

Scrummy News

Harrisburg Rugby Football Clubs Monthly Newsletter

Vol.1-1 - Sept 2016



The Future is now

By Julie George

September 1, 2016, Harrisburg Rugby Football Club joined in partnership with Londonderry Township and signed a long-term lease to start developing our own fields and facility adjacent to Sunset Golf Club. The Middletown, PA site will host multiple rugby pitches, permanent lights, parking and eventually a clubhouse for our teams, families and supporters.



In 2010, the HRFC formed a Futures Policy Committee to seek out suitable plots of land that could be developed into a complex to support minority sports in the region. In 2015, the Futures Committee entered into negotiations for a long term lease on an 8.5-acre plot of land in Londonderry Township deemed suitable for a field complex. Wanting to promote athletics in the community, the Township was willing to provide a long term lease for \$1/year.

The plan, laid out by Third Mountain Surveying, is for three sports fields on the land. The primary field, to be used as a game field

for the club, and additional fields built for practice and tournaments. These fields will also be available to rent to other local sports clubs including soccer, rugby and lacrosse.

Completing phase one of this process, securing the land, is a huge milestone, but the work is just beginning. We are now moving into phase 2 - construction. The township will provide tree removal, but Harrisburg Rugby is responsible for stump removal, grading, and the construction of retaining walls and drainage systems. The primary field will be fitted with permanent lights and a parking lot will be completed.

A massive thank you to everyone who has already supported us, without you, we would not be celebrating this incredible benchmark. But we need your ongoing support. Please donate today as Harrisburg Rugby endeavors to turn this dream of a rugby home into a reality! Please visit our GoFundMe page at: <https://www.gofundme.com/harrisburgrugby> or send a check, payable to HRFC, to: P.O. Box 161, Federal Square Station, Harrisburg PA 17108. (As always, donations are tax-deductible.)

Stay tuned for updates on the project plans, fundraising efforts and other ways you can help. Thank you all for your support of HRFC over the years – we hope to see you at Homecoming!

HRFC Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date / Time
HRFC Homecoming	Memorial Park	Sept 10th
Harlots vs Norfolk	Memorial Park W 45 -15	Sept 10th— 12PM
HRFC Men vs South Jersey	Memorial Park L 30—45	Sept 10th— IPM
Harlots at Doylestown	Doylestown PA	Sept 17th— 11AM
HRFC Men vs Hibos	Memorial Park	Sept 17th — IPM
Harlots at NoVA 2		Oct 1st— 11AM
HRFC Men vs Binghamton	Memorial Park	Oct 1st— IPM
Harlots vs Brandywine	Memorial Park	Oct 8th— 11AM
HRFC Men vs Lehigh Valley	Memorial Park	Oct 8th— IPM
Harlots vs Philadelphia	Memorial Park	Oct 15th— 11AM
HRFC Men at Jersey Shore	Atlantic City NY	Oct 15— IPM
Beef & Brew	Sunsrt G.C.	Nov 12th

Nice Legs for a Cause

By Adam Bingnear

On Friday evening August 12th, 2016 at 6:00PM, Harrisburg Rugby took to the streets of downtown Hanover, PA for Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®. The charity event, features local men donning fetching pairs of heels and walking a mile to show their support for victims of domestic violence in the greater Hanover community. The Event run through Hanover YWCA Safe Home & Still Waters was able to raise over \$22,000.

The Walk begun at the Warehime-Myers Mansion Fadel “Big Sexy” Amadou, Adam “LBA” Bingnear, Brain “Goose” Katarski, Dan “Psycho Dan / DROD” Rodriguez, Sam Silknetter, and Steve “Lil Steve” Yameogo, supported by sister walker Teja Henry, put on their most fashionable shoes to tackle the mile long walk. The men of HRFC awkwardly trudged through downtown Hanover to raise awareness about the serious causes, effects and remediations to men’s sexualized violence against women. While not an easy task, the men representing HRFC had fun getting the community to talk about a difficult subject. For more information about the Event and how you can help the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Organization please contact Michelle Schaffer at 637-2125 or visit www.firstgiving.com.



HRFC Member of the Month

By Courtney Reapsome

Joe Dabbs

Joe is no stranger to the rugby pitch. He comes to HRFC with thirteen years of rugby experience. He started his rugby days playing with West Carroll High School RFC and went on to play through his college years at DeSales University. Joe can be spotted on the pitch running with the loose forwards or scrummaging in the 2nd row position. He says the camaraderie and community of rugby are what keep him coming back to the game. What you may not know about Joe is that he was the founder, president, and coach of both the men's and women's rugby teams at DeSales University. When Joe isn't on the rugby pitch, he can be found fixing bumps and bruises and even saving lives as an emergency room nurse. We're glad Joe decided to continue his rugby career with HRFC. If you see Joe around, thank him for being a member of HRFC and sharing his rugby ethos, knowledge and skills with our club!!



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Harrisburg 7's Turns the Big 3-0

By Erin "Goody" Strelec



This year, HRFC hit a huge milestone with our 7s tournament; we turned 30! Its somewhat ser-entipitous that 30 years ago, this tournament began as a way to finance the purchase of land for our own field. Now, 30 years later, we are on the verge of just that – having a home of our own. Thank you to the 30 years of alumni, friends, players, and donors that have helped make this a possibility!

June 25th was a beautiful day for Rugby 7s in Campbelltown, PA; there was no threat of rain which automatically made it better than 2015! This year, HRFC broke a record for the most HRFC teams ever entered in the tournament (guesstimate only). Harrisburg had 4 Men's teams (HRFC 1, 2, U-23, & HOBOS) and 3 Women's teams (Harlots 1, 2, & HOGS) take the pitch while a whole hoard of HRFC members manned the concession, apparel & registration tent.

As the teams arrived, it was noted that Harrisburg 7s is the only tournament of summer to have enough porta-pottys. Through out the day, the concession tent rocked: T-shirts, walking Tacos, and Sausage Sandwiches sold briskly. The Basket of Cheer sold a record \$1,000+ in tickets and beer was tapped (only for those 21+) at the start of playoffs!

HRFC dominated the day on the 4 amazingly laid out pitches. Six of the seven HRFC teams made it into the playoff rounds (legitimately!). Both the Women & Men brought home hardware! The overall Men's Division winners were the **Molly Maguires**. The HRFC1, the strongest team seen at Harrisburg 7s in many years, won the Bowl against a strong Bad Cats side. The young guns on the HRFC U-23 side, lost in the Social Final, but showed great skill & speed. The HOBOS kept rolling their dad-bods down the pitch to make the social quarter final. HRFC2 had a great showing too, but decided not to play in playoffs.

HRFC women's teams had a strong showing this year as well. The **HOGS**, miraculously (and possibly against their wishes), made playoffs but fell to a younger, more 7s-like, Plate Champion North East Philly. Harlots2 also secured a spot in the playoffs. and came up just short in the Bowl final, falling to the Pittsburgh Highlanders.

Harlots 1 easily navigated thru pool play and face off against Whitehorse in the Cup Final. After a tough game of back & forth scoring, the Harlots decided it was time to stop playing around and get to scoring. In a flourish of tries, the **Harlots** won their own Harrisburg 7s tournament for the **SECOND** year in a row!!!

Once the games ended, the real work and fun started. Some raucous rugby songs were sung, while many a ref drank one too many Guinness, but fun was had by all. The Social was well stocked with meat cookies and the beer flowed. The Rising Sun (under new management) welcomed the extra income from tournament goers and invited us back next year (if we call ahead, we could possibly have karaoke!). There was dancing, there was drama, there were good times had by most.

Grill'n the Can-Am

By Scott Strelec

This past August the HRFC Men, and a select group of Harlots, attended the great Can-Am Tournament in scenic Lake Placid and Lake Saranac, NY. The tournament started on Friday July 29th and lasted until Sunday Sept 31st. The men played under the name *Franks and Beans* with players from Brooklyn RFC and Chambersburg RFC. *Franks and Beans* went 1-2 making it to the consolation quarter finals of the social division, but fell short of playing on Sunday morning.

Franks and Beans RFC was the brain child of Scott Strelec, with the help of Dan Rodriquez and Steve Write, with the idea that Harrisburg alone would never be able to travel to this international Tournament without the aid of other teams and players. With the help of Chambersburg RFC and Brooklyn RFC the *Franks and Beans* were able to bring 28 men to the regional tournament and play competitive rugby. This touring side had custom jerseys made to commemorate the inaugural event and the jerseys were distributed at a team dinner at Tale O' the Pup on Friday night.

Saturday morning, the mixed squad would kick off the tour with a match vs a scrappy and slightly less organized *Motely Whore's team*. The match saw *Franks and Beans* score first with some nice backline play and a score from wing/2nd row Mario, in the early minutes of the match. The match teeter-tottered back and forth, coming down to a tie with no time left in regulation. After a short 2min intermission, *F&B's* would be back on the pitch in a sudden death scenario. With no time left, *Franks and Beans* was unable to keep out those *Whores* and lost with a devastating score of 20-17.

Next up on the day, *Franks and Beans* would see a fit and obnoxious *North Jersey Squad*. The match was much like the first, with trys being traded back and forth. *NoJo* would not give in and neither would the *F&B's* squad. Again with a final push with no time left, *F&B* let *NoJo* in for a try in the far corner to tie the match. *F&B's* were weary to play another overtime sudden death period, but were able to step up and keep the ten minuet O.T. scoreless. After the ref contacted the coordinators, it was determined that the match would come down to a drop kick contest. The kicks would start ten meters out and would back up if both teams made it; you missed and the other team didn't and the match was over. First up *NoJo* made the kick with no trouble, *F&B* followed suit making their kick as well. Having moved back to the twenty meter mark, both *NoJo* and *F&B* struggled to make a kick. Finally, Sam took the reins of the contest and dilled a kick, giving *F&B* the win, allowing them to advance to the late match.



The 6pm match would put a large, tired *Franks and Beans* squad up against a fit, young, & talented *Brockport Silver u23 side*. The match was lost early, *F&B* was not able to keep up with the youth of *Brockport* and seemed to have a problem holding onto their own possession. With a final score of 12 to 48, *Franks and Beans* would finish their day. Pat was awarded the Bud Lime-a-rita Man-of-the-Match, where even when you win you lose. With the tournament ended for *Franks and Beans*, it allowed for many shenanigans and tom-foolery to ensue. A Kangaroo Court and Kraken was hosted by the good fellas from *Brooklyn* back at their majestic abode. The Court was followed by a tour of the finest establishments that Lake Placid had to offer. After a late start due to hangovers, the tour ended with a Camp fire and BBQ on Sunday night hosted by the HRFC. Stories, jokes, and memories were shared around the fire. *Franks and Beans* looks to relive their tour in 2017, keep an eye out for more information coming soon.

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