

## Season Review 2007/08

I am sure that this season will be remembered by most for the fact that we were relegated for the first time in the clubs history. I think it is obvious to all that this is not something that we wanted to happen. The reasons behind the relegation have been well publicised and I apologise to all for my part in the administration errors.

As we are all well aware Rugby is all about going forward and this is equally as important both on and off the pitch. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for all of their efforts over the last twelve months and welcome the new committee. Also I thank everybody else who has helped out with the smooth running of the club during the year. Thank you to all of the players that played for me in the first team and also to all of the lads who turned out regularly for the 2nds. A final big thank you has to be made to the coach Steve Lea for his work last season and his commitment to the club for the season ahead.

### ALL GAMES

				POINTS	
PLAYED	WON	DREW	LOST	F	A
28	12	0	16	374	469

### FINAL LEAGUE TABLE - MIDLANDS 5 WEST (SOUTH)

					POINTS				
TEAM	PLAYED	WON	DREW	LOST	F	A	DIFF	POINTS	ADJ
RUGBY	18	16	1	1	589	140	449	33	
UPTON	18	13	0	5	401	241	160	26	
PINLEY	18	10	1	7	269	285	-16	21	
DUDLEY	18	9	1	8	258	339	-81	19	
KERESLEY	18	10	0	8	328	273	55	18	-2
COV WELSH	18	9	0	9	252	230	22	18	
HARBURY	18	7	0	11	348	331	17	14	
MANOR PARK	18	6	1	11	286	305	-19	13	
ALCESTER	18	8	0	10	196	262	-66	12	-4
TENBURY	18	0	0	18	88	609	-521	-8	-8

When we look back at the playing aspect of the season I could point out several games that we could have won but didn't. The facts are that out of the 16 games we lost, 5 of them were by 1 score or less and 5 were by less than 12 points. We were competitive with all of the other sides in the league. In 2006/07 we were winning most of the close games but this season went the other way and once you start on losing streak it is very hard to get your confidence levels back. We did however finish the year very well and after several players came back from long term injuries we performed to a level similar to that of the previous season, winning 4 of our last 5 league games.

With the new season fast approaching, I hope that we are all looking forward to starting our journey towards regaining a position in a higher league. It is also important that we take this opportunity to look at the possibility of re-building and perhaps re-branding the team and the way it plays its rugby. For a few years now, and it has been no secret, we have been a team that have concentrated on the forward aspect of our game. This hard hitting and physical approach was undoubtedly a major factor in our success in 2006/07 but could possibly have been seen as an aid to our downfall last season. The game is slowly but surely changing, with the experimental laws being trialed in Super 14's and the recent directives to referees to "Clean up" the contact area, the direction is heading toward an open, skillful, fast paced game played by fitter rather than stronger players. So with one eye on promotion and the other eye on building a team around a more open and flowing style of rugby the coaching team of Steve and Mark, supported by a few of the senior players have a challenging task on their hands.

On a positive note and there were a few, we saw a number of young players break into the 1<sup>st</sup> XV including Tom Burgess and James Woodhams who represented South Warwickshire and were part of the County Cup winning team defeating Coventry and North Warwickshire in the final. We saw a huge upturn in the number of colts at training sessions which is all good for the future of the club.

So let's hope that all goes well next season and thank you in advance for your continued support both on and off the pitch.

Regards,

Scott Carmichael  
1<sup>st</sup> XV Captain