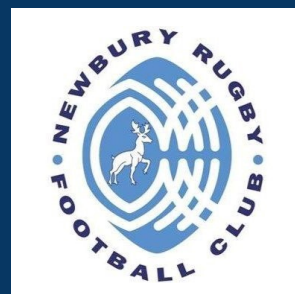


# BLUES NEWS

## KEEPING IN TOUCH - 11

### JANUARY 2021



**This newsletter is sponsored by**



**Newbury  
Building Society**

### WHAT'S INSIDE

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[Supporting our local community](#)



### KEEPING IN TOUCH

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

**NEWBURY  
RUGBY CLUB**

Dear All

At this challenging time (with hope on the horizon), I hope every member and their families are keeping safe and well. Rugby is obviously of secondary importance right now but Zoom meetings are going on every week and people are working hard on your behalf, to try and steer our club through to hopefully better times.

You will all have seen that NRFC hit the front page of the NWN last week, (instead of our usual back page in playing days), regarding the possibility of WBC building an all weather pitch at Monks Lane, to accommodate Newbury Football Club. [Lou's letter](#) is published in the newsletter but I would also assure you this is very early days in our discussions, and any decisions would need to enhance, not diminish NRFC sustainability on and off the pitch. If Club Members have any questions or comments please email either Steve Gibbs, Lou Goodall or myself, but please remember nothing has been agreed or proposal received as yet.

However, a real milestone has been achieved this week and we are now in a position to close the Debenture scheme after some very hard work, especially from Michael Brader (Trustee) and Vernon Lewis, to whom we owe a big debt of thanks. It was set up about 20 years ago to save the club from certain financial ruin and inevitable closure, but I'm delighted to say that it has now done its job and run its course ([please see article](#)).

The President's Charity attracted over £700 worth of goods with over 50 separate donations and in particular a fabulous donation from Jerry Winston. Thank you everybody for your generosity in just a two week period and during a lockdown. Those provisions were very gratefully received by two local charities ([see article](#)).

The Ladies have continued with their virtual challenges, fundraising for the NHS and keeping the Blues' team spirit going. Look forward to hearing about more challenges from other individual groups or how about a whole club challenge? Any ideas or volunteers? Please contact Tony Lloyd or myself and we will help you put them into action or find like minded volunteers.

It's good to see some action rugby photos before Christmas on the Men's inter club game and the ladies fixture. The come back only lasted a day but we all look forward to better times ahead this year.

To anyone in our club who is involved in the NHS, care work or doing any essential role to keep the rest of us safe, a very very big 'Thank You'. If anyone has any ideas on how we might be able to help the local community as a club, to get through these times, please let me know and of course we will if we can. We are trying to do our bit but we could always do more.

Please let us know what you are up to through this lockdown and we will include as an item in the newsletter. However, the next one may be the last unless new volunteers step up to help. Thanks as ever to Sarah and Brian for their input.

**DAVID JONES - PRESIDENT**

#### OUR VERY BEST WISHES.....

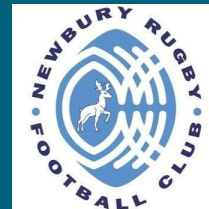
Many of you will remember Ally Pankhurst, the charismatic Scotsman, who for many of us was the on-site face of the rugby club for many years. Ally and his wife were struck down with Covid on Christmas Day. Ally is still having intensive care treatment and we all wish him the very best for a quick recovery.

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

**KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!**

# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

## CHAIR'S UPDATE TO MEMBERS - JAN 2021



### DISCUSSIONS TO ENHANCE THE SPORTS GROUND AT MONKS LANE

I wanted to update you on some informal discussions that have taken place with West Berkshire Council on the possibility of them renting part of our ground which would be used to improve the availability of community sport in Newbury and surrounding area.

The initial discussions have included options for developing a high-quality artificial grass pitch, floodlights, changing room and possibly other facilities, including a stand which would be available for rugby, football, and other sports activities.

Next week, the Council's Executive will meet to consider a recommendation that formal talks with NRFC begin.

The Club's position is clear in that we would be landlord to the Council in this arrangement and would be looking to enhance the facilities for rugby, provide some financial benefits to the club and retain our independence. If successful, the initiative could improve our sports facilities, including the ability to train all year round and host higher level competitive matches.

David Jones our President who has been involved in the preliminary discussions on behalf of the Board of Trustees "As landlord, NRFC will be seeking to underline our objective to be a key community sports club for Newbury developing modern facilities and improving our long-term financial sustainability. We are supportive of the council's objective to offer sporting opportunities for all age groups locally and we already have 600 playing members at the club. We are expecting that the proposal will enhance the existing rugby facilities".

The next step will be that the Council will make a formal proposal for NRFC to consider, which we await with interest.

Any proposal negotiated will be consulted upon and ultimately be approved by the club's Trustees. Rest assured we are not selling any land and importantly any proposal should not compromise rugby in any way.

Members will be updated on progress as talks develop but if you have any questions in the meantime, please get in touch.

**Louise Goodall - Chair**

[Louise.goodall.rugby@gmail.com](mailto:Louise.goodall.rugby@gmail.com)



### KICKERS CHRISTMAS HAMPER CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVE GRAYSON

for winning the Kickers Christmas Hamper. Thank you to all who entered and please following the news of an exciting future for The Kickers Bar @NewburyBlues.

## SIMPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

**PAY YOUR  
CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

**SPONSORSHIP**  
Contact Richard Deal

**CLUB EVENTS**  
Details posted on Pitchero

**LATEST  
GOOD EXCHANGE PROJECT**

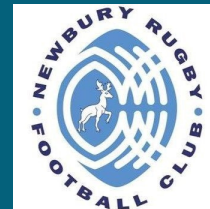
**FOR ALL THE LATEST  
CLUB NEWS**

**100+ CLUB**

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

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 Neville Bolton**

**2nd Helen Keevil**

**3rd Helen Hamlin**

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.

### THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DEBENTURE HOLDERS

Newbury RFC would like to thank all debenture holders  
who supported the Scheme and have now allowed us to  
bring it to a conclusion.

The scheme was set up to ensure the club survival  
through a torrid and critical financial time for the club.  
Without the support of the debenture holders and the  
trustees who administered it, the club would definitely  
not be here today.

Closing this scheme will be a huge milestone in the  
club's history and hopefully will be a closing of one  
chapter and the beginning of an exciting new chapter  
ahead. Most significantly, the club will now be  
unencumbered by charges, with no debt and therefore  
in a position to move forward. We have also learnt  
some salient lessons about running a club and managing  
its finances.

In particular, we must say a very big thank you to Vernon  
Lewis who administered the scheme for its entirety and  
the trustees and Michael Brader for providing the legal  
framework which was very time consuming and  
complicated. Thanks also to Steve Gibbs and Adam  
Prickett for their input in helping conclude this.  
Everyone donated their time for free, so all club  
members have greatly benefitted from this and  
hopefully will be very appreciative.

### PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS CHARITY



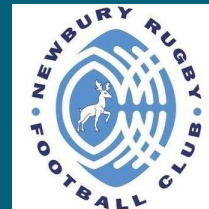
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED  
ITEMS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S  
CHRISTMAS CHARITY. WE RECEIVED  
OVER 50 INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS  
THAT WE WERE ABLE TO DONATE TO  
NEWBURY COMMUNITY PROJECT AND  
LOOSE ENDS HOMELESS CHARITY. WE  
SHOULD SAY A BIG THANK YOU TO ROB  
HARRIS AND TONY LLOYD FOR  
DELIVERING ALL THE DONATIONS.  
IF YOU STILL HAVE ANY ITEMS YOU  
WISH TO DONATE, PLEASE LET US  
KNOW BY EMAILING  
[communications@newburyrfc.co.uk](mailto:communications@newburyrfc.co.uk).  
WE HOPE WE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE  
SUPPORT ON A LONGER TERM BASIS.  
MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL.

**David Jones -President**

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

BLUES V REDS - FRIDAY NIGHT FRIENDLY (18TH DEC, 7PM)



## NEWBURY RFC BLUES 05 v 10 NEWBURY RFC REDS REDS JUST PIP THE BLUES

**Newbury RFC played a Friday night club friendly to the adapted game rules, the first rugby at the club in this strange COVID-19 governed 2020 season.**

Big thanks to all who made this Friday night game possible after it was switched from Saturday to Friday night in order to stay within the new covid Tier 3 rules, which came into force early Saturday morning. Good to see several Uni boys back for the Xmas Hols and playing with us. Now with Berkshire falling into Tier 4 after Saturday's 4pm announcement we will have to wait and see when training and games will be able to recommence - Tier 2 to Tier 4 in 24 hrs!

Blue Squad kicked off in this club game played to the new rules, meaning there were no scrums and mauls; Reds just had the better of the first quarter but both defences meant the game was scoreless, although both teams played some good attacking rugby but were unable to get the score.

Soon into the second quarter the Blue squad got into Reds 22 and after a couple of phases Rob Duncan crashed through the defence to score, 5-0. Reds were soon back level when the ball reached Ben Armstrong who was off around the defence, making 40m to score 5-5. The third quarter remained scoreless until Ben Armstrong set off on a weaving run, beating several defenders to score and give the Reds a 10-5 lead.

Blues had the better of the final quarter but were unable to turn possession into points meaning Reds were able to hold out giving them a narrow 10-5 victory.

It was good to see some form of rugby back at Monks Lane and a tight game between team mates was enjoyed by all.

### **Newbury Blues - Blue Squad**

Tom Fieldsend, Dylan Stewart, Graham Stewart, Harry Keatley, Fraser Carr, Jamal Watson, Tom Erskine, Jonny Lees, Rob Duncan, Dan Thorne, Will Osbourne, Liam Cooper, Michael Klichowicz, Tommy Martin

### **Newbury Blues - Red Squad**

Ben Hicks, Tom Hunt, Finn Walsh, Kyle Doel, Harry Waye-Branch, Colin Gasper, Ed Gavin, Louis Morgan, Toby Thorne, Cameron Golby-Barr, Neil Owen, Tom Cole, Ben Armstrong, Eddie Robinson

Newbury RFC players and coaching staff wish everybody a Happy New Year - Let's hope for a much better 2021

Big thanks to Leeann and staff for sorting the after-match food at late notice and also to Joe Binfield who gave up his time to ref the game. Big thanks also to Peter Branch for the great photos - <https://www.facebook.com/Newbury-RFC-Seniors-Supporters-Photography>

*Mick Fletcher*

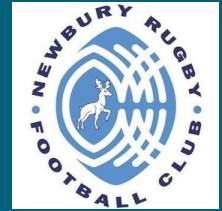


KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!



# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

## LATEST FROM THE LADIES



### What we've been up to:

We're keeping ourselves very busy in January by racing from Newbury to Paris and back (virtually) in aid of the Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust. Walk, jog, run, cartwheel, roly-poly, as long as you don't leave your local area anything counts.

Our goal is a total of 674 miles/1,101km in Jan. Please contribute money via our [Justgiving page](#) or miles/km via Instagram and Facebook!

Keep an eye out across our [social media](#) (and the Newbury Weekly News) for updates!

**Latest Update** - After 2 days of our Newbury to Paris and back challenge we have already got 40 players involved and covered 230.03 miles, 1/3 of our original target. We've also raised £335.

So that we don't complete the challenge in a week we've ramped things up:

1. Newbury to Paris and back again (684 miles), THEN:

2. The mileage to the rest of the six nation countries and back again!

(Starting at Newbury, then to Rome, Twickenham, Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh and back to good old Newbs)

Our new total target is 4,172 miles in January!



### FRIDAY NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS - 18TH DEC 2020

NEWBURY v FARNHAM

**43 - 0**

The Ladies had a fantastic game against Farnham, following the Blues inter-club match on Friday 18th December. Farnham WRFC were great opposition and it was a cracking way to end 2020!



### JUNIOR JOKES

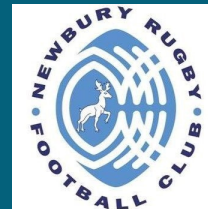
I was a gold medal winner at the 2020 weather forecasting championships. I beat the raining champion

#### Things Mum Taught Us

- Appreciate a job well done
- "if you are going to kill each other then do it outside. I've just finished cleaning
- Religion - You had better pray that will come out of the carpet
- Justice - When you have kids I hope they turn out just like you
- Logic - Because I said so that's why
- Humour - When you fall and break your leg don't come running to me
- Foresight - Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you have an accident
- Irony - Keep crying and I will give you something to cry about
- Weather - This room looks like a tornado went through it
- Wisdom - When you get to my age you'll understand
- Medical Science - Don't sit that close to the TV or you will end up with square eyes

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

# 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.

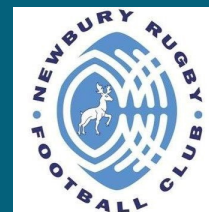
**Call:** 01635 555777 | **Visit:** [www.newbury.co.uk](http://www.newbury.co.uk)

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 206077). 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

## NRFC PROJECTS AND FUNDRAISING



### Five Key Q&As about our Projects & Fundraising – January 2021

*Q - How much has been raised for Newbury RFC projects to date?*

A - We have raised over **£41,000** from donations and Good Exchange match-funding in the last sixteen months as per below:

GE Year ending	Approved Project Values	No of completed Projects	Funds Raised	GE Match-Funding
31/3/20	£25,466	7 of 7	£16,355	£8,980
31/3/21 (Ytd)	£23,493	2 of 5	£8,807	£7,235

*Q - What Projects has funding been raised for?*

A - The nine completed projects to date include:

New Scoreboard, re-laying the path to the top pitches, LED & motion sensor lighting fit-outs throughout the building, replacement internal & external CCTV cameras, various Health & Safety replacement doors & flooring and the full refurbishment of the balcony

*Q - Are there any current live projects for Newbury RFC listed on the Good Exchange?*

A - We have three current live projects as set out below:

Description	Amount	Project No	Status	Comments
Car park CCTV & signage	£1,575	18397	Project live Nov'20	Improve car park safety & security <b>£511 raised to date (32%)</b>
Maintenance works to Top Pitches	£5,160	18498	Project live Nov'20	Cost of on-going pitch works (for M&Js, Men, Women, Colts & Girls training) <b>£2,921 raised to date (57%)</b>
Facility Security upgrade (doors / entrance gates)	£4,148	18540	Project live Dec'20	Improve building & grounds security to upgrade existing access points
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,833</b>			

*Q - Where does our fundraising come from?*

A - All parts of the Club – members & supporters / companies / charitable foundations.

*Q - How can we donate to Newbury RFC projects?*

A - To donate to any of the above projects, you can do so by one of two methods:

via Newbury RFC (and we will direct these onto one of the projects unless specifically requested otherwise); or

via the following link: <https://thegoodexchange.com>, where you can donate to your preferred Newbury RFC project.

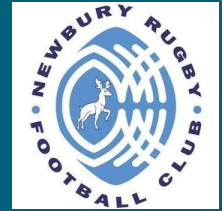
If you have your own business, donating to one of our appeals can be very tax efficient.

**Rob Harris**  
**04/01/2021**

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

## COACH'S CORNER - SIMON BEST (U6 COACH)



### FEBRUARY, FLATULENCE AND BLUE LIGHTS

Bad news stories, tragic news stories. My God we didn't have to look too far to see these last year. And it continues. Far too many. Far too much tragedy. But if you want to hear some good news, some optimism, some glass half full stuff spend an hour in the company of Simon Best, Head Coach of the U6 minis. It was all very normal, dog in the car, a short drive and then a gentle jog. Part way through the jog, a feeling of fuzziness, something not quite right and within a couple of hours, Simon found himself in an ambulance being rushed to John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford for an emergency operation for a burst aneurysm causing a bleed on his brain. Now I'm not a medical expert but that is a serious condition and as Simon says, "Luckily they were able to operate in time so there should be no long lasting issues, and with the incredible support of my wife Melanie and my family, I am making a swift recovery." Great news, and I know I am speaking for everyone involved at the club in wishing Simon all the very best for a full recovery and here's to a return to normal Sunday mornings when he again takes charge of the U6 sessions and is back in full flow, fart jokes and all, which not surprisingly the kids love.



Growing up in Bristol, Simon was surrounded by rugby and he played for Gordano RFC from the age of 7, "where I found my love of rugby," Bristol Grammar School and Bristol Schools as a front row forward. He once played alongside Mark Regan, ex England and British Lions hooker although by Simon's own admission he was not quite at that standard. University at Southampton saw him playing for the Medics mainly for social reasons and when the time came to take up paid employment Simon devoted much of his time to work rather than playing rugby. In fact it was not until his own son started at Newbury minis that he once again became involved with the game. Like many enthusiastic parents it was not long before the involvement resulted in his coaching the U6 age group, which he has now been doing for four seasons. Alongside his coaching role he is responsible for encouraging mums and dads to take the U6's on to the next stage of their rugby careers when they reach the U7's.

Anyone who has seen the U6 Sunday morning sessions will know the enthusiasm Simon brings to the sessions and he is acutely aware of the importance of making the sessions fun but also to instill in the children the values that underpin rugby, values relating to respect for teammates, respect for coaches and respect for opposition. He says that the best part of being involved with children this age comes around about February each year when something clicks with the children and they seem to get it in terms of playing for each other, when all of a sudden the chaos of previous months changes into what amounts to something approaching rugby, the beginning of an understanding of what the game is all about. He was unprepared for the huge sense of satisfaction he felt with this and is the main reason he continues to coach this age group

Simon was full of praise for the parents who assist on Sunday mornings and was quite overcome with the messages of support and well wishes he received from many people at the club when he was seriously ill. Not only that, a number of parents organised and run the Sunday morning sessions in his absence. There are heartfelt thanks from Simon to every one who has helped in what ever way, however big, however small.

When the U6 will train or next play is unknown but good luck to them when rugby starts up again, good luck to all our mini and junior teams, good luck to all our senior teams. But best of luck to Simon.

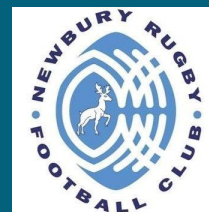
**BRIAN LEE**

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!



# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

## PERSONAL PROFILES FROM ACROSS OUR BLUES FAMILY



### SENIOR MEN



JOSH WINFIELD

**Playing history:** Went to St Bart's, played for school and NRFC M&J age groups. As a senior I have played for Blues and Berkshire.

**Favourite song:** Bloodstream by Ed Sheeran - it is amazing live.

**Most admired person to invite for dinner:** Lewis Capaldi - he would be very funny.

**Most surprising fact about yourself:** Kate Moss admires my legs. Also I have landscaped the gardens of Mick Jagger and Kate Moss.

**Favourite rugby moment at NRFC:** Winning promotion to Nat 3 in 2018/19.

### SENIOR WOMEN



ABBIE LEADBITTER

**Playing history:** I first started playing rugby at university in 2017. Durham was a collegiate university and we played 10s as part of our inter-college leagues. In 2018, my third year, I played my first game of 15s for Durham and then shortly after graduating, I moved to Newbury where I developed further. I've been at Newbury for almost two years and I was finally starting to move out of the front row till rona hit...! I hope when we start playing again, I can prove myself in the back row or at centre

**Favourite song:** This question is toooo hard. Almost impossible! At the moment? Bru C - Introspective

**Most admired person to invite for dinner:** Eckhart Tolle and Ant Middleton - I'm all about a deep chat

**Most surprising fact about yourself:** I don't have dreams

**Favourite rugby moment at NRFC:** Playing the first game since rona hit in December and scoring that interception try from the half way line - I'm still shocked myself!

**Additional Info:** Player and Social Media and Video Guru

### HERE ARE THE MINI & JUNIOR TEAMS FROM 1984 ..... WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

#### UNDER 8

J. BATES  
B. EDWARDS  
N. FOX  
J. GRAYLING  
N. HART  
S. KHALIL  
M. SMITH  
T. STOLLER  
A. VARNEY  
S. YULE  
T. YULE

#### UNDER 9

A. BROSTER  
P. COOK  
J. CZERPAK  
D. FOX  
L. GELDRED  
R. HART  
M. JONES  
D. KERNUTT  
N. MAIN  
A. MCKENZIE

#### UNDER 10

J. COOK  
B. FAWKES  
J. GRAYLING  
T. INSTON  
G. JOHN  
N. MASON  
O. RHODES  
S. SMITH  
A. SPILLMAN  
D. THIMAN

#### UNDER 11

A. BALL  
R. CARR  
R. FISHER  
W. HERBERT  
R. HICKFORD  
C. JOHN  
S. MASON  
I. PROUDFOOT  
K. RALPH  
O. RICHARDSON  
C. ROBINSON  
K. SMITH  
K. SPELLMAN

#### UNDER 13

J. ADAMS  
D. ALLISON  
W. ANN  
G. BARLOW  
R. DUMMETT  
A. GOMER  
J. HALL  
L. HEDGES  
A. LANDER  
J. MARCH  
M. PEACOCK  
K. PORTER  
K. SEYMORE  
S. SHERRICK  
M. SOUTER  
C. TUCKER

#### UNDER 14

B. ATKINSON  
A. CLARKE  
N. COLLINS  
M. DEARLOVE  
B. DOBSON  
N. FORTMULLER  
R. GREENER  
S. HAINES  
S. HALLEY  
D. HISLOP  
K. HUMPHRIES  
R. KEARSEY  
R. LEAK  
S. PAPWORTH  
J. SMITH  
L. STEPHENS  
A. STREET  
P. TAYLOR  
A. TUCKER  
S. WILKINSON

#### UNDER 15

D. BLACKMAN  
G. CRIPPS  
R. DENHAM  
R. EDWARDS  
T. GEERING  
A. GRAYSON  
M. HERBUT  
D. MCWILLIAMS  
J. PASSMORE  
A. POCOOCK  
J. RIDLER  
S. ROBERTS  
J. TRUBRIDGE  
J. TURNER  
I. WILLIAMS  
P. WILLIAMS  
J. WRAY

#### UNDER 16

J. BEGBY  
R. BEVIS  
B. BLACKMAN  
K. DAWES  
A. DEAKING  
P. DOBSON  
M. ENGLAND  
S. LANGTON  
M. LEGG  
J. LEWIS  
P. NORTHOVER  
K. PARNELL  
C. PHILLIPS  
N. PHILLIPS  
R. PURTON  
J. ROGERS  
I. SMITH  
D. YATES

### COMMUNICATION UPDATE

[www.pitchero.com/clubs/newburyrfc/](http://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](mailto: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

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://Community Support Hub)** is available to help anyone in need. Anyone needing support from the Community Support Hub can email [WestBerkshire@public.govdelivery.com](mailto: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.

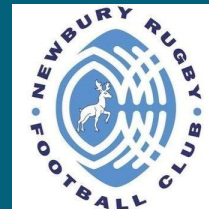
[brianchapel@hotmail.com](mailto:brianchapel@hotmail.com) / Mob 07740351507

### Maro Itoje .....supporting 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](mailto: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!**