

The Roving Rugger

The Official Newsletter of
Monmouth Rugby Football Club



MONMOUTH MEN PLAYOFF BOUND

For the first time since 2004, the Men's Side has qualified for the Met Union/NRU postseason, and will travel to Morris on March 8.



Rookie Captain Kevin Delia is excited about the young squad's opportunity. "The boys are eager to get on the pitch to show that they belong among the Met Union's elite," said Delia.

The #3 seeded men's team recorded a 4-3 record. Following a

hot 3-0 start, the squad played poorly in its seasonal meeting with Morris, and received a stern wake-up call from a strong Rockaway side.

Refusing to relent, the boys rebounded with a crucial victory over PAC, and entered its regular season finale against Lansdowne with the opportunity to secure a playoff spot and the #2 seed for the postseason. However, Lansdowne's kicking game on a muddy pitch took Monmouth's back line by surprise, and the large first half lead they built held up against a gutsy second-half by Monmouth. Having started practice in early January, the team hopes to get an early jump on

shaking the rust off in hopes that it will be the better prepared and conditioned for its re-match at Morris. "Practice sessions have been intense since the first day," said Delia. "The men are raring to go against Morris." A first-round victory would mean either a home match against #4 Bayonne, or a trip to Ft. Tilden to take on regular season champion Rockaway.

2007 AGM Brings in New Faces

Youth was the theme of the 2007 Annual General Meeting, held at the Wilde Rover on December 8, 2007. Colin O'Neil ran unopposed for President, bringing in a new year for his reign of terror. Also re-elected was Chris Kaldrovics as Vice-President for Fundraising, ensuring that once again, no one with an income under \$100,000 will be able to

play in the golf outing. Brian Muller was re-elected Coach, and Chris Wagner shifted into the treasurer's seat, to the tune of a collective sigh among the Met Union's Match Secretaries. His former post will be filled by Carlos Oliveira. It has been rumored that Oliveira is hard at work. Matches are in the works against both Manhattan and the Lollipop Guild. Dualing

social chairs will be utilized, with Rita Neymark and Matt Zeigler stepping up (we can be certain that they will come in under budget). The role of Club Secretary went to Rob Morello (I just simply can't make fun of myself).

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SPRING 2008 Schedules

> Men

- **3/8- Playoffs @ Morris**
- **3/22- Playoffs vs. Bayonne or @ Rockaway**
- **3/29 NRU Playoffs TBD**
- **4/12: South Jersey**
- **4/19: Union/Princeton**
- **4/26: @ Doylestown**
- **5/03: Long Island**
- **5/10: @ Jersey Shore**
- **5/24: Monmouth (Wales-UK) MONMOUTH DAY**

> Women

- **3/29- Motley 10's Round Robin- Rutgers/SNY: 1 p.m.**
- **4/05- Albany Sirens: noon**
- **4/12 @ Morris**
- **4/19 Suffolk Bullmoose 10:30 a.m.**
- **4/26 @ Doylestown**
- **5/10 Morris 10's tournament**
- **5/17 @ Hartford Roses**
- **5/24 SNY: 10 a.m. MONMOUTH DAY**

Message from the President: Colin O'Neil



Well, well, welcome into 2008, Monmouth Rugby. I hope everyone's holiday seasons went well. Personally, mine was fantastic, as it was my first with my beautiful daughter, Reagan Frances, born 30 May of last year. Also born into the Monmouth Rugby family were Timmy O'Grady's twin boys, Ronan and Declan. More members of the extended Monmouth family will come to be, as Chris Wagner, Matt Zeigler, Rob Morello, Nick Lynch, Kevin Delia all decided that marriage is in the future. It seems that they choose to go the more traditional route of starting a family. To each, their own. Congrats to all.

The year of our lord 2008 will bring about many new ventures for Monmouth Rugby Football club. Thanks in many parts to the Frank Fischer machine of Monmouth Alumni, we have acquired a club raffle license, which should be able to generate a tremendous amount of revenue for the club; the first of which will help subsidize increasing costs of the clubhouse as well as make some needed capital improvements to the building and bar. A tremendous amount of work has gone into the development and upkeep of the clubhouse, and we need to all pitch in to keep it as the place we all love to go after training and matches – as well as various parties. Also, great many thanks go out to Chris Kaldrovics driving the annual Golf Tournament, which netted over 20k. These proceeds will go in part to a scholarship fund, which everyone will be hearing about, in the coming months.

As for the men's playing club, Monmouth is back in the playoffs after a short hiatus. We were even so obliged to hear from the Union that we would be participating right after we completed our Spring Season was set. Nice guys, seems like they are taking a cue from Montauk. Rimshot! As things unfold this season, though, I am glad to say that great strides have been made to the playing side, I was beginning to feel like I was playing for the Royals. The dedication of the players showed combined with some "tough love" from Coach Brian Muller led us to impressive wins over Bayonne, the Village Lions, and Princeton. I have to say, on a personal level, it is good to be back to beating Princeton. We take on Morris on the 8th of March, and I believe it would look great for as many people as possible making the trek to watch the game, being played at Morris.

A few other things I'd like everyone to keep in mind. It is good for all members of the club to be seen out in public, as part of the family. Make an effort to make it to some of these 5k's that are all over the community. Rita has obviously gotten a new laptop, as evidenced by her constant emails about what she's doing the upcoming weekend. Come out, have a beer, say hello, and support O'Neil's on Main Street East in Manasquan.

"The boys are eager to get back on the pitch to show that they belong among the Met Union's elite"

- Kevin Delia

Upcoming Events

- February 23, 7-11 p.m: Awards Banquet/Dinner- The Barclay- Belmar, NJ
- March 2- Belmar St. Patrick's Day Parade- Belmar, NJ
- May 24- Monmouth Day- Red Bank, NJ: Match with Monmouth (Wales, UK), party to follow.

This list is subject to change- check our website, www.monmouthrugby.com for updates!



Party Time

AGM- From page 1

Perhaps the day's biggest surprise came with upstart Kevin Delia unseating Jason (Peterson as Men's A Side Captain. Delia is joined by East Stroudsburg teammate Carlos Oliveira, who was elected B-Side captain. A player poll yielded mixed results, with certain players dreading the prospect of being "in shape." Players overwhelmingly, however, voted against doing pilates at workouts. Monmouth icon/

fossil Frank Fischer handed the reigns of Tournament Director to Matt Zeigler. Aside from elections, another key issue addressed was possible mandatory clubhouse closing times. It was decided that evening social events held at the Wilde Rover would end at midnight. On game days, due to the early start of post-game festivities, a 10 p.m. closing time was established. Additional meeting topics included

the club's securing of a license to conduct a 50/50 raffle at events, as well as a commitment to make tournament ad-book sales available in the spring, rather than the summer in order to give people an early start on obtaining sponsors.



How can you not vote for this dreamboat?

Coach's Corner- Brian Muller

For the past few years, the spring season has been a season where we look towards the Jersey Cup. This year, however we have some much brighter to look forward to: **PLAYOFFS!** Yes, we have qualified for the first round of playoff matches, and our first match is against Morris RFC @ Morris on March 8th. We have been training diligently since the second week of January indoors and now due to the kind weather outdoors. We have added some new energetic young players as well as dragged out a few older ones with a little gas left in the tank to make a playoff run. Kevin Delia, our new team captain, has been working hard on getting the lads to practice on time and training during the off days. This is the strongest the club has been in years and looks only to get better as time progresses.

"GET TO PRACTICE"

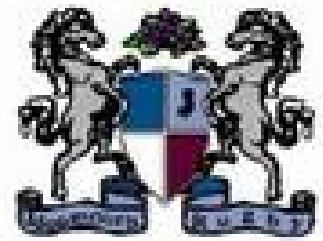
- Brian Muller



We have an exciting season scheduled, the largest attraction of the Spring other than the playoffs is the touring side from Wales, Monmouth Rugby Club, UK (Wales) is coming for Monmouth Day. This should be a huge event and a great week, for both Monmouth (US) and Monmouth (UK).

Bottom line, **GET TO PRACTICE** and win some games.
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We're on the web- www.monmouthrugby.com



**Monmouth Rugby
Club**

Presidents Message, continued from page 2:

Also, pay your dues. It has been voted on, and we will not CIPP anyone who has not paid their dues. You are not CIPP'd, you do not play. Please use PayPal.

Sorry if this wasn't entertaining. I don't sleep. I work for an underwear company. And I don't have drugs. Hope to see you all around this year.

Colin

COMING SOON: RENEGADE ROUND-UP
(as soon as they get motivated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Recruits

Colin O'Neil

- Reagan Frances,
Born May 30, 2007

Sheila & Timmy O'Grady

- Ronan and Declan

Janet & Ryan Fitzpatrick

- Gavin Alexander
Born December 25, 2007

Balls in a Box

- Kate Harrington & **Chris Wagner**
- Nicole Masone & **Nick Lynch**
- **Hope Grieser & Kevin Delia**
- Jessica Kopetsky & **Rob Morello**
- Esther Schreiber & **Matt Zeigler**

