

The Swan

December Edition.



*All of us at Swanley RFC
wish you and yours a very
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

Match Centre

November began with an away fixture at Gillingham Anchorians 2s. With three converted tries in the first half, you could be forgiven for thinking Swanley had it easy. However, it was purely a case of who took their chances when presented with the opportunity to score. That combined with another stellar defensive performance proved enough to secure the win. Nervous for the spectators at times, this was a closely fought match with Swanley running out 24 -10 victors at the final whistle.

Next week we were scheduled to play Old Gravesendians away who were one place below us in the league. Unfortunately, riddled with injuries they were forced to concede a walk over. Easy points but we would rather have played the game. Look forward to meeting them at home later in the season.

We now had a 2 week break which initially we thought of as handy as injuries were beginning to stack up due to the relentless match schedule to date. So on the 25th we took the field against our old friends Sheppey. This was a very different Sheppey to the pre-season friendly. Determined from the outset they were the first team to switch

on. With a 19-14 score line at half-time it was evident that this was to be a close match. Some huge tackles and late hits saw physio Kelly Judd on the pitch increasingly in the second half. In the end we edged it with some quite stunning back play and ran out 36 – 31 winners.

The Sheppey battering was to take its toll in early December when we finally got the chance to play our game in hand. This was a rest week for virtually all other teams in umpteen different leagues and we were to face Vigo 3s. 3 was the magic number here. Vigo 3s had won 3 games so far this season. And the Vigo captain later apologised for only bringing 3 of the Vigo 3 team. Hey ho. You play what's in front of you (Vigo's 1st and 2nd team) and get on with it.

Depleted in numbers by the Sheppey game we took to the field and battled hard. Our scrum was particularly effective throughout the game so all credit to them and their push over try from a 5 metre scrum was impressive. However, Vigo's 9 regularly found room to break round the scrum in the first half to open up the Swanley defence. Injuries mounted during the game, Yatesie moved to cover the 9 position and Vigo proved too much for the makeshift three quarter line who were extremely exposed defensively. That said – we never gave up and can be proud of the 3 tries we scored in a 43 – 17 loss. Dropped passes on 3 occasions meant our try tally was not as high as it could have been. Sean O'Riley was in fine angry man form and his rather brutal destruction of the the Vigo 10 in the early minutes was maintained throughout the game and evenly distributed amongst the Vigo players. Hard but fair Sean. We like it.

December Fixtures

A short month of fixtures due to some bizarre annual ritual that costs us all a fortune. Normal service resumes on January 6th.

Dec 2 – Vigo 3s – Home (see above)



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Dec 9 – Edenbridge – Away (A big match for us)

Dec 16 – Aylesford 3s - Home

Full match reports are available at:

<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/swanleyrfc/>

League Table

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Adj
1 Sevenoaks IV	10	9	0	1	368	85	283	38	2
2 Edenbridge I	10	8	0	2	381	180	201	35	3
3 Swanley I	10	8	0	2	274	171	103	34	2
4 Sheppey II	10	6	0	4	289	225	64	28	4
5 Gillingham II	10	6	0	4	297	166	131	27	3
6 Old Gravesendians II	10	6	0	4	135	184	49	26	2
7 Gravesend IV	10	5	0	5	256	274	18	24	4
8 New Ash Green II	10	3	1	6	134	264	130	20	6
9 Vigo III	9	3	0	6	193	236	43	18	6
10 Aylesford III	10	2	0	8	138	316	178	14	6
11 Maidstone III	9	1	1	7	125	303	178	11	5
12 Tunbridge Wells IV	8	0	0	8	83	269	186	8	8

Club News & Events

December 16th is the last game before Christmas and traditionally a good opportunity for the players and others to go out and get a bit messy.

You're welcome to join us if you like a challenge. I'm quite sure I won't see the end of it.

Our Youth section will be launched early next year and is a huge step forward for us. We are to be joined by a new team member who previously ran the youth section at Westcombe Park RFC and we are training up 5 youth coaches as we speak.

Sponsors Corner



Training in the dark wasn't working out too well for us until Aim Hire kindly stepped up with the provision of a generator and a number of

floodlights. Its made a huge difference to the club as we can now practice all the mistakes we make on a Saturday.

They were also kind enough to help shift our scrum machine which was no mean feat weighing in at about 1500lbs.

If you need anything in the way of plant and tool hire these are the go to guys.

<https://www.aimhireukltd.co.uk/>

Come and Watch



All home matches are played at our very own Field of Dreams located at Swanley Park: Swanley Park New Barn Road, Swanley BR8 7PW. Kick offs at 2.00pm.

If you don't like watching maybe you should be playing. We train on Tuesday nights starting at 7.30pm. Give us a call and come along. All contact details at :

<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/swanleyrfc/>

See you in the New Year

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