



# The White Hart Marauders Rugby Football Club

## “Howard’s Way”

### Captains Log for the 2009 Season



<b>Location</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Memories</b>
<b>Kinsale</b>	<b>Winners</b>	The season got off to a perfect start once again despite leaving for Ireland with no 7s wingers in the team due to the normal pullouts and injuries! We thought we were however going to be OK as Max Rantz-MacDonald, our flying Irish-Frenchman and general party maker, was joining us from Dublin. That was until he called through injured. He did however “manage” a solution in by way of a young winger named Dave Mongan who stepped up to the plate for us. With core players James Reilly, Oli Brown, Karl Dickson, Adam Bishop, Kameli Vuadreu and the evergreen Tevita Vaikona joining us again, as well as new boys Tom Slater and Latu Makaafi the squad played some excellent 7s to take the honours in both the Saturday and Sunday tournaments much to the delight of our new kit sponsors Kukri (and their dancing troop).
<b>Amsterdam</b>	<b>Quarter Finalists</b>	The Corso Adidas Marauders were kindly sponsored as always by James Van Amstel. There was a new look squad for this weekend with Simon Pitfield, Ian Davey, James Short, Alec Jenkins, Tom Hancock and Lee McLaughlin joining us for the first time along with some of the usual suspects. The first day went well as did the second day group stage to get into the quarters. But unfortunately we fell at the quarter final stage when we failed to cope with the defensive pressure from a well drilled Russian team. Once again thanks must be given to all the supporters who give the team such a great weekend.
<b>Bournemouth</b>	<b>Quarter Finalists</b>	A new tournament but a disappointing weekend where a fresh set of players unfortunately never gelled. This year we will be looking to stamp our name on this tournament.
<b>Rome</b>	<b>Plate Semi-Finalists</b>	Bringing in George Dixon, and Justin James for the first time as well as Kev James, Jack Smales and Bunny coming back in to the fold. We did not perform and the weekend was unsatisfactory, not just on the pitch but also with the organisation and set up of the tournament. Both of these issues will be put right in 2010.

**Manchester Finalists** After making some wholesale changes to the squad we were nervously confident for this new, high quality, 2 day tournament. Bringing back our old friends Craig Hill, Ifan Evans, Max R-Mc along with new boys Alex Cuthbert, Steve Taylor and Nathan Williams and core players of Reilly, Dixon, Bishop and Bunny was the perfect mix. Bunny had his best ever tournament as one of the play makers feeding Alex who was flying on the wing. We were very unlucky not to have come out on top against a predominantly flown in Kiwi team.

**Newquay Finalists** In Newquay we took the majority of the Manchester squad and added Matt Williams, Ryan de la Harpe, Paul Jarvis and Kameli V. Again the team clicked and played some excellent 7s in the rain. After beating The Wailers for the second semi final in 2 weeks we came up against, and lost to, an Army Team that played one of the best games I've seen them play in recent years. Thanks and acknowledgement must be given to the hospitality of Piers and Trish for their excellent Saturday night BBQ!

**Middlesex Quarter Finalists** After gaining a late entry to this prestigious event we looked forward to what was one of the biggest day in the Marauders history. Having been drawn to play last year's winners in the first game, it was a fantastic moment for all concerned when the ref blew for full time and the pub team had won against Harlequins FC. The quarter final game against Saracens was tight but to be fair our defence didn't stand up to the test and we were out. The squad: James Reilly, George Dixon, Craig Hill, Adam Bishop, Oli Brown, Kameli Vuadreu, Paul Jarvis, Tom Jarvis, Ifan Evans, Max Rantz-McDonald, Alex Cuthbert and Howard Graham.

**Harpenden Finalists** The team produced some great sevens throughout the picnic fuelled day and we hope, entertained the fantastic Marauders faithful despite having a distinct lack of forwards. We met Saracens in a "niggley" final and again came off second best.

My sincere thanks go to all the players and supporters who committed to and performed for the Marauders. Without you the club is nothing!

Howard Graham, Captain and Player Coach