



The Bluesletter

Wednesday 25th October 2017

Note from the Editor

If you have anything to pass on to our Bluesletter subscribers ensure I get the details by Tuesday 1200hrs and I will endeavor to get that information into Wednesdays' issue.

Remember Abby

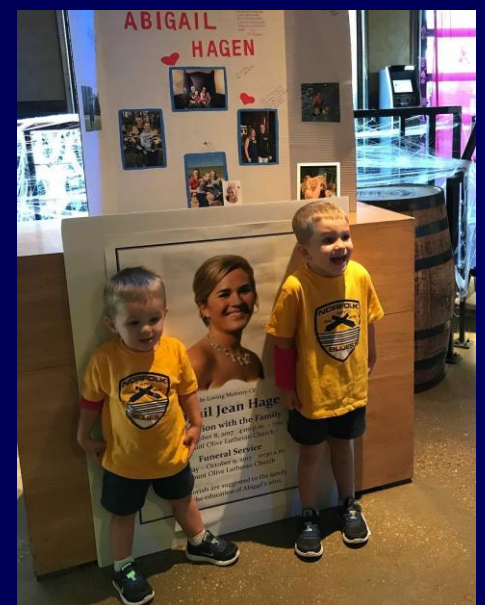
On Saturday 21st October the Blues went Pink for Abby. The merchandise on sale was snapped up by the two hundred or so spectators with Irish also buying 25 t-shirts from their club! The moment of silence was impeccable prior to the Blues/Irish kick-off and at the final whistle the Blues squad assembled under the posts where following the



countdown from Eli and Henry Hagen they released pink balloons into the air. The event continued to the social at PBR, Waterside Norfolk where the WAG chug-off and 50/50 Raffle were concluded. The figures are being finalized, but at the moment the event raised around \$3,000 towards the "Remember Abby" fund, it was a great day to celebrate the life of a great lady.



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D1 -Norfolk Blues 48 Washington Irish 44

What an absolute "humdinger" of a match this was; the lead changed hands four times in a too and fro battle from start to finish.



Irish took the lead with a well taken penalty in the 4th minute when the Blues defence rushed up too soon, but that lead lasted just five minutes and the Blues rampaged through the Irish to score three converted tries in 11 minutes; the first through **Dutch Jones** from close range, the second from a run started inside our own half by **Adam Brubaker**, which included him being taken



out by a sniper on the oppositions 22, but he recovered in time to cut in and score under the posts and the third try following a number of thwarted attacks and **Eric Hagen** eventually going over under the sticks; all converted by **Jake Humphrey**, 21-3 Blues. Fair play to Irish, this didn't put them off their stride too much and scored a converted try of their own on 24 minutes, another followed on 29 minutes, converted, to make the score 21-17. The Blues came straight back into it, and right from the restart ripped into Irish and on 32 minutes **Jeff Jefferson** bagged a try close to the posts only for **Jake** to hit the upright with the conversion attempt, 26-17. The Blues were penalised at



the ruck for not releasing in the tackle and the Irish outside half scored with a 50metre effort, 26-20. In the 41st minute of the half a calamitous mix up from a fielded penalty attempt caught in the in-goal area saw a kick to touch charged down by Irish and during the panic they dotted down close to the posts and converted to go into the oranges with the score 26-27!



Washington opened the scoring in the second half with a well taken try, converted, to extend their lead to 26-34.

The Blues came back into it and **Fred Wintermantle** picked up the ball in his own half and charged the full 50metres or so,

handing off would be tacklers to score under the posts, **Jake** converting, 33-34.

Irish rolled in their bench and the Blues countered with some changes, even though there was a cricket score on show, the tackling was quite ferocious with some huge hits from both sides being dished out, but good support play and long distance and elusive running breaks were evident from both camps. On 57 minutes Irish scored again, a converted try and on the hour another penalty by their, seemingly faultless with the boot, flyhalf, 33-44. The next 20 minutes was quite breathless, the Blues had dominated the restarts all day through **Justin Menke** and **Chas Muller** and through that they could make deep in-roads into the Irish



half, following some great interplay between backs and forwards **Adam** bagged his second try of the day, 15 to play, 38-44 to Washington. **Muller** took the restart and the Blues smashed it up to halfway, and following some big runs **Dutch** went in for his second try of the day, unconverted, 43-44. Again **Muller** claimed the restart and the same story, Irish put up a strong defensive wall, but the Blues support play was solid and a highlight of the day. The Blues trundled up field and hammered against the Irish line, and **Dutch** reached over to score his third try from close range to change the lead for the final time, 48-44.



Man of the Match went to **Eric Hagen**, who was just inspirational on the day, with **Dutch Jones** and **Chas Muller** simply outstanding. The Blues have won their 600th club match and remain at the top of Division 1 with another bonus point victory.

Final Score: Norfolk Blues 48 – Washington Irish 44

Tries: Jones (3), Brubaker (2), Wintermantle, Hagen and Jefferson Cons: Humphrey 4 (from 8) Pens: None

Norfolk Blues Youth Rugby:

Next session is this Saturday, 28th October at 1100 at Lafayette, keep spreading the word! This session is additional one as “due to popular demand”, the kids want to run on the field. 20 attended the last session, which is great news as that seems to be the “solid” number.



Practice schedule:

Practices are normally on Tuesday and Thursday evening (1900-2100hrs) at Cutter Park, but if Cutter Park is closed we could move to Norfolk Collegiate or the Virginia Beach Field House, so if inclement weather is forecast check our social media for updates.

Social media:

Please sign-up to our social media:

Current players “**Norfolk Blues Rugby - current players**” and WAGs “**The Official Norfolk Blues WAGs**” on Facebook.

norfolkbluesrfc on Instagram and Twitter.

Our website is at www.bluesrugby.org

You can sign-up to join our “**Yahoo Email Group**” and receive email updates including The Bluesletter.

Fixtures for 2017/18 Season:

Date	Home		Away		D1B Match?
09-Sep-17	Norfolk Blues	43	Potomac Exiles	10	Potomac Forfeit
16-Sep-17	Schuykill River	28	Norfolk Blues	29	W 15 - 41
23-Sep-17	Washington Irish	18	Norfolk Blues	31	No
30-Sep-17	Norfolk Blues	X	Raleigh	X	L 22 - 50
07-Oct-17	Norfolk Blues	P	Rocky Gorge	P	Postponed
14-Oct-17	Baltimore-Chesapeake	5	Norfolk Blues	45	L 37 - 17
21-Oct-17	Norfolk Blues	48	Washington Irish	44	No
04-Nov-17	Rocky Gorge		Norfolk Blues		Yes
11-Nov-17	Potomac Exiles		Norfolk Blues		Yes

****Start sorting your calendar now! If you are unavailable, let the selectors/coach know in plenty of time****

The Blues Vision

“As a premier Rugby Football Club in the United States of America, the Norfolk City Blues will promote a sustainable brand as a cornerstone of East Coast rugby based on a winning tradition for all ages”.