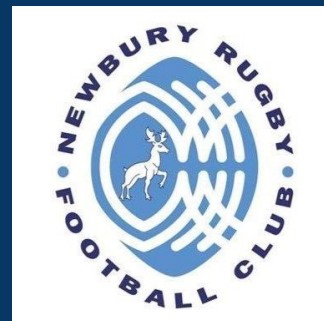


BLUES NEWS

KEEPING IN TOUCH - 19

FEBRUARY 2022



This newsletter is sponsored by



**Newbury
Building Society**

WHAT'S INSIDE

[Update from the President](#)

[Newbury Girls - Pitch Up and Play](#)

[Queens Canopy Project](#)

[Projects & Fundraising Update](#)

[Pink Charity Weekend](#)

[100 + Club / Dates for your Diary](#)

[Milestone Caps,](#)

[Community & Volunteers](#)

[The View from South Africa](#)

[Reunion Lunch / Friends of NRFC](#)

[Sponsorship](#)

[Club Shop](#)

If you would like to contribute to the next Blues News, please email content to [David Jones](#)

**NEWBURY
RUGBY CLUB**

How special to see everyone back at the club again on a Saturday and Sunday, socialising and having fun without the full unconscious weight of Covid and 'what if' hanging over us. Of course, it's not gone but maybe the visit to lunch of the ex-Archbishop of Canterbury (and enjoying a pint) on the rebooted Christmas dinner has inspired us to slightly relax and begin to enjoy the moment again!!

The Blues, the Ladies, the Stags and the Colts have all been in action at senior level and we have been entertained with some great rugby and good crowds. How good to see the mini mascots back on a Saturday and entertaining the supporters at half-time. The minis and juniors have also been very active on Sunday mornings. The women on the back of an away win against Portsmouth have a game this Sunday at home, so try and get up to support them.

The Blues had a magic Pink Day Saturday with a win over top of the table Banbury in another exciting game and the delight was clear to see. Approximately £2500 was raised for Cancer Research UK and The Volunteer Centre West Berkshire, so a brilliant effort and 'thank you' to all who contributed.

The club continues to await the outcome of the granting of planning on the all-weather pitch, although negotiations are concluded with ourselves. The result is likely to be known in the next 10 days.

As we enter the last part of the season there are a number of events that need to be in your diary, including the Community Day on 12th March, the Club Reunion Day on 2nd April and the Annual Club Dinner pencilled in for 7th May. There is also the Minis Festival and the National 7s Tournament on 14th May.

We also need to think about next year and what you want from the club and who you want to run it. Succession is the key to the future. What changes would you like to see? Do you want to be involved? There is always a need for new ideas and new faces. The club is in its best position for many years financially and as a community rugby club. More efficient practises and organisation and a culture change have re-guided this club and it is on the edge of being able to step forward with a very positive future.

A few people have put in a lot of work as well as all the fantastic volunteers who help with the rugby side. It is time, and is already happening, for new faces to take it onto the next stage. There will be opportunities on the rugby committee, the management board and as Trustees and we need to be thinking ahead to the AGM in June. Let us know your thoughts on the club and your views on the future - email me at dwsjones@hotmail.co.uk. We do need YOU to let us know .

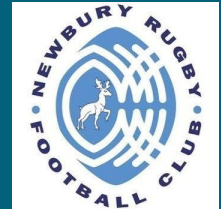
Our new general Manager Louise is giving our commercial side a real direction and she is also embracing the rugby side to get them to work together smoothly. Geoff the chef has lifted the food quality to another level, Robin has made the sponsorship something to be proud of, Rob has made the club love a financial spreadsheet and Tony is trying to get us all to communicate as one voice. There are others who should be mentioned but most importantly what they will say is 'we need your views and your help'.

This is an amazing club, the absolute envy of all our visiting teams, not just the facilities but because we are incredibly welcoming and friendly throughout the club. Where else would you want to be at the weekend?

David Jones - President

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

U13 GIRLS PITCH UP AND PLAY



The U13 Girls have recently been involved in two of our new 'Pitch Up and Play' events, one at Bracknell in beautiful weather conditions and one on Sunday 13th February in slightly damper conditions. On the wetter Sunday, we had over 60 girls from different rugby clubs across Berkshire and Hampshire, who came together for the second 'Pitch Up and Play'. Most of these clubs have quite small numbers which makes having fixtures difficult, but by combining teams at these events we can give the girls a much better playing experience. We have a number of these events planned for the rest of this season and into next season, where they will move up to becoming U14s, with the change in the age grade made for next season by the RFU.

The weather was really quite challenging but the girls, coaches and parents all persevered and there was some really positive feedback (and complimentary hot chocolate!) at the end. We are looking forward to taking part in more of these events and also hosting another, in hopefully better weather conditions, before the end of the season. We are also always looking for new players who would like to take part; please contact us through the club and we would be delighted to meet you.

Nicki Gray - Chair of Newbury Women and Girls

125 LONDON ROAD, NEWBURY, BERKS, RG14 2BX | TEL: 01635 745 072



CODE NINJAS[®]
LEARN TO CODE | BUILD VIDEO GAMES | HAVE FUN!!!



f CodeNinjasNewbury

NEWBURY

codeninjas.co.uk



ACORN MANAGED SERVICES LTD

Air Conditioning | Air Source Heat Pumps | Refrigeration | Ventilation



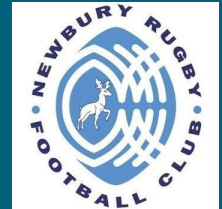
Telephone: 07920 140 566 / 07398 220 934

www.acornmanagedservices.co.uk

Panasonic
heating & cooling solutions

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUEEN'S COMMUNITY CANOPY PROJECT



QUEEN'S COMMUNITY CANOPY PROJECT TO CELEBRATE HER PLATINUM JUBILEE

As part of the QUEENS JUBILEE CANOPY PROJECT to plant 750,000 trees this year, Newbury RFC volunteers planted 150 trees along the club boundary, adjoining Pitch 2A, on Sunday 29th January.

To help the planet and the rugby club, there is the opportunity to sponsor a tree for £75 with an option to have a plaque with your family name; this will ensure you are part of the club's history. The plaques will be displayed in the clubhouse until the trees are big enough and will then be allocated to the trees. The sponsorship will be used on a Good Exchange project to improve the pitches, so will be match-funded by Greenham Common Trust, (so worth £150 to the club).

If you are interested in sponsoring a tree then please contact [David Jones](#). This project is ongoing and open ended!

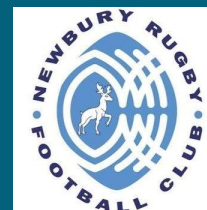
Huge thanks to Simon Walker for co-ordinating the planting and keeping an eye on the successful growth of the trees.

David Jones



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PROJECTS & FUNDRAISING UPDATE - FEB 2022



PROJECTS & FUNDRAISING UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2022

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

12 projects completed since August 2019

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

The current Good Exchange fund-raising year ends on 31st March 2022 and we have completed a further two projects Ytd and have two live projects (see below):

Current Live projects:

Description	Amount	Project No	Status	Comments
Players entrance door	£3,492	18843	Project live May'21	Replace players entrance door £28 raised to date
Facility Security upgrade (doors / entrance gates)	£6,984	19404	Project live Feb'22	Improve building & grounds security to upgrade existing access points £525 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) but PLEASE MAKE ANY CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THE GOOD EXCHANGE; or
- **via the following [link](#)**, where you can donate to your preferred Newbury RFC project as shown above.

We are in the process of identifying two further projects prior to 31st March 2022, to maximise the benefit of the Good Exchange scheme.

Rob Harris - 15/2/22

2022 Ongoing Pitch Maintenance

Newbury Rugby Football Club Ltd
Newbury (Town)

Ref: 19404

To continue with the hard work done over the last few years, our plan is to now maintain our pitches as started in 2021. We have the equivalent of 6 pitches and are planning for two 2 pitches to be sanded

Raised 7% Target £6,984

Pitchside Players Entrance Door Replacement

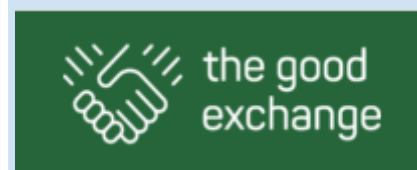
Newbury Rugby Football Club Ltd
Newbury (Town)

Ref: 18843

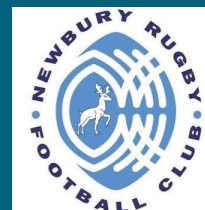
Replace the current doors that do not meet current regulations and standards

Raised 0% Target £3,492

Match Funding



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH



The all-new Sportage.

Score your try and book
a test drive today.



Movement that inspires

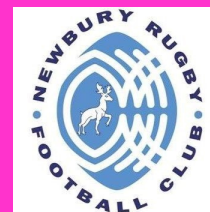
Snows Kia (Newbury)
Newbury Motor Park, Newbury
RG14 7HT | 01635 572909 | snows.co.uk

Proud sponsors of Newbury RFC

Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) for the model shown: Combined 48.7 (5.8), CO₂ emissions 132g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. The figures shown here are for limited comparison purposes. Fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions are tested using WLTP. Only compare fuel consumption, CO₂ and electric range figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. For more information about WLTP please refer to kia.com/uk. Model shown: all-new Sportage 'GT-Line S' 1.6 T-GDI 226bhp 6-speed auto HEV 2WD at £38,445 including premium Experience Green with black roof paint at £800. Kia Sportage range available from £26,745.

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PINK CHARITY WEEKEND



ROUND UP OF OUR PINK CHARITY WEEKEND

THANK YOU!

Our Pink Charity Saturday raised approximately £2,500 in aid of Cancer Research UK and the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire, with funds still coming in through the Just Giving page and Sunday activities. Thank you to everyone who contributed, donated and supported in any way. If you weren't able to come and join in the Pink fun, you still can donate via the special [Just Giving page](#). Thank you to everyone who helped make our special Charity weekend such a success.

STAGS v BANBURY II - A hard fought match in dreadful conditions ends in defeat for Stags

The top pitches have a micro climate all of their own and whilst Blues had a relatively strong wind for their game on the main pitch, "up the top," it was exponentially worse. The flags never stood a chance of remaining in the ground for the duration of the game, umbrellas turned inside out and passing the posts on pitch three that had been blown down on Friday there was some discussion about the advantages of a global rugby calendar and summer rugby if World Rugby and all other stakeholders could just compromise a little bit. Thanks to those hardy souls who stayed to the end but to be fair to the weather it did improve as the afternoon wore on. An added bonus was that both teams agreed to keep the clock running when there was an injury stoppage and this meant the players had the opportunity to catch the last ten minutes or so of the Blues game and what an ending to that one. Standing on the banking by the score board on the way down from pitch four gave a great visual representation of the fantastic support Blues get for home games and the noise when Dan kicked the winning penalty was pretty loud to say the least. Great players, great supporters, great club.

High flying Banbury II, second in BBO 1, are a strong team and coming off the back of 13-64 defeat against them earlier in the season Stags knew they were in for a tough game. Playing against the wind in the first half the defensive effort was first class. Try saving tackles, forcing mistakes and penalties, strong work on the floor around the breakdown and some excellent footwork from a number of players and Banbury knew they were in a game. The back row of Rory Jones, Ollie Keyse and Jamal Watson were prominent throughout and indicative of the effort were two instances. The first, a tackle made by Jonathan Drotskie only to be followed up almost immediately by another tackle to stop a promising Banbury attack, the second an outstanding run out of defence by Oscar Padden. As half time approached, with the match remaining scoreless and Banbury pushing hard Stags did their best to hold out but on the stroke of half time the pressure finally told and the visitors forced their way over to make the half time score 0-5. Not a bad half of rugby playing against such a strong wind.

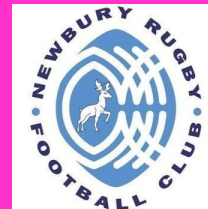
Playing with the wind in the second half there was optimism Stags could come back and compete strongly to win the game. However Banbury ramped up their game at the start of the second period and within ten minutes they had scored two breakaway tries and even though the scoreline wasn't looking good, the ebb and flow of the game didn't make it feel Stags were facing a 17 point deficit. The team were soon rewarded for their efforts with a try of their own scored by Jamal Watson, crashing through after a tap and go penalty close to the Banbury line. The successful conversion by Mat Cox reduced the deficit to 10 points and now Stags had their best period of the match, exerting a lot of pressure on the Banbury line. Confidence was growing and there was every expectation of reducing the arrears even more but Banbury's defence held firm and coupled with a few errors Stags could not find their way over the line for their second try. As sometimes happens in sport a period of pressure, when relieved, is followed by a score from the team that has been under the cosh and so it proved on Saturday with Banbury racing over for their fourth try of the game in the closing stages to take the final score to 7-22.

Well done to all the players and a well deserved week off next weekend and then another home game on 5th March against Beaconsfield II. Blues make the trip to Beaconsfield that day and for those not travelling it would be great to see you at Monks Lane.

Brian Lee - Stags Team Manager

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PINK CHARITY WEEKEND



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PINK CHARITY WEEKEND

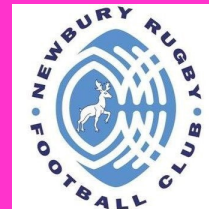


Thank you to our regular photographers -Ian Jack, Pete Branch and Newbury Photography Club for providing great photos from every Blues game this season.



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PINK CHARITY WEEKEND



BLUES TAME THE BULLS - SATURDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2022

Blues come out on top in a great game against league leaders Banbury, inflicting only their 2nd defeat of the season.

The rain had luckily stopped, but the pitch was very wet as Banbury kicked off with the strong wind behind them. Blues gathered the kick and cleared to touch. Blues conceded a penalty scrum in front of the posts on 7 minutes and Banbury took the lead, 0-3.

Several phases after the kick off Blues managed to steal the ball at the tackle and took play back into Banbury's half. Banbury regained the ball and kicked clear, the ball rolling deep into touch in Blues territory. Blues won the lineout and continued to put pressure on Banbury. After several phases Adam Neal successfully got over the line but the referee was the wrong side and deemed it was held up. Banbury took the try line kick, Blues gathered the ball and through some good passing took play back into Banbury's 22. After several phases of attacking play spent in Banbury's 22, Blues conceded a penalty. Banbury cleared to touch just in their own half, Blues knocked on at the lineout, giving Banbury a scrum. Banbury held the scrum under pressure, Blues infringed at the tackle, giving Banbury another penalty. They kicked to touch in Blues 22. Banbury made ground with pressure on Blues who conceded another penalty. From the lineout, Banbury forwards mauled up to the try line before popping the ball out to their winger to touch down; try converted - 0-10 (24 minutes).

From the re-start Blues managed to steal the ball but a knock on gave Banbury a scrum. Banbury won the scrum, despite pressure from the Blues, and kicked clear up field. Blues gathered the ball and ran back at Banbury who conceded a penalty at the tackle. Tom Cole kicked to touch just outside Banbury's 22. Pressure from both sides forced errors, resulting in Blues receiving a yellow card near the end of the first half. Although Blues nearly made a breakthrough from a cross-field kick, the ball was knocked on. Despite continued pressure from Banbury, Blues kept them to 0-10 at the half time whistle. All to play for in the second half.

Blues kicked off the second half with the advantage of the strong wind. Banbury took the catch and under pressure, kicked to touch. Blues won the lineout but a forward pass gave Banbury a scrum. Blues pack had the upper hand and Banbury just held the scrum on the retreat. Blues get a scrum when Banbury knock on at the lineout. A big Blues scrum earned them another penalty; Dan Thorne kicked to touch in Banbury's 22. Blues won the lineout and the forwards mauled before using the pick and drive to get to the line. After several drives, Josh Winfield went over the line to score for the Blues; try converted by Dan Thorne (7-10).

From the restart, the ball was fed to Dan Thorne who kicked it high and long. A good chase by Blues was rewarded when Banbury knocked on. Blues' pack were dominant in the scrum, they spread play wide through hands before sending a grubber kick into Banbury's 22. Banbury tried to run out of defence before putting up a high kick. Jamie Fitcher caught the ball and was tackled in the air, giving Blues a penalty. The lineout was won by Blues who took play across the pitch before a knock on halted their progress. Banbury had the scrum but conceded a penalty which allowed Dan Thorne to slot a kick between the uprights on 52 minutes (10-10).

From the restart, Banbury soon had a penalty when Blues' clearance kick was charged down and Blues were caught offside. Banbury kicked to the posts, 10-13.

Blues' kick was taken by the wind and rolled through the try area, resulting in a Banbury scrum on halfway. Banbury again won their scrum going backwards but soon coughed up the ball in the tackle. Blues put up a high kick, Banbury gather and ran the ball but Blues defence managed to steal the ball in the tackle and a good Tom Cole run took play up to Banbury's 22. Blues continued to put pressure on Banbury who conceded another penalty and a resulting yellow card. Dan Thorne kicked the penalty on 59 minutes (13-13).

From a Banbury knock on, Blues had a penalty scrum and shoved Banbury backwards and over the try line but the ball was called out and Banbury 9 touched it down to give them a goal line drop out. Blues gathered the ball and were rewarded with a penalty in front of the posts. Dan Thorne successfully kicked between the posts to give Blues the lead for the first time in the match on 73 minutes (16-13).

In the final minutes Blues kicked to touch deep in Banbury's 22. From the resulting lineout, a mistake from Banbury brought the final whistle and a victory for Blues.

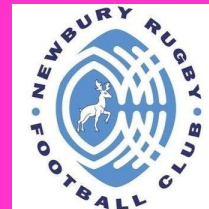
A big credit to both sides who produced a great close game of rugby under difficult conditions, a wet muddy pitch and a very strong wind from the aftermath of storm Eunice. A game of two halves. All the best to Banbury for the remainder of the season - good luck and hope you remain top of the league.

MOM - Chosen and awarded by David Smith (Myddleton & Major match sponsor) – Props, Ben Hicks & James Macaulay.

Mick Fitcher - Blues Team Manager

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PINK CHARITY WEEKEND



NEWBURY WOMEN 'STORM' PORTSMOUTH VALKYRIES IN HOME WIN

Sunday 20th February saw both Portsmouth Valkyries and storm Eunice visit Monks Lane!



In a tight contest, where running rugby was but a dream for the backs, Newbury prevailed with a well-deserved win. Undeterred by 30mph winds, Newbury put in a gutsy performance born from strong defence and a physical display, something which had - at times - been missing from their previous matches.

After an opener dominated by handling errors and scrums from

both sides (no doubt forced by the horizontal rain and strong winds), Newbury struggled to release their fearsome back line. But, after strong carries from the forwards pulled the visiting defence into the centre of the pitch, the space was made out wide. The opening try was scored after a great run by Krzyzanowska, who evaded multiple defenders before being stopped short by Valkyries defenders. Two quick phases and more strong forward carries later, C. Smith crashed over the line to open the score for Newbury. Hunt added the extra's with her trusty boot to make it 7-0.

Portsmouth came back strong from the restart, creating pressure and forcing a mistake off the back of the scrum. This proved costly for Newbury, gaining Portsmouth an unconverted try. Huge hits and a vicious defence from Newbury's small-but-mighty pack kept the Valkyries from scoring further. Half time saw Newbury with a narrow 7-5 lead on the visitors.

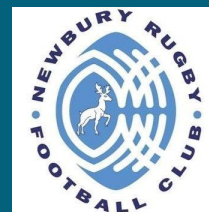
The second half was again dominated by both defences, with both forward packs firing in at the rucks to force the turnover. With the half drawing to a close, excellent attacking pressure and quick ball from both Rothwell and Holt caught the visitors offside. Two penalties right in front of the sticks made it an easy decision for captain Harris. With Hunt on form, Newbury chose to kick both penalties, pushing Newbury into a 13-5 lead. Less than 10 minutes later the whistle was blown and the home side had secured their second win in a row.

In the words of Head Coach Darran Brown, "Sunday's win was a great result. It was a truly unified team effort and I am excited to see how we can build on this heading into Sunday's game against Wasps."



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

100+ CLUB / DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



100+ CLUB

CASH PRIZES EVERY MONTH

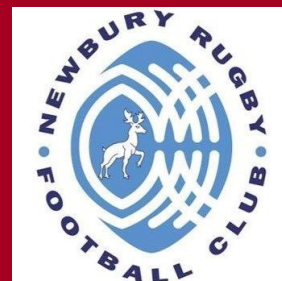
40% of ticket sales each month are given as cash prizes

HELP SUPPORT OUR CLUB

60% of ticket sales each month, help fund equipment, resources, and opportunities for players and coaches

JUST £2 PER MONTH

Simply scan the QR code to buy online, or pick up a form in Reception



BUY A TICKET NOW TO BE IN THE NEXT MONTHLY DRAW!

NRFC 2022 Games and Events		
Date	Blues Games	Event
19th Feb	Banbury	Pink Day
12th Mar	Bracknell	Sponsors / Community Day
2nd Apr	Chippenham	Reunion Lunch
3 rd /10th Apr		Mini's Festival
23rd Apr	Grove	End of Season Celebration / Family Day
14th May		Super Sevens Series

Pre-match lunch places available - call 01635 230023 to book a table.

Kickers SPORTS BAR

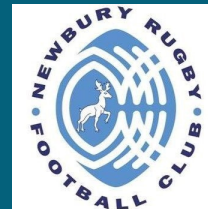
f NewburyRugby @newburyrfc newburyrfc #COYB

Kickers SPORTS BAR

** Correct at 15.02.22**

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

MILESTONE CAPS, RUGBY COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEERS



A number of players have reached milestones in the last few weeks and it was good to see **Ben Hicks** get to 150 caps just before Christmas and celebrating with a yard of Ale. Completing both are great achievements Ben!!



James Macauley (Ging) completed 100 caps in January and I am sure Arch would be the first to admit that the front row has played a significant role in the packs stability and dominance against virtually all our opposition teams.



As President, one of the most enjoyable sights for me is seeing what a great local community club we are developing into and after a game seeing the players meet up with all their family and friends on the touchline epitomises that .



The real ale/cider bar on the terrace earlier in the season was manned by volunteers from the club and certainly provided some valuable income as well as some happy customers.



DREWITT

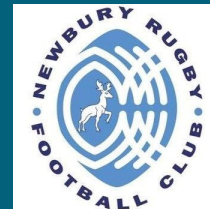
BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING

t: 01635 635404 e: drewittbce@gmail.com

www.drewittbce.co.uk

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

THE VIEW FROM SOUTH AFRICA



THE VIEW FROM SOUTH AFRICA - MICHAEL KLICHOWICZ

Between 1892 and 1954, Ellis Island in the Port of New York and New Jersey processed nearly 12 million immigrants to the USA. Between 1945 and 1982, Australia welcomed more than one million migrants from the British Isles under the so called "Ten Pound Pom" scheme. This assisted passage scheme ended in 1982. Huge numbers in both cases and a visit to Ellis Island or the Migration Museum in Adelaide explains in great detail the numbers involved, how the migrants were processed and the conditions during the passage over. It must have felt like an irreversible decision back then with limited communication links and limited transport options to return home. They did it for the promise of a better life for their family and their descendants but what it must have felt like waking up the morning of boarding a liner at Southampton docks, knowing you may never see home again, who knows? Many families made a great fist of it, settling and developing strong roots in the New World.

That was then, but what of now? Transport and communication links are much improved, it's relatively easy to get back home, Face Time or Zoom to name but two video calling systems make it easy to see family and friends living abroad and moving to another country doesn't seem irreversible at all. That's not to say it's a piece of cake though and good luck to anyone who chooses to move to another country for a short or a long stay, you are still leaving family and friends behind, all those familiar places you know, all those Friday nights you are going to miss with mates. But there's always a silver lining.

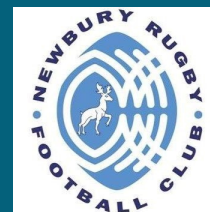
Michael (Klicki) Klichowicz appeared at pre season training last summer. He had moved from South Africa in March 2020 to spend some time in the UK. What a time to move, having to spend a lot of his early time here in lockdown. That was tough, but joining NRFC has been one of the highlights of Michael's time in the UK. Why Newbury, easy, his Godmother lives in the town so he had a ready made place to stay in the early days of his arrival. He says, "With all that is going on in South Africa, it doesn't take much to move away but it definitely has a place in my heart either way." And so it should, it's home. Hailing from Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape, Michael attended Grey High School and then Varsity College where he studied software development and programming. He says, "I grew up along the coast. The weather is amazing as you can imagine. I was fortunate enough to go to a really good school, made great friends for life and can't imagine growing up anywhere else." Rugby seems to have come naturally to a young Michael. He started playing at about 6 years old and played school rugby right up until matriculation, the equivalent of our A levels, and then went on to play for a couple of local clubs. The photograph shows Michael at awards night at his local club Crusaders. He had just been awarded the most versatile player of the season award. His favourite South African rugby players are Butch James, Cheslin Kolbe and Siya Kolisi. James was a World Cup winner in 2007 who then joined Bath Rugby before returning home and re-joining the Sharks in 2012. I don't think anything needs to be said about Cheslin Kolbe except that he'd be in a current World XV. Kolisi is a favourite of Michael's, not only because of his exploits on the rugby field but also because they went to the same school. Michael follows South African cricket, a game he also plays, along with golf and basketball. He also enjoys going to the gym, running and cycling. Working full time in the construction industry, the main challenge is fitting all these things in.

Development pathways are clearly important to South African rugby and it appears to be much like the English pathway system, with the better school boys representing their provincial teams, culminating in Craven Week, the stand out competition for all schoolboy rugby players where the majority of those selected for South Africa Schools come



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

THE VIEW FROM SOUTH AFRICA



from. Clearly the system is working, you don't get to win three rugby world cups without something being right. They are the only country to have won every world cup final in which they have appeared. We hear a lot in UK about how rugby has brought South Africa together and there is no doubt some of the most iconic images of any rugby world cup is Nelson Mandela holding the trophy aloft in 1995 and Siya Kolisi doing similarly in 2019. Michael says, "The support and the way the whole country gets behind the Springboks is just phenomenal, particularly in this last world cup and in 1995. The country was going through a lot and when they won the final, it just felt like the whole country came to a standstill in celebration and forgot about everything going on."

At Blues' more humble level, Michael has already had some outstanding performances. He has made a number of effective runs and tackles above his weight. His ability to change direction at speed is one of the most exciting aspects of his play. He particularly enjoyed the Marlborough game, his first home game for the club, with Dylan Stewart scoring in Blues Corner in the final minutes of the game to secure a victory.

So, what did Michael think Britain was going to be like before he came over? "Didn't have a clue to be honest. At the time I was 21 years old so I think Geordie Shore was something similar to what I had in mind." Whether he was disappointed or not, Newbury is not exactly like Newcastle. The market square doesn't really equate to the Big Market and a few more night clubs would suit Michael, as would better weather.

And what about English rugby? He names three players he would not want to see playing for England when they play South Africa, Marcus Smith, Maro Itoje and Freddie Steward. For those who are not English there would be little disagreement with this list of players as they certainly seem to be the future of the international game in England. And Newbury Blues? Michael says joining the club has been one of the highlights of his time in England, lots of friends, lots of laughs and lots of good rugby. A silver lining indeed and long may this continue for this personable young man so very far away from home.

Brian Lee

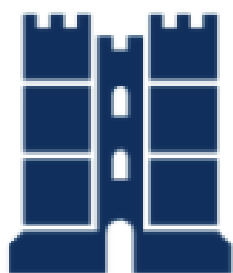
bwprint



& design

Printing and
Graphic Design
Specialists

07751 225901
ian@bwprint.co.uk

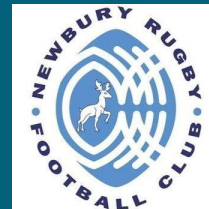


Newbury Building Society



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

FRIENDS OF NEWBURY RFC / REUNION LUNCH



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 ****



Reunion Lunch

Saturday 2nd April



Lunch places available - call 01635 230023 to book a table.

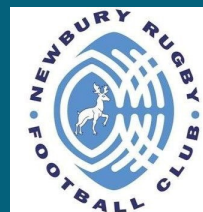


Join us through – "friends@newburyrfc.org.uk"



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

SPONSORSHIP



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



SIMUL MOVERE



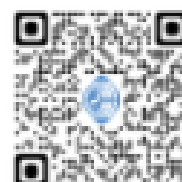
**GROUNDWORKS
LIMITED**



Newbury News & Media

PRINT • ONLINE • DIGITAL

THE LOCAL MEDIA SOLUTION



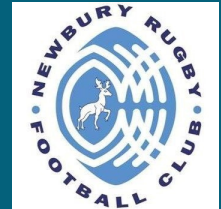
BUTLERS

trees • fences • landscapes



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

CLUB SHOP



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.



Here are just some of the items you can purchase through the Club Shop.
Check out the website for the full range.



Feel the best version of yourself !!



- Dermal Filler Injections
- Anti Wrinkle Injections
- Anti-Ageing Facials
- Sports/Remedial Massage

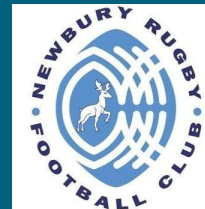
- CACI Non Surgical Face Lift
- Micro-needling
- Chemical Peels
- Deep Tissue Massage

and much more.....

07789 180 585 ○ www.bodybonito.com ● Find us in the Rugby Club Clubhouse ➡

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

SPONSOR A SHIRT



SPONSOR A SHIRT

Take part in our new sponsorship programme this season and sponsor a shirt number.

It's easy! Simply head to the membership/sponsorship table in the foyer on game day or email Louise Goodall with the number you wish to support for a match or two.

Help raise funds for our new Coaching Development initiative, providing and supporting the best coaches at NRFC.

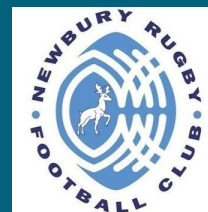
Sponsor a Shirt Number

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

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

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

NRFC WEDDING FAYRE & CLUB OPEN DAY



Newbury RFC *Wedding* Fayre

& Club Open Day

Be inspired... Experience the fun

SAT | 9TH | APRIL | 2022

Tickets now
available

Newly engaged? Planning a party? Christening? and looking for a venue... Why not come to our wedding fayre and club open day and see what we have to offer

01635 230023
reception@newburyrfc.org.uk

Newbury RFC, Monks Lane, Newbury, Berkshire
RG14 7RW

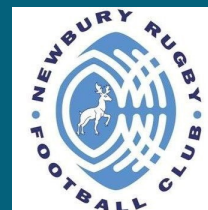


Douglas Hope
Financial Management

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS & WEALTH MANAGERS



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH



Let us help **PROP** up your savings and
TACKLE your mortgage.

Contact your local branch today to discuss how we can help you.

Call: 01635 555777 | **Visit:** www.newbury.co.uk

Newbury Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Financial Services Register number 206037). English Law applies and we will communicate with you in English. We are participants of the Financial Ombudsman Service. We have a complaints procedure which we will provide on request. Most complaints that we cannot resolve can be referred to the Financial Ombudsman Service. 0840

