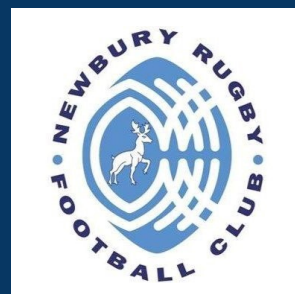


# BLUES NEWS

## KEEPING IN TOUCH - 13

### MARCH 2021



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**Newbury**  
Building Society

#### WHAT'S INSIDE

[Update from the President](#)

[Return to Rugby Roadmap](#)

[Latest from the Ladies](#)

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[Supporting our community](#)



#### KEEPING IN TOUCH

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

**NEWBURY**  
**RUGBY CLUB**

## RUGBY IS BACK 😊

Monks Lane, in case you had forgotten, is where we used to play and it's looking in great shape. We will be welcoming back all levels to the club over the next week and even spectators might be getting excited to see some local rugby. A chance to get fit, meet up with friends, enjoy some banter and after 12th April, maybe the odd refreshment! It seems a long time since we did that!!

Touch Rugby started on Monday night with the Moonlight Malingerers taking on the Shining Lights and 50 players turned up. Is that a record James?

Men's Senior rugby training started on Tuesday; Arch has done an excellent roadmap (see page 2) and put together a series of training schedules and games to get rugby going again.

The Women never seem to stop training, even if at home. If you haven't seen their 'Welcome Back' video then make sure you look on the website; it's inspirational and a MUST watch. Great work Abbie.

The Minis and Juniors are back Easter weekend and abandoning their Easter eggs (well maybe not) so they can do rugby training. It will be wonderful to see the pitches being used again and they are looking really good. Thanks Ralph!

Improvements have also been taking place and the restructured commercial team have been busy during lockdown with some impressive work in the clubhouse - see update on page 4.

The Steering Group is continuing very detailed discussions with West Berkshire Council and will report to the Trustees again as soon as there is any progress. Thank you to all those who have contributed through the webinars or through direct questions to various members of that group, which has been incredibly helpful. All the points raised have been seriously considered and discussed. They have been very helpful in formulating our response to the Council. The Trustees hope to be in a position to respond to the members within the next two weeks and advise whether they intend to accept the Heads of Terms and an Operational Agreement or otherwise.

The Management Board has also been working very hard to ensure the club continues to function financially and the committee to ensure rugby returns to the club smoothly.

We are still collecting food for local charities and also laptops for local schools so do continue to support and feel free to drop off non-perishable supplies at the club.

Despite the exciting prospect and enthusiasm for rugby, it's really important to please remember that we are still in LOCKDOWN and to RESPECT THE COVID RULES at all times when at the club.

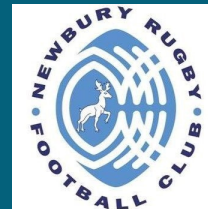
Volunteers are always really appreciated at the club and we are in need of someone with accountancy/banking skills who might be prepared to help. The books have never been so well presented as they are at the moment. Treasurer Adam Prickett would like to step down after three years of tremendous work so he can enjoy the beaches in Devon in his dotage!! If you would like to help, then please contact Rob Harris at the club who can advise you.

Looking forward to seeing you at the club soon.

*David Jones - President*

# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

## RETURN TO RUGBY - ROADMAP



blues

Roadmap to pre-season 21/22



### Stage D1 from 29/3 - 25/4

Training Tuesday/Thursday @ 7.30pm

Touch games 3/4 & 10/4 @ TBC  
**NB these sessions are NOT tournaments and everyone MUST leave directly afterwards**

Touch tournaments 17/4 & 24/4 @ TBC  
**The club has permission for alcohol to be served on site, and the bar will be open**

### Stage D2 from 26/4 - June

Training continues - from 17/5 stage E1 may apply to training (i.e. scrums and mauls)

2 or 3 contact games 8/5, 15/5 & 29/5 @ TBC

Touch tournaments 1/5 & 22/5 @ TBC  
Although E2 may apply to matches from 31/5, it is not planned for us.

### Off-season - June

No formal training or games through June.

Stage F starts 21/6

### Pre-season 21/22 - July

Start pre-season 1/7 with no restrictions

## TOUCH RUGBY UPDATE

We are planning to return on 29th March for our normal 7pm to 8:30pm slot and every Saturday (10am to 12pm) and Monday nights thereafter. We will continue with the policy of every player having to pre-register for a session and the protocols we were following pre lockdown. I've had several enquires from potential new players during lockdown so hopefully once we are back up and running we will see some new faces and new members!

Peter M Norman

## JUNIOR UPDATE

The U16's are planning to have their final game on Sunday 25th April on Pitch 1 and combine it with an Awards BBQ starting at 12.00 noon.

We'd like as many U16's parents to attend as possible. It's a really important milestone in the boys' rugby journey.

# SPRING INTO ACTION

It's going to be a long summer of rugby at Monks Lane, so we need your support to kick things back off!

We have a number of projects that can gain extra support from the **Greenham Common Trust Good Exchange**, including the upgrade of two of our pitches!

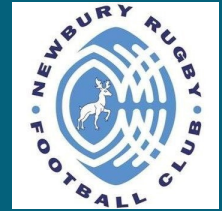
We're looking for club members and supporters to raise money by being sponsored to do an activity or challenge, or simply by donating!

TO DONATE, VISIT  
[THEGOODEXCHANGE.COM](http://THEGOODEXCHANGE.COM) AND  
SEARCH FOR PROJECT 18498

KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT AND KEEP SAFE!

# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

## LATEST FROM THE LADIES



It has been a long year for the Women's section, much the same as it has for us all. Despite lockdown the women have been keeping busy with their own independent training as well as regular online strength and conditioning sessions together via zoom. Many thanks to Jeannie, Tom, and Flo for hosting the S&C sessions for the team.



We also have the massive pleasure of congratulating our first XV Vice Captain, Becky Wilson, on being selected for the Harlequins Squad! Becky is planning to be dual signed with us as well as the Harlequins, so we will hopefully still get her back in blue from time to time. Once a Blue, always a Blue.

Both the 1<sup>st</sup> XV and the Development Squad are very much looking forward to returning to rugby training on Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of March as the third lockdown begins to ease. Training will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 - 9pm and will follow the RFU's return to rugby roadmap.

A few members of the Women's section attended the Newbury Blues Head Injury Webinar which was informative and insightful. Many thanks to Dr. Sam Barke, Paul Archer and Martin Paice for hosting the webinar.

Looking forward to April, Kelly Reeves-Williams, who is one of our fabulous teachers from the Women's development squad will be taking part in 'Strides Against Stress' to raise money for Education support. Kelly will be aiming to walk 100 miles during April rather than the recommended 30. If you wish to sponsor Kelly, you can find the details at <https://educationsupport.enthuse.com/pf/kelly-reeves-williams/post/373350> Every donation will be gratefully received.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Fi Friend on her promotion at work and thank her for having kept us up to date with the Women's section previously, and for being an excellent teammate! We all wish her all the absolute best on her next adventure!

*Zea Daniels*

## SIMPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

**PAY YOUR  
CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

**SPONSORSHIP**  
Contact Richard Deal

**CLUB EVENTS**  
Details posted on Pitchero

**LATEST**  
**GOOD EXCHANGE PROJECT**

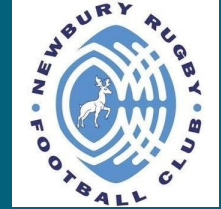
**FOR ALL THE LATEST**  
**CLUB NEWS**

**100+ CLUB**



# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

## LOCKDOWN CHANGES AT THE CLUB, LED BY THE COMMERCIAL TEAM



Since last March our ability to trade normally - running our bars, hosting weddings, parties and conferences etc - has been decimated by Covid. Along with all other businesses we have had to adapt to change – this has meant from time to time running a skeleton staff, furloughing staff, having to make some redundancies, re-opening and then shutting again. Despite all of these challenges, the key task of maintaining and where possible prudently upgrading our much-admired facilities has continued throughout, without any interruptions.

Despite the pandemic we have seen tremendous revenue and customer growth in our room hiring this financial year and held a handful of Rugby events wherever possible.

The real stars in the team are Leeann, Nigel and Charlotte, without who none of the above would be possible. Amongst the many other things you will see at your next visit to the club - Kickers bar and patio container bar.

The patio container bar is currently being fitted-out with a target opening for mid-April. This will open up the patio area with a dedicated serving point (fingers crossed weather-wise!!!).

We also have a couple of vacancies if you want to come and join the team:

**Part-time chef** - to Level 3 catering standard (up to 15 hours per week)

**Part-time reception cover** (up to 20 hours per week)

Please contact the club for further details.

**Rob Harris - 27/3/21**



The Kickers Bar



Patio Container Bar



## 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.**

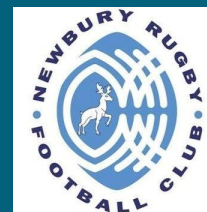
**You have to be in it  
to win it!!**

### WINTER GRANT SUCCESS

Adam Prickett our Treasurer (self-appointed Harbinger of Doom normally!!), has some great news having applied for the RFU winter grant. This was made available via the Government to help clubs struggling with the lack of income over the last six months. A complicated form but patient approach from Adam has resulted in the full grant of £50k being received. This has to be used in a strictly controlled way but is a huge benefit to the club. Stirling work Adam!!

# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

## PROJECTS AND FUNDRAISING UPDATE - MARCH 2021



We have three live projects for which we are actively raising funds:

Description	Amount	Project No	Status	Comments
Car park CCTV & signage	£1,575	18397	Project live Nov'20 <b>Ends 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021</b>	Improve car park safety & security <b>£753 raised to date (47%)</b>
Maintenance works to Top Pitches	£5,160	18498	Project live Nov'20 <b>Ends 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021</b>	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 <b>Ends 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021</b>	Improve building & grounds security to upgrade existing access points <b>£0 raised to date</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,833</b>			

We need to raise at £3,600 (so £7,200 once match-funding is applied) to finish these and all in less than two months.

**When the end date is reached for these three projects the match-funding ceases.**

To donate to any of the above, you can do so in one of two ways:

- 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.

To remind everyone how successful and important the Good Exchange is to the club:

- nearly **£42,000** has come from donations / fund-raising (and match-funding)
- we have raised this all in the last eighteen months only
- we have used all monies raised to fund various community-benefit capex projects throughout the club

**Rob Harris - 17/3/21**



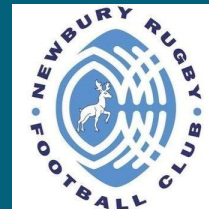
## FOOD PARCELS FOR THE HOMELESS

**WE ARE STILL COLLECTING!**

Many thanks to Gerry Winston for another incredibly generous donation of food and drink which the club will distribute to various local homeless charities. Please do keep the donations coming as it's important not to forget there are still many individuals and families struggling. Our club is not just about playing rugby but playing its role in the community too. Every little bit helps someone somewhere in need.

# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

## QUIZ



In the early 1990s England Rugby Players had proper jobs during the week.

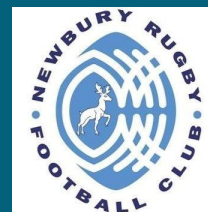
Can you match the player to the job ?

15	Simon Hodgkinson		RAF Pilot
14	Nigel Heslop		Carpenter
13	Will Carlinng		Teacher
12	Jeremy Guscott		Banking
11	Rory Underwood		Policeman
10	Rob Andrew		Stockbroker
9	Richard Hill		Policeman
8	Jason Leonard		Chartered Surveyor
7	Brian Moore		Builder
6	Jeff Probyn		Solicitor
5	Paul Ackford		Bricklayer
4	Wade Dooley		Furniture Maker
3	Mike Teague		Policeman
2	Peter Winterbottom		Policeman
1	Dean Richards		Marketing

**Answers on the back page**



# 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.

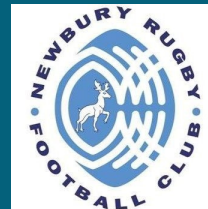
**Call:** 01635 555777 | **Visit:** [www.newbury.co.uk](http://www.newbury.co.uk)

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 206677). English Law applies and we will communicate with you in English. We are participants of the Financial Ombudsman Service. We have a complaints procedure which we will provide on request. Most complaints that we cannot resolve can be referred to the Financial Ombudsman Service. 1040



# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PLAYERS - RUARIDH MCCONNOCHIE



## Slopes, Friendships and Christ the Redeemer

It is blessed with an abundance of many outstanding natural and man made features, but flat land in the city centre is not one of them. On particular stormy nights the thunder reverberating around the seven hills that surround the city is an impressive natural phenomenon, but hills do not make good places to build rugby grounds and therein lies the issue. What would you do if you were in charge, move the ground out of the city centre with its fantastic Abbey backdrop to a purpose built state of the art rugby stadium on top of one of those hills or keep it where it is, in the city centre, with limited room to expand? There are plans in the pipeline to keep it where it is and good luck in that endeavour to all involved at Bath Rugby, one of those great rugby cities that make it a joy to visit, both on rugby and non rugby days. The city is not only blessed with great architecture, great history and great views, it is also blessed with great rugby players and one of these is Ruaridh McConnochie, current Bath outside back. His link to NRFC? He spent his University years at Gloucester with the Head of our medical team Martin Paice. Neighbours in their first year, Martin shared a house with Ruaridh in their second and third years and they remain good friends.



Not having come up through the traditional route of schoolboy county rugby, schoolboy international rugby and premiership academy, Ruaridh came to prominence at quite a late age for modern professional rugby players, but that has not stopped him from gaining international experience with England and also winning a silver medal at the Rio Olympics for the GB rugby 7's team. He says that was just an incredible experience and completed a number of years on the World Circuit playing 7's for England. The move to premiership rugby was not easy, as Ruaridh had not played professional 15 a side rugby. In fact he had not played any 15 a side rugby for a number of years. New challenges, new techniques to learn, but at Bath Rugby he was in an environment surrounded by some world class players and this helped in the learning process.

What is striking about Ruaridh is his humility and the importance he puts on family and friendships. When asked about his favourite memory of his first English 15 a side cap he responded by saying, "Having my family there to witness the event was incredible and having them in the changing room after the game for my cap presentation was something I'll never forget." When asked about his University days, the highlights were all about the friendships he made. "I loved uni, the whole atmosphere about it. Living with mates all the way through and still being in a WhatsApp group with 20 odd blokes now shows how many friendships are made there." We watch these stars of our game performing week in, week out and can easily forget they are much like us all, reliant on family and good friends and to their close contacts the fact these stars are in the public eye, are often idolised by fans, is an irrelevance to the important things on which the friendship is based. Listening to Ruaridh is a reminder of these important things in life, something we have all been reminded of so many times during the past year.

As for the present, Ruaridh says that playing for Bath is a fantastic experience, the club, its history and the city itself. As a professional athlete the training is pretty full on. Monday, a low intensity day and a concentration on lower body weights; Tuesday a high speed training day with a focus on attack and kick chase along with a weights session concentrating on upper body; Wednesday a defence based day, not so much running but more contact work. "We'd usually come off the pitch pretty knackered here having worked so hard for two days."; Thursday is a regen day, recovering as best as possible and seeing the medical team to sort out niggles; Friday is Captain's Run, sometimes a neuromuscular spike, going high speed for ten minutes or literally walking through a few strike moves; Saturday game day; Sunday a day off.

So a young lad from Kent who ends up playing for Bath, England both at 7's and 15's and Great Britain 7's via Cranbrook RFC, Gloucestershire University, Nuneaton RFC and Hartbury and even now, at what some would argue is the height of his career, he has the presence of mind to think of the future, knowing that this part of his life will come to an end at some point. To support this process he is doing some work experience in schools and could well continue his studies by doing a Post Graduate Teaching Qualification. He points out that the RPA does a good job in helping, "discover insights into lots of different professions after rugby." Who knows what will happen but whatever the future holds for Ruaridh he has the best wishes of everyone at NRFC and a huge thank you to him for spending the time contributing to our newsletter.

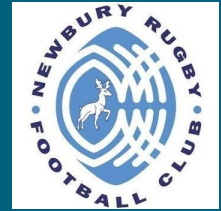
My final question to Ruaridh was, "What was Paicey like at University? He didn't give too much away but who knows, that could be for a future edition....."

**Brian Lee**



# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

## PERSONAL PROFILES FROM ACROSS OUR BLUES FAMILY



### SENIOR MEN



ADAM HENDERSON

**Playing history:** Attended Kennet School and played for Thatcham from 5-17 years of age. Played for Newbury since I was 28 yrs old.

**Favourite song:** Perfect Gentlemen by Wyclef Jean and Because of You by Ne-Yo. They are just straight up good songs.

**Most admired person to invite for dinner:** the Stoltman Brothers. I would like to pick their brains about their training and ask them how they got to where they are in their sport.

**Most surprising fact about yourself:** I am building a racing lawnmower.

**Favourite rugby moment at NRFC:** the 31-31 draw for the Stags at home against Chinnor, to stop their winning streak. I went into the game at late notice as I got a call from Brian Lee 30 minutes before kick off (when I was in the drive through at McDonalds), asking if I wanted to play. Of course I said 'yes'. I got to the club with 15 minutes to spare and played for 70 minutes. What a game!

**Additional Info:** I am currently undergoing an RFU Coaching Award which will enable me to help coach my son Fred's junior team.

### CLUB SUPPORTER



PAM MILLS  
(NEE CLOKE)

**Background:** Attended Speenhamland School from 1935-41 and Newbury Girls High School from 1941-49.

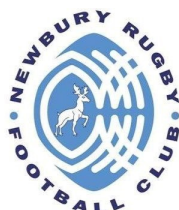
**Favourite song:** anything sung by Julie Andrews from the 1965 film The Sound of Music.

**Most admired person to invite for dinner:** ex jockey John Francome - he could tell cheeky stories. One of Pam's sons, Ian was an apprentice jockey at Lambourn and was at the stables next door to John Francome.

**Most surprising fact about yourself:** she had two good looking boys who played rugby (that was John's take on it anyway!). Another story was that Tom Barnes who played for the Club pre- and post Second World War was the Fixture Secretary because he worked at the telephone exchange and had access to telephones to carry out the business of organising matches. Pam says she knew a number of the older players before she met her husband James because her mother used to run the Borough Arms in town and some of the players went in there for a drink

**Favourite rugby moment at NRFC:** a Boxing Day game a number of years ago. Pam travelled to Heathrow in the morning with her daughter Janet to pick up her son Ian who was living in America. They travelled straight back to the Club and Ian played with his brother John for the Vets in the annual Boxing Day game against Hungerford, jet lagged and very tired. Another was when her husband James Mills was called up to play for the Club when he was doing National Service. He Hitchhiked to Newbury and back again to barracks after the game.

**Additional Info:** .One of Pam's hopes for the future is that her sister's great grandchildren will continue the tradition of the family playing rugby for Newbury, started by Pam's husband James Mills in the late 1940's, followed by her two sons, Ian and John, followed by her sister's grandson Jamie Berry and hopefully in the future Jamie's two year old son. That will be four generations of the family playing for the club.



# 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** 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!

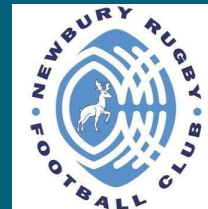
Thank you!

### JUNIOR JOKES

- ♦ How do you make a sausage roll? Push it down a hill
- ♦ Today I went to the toilet without my iphone. I found out there are 124 tiles on our bathroom floor.
- ♦ If you don't at first succeed, sky-diving isn't for you!
- ♦ At a recent job interview I was asked if i could perform under pressure? I replied no, but I could have a crack at Bohemian Rhapsody!
- ♦ A human fart can be louder than a trombone. I found that out at my daughter's school concert.
- ♦ Why do bees have sticky hair? Because they use honey combs.
- ♦ How do you make an octopus laugh? With ten tickles.

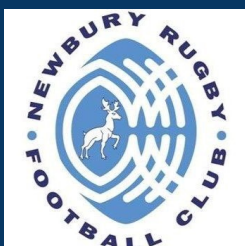
# BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

## QUIZ ANSWERS



### ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ ON PAGE 6

15	Simon Hodgkinson	Teacher
14	Nigel Heslop	Policeman
13	Will Carling	Marketing
12	Jeremy Guscott	Bricklayer
11	Rory Underwood	RAF Pilot
10	Rob Andrew	Chartered Surveyor
9	Richard Hill	Banking
8	Jason Leonard	Carpenter
7	Brian Moore	Solicitor
6	Jeff Probyn	Furniture Maker
5	Paul Ackford	Policeman
4	Wade Dooley	Policeman
3	Mike Teague	Builder
2	Peter Winterbottom	Stockbroker
1	Dean Richards	Policeman



KEEP IN TOUCH, KEEP FIT  
AND KEEP SAFE!