



The WASP RAG

Official Newsletter of the Winnipeg Wasps Rugby Club, est. 1965

Club Executive: **President** Don Innes **Vice President** Jeremey Matviychuk **Treasurer** Pete Nolan
Maple Grove Rep Kirk Gorham **Secretary/Rag Ed.** Dennis Ng **Members-at-Large** Dave Wilson, Cam Knudson, Ryan den Teuling, Scott Duesing, Robin Bridge Visit www.waspsrugby.com for contact info.

In this, the Christmas 2005 Issue:

-Wasp legend Don Innes stages coup d'état at AGM, seizes Presidency

Self-declared President-for-Life Innes could not be reached for comment, although his title was already being put into question by Vice-President Jeremey Matviychuk: "He's just keeping the seat warm for me. This is off the record, right?" Local hothead Cam Knudson had this to say: "He's already got an award named after him, and now he wants to be President? Next thing you know he'll want his face on the side of the bus." The fallout from the stunning events at the AGM continued, as Garry Nicholson left wondering: "Who made the rule that we can't vote kids onto the exec? In terms of commitment to the club, Jeremy's been to more practices than any of these guys."

-Latest Wasps émigré Andy "Wheel" Young moves into Regina slum with former Wasp Alc-Anon representative Steve "Wispy" Anderson

Said Young: "Our only problem is that with only two people living here, our options for a house acronym are severely limited. We really need at least one more letter, but it's extremely unlikely that anyone else would choose to live with us, so our prospects are pretty slim." Anderson could not be woken for comment.

-Sid Roberts named head coach, collective groan heard around the world

Wasps near and far were scratching their heads upon hearing the news that Sid Roberts had been selected as the Wasps coach for the 2006 season. When asked for his thoughts on the matter, rookie Meurig Murray said "Who is Sid Roberts?" Fellow rookie Jesse Boily demonstrated his knowledge of the Manitoba Rugby scene, saying "Wasn't he that old guy coaching for the Saracens? The one who doesn't speak English?" Questioned about his plans for the upcoming season, Roberts replied "Having never played defense, I'll stick mainly to offensive drills during practices. I may have to bring in a tackling coach, since I can't quite remember how it's done."

The Cambridge Hotel

Home of the Winnipeg Wasps

Birdsies, Liars Dice and Sports Select Arguments

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**Dennis Malthouse is a proud sponsor of the Winnipeg
Wasps Rugby Club (582-5150)**

President's Message

I personally would like to welcome all past and present members of the WASPS to the coming season. It is no secret that the last couple of years have been trying years for the club. We now stand at the point in our history where help is needed. Through conversations with alumni and present players it was obvious that to get the WASPS Rugby club back to its glory days, a conscious effort to support it was necessary. To start that support we now have a new executive, a new coach (Sid Roberts), and now a Board of Directors (Alumni).

In the coming months many new and old ideas will be forthcoming. Their success could be as simple as you saying yes. If you have any ideas or comments, please contact an executive or board member. My hope is that we will all share in the future. There are exciting times ahead. Come along for the ride. I have personally committed myself to the club –will you?

I wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

WASP forever,

Don Innes

President

A Message from the Chairman of the Board

As I proud member of the alumni of the WASPS Rugby Club there are two things I know for sure. The first is that our past season was one that left many of our club members and alumni surprised and disappointed with the outcome of the events this season, both on and off the field. Not being able to field a first team in the second half of the season, and finding our financial position dramatically different than what it was a couple of years earlier were two areas that caught my attention.

The second thing I know for sure is that as a club we have a powerhouse of talent, all of whom are very dedicated to the ongoing success of the club both now and in the future. Our current challenges will be seen as a blip on the radar screen of our club's history and as the saying goes.... *"When the going gets tough, the tough get going."*

I had the pleasure recently of reconnecting with a handful of what some would consider the elder statesmen of the WASPS Rugby Club. We were drawn together almost immediately, and with a strong sense of purpose, even though some of us hadn't seen each other for a number of years. The common ground was the future of our club and our concern that we continue a 40-year tradition of being leaders in rugby in Manitoba.

In a matter of a few weeks we have assembled a Board of Directors whose mission is to provide guidance, support, and mentorship to the current Executive so that it can have more time to focus on the On Field Activities of the Club while we try to focus on the other aspects of club business, with a view to insuring a level of excellence in all things WASPS.

The level of commitment and corresponding results I have been privy to see in a relatively short space of time have been nothing short of incredible. Your new executive is impressive under the leadership of Don Innes. A great mix of both experience and new ideas will surely result in an outstanding 2006. The Board of Directors presented an overview of their plans last month to provide insight into some of the ways which they intend to lend support to the club. I wish you could have been in the room. It was, to say the least impressive, and reinforced the resolve of our club to return our club to its former glory.

I do have one request of each of you as we go forward in 2006. Woody Allen once said that *"Eighty percent of success is showing up"* The club could benefit from your support in any way that you can provide it. Make a point of showing up in some fashion. Make it a personal priority to talk to your fellow Executive and Board Members to figure out how you can make a difference!

Dave Wilson

Chairman of the Board

Winnipeg Wasps RFC

Announcements/Upcoming Events

Our condolences go out to Andy Young, whose father passed away Sunday, Dec. 11th. We're with you Wheel.

Coaching Course Opportunities

I would like to encourage club members to get involved, at some level, in helping and assisting with coaching. The long term viability of and success of our club is very dependent on our involvement with introducing the game to new players. This may be at the Junior and Senior High School level, but also at the Community Club or Parks and Recreation level. As well, our future club coaches, whether part time, assisting, or full time head coaches, will typically be developed by our own club. These people need to start somewhere. It is essential that we have qualified and *certified* people to fill these roles.

To that end, please consider the coaching course opportunities listed here. For some, it may be just a start, but your help and involvement is very necessary to our club's success in the future. There are many rewards in coaching. Everybody always says that they would like to help, but they don't have time. Please get involved in some of the introductory courses, and usually you'll find things have a way of working out.

Our most pressing needs are people to get involved in High School Rugby and Community Youth Rugby. If you have any questions or thoughts in this area, please call me, or talk to the club executive.

Garry Nicholson

832-2178 (H)

269-3430 (W)

Coaching Courses:

Level 2 Technical	January 20-22, 2006	Winnipeg
Introduction to Competition	February 11-12, 2006	Winnipeg
Introduction to Competition	February 25-26, 2006	Portage La Prairie
Introduction to Competition	March 18-19, 2006	Winnipeg
Level 3 Technical	March 24-26, 2006	Brandon
Flag Rugby Course	April 7, 2006	Winnipeg
Coaching Conference	April 8-9, 2006	Winnipeg

Bus Drivers

The club is always in need of more people who are able to drive the bus. The bus is an integral part of our road trips to out-of-town games, and gives us something that no other club in this province has. Without drivers, however, we obviously cannot operate the bus. The club will pay for your license. Please Contact Dennis Ng if you are interested in obtaining your license. Ph. 772-6475 Email: bawango@hotmail.com

Equipment Inventory

The club is putting together an equipment inventory. If you have any of the club's equipment (water bottles, kicking tees, balls, etc.) please contact Dennis Ng (see contact info above).



What Sid Needs by Cam Knudson

When it was decided that Sidney Roberts would coach the Wasps this upcoming season, I thought to myself that it would behoove us to give him as much support as we can. After a few brainstorming, beer drinking sessions, very few ideas were arrived at and this made me consider other sources of ideas. The internet, we have all been told and could verify ourselves, is a wonderful tool for new ideas and help. So I took a few minutes to see what if I could find what Sid could use in the way of help. I went to Google and typed in “Sidney needs”. This is what he needs. Let’s help him. It should have been obvious.

- Sid needs rest, meds and lots of TLC
- Sid needs a gun
- Sid needs to make some personal adjustments
- The last thing Sidney needs is to harsh his vibe
- Sid needs someone to motivate him to look for other options to his woes
- Sid needs a boot in the arse
- Sid needs regular belly rubs
- Sid needs to make a very public apology
- Sid needs Diana Ross
- Sid needs a sex change
- Sid needs a good Borking
- Sid needs to be vetted and possibly resisted with every weapon in our arsenal.
- Sid needs to regularly remind us of his own importance
- Sid needs to get his head out of the sand on the matter of the First Nations
- Sid needs a couple of years in the COOLER
- Sid needs a few good women – 15 to be exact
- Sid needs to take an oil reality pill
- Sid needs Lipitor

Always Got Time For...

Tim Hortons

And Phil Manore

Corners of Main and Burrin
And Inkster and Sheppard



Wasps male chorus seen here performing at the Charney wedding. Said one anonymous witness: “They’re so innovative. I’ve never heard the word ‘Bzzzz’ in a song before. The nine-part harmony was equally impressive.”

Wasps trade Wheel to Condors for future considerations by WPM

In a move that has sent shockwaves through the Manitoba Rugby Union and Winnipeg Wasps Rugby Club, the Wasps have traded their former President and Buffalo squad member Andy Young to their sister club the Regina Condors for future considerations. Former Wasp and current Condor Stephen “Wispy” Anderson was delighted by the news. “This is going to be a great. Finally, someone who’ll be able to drink Keith’s with me four days a week. Don’t get me wrong, the Regina guys are great, but I can only drink so much Pilsner and Bohemian.” Scott “WPM” Duesing was not as pleased by the news. “This is just as bad as the trade we made for Anderson last year. I mean it’s bullshit, pure bullshit.”

[Editor’s note: Trading Anderson, while detrimental to the club in terms of turning in Labatt’s receipts, was considered by many to be a ‘good’ trade]

Robin “Rudy” Bridge on the other hand was overjoyed. “With Wheel out of the way, I can finally get my shot at the #9 jersey. I know Nger is back in town but I think I’ll be able to take him. I thought I had my chance at SNAFU but they screwed me again. Just wait boys, 2006 is going to be my year to shine!”

[Editor’s note: Rudy cannot ‘take’ Nger]

Wheel’s trade was met with sighs of relief from scores of Winnipeg women. Said a random passerby: “Wheel’s left town? Now I don’t have to keep thinking up fake phone numbers.”

Gibson's Finest
Rye Whiskey

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JAMAICA RUM
THE SPIRIT OF JAMAICA

BLACK AND GOLD FOREVER!!



The Rag is having a contest! If you can name everybody in the above photo, you might earn the chance to have your work published in the next Wasp Rag! Simply submit your entry, along with an article to Dennis Ng (contact info under Announcements section).

Wasps 40th Anniversary by Dennis Ng

This past year saw the Winnipeg Wasps Rugby Club celebrate its 40th anniversary. Wasps young and old, along with friends and family, turned out on the September long weekend to commemorate this huge milestone. It all started with a meet and greet at the Cambridge Hotel on Friday night, where current and former Waspies could swap stories, share a pint and sing songs (technically, there are no “former” Wasps, just Wasps who don’t play for the club anymore. Once a Wasp, always a Wasp). The turnout was phenomenal (Several Wasps made the trip from other provinces, and even other countries) and was likely the best night the “Bridge” has seen in ages. From the “dress as your favourite Wasp” costumes, to Dave Wilson’s now legendary rendition of the Music Man, the atmosphere was something only a group of Wasps could create. Saturday began with a game of touch at Maple Grove, and then a banquet at the MGRP clubhouse, with old photos on display. The celebrations finished off on Sunday, with a game of golf in the afternoon, and a pig roast at Tuna’s in the evening.

The weekend showed the spirit and tradition that has been a part of this club for so long, but if we want to make sure that we survive another 40 years, we have to put in the effort. As a current player, and someone who expects to be involved with this club for many years to come, I was hugely encouraged by the weekend festivities, and extremely proud to be Wasp. Despite the difficulties we’ve had over the past couple of years, I am optimistic. The 40th anniversary weekend inspired many Wasp Old Boys to get involved with the club again, or to stay involved in a different capacity. We have a new Board of Directors to help the club, and their drive, commitment and desire for this club to be successful has motivated me to do more on and off the pitch. I ask the same of all current players and Wasps Alumni. Help ensure the success of this club for this year and for many years to come. Black and Gold Forever.