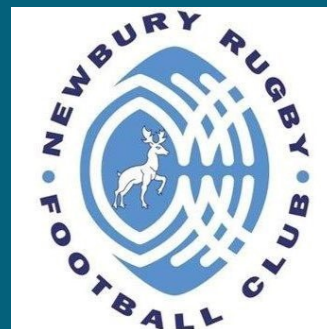


BLUES NEWS

KEEPING IN TOUCH - 9

NOVEMBER 2020



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**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**

4th November 2020

All Newbury RFC Colleagues & Members

Dear All,

CLUB LOCKDOWN

Following committee and management board meetings this week and confirmation following the government decision today, the club will close from tomorrow 5 November for 4 weeks. At the moment this lockdown is due to end on 2 December but obviously this will be confirmed during the next few weeks.

There will therefore be no training or rugby activity at Monks Lane. The club house continues to be occupied by the Ambulance Service but otherwise closed to members. I know we are all disappointed by this further setback, but I am sure, like me, you were expecting this news.

Despite the restrictions we've had a few great months. We have organised some great training sessions, events, tournaments and clinics – all for the benefit of our members, and ending on a high with the Halloween Tournament last weekend, which in spite of the weather was a resounding success. I would like to thank all staff, members, coaching teams, committee and management board members and supporters for their support of our club over these last few months.

All being well we will be back at the beginning of December and can start to build our rugby activity again and I hope to see you all then. If anyone has any concerns or needs assistance, please do let your coach or section chair know or of course get in touch with me. In the meantime, please stay safe.

Thank you,

Louise Goodall

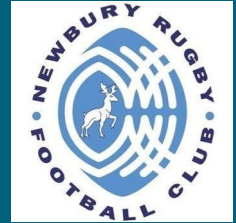
Club Chair, NRFC

Email: louise.goodall.rugby@gmail.com
Mobile: 07787 225789

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

LET'S LOOK AT THE POSITIVES



BLUES GINGERBREAD MEN COME TO MONKS LANE!!

Here we are in the ninth month since rugby initially stopped and we are back to Level A in the RFU Road to Recovery - a bit depressing. So let's get all the rugby negatives out of the way - no rugby, clubhouse shut down for a month, minimum income, no training or social mixing, not seeing friends, Covid information overload, not getting the youngsters out, fed up, frustrated, reduced fitness, worried and generally fatigued with the lack of normality and constraints.

SO ARE THERE ANY POSITIVES? Well I definitely think there are. Here are some of the things that have been achieved since March:

- 1) A more inclusive Community Rugby Club is evolving; everyone plays their part and no one player / member is more important than any other.
- 2) Social Touch Rugby is booming - a family experience from 14 years old to 70+.
- 3) The Women's Team through their training, challenges and videos are shining a light of positivity and fun through the club.
- 4) Senior men's rugby tournaments have been well supported by players, retaining a competitive edge.
- 5) All mini and junior teams have been able to train over the last two months.
- 6) The Kickers Bar has been showing live sport and rugby, providing good food, drinks and table service (19 tables booked last Saturday) - Newbury's new Sports Bar?
- 7) Club members Kirsty and Lizzie and their team organised the brilliant Halloween event on Saturday, involving the whole club.
- 8) Coaching Clinics have been run for the youngsters and more are planned.
- 9) The Club has created and developed an effective Management Board for the last 18 months which has given the club clear renewed direction. At this time, thank goodness for that!
- 10) Last but not least, the Blues Gingerbread Men were baked and sold by the Varley family on Saturday, with all the incredibly valuable proceeds donated to the club. Thank you for your support - every bit helps.

So, tough as it is, do look for positives and where you can maybe do your bit to support the club - all efforts are greatly appreciated.

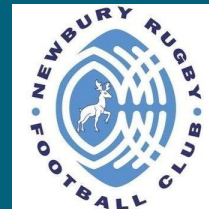
Once again a big thank you to all contributors to this newsletter and special thanks to Sarah and Brian. Stay fit and keep safe.

David Jones - President

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON AT THE CLUB



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON?!

DID YOU KNOW.....

Newbury RFC is a true Community rugby club, supporting many good things and securing a much needed income for the club.

How many know that we let part of the building to WBC transport division, Interakt (a charity for disabled adults and children providing many learning activities) and Southern Counties Ambulance Service for training.

BUT ALSO

..... in a typical month the Club lets space to the following:

- ⇒ Adult Yoga
- ⇒ Karate for children
- ⇒ Girls' football
- ⇒ Mum and baby singing
- ⇒ Weight diet control Meetings
- ⇒ Mum and toddler sign language
- ⇒ Women's Institute
- ⇒ Disabled children's group
- ⇒ Dance for adults and children
- ⇒ Football coaching
- ⇒ Athletics Club
- ⇒ Blood Donation Surgeries
- ⇒ Flu Jab clinics

Maybe there's something here you can get involved in and support. The Langdon Lounge will shortly be reopened so there will be space to accommodate more activities inside and out and will be a lifeline, so don't hesitate to recommend YOUR club.

BIG THANKS to those who have worked hard to secure and welcome all these organisations

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:

September

1st Josh Bartlett

2nd Mick Fletcher

3rd Nick Spain

October

1st Martin Lockwood

2nd Paul Carnell

3rd Emma Rowland

A **BIG 'THANK YOU'** to recent winners who have again kindly donated their winnings to the Club's Good Exchange projects.

MEMBERSHIP - ONE BIG WAY YOU CAN HELP YOUR CLUB

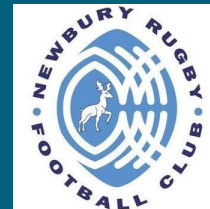
This is a tough time for every sports club and we are no exception. The fixed costs before we open the doors of this club are £200,000 per annum. Joining the club and paying your membership is a very simple but incredibly important way of supporting NRFC - your help is crucial. Please contact Sarah Tunstall if you have any queries.

Membership cards can be collected from Sarah Tunstall at the clubhouse after 6.30pm on Weds nights or Sunday mornings, assuming training resumes, 10-11am. Please observe Covid signage and instructions.

The club is now open and we are trying to organise events and get the club open as much as possible so we can enjoy our rugby. As you know, the Covid-19 regulations are constantly moving but we really are working extremely hard to make rugby safe and have it back at Monks Lane.

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON AT THE CLUB

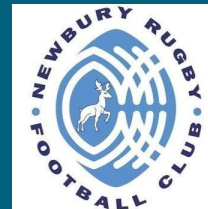


HALLOWEEN TOUCH TOURNAMENT 31ST OCTOBER 2020



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON AT THE CLUB



HALLOWEEN TOUCH TOURNAMENT

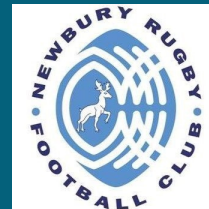
31ST OCTOBER 2020

GIRLS' COMPETITION



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

FINANCIAL AGM



To: All Voting Members of Newbury Rugby Football Club

FINANCIAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to restrictions imposed by the Government, this has had to be postponed until February 2021. More information to follow from the Treasurer shortly.

Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 7.00pm

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

The purpose of the meeting is to receive and approve Financial Statement for the preceding Financial Year 2019/20.

The Agenda, with Minutes of the previous FAGM on 20 November 2019 and a summary of the Club's Financial Statement for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2019 will be sent to members not less than two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

In recognition of these extraordinary times, when the virtual abridged AGM was held in June, it was decided that elections of the Officers and Committee Members; President and Vice President; and for vacancies on the Board of Trustees should be deferred. They now will be held at this Financial AGM and nominations may be made before 4 November, duly proposed and seconded.

Also, any proposals may be submitted in writing to the Secretary, up to 4 weeks prior to the FAGM, ie by 21 October: and need to be proposed by one Member and seconded by another.

Christine Morrell - Secretary

Email via: www.newburyrugby.co.uk/contact



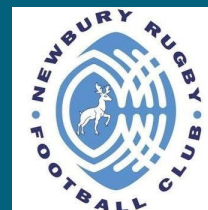
SOCIAL TOUCH RUGBY CONTINUES TO FLY!!

Social Touch rugby is where you should be on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings. Last week we had 41 playing in their respective bubbles and the numbers are now consistently high. James McCarthy who organises the teams is delighted.

Over 25% of the players are ladies, 10% under 18 years and there is no senior age limit! The friendly competition is generating some great club spirit as well as being great for fitness. It's inclusive and good for everybody, and you certainly know you've had a good work out. Unfortunately you can't just turn up; anyone interested should contact James McCarthy via the [Club](#).



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH



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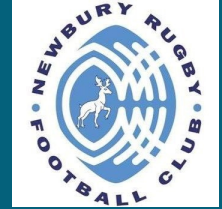
Call: 01635 555777 | **Visit:** www.newbury.co.uk

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BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

COACH'S CORNER - ROSS NEWTON (STAGS)



TOMORROW IS GOING TO BE A BETTER DAY

People you most admire. The usual list is trotted out - Winston Churchill, Muhammad Ali, Dr King, Tim Berners-Lee and so on. In reality however those individuals most admired are often to be found nearer home. In my case it's my late father and his friends who, after working a night shift in a coal mine, immediately rushed over to Aberfan on that horribly fateful Friday morning in October 1966. Physically and emotionally drained they knew what they had to do and did it without question. It is inevitable everyone will have people they know who, for whatever reason, they admire. Park the thought for a moment.



Ross Newton didn't play that much rugby in school. He dabbled a little bit here and there, having a stint at full back and outside half. It was only when he joined the Army he began playing more seriously, mainly for his regiment, but injuries not only curtailed his playing career, more significantly they curtailed his army career. The armed services have a reputation for assisting those leaving with a resettlement package and Ross took advantage of this to undertake a number of courses in Personal Training, Strength and Conditioning. As a result he found himself doing Strength and Conditioning work at NRFC in 2012 and he occasionally played for the Stags on the wing if they were very short! A Level 2 RFU coaching qualification gained at Gloucester Rugby resulted in him doing a bit more coaching and from Newbury he did stints as Head Coach at Thatcham RFC and Assistant and then Senior Coach at Andover RFC before making his way back to Newbury where his main responsibility now is looking after the Stags. Whilst at Thatcham he also started as Lead Age Group coach at Wasps in their Developing Player Programme, finding time somehow to combine both roles. In fact it was rugby, rugby, rugby. Six or seven days a week for a number of years after leaving the army. Throw in a full time job and that did not leave room for much else in his life, except that he took up motorbike racing. A serious accident left him with a broken neck and a shoulder that required a number of operations but which isn't yet 100%. That's the narrative, the easy bit for Ross to explain.

With his injuries, his relentless work and coaching schedule, burn out was not long in coming and in his own words he became, "very depressed". So began a period which was dominated by mental health problems and this is where the narrative is underlined by some serious issues not only for Ross but for a number of people. I first realised the emotional problems Ross was having when I read his Instagram page and thought, "Bloody hell, that's brave going public with this." Even braver though is going public in a club newsletter, which is read by a large number of people who know him personally or know of him. He is doing it to try to help others who might have similar issues and who are not sharing their emotions with anyone else. He would urge them to confide in someone, to talk through their feelings and be honest with themselves about their problems.

Prescription for anti depression pills followed but, "I refused to take them as I don't believe that a pill should change who I am and can't fully turn off my emotions." For others, of course they may be of great help. So the slow recovery from a position of very low self esteem, very low mood and not really knowing how to get out of the depression. A number of things helped, chief amongst those was the feeling of belonging he felt being in charge of the Stags at weekends. The boys together, sharing highs and lows but most importantly having a laugh and a joke, sharing a few beers and generally enjoying each other's company, making great memories together, like the defeat of Windsor last season in the dying minutes of the game to go second in the league. Great to win of course but he contends that defeat is not the end of the world, there's always another week and in the words of Captain Tom Moore, "Tomorrow is going to be a better day." Ross also found inspiration in attending a lecture by Ant Middleton, Chief Instructor on TV's SAS: Who Dares Wins. The takeaway thoughts were to battle everything with positivity, the highs are never as high and the lows are never as low. Lockdown earlier this year also helped. In some strange way he says it broke a cycle of negativity. Left alone with his own thoughts for much of the time Ross said he felt empowered to do something about his life. No distractions and able to just concentrate on his own mental health. He saw it as an opportunity to reinvent himself. He lost weight, started eating more healthily and concentrated only on positive social media. He is currently unemployed but is the happiest he's been in years and he's trying to stick to the mantle of never wanting to reach the top of the personal mountain he's climbing as there's only one way to go from there.

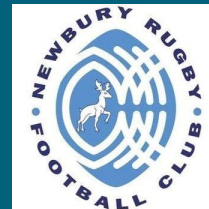
There you have it, brutal honesty about something very personal, in the hope it will help others who may be suffering in the same way. On a more general point, it is remarkable how far we have come as a society when something so private can be aired publicly. The evidence shows that men in particular are not great in talking about their own health, physical or emotional but the more we talk openly about this issue the better it will be for everyone who has mental health problems.

Help is available from a number of sources, not least the RFU who has posted an article on their website about the role of rugby for Mental Health Day, the Rugby Player Association has launched a Mental Health Campaign, an online search will lead to a number of ex and current players who openly discuss their mental health problems. Amongst these is Joe Marler whose mission is to, "break mental health taboos". Good on him. It shows a serious side to someone who many people term "a bit of a character". Good luck to all those who are suffering depression and mental health problems and if this article helps just one person it will have been worth writing. My thanks to Ross for allowing me to write this article and let us add one more person we know to that list of individuals we most admire.

BRIAN LEE

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

PERSONAL PROFILES FROM ACROSS OUR BLUES FAMILY



SENIOR MEN



TOBY HOLLAND

Playing history: Kennet School, Newbury mini and juniors, Berkshire juniors and senior teams, London Irish Player Development Programme, Bracknell, Hartbury College and Gloucester Academy

Favourite song: Most songs by the Fray because I love a bit of a sad song sometimes to get yourself in your feelings

Most admired person to invite for dinner: Post Malone because it always seems like a good time wherever he goes.

Most surprising fact about yourself: Was once 8th in the UK at Long Jump at U13 age level.

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: Winning 'Players Player' for the Blues in my first season.

Additional information: Toby had an outstanding season last year for Blues and there is no question he fully deserved the accolade of being Players' Player of the season. Unfortunately he suffered a serious injury recently playing in the club's touch tournament. I am sure all members wish him well for a speedy recovery.

SENIOR WOMEN

PYPER GROVE

Playing history: A few tournaments back in year 10, and a few months playing with Newbury.

Favourite song: Can't Fight the Moonlight - LeAnn Rimes

Most admired person to invite to dinner: Desmond Ross (Hacksaw Ridge's main character)

Most surprising fact about yourself: I wanted to be a footballer when I was older..

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: It's only been a few months, every training session is great

Additional information: My favourite food is pasta and I have a beagle called Lyla. Recently made the move from the world of football, to start playing rugby.

CLUB OFFICIAL



BRIAN TROTT

Playing history: Played at school and for the local club down in the West Country before joining the RAF. I then played for the station and local club, another 5 seasons of Cornish rugby followed by some gentle stuff in the Midlands. Stopped playing for a bit due to work and family. Came up to watch a game at Monks Lane in 2006 where I was persuaded to have a 'little run out' and have been getting in the way for various teams ever since.

Favourite song: Teenage kicks by The Undertones.

Most admired person to invite for dinner: Nelson Mandela - a most remarkable human; would be fascinated to hear his thoughts on recent global events.

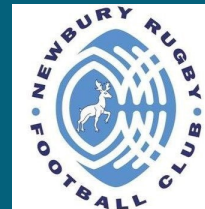
Most surprising fact about yourself: Have never been carded by a referee.

Favourite rugby moment at NRFC: There have been lots, various teams winning leagues and gaining promotion. Three that always make me smile are winning the Vets Cup, beating Reading at Reading; beating Reading the following season at Reading 66 - 0 and the last 10 minutes of the Swindon game in January 2017 - being 17 - 31 down but coming back, ending with Josh Love scoring in Blues Corner to make the final score 32 - 31.



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

MINI & JUNIORS - PICTURE PUZZLE



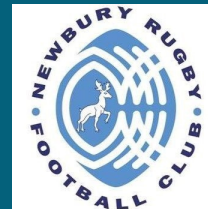
HOW MANY OF THE PICTURES CAN YOU FIND IN THE MAZE?



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BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

BACK IN 2008 / HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CLUB



NEWBURY BLUES v EXETER CHIEFS 25—20!!! - FEB 2008

Saturday 16th February 2008 When the Chiefs turned up at Monks Lane, Newbury they couldn't be sure which rugby team they would face. Newbury are the ultimate Jekyll & Hyde team having run Northampton within one point at Franklyn Gardens and given the Chiefs a hard time when they visited Sandy Park earlier in the season, yet 'Les Blues' lie close to the bottom of the league. And so it was to prove on this day. Maybe we should have been worried when the Chiefs spent the 1st 6 minutes penned in their own half, yet Tony Yapp put the 1st points on the board with a straightforward penalty in front of the post after 10 minutes. Newbury missed an easy penalty and things seemed to be going to plan for the Chiefs when Josh Drauniniu scored an easy intercept try and Yapp converting after 24 minutes to make it 10 - 0 to the Chiefs. Still we had little suspicion of what was to come. From the kick off, The Blues had a poor start and the Chiefs won another penalty and kicked for the line. But then things seemed to go strangely wrong for the Chiefs. A small stoppage for an injury to no.12 Andy Reay for the Blues on 30 minutes seemed to be the turning point. From the resulting line out the Blues set up a rolling maul and no. 15 Jonny Hylton crossed over for the 1st points to the Blues with the resulting conversion, the score moved on to 10 - 7 on 34 minutes. From the kick off the Chiefs won a scrum which Blues managed to turnover, but the danger seemed to be over when the Chiefs managed to turnover the resulting possession and kicked the ball up field. Blues easily collected the ball and appeared to have an easy chance to score their second try, but a missed pass stopped the action. The Chiefs gained a line out but were penalised for closing the line. The Blues kicked for goal and the score was even at 10 all. Exeter won another penalty, but Yapp unusually missed, what for him, looked like a straightforward kick, so we reached half time at 10-10. The second half was to prove to be nearly all Newbury's. (If anyone can explain to me why Mr Rowden gave the Chiefs a Penalty when they wheeled a scrum round 90 degrees, I'd be most grateful) but anyway back to the game. Lewis Stevenson was sent to the bin for coming in from the side. From the next scrum, the referee Rowden, blocked Blues no. 8, Tom Brown. The retaken scrum saw the ball released to the backs with full-back, Hylton coming into the line and providing right winger Martin Nutt with the space to put Newbury in the lead for the first time in the game. Walsh kicked the conversion from the touchline.

Five minutes later, Blues no. 8 was on a run and looking to link with his backs but Drauniniu intercepted on the halfway line for his 18th try of the season. Yapp brought the Chiefs level at 17-17.

On 65 minutes, Chiefs substitute James Hanks was sin-binned for an infringement. Walsh responded for Newbury kicking the resulting penalty, taking Newbury back into the lead 20-17.

The day went from bad to worse when no. 15 Hylton, kick over oncoming tacklers to score in the corner. The score was now 25-17 and time was running out for the Chiefs. One last attempt by Junior almost created a try in the last five minutes, but Hanks was brought down close to the line. Yapp managed to get something out of the game with a penalty kick in the last minutes of the game. Final score 25-20.

So the Jekyll and Hyde team had managed to do it again, but this time coming away with the points. Well done Newbury who played well throughout the game and were worthy of the points. Chiefs on the other hand were strangely lacklustre on the day never hitting their stride. Lets hope it's a different story against the Girls from Esher next week!

SIMPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

[PAY YOUR
CLUB MEMBERSHIP](#)

[SPONSORSHIP](#)
Contact Richard Deal

[CLUB EVENTS](#)
Details posted on Pitchero

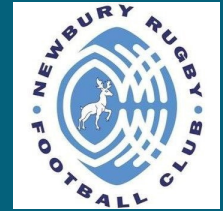
[LATEST
GOOD EXCHANGE PROJECT](#)

[RETURN TO RUGBY
EVENTS](#)

[100+ CLUB](#)

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

LATEST FROM THE LADIES / JUNIOR JOKES



LATEST FROM THE LADIES

What we've been up to:

Our fitness league is still going strong. We've had plank week, burpee week and sprint week so far, with weekly team challenges and gym sessions at Newbury CrossFit. Our mission to be the fittest team in the league continues, whenever the league may begin.



Something we'd like to shout about:

New T-shirts -

We'd like to thank our recent recruit Chessie, who also happens to run Squeegee and Ink in Newbury, for providing our new T-shirts. All members old and new are looking super sharp.



JUNIOR JOKES

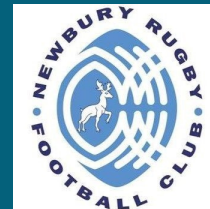
It is with great sadness that I have to mention the loss of a few local businesses as a result of Covid-19.

A local bra manufacturer has gone bust, a submarine company has gone under, a manufacturer of food blenders has gone into liquidation, a dog kennel has had to call in the retrievers and a company supplying paper for origami enthusiasts has folded. Interflora is pruning its business back and Dynorod has gone down the drain.

Keep them coming in for future newsletters - email to [David Jones](#) or [Sarah Thorne](#).

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PLAYERS



LOU GOODALL AND LIZZIE HARRIS

The previous issue of the newsletter highlighted some of the national developments of the Women's game and this issue will concentrate a little more on its development at Newbury with the contributors being Lou Goodall, current Chair of the club and Lizzie Harris, current Women's captain.

What's in a word? When it comes to female rugby, a great deal. Lou Goodall, stalwart of the game at Newbury for a good number of years insists it needs to be called Women's rugby rather than Lady's rugby. Lou says that the word lady does a disservice to the game as it conjures up images of the "Little Lady" doing delicate lady things and that is not what the game is about. It's about empowering young women, giving them confidence, it's about generation of teamwork, it's about looking out for each other, it's about massive effort. In all these respects it's exactly the same as the men's game. Women's captain Lizzie Harris adds that in the current climate with the prospect of no competitive rugby for some time, this is why it is so important to keep the group together training and doing as much social stuff that's permissible. Reflective of these current conditions, when asked about her favourite moment at the club, Lizzie thoughtfully replies it hasn't happened yet, it's going to be when she proudly leads out her team for the first time. Let's hope when this happens the First Team pitch is available and there is a sizeable crowd to witness this and cheer the team on.

Lou Goodall and Lizzie Harris then, one who has finished her playing career and one who is about to come into the prime of her playing career. One generation making way for the next generation, and what's encouraging is that Lou and her contemporaries have put in place a structure and a playing ethos which Lizzie's generation can benefit from and there is no doubt they are making the most of it. Twenty five percent of players at training are new to the club and ten of these are new to rugby all together. Recruitment must be going right and all done on Social Media and word of mouth. There is no competitive girls rugby to speak of in schools and this is something both Lou and Lizzie would like to see change, although with the recent RFU redundancies of Community Development Officers this is now going to take a little longer. However there are more women and girls involved in the club now than in the past and there is much optimism that the numbers now ensures the game will go from strength to strength at the club, unlike back at the turn of the century when the Women's section folded after a number of the established players stopped playing and there was no strength in depth to ensure its continuance.

Lou played at a high level and it is likely she could have gone on to win international honours if that had been her primary ambition. She was good enough to keep England Loose Head Rocky Clarke out of the Henley 1st Team but decided on other priorities. Lou first started playing at Overton and when she was 13 the England team came to club which was inspirational for her as was her being present at Twickenham for the first Women's capping ceremony. Lou says this was by invitation from Rosie Golby, who Lou holds in high regard. Lizzie got into the game in a slightly different way. She says when she was 9 years of age she was jealous of her brother who was playing junior rugby at the club but it wasn't until she was 17 she was spotted whilst playing in a Touch Tournament at the club. Lou, who had just finished her match on the top field recalls being asked to come and watch this young girl playing in the touch tournament. She was blown away by what she saw and knew immediately she would have to recruit Lizzie into the ranks of the senior Women's team. That was clearly a good decision. Lizzie along with about another 8 players were involved with the county set up last season which reflects the strength of the current team.



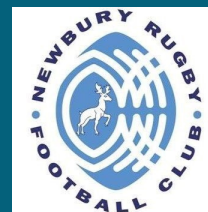
Whilst there are healthy numbers at present Lou and Lizzie take nothing for granted and are aware of the importance of the U13, 15 and 18 teams at the club. These players need to be welcomed, nurtured and given every opportunity to develop both as players and young women, something rugby is well positioned to do. These players are the future of the game at NRFC but what of the future generally for Women's rugby? Both agree about the need for more inter club tournaments for girl's rugby, a greater push for schools to develop girl's rugby teams, more exposure on TV and for the game to embrace as many people as possible. One current issue of course is the transgender debate and the recent pronouncements by World Rugby and the RFU show there is no unanimity on this issue. There is no question that both Lou and Lizzie want to be welcoming to all women and as long as there are no safety issues, as individuals they have no issues with transgender women playing and being part of the club. On a global level this debate has a way to go.



Women's rugby then. Back in the day many die hards thought rugby wasn't a game for women, it was too hard, too tough and women would hurt themselves. Thankfully these attitudes are now old hat and you only have to watch an elite game of women's rugby to appreciate the skill levels involved and at community level, obviously the skill levels are not quite as high, but the commitment to the cause, the team bonding, the camaraderie is exactly the same. When the opportunity arises, get along to the club to judge for yourselves.

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

LET US REMEMBER



1st XV Fixtures 1938-39

By 1938 the Blues had moved from their initial HQ in The Hatchet, to the Rokeby Arms which was close to the newly purchased pitch at Pinchington Lane. This cost £434 in 1932.

The 3 regular teams were oversubscribed and as well as playing several military opponents some long running derby games were established. Thames Valley was the original name for Maidenhead RFC and Berkshire Wanderers became Reading RFC. Players would meet in the Market Place for away games, which were quite a trek in those days. Annual subs were 10s6d (52.5p).

First Fifteen						
Date	Opponents	Ground	Kick-off	Result	Points	
					For	Ag't
1938						
Sept. 24	Winchester	Home	3.15	.....	
Oct. 1	Salisbury	Salisbury		.....	
" 8	Old Redingensians	Home	3.0	.....	
" 15	R.A.F., Harwell	Chilton		.....	
" 22	Oxford Exiles	Home	3.0	.....	
" 29	Salisbury	Home	2.45	.....	
Nov. 5	Thames Valley	Home	3.0	.....	
" 12	Berkshire Wanderers	Reading		.....	
" 19	R.A.F., Andover	Home	2.45	.....	
" 26	Reading University	Reading		.....	
Dec. 3	2nd Bt. Royal Tank Corps	Home	2.45	.....	
" 10	Windsor	Home	2.45	.....	
" 17						
" 24	Old Redingensians	Reading	2.45	.....	
" 26	Portsmouth	Home		.....	
" 31						
1939						
Jan. 7	Winchester	Winchester		.....	
" 14	R.A.F., Old Sarum	Home	2.45	.....	
" 21	England v. Wales ... ..			.....
" 28	Ealing	Home	3.0	.....	
Feb. 4	5th Bt. Royal Tank Corps	Home	2.45	.....	
" 11	England v. Ireland ... ..			.....
" 18	R.A.F., Harwell	Home	3.0	.....	
" 25						
Mar. 4	Reading University	Home	3.15	.....	
" 11	Oxford Exiles	Oxford		.....	
" 18	Berkshire Wanderers	Home	3.15	.....	
" 25	Northants Wanderers	N'rth'mpt'n		.....	
April 1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth		.....	
" 7	Old Emanuel (Good Friday)... ..	Home	3.15	.....	
" 8	Thames Valley	Maidenh'd		.....	
" 10	Nth. Middlesex (Easter Mon.)	Home	3.15	.....	

Gordon Wickens (Wickens Suite) played in every game in the 1938-39 season and at the AGM it was announced that all debts had been cleared and the ground was now owned by Newbury RFC.

On 1st September 1939 Germany invaded Poland and there would be no more rugby at

Newbury until April 13th 1946. More than a team of members would never play again.

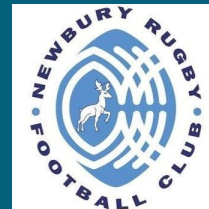
Roll of Honour - 1939 to 1945

F G L Bain
K F Bartholomew
B D Butler
J C Cann
P Coppinger
D R V Flory
G H Hackwood
C C Howe
S G Hunt
C Mackworth
D F Moir
J Perry
K F Seward
J H Stevens
T F Thornton
A Tumber
J R Wickens



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!

CLOSURE OF YOUFIT GYM

With the on-going Covid crisis and the financial impact on clubs like ours, we have had to review every single activity within our business.

Lockdown in mid-March caused the gym to close temporarily and we re-opened the facility at the end of July but subject to strict limits on numbers, to comply with UK Government guidelines and with reduced opening hours. These limitations meant that YouFitGym would make a significant loss in the financial year 2020/21, with no improvement likely in the short to medium term. The club therefore announced the gym's closure at the beginning of October to take effect 31st October 2020. It is with deep regret that we have had to do this and in particular with regard to the staff affected. A special thank you to Sarah for her help in this transition over the last two years.

After the removal of any remaining equipment and short refurbishment, the room will return to being formally known as the Langdon Lounge and become available for hire alongside our other rooms.

None of these types of decision are taken lightly, but our ultimate focus is to try to ensure the long-term future of Newbury RFC.

