

## **2010 Recap**

The Clemson Rugby Foundation put together a lofty list of goals and projects for 2010 and saw great success throughout the year. In 2010, the CRF was an integral part of the search and funding for a head coach, funding additional health insurance for both the men's and women's teams, awarding scholarships, providing a certified athletic trainer, recruiting in high schools and the creation of the Clemson Fund account for the women's rugby team. All of these efforts create a great atmosphere and experience for the students playing rugby at Clemson. While some of these projects were not planned before the year began, the CRF along with its generous membership were able to respond when called upon and call 2010 our most successful year to date.

## **Homecoming Success**

The Foundation has continued on its success with Homecoming by building upon the activities presented for Foundation members as well as current team players and alumni. Our success was further seen through the growing communication between the Clemson Club Sports Program, the current team members and the Clemson Rugby Foundation. This year saw the inaugural Founder's Dinner in order to honor our top donors as well as one of our highest turn outs for the Alumni game in recent years.

## **Foundation Aides in Bringing New Coach to Clemson**

The top priority for the Foundation became the coaching search when the CURFC asked for assistance in May. Securing a new head coach was made possible by the efforts of many alumni and players. After the team created a Coaching Committee, they outlined their goals and requirements for the new coach. Using that, the Foundation members used our network in the rugby community to assemble a list of top notch coaching candidates for the team to review. The student led Coaching Committee reviewed the resumes, interviewed several coaches and as a group decided on who their next coach would be. After the team made their decision clear to the Foundation, they tendered an offer to Justin Hickey and the CRF assisted the team in funding the position. Speaking with Coach Hickey further invigorated the Board members as they got a sense of a great future for the Clemson squad with Hickey at the helm. This was truly a team effort as the players and alumni came together to partner in achieving this goal. Special thanks go to Vince Atkinson '94, for meeting with Coach Hickey during his visit and to the CURFC team leaders for their patience and diligence throughout the search process.

## **Supplemental Insurance Purchased for both Men's and Women's Teams**

This year the Foundation was also able to add supplemental health insurance for both the men's and women's clubs. A main concern for many members of the CRF has always been the safety and financial burden of the students. After procuring and financing a trainer the previous year there was an opportunity this year to finance supplemental insurance for both clubs. The Foundation leapt at this opportunity. This insurance is offered through USA Rugby and Zurich Health Insurance and will cap a student's, or parents, expense in the event of an injury during a sanctioned USA Rugby event. Details can be found at [USARugby.org](http://USARugby.org) under "Accident Insurance."

## Recruitment Effort Hitting Full Stride

Aiding in the recruitment of future Clemson ruggers has also been a goal since the start of the Foundation and Board member Shawn Hanna has been leading the charge in streamlining those efforts.

Shawn has created a network of former players in different areas of the Carolinas and supplied them with information to interest young rugby players in Clemson. This year saw an increased Clemson Rugby presence at High school events as well as a stronger connection with the University. We plan to build on these efforts in 2011 and expand nationally as we find more Clemson alumni who can help. The CRF hopes to make the decision to attend Clemson an easy one for young ruggers.

## Donations and Membership

Membership for the Foundation is a direct correlation to its success in its efforts to support the Clemson Rugby Teams. Currently we have set a goal of 100 members and are striving to achieve that. The continued membership of those already in the CRF and the expansion to include Alumni of the 60's and recent years is a critical goal of the Foundation. Support from these people as well as the ideas and feedback on how to help the teams and give back to the clubs is what the CRF needs most and through your help we are making it happen.

Despite setbacks in the economy donations to the CRF in support of the rugby clubs were incredible this past year. The Foundation is on track to reach \$17,000 in donations and with some time left in the year is still looking to meet its goal of \$25,000. This past year the CRF expanded its donor base by adding contribution levels. Those donating \$250 a year and reaching our Touch Line level are invited to the Founder's Dinner held annually during Homecoming weekend and a \$500 donation (Try Line level) or more will get your name engraved on the donor's plaque on display in the Fike trophy case. Those Levels are:

<b>Level</b>	<b>Yearly Donation</b>
Founder (Club 1967)	\$2,500
First 15 (Scholarship Club)	\$1,000
Try Line	\$500
Touch Line	\$250
Dues	\$150
Supporter	\$20 - \$150

*Currently over 50% of contributors have reached the Touch Line level, while 20% are at or above the First 15 level.*

Financial support from the member base is necessary for the Clemson Rugby Foundation to reach its yearly goals in supporting the club teams. Your donation will be seen as an immediate contribution to the team. A donation of \$50 pays for a trainer to be present at one home game in case of emergencies. Donating \$400 pays for accidental insurance for an entire team for one year and donations of \$1,000 or more can be seen through the scholarships that are awarded to the student athletes most deserving on the team.

Supporting these causes helps the CRF to enable the men's and women's rugby teams to reach the next tier of competition, thereby furthering the proud tradition that we once set as students and ruggers at Clemson University. It is for these reasons that we ask you to give what you can and support the teams as they endeavor for bigger and greater things. The CRF is also now proud to announce that as a 501(c) 3 organization your donations past and future are eligible donor matching by your company if they participate in a company match. Alumni interested in donor matching can contact

Board member Andras Bende at Andras.Bende@ge.com in order to receive a 501-c-3 letter and a W-9 form if needed for company matching or for personal tax purposes.

Donations can be mailed to:

Clemson Rugby Foundation, c/o National Tax Service  
PO Box 1667  
Clemson, SC 29633

### **The Atlantic Coast Rugby League**

The upcoming year is set to be full of excitement and new opportunities for the CURFC. In 2011 Clemson will join a new rugby conference which will include nine of the twelve men's teams from universities in the Atlantic Coast Conference. ACC Teams will include Clemson, Duke, GA Tech, NC State, Maryland, UNC, Virginia, VA Tech, and Wake Forest. USA Rugby has restructured the collegiate competition for Division 1 teams into 16 conferences. The goal they have is to align the teams into the traditional college rivalries in order to gain more media attention. This will still allow for Clemson to play their existing in-state rival from Columbia each year with the possibility of meeting them in the National Championship tournament. We are excited to follow the team in their spring competition and throughout their new ACRL schedule.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>February 26th</b>	TBD	Wake Forest	Clemson, SC
<b>March 5th</b>	TBD	North Carolina	Clemson, SC
<b>March 12th</b>	TBD	Georgia Tech	Atlanta, GA
<b>March 19th</b>	TBD	Virginia Tech	Clemson, SC
<b>April 2nd</b>	TBD	Duke	Durham, NC
<b>April 9th</b>	TBD	Virginia	Charlottesville, VA
<b>April 23rd</b>	TBD	ACRL Championship Game	TBD

### **The Future of the Clemson Rugby Foundation**

With new and exciting things afoot in Clemson, the Foundation is trying to keep pace. In 2011, the CRF will look to expand upon our goals while supporting past achievements. One of those known goals is to expand our efforts in recruitment for the team. Identifying a larger network of Clemson Rugby Recruiters nationally, who will grow the Clemson Rugby name through visits to High schools, material handouts and all around marketing to bring the finest student athletes to the team and to Clemson. The Foundation will also look to expand upon and refine the scholarships program which goes hand-in-hand with recruiting. Finally, the CRF is looking to build upon the structure of the current team and assist them in outlining plans to stream line communication as well as aide in planning future events for alumni.

The Clemson Rugby Foundation cannot achieve our goals without your support. We always seek your input and value your comments on how we can help the CRF grow and achieve great success. Please visit us at our website at <http://www.clemsorugbyfoundation.org>

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Newsletter Contact:

If you have any corrections, comments, or news to share in future CRF newsletters, please contact :-  
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