



## Congratulations!

Congratulations to all on the dual success of gaining promotion to Division 3 East AND reaching the final of the East District Cup, all in the same week!

What a year! The end of last season was probably the lowest point I have ever known in Rugby when the 1<sup>st</sup> team was relegated. As a club we realised that we had to take drastic action in an attempt to turn our fortunes around. It was important that we started this season on the right footing and the signing of coaches Matt Lloyd and Matt Back was the first major step in making significant improvements on and off the field. To have two of the most talented and well thought of up and coming young coaches in Wales was a major boost to us all.

The season began with a couple of close defeats where plenty of effort was shown by all but no doubt we were still suffering from the difficulties that relegation brings in terms of mindset. However, with a more professional approach to our off field organisation in relation to match preparation and training and the signing of a number of young and talented players our squad began to take shape and results began to change for the better. Who would have believed that we would go on an unbeaten run of 18 games including a fantastic East District semi-final win against local rivals Rumney RFC who are two Divisions above us?

In relation to the playing squad, which has remained a very close and tight knit group, I can only applaud the effort and commitment that has dragged us through games on a number of occasions, especially when our small squad has been depleted by injuries. To all the players who have made a contribution this year I would just like to add my personal thanks and appreciation, not forgetting those players who suffered injuries in helping to gain us promotion.

I feel I need to mention a few other important elements that helped the club progress this year. The more 'professional' approach to all aspects of the way in which we conduct rugby matters has very much added to our success, with the efforts of our treasurer Peter Maunder and the rest of the committee in obtaining sponsorship through the Vice-Presidents programme. Chris Molcher and Dickie Thomas's efforts in getting a team of Old boys (Musketeers) sorting out our home ground prior to matches and the tremendous support from the Musketeers and many others who have travelled to all home and away games has also helped in lifting spirits and giving the club a sense of identity on match days and some good fun!

Huge personal thanks from me must also go to David McDonald who as Assistant Team Manager has not only been a great support in all rugby matters off the field but his efforts on the field have been unbelievable. Also thanks to Andrew Maunder as first team captain who has also given everything for the cause, never giving less than 100% of effort on and off the field – including some excellent match reporting.

My gratitude also goes to our linesman Kevin McDonald for his commitment, sense of humour and fantastic support of the players and coaches. Thanks also to Ged Meeghan for his efforts as match day first aider, not forgetting our thanks to Bob Price as fixture secretary and Frank Medina as secretary. Special mention to Jo and all the staff at the rugby club for their support at all times.



# Old Iltydian RFC

[www.oldiltydianrugby.co.uk](http://www.oldiltydianrugby.co.uk)



Mike Maunder as second team captain together with Team Manager John Cummings have worked tirelessly in keeping the second team moving forward. The youth team has made fantastic strides this season with a great team spirit helping results improve significantly; the efforts of Coaches Mike Davies, Mike Murphy, John Ellis and Craig Donovan have been tremendous.

This year has also seen our Mini and Junior section move forward with the under 13's having a successful season with thanks to Paddy Wheeler and his coaching team and John Meighan's unflinching support of the junior and senior teams.

Not to forget the new Iltydian website designed and managed by 'Iltyd'. The website is continuing to grow and is proving very successful with 'hits' from Old Iltydians from all over the UK.

Finally, the tremendous efforts of all players, coaches and committee cannot go understated and as Team Manager I would like to thank everyone involved in making this season the success it has been so far with promotion achieved with still one game to play. We also have an East District cup final to play on Tuesday May 8 and we will be going all out to complete the season in style.

John Manders  
Team Manager