

OLD BOY QUARTERLY



The Old Boy Quarterly

is targeted to the alumni rugby players of the Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Football Club.

These issues chronicle both interesting parts of the club's 50 year history and inform the readers about the club's current status & future plans.

It is meant to supplement and not replace the information on the club's website <http://www.kurugby.org/>

The club also has actively managed information on Facebook. (Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Football Club)

We are seeking to expand this publication's distribution. If you are aware of KJRFC alumni who would like to be added to the distribution, please forward this e-mailed newsletter to them.

If you are interested in financially supporting the club, charitable gifts can be made to:

The Kansas Rugby Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 1074
Lawrence, KS, 66044

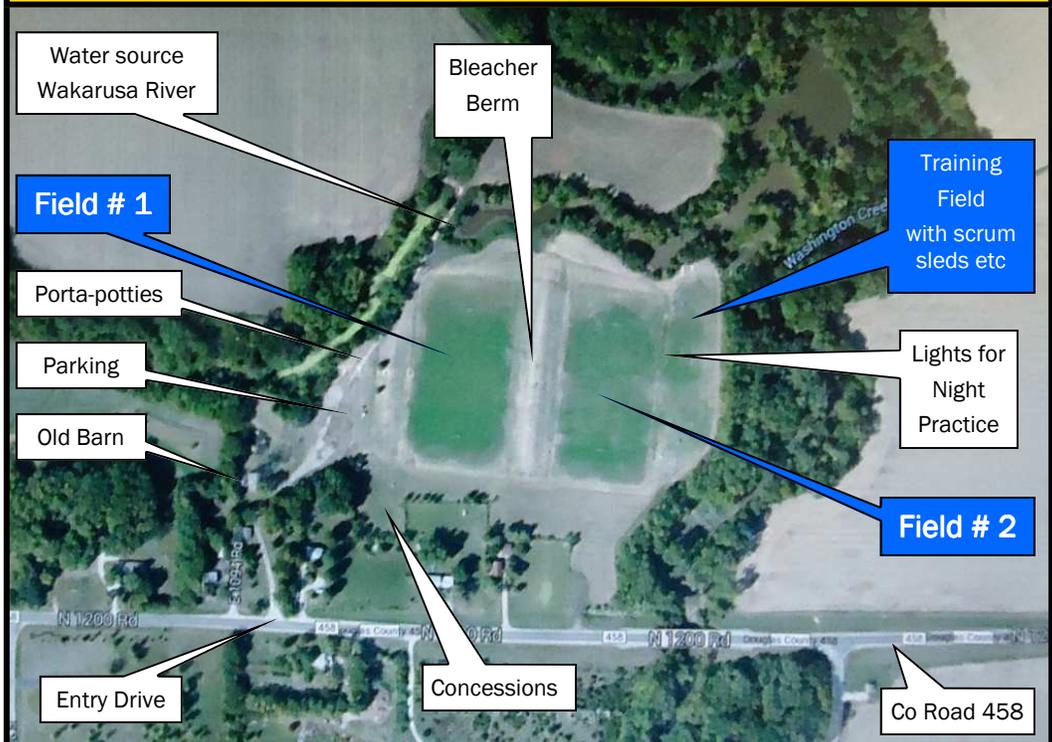
Featured In the next Issue:

1995 – 2000

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 1990-1995 Era
- That era's purchase & development of Westwick
- Fund raising initiatives by alumni tied to 50th anniversary
- Women's rugby club involvement
- Coverage of several fall games
- Founding member Pat Rapp on YouTube speaking to college side
- Club launches LinkedIn "members-only" group & why that's important

Westwick Rugby Complex



Did you play for the club between 1995—2000?



We are always looking for current news, too.

This newsletter needs your scanned photos and your personal stories.

Send material to pd4bicycles@aol.com before December 15, 2013. Please provide your contact information.

Notes on the Fall 2013 Season

By Rick Renfro, Coaching Coordinator KJRFC

Hello again everyone. It is nice having this newsletter to stay in touch. I have seen a lot of you over the last four months. **Steve Swalwell, Gene Roberts, Jim Swift, Fred Exline, and Tom Kirk** have all stopped by to see a game. **Steve Lange, Doug McCauley** and I were the voice over for a local cable tapping of the Northland game. We interviewed **Ron Colin** (SA coach for us during the mid 90's) during the broadcast. He and Sybil were visiting for a month. He looks good and Sybil looks great. It was fun seeing Ron. Sorry I can't mention everyone that has stopped by Johnny's to say hi, not only can I not remember but most of you do not want your wife to know that you are hanging out at Johnny's again.

We have had sixty different kids come to practice this season. We did a good job with the ads in the UDK, tabling at Hawk Week and following up with the freshmen that ticked rugby as an interest. Unfortunately we have had a problem with retention. We are only getting 20-30 showing up for practice and 18-20 for games. Remember it takes a "special" person to play rugby. Most people are not cut out for it. We will keep plugging along until we reach our goal of two 25 man squads. I promise you it will be sooner than we think.

The college kids want to thank the alumni that contributed to the recent recruitment fundraiser. You raised @ \$7,000 in one month. The guys could

not believe it and it showed them how much the sport has meant to you. The money will be used for recruitment and retention purposes and has been and will be spent wisely.

We are really looking forward to 2014. We will have our traditional Alumni game in May (so start running and lay off the ice crême) and let's put out an alumni team that will whoop up on the college boys. **There will be a big event in September 2014 to officially celebrate the 50th year of the club.** See you soon.

Rock Chalk KU

Rick Renfro

KJRFC Committee Discusses Needs, Wants, & Wishes

By John Brown



L-R: Steve Lange, John Brown, Billy Pryor, Rick Renfro, and Paul Diedrich

This initial effort focused primarily on developing and defining priorities for dollars raised and also touched on some ideas on how to raise the required funds. The operating budget for the Club quickly rose to the #1 priority. **Currently that budget surpasses \$50,000/year.** It was a consensus that efforts should focus on the budget prior to any dreams for capital improvements that may indeed add to such budget expenditures.

There was also much discussion around the idea of scholarships and subsidies as these would aid in building a stronger overall side and could also help attract international talent that would lend the Club valued experience. Current relationships with international clubs could be strengthened and more firmly enshrine KJRFC in the world of rugby.

Additional discussion highlighted the fund raising opportunities around the 50th anniversary. Some discussion centered on identifying a particular project that could be highlighted and funded by Anniversary contributions. One such idea was a restroom and shower facility at Westwick.

Other topics certainly include subsidized funding for tours such as the recently completed tour of South Africa and also other dreams for capital improvements. The list could go on and on, but we need to start somewhere and that is why our efforts were initially to set those priorities.

Anyone interested in being involved in these efforts is welcome. Also if you have knowledge of successful fundraising initiatives that could be applied to our situation please make those known. It has been 50 years gents; now we need to be prepared for the next 50. ****

With the 50th anniversary of our club approaching, attention is being focused on the near and long term financial needs of the Club. An ad hoc committee of interested alumnus gathered in Leawood on August 13 to put a more organized wrapper around these efforts. In attendance were; **Billy Pryor, Rick Renfro, Steve Lange, Paul Diedrich, and John Brown.** Others unable to attend include **Morgan Carmichael, Mike Hammond, and chairman Tom O'Donnell.**

Alumni Raise Funds for Fall Recruiting Drive Louie's golf tourists come through



players, especially freshman (with long-term potential with the club). The sidelines crowd also increased in size which is good for both recruiting and generating more parking revenue to support the club.

The campaign also folded into encouraging the efforts of the Ad Hoc Fund Raising Committee (See separate article in this newsletter edition).

A big thanks to all these donors:

Rick Renfro, George Bunting, Kim Ewonus, Paul Die-drich, Steve Lange, Louie Riederer, John Brown, Kirk Goza, Mike Hammond, Quint Nufer, Larry Krisman, Bob Tucker, Tony Rio, Tom O'Donnell, Pat Roberts, Jeff Petillo, Jorge Reyes, Phil Olson, Paul Berardi, Lou Blanco, John Brooks, Larry Clarke, Mark Mitscher, Les Miller, Scott Ryley, Don "Duck" Harris, and Billy Pryor.

Forgive us if we omitted a donor's name. ****

The Jayhawk Old Boys stepped up after reading the last newsletter about the fall recruiting campaign. The first wave of checks came from perennial booster **Rick Renfro**, club founder **George Bunting**, and 68-72 flanker **Kim "Ewo" Ewonus**. Then former CEO **Paul Die-drich** sent a check and made an appeal to the tight knit golf group of **Louie Riederer**. Those guys settled into their usual competitive email chatter about giving at least a certain sum (a "par" do-

nation?). Staying with the golf analogy, some like **Lou Blanco** sent in "eagle" donations.

The end result was that about \$7,000 was raised which enabled the club to run a series of campus newspaper recruiting ads and game reminder ads on the Thursdays before home games. There is still money left over. The campaign has had paid off with a lot of new college

Garrett Blain named new Publicity Director for the Club



The club's new PR representative is **Garrett Blain** and he is a freshman at KU. He is very interested in marketing and is going to major in sports marketing. We already have a written publicity plan for him to follow which involves advertising, recruitment tables, merchandizing, and building relationships with the print and broadcast reporters. More importantly, the publicity plan will also make a focus of using the social media which is the best way to reach college-age people.

This should be a great experience for Garrett and a terrific asset to the club.

Contact this newsletter if you would like to discuss and idea with Garrett. ****

Club Launches “Member-Only” LinkedIn Group “Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Football Alumni Group”

By Steve Lange



The idea is to make this group a **BENEFIT** for being a current or past Jayhawk rugby player. People can get help with employment, find employee candidates, peddle their company & services, and discuss issues that may be of interest to the group. It's a bubble of info that only we can access.

It's also totally free of costs.

I am going to occasionally throw out an idea and hope for discussion from you all. If you see something you like posted by a group member and you do not know them; you can request to become a “connection” with them. That will allow you both to grow your own connection circles through each other's connections. Commenting on discussions also allows you to become a higher-profile member in this circle of people.

Steve Merdinger is volunteering to be a “moderator” of the group, so will also be helping with discussion topics. I will probably grow the count of moderators and managers as the group grows.

If you are already on LinkedIn and want to join, please find the

group on LinkedIn and request to join.

If you find this all confusing, let's review some basic tech stuff for those who are not up to speed on social media.

A “**Facebook**” page is like a bulletin board for the world to see. You have a public layer and an inner private layer for your “friends”. It's great for the rugby club that needs to announce practice times and directions to away games etc. “Friends” can make posts on your (the club's) page, commenting on what they see or really anything that want to comment upon. It's NOT good for what we want to do here.

A “**LinkedIn**” page is like your business resume. You post what you want others to know about you, related to your profession. Outsiders can NOT make posts on your LinkedIn page. You can find people who you know or want to know on LinkedIn by defining identifying data about them in the LinkedIn search engine and letting the LinkedIn system find them. Google also hops on board and will find people on LinkedIn using same ID's like, name, school, or whatever people post on their LinkedIn page. Once you

find someone on LinkedIn, you can ask to be a “connection” with them. If they agree to let you be a “connection”, you can usually see their list of “connections”. It's great for people who need to network in their business, because the LinkedIn system shows you if you have a connection that knows the stranger you would like to contact. Your connection could be asked to warm up that stranger for you.

“**LinkedIn Groups**” can be “open” or “members-only”. This rugby alumni group is “members-only”. It has a gate keeper (me) that must give permission to let people into the group. The outside world of Google searches and LinkedIn searches is not supposed to be able to see into our group discussions. So headhunters and other types that routinely bust into such groups can not harvest this data.

Here is what LinkedIn says about all this.

If you create a group, you are the Group Owner (that's Steve Lange in this situation). However, as Owner you can change the role of a member to be a Manager or Moderator to help share in the management duties of your group.

GROUP OWNER: has control over membership, discussions, settings, sub-groups, rules and more. They can also transfer ownership of a group to another group manager.

GROUP MANAGER: has the same access to the group as the owner except they can't close or transfer ownership of the group.

GROUP MODERATOR: limited to monitoring discussions and comments and managing submission and moderation queues. They can also feature a discussion

So the above is what I know so far. Let's see where this takes us. ****

RESULTS: Heart of America College Conference 7s

By: William Sexton

The event was played Saturday, September 21 at the Westwick Rugby Complex in Lawrence, KS. The event was hosted by Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Club.

The University of Arkansas defeated the University of Missouri 26-17 in the championship match. Arkansas advanced through pool A and defeated Iowa State 28-12 in the semifinals. Missouri advanced through pool B and defeated

Kansas State 39-0 in the other semifinal. The University of Arkansas will advance to the USA Rugby Collegiate 7s in November 2013.

In the consolation bracket, Truman State defeated Oklahoma State 19-12 and the University of Kansas 24-10 to capture 5th place. Kansas finished in 6th place, while Oklahoma State finished in 7th place. Northeast Oklahoma State, a

cent addition to the HOACC, withdrew and did not participate, creating a series of unfortunate "byes" in the schedule.

Special thanks to **Pete Winkelbauer** and **Steve Jackman** who officiated all of the matches! Special thanks to **Rick Renfro** and the Kansas Jayhawks for hosting this event. The fields were in spectacular condition, and the teams appreciate being able to play at the Westwick facility.****



College 7's teams rest on top of berm, resting and watching the day's matches.



Jayhawks' College Sevens Team (L-R) Matt Broadbent, Harry Forrester, Kris Rawls, Mike Powers, Harry Morrison, Johannes Swane-poel, Tonderai Kambara (T.K.), Mark Harden, Garrett Blain, Chris Bull, Shelby Politte, Jacob Ornburn



Jayhawks' 7's side warming up on Field # 1 (photo from top of berm)

Jayhawks Club Side Defeats Northland 40-20 in Televised Game on September 21

Lawrence cable Channel 6 set up a two camera crews September 21 to film some of the College 7's Tournament and also the noon 15's game between the Jayhawks' club side and the Northland Rugby Club from Kansas City. Although the Jayhawks had a convincing lead at halftime, the Northland club drew within a score midway in the second half. The Jayhawks responded with a surge of tries, led by the Jayhawks' speedy outside center, **Cody Webber** who on several occasions shed a tackle and made a breakaway run to the posts. Final score 40-20 Jayhawks.



Above: Rick Renfro deadpans to TV audience that there is nothing wrong with your son becoming a "hooker". We all have new-found respect for people who cover sports on live TV. Its harder than it looks.



Left: Jayhawk club-side stalwarts, (L) Grant Lechtenberg, loosehead prop (feature story in this edition) and (R) Cody Weber, outside center. Rick Renfro notes that the only problem with the talented Cody is that his teammates assume he will score a try after he breaks just one tackle and therefore his team fails to consistently run in his support.

Below: Jayhawks prepare to defend as Northland wins a ruck near the Jayhawks line. Northland came within a try in the early 2nd half, until Cody Weber iced the game with some breakaway tries.



Founding Club Member Pat Rapp Speaks to College Side You can hear & see his comments on YouTube



Pat Rapp played for the club in its first 1964 season and was one of its first presi-

dents and coaches. On August 27th, he came to the club's fall general meeting of the college players, including newly recruited freshman. He helped open the meeting by offering his perspective on his time with the club 50 years ago and the experience he hopes they get from being a Jayhawk rugby player.

You can listen to his 10 minute comments on YouTube by searching for **Pat Rapp to KU Rugby Club 2013** or by clicking this link.

<http://youtu.be/bMkv9aYGXRr>

Super Social Members - The Rothwell Clan



LEFT: Clan in action — CENTER: Sean Rothwell and mom Susan—Right: Sean with Aunt Linda and Uncle Doug

If you have come to any rugby game in Lawrence in 2013, you have noticed the same two couples manning the concession stands along the sidelines at Westwick. They are raising money for the club by selling hamburgers, chips, soft drinks and the club's sweatshirts, t-shirts, and jerseys.

It turns out they are the **Marty & Susan Rothwell** and **Doug & Linda Beneke**, parents, aunt, & uncle of the Jayhawks' phenomenal back & place kicker, **Sean Rothwell**. Their dependable commitment to help the club on home games is even more remarkable because **they drive to Lawrence all the ways from their homes in Wichita and Salina to work the concession stands!!!**

The newsletter asked the "Rothwell Clan" what got them interested in performing these duties.

Sean's dad, Marty wrote:

Sean asked us to help him with rugby club's fund raising. The best way we could help was to get items donated and then give lunch to the visiting teams and sell the other items to fans. This makes money in two ways:

- (1) The rugby club does not have to buy food and beer for the visiting team.
- (2) Since all items are donated; whatever is sold is profit.

At the recent sevens tournament, almost \$300 was raised, plus the Kansas City

visitors ate free and it cost the rugby club zero!

We have been cooking and helping raise funds for Sean's activities since he was 3 years old. Since we were asked; we didn't know why we should stop now. It is great to attend the Jayhawk rugby games and to meet all of the players, coaches, fans, and alumni!

Sean's Uncle Doug and Aunt Linda have followed Sean since he started kicking for high school football. Whenever they come to a game; we are working and they simply help out because it is the right thing to do. In addition, they have helped at many school fundraisers since Sean was 6 years old. ****

Key Alums Help Buy Westwick Interviews with Steve Merdinger, Rick Renfro, and Paul Diedrich



Steve Merdinger started playing for the club at age 18 in 1976 as freshman. He was looking for something to do and decided to play rugby. **Rob Mason (Dan & Rick Katz' cousin)** was a player in the same dorm and brought him to practice. At that first practice **Allen Chapman** was there. The backs included **Steve Francisconi, Denny Henderson, Roger Walter, Doug Hassig, George Matias, and Bill Byers**. The forwards included a big red-headed guy named **Russ Johnson, Doug Gunn, and Rick Whitson**.

Merdinger played B-Side that first semester and enjoyed it. The 6'2" 205 lbs Merdinger was played at 2nd row. After the end of that season, the club did its first tour of England and he missed it, because he had his appendix out at the end of the year. He continued to play the next spring. Somebody on the A-Side got hurt and he started playing in their spot and hung onto an A-Side spot. **Paul Diedrich** was playing # 8 and at some point during that season, he and Merdinger switched positions. It then stayed that way. After he graduated he moved back to his home town of Chicago and played for the Griffins until the

early 1990's. He went on to refereeing for 5 or 6 years after his retirement as a player.

Merdinger is now a partner in a financial planning firm in Chicago called Financial Strategy Network. They are a planning based financial planning firm with a host of consultation services for closely held business owners with over 130 years of collective experience that gets into a number of areas like cash management, investment management, fringe benefits, business succession planning, and estate planning. They help their clients implement the plans they help design. He can show them an exit strategy from the business and how they can retire with an independent income."

His most memorable game was when he was a senior in 1979; beating the Des Moines Rugby club in the semi-finals of the Heart of America Tournament in Swope Park in Kansas City. The Des Moines RFC was a regional powerhouse and had played in the finals or won that tournament for a number of years. "We were just a bunch of college kids and they thought they were going to mop up on us. We went on to lose the KC Blues in the finals. It was a very good rugby club. In the years immediately after I graduated, that group of players stayed together. They won the HoA Tournament that next year in 1980 and went on to play for the Western Rugby Union's championship in 1982."

After missing the initial tour to England in 1977 due to the appendix surgery, He traveled and played on

the tours of Scotland-Ireland, New Zealand (twice), Argentina, Belgium, and France-Wales. Steve stayed connected to the players, even though he was living in Chicago. That player group remains some of his very best friends to this day. **"That whole experience was such a great thing for me; I wanted to stay con-**

nected and give something back."

Buying the club's pitch

It was a goal of the club to buy their own field for a number of years. **Rick Renfro** finally located a piece of land to buy for a field in 1992. He called up Steve and said that there was never going to be a "perfect time" to buy and that they should "just do it". Steve was on-board. "We weren't really trying to make money on the purchase. Instead, what we wanted was to make sure that no matter what happened; the rugby club would have a field for their games and practice. We formed **Westwick LLC** to buy the initial acreage."

The field's improvements were paid for by contributions from players, alumni, and social members. **Allen Chapman** made a special shovel and had a "First 15 Forever" group that had names engraved who gave a lump sum of at least \$1,000. Then there was another group of "Mortgagers" who agreed to give a lesser sum every year for 10 years. The club held a series of fund-raising events, too. They also got some income off the land by having share croppers farm the land that is not part of the 20 acres rugby field complex. Improvements included leveling the land, erecting the goals posts, building the spectator berm, setting up watering systems, and lights for evening practices. The team takes care of keeping the field clean and doing chores like seeding and cutting the grass.

The barn on the property was initially thought to be something they could improve and turn into a clubhouse-locker facility. However when they got into looking at it; the economics were such that it would be less expensive to just tear it down and build another structure.

The "pie in the sky" idea would be for Westwick LLC to work a deal with the university. The university needs land to

Westwick...continued from prior page



develop for field sports. The university's current field sport complex is located on the NW corner of 23rd & Iowa. (The rugby club also played there from the late 1970's until the establishment of Westwick..) That land on Iowa Street is increasingly valuable to the university for expansion of the campus, so those fields will ultimately have to be re-located. "KU needs land and we have land. KU has money and we need money. It would be attractive if KU would enter a long term lease of the land surrounding Westwick to host university field sports. The money from the long-term lease could be used to pay for a construction loan to build Westwick's locker facilities, restrooms, paved parking lots and the other infrastructure the rugby club and other field sports would need. It would be a win-win for both KU and the rugby club."

Steve continued, "The future is to try to broaden the base of financial support for the club and its cash flow and infrastructure needs. There is a big group of alumni that are now getting older and their children have grown. Perhaps they could be persuaded to help financially support the club in some way. I know there is a group that is now looking into that."

Steve said "The 50 year anniversary is

a great milestone. The "whole experience" is what it means to me. I go on annual golf trips with the core guys I played rugby with. They are some of my closest friends. I would not have met them without playing rugby at KU. I have gone on all these trips around the world. I would not have traveled if I had not been on that rugby club. It's a great model. You have all these guys who have put time and money into it to make it successful over the years. You don't see that anywhere."

Interview with Rick Renfro & Paul Diedrich about the club's field

It started after the first tour of England in January 1977. We wanted our own pitch. Around 1985 we began a search for land that lasted for 7 years. **Allen Chapman** saw a plot of land up by Hallmark off Iowa Street, by I-70. He put together a slide show that envisioned a stadium complex right off the interstate with high visibility, making Lawrence a "rugby Mecca".

Lawrence businessman **Frank Krizman**, had a son **Hayden** who had played high school rugby for us. Frank knew we were looking for land. His father-in-law was a lawyer in Colorado who owned the plot

of land that was ultimately purchased for the Westwick facility. In 1992 Frank came to Rick and said that the land had been purchased as an investment and that his father-in-law would probably sell it to the club for an attractive price.

We formed **Westwick LLC** to buy the property. The group was made up of **Rick Renfro, Louie Riederer, Steve Merdinger, and Frank Krizman**. We needed \$40,000 as a down payment on the loan to buy the land. **The only one of the four owners who had that kind of cash was Merdinger**, who had been successful in the financial services industry. Merdinger lent the \$40,000 to the LLC to make the deal happen. The trio paid Merdinger back and the LLC made payments on the bank loan. Most of the group were in their early 30's and struggled to make payments. Rick finally bought out Frank Krizman and assumed payments for his combined share.

A few years later, real estate brokers came to the LLC owners to tell them that adjoining parcels of land were available. That purchase would exceed the financial resources of the LLC group. The trio of owners asked some other club members if they would like to be part of the overall deal. **Don Harris, Grant Lechtenberg, and Jimmy Bartle** stepped up. The LLC adjusted the ownership, so all would be equal partners.

When Bartle joined the group, he formalized the relationship between land owners and the club. Westwick LLC gave the Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Football Club a 20-year lease. (Which will expire soon.)

The **Kansas Rugby Foundation, Inc.** was set up as a charity to control the club's money for the improvement to the land without it going through a university account. (See Diedrich's article in January 2013 edition of newsletter for more details). It was a mutually agreed situation with the club and the university. The university did not want legal linkage to a piece of property out in the country.

Rick said that ultimately the Westwick facility could be a "money maker" and not a loser, if it is managed properly. The

Westwick... continued page

game day parking should have a consistent charge; concessions should be sold.

Rick would like to ultimately have a clubhouse at the complex that could be rented out for non-rugby parties etc, when not being used by the club. A clubhouse facility would provide a place where the players could get in and out of their uniforms, instead dressing behind a car. It would also increase the value of that complex's lease. It's like the lights and sprinklers; it adds to the "value" that the club gets from the complex' existence.

Addressing Occasional "Beefs" About Westwick**# 1 ENRICHMENT**

Rick highlighted that the group owns a relatively large plot of land next to the 20-acre Westwick facility, but the group's intent is to never dislodge the club from its use of those 20 acres.

They hope to sell or develop the surrounding land to re-coop some of the money that they have poured into the deal over the years, but the rugby club's improvements and use of that facility will be left intact. Rick points this out to address the suspicion that some may be tempted to have; that improvements to the Westwick rugby facility will somehow enrich the land owners at some later date.

If they ever sold the Westwick complex, they would either develop an equivalent complex at another location or reimburse the club for the club's investment. As an example, suppose the club's cumulative investment in the Westwick improvements to-date is (pick a number) \$80,000; they would either build the club another complex like Westwick or write a check to the club for \$80,000 (or whatever the equivalent reconstruction costs of those improvements are at that point on time; which could be more or less than \$80,000).

2 OVERHEAD

Rick & Paul addressed some views they have heard occasionally that the rugby complex's maintenance and expenses are draining the club's financial resources and that they should go back to playing on a

field provided by the university. **If this were so, there are number of things to consider:**

Other rugby clubs struggle to have a field for a game, sometimes coming right down to game day. Even very well established clubs like the Kansas City Blues do not know for certain where they will be playing from week to week. That's the way it is all over the country.

If it rains in the days leading up to a game, the university could (and used to) deny access to the field due to the damage that would be done to the turf.

All other rugby clubs in the region have to fight for scheduled access. Other sporting events may be competing for the field.

The Westwick facility has pitches that are regulation size and construction for a rugby game. Public alternatives are usually odd-sized American football or soccer fields with lining and goal hardware that is not consistent with rugby.

Other rugby clubs usually have to pay some daily fee for use of fields, so there is no "free lunch" alternative.

The Westwick facility has lights for evening practices, which is a very big feature outside of daylight savings time.

It has a water sprinkler system to maintain the turf in top condition.

The heavy training gear like the scrum sled and all the field items like goal post pads and sideline barriers can be left safely stowed at the Westwick complex and that would be difficult in a university or publicly provided field.

Open public venues can not charge for entry and usually do not have a fenced environment that enables charging for entry to an event.

Access to fields is why the Jayhawk Women's Rugby Club has gotten back in connection with the men's club. The women's club is not getting dependable access to fields provided by the university. It is much easier to work with the Westwick facility and the university is encouraging them to work with Westwick.

The university and the Westwick group recently met to discuss the women's club getting access to Westwick and the discussion led to a much larger agenda of creating a multi-sport facility on 80 acres that university could lease from the Westwick

group. The school needs facilities for all sorts of sports, like Ultimate Frisbee. This arrangement would be similar to, but a different model from, the new sports complex the KU Athletic Department just completed in northwest Lawrence. That other development was pushed along by Title IX which mandates that the university's overall sports revenues be shared with other sports that include women. (Therefore the relationship of the women's rugby club with the men's club is valuable because of Title IX.) The university has developed about all they can for indoor facilities, but have a standing need for intramural field sports. **There are more university students playing intramural sports than all the club sports combined. The university needs fields.**

3 VISABILITY

Paul misses the exposure to the student population that an on-campus field provided. You used to see celebrities like a high-profile varsity athlete on the sidelines watching a rugby game, because they were walking by. Sideline crowds used to grow organically the same way. The club has tried to have an occasional game on a campus field at 23rd & Iowa for that very reason, but found it was too confusing logistically. The club's players would get confused about where practice was going to be that week. All the field equipment is at Westwick. The lights are at Westwick. There are no regulation goal posts on the campus field and there are no bleachers. **The club is working to offset the loss of campus visibility with an aggressive publicity campaign in the school paper and better use of the growing students' reliance on social media.** The club members have encouraged all their Facebook "friends" to "like" the club's Facebook page. That has exponentially grown the sets of student eyes that follow the rugby club.

The Westwick group hopes they have laid the foundation for the KU Rugby club to have a permanent home and looks forward to future improvements.

Grant Lechtenberg

Two-Time Kernow Cup Winner and Long-Time Jayhawks Prop Discusses 1990-95 era and current state of rugby



Grant & sons mug for shot after a game

Grant is the first Jayhawk interview this newsletter conducted with someone who still plays rugby. The 5'11" 225 lbs prop started playing for the Jayhawks in 1990 as a high school senior, when the field was at 23rd & Iowa.

What did you remember about the 1990-95 era? – Something you hear all the time; the friends I made. The close friend I made then are still my close friends.

What was it like when the games moved from 23rd & Iowa to Westwick?

– The players were excited and the other teams were envious. By 1993, 94, and 95; we had to move around so often. We were practicing at 23rd & Iowa, but if there was so much as a sprinkling of rain, the university would shut us down from using that field. We had to scramble for someplace else to play. I was the field manger for the club and luckily I had a big van. I cobbled together some portable goal posts out of PVC pipe and hauled them around. We would typically go to a city park down on South Louisiana Street and set up a temporary field. It was short, narrow, tilted, and had a little gravel, but it was the best we could do. So when Westwick came along, we were excited for a place to practice and to play.

About a decade ago, you became one of the owners of the Westwick land. How did that happen? – Rick Renfro approached me. I don't know how far I was down the list of people he asked (laughs). I asked my entrepreneur dad what he thought he would do if he were my age and had the opportunity. My dad said to do it. I am glad I did it. The biggest thing was not the financial investment side of it. Instead, it was the REASON we were doing it. The # 1 concern was to benefit the rugby club.

Memories of a big game in 1990-95? – We won the HoA club side, beating the St. Louis Bombers in the final in Swope Park. It was a muddy, nasty game in 1993. That was a big game. I was on sides that won the St. Louis Rugby Tournament two times in the late 1990's. Some of my best memories are games where we didn't win. They were games where I was playing with a great group of guys. The team was giving it our all. Nobody said a negative thing to each other about a bad play or doing something wrong, because we all knew we were laying it all out there. Those are the best memories.

What do you see are the issues going forward with rugby? – I have a lot of

friends who have gotten into management of other clubs like the St. Louis Bombers, KC Blues, Chicago Lions and the Griffins, the Dallas Harlequins and the Denver Barbos. They all complain that their player numbers are down and it's hard to find players who are committed. It's the same everywhere. It's the same issue you probably had when you played. Today, there are just so many opportunities to get distracted with different activities and social media; especially for the college guys. The fraternities

aren't as strong an influence as they were years ago, but nobody seems to have enough time to commit to practice and games.

I blame some of this on the structure of USA Rugby. You go anywhere else in the world and a young kid can "play up" on a team of older players. You can't play down, but you can play up. That is where they develop their young talent. The high school and college players can play on club sides. You can't do that in the USA.

When I started playing in high school, the rules were different and I was quickly playing on the club side, but you can't do that anymore. Let's say we have 3 kids who come out of high school and they are all 19 years old. One goes to KU, one goes to a nearby junior college, and one works construction or goes to a trade school. Let's also assume there is no other rugby club around for people that age other than KU's. Only the enrolled KU kid can play on the KU club in a game. Those other kids would have to play on a men's club somewhere and there is just such a difference in size and skill level that it bars a kid from learning the game with kids his own age and size. That effectively discourages a lot of young kids from playing rugby. In other countries they segregate the eligibility players on basis of age, so they have "under 19" sides etc.

If a kid is playing on a college side and plays a game on a club side, then he can no longer be eligible to play on his college team anymore. Because of this rule, the Jayhawks club side elected a few years ago to drop out of "league play" so our college players could play on the club side without losing their college eligibility. The club side no longer competes for any league titles. We are considered a "club at large" or a "social side". That allows us to bring a college kid up

Lechtenberg ...continued



Las Vegas Tournament - Consultation Champions 1995

Back Row: Ed Rogers, Pat Manza, Brian Dix, Joe Shannonhouse, Grant Lechtenberg, ?, Pat Manza, Brennan Shirk, Duane "Rhudy" ?

Front Row: George Sieb, Marlin Carlson, George Reyes, Hayden Krizman, Aaron Hane, Pat Roberts, Scott Emerson, Greg Jarvis



Aspen Ruggertest 1995

Back Row: Marlin Carlson, Eric Sutton, Matt Delargy

Middle Row: George Reyes, Jeff Hoobler, Duane "Rhudy" ?, Darryl Lane (sunglasses), Dez McKissick, ?, Brook Wallace, Jeff Paxton

Front Row: Larry Clark, Brian Perry, Grant Lechtenberg, Scott Emerson, Aaron Hane, Jeff Schmidt, Joe Shannahouse, Mark Duffy, Greg Jarvis

Layed out front: Derrick Mannel, ?

path to having a good team.

One of the problems you describe is getting players out. The alumni raised thousands of dollars this year to help with a publicity program. Have you seen results this fall? – We have seen results. We are seeing pretty good crowds out at the games as spectators. The more people we have out there getting exposed to the sport; the better results we will have with recruiting players. Also we have a lot more new recruits out this year than we have seen in the past. Most seem to be freshman, which is good. Most have never played the game before. I'd rather have a bunch of new recruit freshmen than a bunch of junior or seniors who will be graduating and gone in a year.

Tell me about you winning the Kernow Cup twice – It was really exiting. It's done every year during the winter and it's voted on by your peers. Your friends are all doing as much as you for the club in helping with games, washing jerseys, making phone calls etc. to get thing done. So it's a surprise if you win it. As it turned out, the years I won the cup were also years my wife was pregnant. It seemed to go hand-in-hand. The first time I got the cup was 2001 and my wife had a baby. The second time I got it was 2003 and my wife had twins. I asked everyone to never vote for me again, because I didn't want triplets (laughs).

Is there a high school side on the club? – Not this year. We have a few high school players, but not enough for a full team. They practice with us and we get them in some games. We try to get them into games playing with other high school teams, like the Kansas City team that former Jayhawk, Matt O'Donnell coaches. The kids help O'Donnell fill out his club's side.

The women's club is working with the men's club this fall. How is that going? – I think the more folks we can get using Westwick; the better. Some folks say we should be on campus playing rugby for proximity to the school, but everyone is so mobile now with their own cars, that the location of Westwick is im-material. Its good to have more people come out to this great, Westwick facility

to play at a higher level, get toughened up, and then go back and play on the college side as a better player. The Jayhawks col-

lege side is involved in playing for league titles and having the club side structured this way, gives the college side a better

and get exposed to rugby.

Grant owns ES Lighting in Lawrence. He is a 3rd generation owner. "The company under my grandfather and dad sold electrical supplies to industrial customers. I have gotten more into lighting design and supply, for residential, apartments, restaurants, and light commercial. We don't install; we just design and supply. We have show room in Lawrence. Coincidentally, the company was founded in 1964, just like the rugby club, so we will also have a 50 year anniversary next year."****



(LEFT): 4th Annual KJRFC Alumni Weekend Golf Tournament

George Reyes, Paddy Delargy, Grant Lechtenberg, Brian Dix, Mick Delargy, Matt Delargy, Gabe Reyes, Marvin Carlson

(RIGHT)Heart of America Tournament Swope Park 1992 Club Side

Back Row: (face hand) Tom Kirk, ?, Dave Burrows, Wayne Grey, Kurt ?, Joey Cessna, Larry Smith, Greg Jarvis, Pete Knudson, Ed Rogers, Paddy Delargy

Front Row: Dominic Barneo, Martin Evans, Jeff Hoobler, Jimmy Bartle, Scott Emerson, Fernando Ega, Grant Lechtenberg, Kevin Harder, Mike Neenahan

(Grant's Dog - Brandy)

Ireland Tour 1994 at Trinity College

Back Row: (older grey hair) Floaters Dad, Floater, Boomer, Derek Manel, Larry Smith, T. J., Joel

Middle Row: Mr. Clark, Larry Clark, John Wiley, Colin Gotham, Jim ?, Pat Manza (in glasses), Paddy Delargy, Joe Shannonhouse, Matt Delargy, ? (bald guy), Marlin carlson, Brook Wallace (curly hair at end)

Front Row: Gabe reyes, George Reyes, Tom O'Donnel, Ed Rogers, Doug McCulley, ?, Greg Jarvis, Mike Schwartz, Jimmy Bartle, George Sieb, Pete Knudson, Paddy Delargy, Pat Roberts, Matt Delargy, Grant Lechtenberg, John ?, Paul Scott



Alumni Weekend Game Broken Arrow Park 1996



Jayhawks Women's Club News

Mens' & Womens' Clubs Now Working Together to Expand Sport

By Shelby Williams

The University of Kansas Women's Rugby Football Club kicked off their fall season with practices every Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays before games. With a schedule full of important league matches, we wanted to get the season off to a friendlier start, so on September 28th we traveled to Warrensburg, MO and played in a three way scrimmage with UCM and Mid-Mo; filling in where they lacked players.

This last weekend, on October 12th, KU traveled to Liberty, MO to play our first league match against the KC Jazz. The Jazz scored early and KU came back to score and make the conversion, putting us up 7-5. Jazz scored another three tries (no successful conversions) and KU scored a

second, before the half, leaving it at 20-14. After the half, KU rallied, holding the Jazz scoreless and scoring two more tries to win the game 28-20.

This season, the KU men's and women's teams are working together to build a relationship and grow the sport of rugby within our community. The teams had the opportunity to watch and support each other at the St. Louis Rufferfest this past spring, where the Jayhawks women's team took 1st place in our bracket, and we hope we can continue supporting and learning from each other. We also had the pleasure of working with the men's team to introduce Rookie Rugby to Central Middle School last spring. Currently, players from both

teams are out teaching kids in the Boys and Girls Club about rugby every Monday.

Our next home game will be October 19th, KU vs. Tulsa, at Westwick Rugby Complex. The men's team will also be playing home games that day, so we will be joining them out at Westwick, where the teams will be cheering each other on against their opponents. It will be a full day of KU rugby and we are looking forward to getting the opportunity to get the teams together.

Our team practices every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00-8:00pm at Sherk Field at 23rd & Iowa and we are always looking for new players to come out and join us! You can also like our page on



(Standing)-Stephanie Sammons, Yace Young, Laura Armstrong, Jackie Leimkuehler, Becca Clark, Kemi Adewunmi, Abby Vestal, Lauren Lawson, Shelby Williams, Kristyn Harding, Jaden Gragg, Cat Boone, Alesia Herd, Kjrsten Abel-Ruch

(Kneeling)-Jeanine Scrogum, Carlie Solis-Hall, Sarina Sutton, Kaleah Ault, Chelsey Smith, Erica Rudoff, Krista Delaney, Sarah Riley, Sahira Tapia

Facebook for more information on upcoming games and events.

Women's Club Schedule:

Tulsa @ home Oct. 19 (Westwick with men's team)

St. Louis @ St. Louis Oct. 26

K-State @ K-State Nov. 2

Mid-Mo @ home Nov. 16

Omaha @ home Nov. 23

Currently, only our home game at Westwick is on the 19th. Use of Westwick is something that we're working with the boys on and they invited us to play there this weekend. We're pretty excited about it. ****

Post Script by editor:

The Jayhawks women's club played the Tulsa club on October 19. The game was a zero-all tie at half, but in the 2nd period the Jayhawks showed consistent ball control in open play and pressed a **17-7 victory**. The Jayhawks punctuated the game's end with a breakaway try to the left corner, which the ref converted to a penalty try between the posts. ****



Photo of the day at Westwick— Wing Erica Rudoff speeds around the right side with her team in support. The energy of the play is reflected in the players on the field and spectators reaction.

Clockwise from right:

Outside center Krista Delaney was a dominant runner all day.

8 Cat Boone runs past Tulsa on a "keeper"

Lineout won by Jayhawks

They may be girls, but the hits are hard.



A Day At Westwick — October 19

Festival Atmosphere as College , Club , & Women's Sides Host Teams From 4 States

Conditions were ideal for games at the Westwick complex. A rain had fallen the night before to soften the turf and the games were played under sunny skies.

Game # 1 Iowa State traveled to play the Jayhawks' College Side. The Jayhawks enforced their internal "practice rule" and decided to field a team of those who had come to both of the week's practices. That meant that the roster taking the field for the Jayhawks would be short on college players and be a hybrid of club and college. The "official" game was therefore a technical forfeit of the college game. The combined side then played Iowa State in a "friendly" game. Iowa State scored early and was up 22—3 by half. The Jayhawks settled into better control of the game in the 2nd period, but the game ended as a 32-3 loss in something of a "character builder" for the college players.

Game # 2 The Jayhawks Club Side then

played the **Wichita Barbarians** who were in playoff contention for the Final Four of Division III Men's Club last year. They travel with a very good roster of players.

At half time, the Jayhawks were ahead by a thin 22-17 margin. The 2nd half was very exciting. Wichita went ahead 2 points when they added a try to get 24 points. Before the ensuing kickoff, I asked the Jayhawks players about the score and there was some confusion among them as to being ahead or behind by 2. Jayhawk standoff & kicker **Sean Rothwell** knew they were behind, but before he kicked the ball, he paused to joke to the Wichita players that the Jayhawks were actually AHEAD 2, just to get them to verbally push back.

The Jayhawks quickly scored another try to re-take the lead 29-24. Wichita scored to overtake the Jayhawks, but the Jayhawks managed another try from **Cody**

Weber. The game ended with the Jayhawks ahead 36-31 with the Wichita club unsuccessfully pounding at the Jayhawks goal line for several minutes, until time expired.

Game # 3 was the Women's Game with **Tulsa Oklahoma** (previously reported).

Game # 4 was the **KC Blues B side** that played against a mixed bunch of Jayhawks and Iowa State players. The KC Blue side prevailed in a well-played match.

The Westwick facility is a perfect place for events like this. The berm allows the spectators to watch two matches at once. The future plan is to try to schedule round-robin events which will use the attractive facilities as part of the draw to bring in teams from far off regions to play other club that they would not normally get a chance to play. ****

Jayhawks and all clubs in Union need refs ... badly

Steve-

Thanks for creating the LinkedIn Group. I think it will be a great tool for alumni and players to use to get in contact with one another. The alumni could really help graduating seniors or club members looking for jobs. On that same note, the alumni could help through getting back involved with the club.

The money the Old Boys raised recently has helped get good numbers out for practice. Players on the exec board have said that we have had more new players than they have seen in a long time. Hopefully we will be able to increase those numbers with the continuation of the PR campaign.

The only problem that we are dealing with is getting some club referee representative for the local Union. In order for the referee society to allocate refs to clubs to cover games, each club has to have someone referee at least 2 games a month for the referee society. We have several referees, but many are current players, or they are not available for games.

I am reaching out to the alumni to see if anyone would be interested in becoming a referee for the Heart of America Referee Society. To become certified, a person would have to take a class and pass the test. The club would cover the cost of the course and each game that you referee you would earn \$120 plus mileage from the society.

This would be great for someone looking for something physically challenging, to be around the game, and really help the club. I know that the majority of alumni will not be able to fill this role, but there might just be a few that could really help out.

Morgan Carmichael
CEO - KJRFC



Jayhawks hold off Wichita as time runs out. Jayhawks won 36-31.



Big Play Day

The Jayhawks enjoyed a number of breakaway runs in the high-scoring game with Wichita.

Above the Jayhawks run with great support.

Cody Weber (helmet) zooms to a solo try.





Rugby Shorts

Study-Abroad Program Enriches Students & Rugby Club

Over the 50-years of the Jayhawks rugby club, foreign students have made a huge impact on both the level of club play and in generating international friendships.

The club has had conversations with the university on how we could support placement of our under-grad players for a year in a rugby-playing country and host their undergrad students at KU.

The club has a number of players from the United Kingdom on their roster this year.

L-R: Harry Forrester—playing scrum half and studying Political Science.

Harry Morrison—playing flanker and here pursuing American Studies.

The “two Harrys” are juniors and come from University of South Wales, located in Swansea on the south coast of Wales. Both grew up in London and had a family legacy link to their school in Wales.

Chris Bull—playing flanker, but was a flyhalf until he got too big at home at Leeds University. He is also a junior.



Lost Players

Johnny Maichel (1947-2009)

Remembered by By Jerry Rutherford

Johnny stumbled upon a rugby ball at the University of Kansas in 1965. For the rest of his life he carried a passion and flair for the game that transcended not only decades, but club affiliations as well.

He was beloved by teammates and opponents alike. Johnny developed relationships throughout the rugby community during his playing days as a strong at prop.

His devotion to the game, to its people, and the Clubs of the Greater Kansas City area are his lasting legacy.

We will miss you Johnny; and your little doggie Spot...

