



TEDDINGTON RFC CALIFORNIA TOUR 2007

NEWSLETTER NO. 1

TOUR COMMITTEE

The California Tour
2007 committee consists of:

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TOUR LOGO

At the top of the newsletter is the official tour logo which will appear on all tour merchandise, and the tour brochure. More of that later.



SPONSORSHIP

If anybody works for, or is friendly with, any person or company who would be prepared to sponsor all or some part of the tour then please let us know. Their details will be prominently displayed within the official tour brochure, on the club website and also on the tour shirts and clothing. This means fairly extensive exposure in and around the Teddington area, and of course across California. There will also hopefully be some local media exposure around the time of the tour.

Departure day is now only six months away! This is the first of several newsletters which will be published between now and departure day. They will keep you updated with everything that is being planned for the tour and also about various events that will take place beforehand.

The California tour is the clubs most adventurous ever undertaken, which means that there is a fair amount of stuff to sort out beforehand. Provided that we all pull together and do our little bit then it will be a glitch free and the most memorable Antlers experience ever!

Please take time to read this newsletter as it contains quite a lot of important information, some of which you need to act upon. Here are the headlines:



40/20 TOUR – A BRIEF HISTORY OF WHY?

As I'm sure you are aware, this tour is the high point of our 40th anniversary celebrations.

40 years ago on 22nd June 1966 Antlers RFC was born. We were formed from the ashes of a disbanded Old Masonians RFC and a maverick breakaway group from Decca RFC. It is great to see that Chris 'Captain Lightbulb' Wright, one of our founding members, is alive and well and, even better still, will be on tour. Chris, at the drop of a stetson whilst on tour, will be regaling us all with tails of daring do, sideburns, flares, Rod Bromfields jockstrap and the two famous games in the Middlesex Cup when Antlers played against the mighty Wasps.

We are also celebrating another milestone which occurred 20 years ago in 1986. This was the year that The Antlers Ladies were born. In the mud at Bushy Park some rather bemused dog walkers and passers by saw a team of pink shirted ladies called 'The Notorious Nurses' play a charity game of rugby against a rather frightened Antlers men's team. The girls (and boys) enjoyed it so much that it was decided that Antlers needed a ladies team of it's own. Antlers ladies became one of the very first ladies

teams in the country and quickly grew to become the clubs success story of the 1990s. For many seasons our ladies played in National League 3, topping it twice. We even reached the quarter final of the National Cup. The team was bejewelled with many county and regional players as well as international players representing all four of the home nations. Some of these ex-internationals will be pulling on their boots in California but, unfortunately, there won't be a nurses uniform in sight (or will there?!?!?!). Our touring internationals are Linda Uttley (England), Elaine Cross (Scotland) and possibly a cameo from Susie Johnson (Wales).

Throughout this time the men's and ladies teams have toured many times, mainly to Europe. In 2002 on our last club tour we travelled to the sunny climes of Barbados. This was our first long haul tour and proved to be an absolute corker. We have always done things in our own rather quirky way, and touring is no exception. Unlike any other club that I know our men's and ladies teams always tour together as one club. It is this ethos of togetherness that makes an Antlers tour so special and one that will be completely upheld in the USA.

YOUR PASSPORT

It is **crucial** that you send a photocopy of your passport to Gareth (address on page one) as, by law, your details must be on the US immigration system to allow you entry into the USA. Don't worry, only Gareth and Georgia will get to see your beautiful mug shots and we promise not to do anything with them!! Please also note that at the date of departure your passport must be valid for six months beyond the date of your return (i.e. valid until at least 04 December 2007) and have at least two blank pages left. It must also be machine readable (UK passports issued in the UK generally are machine readable but many issued abroad aren't). So, please check your passports and get them renewed/changed if needed.

FINANCES

So far you have all paid your £150 deposit – well done. You now need to pay another £150 by **15 December**. The intention is to collect a further £150 in February and the balance at the end of March. Please make your cheques payable to 'Teddington RFC' and send them to Gareth Cross, 47 Wolsey Drive, Kingston, KT2 5DP. Alternatively, you can pay it directly into the clubs tour account, but you'll need to contact Gareth for details first.



EXTENDING YOUR STAY IN THE USA

If you are in the fortunate position to be able to extend your stay in the USA when the rest of us fly back, then apart from us all being extremely jealous, this is fine. However, you need to contact Georgia asap in order that she can make the necessary arrangements for your return flight.

FUNDRAISING

A tour of this magnitude is obviously going to be a bit more pricey than a weekend in Dublin, but the price of £950 per tourist is exceptional. Lots of what we will be doing is included within the £950. However, some things won't. This is a once in a life time tour and we will all want to do things, see things and eat and drink things that we will never get a chance to do again and, unfortunately, some of these won't be included in the price. To soften the blow on yours and the clubs finances we will be having various fundraising events beforehand which I urge you and your friends to support wholeheartedly.

The committee have been hard at work planning events for Christmas and the New Year. We have designed special Antlers **Christmas Cards**, of which all money raised will go towards our tour fundraising.

These are on sale for £4 per pack of five. Please buy them, sell them and send them.



And, to stick with the festive season, we are organising the Antlers 2006 **Christmas Party**. Fun and food, drinks and dancing and even the possible kiss under the mistletoe will all be at the Winchester Hall at The Turks Head in St Margarets on **Saturday 16 December**, and so should you! Tickets are now on sale for £15 each. Bring your friends, family, loved ones and whoever else wants a cracking Christmas.

And it's not all just about Christmas. 2007 will see more social events and fundraising ideas.



TOURISTS - SO FAR WE HAVE 38 PAID UP TOURISTS:

THE BOYS:

Spencer Casey, Rory Credland, Gareth Cross, Richard Field, Simon Hall, Vince Harte, Jonathan Harte, Robert Harte, Steve Milliner, Mark Nitsch, Pat Patrick, Andrew Shapton, Yorkie Stephenson, Dick Thorne, Brian Watson, Ken Winter

THE GIRLS:

Sam Burrough, Gayle Byford, Cheryl Coulby, Elaine Cross, Georgia Doran, Sarah Edwards, Aveen Kenny, Clare Langley, Julie McKibbin, Cheree Stover, Gry Telje, Linda Uttley, Debbie Walsh

THE CHEERLEADERS:

Tony Conway, Jamie Hutchinson, Jill Pethybridge, Fran Salway, Bernie Salway, Rheta Walker, Mike Walker, Chris Wright

There are also a few probables who are teetering on the edge of adding their names to the list. Well, stop thinking about it and sign your name on the dotted line and hand over your cash! We would like the tour party to swell to about 45 and would really love to have more players of both sexes. So, encourage and persuade all Antlers to come on the tour of a lifetime.



CALIFORNIA

Preparations for the actual tour are fully underway. For the first four nights we will be at the luxurious Radisson Hotel in the heart of Fisherman's Wharf in downtown San Francisco. San Francisco will be our base for the first leg of the tour during which we will play the first set of matches and have the opportunity for some group sightseeing, excursions and free time. At this stage we are looking at the possibilities of trips to the Napa Valley wineries, Golden Gate Bridge



and Park, Sausalito, Alcatraz and a baseball game. The second part of our tour will take us to Monterey, a beautiful beach resort and town on the Pacific Coast south of San Francisco, where we will play Monterey RFC before ending the tour back in San Francisco with one final match and one final night out on the town. We will keep you updated on all aspects of the tour in future newsletters.



That's about it for now. The next newsletter will be out just before Christmas so, until then, get selling those Christmas cards and Christmas party invitations and see you at Winchester Hall on 16 December! Thank you, Gareth, Georgia & Sarah