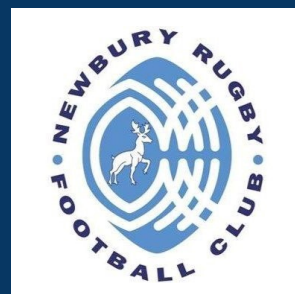


BLUES NEWS

KEEPING IN TOUCH - 14

MAY 2021



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**Newbury
Building Society**

WHAT'S INSIDE

[Update from the President](#)

[Update on All Weather Pitch
Proposal](#)

[Sunday Skills Squad](#)

[AGM announcement](#)

[How can you support your Club](#)

[Coach's Corner - James McAvoy](#)

[Update from Commercial Team](#)

[Latest from the Women and Girls](#)

[100 Club](#)

[Junior Update](#)

[Through the eyes of the players](#)

[Down Memory Lane](#)

[Personal Profiles](#)

[Supporting our community](#)

KEEPING IN TOUCH

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

**NEWBURY
RUGBY CLUB**

Spring into Rugby !!

This May has probably been the busiest the club has ever had!! Not with the normal award ceremonies for the players' player or the coaches' player but with junior rugby matches, senior rugby games with no scrums or mauls (Level D2 on the rugby road map) and the bi-weekly touch rugby. The clubhouse has also been busy as functions start gathering momentum again and Rob and Leann welcome back room hire and much needed income - 100% fully let last week. Well done indeed!

The fixture list is due out shortly for next season and there will be much debate on the RFU proposal for senior men's rugby for the 2022/23 season in Community Rugby Clubs. This will reduce the league to 12 teams as opposed to 14 and introduce a knockout competition at the end of the season. That sounds a good idea.....however, a closer look at the proposed league opposition will send Newbury up the M25 and beyond to Kent and Sussex for over half of its away games, extending travel time, and all the local derbies will disappear. This will put more demands on the players' time, won't reduce costs or improve player welfare and will be the end of associations with local community rugby clubs. Mick Futchter is on the case to the RFU with a counter proposal which retains some of our long established local games and dramatically reduces the mileage. The RFU in my view do not seem to understand the needs of community rugby, certainly at Newbury. If you have a view, do let the club know and we will convey it.

The club is reaching a crossroads and has a great opportunity! As we steer it towards financial stability there needs to be a healthy debate on what we the members want out of our club at every level. We are definitely not there yet but the message is incredibly positive to where we were two years ago.

At the moment we are an amateur community club in a building designed for a professional club (an amazing asset at an amazing cost). We have a unique situation at Newbury - a club the envy of most visiting teams. But to maintain this facility means we have to have a very clear business plan to pay for it, as well as a clear direction for rugby at all levels. A huge effort has been put in to addressing a business strategy, with great success, but we do now need to have a clear view on our rugby direction as well. It's what we are here for after all!

What are members' rugby aspirations for NRFC? We currently have a very good membership (600) with 120 senior players and some 400 minis and juniors, with some of the best supporters at this level of rugby anywhere in the country.

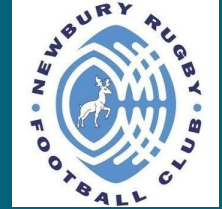
Do we declare we are only ever going to be an amateur club which will inevitably affect how far we go in the leagues ?

What is our goal financially? Do we want to make extra money to improve coaching and rugby facilities?

Do we want to play an even bigger role as a community facility, ie supporting disability sports for example?

Do we want to become the number one coaching centre of excellence in Berkshire, throughout the club?

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH



Do we want to be a major centre for the development for women's and girls' rugby?

Do we want a stronger social side where family and friends want to socialise, enjoy and support events at the club?

Do we want to stay as we are and not change much because it delivers what you want?

Do we change anything to make the club experience better?

A good club spirit evolves when all levels in the club are actively involved in all aspects of the club. At rugby level on the pitch we have achieved a lot of success, with some great volunteers out there helping every week. But are we a collective club looking at its overall wellbeing or just focussed on our own particular team?

The Blues Family need to own the whole club. We need to know the direction from the family members and therefore the vision for the future so that it reflect members' views. Maybe I've had too much time to think over the last year (!!!) but for me this is an important moment in the club's future.

It is already a great club which in my view will get even better if we understand and action the members' vision for the future and the opportunities for the members to shape that, are there right now!

Let's' hear members views. We don't have to change at all but let's not miss that opportunity!

David Jones - President

WBC Lease and the All-weather Pitch Proposal on Pitch 5

Discussions with West Berkshire Council continue on an almost daily basis. The Heads of Terms have been agreed in principle, covering the rent, premium and hours of use. There will be a significant financial benefit to the club and we will retain access onto the new all weather pitch for every Sunday during the season and some access during the weekday evenings. We will have more hours on this pitch during the season than we currently use.

The Joint use agreement which covers everything else and especially the detail on the day-to-day operational use is currently being negotiated by the Steering group. This is a detailed document and is taking considerable time to get into place.

This will ensure that the new self-contained facility will operate independently of our rugby facility, but where there are benefits to both facilities we will work together. Also, from my discussions with parents and coaches at all levels, the prospect of access to an all-weather pitch has been generally enthusiastically received. The RFU just in the last two weeks are promoting rugby throughout the country on all-weather pitches, so at Newbury we will have the benefit of both on our doorstep without the high costs of maintaining it.

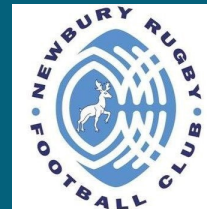
WBC need to agree the JUA and their requirements and they also have to secure Planning Permission, so there is still work to do. We will keep you advised of the position. Any questions you may have please contact the Steering group by emailing anthonydlloyd@yahoo.co.uk.

David Jones - President

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

SUNDAY SKILLS SQUAD / JUNIOR UPDATE



blues rugby coaching

OPEN TO ALL!

Sunday Skills Squad @ Monks Lane

Every Sunday from 6th June to 11th July

Group 1 (11 to 13 y.o.) - 1pm to 2pm

Group 2 (14 to 16 y.o.) - 2pm to 3pm



£10 per session, £50 for all 6 sessions
<https://paul-archer.sumup.link>



SCAN ME

Questions? bluesrugbycoaching@outlook.com



NEWBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

To: All voting members of Newbury RFC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to all members of Newbury Rugby Football Club that the Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on

Wednesday 30 June 2021 at 7.00pm

at The Clubhouse, Monks Lane, Newbury Berks. RG14 7RW

Please be advised that this will be a full AGM providing opportunity to approve previous Minutes and report from the Committee; receive a financial update; to hold elections (*) which were deferred last year for the Officers and Committee members; President, Vice President; and Trustees; and to consider any proposals from members.

(*) Adam Prickett is stepping down as Treasurer and there will be vacancies on the Board of Trustees. There also will be a special resolution to retrospectively ratify decisions made with respect to holding virtual meetings and deferring the elections.

Further details will be published to voting Members in due course.

Christine Morrell - Secretary

On behalf of Newbury RFC Committee

SPRING INTO ACTION

It's going to be a long summer of rugby at Monks Lane, so we need your support to kick things back off!

We have a number of projects that can gain extra support from the **Greenham Common Trust Good Exchange**, including the upgrade of two of our pitches!

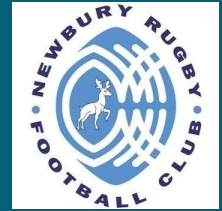
We're looking for club members and supporters to raise money by being sponsored to do an activity or challenge, or simply by donating!

TO DONATE, VISIT
THEGOODEXCHANGE.COM AND
SEARCH FOR PROJECT 18498

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY CLUB



HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS YOU COULD SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY CLUB THIS SUMMER.....

There are lots of ways to get involved and we will be needing volunteers to take ownership of your club in many areas. Right now there is the need for willing volunteers to help for a few hours or more on a strategic basis, guiding the club through this exciting time for the club.

DON'T LEAVE IT TO OTHERS - IT'S ENJOYABLE, WORKING WITH A GOOD TEAM - MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP RUN YOUR CLUB:

CLUB TREASURER

Experience in Accounts, to work with the financial team. Adam Prickett has done a fabulous job but would like to step down now although will obviously help the next person as much as they need.

CLUB SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR

Currently being run by Richard Deal who is also wearing other hats in the club but again, would be there to help a new person. Busy for approx 3 months of the year, so not full on for the whole year. Ideal for local person with good connections in the town.

HELP COLLATE THE HISTORY OF THE CLUB

One day job for an organised person to collate the club's historical memorabilia currently held by the president and the rest stored at the club. Interesting and important exercise which has been put off for a number of years!

INTERNATIONAL TICKET CO-ORDINATOR

International Tickets distributed from the club in a ballot. Generally six weeks of activity, split into two sections. Very important perk for the members so needs two persons to work together for a short period of time.

CLUB SHOP CO-ORDINATOR

Running of the Shop is an important part of the club for members, players and finances. Volunteers required on match/practise days to help coordinate this.

ENERGY ENGINEERS

Any members in the club connected with solar panelling/green energy, who might help the club review its current heating and electricity arrangements, and who could volunteer their advice would be appreciated.

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Need to consider redesigning the boards at the main entrance so any members who could give some advice on this would be appreciated.

NEWSLETTER

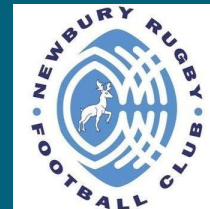
This has run now for over a year and plays an important role in our communication to our members. Existing team will continue to help but it will need a new editor and coordinator well before the new season. Not full on except for a few days before publication.

If you would like to know more about any of the above volunteer roles, please contact either David Jones, Tony Lloyd or Lou Goodall by email. No one will be press ganged into any role. Do it to enjoy it!

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

COACH'S CORNER - JAMES MCAVOY



Barry Island's got it all. Well perhaps not quite all but on sunny summer weekends back in the day, arrive on the Island after 11.00 am and you'd be struggling to find a space on the vast expanse of sand so popular was it with the families from the South Wales valleys who went there in their droves. It has now become a lot more recognisable as one of the stomping grounds of Smithy and Nessa but for all its popularity it still doesn't have a crucial component any self respecting seaside town needs to have.....a pier. As a young boy when I saw a pier for the first time I was amazed. It was a family holiday to Southsea and to this day a visit to South Parade Pier still evokes memories of the first time I saw what I thought was a strange construction sticking out into the sea for what seemed like miles. Disrepair and fire are part of its history but it is now refurbished and back as a working, functioning pier in the best of tradition.



James McAvoyn, the most recent addition to the senior coaching team could well have visited the pier many times, growing up as he did in Portsmouth. His schooling was at St John's College in Southsea, near the Albert Road and you wouldn't struggle to find a pub if you walked down that road. Junior rugby was played as a full back at Havant RFC and James represented Hampshire in the junior age groups. Successful Advanced levels led to a BSc in Sports Coaching at Cardiff Metropolitan University and here he rubbed shoulders and played with players the calibre of Alex Cuthbert who would go on to play on the wing for Wales and the 2013 British Lions, Lloyd Williams, one of the current Wales' scrum halves and Dan Bibby, silver medal winner for GB at the rugby 7's at the Rio Olympics in 2016. James looks back with great fondness on his time at Cardiff particularly when England came to play in the Six Nations and the buzz that created. As a major capital city he thoroughly enjoyed his three years at Cardiff.

It wasn't all glamour at Cardiff Met though. Visits to some of the more robust valley teams soon taught James how to look after himself on a rugby field and he reflects that playing against men's teams who had no particular love of students was a whole lot different to playing Hampshire schoolboy rugby. He felt that whilst his skill levels were up there with many of his peers at University, his upbringing with an emphasis on skills meant he had to quickly adapt to the strength and conditioning aspects of Welsh club rugby and BUCS Super Rugby which was not as prevalent in his junior years. This has since led to James furthering his understanding with personal training and nutritional qualifications. So it was a steep and rapid learning curve which stood him in good stead and he played in the Cardiff Met team in the University BUCS championships. He also came under the influence of Chris Davey, Director of Sport at the University. On his retirement in 2017 the University was unquestionably one of the leading higher education rugby institutions in the country and James has great respect for his former coach.

A career in teaching beckoned and after undertaking a Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Chichester College he found a job at his old school in Southsea as Head of Rugby. Whilst at Chichester he played for Worthing RFC and James' playing career saw him playing at all levels from National 1 to National 3. Job moves eventually led to James teaching at Kennet School where he is currently Head of A level PE and Rugby, a role he is relishing. He is also Head Coach of Berkshire U16 rugby and alongside Paul Archer and Neil Hunter, is part of the London Irish Development Player Pathway. Unearthing, harnessing and developing young talented players is something that gives him a great deal of satisfaction in much the same way as seeing his students at Kennet develop their academic potential and sporting prowess.

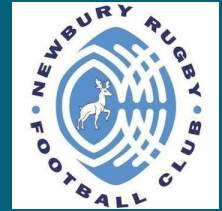
James is aware that most of his coaching experience has been with youth players and is very much looking forward to the opportunity of coaching adults. He has enough emotional intelligence to realise he may have to rethink his coaching pedagogy and has understood within the first month of being involved at the club that adult players are more questioning and have more autonomy than younger players. He is currently undertaking his RFU Advanced Coaching Award and as part of this he has to put together player improvement plans for a number of individual players. He is looking forward with great anticipation to this aspect of his coaching at the club. James is also Player/Coach of the White Horse 7's team that plays summer 7's tournaments throughout the UK, such as the Bournemouth 7's which their website describes as the, "Sporting Glastonbury (and is) the World's largest Sport and Music Festival." It attracts some high quality teams and James would like to think this could be a development opportunity for some of our players.

So, welcome to NRFC James. Here's hoping you enjoy your time at the club and develop friendships reflective of rugby clubs everywhere and whilst Southsea might have a pier, an international ferry terminal, The Mary Rose, The Victory, a fantastic Royal Dockyard, Spinnaker Tower and a great summer music festival, it doesn't have a Gavin and Stacey tour, so Barry just edges it.....

Brian Lee

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

UPDATE FROM THE COMMERCIAL TEAM



With lockdown easing since 12th April we have seen the majority of our regular room hirers return, together with a number of new customers. We have already hosted two training conferences and seen one day of 100% room utilisation – a first for the Commercial team. A fantastic achievement for everyone involved and recognised by really good customer feedback. All this has been achieved despite on-going (and changing) Covid restrictions.



It's not just rooms though as we also hire out parts of the car park and pitches as well changing room space.

Rugby events have been mainly limited to Sunday training for Minis, Juniors and Colts and the odd Seniors activity. The new Container Bar is now complete and seeing great use on Sundays. The next phase in its development is already being planned.

None of the above would be possible without the efforts of Leeann and her bar staff, Nigel, Charlotte and John.

Covid Rules from 17th May (phase 3 easing)

- ⇒ Indoor service allowed but must be sat at tables. Rule of six or two households still applies together with social distancing requirements
- ⇒ Everyone 16+ must register on the NHS Track and Trace app
- ⇒ All alcohol must be consumed while sat down (inside and out)
- ⇒ Max groups of 30 outside and must maintain social distancing (no mixing of groups)

We have been liaising closely with West Berkshire Council to comply with Covid requirements and need all visitors to play their part / abide by the rules too.

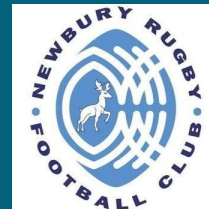
Rob Harris

16/5/21



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

LATEST FROM THE WOMEN & GIRLS



Friday 7th May was the first time the U13 and U15 girls got the chance to blow off the cobwebs, playing several Berkshire teams in a round robin touch tournament. Coach Jamie headed up the U13s team and Coaches Niki and Kev headed up the two U15s teams.

UNDER 13S

Really good effort from those U13s who played in the mini tournament yesterday at Reading Rams. After some unfortunate mis-direction on the rules to start with they went on to narrowly lose the first game and to come from behind and win the next two fixtures. Some exciting, varied attacking intent with great support play was backed up by very determined defence when under pressure. I was very impressed with how they worked out for themselves what they needed to adjust to turn the games in their favour with lots of constructive analysis and discussion by the girls. Well done to them all, everyone played their part with, I think, every girl scoring a try (or many tries!!). Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline, Sportsmanship.

Coach - Jamie Bull



UNDER 15S

The U15s got off to a shaky start, getting used to playing with an official referee and brand-new rules, but the motto of the evening was "progression not perfection". As the girls entered their next game the confidence grew and they were beginning to find their feet, which led to scoring some great tries and identifying where the space was with some cheeky kicks.

As the games progressed throughout the night, the rugby from the u15s was fantastic, the hands were fluid, running on the ball from depth was exactly what a coach wants to see and the teamwork on the pitch was second to none. The last match of the night was one of the U15s teams against a strong Bracknell team, but that did not phase them one bit. The Newbury girls got off

to a strong start, picking holes in the defence and working on their support lines and sure enough the tries came, but more importantly there were smiles on faces.

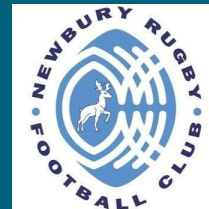
When asked after the tournament whether they thought they had progressed throughout the night the response was unanimous – YES! From the first game to the last, the enjoyment massively increased, and the skill level was amazing to see.

Coach - Niki Paton



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CLUB



100+ CLUB

Have you bought your

100 Club ticket yet?

Has your Annual Ticket expired?

Help support your club
from just £2 a month.

Tickets available via [Pitchero](#).

You have to be in it

to win it!!

Any queries - please email Sarah Thorne -
sarahthorne175@gmail.com

Congratulations to our recent 100 Club draw winners:

FEB 1st Dimitris Ragousis

2nd Kerry Thorne

3rd Peter Carlisle

MAR 1st Tom Phillip

2nd Tony Quinn

3rd David Jones

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.

JUNIOR UPDATE

THIS WEEKEND and NEXT - WATCH OUT FOR THE UNDER14s

This Sunday 23rd May the Under 14s take on Reading Abbey with their A team and Development squad, starting at 11.45am at Monks Lane.

On 30th May Under 14s will be taking on Windsor again at home, which is effectively the 2020 Berkshire Cup Final as it was cancelled last year because of the Pandemic restrictions; KO also 11.45am. We wish them the best of luck in this big game as they proudly represent Newbury RFC.

SIMPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

PAY YOUR
CLUB MEMBERSHIP

SPONSORSHIP
Contact Richard Deal

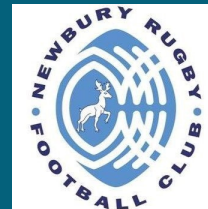
CLUB EVENTS
Details posted on Pitchero

LATEST
GOOD EXCHANGE PROJECT

FOR ALL THE LATEST
CLUB NEWS

100+ CLUB

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.

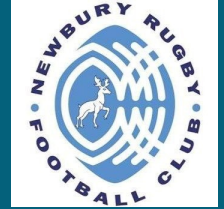
Call: 01635 555777 | **Visit:** www.newbury.co.uk

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 206677). 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. 1040



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PLAYERS - EMMA ROBINSON



Park Hospital, Statues in Cardiff and Sirens

Most people can't get enough of them. Just take a look at the viewing figures for TV programmes such as *Casualty* and *Holby City* and documentaries about medical issues ranging from live streaming of acute operations to cameras accompanying first responders. We have a number of members at the club who work in the medical field and in other essential services and this edition of the newsletter is highlighting one of these as a thank you to all of them for their unstinting work not only during the past year but way before that and way into the future. One of these is Emma Robinson and like many thousands of her colleagues nationwide she carries out the work envisaged by Aneurin Bevan back in July 1948 when his vision of a National Health Service became a reality with the opening of the first NHS hospital at Davyhulme in Manchester.

Emma was born and raised in Cumbria, one of the most sparsely populated counties in England yet the third largest by area. Mainly rural it is renowned for its scenery and contains the Lake District National Park which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Emma played football growing up as there was no opportunity to play rugby at her school. A headline in the *Guardian* in 2019 read, "Foul! Girls want to play football and rugby - so why are schools not letting them? Research suggests that things are changing slowly. It does appear however that to access rugby the majority of girls need to attach themselves to a rugby club rather than relying on their school to offer the game to them. The good news of course is that more clubs now have girls' and women's sections.

The first time Emma got involved in rugby was when she joined the University of Portsmouth Women's rugby team in 2012 on starting her BSc in Paramedic Science. During this time she also played for Eastleigh Trojans and she is now in her fourth year playing at NRFC. The desire to play rugby came about simply because she fancied a change from playing football. Some skills are transferable of course and as a utility player, whose preferred position is back row, Emma is highly regarded by her team mates. Captain Lizzie Harris says, "Emma is a key and valuable player of ours." However valuable she is, Emma realises that there are aspects of her game she would like to improve and defence is one of these.

Her Paramedic Science degree led Emma to working in North Hampshire for much of the time since she graduated. "I originally had thoughts about being a nurse but I struggle with being in the same building, same place day in day out whereas being a Paramedic I can travel all over and every day is different and poses its own challenges." As a non medical person I can only admire the work done by paramedics and for those who have had the misfortune to have to have called the Emergency Services, the sheer relief when the siren can be heard or the blue lights seen in the distance is palpable. That is why it is difficult to understand why some people, "Have a preconceived idea we are just ambulance drivers when in fact we are highly skilled, trained medical professionals who are expected and succeed at being the jack of all trades, although the 'clap for carers' was greatly appreciated by all those working through lockdown." Just ambulance drivers indeed. The Portsmouth University website in its overview of the degree says, 'As one of the first healthcare professionals to arrive at emergency situations, paramedics are the frontline of the healthcare system, often making crucial life saving decisions as they assess a patient's condition.'

All jobs have highs and lows but for paramedics like others employees in the medical field there are restrictions on what individuals can say about their job. Emma does state, however, that some of the highlights have been watching student paramedics and colleagues who she has mentored progress and qualify to become paramedics. A lot of their degree is on the job training with a relatively small amount of university work and the yearly cycle is unlike many other degrees, starting in September and going on until the end of July.

Clearly a stressful job, an outlet like rugby is ideal. Training during the lockdowns wasn't easy for Emma with her enhanced working commitments but the women's section had a lot of Zoom fitness sessions, "Not to mention the hellacious workout provided by England flanker Vicky Fleetwood." There have been many memorable moments at NRFC for Emma and two stand out, the first reaching the final of the Intermediate Cup and the second, "My infamous kick chase try away against Drybrook." Let's hope for many more of these when rugby resumes properly again.

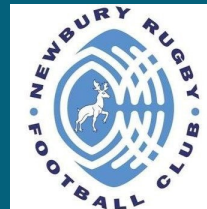
My thanks to Emma for providing the information for this article and if anyone in future refers to paramedics as just ambulance drivers, in the words of Mrs Brown suggest respectfully to them they may well be, "barking up the wrong fecking tree."

Brian Lee



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

DOWN MEMORY LANE



1938

Memorable Season for Newbury Rugger

BIG INCREASE IN PLAYING STRENGTH

STRONGEST ALL-ROUND BERKSHIRE CLUB

Newbury Rugby Club has now ended one of the most successful seasons in its history. It has indeed been a memorable one, for the playing strength of the club has increased by leaps and bounds, and no fewer than eighty different players have been called upon during the season. Besides the usual First and A. XV's which are always run, this year has seen the revival of a B. XV. The record of the B. team, though not as good as the two senior sides, is yet very encouraging, and when it is considered that players have graduated from the B. XV to the First XV, during the season, it augurs well indeed for the future.

Team Records.

The records of the club are as follows:—

	P.	W.	D.	L.	For.	Agst.	Points
First XV.....	31	20	3	8	426	215	
A. XV.....	22	16	0	6	254	106	
B. XV.....	12	3	0	9	62	225	

These figures speak for themselves, and show the real strength of the club, but it is also pleasing to record that the Newbury club have more than held their own with their county rivals, Berkshire Wanderers and Old Redingensians, each of whom were defeated once, while against their old rivals, Thames Valley, Newbury completed the double. The season was brought to a close with a splendid run of ten consecutive victories.

Perhaps the greatest achievement was the glorious victory over W. H. Weston's XV at the end of the season, and the club is extraordinarily grateful to Weston and to C. P. Tebbitt, who made the game possible. It is matches such as these that popularise the game in Newbury, and next season it is hoped that during the opening weeks other famous players will bring down sides to play Newbury.

Better Attendances.

The effect of these games has been greatly noticed, too, in the larger crowds which come to support the Club on the touchline, and to those regular attendants at home matches the club is really grateful.

At the beginning of the season the club set out to see that its games should start at the advertised times of kick-off, and although in some cases the visiting sides delayed the start, there was a most decided improvement over the previous season.

The success of the First XV was no doubt founded to some extent on the strength of its forwards, for although they are not big, they always showed that they could hold their own, and it was rarely that they were outplayed. Adnams, in his first season as skipper, led them with distinction, and in Wickens the club had its most improved player. The brothers Chilton at scrum and outside-half, too, played some good games and combined well together, and experience which they have gained in their first full season in the First XV should stand both the club and themselves in good stead next year.

A Word to the Three-quarters.

The three-quarters on occasions have been brilliant, but they have been, in some matches, very disappointing, and although their all-round abilities are undoubtedly great, they never combined really well. If, however, these young players can combine their individual qualities together next season Newbury should have the best side it has ever had.

The success of the A. XV has, too, been extremely gratifying, and it is the best season that they have ever had. R. S. Bushnell has always led them in a dashing manner, and his keenness is a big factor in their achievements, although the team work of the whole XV was mainly responsible for their great season, during which they had a run of ten matches without defeat. These victories included wins over the A. XV's of Berks Wanderers, Old Redingensians and Thames Valley, and thus proved that Newbury is the strongest all-round club in the county.

Thirkill's 47 Goals.

The B. XV did not have a full fixture list, but, nevertheless, they thoroughly enjoyed their Rugger, and several of its members have shown great promise, notably Gregory, who, in his first season of Rugger, improved so much that he was playing for the First XV in their Easter programme.

P. Adnams and G. J. Wickens did not miss a match for the First XV, while W. G. Thirkill did well in converting 42 tries and kicking five penalty goals.

F. W. Bellinger, the A. team's vice-captain, was the only member who played in every game, while R. E. Griffin and E. S. Mann also played for the B. XV in all its games.

During the season P. Adnams, E. G. Cooper, A. C. Dallimore and G. A. Jessett were selected to play for Berkshire in county matches.

After the match at Newtown-road, Newbury, on Easter Monday, a silver and ebony rosary was found in the grandstand. This will be returned to the owner on application to Mr. K. F. Griffin, secretary, 14a, Northbrook-street, Newbury.

1930

THE RUGBY TEAM MAKING A NAME FOR ITSELF.

The most live sporting organisation in the town at the present time is the Newbury Rugby Football Club. Last Saturday it put three teams in the field, which means finding no less than 45 players. The first team has a wonderful record this season. Up to last Saturday it had played 15 matches, having won 13, drawn one, lost one, and scored 266 points to 53. The clubs defeated include such well-known combinations as the Polytechnic, the Berkshire Wanderers and the Oxford Nomads. The members of the club are all as keen as mustard. On Saturday, when the team went to Southampton and drew with the Trojans there, a big following accompanied them. Yesterday the club met with its second defeat of the season, being beaten by a team of Old Blues. This was only to be expected, as the Old Blues, who are old Christ's Hospital Boys, are a very formidable side. The Newbury Club is rapidly making a name for itself as the best Rugby team in this part of the country.

NEWBURY RUGBY F.C.

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

One of the most flourishing sporting organisations of the town is the Newbury Rugby F.C., the annual meeting of which was held on Friday night at the Hatchet Hotel, under the chairmanship of the President, Mr. J. A. Fairhurst, who was supported by the Mayor (Councillor A. C. Elliott), Mr. C. E. Gilroy and Mr. T. Rutherford Harley (vice-presidents), Mr. A. Bulleid (hon. treasurer), Mr. C. L. Whittaker (the retiring hon. secretary), and Mr. J. Baverstock (the retiring captain).

The Hon. Secretary's report showed that the Club's first season had been wonderfully successful, whilst the Hon. Treasurer's report indicated a strong financial position. Receipts amounted to £106, and after meeting all expenses there remained a balance in hand of £6 11s. 0d.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mr. J. A. Fairhurst; hon. secretary, Mr. H. Liggins, in the place of Mr. Whittaker, who regretted his inability to give the time to carry on the duties; and hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Bulleid; committee, Messrs. F. Hardy, C. Tebbitt, K. C. Baines, J. Steptoe and W. Cook. On the proposition of Mr. C. E. Gilroy, the selection of a captain was left in the hands of the committee.

Coleman Balls

The art of letting words out before engaging the brain !!

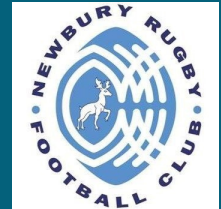
The bowler is Holding .The batsmans Willey Brian Johnson
 Umpire Fenwick just twitches his nose instead of putting his finger up in the normal way. Paul Allott
 England have nothing to lose apart from the Test match. David Lloyd
 The only change England would propose might be to replace Derek Pringle who remains troubled by no balls.
 He has opened his legs and shown us his full potential David Coleman on Lynford Christie
 For those of you watching who do not have TV sets live commentary is on Radio 2.
 And we dont need a calculator to tell us the run rate is 4.5454 per over . Christopher Martin Jenkins

Quiz question. Who is the only person to have played first class cricket and win a world cup winners medal at football ?

Answer is Geoff Hurst (Essex)

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PERSONAL PROFILES FROM ACROSS OUR BLUES FAMILY



SENIOR PLAYER



DYLAN STEWART

Playing history: Attended Park House School and have played for Newbury since U13.

Favourite song: Trinity by Alix Perez, a real banger

Most admired person to invite for dinner: Louis Theroux. He's an add bloke who has seen and done some weird stuff

Most surprising fact about yourself: I once played Baseball for Great Britain and on tour in Canada I broke my leg doing high knees in the warm up

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: making my Blues debut whilst playing alongside my dad and winning the play off game against Clevedon to get promoted

A

SENIOR PLAYER



BETH ROCH

Playing history: Played in school and joined Newbury and Berkshire last season.

Favourite song: Grace Kelly by Mika

Most admired person to invite for dinner: jockey Rachael Blackmore as she's always breaking the stereotypes and boundaries of women in sport.

Most surprising fact about yourself: when I was younger I wanted to be a showjumper.

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: making my senior debut in December.

CLUB SUPPORTER



IAN DAVIES

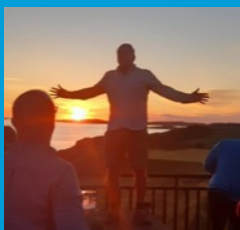
Favourite song: Mr Brightside by The Killers; Solsbury Hill by Peter Gabriel.

Most admired person to invite for dinner: Warren Gatland—I was lucky enough to go on Lions tour in New Zealand for 2nd and 3rd tests in Wellington and Auckland and it would be great to sit and chat about his calm thought processes during those matches as all the supporters were going to pieces with nerves around him.

Favourite moment at NRFC: comeback win v Swindon - not good for the heart; play off game v Clevedon - excitement and atmosphere were superb; last minute Dan Thorne penalty v Brixham for a Newbury win and then beers with Brixham supporters in the bar afterwards - lovely bunch.

Most surprising fact about yourself: I have never played a single game of rugby as was always a footballer and had very little interest in the game until Nellie Collins (ex NRFC player) came over for dinner and gave me a ticket to watch him play for 1st team didn't understand the rules or tactics and wasn't sure I would go back as did not enjoy the afternoon at all but here we are now where I support the team both home and away. Went to school with Simon Cowell. Got into a fight and punched him giving him a real shiner as he was picking on my brother.

CLUB SUPPORTER



DAVID GASKELL

Playing history: I was born in Exeter and went to Heavitree School. Moved to Hampstead Norris and went to St Joseph's Primary, Turnpike and Kennet for my A levels

Favourite song: One Way of Life by the Levellers. Live to how you want to live as you want and do what you want

Most admired person to invite for dinner: anyone who has an opinion.

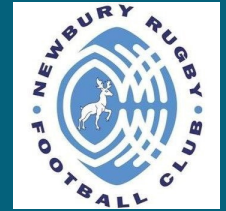
Most surprising fact about yourself:

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: when a group of us set up Newbury Stags to enable players to continue to play at Newbury, their local club.

Additional Info: My love of rugby started when my dad took us to Pinchington Lane when Tom Phillips started the minis back in the 1970's. I played all through the age groups to the Stags and played county rugby from U15 to Colts. I have enjoyed many rugby tours that have cemented great

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



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



— SIMUL MOVERE —

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.

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.

SPONSORSHIP

Richard Deal has been busy generating new sponsorship for this coming season - not an easy task in the current circumstances, but he's doing a sterling job.

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, however small (or BIG), please contact **Richard Deal**.

Please note that support of certain community club projects will be match-funded by Greenham Common Trust. Because of the Covid Virus, we have never needed sponsorship so much and will never be more grateful!

Thank you!

