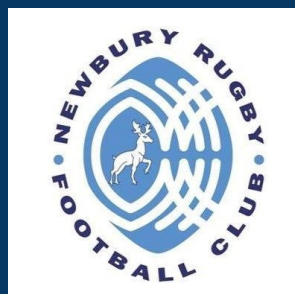


BLUES NEWS

KEEPING IN TOUCH - 18

DECEMBER 2021



This newsletter is sponsored by



**Newbury
Building Society**

WHAT'S INSIDE

Update from the President

New Club Manager

What's on at Monks Lane

Transatlantic Challenge

Tree planting at Monks Lane

Feedback from FAGM

Sponsorship

Offa's Dyke, East London and Hadrian's Wall -

Brian Lee

Friends of Newbury RFC

Latest from the Women's Section

Projects & Fundraising Update

Minis - Game Update

Sponsor a Shirt

The Venue

If you would like to contribute to the next Blues News, please email content to David Jones

**NEWBURY
RUGBY CLUB**

A Merry festive Christmas season to one and all.

We have had a lot of rugby activity in the last 4 months, both on and off the pitch. I would like to say a huge thank you to every single volunteer who gives up their time to make this such a fabulous place to train, play and socialise. The commercial team also deserve a big pat on the back for driving the club finances during the week especially, which most of us know little about.

Saturday 11th Dec sees the Blues at home to Frome RFC in our Christmas home double, the first time in many years the fixtures have worked our way. We look forward to welcoming Frome RFC and their supporters for the first time in the leagues on Saturday. After the game against Frome we will have some live music in the Kickers Bar, courtesy of our own Phil Lamb, former Blues player and first team centre for nearly 20 years, so we hope everyone will stay and enjoy a few songs with Phil.

At Chippenham last week the Blues' supporters outnumbered the home ones despite the cold. The Blues seemed to enjoy playing on the all weather pitch and the faster pace of the game seems to suit the style of rugby the coaches are developing. There were some great individual and team moments, where the support play was impressive. How great to see 50 year old Graham Stewart holding his own against a prop 31 years his junior and showing Dylan that Dad has still got it!!

The Stags had a tough day against Chinnor but their second half performance reflected a very positive attitude on a day when the odds seem stacked against them.

The women in South West 2 had a recent loss against Trojans and last weekend played Cullompton. This level of rugby is a high standard and quite a challenge, which the ladies are meeting positively and gaining lots of experience.

Over the last few weeks the Newbury Schools Floodlit Rugby Tournament has been running at the club, involving 6 local schools. This has been sponsored by the club for many years as part of our community commitment and for those of us who have had children play in this competition, know it is a strongly contested tournament; bit like playing your big derby match every week. In the past it has included past players such as Tom Croft and Jonathon Joseph.

Next Saturday, 18th December, we have our mini Real Ale Festival back at the club on the outside terrace and over 200 booked for Christmas lunch. There is also be hot food available outside. Dan Thorne (Blues Captain) has organised mulled wine, mince pies and carol singing after the game so book your taxis, stay around and get into the Festive spirit. The game will kick off at 2.30pm but we hope there will be an Under 15s exhibition game first, at about 12 noon, so come early and support the youngsters.

The next Rugby Club quiz is on Friday 17th December. Please contact Rob Harris to book your team in.

Don't forget our traditional friendly against Hungerford on Boxing Day has been resurrected and is being played at Monks Lane. Bring your boots and you might get on!! A very social occasion!

Thank you as always to our sponsors for their very generous support (the lifeline of the club) and our amazing supporters. We have various fundraising initiatives running at the moment - sponsor a shirt, sponsor a tree, become a friend of NRFC and raffles, so if you can help on any of them, you are helping preserve your club. Thank you.

As ever a big thank you to all contributors, especially this month to the Mini Section for their Games Update, but also regular contributors Brian Lee and Rob Harris and Sarah Thorne for putting it all together.

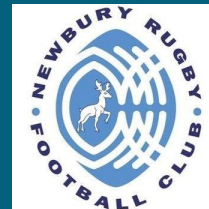
Have a great Christmas and enjoy your rugby!

David Jones - President

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

NEW CLUB MANAGER



INTRODUCING LOUISE TROTT - NEW CLUB MANAGER

We are delighted to welcome Louise, who will officially take up the position of Club Manager at the beginning of December. Even though she hasn't started yet, she has wasted no time in getting to know staff and meeting some key people to learn about the different roles that they perform on our behalf. She is also busy gaining an understanding of the club's business. Some of you will have already seen or met Louise when she attended the recent Finance AGM and she is looking forward to attending her first home match on Saturday 11th December.

Louise comes to us with a great deal of experience of running a sports club and 11 years' experience specifically in hospitality. As well as having the required leadership ability and skills, she has demonstrable business acumen and has significantly grown her previous employer's business which now operates over two venues, Newbury and Reading.

Asking Louise what was her secret to her success, she told me, "There is no real secret. When it comes to managing staff, I like to earn their respect by leading by example. I have a can-do attitude and am prepared to get "stuck in" when it needs it". She went on to say, "in hospitality you have to work with a number of different people, suppliers and contractors. I have developed fantastic working relationships with the people I worked with in my previous job, which I hope to do again here. By developing an understanding of each other's businesses, I find it builds mutual respect and generates good will so that when you need support, for an event or to grow demand, they are there for you".

Of course, many of you may have seen Louise around at NRFC over the years, accompanying her dad Brian or mum Leslie at rugby games and events. She says, "I obviously know a little bit about the club and some of the people here, but I am really looking forward to getting started, bringing my own experience to bear, working with others to continue the great work that has been started here".

Louise joins us officially on 6 December. If you see her, please give her the warmest of NRFC welcomes.

STEVE GIBBS - CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

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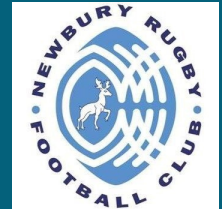
jones robinson

SIMUL MOVERE

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

WHAT'S ON AT MONKS LANE



December Celebrations

Saturday 18th December
Newbury U15's game

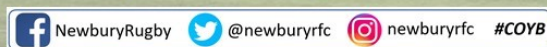
Newbury Blues vs Witney – 2.30pm

Festive Stalls
Raffle
Carols and Music

Sunday 19th December
Newbury Women vs Portsmouth Valkyries

Sunday 26th December
Boxing Day "Special"

Newbury vs Hungerford – 12.00pm



** Correct at 08.12.21 – events subject to change **

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 17th December 2021

7:30pm at Newbury Rugby Club, Monks Lane

Maximum 6 people per team £3 per head

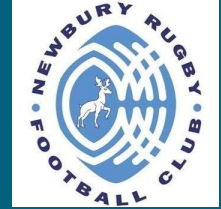
All proceeds to go to NRFC Good Exchange Projects

Please email Rob Harris on NRFCrgae1@gmail.com to register your team

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

INCREDIBLE ROWING CHALLENGE FOR JUNIOR COACH



TRANSATLANTIC ROWING CHALLENGE



Rob Murray who coaches U9 boys and U13 girls and is dad to Elora and Flynn, had his last training session at the club on the 22nd November, as he's off to row the Atlantic!!!! He and his crew flew off to the start line on 28th November for final preparations for the Talisker Atlantic Whiskey Challenge, to row 3000 nautical miles from the Canaries to Antigua! The race starts 12th December and you can follow his and the team's journey:



[Anna Victorious - Rowing Across the Atlantic Ocean, Fundraising](#)

Doitforanna

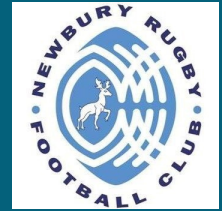
[Talisker Whisky Atlantic Rowing Challenge – The World's Toughest Row](#)
taliskerwhiskyatlanticchallenge.com



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

CLUB GOES GREEN TO SAVE THE PLANET



HELP THE ENVIRONMENT, YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE CLUB - SPONSOR A TREE TREE PLANTING EVENT - SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER

We have now received 150 young saplings courtesy of Greenham Common Trust, which we will be planting on Sunday 19th December from 10am, as part of the COP26 initiative to plant 750,000 trees in the UK. We will need as many Volunteers as possible to help with planting - it won't take long and children are welcome to come along and help.

Thank you to club member Simon Walker, who knows about trees and has volunteered to co-ordinate our efforts on the day.

If you would like to sponsor a tree, we will arrange for a personalised plaque to be placed by the tree. The money raised will go towards improving and growing community rugby at the club! Thank you to those who have already sponsored a tree. As always, your support is much appreciated.

There will be a photo shoot around 10.45am, so I'm hopeful we can get as many mini and juniors involved as possible and do our bit for their future. Thank you.

David Jones

FEEDBACK FROM THE RECENT FAGM

The FAGM was held at the club on Wed 24th November to approve the accounts for FYE 20/21, together with giving an update on the first four months of trading in FYE 2021/22.

FYE 2020/21 resulted in a pre-tax loss of £50k which in the context of a 'full' COVID-affected year, with only three rugby events all year and the majority of commercial events heavily affected, was considered a tremendous achievement. The original budget for the year anticipated a loss of £200k+. This outturn was achieved in part due to the ability to claim UK Govt furlough support, obtain grants and reliefs from West Berks Council and the RFU, as well as maximise the limited trading that was able to occur, coupled with very careful management of the business.

Four months into FYE 2021/22 and the club has achieved a Ytd pre-depreciation profit of £55k (against budget of £16k), due mainly to a very strong Commercial performance (lots of weddings, parties and room hire!!), more than covering lower than anticipated Rugby membership revenues. Costs continue to be well-maintained.

However, we are still budgeting for a full year loss as COVID is still prevalent and remains a threat to all revenue-generating activities, and we remain limited by a shortage of staff as experienced across the entire UK hospitality sector.

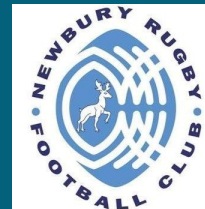
More than ever the club needs support from across its membership base and all commercial sources.

Rob Harris

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

SPONSORS



SPONSORSHIP

Robin Varley has been busy generating new sponsorship for this season. Thank you to all those sponsors who have already signed up and all offers to support the club financially. Anyone wishing to sponsor or support the club, please contact Robin Varley - NewburyRFC@varleyuk.com

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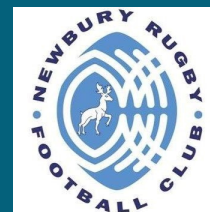
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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

OFFA'S DYKE, EAST LONDON AND HADRIAN'S WALL



Nationality. One of the things that binds us together. Middle Saturday of the 2012 London Olympics. Six golds in total that day but three that particularly resonate. Super Saturday. Absolutely. We all know the names of these three athletes competing for Team GB. They were all one of us, one of our own. What it must have been like to have been in the stadium that night with the noise and excitement who knows. It was exciting enough at home watching on the TV. Sydney, November 22nd 2003. That drop goal in the dying minutes of extra time. Another sporting hero anointed. Four English elite athletes, three of whom I regarded as one of us. The fourth, in Sydney was not representing me, was not "one of my boys." I was delighted England had won the World Cup. However I was delighted not for myself, but for the English friends I have knowing how much it meant to them and the thousands of other decent, honest, hard working people involved with English rugby. And then a British Lions tour and there I was regarding Jonny as one of my own, from my country.

Nationality in Great Britain is a strange thing. I have tried to explain the subtle cultural, political, social and religious differences between the Welsh and the English to my American daughter-in-law. She struggles to understand. Sometimes I do. "But you all have the same passport don't you, you all generally speak the same language don't you? She's right of course and many people you hear speaking say they are both British and English or British and Welsh or British and Scottish. Some people would change the order of this listing and some would disagree entirely but it does not negate the fact that the things that bind all three countries together are stronger than the differences. OK so the Scottish anthem sung at rugby games talks about packing the English back home, the second verse of God Save the Queen talks about scattering enemies, making them fall and confounding their politics but all anthems provide a feeling of evoking national pride and this is positive so long as national pride doesn't tip over into rampant nationalism and the excesses this brings.

We all have a national identity and for some elite rugby players this culminates in being chosen to represent their country. But for some, what does "their country" mean? Mako and Billy, Tongan by heritage, born in New Zealand and Australia respectively, brought up in Wales, moving to the South West due to their mother's job and choosing to play for England. (I'm over this now.....almost); Nick Tompkins, born in Sidcup in Kent, successful product of Saracens Academy choosing to play for Wales due to a Welsh grandmother; Duhan van de Merwe, born in George in South Africa, moved to play for Worcester via Montpellier and Edinburgh and made his Scottish debut in 2020. Residency rules, don'tcha just love 'em. There was a story going round a few years back of a player who played for a Midlands club who chose to live over the border in Wales knowing he had a better chance of winning a cap with Wales than with his native England. He did win a few caps but I can't help wondering how he must have felt when the English anthem was being played and he was dressed in red. Perhaps he didn't care. Perhaps none of us would care if we were winning our debut international cap.

What is clear is that once a player has played for one country at senior level he or she is barred from playing for another country. Or is it? The news broke last week that the regulations on international representation are changing and now players like All Black Charles Piutau, Tongan by heritage, New Zealand by birth are able to play for a country in which a parent or grandparent was born even if they have played for a different country so long as it has been three years since their last international cap. He gave a fascinating insight into his feelings on these changes to the BBC and cynics like myself who have always claimed that players cannot have that strong an emotive intrinsic feeling for more than one country, the country of their birth or their heritage, are left wondering if this point of view needs to be thought through with a bit more subtlety. Perhaps it's not that black and white.

It will be interesting to see how these new regulations pan out and as the experts say there are likely to be some unintended consequences, like Alex Lozowski being eligible to play for Italy or Alex Goode being eligible to play for Wales. However if it all leads to the Pacific Island teams becoming stronger and being able to compete on a more equal footing with the tier one nations then what can be bad with that? Couple this with the formation of the Fijian Drua or to be more precise the Swire Shipping Fijian Drua, to compete in the Super Rugby Championship and who knows what impact all this will have on the World rugby order.

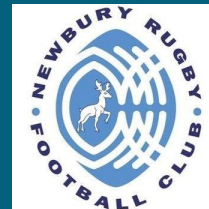
That's for way into the future. For the more immediate future, I'm just about to write to Eddie with a plea not to bring Billy and Mako back into the English set up for the next three years, and whilst he's at it to drop Henry Slade for the next three years as well and come to that Maro, Freddie Steward and Marcus Smith. Who knows there may be a Welsh grandparent lurking somewhere in their background. Fantasy world? Mmmm.....

Brian Lee

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

FRIENDS OF NEWBURY RFC



Dear Newbury Supporter

As an ex-player, parent or supporter, I am sure your past or present connection with NRFC is dear to you. You are not alone, so we have been looking at a simple way that you and others can reconnect with your club. We are establishing a '**Friends**' group to support the Club and bring old friends and players together for an annual cost of £40. You can join via the Shop on Pitchero or by setting up a DD to the NRFC directly (see below).

Apart from supporting your Club, what will being 'a **Friend**' give you:

A chance to go to Twickenham

A one off, introductory offer. The first 93 (the age of the NRFC in 2021) that sign up as a **Friend** will go into a ballot for 2 free tickets for a Twickenham International.

Prize draw entry

£5 of your subscription will annually go into a cash prize draw pool:

- 1st prize will be 40% of the pool
- 2nd prize 30% of the pool
- 3rd prize 20% of the pool
- 4th prize 10% of the pool

Events

We will arrange events during the year.

A reunion day is scheduled for April 2nd 2022

We hope to hold a **Friends** Golf Day

We will have a lunch with a guest speaker.

In future years we hope to expand **Friends** Events

Discount Card

You will receive a **Friends** card which can be used at any **Friends** Event (only) at the Club for discounted drinks.

Become a **Friend**, join this exciting new group to stay in touch and support your club and maybe even remember your rugby days.

How to join: Go to: www.pitchero.com/clubs/newburyrfc/news

Click on shop - Scroll down to Other - Click on NRFC Friends group - Select Buy - Complete the simple transaction

Or to set up a Direct Debit please e-mail friends@newburyrfc.org.uk and we will work with you to set this up.

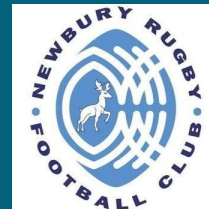
*** All surpluses will go directly into developing Community Rugby ***



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

LATEST FROM THE WOMENS' SECTION



The Ladies have endured a tough start to their league campaign. Despite steady numbers at training and strong match day squads, we are finding ourselves "one play, one kick and one good performance away from taking our game to the next level". The side is a good mix of exciting young and new players, with a great blend of experience. A strong second half of the season is our collective target, as we grow both on and off the field.

On field while results may have been not in our favour, we have begun developing a strong 2nd XV. Many have stepped up to support 1st XV games, creating a fantastic culture and buzz around the squad. I am very confident we will hit 2022 hard and cause a stir.

Darren Brown

Newbury Ladies Head Coach

CLUB SHOP

Opening times will be as follows:

Tuesday 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Wednesday 7.15pm – 8.00pm

Saturday 3.00pm – 5.00pm (first team home games only)

Sunday 10:30am - 12.30pm

See the website for full details of kit available – simply scan the QR code.

If you have any questions or queries on any item or need help to place an order, please contact **Nigel Beal** on email - nigel.beal@icloud.com.



THERE WILL BE SOME OLD MIZUNO KIT BEING SOLD OFF AT REDUCED PRICES ALONG WITH NEW STOCK INCLUDING OUR NEW CLUB TIE. PLEASE ENQUIRE AT CLUB SHOP FOR DETAILS - THERE WILL BE A KIT STALL AT BLUES HOME MATCHES ON 11TH & 18TH DECEMBER.



100+ CLUB

Have you bought your monthly draw ticket yet?

Did you have an annual ticket that has expired?

You can buy a monthly ticket via Pitchero for just £2 a month - simply scan the QR code.

You have to be in it to win it!!

Ticket holders must be over 16 years of age.



Congratulations to our latest 100 Club draw winners:

1st Toni Hodgson

2nd Roy Pratley

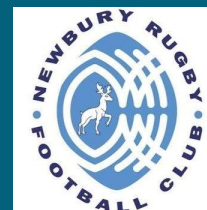
3rd Aaron Johnston

A BIG 'THANK YOU' to recent winners who have again kindly donated their winnings to the Club's Good Exchange projects. This is hugely appreciated.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PROJECTS & FUNDRAISING UPDATE - DECEMBER 2021



Over **£50,000** now raised from donations / fund-raising (and match-funding)

12 projects now completed since August 2019

All monies raised are used to fund NRFC community-benefit capex projects

The current Good Exchange fund-raising year commenced on 1st April 2021 and we have completed a further two projects Ytd, including the conversion of the car park lighting to LEDs. Thank you again to the Colefax Charitable Trust for their very generous support.

We have two live projects (see below) but we need to identify a further £12k of project value prior to 31st March 2022 to maximise the benefit of the Good Exchange scheme.

Current Live projects:

Description	Amount	Project No	Status	Comments
Facility Security upgrade (doors / entrance gates)	£4,148	18540	Project live Dec'20	Improve building & grounds security to upgrade existing access points £28 raised to date
Players entrance door	£3,492	18843	Project live May'21	Replace players entrance door £200 raised to date

To donate to any of the above, you can do so in one of two ways:

via Newbury RFC (and we will direct these onto one of the projects unless specifically requested otherwise); or

via the following link: <https://thegoodexchange.com>, where you can donate to your preferred Newbury RFC project.

ROB HARRIS

6/12/21



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC



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Ages 5 +
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BOOK YOUR FREE SESSION NOW!

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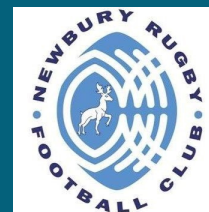
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2022!
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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

GAMES UPDATE - DECEMBER 2021



News from the U8, U9, U10, U11 and U12 age groups in October and November

Welcome to the first report of some of the great games our younger teams have played over the last few weeks. I know when I speak with all at the club how important the younger teams are to our overall community approach and the support it offers. I hope you enjoy this report and please feel free to share and updates or feedback. Many thanks, Sarah Tunstall

U8S - READING ABBEY FESTIVAL - 31ST OCTOBER

On what started as a very miserable, wet and windy Sunday morning turned out to be a great day of rugby. The skies eventually turned blue and our young blues put in some brilliant performances against really tough opposition. Our players showed how well they are starting to grasp the game and how it's meant to be played, whilst playing competitively and in a sporting manner. Having now played in two tournaments we are starting to see the development of some great team spirit as the blues start to form new friendship bonds, sharing stories from their last match whilst enjoying cakes and bacon butties from the stalls at Reading Abbey Festival.



U9S - READING ABBEY SHIELD

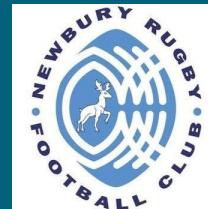
A resilient 27 strong under 9s squad travelled to Reading Abbey for their annual tournament in what can only be described as torrential conditions. The worst was feared at the sight of 40 plus parents and kids huddled under a small gazebo whilst the wind and rain pelted down in all directions. But unsurprisingly, the mood within was buoyant and the under 9s were raring to go. Fortunately, the worst of the weather cleared up by the time we were on the field and the conditions were pleasant. Newbury managed to field three squads who all did incredibly well in their respective pools. It's always great to see the players compete against other teams as it gives the coaches and parents a sense of perspective in terms of their development and how they are progressing both individually but more importantly as a team and Newbury throughout the three squads did not disappoint. There were many great examples of individual brilliance, great teamwork both in offence and defence and an overwhelming sense of things finally coming together. Added to that, the strength in depth of the squad of the U9s seems really healthy in comparison to other sides who seemed to have minimal numbers which meant all three Newbury squads fielded sides to match their opponents' numbers with a subs bench of 3-4 players each match. Lastly but by no means least, the attitude of this squad is worthy of note. Their behaviour in the way they represent the club both on and off the field is always brilliant. They are a credit to their parents and to the NRFC. Well done the U9's!!



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

GAMES UPDATE - DECEMBER 2021



U9S AT HENLEY

Newbury U9s travelled to Henley for what would be their first competitive tournament since March 2020. 20 players, formed into two squads for the day, took to the pitch to face Maidenhead, Bracknell, Henley, Rams and Saracens. Both squads competed really well throughout the day and showed real signs of improvement through some great team and individual performances which provided on the whole an enjoyable day of rugby from the U9s. What was particularly satisfying from a coaching perspective was seeing the players quickly respond to specific instructions during play showing that they are progressing and developing week by week. As ever, the Newbury U9s represented the club incredibly well both on and off the field and remained in good spirits throughout the day making the day a real pleasure to be a part of. A big thanks to Henley who put on a very well organised tournament.



U10S - HENLEY FESTIVAL

It was with some trepidation that we set off to the Henley rugby minis festival. As Under 10s we had been doing tackling for a whole year in training sessions, but as this was the covid year we had been on and off, bubbled, not bubbled, and hadn't attended a single festival in about 18 months. This was our first outing where we would be doing full contact, so how would we get on? As it turned out – amazingly well!! We took two squads for the festival, 21 children in total, and each team played five games. We needn't have worried about their tackling, as they were passionate, involved and going for everything. Even some of the players that had been nervous about tackling in training sessions beforehand were getting involved like they never had before. Lots of tries were scored, some solo efforts, but an increasing number from great teamwork and support play. Every single one of us – kids, parents and coaches – had a great day out and were incredibly proud of how our teams played and behaved, both on and off the pitch.

U11S - HENLEY FESTIVAL

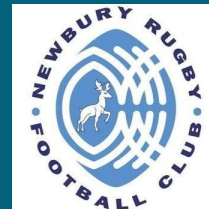
It was great fun to finally get the under 11s to a festival. We had two teams playing and both teams showed that they had remembered the skills from training! We had some tough teams but the under 11s showed true determination and great rugby to make it a great festival.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

GAMES UPDATE - DECEMBER 2021



U12S FLY HIGH AT HENLEY HAWKS FESTIVAL

On a beautiful sunny Sunday, Newbury u12s travelled to Henley Hawks Tournament with 22 players in two squads. The boys have been training incredibly hard through covid restrictions and the coaching staff were very excited to see in action for the first time in 20 months. 'Newbury A' opened against Drifters, in minute one the abrasive Josh Sameke set the scene of the Tournament with the biggest hit on the biggest 11 year old, the rest of the team followed. A fantastic display of running rugby with the elusive Deacon Cullen and speedster Henry Wilson running in tries. Power play from Henri-Tomas Bray went over followed by a mazey Seb Crosse. Newbury As winning 5-1. Second up Maidenhead. A's continued to work hard in defence with turnover ball coming easy for Jack Denner, setting up more tries for Harry Fenner, Cullen, Wilson, Bray, Mason. The A's strolling to a 6-1 win. Alton came next, a tough match with tactical Will Mason guiding the team to the game plan. Newbury scored some excellent offloading team tries to come out on top 3-1. 4th Match was a cracker, Amersham & Chiltern. Newbury went to a quick 3 to nil in the first few minutes, Amersham came back with a huge amount of physicality and power game. Great defence from Jonas Hamisi, Sam Hawkins, Freddie Corneck kept A&C to one try. Newbury A's winning 3-1. A huge defensive effort by all had an affect with losing two players to injury for the final game.



Last game against Beaconsfield, with tired and bruised bodies on both sides, Newbury stuck to the game plan, stayed focused and ran in 5 tries to win 5-2. 'Newbury B' kicked off against a spirited Beaconsfield side containing some of the biggest under 12's surely to ever play the sport. Undaunted, the team set about the task and soon found their superior ball handling and support play was paying dividends, with the first of what turned into 7 tries being run in. There was no respite for Beaconsfield in defence either, with some thunderous hits going in from Wilf Copcutt and Finlay Saich, ripping the ball free in many

cases ready to begin yet another attack. Huge impact running from Josh Kester, and many a clean pair of heels from Jacob Hamlin and William Gibley meant the B's started the campaign in fine form, winning 7-0. Next up came Maidenhead, who were soon to experience the power of the B's defence, where hard as they tried they were unable to cross our line. With outstanding efforts from Ben Greenland, Wilf and Josh, it was looking like a difficult 12 minutes ahead for the purple and blacks, which was soon to be made worse as the floodgates opened and tries began to flow through great running lines from Jonny Legh-Smith, Ed Hancock, Josh Burgess and super smart poaching from Jacob. Stoic defence led by an inspiring Freddie Hume meant the B's ran out victorious 5-0. Our next opponents were one of our nearest rivals, Tadley Tigers. A must-win game, the boys in blue set about mauling the boys in yellow, and with some support play worthy of a Twickenham crowd they dismantled Tadley's defence and romped to another 7-0 win. Outstanding attacking contributions from Finlay, Freddie, Wilf, Ed, Jonny, Zac Roberts and both Josh's, backed up by wall-like defence from Ben, Jacob, William amongst others meant we were rapidly becoming the team to be watched. Fourth up, the home team - Henley - who were always going to pose a stiff test. And they didn't disappoint. Playing similar expansive rugby as the B's, and with a solid defence, this was going to be an altogether different game. A tight first half saw some brilliant work up the middle from Josh Kester, Ben, Freddie amongst others, creating space for Ed Hancock race over in the corner only to have the ball dislodged before crossing the whitewash, which was to be the only time the B's got near their line. Our epic defence, led by tackle-of-the-tournament man Finlay, meant the same was also true for Henley, as they couldn't find a way around the ferocious tackling and big hits going in all over the pitch. A stirring half time team talk focussed the boys on the job ahead, and they set about it by scoring early in the half, only to see the home team return the complement - 1-1. In what was a massive effort, each player stepped up, showed awesome bravery, made the hits, and we found a way through for a second try, with Newbury B's victorious 2-1. After such efforts, the fifth and last game was going to be a stretch. With Amersham and Chiltern's coach already writing them off, B's set about living up to the hype with William Gibley yet again enjoying acres of space on the wing, sprinting through for a try on his opening touch. The boys dug really deep to produce 4 other tries, letting only one in, meaning we ended the game 5-1 winners.

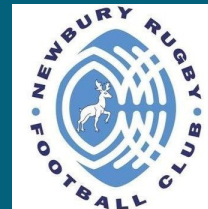
2 Squads: Played 10 Won 10 Tries: For 49 Against: 8

Coaches Corner: The coaches are absolutely delighted and couldn't be prouder of the two squads for their TREDs attitude, enthusiasm in attack, determination in defence, how they listen to work as a team to set up game play to score tries. They are a talented bunch, who have so much fun together, especially the teamwork, camaraderie, committed and skilful throughout, they were a credit. We as coaches are very lucky to coach this age group.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT NEWBURY RFC

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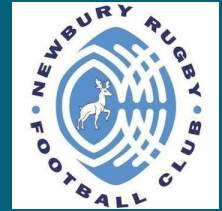
1 x game £20 - All 13 x home games £195

Louise Goodall, Club Chair - Louise.goodall.rugby@gmail.com

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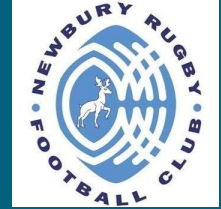


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