

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2010

HENLEY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB – REPORT

Henley RFC re-organised its playing structure for season 2009/10. Since 1999-2000 it had been organised as HENLEY RFC with its teams playing under the name of Henley Hawks with a separate club known as Henley Wanderers also using the facilities at the Dry Leas ground

The two clubs merged in August 2009 and as prior to 2000 played as one club, Henley RFC. This season the club has fielded five senior sides in league competitions :-

Henley Hawks 1st XV in National League 2 (South) currently lying in 11th position

Henley Hawks 2nd XV in Rugby Tech Division 2 currently lying 1st

Henley Hawks 3rd XV in Berks/Bucks/Oxon Division 1 South currently lying 1st

Henley Hawks 4th XV in Thames Valley Invitation League A' . Champions

Henley Hawks Women in South West Championship currently 1st

Youth Level

Henley Hawks Colts - Oxfordshire Champions – reached 5th round of the National Cup

Under 17's - Champions of Bucks, Berks and Oxon League. Reached last 32 of National Cup

Mini /Junior Level

Teams at every age group 7-16. Membership 400 plus

The Oxfordshire Mini Festival 26th April is to be held at Dry Leas for the second successive year with competitors and spectators expected to number 4000. This is the first time that Oxfordshire RFU have asked a club to stage this Festival in successive years so well administered was that which as held in April 2009. London Wasps use the ground for their home matches in the Guinness 'A' league which attracts crowds of over 1000 ,many of whom use the shops, pubs etc in the town.

The RFU have arranged to hold the semi-finals of the National under 17's Cup at Henley on April 18th for the fourth successive year. On Wednesday April 28th the club will host the finals of the knockout competition for the RFU Advance Apprentices in Sporting Excellence (AASE), which will bring the cream of youth rugby to Dry Leas.

Whilst in terms of playing achievements the club is prospering, through lack of capital the changing/clubhouse facilities, which were refurbished and extended in 1995, are now badly in need of maintenance and improvement. The club is anxious to provide a decent standard for the many that use that use the facilities including the TigerTurf all weather surface which is used by other clubs, schools and corporates (e.g Henley Soccer School, local primary schools,e.g. Valley School, St. Marys and corporates e.g.Invesco Perpetual).

Henley RFC is looking for grants, loans, and sponsorship funds in the region of £50k to continue to provide these facilities which are an important contribution to the community life of the town.

Noel Armstead
President
Henley RFC
April 2010