekend and his being on a short rein and sat in the saddle in that way and running the long race for his employer meant that his stake (sorry steak must be what we mean, *ssshurely*) in the day was sadly contaminated and he missed the supporters going horse (sorry hoarse) in their shouts to encourage our team on past the finish line to win by a short head.]

The fact that RBSRFC is finally once more not merely a one team side is an important aspect to offering that welcome – be it because some WLWRFC recruits bump some of our current 1s out of their places in that team or because WLWRFC recruits need some slightly more gentle introduction to the adult sport in coming years!

Grateful thanks are due from our Club and, indeed, from WLWRFC to our following RBSRFC club members for their significant efforts in maintaining and developing this relationship over the years: Steve Twigger, Tim Dunford, Andy Thornton, Rob Summers, Joe Green and Tony Power, Joe Argenziano, Dan Mahoney and Adam Twigger



# 2012—2013

## The Season so far.....



**RBS RFC**

Date	Opposition	Venue	Type	K/O Time	Result
08-Sep-12	Streatham & Croydon	Away	warm up	15:00	100 - 7
15-Sep-12	Beccehamians 3	Away	warm up	15:00	38 - 19
22-Sep-12	Erith 1 - <b>FOCR</b>	Home	League	15:00	19 - 25
29-Sep-12	Blackheath Bandits	Home	League	15:00	27 - 12
06-Oct-12	Bromley 3	Away	League	15:00	44 - 7
13-Oct-12	Footscray 2	Away	League	14:45	10 - 17
20-Oct-12	Brockleians 2	Away	League	14:45	5 - 11
27-Oct-12	Old Elthamians 3	Away	League	14:45	29 - 28
03-Nov-12	Westcombe Park 4s <b>Reunion</b>	Home	<b>Friendly</b>	14:45	23 - 34
10-Nov-12	Askeans 2	Away	2nd xv	12:00	24 - 17
17-Nov-12	Old Alleyians 4	Away	League	14:30	14 - 12
24-Nov-12	Beckenham 4 - <b>Beck Cried off</b>	Home	League	14:30	No game
01-Dec-12	Park House 3	Away	2nd xv	13:45	10 - 65
08-Dec-12	Met Police Hayes <b>Met guy injured</b>	Away	League	14:15	Abandoned
15-Dec-12	HSBC2	Away	League	14:00	29 - 12
22-Dec-12	Beccehamians 4	Away	2nd xv	13:30	25 - 17
29-Dec-12	Streatham&Croydon <b>S&amp;C Cried off</b>	Home	2nd xv	14:00	No Game
05-Jan-13	Blackheath Bandits	Away	League	14:00	17 - 5
12-Jan-13	Bromley 3	Home	League	14:15	35 - 12
19-Jan-13	Foots Cray 2 <b>way too much snow!</b>	Home	League	14:15	Snow
26-Jan-13	Brockleians 2	Home	League	14:15	38 - 12
02-Feb-13	Park House 3 Bromley 4's	Home	2nd xv	13:30	27 - 7
09-Feb-13	Old Elthamians 3	Home	League	14:15	11 - 3
16-Feb-13	Sidecup 4	Away		14:15	
23-Feb-13	Bexley 3's	Away	2nd xv	14:15	15 - 27
02-Mar-13	Old Alleyians 4	Home	League	14:30	62 - 5
09-Mar-13	Beckenham 4	Away	League	14:45	6 - 28
16-Mar-13	<del>Old Cats</del> 2/3 Bromley 4's	Home	2nd xv	14:45	24 - 17
23-Mar-13	Met Police Hayes <b>a slurry of snow!</b>	Home	League	14:45	Snow
30-Mar-13	Easter Break				
06-Apr-13	HSBC2	Home	League	13:00	
06-Apr-13	Askeans	Home	2nd xv	15:00 ish	
13-Apr-13	Erith 1	Away	League	15:00	

