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BLUES NEWS

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Newbury RFC's Official Newsletter



NEWBURY RFC BIGGEST EVER WIN!

LADIES PUT 133 OVER THE LINE

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

OUR LADIES SMASH IT AT HOME

Scoring our largest ever win!

Anticipation was high after Newbury Blues women's side had faced two tough games in previous weeks. The weather was mostly on our side but the pitch had taken a battering from the rain. Southampton arrived but, due to unfortunate circumstances, were a few players short. Keen to play, Southampton showed up with 13 but put up a battle in good spirits.

Meg Mason continues to lead the squad as captain from fly-half. The start of the game saw the hosts concede an early knock-on, providing an opportunity to show what the sides could do in the scrum. Newbury had a fantastic drive and won back the ball, Tom (Hannah) Ward at 8 controlled the pack and ball, scoring a blinder of a try from a pick and go, getting the first 5 points on the board just 3 minutes in.

The game continued with Southampton battling for points and fighting hard against Newbury. Newbury managed to control Southampton's breaks with some incredible running and tackles from backs Rosie, Flo and Lizzie. With more possession coming from the boot of Captain Meg.

Newbury's backline were unstoppable, the team ran in 10 tries in the first half from Tom, Niki, Emma R, Lizzie, Rosie, Devon, and Flo. With 4 conversions from Chloe Hunt leaving the first half 58 Newbury, 0 Southampton. The second half left us with hat-tricks from Flo, Lizzie, Rosie, and Devon, with Flo making her mark snipping through a gap to take her over the line and give Newbury a 100 point lead. Late into the 2nd half, Southampton kept up their fantastic team spirit and enthusiasm, maximising on a penalty and putting 3 points on the board. An incredibly enjoyable game for both teams finished with a Christmas jumper post-match dinner and well-deserved pints. Forward of the match went to Emma Cunningham for tackling everything on the pitch and back of the match went to Rosie Archard for her excellent ball-handling skills.



NOTE FROM THE PLAYERS

After moving late this summer to Tilehurst just outside of Reading I was in search of a rugby club. Having not played a full season in a few years I was nervous about making sure I chose the right club for me.

I remembered playing against Newbury as a kid and always having a great time at the junior tournaments over the years. I reached out to Arch in the last week of preseason and he said that he'd be more than happy to have me down. Since joining I haven't regretted my decision. From my first game down in Camborne everyone has been incredibly welcoming (players and supporters alike).

Despite the tough season we've been having so far this year the amount of support has been incredible and makes me proud to pull on the Blues jersey every time. A definite highlight for me was beating Barnstaple at home under the lights, that was special and something I won't forget any time soon.

I'd like to thank all my teammates for making me feel at home this season and a big thanks to my sponsor G&T Executives too. Christopher Bird,

RUCK AND ROLL

U12's Report



We began the season with three simple objectives:

- 1) Sustain an integrated playing group where everyone can thrive and enjoy their rugby
- 2) Play a heads-up brand of rugby emphasising handling and running skills to spread the ball around the players as much as possible.
- 3) Develop on-field independence and decision making as well as off-field leadership.

To achieve these goals we have focussed training so far upon core skills such as handling and rucking to ensure we maximise ball retention – building a base upon which we are grafting more complex game plans. This has led to some very enjoyable sessions and some pretty intense 'Blue-on-Blue' games with little quarter asked or given. With a dedicated playing base of 61 boys and growing (we have added 12 new players this season) it can be a bit hectic keeping everyone focussed and aligned across ability and experience levels, especially with a coaching team drawn from every corner of the British Isles! The squad is progressing really well and the players are now getting very comfortable with the playing philosophy and style.

From a tournament perspective, we started by sending two teams to a very strong Henley tournament with teams such as Rosslyn Park and Saracens as well as the larger Home counties clubs. One team ran into a very strong Rosslyn Park team early on before getting stronger and stronger as the tournament went on and the other team performed very well throughout, failing to reach the final only by dint of a last-second try in their final pool game. We then sent two teams to the Reading festival and both teams performed very strongly in their groups, with clear evidence of the desire to play running rugby really coming to fruition with some wonderful flowing tries. Finally, we took a development squad to Thatcham last week, where we were warmly welcomed and produced a very cohesive and exciting performance to show the strength of depth in the squad.

While the quality of the rugby has been very pleasing the most satisfying things has been how the team have bonded and supported each other, with some great examples of individuals picking up their teammates when they made mistakes and plenty of laughter and fun at training.

Thanks also to the parents, we are really blessed with an extremely engaged and supportive group who turn up in numbers to every training session and tournament. The future looks very bright for this talented and fun group of players and it is exciting to see what the rest of the season can bring.

MINI'S 2ND HAND KIT STALL STILL GOING - COME ON DOWN

A number of parents from the Mini section are continue to coordinate a second hand kit stall to be open on Sunday mornings. This will be available on or around the first Sunday in the month, dependent on Mini fixtures. We are always looking for old kit that people have, from playing kit, to boots, to base layers - anything you think someone else might be able to use.

If you have anything to donate, there will be a wheelie bin or a box under the stairs in the changing room corridor where items can be left for us to collect and sort out ready for selling on.



Financial AGM Round Up

Thanks to all of the Members who attended this important annual meeting and received the presentation from Adam Prickett, Treasurer. This included details of Profit/Loss and performance for Financial Year ending 30 June 2019 vs the preceding year; and also outlined what is being done to address the deficit in the budget.

Headline items were that revenue was up but running costs were significantly higher. Although there was a small operating surplus, this was due to receipt of an exceptional, one-off payment. Against this, there had been substantial non-recurring expenditure to catch up on essential repairs & maintenance; sponsorship income was below the target; and the trading performance was down against budget.

The current position is unsustainable and so a number of measures have been put in place since July with an objective of achieving balanced income/expenditure by 2020/21. Three key areas are covered: Management, Facilities and Financial. Eg a new Management Board has been formed; focus groups established; the Gym relocated, the 'Bar on the Hill' opened, and match-funded projects started with Greenham Common Trust. There's also been a drive to increase membership and sponsorship incomes; hold more fundraising events; and to grow the 100+ Club. Members voted to approve the Accounts for year ending 30 June 2019.

Finally, Members were reminded that more Volunteers are urgently needed to help out in whatever capacity they can, either practically eg. with hands-on on match days or other events, or by offering their expertise.

Christine Morrell
Secretary

GOT CONTENT?

Contact the editor at:

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100 Club Winners

Sponsor our club and enter the monthly cash prize draw!

Sign up now to be in next month's draw –
from as little as £2 per month

Simply go to:

<https://www.newburyrugby.co.uk/payments/category/other>

or pick up a form in Reception

1st Place

Paul Archer (£79)

2nd Place

Neil Pennington (£37)

3rd Place

Emma Burch (£20)