



(ESTD 1995)
Essex Div 3 CHAMPIONS 03/04
EC5 CHAMPIONS 96/97. EC4S CHAMPIONS 98/99
Runners-up 97/98 and 00/01

Press Release – 21st June, 2004

England Legend presents Millwall winners

World Cup Winner, Jason Leonard presented Millwall with their Essex Division Three Winner's shield on Friday 18th at the Essex awards dinner.

The annual event, held this year at the Holiday Inn Basildon saw the Isle of Dogs based team honoured for their stellar season, earning a promotion and a championship.

Newly elected Club Captain, Eoin O'Connor accepted the award on the club's behalf. "It was such an honour to have the award presented by Jason Leonard. I recognise Jason as one of the great professional rugby players and an example to players at all levels on how to approach the game - work hard, play well and enjoy a pint afterwards."

After presenting the award, Mr Leonard congratulated Millwall on their upcoming anniversary. "Happy tenth birthday, Millwall Rugby Club, ten years is a great achievement. Well done".

Meanwhile, the Millwall squad is deep in pre-season preparations for the upcoming season. The team management committee has been given a facelift with new first and second team managers along with a new club captain.

Kevin Doherty, who was instrumental in cementing a regular third adult team, retains the third team management duties and is looking to set a winning precedent in Merit Table Division 6, where the third team will play competition rugby for the first time.

"As third team manager I not only think, but expect us to start winning from the start. We are in a league now, so it's imperative that we get off to a good start. The thirds came very close to recording a few wins last season, if we continue to play the same way and with a little bit of luck winning will only be a matter of time."

When asked on how he felt the team would fare in the new league, Club Captain O'Connor was very positive.

"We've got a good squad for the coming season, with most of last years players still available and a rush of new blood into the club after recent successful recruitment initiatives. There are many areas where competition will be intense for places, and this together with our pre-season preparations can only lead us to having a good season."

Stepping into the large shoes of last season's championship winning team manager, Jamie Rockman, is fly half Nick Tiffin. He says depth will be the key this season.

"This year will be extremely tough as Essex division two is a considerable step up in quality. However, with so many players exposed to first team action last season due to injuries in key positions, we now have a lot of depth in the squad. I think we have every chance of another successful season."

Bob Cluness, manager of the second team (also known as the Llamas) said he hoped many Llamas players would be pushing for inclusion in the first team.



(ESTD 1995)

Essex Div 3 CHAMPIONS 03/04
EC5 CHAMPIONS 96/97. EC4S CHAMPIONS 98/99
Runners-up 97/98 and 00/01

"I don't feel that I would be doing my job as team manager if "llamas" players in the squad weren't pushing for a place in the firsts at some point next season. There is going to be some intense Merit table matches next season where Llamas players can prove to the selection committee that they have what it takes to play for the firsts."

Millwall Rugby Club's season kicks off with several trial matches at the end of August. Anyone interested in playing for Millwall should contact Kev on 079-392-52002 or email kev@millwallrugby.com