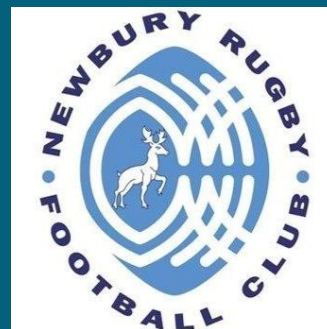


BLUES NEWS

KEEPING IN TOUCH - 3

7th May 2020



WHAT'S INSIDE

Latest Club News
100 Club winners
Mini & Juniors
Front Line Heroes
Help in the Community / Jokes
Dates for Diary - Quiz / AGM
Personal Profiles
Memorial - Brian Durnford
Coaches' Corner
Something from the Archives
Coping with self-isolation
Puzzle Page

100+ CLUB

This month's winners:

1st - Glyn Goodman

2nd - Sarah Tunstall

3rd - Anthony Dines

Support the Club from just £2 a month by signing up [online](#). You can buy up to a maximum of 10 monthly tickets.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you would like to contribute to the next Blues News, please email content to any of the following:

[David Jones](#)

[Brian Lee](#)

[Sarah Thorne](#)

For the latest club news visit the NRFC website

**NEWBURY
RUGBY CLUB**

Keeping in Touch is all about keeping our Blues Family together. We all have a role to play to support our club and you can play your part.

[Get writing and let us know what you are up to - this newsletter is about you.](#)

CLUB NEWS

The club continues to operate, managing the leases and the buildings but not for sport. West Berkshire Council operate their Transport hub from there and Interakt are refurbishing the old gym to take occupation in July. Interakt will be a great charity to link with the club. We have let the Wickens Suite on a temporary basis to the Southern Counties Ambulance Service in order to train Volunteer Ambulance Drivers which is an unexpected bonus for us.

The car park is used as a Distribution Centre for supplies from local charities to people in lockdown. Last week the Rugby Club featured in the Local Covid-19 information newsletter when a local business lost its freezers and offered the frozen food to the charity appeal. Steve Jones made our freezers available until the charity Soup Kitchen could collect and distribute.

Securing funds into the club will be challenging next year despite the management board having taken advantage of the grants available to us now. Any great fundraising ideas will be appreciated and thanks to those who have already sent some in. Having worked so hard (some might say miracles!) to lower our running costs, we don't want to undo all that hard work. Your support will be more important than ever.

Did anyone get the emoji quiz totally correct in the last edition? Good to see the colts contributing. They are the lifeblood of the club and it would be great to see a good number of the colts playing senior rugby and thank you again to the Ladies for their great contribution.

If anyone in our rugby family needs support, please do let us know.

Take care of yourselves and 'Keep in Touch'.

DAVID, SARAH AND BRIAN

SUPPORTING THE CLUB

Two simple way you can financially help the club now are:

Join our 100+ CLUB

Just £2 per ticket a month, which helps to provide resources across the whole club and enters you into a monthly cash prize draw. Purchase tickets [online](#).

Make a voluntary contribution

Details of how to do this are available [online](#).

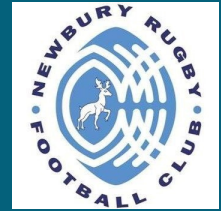
SUPPORTING BUSINESSES POST LOCKDOWN

If you are a Club member and would like to promote your job, do please let us know. Coming out of lockdown will be tough and for many of us it will mean relaunching our business and working life, particularly for those recently self-employed who have not had the benefit of furloughing. If you provide us with your contact details and what you do, we will include in the next newsletter - [email David Jones](#).

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

MINI & JUNIOR SECTION / FRONT LINE HEROES



MINI SECTION

William Varley (U11s) and his sister Emily, decorated their street with this rainbow to thank NHS staff and all other key workers. Dad, Robin Varley said "They undertook this project, without any knowledge of either my wife or I, as they wanted to do something to say thank you to not only the NHS but all the other key workers."

"We have NHS care workers visiting our street twice a day for a neighbour of ours and they wanted to make them smile."

"We'll all be out on Thursday clapping like crazy and if the rain does wash some of this work away I have two wonderful children who I know will be out there, when it dries up, doing it all again to say 'thank you NHS'."



JUNIOR SECTION

The colts are already planning for the 20/21 season and looking forward to welcoming this season's U16s into the colts section. Estelle (now also a new Trustee for the club) is stepping up with them to help share the work involved in managing the group. This should ensure continuity and hopefully will bring some coaches as well as some fine players. Outgoing colts are being encouraged to keep their rugby careers going and step up to senior rugby next year. We have several who have already made that leap.

Ted Dyer and Liam Cooper experienced senior rugby for the first time this season whilst Matt Maynard and Tom Curling have played up for two seasons now. Ed Gavin has also turned out for the Stags quite regularly.

Will has highlighted some colts to keep an eye on in the 20/21 season and in particular mentions three:

- Tom Curling is a loose head prop/hooker/tighthead prop who represented the county. A robust, dynamic ball carrier with good hands and offloads well; loves going forward in attack and is very enthusiastic and wants to learn;
- Matthew Maynard who has exceptional acceleration and pace;
- Ed Gavin for his insatiable work ethic;
-and there are others.

The colts are the link from junior to senior rugby and a crucial part of any club. They are absolutely vital to our future success. Look at our current first team where normally at least 12 of the starting team have come via the colts section.

PETER BENSON (MANAGER)
WILL HARWOOD (COACH)

OUR FRONT LINE HEROES

I guess like anybody else, it was the unknown of what the lockdown was going to look like and what exactly we needed to do, that was difficult. I think the toughest part has been trying to



enforce social distancing and to cope with the shopping demand while a large proportion of the work force has had to self-isolate.

Now we are in our 6th week of lockdown it's much clearer, I'm sure you will have all seen the measures stores have had to set up to enforce social distancing. Where I work in the Reading Distribution Centre this has been far more challenging, particularly at shift changeovers - there

could be up to 500 coming off shift and another 500 coming on. We have done a lot of work from adjusting shift patterns and the obvious managing queues coming into the building, making handwash and wipes readily available as well as masks and gloves. Colleagues have been great with embracing this.

Tesco as a company have provided pop-up shops at the new Nightingale Hospitals and made hundreds of thousands of extra home delivery slots available to customers. Home delivery slots have also been reserved for the vulnerable and care homes. Stores have done the NHS hour to allow key workers to shop and get a chance to shop in their busy schedules.

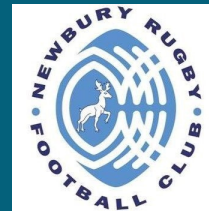
We have been sending all sorts of free stock to the NHS to thank them for their hard work from full lorries of Easter Eggs to hampers with treats in. We have also recruited thousands of colleagues to support with the shopping demand that we went through, we provided jobs on a temporary basis as well for people who's original jobs shut down over the lockdown.

JAMIE FUTCHER
Warehouse Service Shift Manager
Tesco Distribution Centre

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

HELP IN THE COMMUNITY / JOKES / DATES FOR DIARY



Geoff Fisher is providing fruit and vegetable boxes for collection from their Hambridge Lane depot. Order online on the [Fishers of Newbury](#) website. Geoff has also been making weekly fruit and veg donations to NHS staff at Newbury Hospital.

Brian Lee is offering free A Level Economics tuition - There are no A Levels this summer but if Year 12 or Year 13 students would like to consolidate some analysis before going to university, Brian Lee will be offering free tuition. This could be via Face Time, Zoom, Whatsapp or email. For child protection purposes, initial contact must be made by parents/guardians. Email: brianchapel@hotmail.com; Tel: 07740351507

West Berkshire Council's Community Support Hub is available to help anyone in need. Anyone needing support from the Community Support Hub can email WestBerkshire@public.govdelivery.com.

"Six weeks isolation has been a real blessing to my wife and I. We've been able to catch up on all those things I've done wrong over the last 20 years!"

JUNIOR JOKES

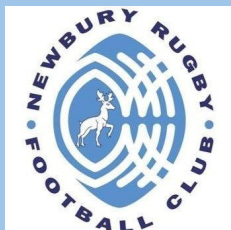
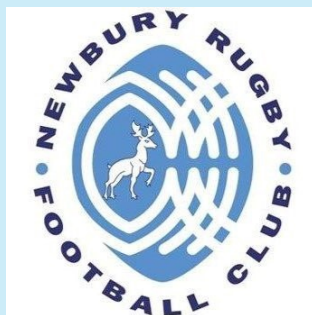
- Never fall in love with a tennis player - it means nothing to them.
- Rugby player goes to see the physio. "It hurts when I touch my arm, my leg and my chest. What's wrong with me?" Physio replies "you've broken your finger"
- Went to a rugby referees retirement party recently. We gave him a great send off!

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE VIRTUAL QUIZ NIGHT No.2

THURSDAY 28TH MAY 2020

7:30pm via Zoom
Maximum 6 people per team
£10 per team

Register your team in advance
Email Rob Harris on NRFCrgae1@gmail.com



NEWBURY RFC AGM

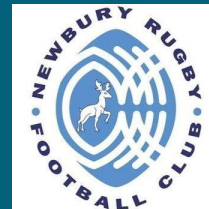
Provisionally set for 24th June 2020. Date and format will be confirmed once further guidance available.

Let us know what you have been up to during lockdown - email [David Jones](#)

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PERSONAL PROFILES FROM ACROSS OUR BLUES FAMILY



SENIOR MEN



DAN THORNE

School: Park House

Playing history: Newbury; St Mary's University, Twickenham; Berkshire Seniors

Favourite song: Oasis - Don't look Back in Anger. Memories of one of the best gigs I've been to.

Person most likely to invite to dinner: Jonny Wilkinson.

Most surprising fact: I didn't play any club rugby until I was eighteen.

Best moment at NRFC: Playoff against Clevedon in 2017. One of the greatest days ever.

Additional Info: A football convert with now over 200 Caps for the Blues, Club Captain Dan always leads from the front. He has a great skills set and his passing off right and left hand is first class as is his tactical and place kicking. Dan shows 100% commitment both in training and in matches and is an excellent ambassador for the Club, both on and off the pitch.

SENIOR WOMEN



Playing history: Dundee University (2010-2014), Abergele (2014) Chelmsford (2014-2015), Eccles (2015 - 2016), Chipping Sodbury (2016-2017), North Bristol (2017-2018), Newbury (2018-2020)

Favourite song: Phantom of the Opera

Most admired person to invite to dinner: my Grandad

Most surprising fact about yourself: I can fit my fist in my mouth

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: scoring a try from our own kick off (Berkshire Cup)

Additional Info - I am the team creep...make of that what you will.

ROSIE 'CREEPS' ARCHARD

CLUB OFFICIAL



RALPH GROVE

Playing history: Went to a non-rugby school, played football for College teams; captained 2nd and played for the 1st team in the West Midland Colleges league. In 1972 joined NRFC when moved to Newbury and as a footballer started on the wing. In 1976 ended up as hooker for the 1st and also played social rugby for The Castle Inn at Cold Ash.

Favourite song: Doors – Riders on the Storm, on radio when cruising across the states in an old Pontiac Bonneville with a couple of college mates back in '71.

Most admired person to invite for dinner: NRFC - Colin Vare – talk about the old days.

Most surprising fact about yourself: I played a game for the stags 9 years ago. I'd had more than my share of black eyes during my playing days, again true to form I got another.

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: Making 1st team debut as hooker away at Osterley and being really nervous on the way there. Won my own ball, not a given those days, and when the scrum broke up, seeing winger Bob Fidler scoring wide out. Hooker was for me.

BLUES SUPPORTERS



TINA & TONEY DINES

Playing history: **Toney** - played rugby for Park House until 1964 and then at Newbury RFC as winger for the Colts until 1967. After he smashed his knee up in a motorbike accident he unfortunately had to retire from playing. **Tina** - Never played but loved to watch all the 6 nations and internationals with her best friend and her dad as teenagers; some of them in black and white!

Favourite song: **Toney** - Who knows where the time goes (Sandy Denny and the Strawbs); **Tina** - Couldn't love you more (John Martyn).

Most admired person to invite for dinner: **Toney** - Michael Palin; **Tina** - Joe Lycett

Most surprising fact about yourself: **Toney** is an anorak about classic Triumph cars!; **Tina** used to be one of the top 10 lady long-bow archers in the UK - many moons ago.

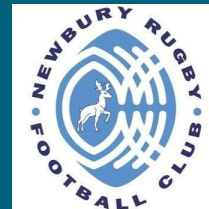
Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: **Toney** - Watching Newbury Blues go up into top league; **Tina** - seeing Kyle Doel put down two tries in the home game against Barnstaple this season.

Additional info: **Toney** has a huge allotment and loves to grow and then eat all his own produce (sorry Geoff Fisher). He's also in to traditional long-bow archery. **Toney and Tina** have sponsored Kyle Doel for several seasons and thoroughly enjoy watching him play.

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

MEMORIAL - BRIAN DURNFORD



I recall looking out of my office window at the Coffee House in The Broadway, Newbury and noticing a smartly dressed gentleman stepping out of Barclays Bank. I remembered seeing the same gentleman at my 'new' rugby club the previous Saturday. My thoughts of Brian Durnford, 40 years on remain as my first impression - what a kind and proper gentleman.

Brian was a great Newbury man. He spent his life in Newbury - educated at St Bart's Grammar School and a career with Barclays Bank in Newbury, although it is rumoured he did venture to work as far away as Reading but he soon returned to Newbury!! He lived with his family, Pauline his wife and their children in Newbury and was a great family man.

Brian played rugby at St Bart's and on to Newbury RFC where he played mainly at full back and was renowned for his prestigious kicking ability. When he became a spectator he often commented on kicking styles - normally politely!! He played for Berkshire and was recognised by all who played with him as a good chap and a pretty good rugby player.

Brian worked for Barclays Bank all his life although during that time, despite his healthy appearance, he did suffer heart attacks. He worked hard to recover and after his last one, when he had retired, he was advised by his doctor to take regular exercise. So, Brian walked 5 miles every day! I recall frequently driving into Newbury and seeing Brian stride up the Andover Rd on his route home.

When his playing days were over, Brian became a supporter, committee member and a volunteer and continued to do so for the next 60 years of his life. My memories of Brian at Pinchington Lane were not just of Brian, but it was a family occasion with his wife Pauline helping prepare the special Newbury teas and his daughter Carol also offering to help wherever possible. I also recall Brian behind the bar, being allowed there by "the boss" Golden Wickens.

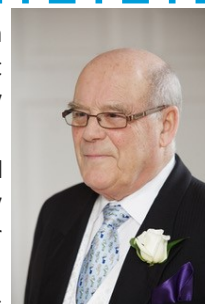
The rugby connection continued when their daughter Carol married Newbury rugby legend and Life Member Dave Hawkins. David and Carol had two children Paul and Christopher who both also played rugby. Brian was rightly proud of his grandchildren. Paul was an England Colt international and had a very good rugby career, also playing for Newbury first team. I will always remember the day when his brother Chris also made his first team debut; a very proud Grandfather stood on the balcony and watched with joy! Brian's son John sadly died at too young an age, but he had two grandsons who will continue the Durnford name. Shortly after Brian passed away, Dave and Carol Hawkins became grandparents for the first time when Paul's wife gave birth to Elsie. Life continues for Brian's family as it does for us all, with a mix of sadness and joy.

When we moved to Monks Lane, Brian was again at the forefront of volunteering and as Newbury progressed up the national leagues, we had bigger crowds and lunches before all games became an important part of our rugby day. Hosting our visitors was a very important part of our hospitality and indeed is a vital part of the camaraderie of rugby union. Brian epitomised all of that and was a first class ambassador for Newbury RFC. So many rugby clubs commented upon Newbury's superb hospitality. Brian was joined in this role by Ray Cooper and they were definitely a double act, if not quite Morecambe and Wise then Brian and Ray became well known on the circuit, especially when they ventured on their away trips to Harrogate. To say these trips were legendary would be an understatement, but before the game on a Saturday, Brian and Ray always shared a Friday evening dinner with Harrogate President Roy Guy. It is fair to say at lunch the following day before the Harrogate v Newbury game Brian, though still immaculately turned out in blazer and club tie, was not quite the usual smiling manI should add Ray was not that good either!! Roy Guy was always pleased the drinks bill was less than usual!!

Brian's devoted service and sterling efforts for Newbury RFC, both as a player and volunteer, over 70 years was rightly recognised when he became a Life Member. I will always remember one Life Members lunch at Newbury when looking back through the history of our games, I related a game played between Newbury and Windsor in 1955 when Brian Durnford and Malcolm Fraser, now also sadly departed, were sitting next to one another at lunch. The match report recorded Fraser and Durnford had scored all Newbury's points in a Newbury victory. On that day they were the two oldest surviving Life Members of Newbury RFC; sitting next to each other at lunch as they had been together playing on the field 69 years previously - treasured memories.

When Brian stepped down from his hosting duties he remained a regular visitor for lunch and still turned out in his club tie and blazer; immaculate as the first impression I had formed when I saw him 40 years ago. A real gentleman and one who will be greatly missed.

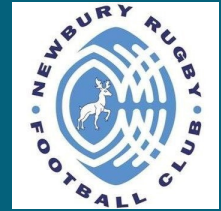
Brian's last couple of years were inflicted by the cruelty caused by dementia. Pauline, his dear wife, is not in the best of health and daughter Carol and husband Dave and their families, give great love and support. We send them our condolences and every best wish.



DAVID SMITH

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

COACHES' CORNER



Women's rugby at NRFC

Its development over the past two decades or so has been truly remarkable. The first women's league game at Newbury was played in 1997 and it has grown remarkably since then due in no small measure to the efforts of Rosie Golby who started the girls section in 2005 and Louise Goodall who was chair of the women's section for a good number of years. The start of season 2019/2020 saw the appointment of Darran Brown as new coach for the women. Darren reflects on his first season at NRFC.

Brian Lee

Promising First Season

Since my first conversation with Lou and coaching session with the Ladies, I realised very quickly that the club had a positive vibe; players wanted to learn, develop and build something more than just wins on a match day.... They wanted to create a culture to welcome all players of many abilities and experiences. Who would not want to be part of that?

The season started off with a couple of tough games. Even though results did not go our way, the ability and togetherness shone through, setting us up for a good first season, finishing fourth in a very competitive league, at times playing some fantastic team rugby, winning praise from opponents, officials and supporters, the players adapting to a new style of leadership and management.

Throughout the season we recruited new players to our league squad and development/social side, of which many stepped up when asked. This showed the real depth and support the players have for each other and the club.

On a personal note I could not be more proud of the players. Joining the club was a fantastic opportunity to work with a hungry group of players who genuinely love the club and rugby. The support they give to each other on and off the pitch has pleased me the most.....coaching them is easy, as they make coaching enjoyable.

Off field support by Nicki Gray has been exceptional, as has the support by Lou Goodall and Captain Meg Mason. All three have played a huge part in aiding transition.

Despite the early ending for all things rugby, players again have shown their quality by running conditioning sessions during isolation – the beauty of modern technology, also linking nicely to my request of each player being 10-15% better conditioned all round for next season.

I can't wait to see how far the two squads can go... I am excited and cannot wait to see where the next 2-3 years will take us..... the journey has just begun.... consistency will be our mantra for next season. We all will be better!



DARRAN BROWN

Head Coach - Newbury Ladies

FROM THE ARCHIVES.....

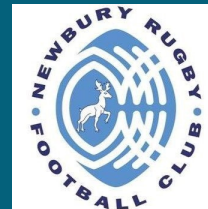


This was the Veterans' rugby team in the 1990s when they carried a Multiple Sclerosis patient across the foothills of Snowdon in Wales – an all-day timed charity race which was organised by the infamous prop, George Strang. The race involved crossing rivers, climbing hills and wading through mud. There are a few familiar faces and an ex-first team captain in there? Can you name 6? Answers by email to [David Jones](#).

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

COPING WITH SELF-ISOLATION



WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO KEEP YOURSELVES AMUSED AT HOME



LATEST FROM THE LADIES

Following the fun of our fitness challenge from Farnham RFC, we ran our own fitness challenge for the week running up to our EoS evening. We spent the week racking up as many points as we could by doing different types of exercises, as well as daily challenges. The plank challenge saw people climbing trees, scaffolding and roofs.... and the rainbow run also provided a great deal of enjoyment for both ourselves and the general public.

On Friday 1st May we held our End of Season Awards Ceremony via Zoom. We all got dressed up (from the waist upwards), poured a drink, prepared ourselves a meal and logged on to Zoom for our End Of Season Celebrations. We had a tear-jerking speech from outgoing Captain Meg Mason and awards for the Development, Social and Ladies Teams, presented by our coach Darren. Since everyone was muted for improved sound quality, there was some improvised, silent heckling in the form of written notes and hand signals. Once the formalities were over we had a virtual Disco, courtesy of our resident DJ, Devon. Judging by

the state of everyone at Zumba the next morning, staying at home didn't make that much difference to the celebrations. Here are our award winners for the 19/20 season:

Social & Development Team:

Players Player - Claire Kirby

Player of the Year - Sophie Rothwell

Club Person - Alistair Gray

1st XV Awards:

Best Newcomer - Charlotte Dodd

Most Improved - Abbie Leadbitter

Spectators Player - Devon Holt

Body on the Line - Hannah 'Tom' Ward

Players Player - Carrie Smith

Coaches Player - Emma Swinton



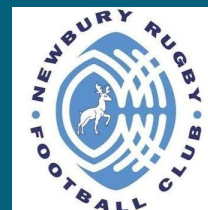
The day after our EoS Awards evening, when most of us were recovering, 3 of our players were doing ALOT of burpees. Becky, Carrie and Chantelle are part of the Army Rugby Team who collectively pledged 86,652 burpees, the number of seats at Twickenham where they were due to play the Navy team in a historic Inter Service game. With help (and motivation) from a few other team members they did 1000 burpees each, that's one way to kick off pre-season. This massive feat is in aid of NHS Charities Together.

<https://www.justgiving.com/FUNDRAISING/ARMYNAVYBURPEECHALLENGE>

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

JUNIOR PUZZLE PAGE



RUGBY WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the hidden words related to Newbury Rugby Club in the maze below?

R L G W B B L D Q M D R L Y D L B K
S S E N T I F E M I T Y N A O P V R
N Z D J R M Q J V R X T T U V B X L
S W B A U B W T K M T N I J K V D S
R I J D V K I C K E R S B A R J G S
Z U N E T I U S S N E K C I W A M Y
M R G I T P D C G G S D R T T O K V
D O J B M P O J O A R R N S O B M Y
T D U K Y A I O O A L W O R Y W T B
J H T T C B D H O N T F G I T X Y L
S G G H H A A B S T E N H S N L Y B
C R E I L G E L M D I S T C Z U L P
H S E L N R U R L G N O T D U U J M
I C B B O Z E A N S O E B U E O X L
P O L C M E I A R B B Z I S D L T G
S L S J B E H U N D D N B R G S R D
B T N Q R C M J Q M S X J Z F Z M Y
B S Y N D T M R Z Y Y G G Z R Z L P

Scoreboard

Touch Flags

Anytime Fitness

Members

Louise Goodall

Minis

Changing Rooms

Mud

Studs

Quiz Night

Friendship

Wickens Suite

Coaches

Kickers Bar

Juniors

Beer

David Jones

Mouthguards

Blues

Colts

Stags

Boots

Rugby Balls

Chips

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!