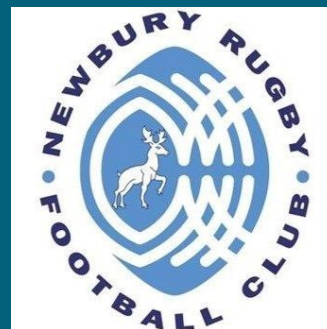


BLUES NEWS

KEEPING IN TOUCH - 5

JUNE 2020



WHAT'S INSIDE

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100+ CLUB

*Congratulations to the
May draw winners:*

1st Peter Wilding

2nd David Maconie

3rd Chris Tanner

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**

Welcome to our 5th 'Keeping in Touch' Newsletter and 'Thank You' to all those who have contributed. We hope you find something relevant to you and it goes some way to making you aware of what is going on at the club.

Bubbles, updates and re-engaging are the themes this week. Adam and Rob have been working incredibly hard on the accounts and if you register (via [Christine Morrell](#)) for the virtual AGM next Monday, being organised by former chairman Julian Lewis, you will have a clear picture of the club's finances. It would be great if you can take the time to attend, as a few people have been working very hard on your behalf and we need to know what your thoughts are. For full details, see the links in the announcement below.

During this period of Covid-19 Lockdown, The RFU have provided 28 bi-weekly updates giving some guidance to us as a club, whilst our management Board have met 13 times via Zoom and the committee and trustees have also met regularly. Although the path is opening up for Premiership rugby to maybe kick off in August, unfortunately there is no timescale yet for Community rugby clubs. However, the relaxation of the rules has allowed us to experiment with the men's senior squad to commence training this week, with Mick 'keep it clean' Futch in charge of buckets and ensuring all the hands and all the balls were suitably sanitised for the players in their pods of 6, and ensuring common sense prevailed. Chair, Lou Goodall has written an article on the pathway back to rugby, which is included in this newsletter (full version on the website).

The Women will follow in mid-July but we need to receive further advice on the minis and juniors, before their return. Brian Trott has been appointed to ensure we fulfil our requirements to comply with safety procedures for the rest of the club – 'Thank you Brian'.

Lou and I attended a virtual webinar with the RFU, aimed at the future of Level 5 and 6 Community Rugby Clubs. The key issues they identified were: all decisions must be player centric; travel times to matches; ensuring there is a meaningful competition structure; sustainability.

With so many clubs, there was a big variance on opinion. We only discussed player welfare and the competition structure – there was a debate about whether to reduce league games to 18/20 instead of 26 and then have a cup competition - not a bad idea. However, I was quite disappointed the debate did not touch on sustainability or travel times, despite me raising the question, as this is obviously key to NRFC at the moment. In my view we are a community rugby club playing the best rugby we can, but we are here to serve the local community. However, it would be great to hear your views on what type of club you want. Let us know!!

The Newbury Ladies have launched a [recruitment video](#) on Facebook about returning to rugby – do take a look. As of a week ago it had had well over 10,000 hits and attracted some national attention! Well done girls!

Membership is now open and we hope you will re-join as soon as you can and give the club some much valued support. The committee and Lou have come up with a staggered scheme to reflect the current situation so please read on.

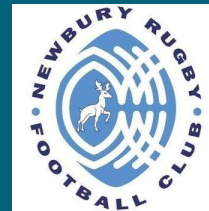
Lastly we need innovative individuals and ideas to generate much needed income into the club. Please let me know if you would be prepared to help on a sub-group. Despite the amazing work done this year, it will be a tough year ahead. Keep in touch! Stay safe stay alert and stay fit

David Jones - President
dwsjones@hotmail.co.uk

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

WHAT'S ON / SUPPORTING THE CLUB



NEWBURY RFC AGM

Virtual abridged AGM - at 7pm, Tuesday 30 June 2020

Further to the notification and explanatory letter sent to Members on 27 May, please see the Agenda with supporting documents and a Members' Guide to the abridged AGM, which can be downloaded from the [website](#).

At this meeting Members will receive reports from the Chair on Rugby and a Financial update from the Treasurer; and be able to raise questions on the information provided.

To attend the abridged AGM, please Register in advance by contacting the [Secretary](#) so that you can be sent details of how to access the Zoom meeting. Also, **please send any Questions to the [Secretary](#) by Friday 26 June**. Please pass this information on to your fellow Members.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in these exceptional circumstances.

[Christine Morrell - Secretary, Newbury RFC](#)

NEWBURY RFC SUMMER NIGHTS OUTDOOR CINEMA

We are hoping to stage an outdoor cinema long-weekend in July, in accordance with current Government legislation and guidance. Precise details of dates, times and showings are currently being worked through, with further announcements to follow very shortly. Food and drinks would be ordered and served / delivered using the Container on the top pitches.

Look out for further announcements.

SUPPORTING THE CLUB

Two simple ways you can financially support the club at the moment are:

100+ CLUB

This costs from just £2 a month and supports resources across the whole club. Tickets can be bought [online](#).

Voluntary Contribution

Details are available [online](#).

NEWBURY RFC CLUB SHOP

JOKES

Dad, why don't we get coronavirus?

Because we have anty bodies.



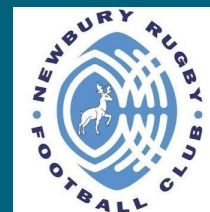
* I thought about joining Wasps to play next season, but realised they didn't have a Bee team.

* The Government have asked couples who have been married for over 7 years to volunteer to train vulnerable people on how to successfully maintain social distancing.

* What time should the man go to the dentist?
.....Tooth hurty!!!.

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

RETURN TO RUGBY 2020-2021



REPORT FROM CHAIR, LOUISE GOODALL

Introduction:

We are in unprecedented times and all, in our own way, trying to make sense of what the “new normal” will be for us and our families. The government is endeavouring to take small steps to get the country operational again. Work has resumed, albeit in a different form, schools are welcoming some age-groups back and business are putting new trading arrangements in place to survive. Understandably progress is small, but there is progress. What we need to do as a club is put in place our own version of safe progress for the benefit of our members and the survival of our club.

Ours is a contact sport, and as such is likely to be one of the last activities that is safe to play. However, there are other activities we can do for the benefit of our membership, things that are safe, manageable, flexible and take account of changing advice from the government and RFU to minimise risk. I believe that for their mental and physical wellbeing rugby players and teams need to get back in touch with their rugby family & community. “Team” is a huge part of our sport, and an element that will have been hugely missed.

Return to Rugby:

In the short term any return needs to be different. We will need to observe social distancing, minimise the use of shared equipment and movement around the club. This proposal takes account of these requirements but has also listened to the feedback from sections. It sets out the small steps that we can take towards our “new normal”. It may take some time to get there, but we should at least have plans in place to help us visualise the journey we can make and what arrangements we will put in place for a safe transition. The RFU have also produced a road map to help clubs plan their return to rugby.

We have a playing membership age that spans across several generations and ranging from minis at 5 years old to veterans close to retirement. Each group may have needs to ensure they remain safe whilst at the club. To identify the detailed needs of each group, we will undertake a risk assessment which will inform the arrangements we put in place and how they are managed to enable a safe return. For our younger age groups, whose play is always non-contact, we will need to not only take account of social distancing but also how we manage their activity and behaviour to ensure their time spent at the club is as safe as it can be. For all groups we will take account of the requirements within the RFU Regulation 15 and [Return to Rugby Roadmap](#) (fig1.) outlining the different stages of return and safeguarding good practice and appropriate new guidance.

[Appendix A](#) sets out our initial proposals for a return for each section of rugby. It is a starting point which will need to develop as we take and respond to advice. It will need to be reasonably rigid at the start to ensure we adhere to guidelines e.g. a “bubble” of no more than 5 players to 1 coach, working independently from other “bubbles”. Sessions will be only 1 hour and coaches cannot move to another bubble in any one 24 hour period. As guidance is updated, our plans will adapt.

Membership:

Whilst a return to rugby in some form will help support individual players and sections in their physical and mental wellbeing, we also need to consider the sustainability of the club and the facilities that are available. We take our responsibility to maintain and sustain Newbury Rugby Club very seriously and as such have considered what membership income is reasonable to expect as we move incrementally towards our “new normal”.

At this moment in time, we have no idea when it will be safe to play rugby, so we are putting plans in place to ensure we have a safe passage back to the sport we all love. Whilst we do this there will be many who will be more than happy to continue to pay their full membership, taking advantage of the “early bird” scheme or direct debit payments in the usual way. This we would encourage as by doing so will assure continuity of the club, particularly in the short-term which we know will be tough. However, we also want to recognise any return to rugby will start slowly and therefore offer a two instalment membership scheme which reflects the lack of game time during the early part of the season.

Choices for the Payment of membership for the 2020/21 Season will be as follows:

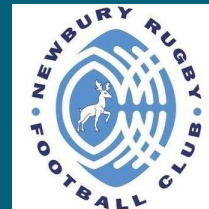
- Full annual membership – with options for discounts via “early bird” payments and monthly direct debit, or
- 2-stage payment scheme
 - payment 1 - a proportion of full membership, paid initially until play returns
 - payment 2 – the balance of full membership due once play resumes.

The way in which the staged payments have been calculated, take account of several things e.g. how much activity can be offered initially, players whose teams are in a league, the number of games normally played in a season, and, for those non-playing members that initially there will only be the club to support.

As highlighted above, we recognise that some members may wish to commit early to the club by paying their full membership even though any return to rugby will take time. For that we are grateful.

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

RETURN TO RUGBY 2020-2021/continued



Appendix B sets out the Membership rates for 2020/21 including a staged payment scheme which recognises a different start to the season for players and supporters. However, the balance of these choices should not be underestimated. The club's future can only be sustained if it is supported by its membership and it will never be as crucial to have this support than for this coming season. The membership fee payment options on Pitchero have been updated and available to members from 1st July 2020.

I am sure we all appreciate that we remain in uncertain times which makes planning challenging to say the least. However, I hope the information outlined here provides you with the information you need for membership and how the club is proactively putting in place plans for a return to some form of normality as soon as it is safe to do so. I hope it will also provide you with some confidence that these plans have taken on board our members' views and will go some way to secure the club for the future. If you have any queries, please contact your section chair or any member of the committee.

Kind regards,

Louise Goodall Chair - NRFC

Full report with Road Map and Appendices can be viewed on the [website](#).

Membership packages will be available on [Pitchero](#) from 1st July 2020.

LATEST FROM THE LADIES

What we've been up to....

We've continued to keep busy during lockdown, whilst looking forward to the coming season.

Abbie Leadbitter has made an incredible [pre-season recruitment video](#) that's been shared and viewed far and wide. We've had England Internationals Rachael Burford, Vicky Fleetwod & Rocky Clarke following us and sharing our video, as well as over 10,000 views on Twitter. Just search Newbury Womens Rugby on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook to see the masterpiece for yourself.

We've had lots of people interested in joining us for our pre-season training from 14th July and WE CANNOT WAIT. Limiting hugs is going to be difficult for us ... but there's guaranteed to be a lot of smiling faces.

In the mean time we've been working hard thanks to a Summer Fitness Programme consisting of Upper & Lower body strength, Sprints, HIIT, Cardio & Yoga. By the time we get back to training we're going to be bigger & stronger than ever.

We're pleased to announce we've elected our new committee for the coming season. We'd like to extend a massive thank you to Meg, Carrie, Niki & Swinners for all your hard work last year.

2020/21 Season Committee:

1st XV Captain – Lizzie Harris

Vice Captains – Rosie Archard & Becky Wilson

Social Secretaries – Lozzie Price-Richards & Kirsty Batten

Social Media Secretaries – Abbie Leadbitter, Charlie Dodd & Fiona Friend

Tom (Hannah) Ward has moved to take up the role of Backs Coach.

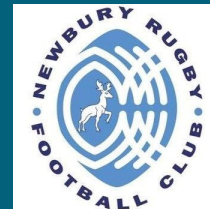
BILL ASCROFT-LEIGH

It is with great sadness that we advise members that Bill Ascroft-Leigh passed away on 15th June. Bill was a lovely guy, a great supporter of the club, always jovial and a popular character. His son Ien who came through the juniors, was a great player for the Blues when we were playing our highest level rugby. We will do a full memorial in our next edition but send our sympathies and thoughts to the family at this terrible time.

KEEP IN TOUCH,
KEEP FIT AND
KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

FRONT LINE HEROES



VOLUNTEER - ROB HARRIS

Loose Ends (LE) background

LE has been established as a local registered charity for over 30 years, providing hot meals to homeless and vulnerable people in Newbury from Morton Hall at Newbury Baptist church. Until the outbreak of Coronavirus & Lockdown, LE provided hot meals over five sessions a week (Mon & Tue lunch, Wed & Fri breakfast and Sunday two course lunch). All food, clothes, toileteries, bedding etc are all kindly donated and there are 70+ volunteers with an agreed rota organised each month allocating shifts depending upon volunteer availability.

Lockdown measures resulted in a considerable change to the service provision. West Berks Council has made arrangements for LE clients to be housed in hotels & B&Bs throughout the West Berks area. LE still opens on all five days but is instead preparing food and essentials parcels which, with the help of the West Berks Community Hub, are then delivered to clients. A small number of clients are still able to visit us in person.

My Involvement

After a 34 year career in commercial and investment banking I retired in March 2019 and pretty much straight away started volunteering at LE before my rugby club involvement came into being. My daughter had volunteered there a few years ago so I was already fully aware of the work LE carried out.

In a typical month (if such a thing currently exists!!) I will be on duty on three to four sessions a month - this involves over three hours making up food bags and parcels for up to 60 people currently in hotels & B&Bs. In addition another 10-20 people regularly come to the hall to be given food and basic hygiene items. These people are either still sleeping rough, stay at the Two Saints homeless hostel or at assisted living facilities in town.

Food parcels typically contain a hot meal which we prepare on site (jacket potatoes and fillings, stews, rice and pasta dishes, soups etc). At the outset of lockdown NRFC very kindly donated (to LE) various meals that had been prepared by our chef for players and minis & juniors meals - these were very gratefully received (with fantastic reviews received back too!!).

Further, West Berks Council's volunteer distribution food parcel service is operating from NRFC - and they have very generously donated any left over food and essentials to LE. Once or twice a month on a Sunday I will also do the delivery run to the hotels and B&Bs.

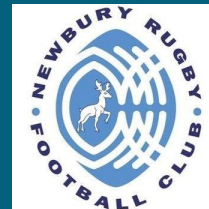
Quiz numbers are creeping up. First one on 1st May had 5 teams, 28th May we had 7 teams. Plan is to have another at the end of June and hopefully get into double figures. All monies raised are going to our projects on the Good Exchange with resultant match-funding. Prior to lockdown from the five quizzes we held this season at the club we generated nearly £5k of revenues of which £1k we were able to apply to projects.



KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

HELP IN THE COMMUNITY / SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS



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.



Strategic Consulting & Resourcing Specialists

Free Career Consultation with Suzanna Adams of Varnium.

Let's make some positive career decisions, YES even in lockdown!!!

Looking for career opportunities? Perhaps you have just left School, College or University or maybe you are already working but you feel there could be something more inspiring and challenging out there for you?

Why not contact **Suzanna Adams of Varnium** for a conversation on where your future could take you.

Suzanna Adams - Recruitment Consultant
Tel: 07392 842606 www.varnium.com

MAC Tools of Basingstoke wishes all members of Newbury Rugby Club and their families well during this pandemic. Like our great rugby club, our business activity is almost completely shut down, but we are on hand if we can assist any of you or your businesses with tools from our catalogues. All will be delivered contact free and delivery free.

In the meantime, we very much look forward to supporting Newbury Rugby Club, and all of the teams, when playing resumes. May that day come quickly!



MAC Tools for Basingstoke - 07939155887



We are proud to continue to support the Club and look forward to being able to enjoy our favourite sport soon!

**You're in
safe
hands**

Contact your local branch

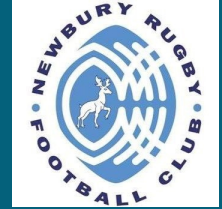
SUPPORTING BUSINESSES POST LOCKDOWN

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

COACHES' CORNER



KEVIN BOWRING

Our pre-season in 1998 had gone really well and before the league campaign started we had a "friendly" against a full Gloucester 1st team. Our coach was Keith Richardson who had been a Gloucester player and a man of 'The Shed'- yes a real Gloucester man. Newbury played well in that game, perhaps too well as afterwards I saw the Gloucester "Blazers" in discussions with Keith and within the week he had been recruited as their coach. Not a great start to the season I thought but very soon I was talking to Kevin Bowring whose last job had been the coach of Wales, yes the coach of the Wales National team! I knew Kevin and his considerable achievements on the rugby field; in every way a class act and we enjoyed two successful years at Newbury. We were playing at Level 3 or what is now National One so a lot of travelling to places such as Flyde, Wharfedale, Harrogate and West Hartlepool! Kevin reflects on what he is doing during COVID-19 with a few other memories



DAVID SMITH

These are unprecedented times for rugby, sport and life in general and like many people in lockdown my wife and I have tried to create a routine, part of which is wading through the boxes of junk in the loft. Of course I got drawn into a box of old photos and newspaper cuttings which rekindled memories of playing for London Welsh, London Counties and the Barbarians and coaching initially at Clifton College and the Wales U21, Wales A, Wales 7's and eventually being appointed Wales national coach in 1995 until 1998.

Agreeing to terminate my coaching role with the Welsh team was a painful experience but I was immediately able to get back on the coaching horse with Newbury in September 1998. I was visiting my sister-in-law in Kingsclere and read in the Newbury Weekly News that Keith Richardson the England U21 coach was leaving Newbury and after a discussion with David Smith, the then club President, I agreed to help out until January. However I struck up a positive working relationship with David and stayed for two seasons.

At the time Sid Little (team manager) and captain Craig Davies were great characters. It was a talented team and after gaining his rugby Blue at Oxford, Tyrone Howe agreed to come and play for us. Tyrone went on to play professionally for Ulster, Ireland and the British Lions.

The one game that stands out was an encounter with Richmond in the fourth round of the Tetley's Bitter cup. Richmond had a formidable squad having fully embraced professionalism and although we lost, Tom Holloway scored a magnificent try for us.

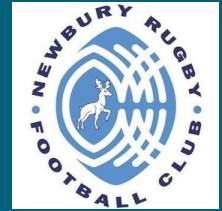
I retired as Head of Elite Coach Development at the RFU in 2016 but continue to work as a coach development consultant with the RFU and also the WRU. When your job is your hobby it's difficult to give up and the challenge I would like to set for all coaches is to come back a better coach whenever rugby resumes. So, what would make you a better coach? Perhaps that's for another article!

KEVIN BOWRING

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

SENIOR BLUES RETURN TO RUGBY



After a lot of pre-planning and sorting out a safe return to rugby, we got there and held our first Coronavirus safe social distancing training session on Tuesday 23rd June. Big thanks to everybody involved, too many to mention but you know who you are.

The first session proved to be extremely popular with 44 players turn up and taking part. It was a hard evening for the coaches, to keep all active and adhere to the RFU training protocols, but all seemed to work well, with players staying in their socially distanced 'zone' all evening. Hand and kit washing facilities were stationed at each zone, and the session was overlooked by NRFC's own Covid Manager.

A big thank you to all the coaches for setting this up and making it work on the night. It certainly was a challenge to balance a rugby session with social distancing guidance!

It was great to see the amount of ex-colts who turned out for this session, these hopefully will be the Blues players of the future. It was also nice to see some new members appear and of the course the regulars who have been the mainstay of the Blues over the past few seasons.

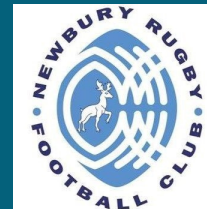
Although an enjoyable evening was had by all, we hope that training will soon start to look a bit closer to normal. Lets hope we soon know when the 2020/2021 season will commence, and life begins to get back to normal

NEWBURY BLUES MANAGEMENT TEAM



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

THE TEAM BEHIND THE TEAM



The importance of effective medical support for a rugby club cannot be overemphasised. With increasing scrutiny of head injuries in particular, it is crucial for the medical team to give advice to coaches and managers about whether individual players are fit enough for selection. Every selection meeting at NRFC is attended by one of the medical team and if their judgement is that an individual player is not fit enough to be considered for selection, that's it the player does not play. Here the head of our medical team Martin Paice says a few words about what he calls, "The Team behind the Team."

Here at NRFC we currently have five medics looking after player welfare for the club. Our main role at the club is to determine whether it is safe for a player to return to play which can involve an assessment on field or during training nights in the medical room.

Qualifying in 2015 from the University of Gloucestershire, Martin Paice leads the medical side of the club and has been involved with the club from U8's right through to Stags. He covers Blues matches and Thursday night training evenings. Martin is supported by Dan Elsigood who graduated from Chichester University in 2012. Dan covers Tuesday night training and Blues matches. Jazz Latter joined the team from Gloucester RFC. Jazz qualified from Gloucestershire University in 2017 and covers Stags matches and Tuesday and Wednesday training evenings. Lee Thompson graduated with a Masters from Gloucestershire University in 2020 and covers Thursday night training and Ladies matches. Duncan Craigen graduated from Bolton in 2014 and covers Colts matches. Alongside our degrees we are required to continually update our pitch side injury and trauma qualifications which allows us to deal with anything that could potentially happen on a rugby field, from the smallest cut to serious life threatening problems - which, touch wood have been minimal.

For us our busiest night is always Tuesday evening training. After allowing the bumps and knocks to settle from the weekend's games, it allows us to assess any injuries the players are struggling with or any concerns they may have. We can determine whether they are fit to train and fit to play the following weekend and to provide treatment for them. We can see upwards of 20 players on Tuesday in between 6.30 and 9.00pm. After Tuesday training we join the coaches in selection meeting to give information who we have seen that evening and their status to play. Thursday nights are normally much quieter, so this is a great opportunity for players to pop in for a quick treatment if they are feeling a bit tight or stiff. This is also the night where we will see some of the longer term injured players to progress their rehabilitation exercises.

We have been operating a fortnightly Wednesday evening session for the Colts and Junior groups which gives parents the opportunity for them to bring in their children who have sustained an injury on the previous Sunday.

It all builds up to a match day. We arrive a little before the players' meet time to set up and prepare and typically pre game will involve us doing whatever is needed by the players so they feel ready to play. For some that will be soft tissue work, others will need a joint strapped, the rest is a chat and a laugh. Whilst the players are out warming up, we will speak to the opposition Therapist (if there is one!) to introduce ourselves and let them know the equipment we have at the club just in case the worst happens. During the match we will deal with immediate trauma or head injuries that occur and we will spend some time post match fully assessing and treating the injuries that happened during the 80 minutes.

As a medical team success for us is being able to bring back players ahead of schedule and without fear of that player re-injuring. Success also looks like a quiet medical room with minimal treatment happening.

Keep safe and see you on the

touch line soon!



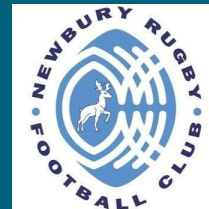
Martin is offering discounted treatments to all non playing members of the club. Please get in contact on 07990 078121 or mjpsportstherapy@gmail.com to find out more.

MARTIN PAICE - MJP SPORTS THERAPY

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

MINI & JUNIOR SECTION



DEAR MEMBERS

I know we are all doing what we must, to survive this Covid-19 pandemic. So many routines have been lost to the "new" normal. With so many businesses closed or operating at reduced output, there may be some more time to get things done. But then we find we are home schooling, but not until after Joe Wicks, of course. This is very much the 'norm' in my house.

We have been blessed with glorious weather overall, which does help a little, but that may also put rugby far from your mind. You would be forgiven for allowing this wonderful game to completely slip your mind.

I am guilty of this as much as anyone, until the other day. I was driving through Thatcham in the early afternoon when I noticed a NRFC senior player. He was wearing full NRFC training kit and was out exercising. It occurred to me then, that he was keeping in shape and building his fitness for his eventual return to rugby. He was also proudly brandishing the club colours. 'What an inspiration' I thought. I went straight home and got my NRFC shirt on. I didn't start jogging down the high street, or start throwing dumb-bells around, but at least it was a start.....

Maybe you will be inspired today?

I hope you are all keeping well, and I look forward to seeing you all back at the club very soon!

Alan McDermott - Chair of NRFC Mini Rugby

A BIT OF FUN.....

So we thought we would see if we could put together a team made up of M&J coaches and managers who previously played senior rugby at Newbury or elsewhere. Based on information provided, we seem to have a full team plus reserves which is great, although we were short of a hooker so I co-opted Joff Adams who is a great supporter of the club and whose sons play in the Under 11s and 12s.

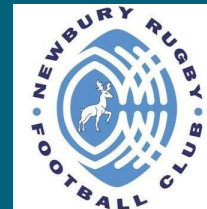
1. **Nick Weston (Captain)** - U13s coach; been around forever and becomes captain for that reason; defies science by still playing; positive easy-going leader who may need subbing after ten minutes; donated the Bar on the Hill!
2. **Joff Adams** - parent and ex-Newbury first team player in the early 2000s.
3. **Keith Pearce**
4. **Jamie Bull** - U12s coach; represented Newbury Blues as well as a regular Stags player.
5. **Will Harwood** - regular coach of the Colts; keeps his brother Joe out who went to Henley!; plays regularly for seconds/thirds.
6. **Nigel Beale** - played 1980 to 2003; U16s coach; former committee member and treasurer; set up the shop.
7. **Steve denner** - played 1986 to present; regular plays for seconds and thirds; U13s coach.
8. **Dan Burgess** - played 2011/12; U11s coach.
9. **Yann Cullum** - played 2018 to present; U11s coach.
10. **Chris Smith** - Chair of Junior Section; Played for Newbury (see profile); coached juniors with Ralph Grove (older than he looks!)
11. **Dave Hancock** - played 1989-2015; U11s coach.
12. **Nick Mason** - 1979 -2017; U11s coach; regular in the Stags with his brother Stuart.
13. **Stewart Basham** - Colts coach; only played for Camberley but we let him off because he's a good coach!!
14. **Paul Flight** - played 1986 onwards; U14s coach; regular Stags player; 'Flighty' by nickname.
15. **Nigel Swan** - played 2015 to present; U14s coach.
16. **Michael Brader** - Colts coach; utility back; played for Wasps and is a Trustee of the club.
17. **Steve Leonard** - U14s coach; played for Bracknell and has coached various age groups.
18. **Paris Mc Erlain** - back row.
19. **Darren Brown** - Ladies head coach; utility back.

I am sure there are other players I've not been made aware of; I think most people are in their correct position. Is it a winning team? Of course it is!!

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PERSONAL PROFILES FROM ACROSS OUR BLUES FAMILY



SENIOR MEN



HARRY KEATLEY

Born in Truro but attended Clere School in Burghclere.

Playing history: School (primarily second row); joined the Army and played for Queen's Royal Hussars in Germany; the British Army Germany team and the Army U23s. After leaving the Army played for my village team, Kingsclere for 5yrs and captained the team before joining NRFC last year.

Favourite song: Bitter Sweet Symphony by The Verve. A big fan of the orchestral sound on a modern day Britpop anthem. It also reminds me of some very good times.

Most admired person to invite for dinner: Neil Armstrong—to hear what his experiences were like.

Most surprising fact about yourself: I can drive a main battle tank!

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: First cap for Blues against Launceston.

Additional info: I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at Newbury. I have been warmly welcomed by players, coaches and back room staff and it has been a pleasure to get to know such fantastic people. I hope I can improve my game enough to positively contribute to the successes of this team.

SENIOR WOMEN



LIZZIE HARRIS

Newly elected 1st XVI Captain

Playing history: Berkshire U18's 1yr, Newbury Ladies 4/5 yrs, various 7's teams (social and serious!)

Favourite song: Orson - No Tomorrow

Most admired person to invite to dinner: After watching the documentary, definitely Michael Jordan

Most surprising fact about yourself: I'm not actually a natural ginger

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: Too many to choose from! Winning Players' Player, every time I get to step on to the pitch with my Blues family, and of course being voted for Captaincy this season!

Additional info: I am absolutely honoured and over the moon about being able to Captain such an amazing side for this coming season. I know I have some big shoes to fill after the brilliant job Meg Mason has done over the past few years. I'm committed to growing and improving this team, and I promise even if you don't see us, you'll definitely hear us!

CLUB OFFICIAL



CHRIS SMITH

Playing history: While at university, played for Bristol University first team mid week and Cleve on Saturdays and played most of the time on the wing. Moving to the Thames Valley I initially played for Henley and then after two seasons and a snapped ACL I moved to Newbury, playing all my rugby at the old Monks Lane ground. I also played on a Sunday for the Berkshire Press. A team of journalists based out of Windsor, counting amongst their merry band a gobby fly half called John Inverdale, a posh centre (now food critic) Matthew Fort and Stephen Glover political columnist.

Favourite song: For a teenager of the late 70's, this is a difficult choice, but if forced to pick just one it would be Down in the Tube Station at Midnight by the Jam.

Most admired person to invite for dinner: Sir Christopher Wren, because I want to know just how he built St Pauls without all the technology we have available today

Most surprising fact about yourself: I love making bread.

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: This is easy, when I was coaching the juniors with Ralph Grove, I managed to persuade Phil de Glanville who was then England rugby captain to run a training session for the boys.

BLUES SUPPORTER



IAN 'SKIPPY' SKIPWORTH

Playing history: Skippy played in the very first mini training session at NRFC, run by Tom Philips and David Hunter in 1977, and then played for the club for all of his playing career. A regular first team player for many seasons but also captain of the Stags. It was always great to see Skippy on the team sheet as you knew you had a no nonsense (let's wind the opposition up a bit) hooker, who would lead from the front. The Brian Moore of NRFC, on the pitch!

Favourite song: Loves a bit of Motown and Northern Soul but chose 'I used to work in Chicago' by the Back of the Bus.

Most admired person to invite for dinner: Mickey Skinner of Harlequins and England, because he was a bit of a character who epitomised the fun side of the game, together with a competitive spirit when a great tackle was more important than scoring a try.

Most surprising fact about yourself: Would like to own a small-holding and be self-sufficient.

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: Being selected for Berkshire pre the professional era, when it was a seriously valued competition.

Additional info: Skippy typifies what is great about NRFC; a tough player for Newbury all of his playing career and then a passionate volunteer and supporter for the next 25 years. Well-known for his rugby banter and tremendous commitment to the club. He has been working for the club it seems forever, and some of us thought he might be living there, such was his dedication, through some very difficult times both personally and for the club. Skippy continues to support regularly and he and Tina often take a family table at home matches. Every club needs a Skippy and it really wouldn't be NRFC without him.