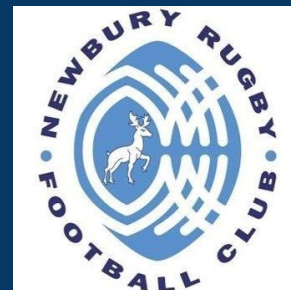


BLUES NEWS

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



Happy Christmas everyone!

A half year of mixed fortunes on the pitch for the senior teams and great enthusiasm in the youth sections, who made memorable visits to both Gloucester and Saracens home grounds. On the side lines, our dedicated away support is envied by all the venues that we travel to and our Saturday home crowd typically exceeds expectations. None of this could happen without our committed coaches, parents and volunteers. Thanks to you all! Thanks also to Ralph Grove for managing our first class grounds and to the Commercial Team for nurturing an ever higher reputation for Monks Lane as a sporting, social, leisure and business venue. The future is bright, the future is Blue!

Best wishes for 2024!

Trevor Coles - President

THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Language, a means of communication, a means of making yourself understood, a means of developing and cementing friendships. However it is defined though, both verbal and non verbal language is the bedrock of all human interaction. And it changes over time. Is this change to be welcomed or resisted? Consider this sentence. "Hey guys, I'll get a beer." Back in the day this would have been, "Hello, please may I have a beer?" Americanisms, driving some of the changes in the English language. Some people are aghast at this change in our language structures pointing to the purity of the English language and resisting foreign influence. Others are a lot more laid back and relaxed about it arguing that change in language simply reflects it as a living, dynamic interactive system and should be embraced and welcomed as any change adds to the richness of language.

Whatever one's views on this, there is one piece of language that will remain for a long time to come and that is, "thank you," one of the most powerful phrases in the English language. As an exercise, it is interesting to make a mental note of how many times you express your thanks to friends, family, colleagues and strangers in the period of a day. Thank you, good bosses say this to their employees as often as they can. What is not so prevalent is for the boss, the head person, a rugby club President even to have many people say thank you to them. This newsletter has now been going for a good few years and it is about time to say thank you to David Jones for his drive, energy and enthusiasm in getting it off the ground and keeping it going for so long.

David has been involved with the club since the 1983 as a player, mini and junior coach, supporter, more recently Vice President and President. His two sons have come through the mini and junior sections of the club and his daughter used to be the club medic. Born and brought up in Banbury, David studied for a degree in Chartered Surveying at Bristol Polytechnic in the 1970's before moving to Newbury where he worked as an Estate Agent, initially for one of the local Estate Agencies before setting up his own Estate Agent's business. David, recently retired, has spent a great deal of time during the past years working with the club's Steering Group to ensure communications between West Berkshire Council and the club went smoothly with regard to the now shelved Sports Hub on pitch five. He has also spearheaded this newsletter with the aim of it helping to foster a "One Club Ethos," something that is very dear to him. Whether this newsletter has achieved this is for others to consider and decide on but if it hasn't it's certainly not for the lack of trying on his part.

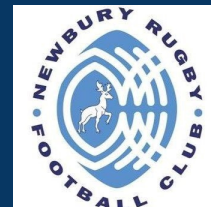
Thank you David for your efforts in driving this newsletter.

Brian Lee



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

SENIOR MEN'S RUGBY



SENIOR MEN'S RUGBY

Firstly, thank you to all supporters, volunteers, sponsors, members, players and staff who have shown their support, commitment and resolve during our first half of the season. As a squad, we have faced some challenging times so far this season and I wish all that are injured the best in their recovery. I am a firm believer that these experiences are learning opportunities and through adversity and being 'in the pit', real progress is made over time. The senior men's side have once again demonstrated this season that, when on form, we can beat any team in the two leagues and we look forward to demonstrating our learning from the first half of the season.

I have been emotionally charged this year, as a result of seeing supporters, young and old, in their Newbury tops and kit on game day - it really is a driver for players.

This club has a clear DNA and brand on how it wants to play rugby and during this season we are working towards a model which encompasses both our want to play up-tempo rugby with a more pragmatic approach. This approach, may have its initial bumps and bruises as we build, but in the long-term we aim to take this team to the next level of understanding.

The blend of youth and experience are ever-present in both blues and stags team sheets which I am very proud of and I have witnessed the excellent work being done in the colts' system to aid us in the coming years.

Our aim this season is to consolidate our playing style and put smiles on the faces of all at Newbury RFC and beyond - this is a special club and we want to make as many special memories as possible for all involved.

Thank you for your ongoing support, loud and proud. Blues Family.

James McAvoy - Head Coach

Regional 2 South Central (Level 6) - Blues' Stat's after 11 matches

Played 11, Won 5, Drawn 0, Lost 6

8th position in the league

Points: for 212, Points against 304

Average points: for 19.3, against 27.6

Try bonus points: 4, losing bonus points: 0.

Top Try Scorers: 7 – Oliver Rhoads; 3 – Jamie Futcher, Harry Waye-Branch, Alex Du Sautoy; 2 – Josh Winfield, Jonny Lees, Toby Thorne.

Most points: Dan Thorne 62

Total Trys scored: 31, Forwards 13, Backs 18.

16 players have scored try's

38 Players have played for Blues so far this season

3 players have played in all 11 match's: Dan Thorne, Toby Thorne, Harry Waye-Branch. 2 players have played 10 matches – Jamie Futcher, Will Osborne

Counties 2 BBO South (Level 8) - Stag's Stat's after 8 matches

Played 8, Won 4, (3 League & 1 Friendly), Drawn 0, Lost 4 [7 League games & 1 Friendly]

5th position in the league

Points: for 203, Points against 244

Average points: for 25.4, against 30.5

Try bonus points: 3, losing bonus points 1.

Top Try Scorers: 6 – Robin Swann, 4 – Louis Carnell, 2 – Nathan Delavere, Hayden Beal, Harry Stevens, Oscar Worsfold

Most points: George Shakespeare 34

Total Try's scored: 31, Forwards 12, Backs 19.

19 players have scored try's

50 Players have played for Stags so far this season

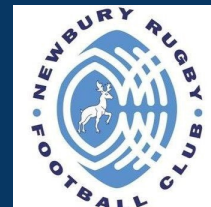
1 Player has played in all 8 matches: Louis Carnell

3 Players have played in 7 matches: Ed Dyer, George Stevens, Robin Swann



BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

DECEMBER UPDATES



2023 TRUSTEE UPDATE

When I was originally elected to be a trustee in 2015, we lurked in the shadows; the role of the trustees was to ensure the fiscal integrity of the club, and they spent their time trying to keep the club going. The efforts the other trustees stabilised the club which has enabled us to use that base to move the club forward to be in its current position.

How things have changed, we are debt free, we now produce accounts, we have details of our costs and income streams, we understand our business mix that has enabled us to plan our business and future existence. It was so good to see at a FAGM the progress we have made towards becoming a viable, sustainable club. We are not there totally but we know and understand where we need to be.

The hard work of all of the management team and trustees has made this happen, not least the drive that Louise Endean has brought to the commercial team and the huge incremental contribution they have made.

The current trustees are now more involved in the management team on a monthly basis, bringing their expertise to bear supporting the business. The sole aim of the commercial activity is to enable the Rugby Club to concentrate on rugby while looking at ways to increase earnings that will sustain rugby at Monks Lane in the future. This will increase further when the FCA finally give the approval to our rule changes.

The three years effort of working with the WBC on the Sports Hub project diverted our attention from seeking other additional long term income streams, to keep our momentum in becoming sustainable going by looking for more reliable partners, this we are now doing.

Robin Varley, joined the trustees in July and continues his great work to drive our sponsorship program, by working with our partners to make sure it is mutually beneficial to be part of the club. I encourage all members to look at our sponsor offers.

Steve Gibbs

COMMERCIAL UPDATE

2023 has been the most successful year for commercial activity including new & returning community room hirers such as mum & baby groups, dance classes for both adults & children just to list a few. We have had another successful summer with the Vodafone Games, Super 7s Series and various Army rugby events. This doesn't include the private functions we have hosted throughout the year, if you need a venue, please get in touch.

We have got a fantastic line up of events throughout December including shared Christmas parties, Boxing day game against Hungerford RFC & our first family New Years Eve party.

We are now approaching halfway through the rugby season we still have 4 home games remaining which we still have availability for pre-match lunch, 2 course lunch for £18PP - Everyone welcome, to book your space please contact reception.

From all the Newbury RFC commercial team we wish you a Merry Christmas & a very Happy New Year.

Louise Endean - Club Manager

MINI & JUNIORS

Christmas already! The first half of this season has flown by and for our Mini and Junior sections it's been a whirlwind of training and fixtures and a couple of festivals thrown in too! Our Mini group continues to grow across all ages and our Juniors have seen new starters as well.

So far this season our Mini group has played fixtures with Oxford Quins, Bracknell and Marlborough along with festivals at Henley, Reading and Maidenhead. We've also had teams take part in the Land Rover Cup and Match Day events at a number of Premiership clubs including Northampton and Saracens. All of these have been a great success and they're looking forward to taking more part of more in the second half of the season culminating in our own home festival mid-April.

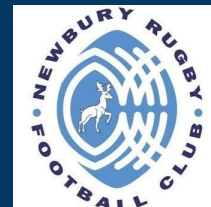
The Juniors have continued to travel far and wide visiting and then hosting many teams through Cup, League and friendly fixtures.

As always a huge shout out to all our amazing coaches and team managers who give up their time to support all our teams.

Sarah Tunstall

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

OUR RUGBY CLUB



OUR RUGBY CLUB

How much do you know about our club, what we do to raise money and the role we play in the community?

What do Louise, Charlotte and Addita get up to when not looking after us on a Saturday and Sunday?

In a typical 28 days in October and November, the following events happened:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 22 Mum and Baby group sessions (5 different hirers) | 4 Prediabetic prevention clinics |
| 3 A Gardner club meetings | 4 Mayo Ballroom Dancing evenings |
| 4 Slimming World meetings | West Berkshire Jobs Fair and Workshop |
| 4 Line Dancing classes | West Berkshire schools Rugby League competition |
| Bernie Scott Medium evening | Southern central Ambulance room hires |
| 4 Matt Fiddes Dance Classes | First aid Course |
| 8 Newbury Bridge club evenings | Priory Hospital Multiple Training Courses |
| An evening with Nigel Benn the Boxer | Stacatruc monthly room hire |
| 4 Martial Arts evenings | James Cowper Accountants staff event |
| 4 Elite Girls Training sessions | Darts every two weeks on a Friday |
| 4 Clubbercise Sessions | And there's more, as Jimmy Cricket would say! |
| 4 Silver Swans Ballet Classes | |

Also organised and coming up: The Rock Choir annual party, the Blood Donors clinics, Thames Valley Police meetings and over Christmas an Elvis Presley evening on the 22nd December and a New Year's Eve family party.

Last weekend the team organised The Christmas Lunch for 229 guests on the Saturday and looked after 740 youngsters at the club on Sunday Morning, plus dealing with the general running of the club and liaising with our tenants Interakt and WBC transport section! We owe a very big thanks to the hard work of this team. It's a very busy West Berkshire Community Hub playing a big role. So a huge amount of effort goes on during the week and evenings at our club to support our rugby which is essential for us to deliver the facilities.

PS: Retired players (especially forwards) may now be aware and delighted that there is seniors ballet for them on their doorstep as well as many other opportunities!! There are spaces.

David Jones - Vice President



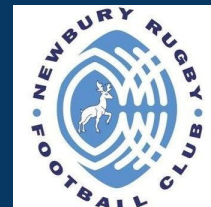
THANK YOU

Huge 'Thank You' to Sarah Thorne and Brian Lee for all the behind the scenes hard work for the last 23 editions of this newsletter, without whom this just wouldn't happen.

David Jones

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

DECEMBER UPDATES



FUNDRAISING - DECEMBER 2023

Newbury RFC has made extensive use of Greenham Trust's Good Exchange platform over the last four years with the principal highlights being:

- Nearly **£68,000** now raised from donations / fund-raising (and match-funding)
- 20 projects now completed since August 2019
- All monies raised are used to fund NRFC community-benefit capex projects

Current Live projects:

Description & Project No	Amount	How to donate
New Bike Rack & Shelter No. 20007	£5,832	https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/20007/newbury-rugby-football-club-ltd/secure-cycle-storage-at-nrfc-monks-lane

Each year we have up to £20,000 of total project values that can be approved live appeals.

Eligible projects can obtain pound for pound match funding plus get gift aid support.

Every £1 raised therefore equates to £2.20 of funding benefit (making the Good Exchange funding scheme so valuable to Newbury RFC)

Due to the continuing improved financial position of the club and being cashflow positive we are looking at two significant investment upgrades:

- Upgrade of Top pitch floodlight
- Solar Panels on Clubhouse

We have a Grants team now looking at feasibility / eligibility for these two projects alongside fund-raising and reserves

Rob Harris



100+ CLUB

CASH PRIZES EVERY MONTH

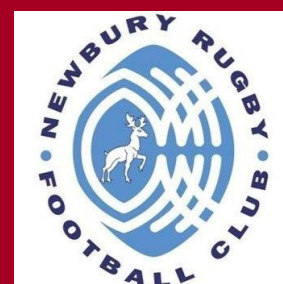
40% of ticket sales each month are given as cash prizes

HELP SUPPORT OUR CLUB

60% of ticket sales each month, help fund equipment, resources, and opportunities for players and coaches

JUST £2 PER MONTH

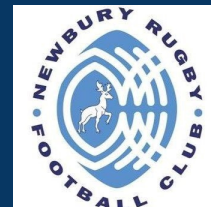
Simply scan the QR code to buy online, or pick up a form in Reception



BUY A TICKET NOW TO BE IN THE NEXT MONTHLY DRAW!

BLUES NEWS - KEEPING IN TOUCH

AN INTERVIEW WITH DANGEROUS DAVE



AN INTERVIEW WITH DANGEROUS DAVE AT YEW TREE GARDEN CENTRE

Here's a sports trivia question.....

Which UK athlete has won Olympic gold, two World Championships, Commonwealth Games gold, a European Championship and a European indoor championship? If that's not enough he still retains his world record he set in 1995. Given the title of this article, anyone, who knows Dave Shields will know the answer to this question. Dave is the current Welsh Indoor Senior Triple Jump Champion, a title he won in January this year at Cardiff. He is rightly proud of this outstanding achievement, as are we all at NRFC.

The Cold War of 1947 to 1991 had many crisis moments, and although USA and what was USSR are a long way from Newbury, the town has a long association with the US Airforce, from the Second World War through to the Cold War. In 1991 the town took centre stage in world geopolitics when RAF Greenham Common took delivery of American nuclear armed Cruise Missiles. Passion on both sides of the argument, Women's Peace Camp established, no doubt USSR missiles targeting Newbury. This is the global scene but there is a domestic, personal scene as well. Dave's mother worked at the Bank at the air base and his father was in the American Airforce. They met and married and when Dave was nine months old they relocated with him to the USA where he spent the first six years of his life in Virginia and then Nebraska, dual nationality and all.

A return to Newbury saw him attend John Rankin and Park House School and after school a career of 36 years working in Reading in life insurance and mortgages for The Prudential. A talent for athletics seemed apparent from an early age, representing Berkshire at the National Youth Championships in Birmingham and winning a bronze medal in his favoured event the Triple Jump. He dabbled in other sports like cricket and rugby but athletics was and remains his passion. When he was forty he became eligible to perform in Masters Athletics and he jumped for Reading at the South East Masters and also for Welsh Masters, qualifying for the latter due to a grandparent. In 2010 he won Gold at the British Masters Triple Jump Championships and represented

Britain at the European Indoors Masters Championships at Triple Jump.

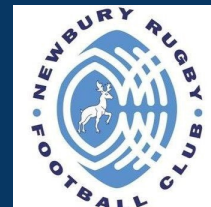
His lifetime personal best is 13.86 metres and his Masters personal best is 10.59 metres. To give it some perspective these equate to just about 45.5 feet and 34.7 feet respectively. He continues to jump and last summer competed at the British Masters in Derby, alongside jumping for Reading Athletics Club, at which he holds a number of records. In the Masters triple jump rankings Dave is ranked number 3 in the UK, 7th in the USA (as a result of his dual nationality) and World Ranked number 15. All this at 62 years of age. Some achievement.

We are however more used to seeing Dave running the line at Blues matches, something he has been doing with a great deal of enthusiasm for a number of years. He began volunteering for the club on its move to Monks Lane and has been involved ever since. He is not sure where the name "Dangerous" came from except that it originated during his time at the club. In addition to running the line he also looks after the referees on match days and during the week helps out at the club in whatever way he can. There has been a couple of incidents during his time as touch judge, none more so than being accidentally knocked flying by one of the opposition wingers during one match and more seriously when an opposing player called him a cheat during one game and made as if to come at him physically. Dave says that one or more of Blues players intervened very quickly and he received an apology from the opposition club after the game. If there is one thing Dave isn't it's a cheat and whilst he is a staunch Blues supporter, he is rightly proud of his impartiality when running the line.

If you hadn't already guessed, the answer is Jonathan Edwards and here's to our own version of this great UK Triple Jumper, Dangerous by name but certainly not dangerous by nature. A more generous, gentle and good natured individual you'd be difficult to come across and here's to many more years jumping, running the line, sponsoring and providing polo shirts and such like for the players whilst also providing them half time wine gums.

Many thanks to Dave for his continuing work at NRFC.

Brian Lee



SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

Here we are at the halfway turn of the season, and I am pleased to tell you that our Club Sponsorship remains very strong - In fact, I am told we are one of the best Sponsored Clubs in grass roots rugby.

Do take some time to familiarise yourself with our current Club Sponsors, their information can be found on our website or via their QR codes on the Club Sponsor Boards. Many of our Sponsors have exclusive offers available to you and they are keen to work with you whenever possible so please take that into account in any of your 2024 decision making.

This Season we have welcomed New Club Sponsors - Rayner Diesel, Stacatruc, Cabco, Thorngrove School, and Castle Windows to NRFC and I hope we will add some new partnerships in 2024. Club Sponsorship is literally the life blood of any grass roots sports club - it not only helps us fund our existence, but it should be seen as an endorsement of who we are and of the magnificent work we are doing in our community.

On February 17th, 2024, we are holding our Pink Charity Day / Sponsor's Day (NRFC vs Winchester RFC) so please mark this very special date in your diary. We will have loads of fabulous things happening that weekend and it is definitely not one to miss.

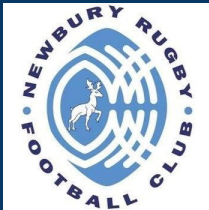
Thank you to all our Club and Player Sponsors - Your support is very much appreciated!

Wishing Everyone a Happy, Safe, and Fun Filled festive period and a Successful 2024.

Robin Varley

Newbury RFC Sponsorship Manager and Trustee





CHRISTMAS DAY QUIZ

1. The Twelve Days of Christmas traditionally finish on which date?
2. What is the name of the elf played by Will Ferrell in the 2003 film Elf?
3. Between 1996 and 1998, which British girl band celebrated three consecutive UK Christmas number one singles?
4. In which Pacific Ocean island nation is Father Christmas known as santa-san (Mr Santa)?
5. Richard Attenborough plays Kris Kringle in which 1994 Christmas movie?
6. Christmas fruit cake Stollen is traditionally associated with which country?
7. Which UK monarch delivered the first Christmas broadcast to the BBC in 1932?
8. Walking in the Air is a song taken from which Christmas film?
9. On Christmas Day 1950, what did four Scottish students steal from Westminster Abbey?
10. St Stephen's Day is also known as?
11. Which 2006 Christmas film sees Kate Winslett and Cameron Diaz swap houses?
12. In the song 'Twelve Days of Christmas', how many ladies were dancing?
13. Who wrote 'A Visit from St. Nicholas', the famous Christmas poem with the opening line 'Twas the night before Christmas'?
14. Which 1984 Christmas hit was at number 1 for 5 weeks?

CHRISTMAS ANAGRAMS

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. dug piggy find | 9. firmest crash hat |
| 2. mans own | 10. tech stuns |
| 3. he bills legs | 11. help or not |
| 4. my niche | 12. motel site |
| 5. tiny vita | 13. big onyx ad |
| 6. see bee zone grocer | 14. chants in a silo |
| 7. lent rear downwind | 15. ere in red |
| 8. nil cargo | 16. gal did sting |



Answers to Quiz and Anagrams below:



Anagram Answers:
1. Figgy Pudding
2. Snowman
3. Sleigh bells
4. Chimney
5. Nativity
6. Ebenezer scrooge
7. Winter wonderland
8. Caroling
9. Father Christmas
10. Chestnuts
11. North Pole
12. Mistletoe
13. Boxing Day
14. Saint Nicholas
15. Reindeer
16. Glad tidings

Quiz Answers:
1. January 5th
2. Buddy
3. Spice Girls
4. Japan
5. Miracle on 34th Street
6. Germany
7. George V
8. The Snowman
9. Stone of Destiny
10. Boxing Day
11. The Holiday
12. Nine
13. Clement Clark Moore
14. Do They Know It's Christmas

Best wishes for a
Merry Christmas
and a happy &
healthy New Year

