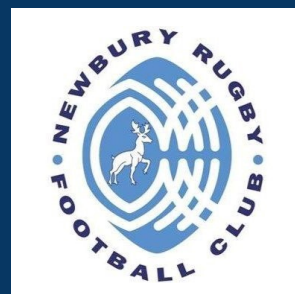


BLUES NEWS

KEEPING IN TOUCH - 12

FEBRUARY 2021



This newsletter is sponsored by



**Newbury
Building Society**

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KEEPING IN TOUCH

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

**NEWBURY
RUGBY CLUB**

Latest on the WBC proposal for a long-term lease on our NRFC property.

West Berkshire Council have put a proposal forward to NRFC for consideration, to take a long lease on an area of land including Pitch 5 to lay an all-weather pitch (suitable for football and rugby) and construct changing rooms, a function room, a stand and parking access. We understand this is subject to Public Consultation until the 28th February, Council approval at committee. Planning Permission also has to be approved.

For NRFC this is being managed by the Steering Group who will consider all questions and inputs raised by the members, before taking to the next stage. WBC are aware that any proposal must ensure that it enhances the long-term financial sustainability of the rugby club; rugby has access to the new all-weather pitch and does not lose pitch time, especially on Sunday morning. It must also not impact on the independence of the rugby club and the lease will be with WBC. The next stage is to agree a Heads of Terms (not agreed to date) and to support this with a Joint Use Agreement that will be negotiated to support operational activities, if the headline areas are agreed.

Members have been invited through the newsletter and on-line requests to raise queries and many have been received. To ensure wider engagement a webinar with members ran on Thursday 11th February, where an explanation as to why and how this had come about and the process we are now following. A Question and Answer document with feedback is being used to update all points raised. Further queries raised at the webinar will be discussed within the Steering group and added to an updated Q&A which will be distributed in due course. Thank you to all those who attended the webinar to discuss this very important matter which will steer the club's future one way or another. Positive feedback was received that the meeting was transparent and helpful by a number of the attendees.

The Steering Group is considering all options and aims to take into account all members' views who have kindly responded. The group has identified the three main cohorts which will be affected which is the senior players (men and women), the minis and juniors and the supporters. Any decision must reflect the interests of all these groups. The Steering group is charged with looking after the rugby club's long term interests as a community club and has no interest in the wider political agenda that has raised its head.

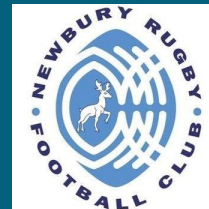
The due process is to discuss all the points raised, to decide if we have a proposal which might be acceptable to members, which the Steering Group will discuss. If the Steering Group consider this is not in the best interests of the club, they will advise accordingly. This will be subject to discussions continuing between WBC and the Steering Group. Any final decision will be made by the Trustees as the constitution states. However, a further webinar will be held with the members to advise of the practical details of any proposal before and if anything is finally agreed.

Special thanks to Sarah for putting the newsletter together and to Brian and Fiona for their excellent regular contributions.

David Jones - President

**FINANCIAL AGM
rescheduled to
Weds 3rd March, 7pm
to be held via Zoom**

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH



IN OUR THOUGHTS

MARK STALKER

It is with very great sadness that I have to advise that Mark Stalker, father to Connor in the U14s rugby squad and very keen supporter, has passed away due to COVID 19. On behalf of all members at the rugby club, we send our deepest sincere condolences to Connor, his Mum Karen and family. Mark was a proud Scot and enthusiastic and popular touch line supporter, always watching Connor's games in the Under 14s and will be hugely missed. Connor is a very dedicated squad member and has previously been voted 'most improved player'.

No words can really convey this tragic loss, but as a Blues Family I hope we can support Connor and his family as we realise how close to home this horrendous and indiscriminate virus can get. When we are able to return to the club we will organise a tribute to Mark with a minute's silence throughout the whole club.

David Jones

COMMUNICATION UPDATE

www.pitchero.com/clubs/newburyrfc/

To keep you informed, we need to be able to contact you.

Thank you for taking the time to update your details on Pitchero. Please continue to visit and refresh your information. With your updated information, we will start to share with you a number of exciting developments. If you are interested in being involved in any way, please contact the communication email communications@newburyrfc.co.uk

We would also welcome your views to other areas of the site that can be improved. Thank you

Tony Lloyd
Chair of Communication and Events group

FUNDRAISING PROJECTS - 'PITCH UP FOR THE BLUES' AND DOUBLE YOUR MONEY

We have a number of projects that can gain extra support from the [Greenham Common Trust Good Exchange](#). One of these is the upgrade of some of our pitches and facilities. Could your age group organise a sponsored activity or challenge to raise funds for the club and keep spirits high. The senior ladies have shown us the way in terms of fundraising challenges! Activities might include: Spring Clean for your bubble family, walking, cycling and running challenges, etc; get creative !!

Please let us know if you're taking on a challenge, how you are progressing, and we will keep a live update on Pitchero and Blues Media.

SIMPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

**PAY YOUR
CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

SPONSORSHIP
Contact Richard Deal

CLUB EVENTS
Details posted on Pitchero

**LATEST
GOOD EXCHANGE PROJECT**

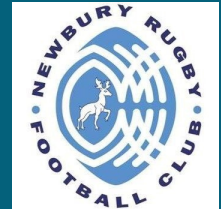
**FOR ALL THE LATEST
CLUB NEWS**

100+ CLUB

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

LATEST FROM THE LADIES



The Women's section has a number of players on the team working for the NHS, and we're all grateful for treatment and services the NHS provides. We are also very aware that the NHS funds important mental health schemes such as talking therapies, are all the more important at the moment, when healthy outlets like rugby are unavailable. That's why our January challenge was to raise funds for the Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust. The Girls' section got involved too and helped us to reach both our distance and fundraising targets.

The challenge was initially, to cover the miles from Newbury to Paris and back, but that was completed within a few days, so was extended to also go to and from each city that hosts Six Nations matches – Rome, London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Dublin – a total of 4,172 miles. We managed to beat that target by covering 4,451.25 miles. We've raised £1,675 so far.

We walked, ran, cycled and rowed, encouraging everyone to get outside and stay active. We had fantastic engagement and feedback on social media, in the NWN and from the RFU.



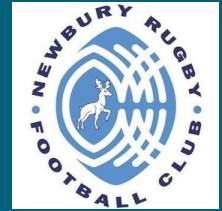
Charlotte Dodd
Psychiatric Intensive Care Nurse



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BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

LATEST FROM THE LADIES / continued



In the words of our Captain, Lizzie Harris: "Due to Covid regulations we obviously cannot train at the moment and a big part of being a Blues family is the camaraderie and working hard together.

"Putting together a January team challenge meant we were able to bring the team together even though we are apart, and still be competitive while doing so.

The Womens' and Girls' sections wanted to support the Berkshire NHS because of the support it has given to not only the rugby club, but the whole country.

The past year has shown that talking about mental health and checking up on those around you is so important, and we want to raise money and more awareness to battle the stigma of mental health, and to say that it is okay not to be okay and to reach out for help.

The feedback and success of this has been incredible and we are so proud and thankful for everyone who participated and donated.

It's been brilliant for the team to work towards a goal and it's really helped bring the team together and keep support going during these very difficult times.

We're now back to weekly Zoom workouts focusing on strength, mobility and high intensity interval training."

Our Just Giving page is still up if anyone would like to donate:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/newbury-women-rugby>



**Emma Robinson,
Paramedic**

**SUPPORTING
THE**

NHS

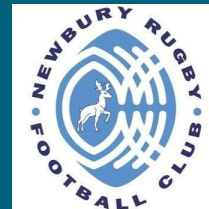


Kayleigh Reeves-Williams

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BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

100 CLUB / COMMS / PRESIDENT'S XMAS CHARITY



100+ CLUB

Have you bought your
100 Club ticket yet?

Help support your club from just £2 a
month - buy a monthly or annual ticket
via Pitchero.

You have to be in it
to win it!!

**Congratulations to our latest
100 Club draw winners:**

1st Giuseppe Ruggiero

2nd Paul Archer

3rd Roy Pratley

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 JOKES

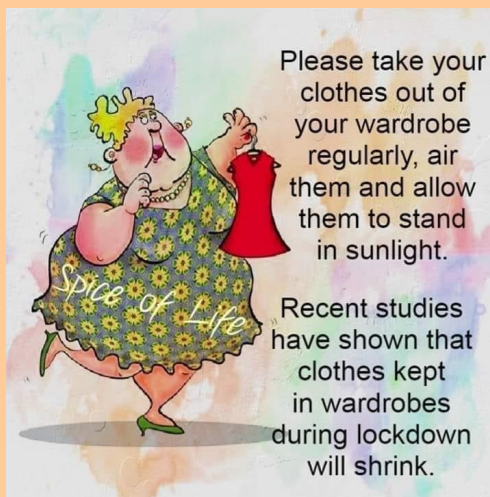
Sad news from the Nestle factory today - a night shift worker was
crushed beneath a case of chocolate that fell 20 feet off the
storage racking. He called for help repeatedly but every time he
shouted 'The Milky Bars are on me', his colleagues just cheered!!

Don't trust 'atoms'
They make up everything!

Why can't you hear a psychiatrist in the bathroom?
Because the 'p' is silent!

Why do bees have sticky
hair?
Because they use a honey
comb

What's an astronaut's
favourite part of a
computer?
The Space bar



Please take your
clothes out of
your wardrobe
regularly, air
them and allow
them to stand
in sunlight.

Recent studies
have shown that
clothes kept
in wardrobes
during lockdown
will shrink.

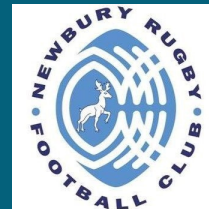
When we go into
another lock down
just train all the
Amazon delivery
drivers to give the
vaccine. Entire
population immunised
by Saturday.
Wednesday if you've
got Prime.

From Monday postmen
will be working from
home. They will read
all your letters and ring
you if it's anything
important.

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

COACH'S CORNER - SAM HEWICK



Over the past few months this column has highlighted the different coaches at the club. This month the coach in the spotlight is Sam Hewick and this completes the coaches of the senior teams.

Sam could be described as player coach and he is always prepared to step in and play if needed. What is encouraging is that the strength of the squad is such that Sam was called on to play only one game last season, for the Stags away against Reading II. Starting on the bench Sam was very eager to get on and his early encounters went like this. Came on in the 28th minute, yellow carded in the 30th minute! To be fair to Sam it was for a technical offence at the breakdown and a little bit harsh. There is no doubt Richie McCaw would have got away with it. What it did was make the decision of DoD very easy. In all seriousness though, what was noticeable was the help Sam gave to the on field captain during the game which can only be a positive.

Sam has been coaching at the club for three seasons although his time is limited due to his working schedule as Director of Sport and PE and Head of Rugby at Pangbourne College. Throw in some on call duties and more recently the arrival of a baby boy, makes it difficult for Sam to get to the club as often as he would like but life is all about priorities and just at this time of life it is understandable Sam's need to lie elsewhere. Notwithstanding this, some of Sam's coaching sessions have been top class and he is always looking to see how best the players can learn, calling on his teaching background to help in this respect.

Born in Salisbury and brought up just outside Andover, Sam attended Henry Beaufort School in Winchester and Pangbourne College before heading to the south coast to study for a teaching degree at the University of Brighton and then an MSc in Education at Bristol University. He is quite reflective on the impact of Covid on his job, saying, "I have enjoyed the process of coaching without the pressures/constraints of a competitive fixture card. It has enabled me to rethink our sporting curriculum and focus purely on the process behind everything." However, he is looking forward to the return of fixtures as, "everyone stands a little taller and acts a little sharper with it."

Sam played most of his adult rugby for Worthing Raiders as hooker or open side flanker in National 1 and National 2 South, making over 200 appearances at this level in the process, with a final playing year at Old Redcliffians in Bristol. His most admired player is that great Australian flanker George Smith, although Sam also admires Roger Federer because of the aesthetic look of his shots. Difficult to disagree with either of these choices and seeing the shape of the Federer backhand in particular is a thing of absolute beauty. Like most of us who have been involved in the game, the memories for Sam are almost too numerous to mention although he does say that he enjoyed a number of bus trips, with promotion with Worthing from National Division 2 South to National 1 being the highlight of his playing career.

When working at Worthing College, Sam had a very good mentor who helped him develop his coaching style and like his current job at Pangbourne College he helped young players to improve their game and he is proud of the fact that a lot of the Worthing students he taught at the College went on to play first team rugby at Worthing and at Pangbourne he has helped develop some young players who have gone on to win schoolboy international honours and gain premiership contracts.

When time permits it will be good to see Sam back more regularly at the club and as he says, "Unfortunately, Newbury has had to take a bit of a back seat whilst I balance career and a young family. Hopefully things will settle and I will be able to get back to some coaching as I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching at Newbury."

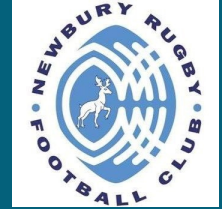
Seeing first hand the amount of effort that goes into planning training sessions, our coaches must sometimes feel as if it's a part time or in some cases a full time job. What is without question though is the desire of all the coaches to improve the skill sets of the players and to ensure all players feel part of the club. My thanks to all the senior coaches who have given of their time to meet with me on Zoom or to write responses to what might seem quite trite questions over the past year. They have done so with humour and a willingness to sometimes share quite personal information. Thank you.

Brian Lee

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

NRFC STEERING GROUP



WHO'S WHO IN THE NRFC STEERING GROUP

A steering group was set up to consider the West Berkshire Councils proposal to lease land from NRFC and lay an all weather 3G pitch where the Newbury Football club could relocate. The facility would be available to other sports including NRFC. The trustees who have the ultimate decision appointed the Steering Group to review this and report to them. We thought it would be useful for you to know about the credentials of that group:

Steve Gibbs (Chairman of the Trustees)

A member since 2007; two sons who played with the club from minis to colts thus enjoying the sidelines for 14 seasons!! Have held elected positions since 2014, Chair of Minis & Juniors and a trustee since 2018.

Lou Goodall (Chair of NRFC)

Self employed director of own company since 2004. Founder member of the women's rugby team at Newbury over 20 years ago and has been actively involved in its development, both playing and administering. Voted Mitsubishi National Volunteer of the Year in 2019.

Richard Deal

I am a retired chartered surveyor, having sold my shares in Deal Varney in 2019; the firm specialises in commercial lettings and management. Originally from North Somerset, I moved to Newbury in 1983 and joined NRFC in 1984 playing very much in the lower ranks of the game. I have been a member of NRFC for nearly 30 years, and live in Newbury.

Rob Harris

34 year career for major commercial and investment banks with main roles running multiple £100m-£1bn wholesale lending businesses and Treasurer / Derivatives expert. Current playing (Touch) Member with a rugby-supporting wife and grown-up son and daughter who play for the club's Senior Teams.

Mark Trumper

Executive Director responsible for all operational infrastructure at a large hospital group across North West London, working in direct partnership with Local Authorities on all aspects of asset disposal and regeneration. Qualified referee at Level 5 and 6 in Oxfordshire and parent and coach at Junior level (Under 16s 2019/20).

Tony Lloyd

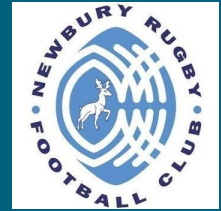
For all his working life Tony has been in front line sales and marketing with leading consumer brands, his last 14 years dealing with European and Global customer groups. Starting rugby at college he progressed on to play for Southampton, Basingstoke and Wootton Bassett rugby clubs. He has been with his family in Newbury for over 25 years.

David Jones (President)

Former Chartered Surveyor now retired as director of Jones Robinson having lived and worked in West Berkshire since 1983 having set up the business. Joined the club in 1983 and played for 13 years before taking up Junior coaching. Both sons played and daughter was Club physio. Served on the committee twice, then as a trustee since 2014 and President since 2017.

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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.

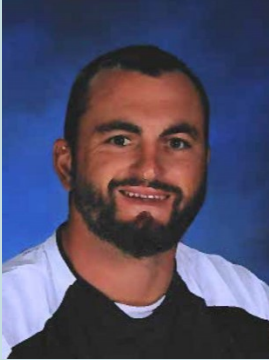
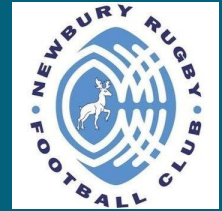
Call: 01635 555777 | **Visit:** www.newbury.co.uk

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 - COLIN GASPER



Elvis Chapels, Beach Life and Chicken Wings

California. Laid back West Coast vibe. Surfing dudes. Highway 1. Golden Gate Bridge. Hollywood. Monterey. Summer of Love. Santa Monica Pier, end of Route 66, the Mother Road. The list is almost exhaustive and from afar California has a huge appeal but there's another, less favourable list. Fault lines. Earthquakes. Horrific forest fires. Devastating mud slides. Massive homelessness problem. Gang crime. Harsh outdoor working conditions in unbearable desert temperatures. Political unrest in some northern cities in the State. To be fair some of these are not limited to the Golden State but none the less they exist. On a visit a few years back we marvelled at the scenery along the coast driving through Pebble Beach with its world renowned golf course; we marvelled at the vast expanse of sand at Santa Barbara, the glorious Spanish feel of the city; we marvelled at the cable cars in San Francisco, almost defying gravity. But a detour took us inland 20 miles or so and it was a very different picture, not the glamourised view we had of the

state but a reality of the harshness of making a living as an outdoor worker, harvesting crops in fields almost too big to imagine. The coastal belt is absolutely fantastic but inland, in the searing temperatures of the central valley that make up much of the coastal hinterland, life can be harsh.

It's not everyday a Californian lad turns up at Monks Lane wanting to play rugby but that is what happened last summer, pre-season. Colin Gasper was born in Los Alamitos in Orange County and moved as a teenager to Long Beach, Los Angeles, heading to Seal Beach and bodyboarding at every available opportunity. That sounds like a pretty cool way to spend your teenage years. At least in Newbury we have the Skate Park....

Colin met his wife, who is from Thatcham, when they were both working abroad in Dubai and after spending some time living together in America where their two children were born, they decided to move to Newbury and settle in West Berkshire. In a sobering comment Colin recounts an INSET day on first aid at the school in Clovis, about 200 miles south of San Francisco, where he was working at the time. "The training at school included how to barricade your classroom from an active shooter and treat gunshot wounds." This, along with the fact that, "free healthcare for everyone at the point of use is pretty awesome," were two of the reasons the family decided to move to Newbury. Of the town he says, "I don't know of any other town that offers what Newbury has in regards to rail access, proximity to Wales, Oxford, London and the coast and a very pleasant high street (still disappointed about Ginsters closing though)." It's easy to complain about the town if you have lived here for many years and sometimes it takes a new resident to reaffirm some of the positive aspects about living in this part of West Berkshire.

In terms of differences between living in USA and UK Colin says there are a few nuances but no major differences. Becoming an Oxford United fan has helped him settle as was going to watch a Bristol Bears game back in 2019. However he does miss In and Out Burger, "and being able to drive to Las Vegas for an overnight trip." Another world.

Back home, after High School, Colin attended Chapman University in Orange County where he played in goal for the university water polo team. At the end of his four years he became the record holder for most saves in a season and played in the team that for the first time beat a Top Twenty ranked university water polo team. After Chapman, Colin gained his MSc in Physical Education from Eastern New Mexico University. Taking up a job at Covis High School as Director of Sport for a water polo programme Colin also coached the women's team at Fresno University where they became the fourth ranked team in the country. He is currently working to develop the water polo programme at Oxford High School and has played for Swindon Dolphins although the mid week travelling as far away as Plymouth made this a less than appealing prospect.

As for rugby, Colin was not really exposed to the game as a lad, but is absolutely loving the training at NRFC, even if there is a certain frustration that he has yet to play a competitive game for the club. He enjoyed the inter club game just before Christmas even though he, "felt like a deer caught in the headlights, going from touch rugby to full on contact." What stood out for Colin was the support he received from his team mates throughout the game and also the social life of the club, limited though this has been this season, where he has been made to feel very welcome, particularly the golf fund raiser and being introduced to G's Ghost Chilli Chicken wings which made him, "feel very much at home."

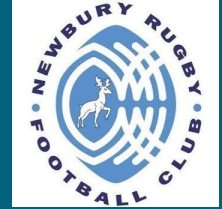
So a huge welcome to Colin and his family. Speaking to him on the side of the U6 training pitch on Sunday mornings, there is no question that California's loss is Newbury's gain and for all its downsides, I wouldn't mind going back for a visit and having another drink at the end of Santa Monica Pier, dreaming of that road trip and wondering, just wondering if I could emulate Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper in that 1969 classic film Easy Rider, Harley-Davidson and all..... Fat chance.

Brian Lee

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

UPDATE FROM THE SENIOR MEN



Senior Rugby - Coaching/Management View

Hi all,

Hope you are safe and well and surviving these strange times.

As we enter 2021, sadly this season is over for any league rugby. The proposed cluster leagues have now been cancelled due to lockdown 3, but if COVID-19 subsides then there is a slim chance of some local Berkshire derby fixtures in April/May, which the RFU are looking at through the County Unions

As for the coaches and players, we are keeping in touch holding zoom meetings. Arch and Neil have been working hard producing play presentations which are sent out to all senior players and discussed in the zoom meetings.

There is also a Blues Family Strava group set up so all can see what others are doing with their own personal fitness sessions; a weekly leader board gives it a touch of competition.

Big thanks to Flo Piddington of the ladies section who has done some zoom fitness sessions for senior ladies and men.

We have also held the Great Blues Sandwich competition!!! Winners announced below; maybe some good ideas for Kickers on match days!!

Blues Coaching/Management Team

THE GREAT BLUES SANDWICH COMPETITION



1st - Dan Thorne
Homemade white bloomer BLT



2nd - Harry Stevens
Philly Cheesesteak



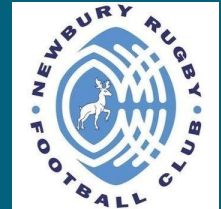
3rd - Aaron AJ Johnston/Tesco
(Classic v Exotic)
Investigation for fraudulent voting and for buying his sandwich!! Fines expected.

Last place went to Rory Jones with a Waitrose special!

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PERSONAL PROFILES FROM ACROSS OUR BLUES FAMILY



SENIOR MEN



ED GAVIN

Playing history: Started playing at Thatcham at 9 years of age and moved to NRFC at age 12 "as there was no junior rugby at Thatcham." Played for Park House first team and Newbury Colts in 2018-19 and the Stags and Colts in 2019-2020

Favourite song: Psych out by AJ Tracey because it goes pretty hard and is just "chill vibes."

Most admired person to invite for dinner: Jonny Wilkinson and Paul Sackey

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: the first game I played for the Stags "a week after my seventeenth birthday against Chinnor III and getting bullied for the whole game."

Additional info: Ed is currently working for West Berkshire Brewery running their online store by packing boxes and sending them out to customers. He deferred a university place for the year and will start at Gloucester University in September studying Sports Coaching and Physical Education. Ed has been one of the success stories of senior rugby over the past few seasons making a hugely successful transition from Colts to Senior rugby at such a young age. He was awarded at least one man of the match awards last season and was in the running for the award in most of the matches he played. However tough the conditions, Ed leads by example and has the potential to play at a much higher level.

Ed has been one of the success stories of senior rugby over the past few seasons making a hugely successful transition from Colts to Senior rugby at such a young age. He was awarded at least one man of the match awards last season and was in the running for the award in most of the matches he played. However tough the conditions, Ed leads by example and has the potential to play at a much higher level.

CLUB SUPPORTER



RICH PURTON

Playing history: Went to Park House and played at NRFC from U6 through to the Colts and all the Senior sides including the vets. Also played for Berkshire Colts, South of England Colts, Southern Counties U21 and Berkshire seniors.

Favourite song: Rhinestone Cowboy. Entered a karaoke competition in Louise in Canada under the influence of alcohol and came second. Also on the same holiday I proposed to my wife of 21 years Leslie, so that song always brings back great memories

Most admired person to invite for dinner: Kylie Minogue. We were born on the same day and I believe we were separated at birth so it would be nice to finally catch up.

Most surprising fact about yourself: I love classical music and opera and I have been trying to read and finish War and Peace. I am also making a big effort to buy and drink every English cider produced

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: Far too many to write down. My favourite playing moment was scoring for the first team on my debut in 1985/86 and being awarded the Herbert Salver the same season. Plus being able to play with many Newbury legends over the years

Additional Info: Coached a number of mini and junior sides through from U6 to U15 and the colts. My son Logan was part of these teams. He has just joined the army and Logan's twin sister, my daughter Erin, is studying at Brighton University. I am looking after my sister's boys Jake and Alfie who I hope to re-educate as they both currently play football. I am working on them and will hopefully get them up to the club in the youth section as soon as we are allowed. I look forward to catching up with all friends, supporters and players as soon as possible.

GOOD NEWS UPDATE ON ALLY PANKHURST

For all who know Ally, we are delighted to be able to say that Ally has now returned home to his family after a long spell in hospital, having become ill with Covid at Christmas. Ally continues to improve and we send him our very best wishes for a full recovery.

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!

FREE ONLINE ECONOMICS TUITION

With schools being closed until at least February, **Brian Lee** is offering free on line A level and GCSE Economics tuition to students in years 10-13.

DBS checked by the rugby club. Initial contact must be made by parents/guardians.

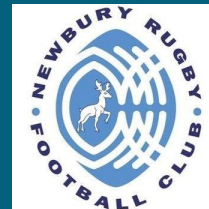
brianchapel@hotmail.com / Mob 07740351507

Maro Itojesupporting the 'digital divide'

DO YOU HAVE ANY OLD LAPTOPS OR IPADS you no longer need. These can be donated to the Newbury Community Resource Centre who are collecting devices to support schools during this period of school closure. The campaign to support the digital divide among students nationally is being supported by Maro Itoje.

Any devices can be dropped off at the Club and we will ensure they are delivered to Newbury Community Resource Centre for distribution to local schools.

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH



Needs You!

by Jonathan Nelsey
former owner Hare and Hounds & The Barn, Speen

The Kickers has long been a great facility, not many clubs at our level have such a fantastic bar area! But times change and the whole clubhouse, (as everyone keeps telling us!) is very expensive to run.

I was asked late last year, to give my thoughts on our beloved bar and how it might help the clubs finances more. Now, I have been a Blues fan for many years and latterly was proud to sponsor the men's senior team. We all have memories, some bad, but mostly good or great, of our time in The Kickers and, I'm sure, want to see it and the club successful on and off the field for generations to come. Enough of my meandering, let's get to the present day! All bets were off in so many ways with the



arrival & effects of Covid. For Blues, the lack of match day and related membership revenue has, as you will doubtless have realised, left a substantial hole in the club's accounts and accentuated the opportunity, and absolute need, for The Kickers to be a main revenue stream for the club in the future. I'm happy to help, and we have a very willing team in place, but it needs to be a whole club effort!

Whilst an out of town site, the Kickers has multiple housing surrounding it. I feel we should be aiming at sports fans, those not wanting a "town" experience, and general pub goers around us. For

those unconvinced, The Bowlers Arms acts as both proof and template for a local community, sports led pub.

The opportunity is therefore proven, the method will require buy in from members, players, pa rents et al, Yes you! The whole Blues Family! We can then grow to the local community and have a successful Kickers. Given initial, limited, peak time openings, the increased profit would start to help fill the hole. Roll that on in 2021/22 and beyond and this extra contribution to the clubs coffers every year will increase to the point where we could, just possibly, get the club's accounts back in the black! Sounds good! Sounds simple, I know, but those who watched The Hare and Hounds change over our tenure will have seen what can be achieved when everyone buys in and believes.

What can you do to help? Well right now you can ...

Sign up for our Kickers newsletter, email leeann.giddens@newburyrfc.org.uk,

Like & follow [The Kickers Bar on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/The-Kickers-Bar-110046884213301/), (<https://www.facebook.com/The-Kickers-Bar-110046884213301/>)

Support our "Kickers on the Hill" bar by buying hot drinks and breakfast rolls

And once the virus allows us to crack on...

Watch out for flyers for our opening and future events.

Come along, and enjoy a pint, freshly cooked snack or meal and of course, the hub of any great pub, the people, a good old chat with friends old and new.

More news soon of The Kickers in 2021 so please **don't wait, please sign up for the newsletter and on Facebook, now!**

Together we can shape The Kickers future and help in doing the same for the club. It needs to happen and the main help will come from all who love The Kickers and The Blues!



**So.. Buckle down folks, because there is no choice the time really is now!
Lets put 2020 behind us and once again shout it loud and proud "C'mon you Blues!"**

Jon

One Club, run by members for the community

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!