

## Our History

Old Ashmoleans RFC are based in the Southgate area of North London we were formed in 1962, we celebrated a landmark year in 2012 as it was our clubs 50th anniversary.

We started initially with 12 members playing matches mainly against the lower sides of the neighbouring clubs. As a young club, fixtures with older established clubs in Hertfordshire were difficult to acquire for the O.A's and they had to travel far and wide for their games.

The introduction of the merit tables brought the club fixtures closer to home and with the hard work of the late Ken Redding (the then fixture secretary) the clubs playing situation was greatly improved.

We have had a very cosmopolitan mix of players in our 50 year history which has included a very sizeable playing contention of English, Scottish, Welsh, Venezuelan, Jewish (Glenn Shaw and Andy Lebe representing the British and Irish Zions in the Maccabi Games) and Irish players as well as a large Lithuanian contention and a very large South African contention.

The club has had quite a few success in our history most notably in 1981 & 1984 when we won the Barnet 7's, In 1985 O.A's reached Twickenham in the final of the preliminary competition of the Middlesex 7s but unfortunately ending up as runners up.

Then in 94/95 season we had our most successful year to date at the time when we reached the quarter finals of the Pilkington shield were we lost 27-24 to Helston who went on to lose to the Medics in the Final, which was again played at Twickenham.

Then between 2003-2008 the club enjoyed an unprecedented run of success with promotion for 5 seasons in a row, going from Herts/Middx 4 to London Northwest 3, the highest position in our club's history.

The most successful year in our clubs history was 2009 which saw our 1st Team win the Herts Presidents Trophy Title for the second time beating Datchworth in the Final. (The first time we won this Trophy was in the 2005/06 season beating Hemel Hempstead in a hard fought battle, This win proved extremely sweet as we were a close runner up the year before in the 2004/05 final losing just to Tring). Also in 2009 our 2nd team came runners up in the Merit Table 1 Cup that year losing in the final to Hertford, whilst our 3rd team won the Merit Table 6 plate competition beating Hackney in the Final and our sevens reached the semis of the Hertfordshire annual tournament, which we won the year before. Then in 2012 our 2nd team won the Merit Table 6 Cup, beating Harpenden 33-20 in the final.

We have also had great success with the Hertfordshire County Side too, with Old Ashmoleans fielding 4 players (Nico Burger, Johan (Dronkie) Van Dyke, Carl Buckland and Ryan Taylor).

We have since suffered a down turn in fortunes having being demoted in the last two seasons due to us losing a few of our key players, after a bit of a playing restructure we are now playing in Merit Table Division 4.

Currently we are in the middle of a major recruiting and promotion process in order for the club to grow and return the heights of 2009 and beyond where we belong.

As a result the 2012/2013 season looks set to be our biggest yet with plans to mark our 50th anniversary celebrations by organising events to promote the club within the Local community.

We are also making plans to attend a pre-season rugby tournament in Co. Mayo in the West-Of-Ireland in Aid of 4 Cancer Charities from the British and Irish Isles, The Irish Cancer Society, Cancer Action Muigheo, Cancer Research UK and Leukemia Lymphoma Research, in the very near future.

We currently run 2 sides plus the occasional Vets side and enjoy playing good rugby with a lively post-match social life.

We welcome players of all standards and supporters alike and look forward to greeting anyone interested in joining our successful and friendly club.