



CLEMSON  
RUGBY  
FOUNDATION est. 2007

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### Follow Live Scoring

You can follow all matches via the CRF Twitter page.

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The Clemson Rugby program is looking for sponsors. Please contact the team or the CRF to have your company logo here.

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#### Dear James,

The fall semester has begun and the students have rolled into town ready to take on another challenging year at Clemson. It's with great excitement that we share this newsletter with you as the students and coaches of Clemson Rugby have done some amazing things with your support.

If we told you just a few short years ago that you could watch all the Clemson Rugby matches live over the web, you might have laughed. If we told you that the team would have four coaches, a certified Athletic Trainer and a Strength & Conditioning coach you might have also laughed. It's with the student's infectious desire to compete and challenge themselves that others have taken notice and answered the call. From new coaches and staff to an exciting incoming class of freshman adding to the experienced veteran ruggers, you will see that your commitment to the Clemson Rugby Program is having a tremendous impact on these student's lives.

[Join us today with a contribution](#) and support these Tigers as they add their stories of success to the Clemson University Rugby Football Club rich history.

## We Want You!

### Add the CRF to your 2013 giving plan

Since 2007 the Clemson Rugby Foundation has proven that with increased support great results on and off the field will follow. The CRF has raised over \$100,000 to support these student ruggers in reaching their goals. As you read through this newsletter you will see how your support can make an immediate difference.

### We need your support to continue Clemson Rugby's success!

**2013 CRF Initiatives:**  
Rugby Field Complex  
Certified Athletic Trainer  
Coaching Staff Support

Visit the CRF Website to learn more:

### [CONTRIBUTE TO THE CRF TODAY](#)

Contributions can be mailed to:  
Clemson Rugby Foundation  
c/o National Tax Service  
PO Box 1667  
Clemson, SC 29633

## Team News and 2013-14 Outlook

Clemson, SC - The 2013-14 season brings many exciting changes for the Clemson University Rugby Program. Along with arrival of an extremely impressive recruiting class, Clemson has made some key additions to the coaching staff for the upcoming season. Returning are Head Coach Justin Hickey and Assistant Coach Wright Henry, who, together, have compiled a 16-4 record in ACRL conference play over the last 3 seasons.

Dr. Rob Lawson rejoins the staff in a greater capacity this season. Dr. Lawson will oversee the team's Strength & Conditioning program. Dr.

Lawson also works with athletes on the Track & Field and Golf teams at Clemson, but has rugby roots dating back to his time spent studying and playing at Life University.

Nick Whitrow will enter his first season as Assistant Coach for the Tigers. Coach Whitrow comes to Clemson from Ormskirk, England by way of Tucson, Arizona. He will work primarily with the backs, and will bring a high level of knowledge from his days as a player where he was primarily a scrumhalf/flyhalf as well as his coaching experience, which he gained as part of the USA Rugby High School All American staff, where he aided Salty Thompson with video analysis for various domestic camps.

Mike Finney joins the backroom as a Graduate Assistant Coach this fall. Mike is a former Tennessee Volunteer, where he received his undergraduate degree, before pursuing a Master's degree and now a PhD at Clemson. Mike will continue to train and play with the Clemson JV squad, while he transitions into a role, focusing on development of the Tigers' freshman squad.

The program has also secured the services of a full time athletic trainer. Nadia Najm joins the rugby staff as a Graduate Assistant Athletic trainer. Nadia comes to Clemson, where she will study Nutrition, from Connecticut. Nadia's addition to the staff provides a major step in the right direction in terms of high performance and athlete welfare.

The Tigers return a number of key players for the 2013-14 season, including Senior Max Simons, the 2013 team MVP. Simons, a tight head prop, will be looked to as an emotional leader, being one of the only seniors on a young and talented squad which includes 2013 ACRL Freshman of the Year, Ryan Gilroy. Gilroy will again provide direction from the scrumhalf position, launching a dangerous Tiger backline, including 3-year starter Nick Johnson, and senior Eddie Abreu. The team will also look for a breakout year, from returning sophomore Dylan Gouling who will slot into the centers. Prop Brett Weaver, along with 2012 ACRL Freshman of the Year, and hooker Dan Collins, will provide leadership in the forwards along with Simons and flanker Ryan Sullivan. Also look for sophomore flanker James Rogers to have another outstanding year.

With a very talented recruiting class entering, Clemson anticipates strong contributions and an immediate impact from a number of freshman. Dylan Bargar and Stuart Harr will look to provide depth in the forwards, at backrow and at lock, along with Josh Driscoll and Nic Query, who are two solid, young props. Flyhalf Aaron Keers and scrumhalf Jennings Stroud make up an exciting half back combination that could thrill Tiger fans for a number of years. Backs Colin Gregory, Will Lavin and Garion Wascher provide explosiveness to the midfield and on the wing. Beyond this group, a number of freshmen will push and compete for places on the roster, as well as provide deep coverage across 3 full squads.

Recent seasonality changes in American college rugby, have resulted in the ACRL 15s competition moving to the fall, effective immediately, thus the Tigers will dive right back into league play. Through the months of September, October and the first week of November, Clemson will compete in league play at which point they may have the option of participating in a newly formed East Coast Championship competition through November and into December, culminating with a final at Furman University on December 7. The ACRL will also hold a 7s championship and will send qualifying teams to the USA Rugby 7s National Championships which will be played in Greensboro, NC on November 23-24, which may also provide another post season opportunity for the team in the fall.

The Tigers will then turn their attention to the Varsity Cup Competition for the spring of 2014. Throughout the spring, Clemson will play a 15s schedule which includes matches against South Carolina, Navy, and Davenport University, as well as a 3 match tour in the Cayman Islands over spring break, in preparation for the first round of the Varsity Cup on April 12. The Varsity Cup Championship will be played on May 3, and will be broadcast live on NBC Sports, immediately following the 2014 Kentucky Derby.

For more news and information, and to watch all the Clemson Rugby home matches live throughout the year, check in at [clemsonrugby.com](http://clemsonrugby.com) and also like the team on Facebook. If you're unable to tune into the live broadcast or for away matches follow @clemsonrugby on twitter for live scoring updates.

## **New Ruggers join the Vets**

### **Coach Hickey Introduces the Rookies**

Clemson, SC - August 28, 2013 - Clemson University Rugby Head

Coach, Justin Hickey, is pleased to introduce the incoming class for the 2013-14 season. The class includes 24 student-athletes from 5 states.

The continued growth of youth rugby in the state of South Carolina is evident in this group, with 18 athletes in this year's class, coming from within state lines. Multiple players have received all-star honors including Stuart Harr, who is a 2 time USA Rugby High School All American. Dylan Bargar, of Greenville, SC received this year's Clemson Rugby Scholarship Award which is an award given annually by the Clemson Rugby Foundation, to an outstanding incoming freshman. Additionally, the incoming class as a whole, boasts an impressive academic resume, and will represent the University very well in that regard.

"We're extremely excited about this group of young men joining us this year," stated coach Hickey, who begins his 3rd year at Clemson this year. "The level of athlete in this class is one that we've yet to see here at Clemson. This is a real compliment to the high school coaches and programs that are laying down our roots, as well as the type of athlete that the sport of rugby is attracting at a young age. This year's class is extremely athletic and the rugby IQ is impressive from top to bottom."

With the support of the University, and the Clemson Rugby Foundation, Clemson has continued to regain it's former glory, reaching the USA Rugby Elite 8 last spring, and finishing with a record of 10-2 including a 6-1 a ACRL tally, good for a 2nd place finish in the conference. Clemson supporters will expect big things now and in the near future, from the incoming class of 2013-14 as the program seeks it's first ACRL championship this fall and ventures into the uncharted waters of the Varsity Cup Championship in the Spring of 2014.

CLEMSON  
RUGBY  
ROOKIE  
CLASS 2013-  
14

NAME	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	POSITION	HOMETOWN
Dylan Bargar	6'4"	220	#8 - Flanker	Greenville, SC
Michael Buttner	5'11"	170	Wing	Cornelius, NC
Jason Damm	6'4"	220	#8	Fort Mill, SC
Joshua Driscoll	6'	225	Prop	Fort Mill, SC
Bratton Epps	5'10"	225	Prop	Fort Mill, SC
Colin Gregory	6'1"	205	Flyhalf/Center	Alexandria, VA
Stuart Harr	6'5"	225	Lock	Chapin, SC
Matthew Hunter	6'	190	Flanker	Charleston, SC
Will Johnson	6'2"	225	#8	Rock Hill, SC
Aaron Keers	5'8"	165	Flyhalf	Fort Mill, SC
Eric Kramlick	5'11"	185	Flanker	Charlotte, NC
Will Lavin	5'10"	185	Center/Wing	Madison, CT
Greer Layne	6'1"	200	Flanker	Chapin, SC
Brandon Montz	5'8"	185	Scrumhalf	Easley, SC
Zachery Moorer	6'0"	210	Prop	Irmo, SC
Cole Morgan	5'7"	165	Hooker	Chapin, SC
Chase Pritchett	5'11"	200	Scrumhalf/Flyhalf	Greenville, SC
Nicholas Query	5'10"	240	Prop	Florence, SC

**SUPPORT YOUR TIGERS WITH A CONTRIBUTION**

**TODAY!**

## Rugby Field Complex takes shape We need your support to make this a reality

Before, during and after the Naval Academy match a few weeks ago, there was a lot of discussion on the condition of the rugby field, why the team had to move the match to Furman and how we can provide better at Clemson. As mentioned in previous newsletters and first announced at Homecoming last fall, the Clemson University Board of Trustees approved the plans for a multimillion dollar project that includes new athletic fields for rugby, lacrosse and other competitive sports. In recent weeks, this has gained a great deal of momentum due to the spotlight placed on the poor facilities that are provided to the students for competitive sports.

Field plans at Campus Beach and Recreation Area



[Link to more plans for the site](#)

This project will not move forward with out some big help, big commitments and a great deal of passion for Clemson and Clemson University Rugby. The complex is part of a \$10,000,000 plan to redevelop the old Y-Beach area and the fields portion will require \$1mm to be completed. The CRF is asking you to get behind this initiative. This project will support all students at Clemson by providing proper athletic fields for competition that we can all be proud of. It's time to do something big and get behind the project that has been discussed for years in order to make it a reality.

Let's do this together!  
We need your support to make this happen!

If supporting this project interests you, or your have questions, please [contact us](#) to learn more.

## Clemson Rugby History Team's photo archive getting noticed

Since the last newsletter the response to the CRF Photo Archive has been incredible. The university is so excited about it they want to feature it and Clemson Rugby in an upcoming magazine release. More photos have been added and you can provide yours as well, so go check it out.

To view the photo archive click on the link  
[Clemson Rugby Photo Archive](#)

## CRF Contribution Levels:

### CRF Supporter level

- 10 members in 2012
- Contribution of less than \$150 / yr.

#### CRF Member (Dues) level

- 19 members in 2012
- Contribution of \$150 / yr.
- Full membership and voting privileges
- Can be considered for Board position or Committee Chairperson

#### CRF Touch Line level

- 15 members in 2012
- Contribution of \$250 / yr.
- Honored at homecoming - "Founder's Dinner" Invitation

#### CRF Try Line level

- 12 members in 2012
- Contribution of \$500 / yr.
- Invitation to annual "Founder's Dinner," honored at dinner
- Name on CRF "Try Line Level" contributors listing on plaque in Fike trophy case

#### CRF "First 15" level (Scholarship Club)

- 6 members in 2012
- Contribution of \$1,000 / yr.
- Name on CRF "First 15" plaque in Fike trophy case
- Linked to individual scholarship recipient - contributors receive special "thank you" notes
- Invitation to annual "Founder's Dinner," honored at dinner
- Honored at Sunday match and social, plaque presentation and photo with team

#### CRF Founder level (Club 1967)

- 2 members in 2012
- Contribution of \$2,500 / yr.
- Name on CRF "Club 1967" contributors listing on plaque in Fike trophy case
- Yearly "thank you" note signed by entire Clemson Rugby team
- Invitation to annual "Founder's dinner," honored at dinner
- Honored at Sunday match and social, plaque presentation and photo with team and alumni

*Please remember all contributions to the CRF are eligible for matching gifts from your employer if they participate in this program. Your HR Manager should be able to help you. This is a great way to increase or even double your contribution.*

[Visit the CRF web site here!](#)

Thank you for supporting Clemson Rugby and considering a gift to support the Clemson Rugby Foundation's initiatives. We hope to see you at a match soon and look forward to sharing the impact of your support in person.

GO TIGERS!

Sincerely,

Jim Gaine  
President  
Clemson Rugby Foundation

*The Clemson Rugby Foundation, Inc. is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and eligible for corporate matching gifts.*

[Forward email](#)