

# BLUES NEWS

Newbury RFC's Official Newsletter

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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Written by**  
**The President**  
(who guessed?)

Welcome to Newbury Rugby Club, owned by the members and set up to serve the local Community, from the Under 6's to the first XV team in Southwest Premier 5 and women in Championship 2 South West.

We provide rugby for over 500 playing members and have numerous Blues members who support the club in various ways. We have a fantastic facility, largely run by volunteers who look after a substantial Rolls Royce clubhouse set in 27 acres. Everyone is welcome at Monks Lane and I hope to see you around the club on match days, Sundays or the numerous events that the club holds.

I have set a challenge to every age group (or senior team) to organise at least two events in the year (large or small) to raise funds to support the club. The club will benefit and you will have loads of fun at the same time, so please do get involved. I really hope you thoroughly enjoy your time at the club and share the wonderful values that rugby offers, giving great life skills to us all.

**Very best wishes, David Jones**

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## MITSUBISHI

### MOTORS VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

#### *Louise Goodall (Chair) takes home coveted award*

Volunteers are the lifeblood of rugby union in England and are one of the most valuable assets of a rugby organisation, offering your time, effort and expertise. The Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer of the Year Awards is a programme which recognises those volunteers who have made a great contribution to their club and community – no matter what their role, on or off the pitch, behind the scenes or on the committee.



Now in its third year, the Programme has once again recognised and rewarded thousands of volunteers from all levels of rugby. In September Mitsubishi and the RFU held their annual Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer of the Year Awards at Pennyhill Park and Twickenham Stadium. They were joined by 40 of the 43 inspirational volunteers who won recognition for their region, with three overall winners each receiving a new Mitsubishi of their choice for a year.

One of the three winners was Louise Goodall, recently appointed Chair of Newbury RFC.

Louise established a highly successful vets social team which encouraged women who had never played to pick up a rugby ball, together with returning and social players. A second successful season has seen her club field two female sides. She is a fantastic advocate of the game, a player since she was 10 years old and someone who believes that it is never too late to pick up a ball or there is always a reason to continue.

Since being nominated for this award Louise has taken on the role as Chair of Newbury RFC, a huge job but one she is passionate about. Louise said, "I love this club and one of the first things I introduced when I took over as Chair in June this year was a Valuing Volunteers Programme. I invite 10 volunteers to each pre-match home game for a complementary lunch and to applaud their support and dedication to the club. It was launched at our first home game this month".

As well as the recognition, Louise has also won a new Mitsubishi car of her choice for a year. "The family are very excited about the prospect of a new car and we will be going car shopping very soon" she said. I am so humbled to have won this award but am grateful for the recognition it has given me and others who give their time to the sport & clubs that we love".

# RUCK AND ROLL

It was always going to be a tough start to the season having been promoted back up to South West Premier, but it got that little bit harder with a fairly large injury and unavailability list to start the season. That said, a number of new and young players have stepped up when asked and done a fine job!

The overnight trip to Camborne on the opening weekend was a particular highlight as we got to spend some good time together as a squad, including an ashes-inspired game of beach cricket on the Saturday morning before the game.

We were very disappointed not to take all the spoils from our first home game against Drybrook, but we have been pleased with our resilience that has seen us pick up a bonus point in each game.

We all know how important they can be come the end of the season!

It was great to have Dylan Stewart and Alex Millar return from long term injuries over the last two weeks, and Josh Bartlett back from holiday to put in a big performance against Exeter University.

Some stand out performers so far have been Jack Walsh and Rob Drysdale who have both been monstrous in defence for us.



## CAPTAIN'S LOG

### *Stories of the Month*

## OUR LADIES IN HONG KONG!

Newbury women's captain Meghan Mason, regular player Lucy Mercer and previous player Sophie Dowson set off to Hong Kong this month to represent the British Police in the inaugural Police International Rugby Championships. We are extremely proud and wish the girls the very best in the competition.



## STAGS 77-5 VICTORY

Stags played their first league game of the season (at home) beating Amersham & Chiltern 77-5.

Seven former Colts lined up for them and one of these, Ben Armstrong, scored a hattrick.

Seeing so many former Colts playing for the Stags was great to see, a theme which continued into the Blues with another two former Colts starting - Toby Holland and Christian Atkinson



# RUCK AND ROLL

## *Coach Profile*



## CAMPBELL MURRAY U12'S

Campbell played his early rugby in Scotland at School & Uni, before senior rugby at Boroughmuir RFC. He had short stints at both London Scottish and Billericay RFC (including a few games at Centre) before retiring from the game in 2001. He has been coaching 3 boys in 2 age groups at Newbury RFC since they could walk: Gus, Rory & Callum are all very keen on rugby. Rattling his bones for Newbury As for the last 3 Seasons in a less than spectacular comeback from retirement, Campbell is now firmly back in the front row and his preference of tight head.

## MINI'S 2ND HAND KIT STALL

A number of parents from the Mini section are currently co-ordinating a second hand kit stall to be open up on Sunday mornings. This will be available on or around the first Sunday in the month, dependent on Mini fixtures. We are always looking for old kit that people have, from playing kit, to boots, to base layers - anything you think someone else might be able to use.

If you have anything to donate, there will be a wheelie bin or a box under the stairs on the changing room corridor where items can be left for us to collect and sort out ready for selling on.

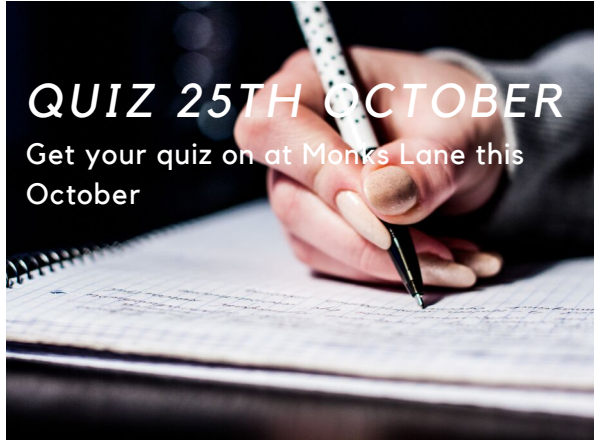


# EVENTS

WHAT'S ON AT NRFC

## QUIZ 25TH OCTOBER

Get your quiz on at Monks Lane this October



## MEET THE PLAYERS

Evening 18th October, Monks Lane,  
Bristol Vs Bath



## WORLD CUP FIXTURES & FINAL FULL ENGLISH OFFER

Showing at NRFC



## *LADIES DAY 12TH OCTOBER*

### *BLUES VS LAUNCESTON*

Free entry for all female  
members\* ...and Gin Festival

Find out more ► [bit.ly/chicl](https://bit.ly/chicl)



## SUPPORT THE BLUES AWAY THIS OCTOBER SEATS ON THE COACH TO IVYBRIDGE JUST £20

Pitcheroo Link ► <https://bit.ly/2mW7xoV>



\*Must produce this voucher alongside membership card for free entry.



# MEMBERS OFFERS

*Join us after every home game*

## HAPPY HOUR

5:00pm - 6:00pm

*Fill your boots with*

## 50% OFF FOOD

Stags vs Bracknell 26 October

*Fill your boots (again) with*

## 50% OFF FOOD

Sunday 27 October

Available to members only. Card to be shown on the bar.

## GOT CONTENT?

Contact the editor at:

forson.charlesj@gmail.com

*100 Club Winners*

Sponsor our club and enter the monthly  
cash prize draw!

Sign up now to be in next month's draw –  
from as little as £2 per month

Simply go to:

[https://www.newburyrugby.co.uk/payments/category/  
other](https://www.newburyrugby.co.uk/payments/category/other)

or pick up a form in Reception

THE NEXT DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE ON LADIES  
DAY, AFTER BLUES V LAUNCESTON (12TH OCT)

## 1st Place

**Pete Winfield (£75)**

## 2nd Place

**Sarah Croton (£36)**

## 3rd Place

**Adie Maberley (£19)**