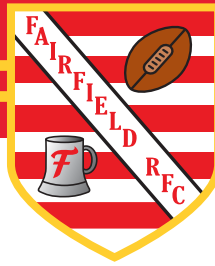


FRIENDS of FAIRFIELD RUGBY



Fall 2010 Newsletter

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Fall 2010 Newsletter

Friends of Fairfield Rugby
c/o John O'Neill
631 Long Ridge Road, Unit 7
Stamford, Connecticut 06902

Board Members

President: Thomas O'Connor '75
tomsurf212@aol.com

Vice President: Christopher M. Grauert '68
cgrauert@cox.net

Secretary: William H. Connolly, Jr. '69
bill_connolly@ajg.com

Treasurer: John R. O'Neill '71
oneill.jr21@gmail.com

Mark Feeley '69
mark.feeley@cengage.com

Thomas A. Crowley '69
tcrowley@totalsmallbone.com

Kurt C. Schlichting '70
kschlichting@mail.fairfield.edu

B. Christopher Galvin '72
cgal86@hotmail.com

Thomas Damato '73
tdamato@noras.com

Bob Ehlers '79
robert.ehlers@codyehlers.com

Mary Lou O'Connor '83
moconnor@transclean.com

Pat O'Keefe '84
pokeefe@okeefecontrols.com

Jonathan Baumstark '97
jonathan.baumstark@skadden.com

George Hemmer III '98
ghemmer@hotmail.com

Adam Troupe '00
atroupe@mac.com

Ryan Birge '05
ryan.j.birge@gmail.com

Bridgette Closter '07
bjcloster@gmail.com

Welcome to the first edition of the Friends of Fairfield Rugby newsletter!

Red Rugger Alum:

It is our great hope to give you a break from your daily routine and to bring you back to those memorable days on the pitch and to inspire new anecdotes of previous feats of strength, incredible tackles, miraculous runs, 65 yard penalty kicks, etc. (it's amazing how much faster and stronger we were as we get older!).

It is also our intention to keep you in touch with the current status of the Fairfield University Men's and Women's Rugby Clubs. Unfortunately, due to a hazing incident, the men's team will not be playing competitively during 2010. With the help of the University administration and guidance from the Friends of Fairfield Rugby, the FURFC is on the rebound and will be prepared for a strong 2011 re-entry into collegiate play.

After a very successful 2009 season where the women's team competed in the Met Union Championships, they have resumed their winning ways in early September competition. We look forward to another successful campaign this Fall under coach Ryan Birge '05.

I encourage you to help us to provide support to the Fairfield University Rugby Club by becoming a member of our organization "the PID Fund for Fairfield Rugby doing business as the Friends of Fairfield Rugby." You can become a member by clicking on <http://friendsoffairfieldrugby.org> and click on "become a friend."

Cheers,

Tom O'Connor '75

President

The PID Fund for Fairfield Rugby



FRIENDS of FAIRFIELD RUGBY

FriendsofFairfieldRugby.org



Dear Friend of Fairfield Rugby,

The mission of the PID Fund for Fairfield Rugby (a non-profit charitable organization) is to provide support to the Fairfield University Rugby Club, while fostering the life-long camaraderie that was so cherished by twenty-year Club Moderator, Professor Paul I. Davis.

The tradition continues – Fairfield Red Ruggers advance to the Northeast Region Finals at West Point in the fall of '08, and the finals of the Beast of the East Tournament at Newport, RI in spring of '09!

Remember... The glorious Fall Saturdays of rugby at Corbett (old farts) and Grauert Field... The camaraderie of the road trips to Boston, New York, D.C., and tours to Bermuda, the Bahamas and Wales... The oh-so-memorable post-match parties at the beach... The unforgettable characters and nicknames — Beef, Swannie, Looney Jack, the Duck, Bozak, the Gooch, Mondo, Q-Man, Root, The Slut, Donkey, Blockhead, Gumby, Chickenhead, Chooch, Pickle, Flounder, Mongo, Stinky, and on and on they go... But most of all — the life-long friendships and bonds created by being part of the great tradition that is Fairfield Rugby

Our organization is doing business as “Friends of Fairfield Rugby.” We now need your financial help to ensure that the fabulous Rugby Club tradition can continue to flourish and grow at Fairfield. The days of twenty-dollar dues and chipping in for gas to get our old VW's to Boston or Philly are long gone. Now we are talking renting buses, paying coaches and dealing with ever-increasing Club expenses; all in the midst of dwindling University financial support.

The PID Fund for Fairfield Rugby was created immediately following the sad passing of our friend, professor and twenty-year club moderator – Paul I. Davis, in December of 2008. Many of us had the enjoyment of being with PID one last time at the 45th Rugby Reunion last fall. A groundswell of support emerged – believing that a fund in PID's memory to support the Rugby Club would be a wonderful way to pay tribute to PID, provide the Club sorely needed financial help, and initiate a way for “Friends of Fairfield Rugby” to connect with each other and the current Club members.

In typical Red Rigger fashion, we threw together a bunch of guys and quickly raised enough money to get the fund up and running. We immediately came to the financial aid of a very deserving current rigger who needed help with a portion of his tuition money in order to continue at Fairfield. This was done in the form of a no-interest loan.

We envision that the fund will be used in a wide variety of ways to support the club, club members, and the life-long camaraderie of the Friends of Fairfield Rugby. Among proposed uses are scholarships/grants/loans to deserving current and future Ruggers, much-needed improvements to Grauert Field, training expenses, help with travel expenses for tournaments and tours, and networking and gatherings of “The Friends of Fairfield Rugby.” Suggestions for areas of support are always welcome.

I know it is difficult in these economic times to add another organization to your donor list. However — can you think of another activity that brings back such fond memories, or one that you would like to help impact more? The suggested gift is one hundred dollars, but certainly if you wish to donate more — please do. We welcome, of course, whatever amount you wish to give.

We are offering membership in The Friends of Fairfield Rugby for the nominal annual dues of \$20.00. We are also offering five year memberships @ \$85, ten years @ \$175, and Lifetime Membership @ \$250. All members will receive a commemorative gift of a Friends of Fairfield Rugby pin. Members will receive the FOFR newsletter which will include updates of the current Men's and Women's Clubs, articles telling truths, exaggerated and real, about former seasons and players, profiles of current rugby players, invites to regional social gatherings of FOFR, and all things Fairfield Rugby. We hope you will once again join us a member of the Fairfield Rugby family and continue the great tradition of camaraderie and fellowship we all experienced as Red Ruggers.

The Board has already donated some portion of our funding dollars to the University's Lyons-Lademan Athletic Fund. These dollars have been earmarked exclusively for the Men's and Women's Rugby Clubs and we have been allowed oversight of the money. This has eliminated any concerns that the University has that the PID Fund will be competing for dollars with Lyons-Lademan, and gives us the ability to be sure the dollars go to the Rugby Clubs.

Please spread the word about Friends of Fairfield Rugby (and the PID Fund for Fairfield Rugby) to any ruggers that you keep in touch with. We have set up a Facebook account to provide a tool for networking and receiving periodic updates of Friends of Fairfield Rugby activities (just search for “Friends of Fairfield Rugby”). If you have any fundraising ideas, please run them by a Board member so that we that we can coordinate all efforts.

So – I encourage and invite you to become a Friend of Fairfield Rugby by writing a check today to The PID Fund for Fairfield Rugby.

Or visit our website at www.friendsoffairfieldrugby.org and pay by credit card. Feel free to contact any of the Board members regarding the tax treatment of any donations (we are a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization) or any other questions you may have. Please include your e-mail address on your check.

Mark Feeley '69

Mark Feeley '69

Please make your check payable to “The PID Fund for Fairfield Rugby, Inc.” and mail to:
Friends of Fairfield Rugby c/o John O'Neill
631 Long Ridge Road, Unit 7, Stamford, Connecticut 06902

FURFC Alumni Profiles



Through the decades, many great competitors have worn the red and white and distinguished themselves on and off the pitch. Here is our first installment of profiles of some such alumni. You'll find names from across the decades, representing the rich history that is Fairfield Rugby. Look for future profiles as we continue to mine the wealth of individual tales that, collectively, create the unique legacy that is Fairfield Rugby.

Bob Smith '68

It can be argued that the class of 1968 had more participation, and influence on the early years of the FURFC than any other. It is also probable that no member of the Club has ever played and won more games as a member of the "A" side than Bob (a.k.a. "Tiny", a.k.a. "Beef") Smith.

From the Fall of 1964 thru the Spring of 1969, Beef (Tiny) was an immense presence as tighthead prop. Whether booming penalty kicks, protecting jumper Chris Grauert in lineouts, or moving a set scrum down the field, Beef was a force. The 6' 1" 240-pounder from Armonk, NY joined the Club in its second year of existence and was instrumental in its unparalleled growth and success. Beef was scrum captain, and winner of the prestigious Doug Ciacci Most Valuable Player Award. Beef's earliest rugby memories are of the blazing speed of Al Sullivan, the elusive running of Club founder (and perhaps the greatest player), the late Doug Ciacci; and the mentoring provided by the first coach/moderator – Doc Kenyon.

The immediate successes of the Club, gaining a reputation as one of the strongest college clubs in the northeast is testament to the dedication and tremendous rugby spirit of the clubs of the early years. Intense rivalries were created with hard-fought wins over Georgetown, Villanova, Fordham and Holy Cross. The FURFC also played many club teams then and learned much from the likes of Manhattan, Old Blue and New York.

Some of Beef's memories include: The rolling hills of Corbett Field, the Spring Club picnics at Sherwood Island, post game parties at the Firehouse and Sokol Hall, PID arrives on the scene, road trip to Penn State, tours of Bahamas and Wales, and the dedication of Grauert Field. The Club's structure which enabled members to step up into leadership roles and life-long camaraderie are the things Beef took away from his years as a member of FURFC.

After playing with the Club for a year after graduating, followed by a short stint with Essex, Beef moved on to grad school and a career in accounting and finance. He had three younger brothers follow him to Fairfield, and his daughter Bridget is a 2004 grad. Bob (no longer Beef) has been married for 33 years and now splits time between Lafayette, Indiana and Sackets Harbor, NY where he is CFO of PPC in Syracuse.

To those who were Club members during the glorious 60's there was no more beloved Club member than our own gentle giant with the big bushy red mustache.

Artie McCoy '79

Artie "Kid" McCoy was a force at center for the Red Ruggers from 1975 through 1979. Big, fast and an aggressive hitter, Artie was a true leader on and off the field, serving as club president during his senior year.

A standout football player at Seton Hall H.S. on Long Island, Artie set pass catching records in his junior year and was sought by Boston College to play wide receiver. But Seton Hall closed its doors after that stellar junior year, and Artie played his senior ball at St. John the Baptist H.S. ...a team that threw the ball about three times a season. Not one to be discouraged easily, Artie made All County at defensive end and went to Fairfield rather than BC – with FURFC the big winner.

From the moment he was introduced to Fairfield Rugby at an activity fair freshman year, he was hooked. McCoy recalls, "In that big Oak Room full of clubs vying for the attention of the freshmen, the rugby guys caught my attention right away. They were having more fun than anyone else. They welcomed me, told me that in rugby you play every minute of the game with no subs, that they hang out

together at the beach, would teach me how to be a good rugby player and how to tap a keg. Being from Long Island in the 70s, I knew how to tap a keg, but the rest sounded great and I was in."

McCoy was proud to be a part of FURFC for a variety of reasons. He was proud to play on Grauert Field, made specifically for rugby and the FURFC. Proud that during his years they consistently fielded three, sometimes four sides, a week. Proud of the level of play, especially considering half the matches were against established men's clubs. He was especially proud of the way that the club members were responsible for everything associated with running the club; raising funds, arranging matches, travel and lodging (sort of)...in addition to the on-field product. Artie fondly recalls the excitement of traveling to historical locations like West Point and Harvard, especially since having PID along was like having a walking history book.

Artie is married to Anne, his sweetheart from college days, in East Islip, New York. Artie and Anne have four children, Melissa, Connor, Lindsay and Luke. Connor is a freshman at Fairfield.

McCoy is happy to see the establishment of the Friends of Fairfield Rugby because it will keep former players connected to something that they loved and was a very big part of their lives.



Mark Ryan '85

Those who played with Mark Ryan remember many things, especially thundering tackles delivered all over the pitch as a center. But when Mark reflects on his Fairfield Rugby career, he talks philosophically about challenges off the field and rugby's role in helping him persevere.

"I started as a member of Fairfield's class of '84, but I tripped academically. Unable to attain passing grades in two nursing courses in the fall of '82, I was required to take the spring off and reapply and repeat in the fall. This was humbling and humiliating."

"On the pitch, there were times after a hit that I did not know who we were playing, who I was dating, or which way the beach was. Those hits pale in comparison to the academic punch I set myself up for due to poor choices, a poor sense of priorities and immaturity."

Mark notes that in life as in rugby, it's not that you get knocked down that matters, but that you get back up. "Thanks to notes and photos from fellow ruggers that semester I knew that I would return to Fairfield. I was able to continue my studies at Fairfield University in the nursing program with the support of Dean Porter and Assistant Dean McAvoy."

Upon graduation, Mark worked as a nurse in St. Vincent's Hospital, St. Claire's and NYU in Manhattan. He lived in Jersey City, played for Union County Rugby and met his future wife Kathy ('86).

While working as a nurse was rewarding, Mark sought a new path. He was accepted to University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. "This time academic failure was not an option." Mark graduated with honors, noting "Dental school was challenging, but not as tough as playing Rockaway Sevens, and then getting home."

"My freshmen year at Fairfield U was great. I was a member of the rugby team and that was all that mattered. There were a lot of mentors, starting with Paul I. Davis. My big brother on campus was Chris "Honcho" Moore. Honcho along with Dennis "Barney" Haylon, Pat McKeon, Mike Crowley, Mike McElduff and many others helped instill in me what it meant to be a 'red rucker.' It was not about hazing and only seniors playing "A" side. It was about attendance, attitude, and ability. If you had the "three A's" then you had a shot at playing the "A" side."

"For me camaraderie, friendship and teamwork, all came out of being a member of the rugby team. From the muddy rain-soaked rucks came hard work, determination, and leadership. I pull on these characteristics daily. Life at times is not easy – just like my hospital passes to Sean Byrne. But through persistence and hard work, you push through."

Mark runs a successful dental practice in West Haven, CT, "due to the love and support of my wife Kathy, my children, Mary Kate, Bridget, and Jillian, my family, and great employees."

"I truly cherish the friendships I made at Fairfield University and being a part of the rugby team. As has been written, 'My yoke is easy and my burden is light.'"

Brian McCloskey '95

Few Fairfield rugby players from the 1990's exhibited more love for the game or true rugby spirit more than Brian McCloskey '95.

McCloskey's very successful rugby tenure at Fairfield included playing A-side scrum half from 1992-1995 and serving as Club President. In 1994 he was named to the Eastern Collegiate Rugby All-Stars, which finished second to the Pacific All-Stars – a team, as McCloskey remembers, "stacked with All-Americans from Cal." Although he credits selection to the All-Star team and scoring two tries to defeat Coast Guard Academy as career highlights, many teammates remember him for an even greater accomplishment.

During the Club's Bahamas Tour in 1995, McCloskey bravely took the field after suffering injuries from a freak moped accident the first day of the trip. Although hurting, McCloskey took the field and played his finest against a very game squad from Siena. While Fairfield lost, his teammates remembered McCloskey's courage and stoicism. It was truly one of his finest hours.

McCloskey stated some of his favorite things about Fairfield Rugby were his teammates and coaches. He specifically recalled fondly how the upperclassmen such as Charley Kersten '93 and Eamon Curry '92 took younger players under their wings, on and off the field. McCloskey looked up to the older players "for all the right reasons; leadership, work ethic, team first attitude, and humbleness." The upperclassmen, "made rugby fun... were guys of high character who had the club's best interest at heart." His teammates had a good time but "when it was time to bear down and play, everyone left it all on the field."

McCloskey credited Steve Matz '92 for getting him involved in the rugby club and his other claim to fame at Fairfield: becoming the Fairfield Stag. McCloskey served as the school mascot for two years, a skill he took with him, later serving as "Phlex" the mascot for the Philadelphia Phantoms minor league hockey team.

Luckily, McCloskey's skill as a mascot wasn't the only thing he brought with him from Fairfield. In 2002, he returned to his high school St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia, in the admissions office. He helped found the St. Joe's Prep Rugby club and continues to serve as the team's backs coach today. McCloskey said he, "takes tremendous pride in watching his players go on to play rugby in college", including three who went on to play rugby at Fairfield.

Today, McCloskey resides in Villanova, PA with his wife Maridel (nee Mauleon)'95 and their four children. Despite living in PA, McCloskey still tries to make it to Fairfield to catch a rugby game. His best memories of Fairfield were the camaraderie, and life-long friendships forged on the rugby pitch and his participation in the FURFC, "hands down made my college experience a positive one."

Adam Davey '08

In the spring of 2007, Adam Davey '08 was elected Fairfield's Back Captain. Three months later, on July 7th, 2007, Adam would be in Boston Irish Wolfhounds jersey, lying motionless on a pitch in Springfield, MA not realizing he had broken a bone in his neck. Rather than enjoying some summer 7's rugby and gaining high-level experience in advance of the upcoming FURFC Fall season, Adam was now faced with an incredible challenge.

After extensive surgery, Adam would eventually regain all motion and movement; however, the possibility of playing the sport of rugby again was very remote. Coming from a rugby family (his father, older brother, and twin brother Brian '08 all laced up the boots) and having played the game since his high school days at Boston College High School, it was extremely hard on Adam to return to Grauert Field that September as a senior and watch from the sidelines. Despite his injury, watching match after match made him realize that he wanted to join his teammates on the field one more time. He committed himself to this goal and during the following spring season, Adam ran onto the field with the Red Ruggers for a few more matches. Even though he wasn't scoring tries as easily, it was quite an accomplishment to pull on the red and white jersey a few more times.

Between the battles versus Boston College, Yale, Sacred Heart and Vassar, the team's spring break tour to the Bahamas, and all the rugby parties down at the beach, Adam considers his days as a Fairfield Red Rugger as "some of the best times of my life." He describes his Fairfield teammates as a "rowdy crew but the most loyal people you will ever meet."

Adam also valued the opportunity he had to play Fairfield rugby alongside his twin brother, Brian. Brian was also an excellent player and anybody who had the pleasure of playing with the two of them (the "Davey-bots") would describe them as equally intense and passionate about the sport. Forget playing for a much bigger, stronger Irish Wolfhounds squad, Adam had the same chance of breaking his neck lining up against Brian in tackling drills!

In all, Adam was a tremendous player, a respected leader, and remains a great asset to the Fairfield rugby tradition. He continues to play rugby today with the Boston Irish Wolfhounds and even though he still experiences some neck pain, he is "having as much fun as ever."



First-Class Clinic. Ryan Birge, '05 (FU Women's Rugby coach) organized a clinic to introduce new players to the game and FURFC on a beautiful Sept. 11 day at Grauert Field. Ryan was assisted by FURFC men's coach Matt Leonard, former London Harlequins #8 Marc Downes, famed Welsh scrum half Steve Jones and FURFC alum Bob Ehlers, '79.



Lineout, old-style. FURFC members, left to right – Brian Lynch ('97), Colin Rigby ('97), Brendan Delaney ('98), Jon Baumstark ('97), Joe Sardella ('97), George Hemmer ('98) and Brian Duffell ('97).

Friends of Fairfield Rugby Membership Levels

One Year:	\$20
Five Years:	\$85
Ten Years:	\$175
Lifetime Member:	\$250

Signup online:
www.FriendsofFairfieldRugby.org
 Credit cards accepted

What you can do...

Spread the word: Forward our website to former Fairfield ruggers and friends of the club. We have many missing alumni and need your help to get them reconnected.

Join us: For a paltry \$20 annually, you'll be kept updated on all we do and be supporting what we plan as a growing effort to support the legacy and future of Fairfield Rugby.

Find us on Facebook: Just search for "Friends of Fairfield Rugby."

Come to future games and events.

Bookmark These Sites

Friends of Fairfield Rugby -
www.friendsoffairfieldrugby.org

Men's Rugby -
www.fairfield.edu/athletics/rec_mensrugby.html

Women's Rugby -
www.fairfield.edu/athletics/rec_wrugby.html