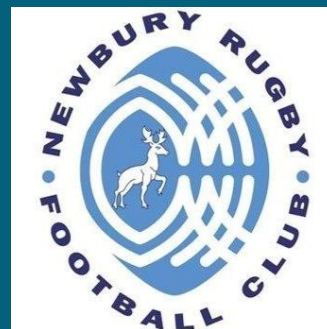


BLUES NEWS

KEEPING IN TOUCH - 2

22nd April 2020



WHAT'S INSIDE

Latest Club update
Mini & Junior Page
Our Frontline Heroes
Puzzle Page
Personal Profiles
Help in the Community
Through the generations
Coaches' Corner
Coping with self-isolation

100+ CLUB

This month's winners:

1st - Neil Pennington £81

2nd - Dan Thorne £38

3rd - Liz Drysdale £21

Support the Club from just £2 a month by signing up [online](#). You can buy up to a maximum of 10 monthly tickets.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you would like to contribute to the next Blues News, please email content to any of the following:

[David Jones](#)

[Brian Lee](#)

[Sarah Thorne](#)

For the latest club news visit the NRFC website

**NEWBURY
RUGBY CLUB**

Keeping in Touch is all about keeping our Blues Family together. We all have a role to play to support our club and you can play your part.

Get writing and let us know what you are up to - constructive or amusing.

UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES

We have been on a real roller coaster ride this year where we had set aggressive targets to reduce our £120k loss posted last July to around £40k. However, by March we were on track to make history and on track to break even by year end!! This seemed like a dream last July but the hard work of all the team put this in our grasp as we cut our cloth to our income while driving revenue and cutting our costs. But, then came the COVID-19 virus which has disrupted all our lives and has put paid to that. However, we are in the fortunate position that the controls we had put in place to manage our cash flow and by using the government schemes available to us, we have mitigated some of our losses and not had to draw down too heavily on our reserves, so will be ready for "normality" or whatever the new 'normal' will be. We will continue to explore all avenues to ensure that our club continues strongly next season. Do Stay Safe. **STEVE GIBBS - Chair of Trustees**

Unfortunately we have to report the very sad news that we have lost three older members of the club in recent weeks. **Brian Durnford** was still hosting our visiting clubs just a few years ago and his smiling face was there nearly every Saturday; **John Cottingham** was Chair of Professional Rugby when we came to Monks Lane, and we were playing in the Championship league; lastly **Dr Bob John** was the popular character at the club in the 70s, 80s, 90s, who loved his rugby and beer here at Newbury. Please give a rugby toast to all three in their memory.

For all of us at home, feeling bored or going a little stir crazy, spare a thought for all those who are still working really hard and many who are putting in a massive extra shift to help us through these challenging times. Let's make sure we don't forget their efforts when this is all over and return that support. Special thanks to all those members of NRFC still working - please send us a few lines and let us know what you are doing.

If anyone in our rugby family needs support, please do let us know.

One simple way you can financially help the club is by joining our **100+ CLUB** - this is just £2 per ticket a month. This supports resources across the whole club and enters you into a monthly cash prize draw. You can purchase tickets [online](#).

Alternatively, if you wish to, you can make a **voluntary contribution** to Newbury RFC and details of how to do this are also [online](#). Do take care of yourselves and 'Keep in Touch'!

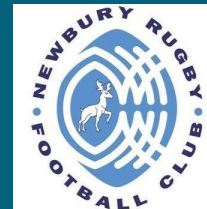
DAVID JONES - President

Please be aware that the club is closed for all recreational purposes, including the grounds and MUST not be used for any activity, including dog walking. Please respect this and act responsibly. THANK YOU!

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

MINI & JUNIOR SECTION



MINI SECTION

With the season coming abruptly to an end, how to deal with 65 frustrated U12's players has been at the forefront of the Coaches' minds. Various suggestions from watching the NZ team showing off with their passing skills (Coach Al/Pete) and quizzes set (with a natural Scottish bias) from our Head Coach Al Heath on our Mightily Newbury U12's Facebook page have been circulated with some effect! We have a fantastically talented squad, so the focus must be on the boys keeping fit for next season, keep passing a rugby ball around, watching rugby on TV so we come out of the blocks ready for action!

JASON ALEXANDER

JUNIOR SECTION



Ojay Herbert

Ali Jardine

Hugo Dessiaume

With the GCSE exams cancelled this year, the U16s are finding it hard to get the motivation to continue with the revision, especially for the subjects they won't carry on next year. However, there seems to be a real focus on getting the most ridiculous and dodgiest haircut. Luckily they don't have to go anywhere!

ESTELLE DESSIAUME - U16 Manager

JUNIOR JOKES

I sold our Hoover on eBay last week - all it was doing was gathering dust!

Did you hear the one about the Showjumper who broke his nose jumping against the clock?

AMAZING ANIMAL QUIZ (answers on back page)

1. How long can a snail sleep for?
2. How many noses does a slug have?
3. What can all animals do except an elephant?

Even the Brixham seagulls are missing us!



OUR FRONT LINE HEROES

EMMA ROBINSON, FIRST TEAM PLAYER



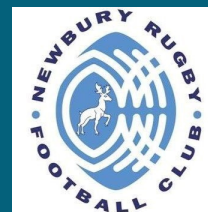
I work as an **Emergency Paramedic** covering North Hampshire although due to increase in pressures we now are covering Berkshire and have been deployed to London to assist with unprecedented demand. It's been a very humbling experiencing the support the NHS has received over the past weeks and long may it continue.

Working within the community I have witnessed neighbours coming together to support each other through this time, I have also seen the effects this isolation is having on vulnerable people and especially the elderly. One piece of advice I have, if you have an lonely elderly neighbour just check on them from time to time and offer your help small gestures can have the biggest effect.

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

JUNIOR PUZZLE PAGE



WORD SEARCH

R W L Z V J Y W V Y Z L J K R Y R Z X L N
I B B M L N T K D R J L L J B N J Z L E K
O J X R X J V T Z L N V T M L T Y Y Z T K
T L L O C S I R D O N A I R B R Y I X T T
U N N J L Z Y R G V L W Y M E L U P M L J
A S O A G T G G J N N M B T Y H K T N P M
S E I S N N O S N H O J N I T R A M H R E
U I A O N M G L E G I U D S M S N I R S T
D V N N B I X A R M H E E O E N L K E B J
Y A M R D D K J V H I W U R O I W P M P L
R D C O L R W L A I R L G A P W M Q R D R
R N G B J D A R I E N E Y P N A H W G B P
E A E I V O A N D W B H E S C E I T T D J
I H E N B S N N O L Y S A D C L V T I R M
H T C S T M A A A E E N I S L A N A Q E L
T A H O R V B N H L L V N I T J R B N L K
T N A N T D C N L L A N A O Q I W R Q S G
B O N S Y O N A Y D O M O T J D N W A B Y
W J O T R Q L J D Q S M T S L Y M G P T N
T O T D Y Q M B R W T J U Z A R M D S P T
J N J T Y T D W L X N Y T Z M J V Z T V P

Can you find these Rugby Legends:

Emily Scarratt	Jonny Wilkinson
Rory Underwood	Keith Wood
Brian oDriscoll	Martin Johnson
Jonah Lomu	Serge Blanco
Jonathan Davies	Sarah Hunter
Jason Robinson	Joost van der Westhuizen
Thierry du Sautoir	Ieuan Evans
David Campese	Gavin Hastings
Ian McGeechan	Philippe Sella
Jason Leonard	JPR Williams

PICTURE QUIZ

Guess the rugby players, past and present from the emoji symbols?

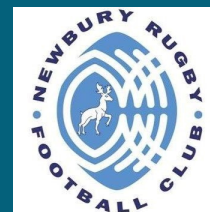
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PERSONAL PROFILES FROM ACROSS OUR BLUES FAMILY



SENIOR MEN



RYAN DAVIES

Playing history: Clarendon College (Trowbridge); Trowbridge RFC; Oakmedians; Basingstoke; Newbury; Dorset & Wilts

Playing position: Back row

Favourite song: Pariss by JayZ and Kanye. Reminds me of my younger days, holidaying in Tenerife with my mates. Every time I hear it I go back to those carefree times.

Person to invite to dinner: My Grandad. He passed a few years ago and I'd love to have another dinner and just chat as he always had great knowledge and cracked me up.

Most surprising fact about me: I scored two tries at Twickenham and captained my team..... unfortunately I was 10 - peak of my career!

Favourite moment at Newbury is definitely the comeback against Swindon with Lovey scoring the winner in Blues corner in the rain.

Additional info: Ryan is a true team player. He has played for all three senior teams and he always gives 100%. Earlier this season he turned out for the A's against RAMS IV and the way he encouraged the younger players was magnificent, showing leadership skills and simply being an outstanding role model for others.

SENIOR WOMEN



NIKI PATON

Current First Team Vice Captain

Playing history: Plymouth Uni 2008-2012, Newbury Ladies since 2013

Favourite song: Sweet Caroline

Most admired person to invite to dinner: David Attenborough

Most surprising fact about yourself: I grew up in Hong Kong and Taiwan

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: Coming back to play with my favourite people after injury

Additional Info - Luckily before lockdown we picked up our little fox red lab puppy Brady..... He's been a great distraction whilst working from home! He's named after Tom Brady, former New England Patriots player.



CLUB OFFICIAL



MICK FUTCHER

Favourite country worked in: Iran in the 70's when the Shah was still in power

Favourite Music: Bruce Springsteen, David Bowie and U2

Favourite persons to have as a dinner guest: Jim Carrey and Lady Gaga

Most memorable personal moments, Births of my children Jodie and Jamie and now being a Granddad to Jodie and Dan's daughter Mia Grace, who arrived on Mother's Day, although sadly due to lockdown we have been limited to peeks through the window and photos so far.

Most embarrassing moments: Having far too much to say from the side-lines!! (I know it seems unbelievable!). To all those I offended, I apologise.

Getting stuck in traffic on the M25 taking clients to watch Ireland v England in the Six Nations in Dublin; having to divert from Stansted to Gatwick and get flights changed. The forfeits handed out to me when we eventually got to Dublin, rendered me pretty well out of it for the remainder of a very Irish weekend!!!

Most memorable rugby moment at NRFC: Being at the right end of the pitch to see Jamie win the race to the ball, gather it and out-run the defender to score the only Blues try under the posts in the narrow 25-22 home play-off victory over Clevedon, which gained promotion for the Blues, a fantastic memory!

BLUES SUPPORTERS



NEIL AND TINA PENNINGTON

Playing history: I started playing at school in my home town of Leicester. However, the Tigers decided that I was too much of a pussy to offer me a contract and I began to devote my energy to the social side of rugby. My last match was when I plodded onto the pitch for Newbury Police. Tina had never played or even watched rugby until she met me, but she is a very good sport!

Favourite song: Neil - Phil Lynott/Gary Moore - Parisian Walkways; Tina - Culture Club - Victims

Most admired dinner invite in Newbury: Neil - Sarah Thorne 'cos I'm on a hat trick with my 100+ Club number; Tina - Dino Kurtaj (Mio Fiore) and he's cooking!

Most admired dinner invite outside of Newbury: Neil - my late father in law; Tina - Boy George

Most surprising fact about yourself: Neil - back in the day, my family ran the old Wellington Arms in Andover Rd; Tina - since meeting Neil my interests have changed from jigsaw puzzles to wine & rum.

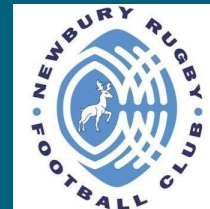
Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: Neil - whenever Tommy Martin gets the ball; Tina - Dan Thorne scoring all of the 25 points in the last win v Maidenhead.

Additional info: Neil proposed to Tina in the Kickers Bar, at half time, during a Blues game! Marriage followed and the reception was, of course, at Monks Lane, with photos taken under the posts at the Blues Corner end. During lockdown Neil has been answering engineering call outs from AGA owning vulnerable people and key workers, while PA Tina fields calls for help with other kitchen appliances. Neil and Tina are touch line regulars at home and away.

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

HELP IN THE COMMUNITY



Geoff Fisher is providing fruit and vegetable boxes for collection from their Hambridge Lane depot. Order online on the [Fishers of Newbury](#) website. Geoff has also been making weekly fruit and veg donations to NHS staff at Newbury Hospital.

Brian Lee is offering free A Level Economics tuition - There are no A Levels this summer but if Year 12 or Year 13 students would like to consolidate some analysis before going to university, Brian Lee will be offering free tuition. This could be via Face Time, Zoom, Whatsapp or email. For child protection purposes, initial contact must be made by parents/guardians. Email: brianchapel@hotmail.com; Tel: 07740351507

West Berkshire Council's Community Support Hub is available to help anyone in need. A central distribution point has been created in the car park at Newbury RFC where volunteers from local Community groups can pick up food parcels provided by food banks for delivery in their local area - 79 were delivered last week. It's great to see the club being able to help where we can. Anyone needing support from the Community Support Hub can email WestBerkshire@public.govdelivery.com.

Berkshire RFU are looking for a **County Safeguarding Officer**. Anyone interested in the role should contact secberks@rfu.com and Lucy Moore will send you a job description.

NEWBURY RUGBY THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

Here are some examples of Granddads, mums/dads and sons/daughters who have played for Newbury at Senior level. Let us know who we have missed out and we'll include in later editions!! The next edition will include minis and juniors with mums/dads who have represented the club. Let us know who you are and which age groups you are involved with, so we can include in the next edition - email David Jones.

Len Whittaker - Chris Whittaker - Robin and Dicken - Ben
Ted Cripps - Gary and Nigel - Joel
David Piper - grandsons Dan and Toby Thorne
Rosie Golby - Duncan and Cameron
Peter Winfield - Josh
Andy Sparkes - Alex
Andy Widdup - Alistair
Peter Simmons - Chris and Phil

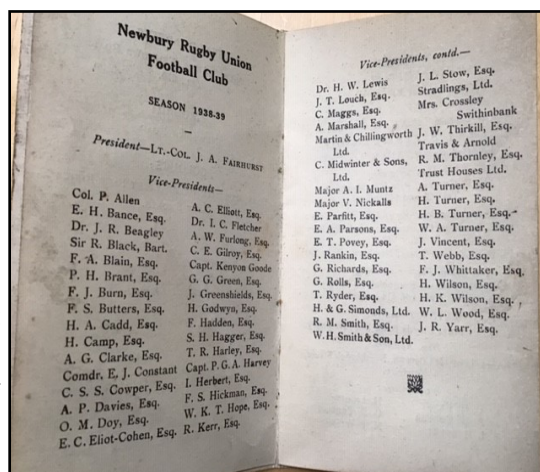
Graham Stewart - Dylan
Nicky Vine - Sam
Brian Durnford - son-in-law Dave Hawkins - Paul and Chris
Stephan Czerpak - Joe and Sam (also both coaches)
David Jones - Paul and Charlie, Nicole (physio)
Pete Carlisle - Tom and Will
Dick Tucker - Andy and Chris
Jason Sutton - Alex
Bob Fidler - nephew Tom



We may feel that enduring the coronavirus pandemic has ended life and rugby as we know it, but just reflect on what was to come for the 1938-39 Blues players, many of whom would never see another rugby season as they went off to Europe and WW2. Blues were based at the now demolished Rokeby Arms. I don't have any team sheets to reference but there are several old Newbury names in the Vice-Presidents list. Do you have any material that would enlighten us? Camp, Cowper, Herbert, Hickman, Whittaker and several local businesses are just a few that I recognise. All were about to suffer six years of WW2. Thinking of them, Covid-19 doesn't seem so bad after all, does it?

In the next newsletter we can have a peep at the fixture list and see if that stirs any thoughts and memories.....and no, I wasn't playing then!!

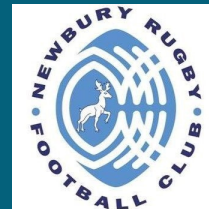
If you have any memorabilia to share, do get in touch - [TREVOR COLES](#)



KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

HELP IN THE COMMUNITY / COACHES' CORNER



COACHES' CORNER

BRIAN LEE - Stags Manager

We've all seen him. Prowling the technical area on match days, passing on messages from the coaches, encouraging players, cajoling them and yes occasionally giving them a bit of an earful. That's the public face of Mick Futch. What's not seen is the work he does behind the scenes. Getting kit ready for all three senior teams, sorting out water bottles, writing team sheets, chasing up players who haven't responded to emails, being present at every training session keeping a record of who has turned up, submitting score cards to the RFU, writing reports for the local newspaper and website, liaising with the Colts coaches, writing his Manager's Musings for match day programmes. And if that's not enough it was Futch who sourced and laid the rubberised matting next to the refreshment cabin up on the top pitches. He well deserved his Clubman of the Year award last season. More, there's more but enough for now and if you're partial to the odd statistic or two ,read on.....



MICK FUTCHER - Manager

It's been a roller coaster couple of years acting as manager. Last season the highs of getting promotion and this season, sadly a season cut short by the terrible Coronavirus virus, which halted the Blues having any chance of playing themselves out of the relegation places. We shall never know what could have been.

The Stags had a great season finishing second in their league. During the season nearly all of the regulars turned out for the Blues, a great achievement and a great testament to the strength of the Blues family at the moment.

The A's had a tough time in their restructured BBO league but managed to get two good wins over local rivals Thatcham. Let's see what next season brings.

One area we as a club will looking at next season is giving the Colts far more opportunity to play senior rugby when they are available and have no Colts commitments.

Let's all look forward to next season and hope the Blues can make an immediate return to South West Premier!!!!

Let's also hope Coronavirus has been beaten and the season can start on time. Keep safe and see you all next season.

Blues Stats for the season

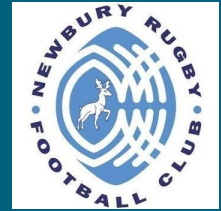
- Won 7, lost 13
- 36 players played in the 20 league games
- 3 players played in all 20 games, Ben Hicks, Josh Winfield and Dan Thorne
- Debuts this season, new players Chris Bird, Kieran Jenvey, Freddie Graham Campbell, Tom Fieldsend, Louis Morgan, Harry Keatley and local Newbury boys Tom Cole and Toby Holland
- Top try scorers, Josh Winfield 11, Tommy Martin 6, Harvey North 4, Alex Millar 3, Adam Neal 2 and Chris Atkinson, Dan Thorne, Josh Bartlett, Dylan Stewart, Kyle Doyle, Dylan Stewart, Toby Holland, Alex Bancroft.
- Top points scorer, Dan Thorne 158
- Total tries, 49. Forwards 23, backs 25 and 1 penalty try
- 20 players scored tries, 20 players scored points
- Yellow cards 14
- Average points scored per game 19.8
- Average points conceded per game 24.2

COYB COYS COYA

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

COPING WITH SELF-ISOLATION



WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO KEEP YOURSELVES AMUSED AT HOME



VIRTUAL WEDDING BREAKFAST BLUES

Whilst last Saturday should have been the last day of the season with Blues playing Camborne at home and winning in style to secure a place in South West Premier next season, there is one person who would not have been there. Jack Walsh is back in New Zealand with his fiancé Alice and should have been getting married last Saturday. As with so many events this year, the Walsh wedding has been postponed until next year but not wishing to let the day go without recognising what should have been,the Blues had a 'virtual wedding breakfast'. This was of course followed later in the day with the slightly modified 'end of season' celebrations.

#alldressedupandnowheretogo

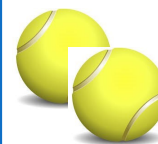
I	S	O	L	A	T	I	O	N
C	Phil	Lamb	has	completed	his	100th	game	of
R	scrabble	at	home!!	Think	he	has	won	some
A	of	them!	Not	surprisingly,	it's	no	longer	his
B	favourite	game.						
B								
L								
E								

**ESSENTIAL TRAVEL
ONLY - AN EMPTY
M4 ON EASTER
BANK HOLIDAY
WEEKEND!**



THE ADAMS FAMILY MARATHON

The Adams family - Joff, Suzanna, Ralph and Sidney have been completing a Marathon, walking the footpaths around Boxford. Joff and Suzanna motivated the children by setting the marathon challenge and they completed as a family in two weeks, with their daily exercise. Well done all! **What is the next challenge?!**



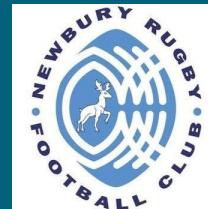
ANDY MURRAY TENNIS VOLLEY CHALLENGE

Dave Jones (President) has taken on the Andy Murray Challenge to complete 100 continuous volleys with another family member. Best effort so far is 49 - just once! The other 300 times the average was 10!

Let us know what you have been up to during lockdown - email [David Jones](#)

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

COPING WITH SELF-ISOLATION / continued



FUN STUFF THE LADIES HAVE BEEN UP TO:

The weekly Zumba sessions run by Vice Captain Lizzie Harris have continued with an array of fantastic song choices, dance moves and outfits. This week we had a special guest appearance from Papa (Rob) Harris in his S**t Shirt as required.

We had a lot of fun with an indoor Scavenger Hunt over the Easter weekend, things got very competitive as Kirsty Batten read out the items we had to find, bring back to our kitchen table, photograph and submit within 2 mins. It's safe to say a rugby ball was much easier to come across than a teaspoon of the 11 herbs and spices that make up the secret recipe for KFC chicken.

This week we were challenged by Farnham Ladies to take part in their Fantasy Fitness League. We had to log as many minutes of fitness as we could between 07:00 and 19:00. There was 1 point available per minute worth x2 if it was vigorous cardio, game play or strenuous body weight exercise or x3 for HIIT or Strength/Weights exercise. We won with a total score of 4,155.5 from 27 entrants. The winner was Sarah Coleman with 361 points, second place Sophie Rothwell (Rothers) with 329 and third place Flo Piddington with 325 points. We're now looking at how we can run our own weekly version.

Random Acts of Kindness: An anonymous team member has been sending postcards and little gifts which have been brightening all of our days.

Have a look at our Facebook and Instagram pages for a video of Newbury Ladies vs Lockdown. With a special cameo from our number 1 fan Hywel Price-Richards.



EMOJI PICTURE QUIZ ANSWERS

1	Tadgy Furlong	1	Joe Launchbury
2	Paul Hill	1	Billy Burns
3	Teddy Thomas	1	Neil Black
4	Mike Phillips	1	Mike Catt
5	Anthony Wat-son	1	Courtney Laws
6	Luke Cowan-Dickie	1	Jason Robinson
7	Toby Flood	1	Bill Beaumont
8	Schalk Burger	2	Johnny Sexton
9	Stuart Hogg	2	Schalk Brits
1	Scott Hamilton	2	Sinoti Sinoti
0	Billy Twelve-trees	2	Luke White-lock
1	Maro Itoje	3	
2			

RUGBY PLAYER ANSWERS

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE VIRTUAL QUIZ NIGHT



Friday 1st May 2020

7.30pm via Zoom

Maximum 6 people per team

£10 per team

Register team in advance - email Rob Harris on NRFCrgae1@gmail.com

ANIMAL QUIZ ANSWERS

1. How many noses does a slug have? **4**
2. How long can a snail sleep for? **3 years**
3. What can all animals do except an elephant? **Jump**

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!