



The Bluesletter

Wednesday 13th September 2017

Note from the Editor

If you have anything to pass on to our Bluesletter subscribers ensure I get the details by Tuesday 1200hrs and I will endeavor to get that information into Wednesdays' issue.

Norfolk Blues 43 Potomac Exiles 10

Unfortunately the D1B match was forfeited by Potomac late on Friday night so we ran a Blue v Gold, 12 v 12, 2 x 20 minute session, which was a great run out for all involved, and for many players their first game for the Blues. The match saw **Chris Porter** and **Jimmy Smith** don the shirt out of retirement and they ran well with the younger guys. As the match went on, the communication got better and there were some great tries scored by both sides, but Gold outscored Blue by 5 tries to 4.

In D1 the Blues opened the season with a good win against the team from DC. The forwards have been a bit undercooked in the set-piece with absences from training and retirements, but soon got on top in scrum and lineout, providing a dynamic backline with some quality ball. The words before kick-off were "do the basics" and that was executed to the full. The ball was run and passed from touchline to touchline with speed and intensity, causing Potomac to concede 6 penalties in their 22 in the first half.

At the half-time whistle the Blues came in 29 - 0 up, with tries from **Eric Hagen**, **Justin Menke**, **Jeff Jefferson** and **Adam Brubaker** with **Jake Humphrey** kicking three conversions and one penalty.



The second half was more of the same, but the great weather and speed of the first half took a lot out of the tanks of both teams, stoppages for cramp and niggles became frequent and soon the benches started to empty. The Blues continued to dominate the set-piece with the backs making line breaks at will, but some determined defence and some one-up running lead to turnovers, slowing our momentum down. Potomac rallied to score two tries, the first and last of the half, but they bracketed a Blues double through **Mic Minichello** and the try of the day, a beaut', going from

close to our own try line with **Justin Menke** finishing a "coast to coast" move and his second meat pie of the day. Man of the Match was **Anthony Kowalski-Dewitt** who rolled back the years, and some great performances all over with both **Mic Minichello** and **Dutch Jones** getting notable mentions each.

Final Score: Norfolk Blues 43 Potomac Exiles 10

Tries: Hagen, Menke (2), Jefferson, Brubaker, Minichello Cons: Humphries 5 (from 6) Pens: Humphries 1 (from 1)

The post-match social was hosted at PBR in the new Waterside District of Norfolk. It was the first time that the Blues have used the venue and it went down very well with players, supporters and families alike. Kevin and his staff put on a great spread and the Blues thank them for that. Pictured left is Blues President Dave Paradiso demonstrating fine posture on the PBR mechanical bull, pictured right is Blues player Dave Paradiso examining the posture of one of the substitutes.....nope! I have nothing.....



BIG Blue World:



Not exactly sporting Blues gear, but two Old Boys, Erik Miller and Dave Jerson, rekindle their bro'rance after the Kansas City and Palmer Chiropractic game. Great to see you boys on the field again!

Norfolk City Blues Youth Rugby:

The Youth Rugby program started on Saturday with 9 new players aged between 7 and 15! Coach Steve Link was assisted by Chris Cowan and High School'ers Tom Botdorf and Quantrel Long. The guys progressed very quickly from shape, movement and bounce of the ball to spin passing and kicking to conditioned touch. They finished their morning with a kicking shoot-out against the clock and rugby netball. If you know of any Youth graded co-ed players who may be interested in the program please pass on the information advertised below.



NORFOLK CITY BLUES YOUTH RUGBY

- We will be hosting youth clinics on Saturdays coinciding with Men's home games this fall.
- These are non-contact/co-ed events that will cover basic rugby skills and have touch rugby scrimmages.
- Current ages range from 9-18 years old and growing



If you have any questions please email us at bluesyouthrugby@gmail.com

Dates (Times TBD)

- September 9th
- September 30th
- October 7th
- October 21st



September 9th @ 11:00 AM
LAFAYETTE PARK
NORFOLK, VA
FREE ADMISSION



Good Luck!

to "Old Boy" Cecil Gerber IV who left for Texas this week to take up the challenge of pro-rugby with the Houston Strikers. "C" has been training with the team since the start of our pre-season, he has taken part in every part of the session, including the running blocks, always encouraging team-mates and demonstrating his skill set alongside them. It is a shame he won't run out with us this Fall, but the Blues would like to wish him the very best of luck in this new chapter of his career.

"Once a Blue, always a Blue!"



"I'M EXCITED TO JOIN THE HEAP OF TALENT WITHIN THE STRIKERS SQUAD."

CECIL GERBER IV ON JOINING STRIKERS RUGBY

Practice schedule:

Practices are normally on Tuesday and Thursday evening (1900-2100hrs) at Cutter Park, but if Cutter Park is closed we could move to Norfolk Collegiate or the Virginia Beach Field House, so if inclement weather is forecast check our social media for updates.

Social media:

Please sign-up to our social media:

Current players "[Norfolk Blues Rugby - current players](#)" and WAGs "[The Official Norfolk Blues WAGs](#)" on Facebook.

[norfolkbluesrfc](#) on Instagram and Twitter.

Our website is at www.bluesrugby.org

You can sign-up to join our "[Yahoo Email Group](#)" and receive email updates including The Bluesletter.

Old Boy dues:

So far 11 have paid their dues, thank you to those who have.

Fixtures for 2017/18 Season:

(subject to change, KO's TBC)

Date	Home		Away		D1B Match?
09-Sep-17	Norfolk Blues	43	Potomac Exiles	10	Potomac Forfeit
16-Sep-17	Schuykill River		Norfolk Blues		Yes
23-Sep-17	Washington Irish		Norfolk Blues		No
30-Sep-17	Norfolk Blues		Raleigh		No
07-Oct-17	Norfolk Blues		Rocky Gorge		Yes
14-Oct-17	Baltimore-Chesapeake		Norfolk Blues		Yes
21-Oct-17	Norfolk Blues		Washington Irish		No
04-Nov-17	Rocky Gorge		Norfolk Blues		Yes
11-Nov-17	Potomac Exiles		Norfolk Blues		Yes
17-Mar-18	Norfolk Blues		Pittsburgh		No
24-Mar-18	Norfolk Blues		Baltimore-Chesapeake		Yes
07-Apr-18	Norfolk Blues		Schuykill River		Yes
14-Apr-18	Pittsburgh		Norfolk Blues		No
28-Apr-18	MAC Championship				
18-May-18	USA Eastern Regionals				
02-Jun-18	USA Rugby Championships				

Start sorting your calendar now! If you are unavailable, let the selectors/coach know

The Blues Vision

"As a premier Rugby Football Club in the United States of America, the Norfolk City Blues will promote a sustainable brand as a cornerstone of East Coast rugby based on a winning tradition for all ages".