

THE RUGBY POST



2nd issue, November 2021



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Greetings and a very warm welcome to our second edition of the RCL newsletter



First of all, thank you for all the constructive feedback from the first issue. Both positive and negative comments helps making this newsletter better at reflecting the interests of our members.

It's a fantastic sight, Boy Konen early Saturday morning with the fog still hovering low over the grounds, the sun trying very hard to push through, and the children from the rugby school are busy learning to tackle, ruck and scrum.

The Lux League EDR is back and the kids are finally getting exposed to matches again, don't forget that we will be hosting on the 4th of December, please show your support for the club, coaches and kids by watching the matches and shop in the buvette.

Shortly after the fog lifted, our senior rugby team succeeded in bringing home their first win of the season, which boosted the morale both for the team and everyone else who supports our club.

We are definitely back to rugby and hopefully more people will start coming to Cessange supporting both our seniors but also our juniors

Mik Engbork

Self-appointed editor in chief and digital officer

RCL newsletter

Editorial

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November 2021

We have been fortunate to have had an undisturbed start to the season for all teams. COVID has raised its ugly head a few times but so far all matches have been played. COVID has however impacted where are teams are playing with our junior teams having to play all games away from home. As Luxembourg and Belgian sanitary measures become more aligned we hope to be able to host Belgian Championship matches in Luxembourg for the first time since March 2020.

DIARY DATES

- 20/11 14:00 Pforzhiem v RCL 1st XV
- 27/11 14:00 RCL Blues v Mainz **Boy Konen TBC**
- 27/11 18:00 Luxembourg v Czech Republic **National Stadium**
- 4/12 10:00 EDR Lux League **Boy Konen**
- 4/12 14:00 Heidelberg v RCL 1st XV
- 11/12 10:00 - Belgian Region Meet. U8s to U18s.
16:00

- 02: Editorial
- 03: View from the buvette / important dates
- 04: News from the board
- 05: Obituary, U14 coach Chris Leaton
- 06: Sponsor insight
- 07: Community officer
- 08: James Kents corner
- 09: Ecole de Rugby, Matthew Welford
- 10: EDR U10
- 11: EDR U12
- 12: RCL Blues
- 14: RCL 1st XV
- 16: KCIT Tournament



Luigi's
 BUVETTE ITALIANO
 by **Rugby Club Luxembourg**

Soft drinks	2€
Beer	3€ 33cl
Hot Dog	3€
Burger	4€
Tea/ Coffee	2€

Open Saturday and Wednesday

News from the board

The RCL Board continues to actively explore avenues to raise money to maintain and improve the facilities and activities offered to the members.

At the end of September, the club has submitted, for the first time, an application under the "Quality+" scheme run by the Ministry of Sport. This recognises the club's important contribution to the community, the ongoing efforts of coaching staff to improve their skills and obtain diplomas, and the continued commitment of families to support the sporting endeavours of their children.

Note: the club encourages and actively supports any coaches or match officials interested in obtaining an initial qualification or more advanced certification. Please contact the **RCL Director of Rugby James Kent, Operations Manager Paul Sweetnam**, or a Board Member for further details.

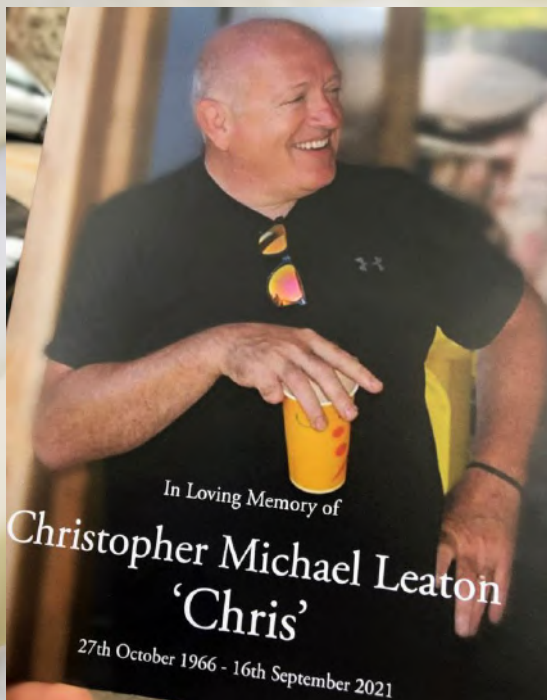
The Board are happy with progress on the clubhouse and is looking at how to best operate during the coming winter months and support the contribution **Paul** and **Luigi** already make to club life throughout the week.

We are also sad about the continuing Belgian clubs refusal to travel to Luxembourg due to different Covid rules which is why juniors have to continue travelling to Bertrix. We make an effort to attend home and away games and irrespective of the results are proud of the efforts of all our seniors and juniors players and coaches and match officials.

It has also been encouraging to see the level of spectator support in Cessange. Pilot work on the RCL charity project has begun and we are trying to finalise long term sponsorship arrangement with a major international bank. We have also been thinking ahead about ways to better interact with alumni/veterans and organising the upcoming celebration of 50th anniversary of RCL.

Obituaries

| U14 coach, Chris Leaton



RCL are deeply deeply sorry to announce the passing of Chris Leaton

Chris moved to Luxembourg in September 2018 to work for JP Morgan. He immediately immersed himself in the activities of the club, coaching the U14s in the Belgian Championships. He was always available for training and matches and was active across many roles in the club. He had a unique combination of technical know how and patience which created a bond with all the players he coached. The U14s from 2018 are now starting their U18s season, so his loss is deeply felt across the whole Junior section. He was a familiar smiling face at senior matches and shared a flat with senior player Casmier Yandall.

| RCL co-founder, Roy Worsley



RCL are sad to announce the passing of Roy Worsley

Roy Worsley, front row second left, passed away peacefully on 24th October aged 76. Roy was one of the RCL Originals, playing for the club way back in 1973. Roy's grandson Jack continues the family tradition by playing in the U12's

Enabling the game, - OUR SPONSORS

Wildgen 4 Children : Charity event for disadvantaged youngsters from 3 to 20 November.

How did it start? Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has long been at the heart of concerns shared **Wildgen**. Labelled Socially Responsible Company and "Responsibility Europe", **Wildgen** has always been devoted to preserve the environment, protect children and women's rights and promote innovation, art and diversity, as evidenced by the actions carried out under the CSR brand "W4 – Wildgen for". Having become aware of the daily struggles facing so many youngsters (according to an European Commission study released on 28 October, 24,2% of the children under 18 are at risk of poverty in Luxembourg) the firm has decided to take things further and tap into the solidarity and generosity of Luxembourg by introducing the national W4C donation-collection event set up in various places.

Rugby Club Luxembourg is taking part in the initiative. Where can I drop off my donations?

Toys can be left with **Luigi** at the kit shed by the pitch at Cessange until the November or at the 6 collection points across Luxembourg (see: www.w4c.lu).

What can I donate? You are welcomed to drop-off toys such as board games, books, puzzles, indoor and outdoor items for children, electronic items like consoles, video games, sports equipment, school equipment, and bicycles, scooters, etc., but in perfect working order (new or second-hand). Unfortunately, for hygiene reasons, W4C can't accept soft toys, and teddy bears, or clothing.

Deadline for donating 20 November (International Children's Day)

Wildgen 4 Children Toy Drive

Together let's make children's wishes come true



www.w4c.lu
w4c@wildgen.lu

W4C
Wildgen for Children

RCL Community Officer

In October, our club announced the appointment of James Rautta as RCL's first Community Officer

James is one of our senior players and has been playing rugby for over 20 years. He played alongside Ian Minjire for the Impala Saracens in Kenya. Ian plays for Frankfurt 1880 and they have remained good friends, apart from when they meet on opposite sides like the other weekend's match against 1880.

Finding a home in Luxembourg with RCL, a country with a large immigrant community which, although being a paradise for him and many other expats, it is also a country where it can be difficult to integrate. So when the opportunity to give back to and get involved, with a community he could relate to, popped up, he grabbed it with both hands and as with rugby, he needs a team to get the job done!

With his new role in our club, James is tasked with working with 16-23-year-olds in Luxembourg. He will use Rugby and Touch Rugby as a tool to integrate and support young people.

Already now, James are in contact with two of the major integration organisations in Luxembourg, SPORTUNITY- and ASTI asbl. Both organisations have welcomed the club's integration initiative and the future will show how we can work together to bring joy and happiness to young people who are living in Luxembourg under difficult circumstances.

James will also support our existing links with projects in Kenya and beyond



Director of
Rugby
James Kent



“RCL 1st XV had a day to remember by securing an historic win against rival club Heidelberg RK at Stade Boy Konen, something that had never been accomplished before against HRK.

It was a second half performance which showed the capacity to play an open, expansive game under the sun on the fast track at Cessange. Contribution from all 22 players was hugely important and we really seemed to be on the same page.

It’s been a slow start to the season but that match was a reminder of what we can do when we keep our heads. We picked up some severe injuries at the start of the season which didn’t help the rhythm of the team but now combinations are starting to build and guys are starting to learn more about each other on and off the pitch.

Not having played any rugby in 18 months was always going to be a difficult task to come straight back in at Bundesliga level but the bar was set against HRK. A huge test against reigning Champions Frankfurt is coming up and then we need to try and finish 2021 strong before Christmas.”

EDR Ecole de Rugby

By Matthew Welford

Before I go any further, I am happy to say that despite our struggles through most of last year, with the Covid situation, the “Ecole de Rugby” suddenly finds itself in a very healthy position. I’d like to thank all the volunteers that helped us provide some sort of activity for a growing number of children and I’d like to thank the FLR for the Lux League programme, which enabled us to take part in two tournaments when nothing seemed possible.

This season is up and running already. Thankfully we have already been able to send teams to Racing 92 in Paris and ROC in Belgium. The Lux league has already started too with the opening tournament taking place at Walferdange on the 9th of October. As ever, at the beginning of the season, it can be a bit of a rush to get everyone licenced and ready for action but 19, kind and patient, volunteers were able to get 75 of our 147 children on to the pitch at some point during the day. Over the course of the season the ultimate goal has to be to take all 147 of those children to the same Lux League event.

With the usual early season influx of players and the changes of age groups the first tournament of the season can appear to arrive too quickly. This season the rules for the first two tournaments have been adapted to cater for this with 5 a side matches, and “free play” and it turned out to be a good way to start. There were lots of RCL smiles on display at the end of the morning and a big thanks has to go out to Walferdange Rugby Club for having been brave enough to host our little terrors.

We are due to host a tournament at Cessange on the 4th of December. Any help in any shape or form is always welcome. Maybe we can get all 147 of our children on the pitch too...



Director
Juniors
Matt
Welford

Makes the ROC halloween challenge final



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RCL EDR U10s took a deep dive into the 48th annual ROC Halloween tournament, Sunday the 23rd of November 2021. Leaving Glacis at 7am by  and arriving in Ottignes shortly after 9am, they were ready to take on the other teams. Everyone gave their best and the hard work awarded them a place in the finals which they lost with a very small margin. Our U10s have shown that with a fantastic école de rugby, great coaches and dedicated team managers as well as supportive parents, RCL develop the talents the club needs in the coming years when they move through the different age groups.



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RCL Blues

Second team Rugby can be incredibly frustrating and a last minute or not at all. The squad will rarely know be a shambles. On the other hand when players step the thrill of the battle. RCL Blues have managed to f Wolverines, Longwy and Worms so far this season and is important and fun, but for a club's second team, g players. RCL's second team the Blues are always look days 19:30 to 21:00.



enjoyable at the same time. Players will turn up at the
everyone's name and the line outs and set prices will
on the field they do so for the love of the game and
field teams against the Hochspeyer Honeybadgers and
hope to play Mainz before the winter break. Winning
game time is the most important way to develop new
king for new players and train Monday's and Wednes-





"RCL 1st XV had a day to remember by securing an historic win against HRK. This achievement has never been accomplished before against HRK.

It was a second half performance which showed the capacity to play at a high level. Contribution from all 22 players was hugely important and we really enjoyed the match. It's been a slow start to the season but that match was a reminder of what we are capable of at the start of the season which didn't help the rhythm of the team but now we are all talking about each other on and off the pitch.

Not having played any rugby in 18 months was always going to be a difficult challenge against HRK. A huge test against reigning Champions Frankfurt is coming



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KICKING CA TOUCH TOU



The KCIT tournament hosted by RCL in September at Cessange, was a great example of how the club has grown to be attractive to a wider set of the local community than ever before. In a day that raised over 2000euro for cancer charities, we probably had the widest variation in players of any tournament ever experienced by the RCL club in a single competitive tournament. Not only did we have teams containing men, women, girls and boys, the age variation was from 8 to 58 yrs, and the ability from beginner to international amateur athlete....all playing competitive sport in a safe and social environment. And indeed this 19th edition illustrated how Touch has moved on from a rugby warm up, to be a high intense and dynamic sport in it's own right.

And this is one of the reasons the Touch club over the years has supported the development of more people to enjoy rugby based sports.

It was gratifying to see over 30 U15 kids playing with friends and parents at the KCIT, especially the high proportion of girls. It reflects that at a junior level we now have a well established Touch programme that is part of the Rugby ecole. It provides an opportunity for contact play-ers to improve their ball handling, fitness and general game play. It is an alternative for kids who are put off by contact but enjoy to run and pass, and who as they get older may enjoy contact more. We have had a number of girls who have gone on to play

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CONCERN INTO TOURNAMENT



15s at Walferdange ladies and RCL is now looking to establish a women's touch team. In the recent mens Luxembourg starting 15 against Sweden, two of the players have played top amateur touch at the European championships when in their teens. The last 10 years have shown how the two sports can complement and help each other to grow.

Back to the KCIT! We saw a number of ex-international players such as Stuart Kelly, Dave Bowen, and Nigel Sharplin getting involved, all of whom played for Luxembourg M40's in 2018. But non of them could stop our guests from Brussels, BUC from winning the tournament. And to round the day off there was an exhibition training game between Luxembourg M30& 40's and an all stars team.

So a great day which we hope will illustrate why we want more people to get involved with the club at playing level. If you want get back into sport or your partner wants to try something new, then come along to the RCL Touch club night held at Cessange every Tuesday at 7.30. All are welcome, no matter what ability, age, sex or level of fitness.

By Nick Frank



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