One of World's Oldest Rugby Football Clubs Shares 150 Year History in Stunning New Book Endorsed by England Legends

For College Club and Country - A History of Clifton Rugby Football Club' is a stunning new 312 page book giving the historical account of one of the oldest rugby clubs in the world, with direct links to the roots of the game at Rugby School and a long association with Clifton College.

New York, NY (PRWEB) November 10, 2009 -- For College Club and Country - A History of Clifton Rugby Football Club' is a stunning new 312 page book giving a historical account of one of the oldest rugby clubs in the world, with direct links to the roots of the game at Rugby School and a long association with Clifton College. The book took many years to research and covers the sporting history, as well accounts of famous players and matches of many international legends who played for the club since its foundation in 1872. It shows the close link between the public schools, local business and merchants and military men who fought for, and in many cases gave their lives for their country. The meticulously assembled book contains hundreds of photographs from the last 150 years. Endorsements have come in from many leading Rugby figures, including:

'Clifton is a name that resonates through my sporting life, from playing for the school, and then playing the odd game both for and against the club, to being a long-standing member. It's fascinating to read the wealth of stories associated with people involved at Clifton over the years and this is an invaluable record of the contributions they have made both to the game, and to the wider playing field of life.'

John Inverdale, BBC Television Presenter, Old Cliftonian and member of Clifton RFC.

'I feel rugby clubs provide a vital role in their community and the relationship between club and society can be seen in this history of Clifton RFC. It provides an emotional and factual account of the players and families who gave so much for club and country through an era spanning the two world wars. As the former head coach at Bristol FC I am most aware of the close historic links with Clifton and this book captures the spirit of what it means to be a club member.'

Richard Hill, Former Captain of England and Head Coach of Bristol Rugby.

Clifton Rugby Club was formed on 27th September 1872 at the Kings Arms on Blackboy Hill in Clifton, Bristol. Clifton RFC is the 31st oldest club in the United Kingdom, the 20th oldest in England, the 2nd oldest in the South West, and the oldest in Bristol.

Clifton have had 3 players gain international honours while playing for Clifton, James Arthur Bush in 1872, 73, 75, and 76, Hiatt Cowles Baker in 1887 and John Currie 1956-62. Many players have played for their country before or after playing for Clifton, most notable of these are two England captains, in 1955 Peter Young and in 1967 Colin McFadyean and the first captain of Wales, James Alfred Bevan, in 1881.

Today, Clifton RFC is one of the largest clubs in England's West Country, running four senior men's teams and all mini and junior age groups from under-sevens to under-19s.

For the 2009-2010 season Clifton strengthened the 1st XV team with former Bristol captain Matt Salter, as a player and coach. In the league structure for 2009-2010 Clifton play in the National 2 South league.
Authors are Bristol based Patrick Casey and Richard Hale both of whom have long associations with the club. The Club is rightly proud of the book which has been meticulously put together and features 100s of photographs from the last 150 years right up to modern times.

Richard Hale says “Included are accounts of the many internationals who played for Clifton before, during or after their international careers. We cover the way the club moved through several grounds to keep itself alive. There are records of famous matches involving Clifton players and we cover some of the strong links with local families who have developed their family businesses in the area”.

Admiral Sir James Henry Fuller Eberle who wrote the foreword says of the book “This book records the deeds of members of the Clifton Rugby Football Club which, over a period of over one hundred years has brought it from the enthusiasm and loyalty of a few like minded Bristol citizens, of what had once been the small suburban village of Clifton on the outskirts of the Port of Bristol. The record is not only that of the substantial contribution to the sport of Rugby Football that has been made by all the club's members, but also to their service to their country in two world wars. We shall remember them”.


For a comprehensive history upon which the book is based see: http://www.cliftonrfchistory.co.uk

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