

# South Coast Pirates

## Newsletter - November 2016



### COAST DIVISION CHAMPIONS 2015/2016



A new season is upon us and after winning the Coast League Championship for the second season running, the Pirates were promoted to a new league, The Championship. It's the second tier of the Kenya Cup and divided into two conferences – the Western and Eastern, 6 teams in each. Pirates are in the Eastern conference. The Pirates beat Mombasa RFC 10:9 to clinch the Coast title in a very tense game held in Mombasa.

We were two players down for most of the last 15 minutes and the time added on was heading towards 10 minutes before the final whistle finally blew to scenes and great jubilation from the team and the very many supporters' who came to the game. At times it seemed that the Pirates fans outnumbered the Mombasa fans. A great show of support.

This season will be a challenge both on and off the pitch. All of the regional champions and runners up are in the new league so every game will be like a cup final for us. The financial challenge is that apart from Mombasa our nearest away games are in Nairobi with others being in Thika, Eldoret, Meru, Bungoma, etc.

The format is that each team in the conference plays home and away (10 games) and the last 6 games are 3 home and 3 away from the other conference. For Pirates these 3 away games entail a 2,000 km round trip which is very hard on the players as well as our finances.

One of the highlights of the close season was the invitation from KRU to one of our young players (Charlie Tendwa) for trials for the Kenya U19 squad. The squad was whittled down from 50+ over a few weeks and when the final squad was announced Charlie had been selected to represent his country. A week or so later he went with the team and played in a 3 nation tournament in Namibia. He played very well and we're sure he'll feature in more games for Kenya. Congratulations Charlie!

Our first home game is on November 26<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at our new home ground at St Joseph's School which borders the showground. The KRU have assured us that officials will be on time as this was an issue over the last two seasons. The turn off is opposite Co-operative Bank on Palm Avenue.

# SOUTH COAST PIRATES

## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Another new season is upon us, the lads have been training hard with a couple of well attended practice games at the golf club, and some serious training at our temporary gym at St Joseph School. A very busy one it is going to be, we started with an away game in Nairobi against Monks (Catholic University of East Africa) with a defeat of 18-6. We are in Meru and Thika for both the next two weekends.

The defeat was no disgrace as the competition in the new league that we have been promoted to is of a considerable higher standard. This introduction to the league and the expected raised standards to be attained will only be achieved with hard work and dedication by all players, but we will reach the required level to be competitive.

We have many away games the nearest is Mombasa the rest are Nairobi, Thika, Bungoma, Kisii and Eldoret to fulfill these fixtures is a major drain on our limited resources.



I would like all members if they could please pay their memberships as early as possible, should you know of any likely sponsor to help with our finances please put them in contact with any of the committee, even the ability to sponsor a home game or better still an away game.

The first home game was on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at our new ground at St Joseph School against JKUAT. We have to have a strong second team to supplement our first, it is very important that they get plenty of games so as to be fit and ready for any first team duty as and when it arises.

We now have a new pitch within the surrounds of St Joseph Catholic School which is not quite Twickenham standards, but a vast improvement over the next door showground with installed irrigation to keep it reasonably soft and green.

Please come along and support South Coast Pirates your local side, we are improving and are aiming to win this new league.



# SOUTH COAST PIRATES

## FROM THE COACH

The pre-season has been very good and with so many great new things to look out for, for the Pirates. We have had many new players coming through, a new home ground, and a new approach to training with a great emphasis on conditioning and skill work and the players look more comfortable while playing. This is not to say we have reached the heights yet as the potential is huge. We had Charles Tendwa, 19, from the Pirates Academy program, selected to represent Kenya Under 19 in Windhoek, Namibia, which was fantastic. We maintain our commitment to the program to nurture more like Tendwa, he represented the club and country with honour.



We played our 1<sup>st</sup> game vs Catholic Monks and lost 18-6 away. The lads played dominantly and they are learning well from the experience. This is reflected by the subsequent away draw to Thika RFC. **Note:** these sides are immediate former premierships that SCP has lost to before and we are gaining ground. Next game is at home vs JKUAT and we expect good results at home.

We continue to tap into the schools and create a good base of talented players and help them grow into better citizens. The schools are closed and we have a keen interest in building our 2<sup>nd</sup> team and feeder academy teams. We also want to improve on the player's game knowledge through world rugby courses'. Next course is on refereeing.

I wish to thank all our supporters and wish the Pirates family a Blessed Season 2016/2017.



## MEMBERS PRIZE DRAW

The Members Prize Draw has not yet been held. We are still awaiting some membership dues.





# SOUTH COAST PIRATES

## FROM THE TEAM MANAGER

The team is doing well, we are receiving impressive numbers in training session (36 players per session) and they're working hard, there is good team spirit and team work with good understanding amongst the players and management.

SCP are growing very fast and is attracting more players than any other club in the coast area from up country players who are studying at the coast, they are being recommended by their clubs to join Pirates. At least seven players are expected to join us. Our new pitch is ready for use and the positive attitude from players and good support from committee shows that the team has taken new shape and is heading to the right direction.



We are in the new league with good teams, there is stiff competition but we have a young talented side with good effort and mixed players of different skills set to enable us contest for a top four position.

## ,FROM THE TREASURER

As mentioned before our finances for this coming season will be much higher than last season. We estimate that the away games in the Nairobi area will be around Kes 100,000. In order to cut costs the players will now travel back to Ukunda/Diani straight after the game. This saves one nights accomdation and a couple of meals but will be tiring for the players. The games in the west of Kenya are more of a problem as it's impossible to travel almost 1,000 km in one go, so 4 nights accommodation is the minimum. These games, if we can afford them, will be between Kes 200,000 and Kes 250,000. We had a meeting with 3 board members of the KRU (Kenya Rugby Union) in Mombasa to explain our issues. A reformatted second tier was one result, the first option was 12 teams in one league. They also said help may be possible with transport, which is out biggest cost, but as yet nothing has happened.



We need many more sponsors to help keep the club viable as we believe the Pirates will be a big club in the future. Even now player are coming to join us from bigger teams. If any individual or business would like to sponsor a game (home or away), or a player's costs for the season, or kit or donating weights, balls, boots etc please conatct any committee member. We've had support from Diani Beach Hospital by providing an ambulance and medics at each home game. Newick Rugby Club has donated Kes 30,000 for medical items as well as sending lots of second hand kit for the team. Dave Nolan brought more kit from St Columbas and St Pauls (clubs in Ireland). A big thank you to all for your support.

# SOUTH COAST PIRATES

## Lastly...

The first home game versus JKUAT from Juja ended 3:3. Pirates took the lead had put JKUAT under continual pressure in the second half but the breakthrough just didn't come. The next game is maybe our biggest home game as it's a local derby versus Mombasa. This is always a fiercely contested fixture for local bragging rights.

Many of our players are looking for work, either full time or casual. If anyone needs a driver, night guard, gardener, etc. please contact anyone on the committee.



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THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL TEAM!

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