



# The Bluesletter

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017

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## 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.

### **\*\* Hot Topic \*\***

#### 2017/2018 Season Norfolk City Blues Committee:

President – Dave Paradiso  
Vice President – Doc Irely  
Club Captain – Eric Hagen  
Treasurer – Eric Hagen  
Secretary – Beau Brodtman  
Match Secretary – Sam Johnson  
Youth Director – Steve Link  
Old Boys Representative – Keith Wright  
Fundraising Coordinator – Robb Parsons  
Equipment Manager – Jimmy Smith

The Club would like to thank the outgoing 2016/2017 Committee for all their efforts.

## A letter from Alex Kalasinsky:

*Norfolk Blues Old Boys;*

*Just paid my Old Boy dues. It is easy to do. Our support goes a very long way to help subsidize players, assist in recruitment and promote the club. Each of us have many fond memories of our experiences. By supporting the Norfolk Blues we can be part of other people's future. Believe me when I say that each player appreciates all our support and encouragement. They even politely listen to our stories. We are the finest Club on the East Coast. All of you contributed to that so now continue that tradition by paying these dues each year.*

*See you at the pitch and the socials.*

*Best Regards,*

*Alex*

Footnote from the Pres'

*Thanks to the OB's who have paid their dues: Alex Kink', Chris Cowan, Tim Trivette, John Ellis, Jamie Newnam and Keith Wright. Your support is greatly appreciated!*

# It's a Big Blue World:



This week, in the **Big Blue World**, Doc was out in Glendale CO gawping at a rugby pitch, and to be fair it isn't too shabby but, unfortunately he was out there for so long he forgot his razor and a tiny little caterpillar crawled onto his face for his TV appearance. Doc and old boy Drew Komplasky represented the Navy and Coast Guard respectively in 7's with the Navy winning the Shield competition. Meanwhile old boys Nick Zeitler and Steve Mendez showed their true colours in Panama Beach, good job boys!  
Keep the photos coming in.

## Summer 7's:

Nova 7's - The first tournament of the year and we travelled without several key players, but six players made their MAC Qualifier 7's debuts. Losing to Gorge, SR and a heartbreaker to Washington in the pool round with less than a minute to go. The last match we faced Pittsburgh and finally played Blues 7's and won easily to finish in 7<sup>th</sup> place.

Richmond 7's - We took both a Premier and Open side to Richmond, the Premier close to full strength started off slow losing to SR 31-5 and just getting by Irish 14-12, in the quarters we faced our 15's nemesis Gorge and won 17-12, in the Semis we faced SR again, played better, but lost 19-10. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> place match we defeated Washington 24-12. This was the first tourney of the year for the Open Side and in the first match we faced hosts and eventual champions Richmond, losing 19-10, in the second match we beat Irish 31-7 and in the final pool match Frederick, losing a heartbreaker, 22-21. Missing out on the Semis by point differential we defeated NOVA 22-0 to finish in 5<sup>th</sup> place.



Cape Fear 7's - The annual trek to Wrightsville Beach saw a host of Blues competing for the VA Cardinals. In the Club Competition Jake H, Eric H, Nick S, Adam B, Matt J, Fuzzy, Brian N, Brian H, Church and former Blue Dave Jerson; in the Masters Barney and Spice. The Masters (above right) went undefeated and won their second straight Championship with Howard Graham taking home the "Rocking Chair" for MVP. The Club (above left) lost a close first match, but swept the rest of their matches beating Star Spangled Hammer in the Final. Eric Hagen took home "the Keg" as MVP. This was the third time in four years that Blues players have won the Club championship.

Wilmington DE 7's - The Blues once again travelled missing several key players. In the pool round losing to Gorge and Beltway, but beating Pittsburgh. We faced Irish in the 5<sup>th</sup> place match and pulled away from them in the second half by a decisive margin. Special thanks to Jason Ryan for travelling and supporting the team!

Philadelphia 7's - We travelled up to Doylestown PA on Friday night with both a Premier and Social Side. The Premier side was near full strength, but several dropped out last minute from the Social side so some of our boys had double duty. In Premier we faced Gorge in the first match winning big and in the second match we lost to SR 21-14, the final pool match was a rout of Pittsburgh to zero. In the Semis the Blues defeated NOVA 28-10 and in the final faced Beltway Elite losing 19-5. Shim was named our Premier MVP for the tournament, but was too



humble to take the trophy so Jake Humphrey went home with the hardware. The Social side went undefeated to make it to the final with Cheese entering the final as a last minute injury sub scoring the winning try! Jason Ryan was named Social MVP. Thanks to everyone that helped out this Summer! Jamie and Chilly with coaching; Christina admin; Jeff Anderson, Dave Chapman and Robb Parsons the Thursday night referees; Dave Paradiso paying our entrance fees and Doc Irey for lining the pitch, congrats to Jake Humphrey for being voted 7's MVP for this Summer!

## 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.



So far the numbers have been 30+ for each session, with a lot of new players. At the moment the sessions are conditioning based coupled with a lot of new skills work, the boys are doing a great job.

## Social media:

Current players are encouraged to join the “[Norfolk Blues Rugby - current players](#)” and WAGs “[The Official Norfolk Blues WAGs](#)” Facebook page; we are also on Instagram and Twitter – [norfolkbluesrfc](#) while the website is located at [www.bluesrugby.org](http://www.bluesrugby.org)  
Sign-up to join our “[Yahoo Email Group](#)” and receive email updates.

## Any other business:

## Congratulations!

Molly and Anthony (Cheese) on the birth of their son Dale. Dale arrived on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 1132am and weighed in at 8lb 15oz and 21” in length (I know that is a weird question all wives/girlfriends/mothers ask). Congratulations both and let’s hope he inherits his mother’s tackling and handling!



Last weekend Eric Hagen and Darin “Barney” Darden completed the USA Rugby Level 200 Coaching Course and Jeremy Frayne the World Rugby Level 1 Strength and Conditioning Course in Baltimore MD, adding more credentials to the Blues line-up.

# Fixtures for 2017/18 Season:

(subject to change, KO's TBC)

Date	Home	Away	D1B Match?
09-Sep-17	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	Potomac Exiles	<b>Yes</b>
16-Sep-17	Schuykill River	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>Yes</b>
23-Sep-17	Washington Irish	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	No
30-Sep-17	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	Raleigh	No
07-Oct-17	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	Rocky Gorge	<b>Yes</b>
14-Oct-17	Baltimore-Chesapeake	Norfolk Blues	<b>Yes</b>
21-Oct-17	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	Washington Irish	No
04-Nov-17	Rocky Gorge	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>Yes</b>
11-Nov-17	Potomac Exiles	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>Yes</b>
17-Mar-18	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	Pittsburgh	No
24-Mar-18	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	Baltimore-Chesapeake	<b>Yes</b>
07-Apr-18	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	Schuykill River	<b>Yes</b>
14-Apr-18	Pittsburgh	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	No

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

There is a friendly match on Saturday 02<sup>nd</sup> September, a possible three way with Richmond and USMC, more information will be available this week at training from Eric Hagen, but keep an eye out on the FB page.

## 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”.