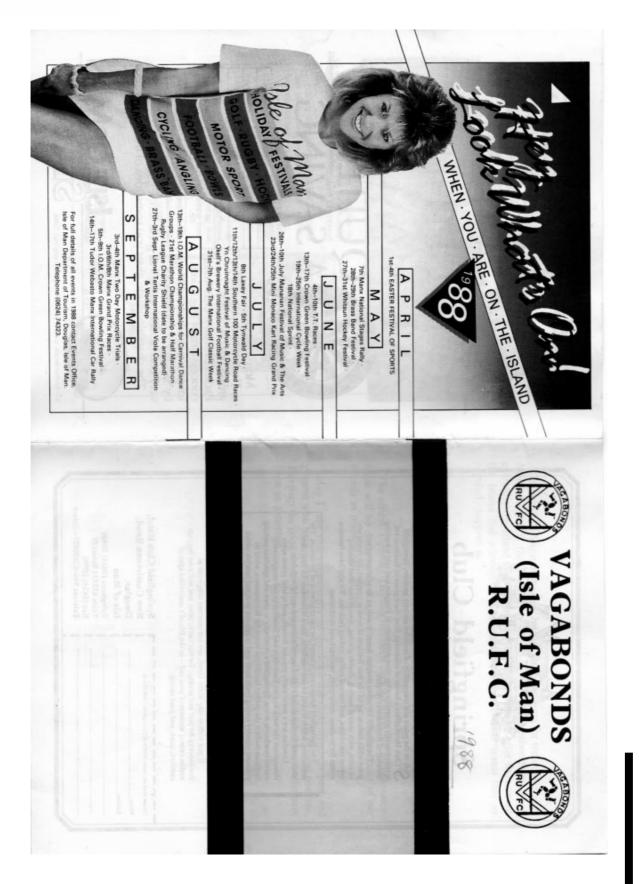


Llandovery RFC Programme 02-04-1988 Courtesy Keith Faulkner





comfort, quiet, and good eating

of Springfield Club Hotel.

New Castletown Road, Springfield Club Hotel

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Llandovery RFC Programme 02-04-1988

Courtesy Keith Faulkner

Set in the peace and tranquillity of secluded country gardens, Springfield Club Hotel offers a haven of relaxation from the rigours of business, yet is conveniently situated within close proximity of Douglas and easy travelling traditional English dishes cooked to perfection and served with flair. grace while embracing all the best features of modern comfort. All rooms are en suite, with central heating, double glazing, remote-conrolled teletext, colour televisions, and tea and coffee making facilities. We also have function distance of Ronaldsway Airport. Ronaldsway Airport and arrange for our car to bring you and your luggage – within twenty minutes of your call – to the Island's unrivalled apex of Island's favourite eating place. he whole family can afford. hroughout the week and on Saturdays and Sundays to the exceptionally coms for business conferences, seminars and exhibitions. leasant country setting lends itself well to relaxed weekend lunches which acilities make it the perfect lunchtime venue for businessmen, while its The Springfield Restaurant is noted for the excellence of its cuisine. The estaurant, which is open to non-residents, has a reputation for first class aried lunchtime menu. Springfield's proximity to town and spacious parking Springfield Club The splendid Victorian mansion house retains an air of elegance and Lunches are a particularly popular feature, and special prices apply If you wish to stay at the Hotel, use our courtesy telephone at Visit Springfield Club Hotel soon and find out why it's fast becoming the Hotel

currently the Island Champions. We are always keen to offer fixtures on Manx Rugby is thriving and no more so than at Vagabonds who are the Island and whenever possible to travel to meet the teams that so regularly support us. On behalf of Vagabonds, may I thank our opponents for today's fixture

after many years living up to our name set down our roots in our own clubhouse. This year has seen another step forward for the Vagabonds. We have

ment will be made in the Rugby Press and we hope that as many of our friends as possible will attend. The official Opening Day has not been decided upon but an announce-

Keep up the good work. Also may we thank all those advertisers who have present who have worked so hard to bring the club to its present position been so generous. May I take this opportunity to thank all the club members past and

President of Vagabonds R.U.F.C GEORGE RAE,



Courtesy Keith Faulkner

Before leaving the Isle of Man why not visit some of the more interesting sights the Island has to offer

For example:

The Curraghs Wildlife Park and Nature Trail is open throughout the Easter period and can be reached by either Bus, Coach or Car. Situated a mile East of Ballaugh Bridge on the famous

T. T. Course the Park offers wildlife from around the World.

Visit the Laxey Wheel, or more comonly known as the "Lady Isabella", the largest working water wheel in Europe. Built originally to pump water from the Snaefell Lead mines the wheel stands some 72ft in diameter.

The Manx Museum in Douglas houses much of the history of the Island within it's walls, from the earliest settlers, the Vikings, to a typical Manx Crofters Cottage depicting life during the early part of the Century when the Island depended mainly on agriculture and the sea.

Travel back to the Victorian age of steam and electric trams. Take a ride on the Steam Railway to the South of the Island, visiting Castletown with its Castle and the beautiful fishing villages of Port Erin and Port St. Mary. Alternatively travel to Laxey and the North of the Island by Electric Tram through beautiful glens and spectacular cliffs.

For further information on the above and any other Event or Attractions contact the Information Bureau, Setton Buildings, Harris promenade, Douglas, Tel: 74323

VAGABONDS RUGBY CLUB (White, Yellow & Black)

Vagabonds Rugby Club was formed in 1965. We were at this time known as Douglas High School Old Boys. We got our name Vagabonds because we had no ground or clubhouse. After playing our fixtures at several different venues we finally got our own ground at Glencrutchery Road in 1980. After lots of hard work and fund raising we moved into our Clubhouse this season.

Vagabonds run 2 XV's and have been for the last two seasons Isle of Man Champions. Next season will prove to be busy as we have entered the Courage Leagues and as Manx Champions we will also be competing in the Cheshire Cup.

One of the highlights this season was playing a match in Northern Ireland as part of Ballymena Rugby Club's Centenary Celebrations.

So it is with great pleasure that we welcome our guests to Vagabonds first ever Easter programme.

Page 3

Courtesy Keith Faulkner

(Blue, Black & White hoops)

The Club was founded in 1939 as an 'old boys' team by expupils from Thorne Grammer School. The 'old' was dropped in the 1970's, the club moving to its present site in 1980 after the new clubhouse was built by the members.

Thornensians are one of the strongest 'junior' sides in Yorkshire. Club honours have included - Winners Yorkshire Cup, Runners-up Yorkshire Cup in the 1960's and 1970's. The other teams in the club have also won their share of the 'silver', the 2nd team having been South Yorkshire Trophy winners for seven consecutive years for 1979-1986, they are also the present Goole Floodlit Shield holders. The 3rd team have also been keeping up their very good record this season becoming Ionian Floodlit Cup winners during March this year.

With the onset of leagues this season the Club found itself in the Courage North East League Division One, at present we are in joint third place.

The Club has a strong policy of development and it has a very strong mini-rugby section that ranges from Under 8's to Colts age groups.

This being the first tour of the Isle of Man for the Club we are hoping to have a good time and play some enjoyable

(Red & White)

The history of the Welsh Rugby Union will show that Rugby Football was first played at Llandovery well over a hundred years ago. Old residents used to recall how a drover gave vivid descriptions of the game as it was played at Blackheath, and these drovers used to move cattle from all parts of West Wales through Llandovery. It is clear however that the game was not welcomed with whole hearted enthusiasm - a strong Puritan elemant within the town objected to this "barbaric pastime". So as not to offend the town inhabitants the game was often played by moonlight in a field adjoining the town.

However sufficient interest in the game continued in Llandovery to be represeted at the inaugural meeting of the Welsh Rugby Union held at Neath on March 12th, 1881.

Llandovery R. F. C. was granted the status of a W. R. U. club again in 1957 and later the Club was admitted to the West Wales Rugby Union (in 1965). Since then Llandovery has performed with increasing success, climbing through the league to Section A (in 1983 - 84).



Courtesy Keith Faulkner

BARNSLEY R.U.F.C. (Red, White & Blue hoops)

Barnsley were founded in 1902. They have five teams, four senior sides and one colts.

The best season they ever had was 1985/86 when they won the Yorkshire Shield.

With their new clubhouse being built next season they are looking forward to further successes.

(Green & White)

I.C.I. The Rugby Club was founded in 1923, as an I.C.I. coast of England in an area dominated by chemical giants clubs benefitted by snapping up the better players. In the policy and the Club went into decline. Many other local boasted an excellent Clubhouse and playing facilities for England. During the 1950's Billingham played and represented County Durham and one, Bruce Neal, played players. During this time many of the players in the Club employed not only the best brains but the best rugby Northern Rugby. This was due in part to the fact that I.C.I works team and progressed to become a driving force in the downfall. this time I.C.I. closed the clubhouse down, this hastened badly and many of the good fixtures were lost. During 1970's, although running three sides the Club struggled Towards the end of the 1960's I.C.I. altered its recruiting time the Clubran five sides plus colts and junior sides and and appeared in many County Cup Finals. During this beat all the top sides Gosforth, Roundhay, Headingley etc. Billingham is situated in Cleveland on the North East

However, the Club did not die and emerged in the 80'sn reduced in strength but capturing back some of the better fixtures. The current first XV has just gained promotion into Northumberland and Durham Division II, winning one fixture 146-0, possibly a world record!

This is Billinghams 4th tour having been to Scotland, South East England and South Wales. The tourists are a mixture of all three teams and are hoping for a great time in the Isle of Man, both on and off the field.



Courtesy Keith Faulkner

Friday 1st April

Referee: G. Holland Vagabonds v Thornensians 11am

I.O.M. Distict Manchester & District Soc.

Saturday 2nd April Ramsey v Barnsley

Ulster Society & I. O. M. District Referee: P. Dougherty 11am

Ramsey v Billingham 11am

Sunday 3rd April

Manchester & District Soc. Referee: A. Pilling

I. O. M. District Ronaldsway v Llandovery

Monday 4th April

Ulster Society & I. O. M. District Referee: P. Dougherty

RONALDSWAY R.U.F.C. (Sky Blue)

21st Anniversary. Runners-up in last seasons Manx A highly competitive, junior club side, celebrating their Shield.

(Red & Black hoops) RAMSEY R.U.F.C.

Union Football and by 1979 a need had arisen for a team In 1973 Ramsey Grammer School started playing Rugby in September, 1979 by senior pupils of Ramsey Grammer in the North of the Island. The first fixtures were played School and young men living in the North of the Island.

> Monday 4th April Sunday 3rd April Saturday 2nd April Friday 1st April Vagabonds v Barnsley Ronaldsway v Thornensians Vagabonds v Llandovery 2.30pm Referee: H. Volante Vagabonds v Billingham 2.30pm I. O. M. District Referee: G. Dawson I.O.M. District Referee: M. Henthorn I. O. M. District Manchester & District Soc. Manchester & District I.O. M. District Manchester & District Soc Referee: P. Newson 2.30pm

bership to the Cheshire Rugby Football Union. Following Rugby Union Football Club being accepted in full memthe Rugby Football Union. this in December 1983 the Club became a full member of Three years of team building culminated in Ramsey

Wallasey. The Club also has 4 of it's players in the present when three Isle of Man XV's went to Old Parkonians and 1985 Ramsey also provided 10 players from a party of 45 XV - the first Ramsey player at this level. In September In January 1983 Orry Turner played for the full Isle of Man Isle of Man Under 21 XV.

The Club has already become a focal point for young men returning from work on the U.K. mainland and those in in the Manx Shield and have a full fixture list of visiting higher education. This season Ramsey were runners-up leams to play on return from Peebles.