

# In Touch



The Official Newsletter of **COVENTRY RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB** Issue 15 April 2022

Honorary President: **Jon Sharp**

Honorary Members: **Harry Walker (1915-2018) & Ted Wainwright**



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## Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club

Proud sponsors of **Coventry Rugby Under 18s**

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## FROM THE CHAIR...



This is being written the day following the final Championship fixture of 2021/2022, the excellent away win at the Richmond Athletic Ground. It would be very easy to smooth over the past nine months, glossing over this period. I

think it could best be described as like the curates egg, good in parts. This season, as we all know, has been a difficult one.

What have been the good bits? I think the emergence and integration of Senior Academy players such as Evan Mitchell, Tom Ball, Freddie Betteridge and Tom Stanton et al can

only be good for the club. The linkup and work of the Coventry Moulton Academy has to be beneficial to the club and offers the prospect of unearthing more exciting prospects. Let's hope so, I for one, promise to support the work being done at Coventry Rugby. However, it has to be sent communication or updated news on this very successful and growing project, sometimes leaves a lot to be desired. The Coventry Rugby support love to see news on young players making the grade. We need news. I hope this can be improved upon in the very near future. CRSC have played a small part in this moving forward by assisting Coventry Under 18's in their coach costs to play Wales Boys at Pyle RFC on April 3rd. Hopefully, other assistance, when required, could happen again.

The end of season results, winning three of the last four league fixtures offers a bit of hope for next season's prospects, again a season

unhindered by the prospect or fear of relegation. Is this good for the game? I am afraid the jury has to be out on that. Competitiveness is still evident in Championship games, players still want to win each game. This spirit or desire hasn't gone away and will remain. Players still want to play at the highest level they can, always will do. ANY Coventry player that has a chance to play at a higher level has to go with our blessings and sense of pride that we may have helped, even just with our support, with that progression. Of course this is NEVER going to happen because Championship rugby doesn't do anything to progress player progression! What total b+£l+&! More players, Premiership players, have experience of Tier 2 rugby than Academy products from Premiership teams. Long may this continue, but don't expect getting players on the cheap. Fund it properly, now!

Although there have been changes to the Development Plans, prepare to see a start on this massive move forward in the summer. This could cause some issues in the new season but CRSC will endeavour to keep you updated on how these major works could affect you whilst attending games. Today's snippet in The Rugby Paper ( 27.3.2022) that RFU Chief Executive, Bill Sweeney, says that they might be halving the ludicrous 10001 Stadium Capacity Limit. I am no lawyer but I think they feel they might be on dodgy legal ground.

And the bad bits? The constant chopping and changes of teams, due to DR issues, unavailability, different players wearing the shirt was definitely not a stability factor. This, I believe, led to a difficult season, and unsettled sides. That's not to say we didn't see talent. Two tries for DR'ed , Ewan Ashman, at Amptill, yet to be a Scottish International, Tom Curtis, in at the beginning of the season in the win over Doncaster Knights, disappearing quicker than a David Blaine illusion, then returning the back end of this season from Sale to perform very well. Despite these issues thank you to all the Dual Registered players for your help this season.

Honourable mentions to Jordan Poole, Matt Johnson and, seemingly, too many others to mention!

The situation regarding Rowland Winter has also been, and remains at writing, a difficulty. CRSC were informed the day of RW's suspension, the day following the Cornish Pirates game, only the news of the event , no details. CRSC were asked to keep this news confidential and this request has been followed ever since. Despite certain people speculating, certain rumours being on the same level as the Moon Landings being fake, the why's and wherefores not for us to comment on. Until we hear definitively, this will continue to be our approach.

Injuries- the long-term injuries played a big part in the up and down season. For long periods Cov missed high quality performers, Sentiki Nayalo, Ryan Burrows, Nile's Dacres, Jon Kpuko, Joe Snow, Phil Boulton and, judging by his MoM performance yesterday, Louis Brown. These contributed a big part, I believe, in the very disjointed season. Let's pray for a healthier season come September.

I have been reading that people are considering giving up , or not renewing, their season membership's next season. I can only hope that such a decision is based on financial or personal issues and can appreciate this after such a truncated and fractured season. Hopefully, and I hear whispers, next season could be a far more balanced and regular Championship season. I hope so, I hated this years stop-start hotch-potch of a season.

That's about it for now. The next missive to hit your inbox will be our AGM details , due to be in September, date to be advised.

Thanks for all your support this season, whether a traveller or just coming to say hi. You are the reason we do this.

All the best

*Paul Ingleston*

Chair

Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club

# SUPPORTERS GET-TOGETHER

Friday March 18th saw Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club (CRSC) inaugural fans Get-together prior to this season's final home league fixture against Jersey Reds the following day,

The initial idea was for a chance to welcome visiting Reds fans as a reciprocal response to Jersey Reds previously welcome events to visiting fans to the island. The offer was made to Jersey via contact, Tom Innes, who passed the message around for the Royal Oak, Earlsdon event, free admission and buffet provided. Invites had also been extended to Reds board members, although arriving on match day, Saturday, prevented their attendance.

We had a couple of Reds takers, Wally and Annette, who were staying in the city. Wally and Annette had a wonderful time, Wally even responding with a reciprocal speech!

I am pleased and glad to say that Cov supporters made the event a warm, fun and cosy evening. Our initial worries about it being an unsupported and a big flop were happily false fears for which we thank you all for attending and making it special.



**Greetings from Phil Reynolds**



A birthday cake was also presented to Rachel Morris, a regular supporter whose two previous celebrations and plans were disrupted by the pandemic. Best wishes to you Rachel.

The CRSC Committee will now discuss if this should now become a regular event, annual or bi-annual, and do it all over again. Thank you all.

**Rachel Likes Cake!**



**Wally and Annette Discuss the RFU**



**Chit Chat Time**



Project500 continues to grow for Coventry Rugby, due to the hard work and efforts of the Community Department. The half-term camp in February was no exception. Here's how Dan Lewis reported it on the Coventry Rugby website.

Coventry Rugby constantly strives to be a community club. The goal is simple, to serve the community in any which way it can, because after all, it is the community that breathes any sort of life in to a club such as ours.

The most clear and obvious way in which this club looks to serve the community, is an afternoon's entertainment on the BPA pitch come 3pm on a Saturday – which is easily the most visible product provided to the city and the great people that make it what it is.

However, there are countless and perhaps slightly less 'seen' ways in which this club looks to be a positive impact on the city of Coventry. On the week of the 21st February 2022, Coventry Rugby hosted yet another successful Project 500 camp. A camp sponsored by our partners Charter Savings Bank and funded alongside the Coventry Rugby Foundation was lead by our community team and a number of senior academy players on the Coventry Moulton Educational Coaching pathway.

The multi-sport camp is unlike any others, and extremely far from the norm in that these camps are catered specifically for disadvantaged children in the Coventry area. Whilst not only keeping kids active during the school holidays, a nutritional breakfast and lunch are also provided to each child. In addition, thanks to our partners Morrisons, Koffmann's and Amtico; a week's worth of food is sent home with each family.

Coventry Rugby Community Development Officer Sam McNulty was really happy with how the week went: "The Project 500 camp over the half term was a great success providing food and physical activity for numerous individuals and families. Our multi-sport sessions delivered by our academy players and community coaches had fantastic engagement and enjoyment throughout!"

With 85 kids having a brilliant time and getting fed across two days, they were not the only beneficiaries of the unique project. Community Manager Richard Meacham was quick to comment on the positive impact a camp like this has on our young players at the club. "Our academy players benefited greatly from helping over these days to gain experience of coaching as part of their course."

The benefit a camp like this can have on a coach's development was echoed by the newest member of our Community coaching team Matthew Swords. "It was a brilliant first experience of the Project 500 initiative, and it has aided my understanding and ability to coach massively. To be part of a club that is doing good and helping our local community in such a unique way is something very special, and I'm proud to be involved."

Project 500 would not be possible without the help of the following partners and sponsors, to whom we wish say a massive thank you:

**Charter Savings Bank, Morrisons, Koffmann's, Amtico, Coventry Holiday Activities and Food, Department for Education and the Coventry Rugby Foundation.**

If you would like to know more about Project 500, or help support the project in the future please contact:

**[foundation@coventryrugby.co.uk](mailto:foundation@coventryrugby.co.uk)**



# RYAN BURROWS

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At the End of Season Get-together, one topic dominated the conversations, the previous day's announcement of Ryan Burrows retirement. Here's how Dan Lewis released the news on the Coventry Rugby website:

Fifteen years on from making his professional debut back in the season of 2007/08, our very own Ryan Burrows is calling time on a career that has been as illustrious and decorated as the man is genuine and down to earth.

Three seasons and more than 40 games on from joining Coventry in 2019, Ryan Burrows has taken the difficult decision to retire from professional rugby at the end of this current season.

Burrows made the formal jump from natural leader to Coventry Captain shortly after his arrival here in the midlands. After becoming very much a fan's favourite almost instantly; Ryan's inspiring, yet collected words in an ever Northern husk mixed with his 'lead from the front'-like actions meant that his performances not only gained external accolades – but also the respect of his colleagues, from the first time he donned the blue and white.

A career that began in Rotherham, where Burrows became a Titan centurion in four and a half years included a hat-trick-scoring performance against Coventry (we'll just about forgive him for that one). Staying true to his Northern roots, the next move in Ryan's career was teaming up with Leeds Carnegie (now named Leeds Tykes and formerly Yorkshire Carnegie) playing 148 games for the Yorkshire outfit spanning over a six season period.

Newcastle was the next port of call for the number 8, with Burrows spending 2 years and 30 matches at Kingston Park. Finally, the bulldozing forward ventured as far south as he dared; joining Coventry, where our captain wishes to end his phenomenal career.

"My retirement will come as a shock to many, but over my career my family have supported me in all my decisions and fully backed me. Now with a young family I feel the time is right to take a step back and spend more time at home with my wife and two girls" Burrows explained.

Coventry Rugby Executive Chairman Jon Sharp had this to say on the skipper:

"Our game this weekend against Jersey Reds will sadly mark the final Championship league game for our captain Ryan Burrows, who is going to retire at the end of this season. 'Buzz' has been our outstanding player for the last couple of seasons, starting 40 games, all as captain, plus three as a replacement, totalling 3,138 minutes playing, during which he has scored 9 tries.

He has on six occasions been voted in the Championship team of the week and once in the Championship team of the year. He has collected a dozen or so man of the match performances and I wouldn't be surprised if he adds to that tally this weekend. His play and leadership have been outstanding and he will be sorely missed.

I know that every Cov fan will say a huge thanks for his great contribution to the club. Buzz, we all wish you the very best in retirement and you and your family are forever welcome at Butts Park."

The club's respect for Burrows and his immense performances over the last three seasons or so has not been a one-way street: Burrows said this week that "Playing for Coventry has been a huge highlight of my career, seeing what the club means to the city is huge and the fans

# RYAN BURROWS

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have definitely got us over the line in a lot of close games. Both home and away they have been very loyal and always got behind the team – something that myself and the entire squad are extremely grateful for.”

Everyone at Coventry Rugby Club from the fans, Buzz’s fellow players, office staff, to those volunteering to help put the posts up on a match day would like to thank Ryan for his service to the club. We wish Ryan and his family all the very best in the next chapter of life, and hope that his time at Coventry Rugby Club will make for the happiest of memories.

Thank you Buzz.

Editor’s note: Anyone who was at the Richmond Athletic Ground, saw Buzz score the first try, be a dominant figure throughout the match and, by sheer presence, physicality and desire, create the final try for Dan Babos will know what a massive loss to Coventry Rugby this will be. Ryan, thank you for all you have done for us, enjoy yourself with your family and now think of all those little DIY jobs you now have time for, From all of us at Coventry Rugby Supporters Club, thank you.



Last Home Game Presentation to Ryan Burrows

Photo by John Coles



ROYAL  
ASCOT

# LADIES DAY

16th JUNE 2022 • 12.30 - LATE • BUTTS PARK ARENA

- Prosecco upon arrival
- Afternoon tea and refreshments
- Entrance to our Platinum Marquee with private bar
  - Outdoor seating area
  - Private bookmaker / live betting
- Races live streamed on large viewing screens
- Live entertainment between races

**£40pp** or **£35pp** for a full table of 10

**Book online** [www.ivvy.co.uk/event/9S3EB6/](http://www.ivvy.co.uk/event/9S3EB6/)





# COVENTRY RUGBY EVENTS 2022

The 2021/2022 season might be coming to a close but there are still things happening at Coventry Rugby over the summer. These are just a couple of the events coming your way. Keep looking at ALL the social media outlets to find out more.

## Season Members Event 22nd April

Make a note in your diary/tablet or phone for Friday, April 22nd and get down to BPA.

- Come and see the Team Run before the home Championship Cup fixture against Ampthill.
- Following the Team Run, join the players for a meet and greet, and a BBQ lunch afterwards.
- All season members can attend, free entry, to watch the preparations.
- A bar will be open on the day.
- Askews and Blue and White Season Members, BBQ food is free of charge, with Coventry Members able to purchase food at the event.

Gates will be open from 10.30am with the Team Run and actions starting from 11am.



## End of Season Dinner 24th June

Another day to keep free is Friday, 24th June. That's the date of the soon-to-be-announced End of Season Dinner. Your chance to thank the players, support the club and have a great time.

More details will be announced soon, but to pre-book or for enquiries, email [cmcgorman@coventryrugby.co.uk](mailto:cmcgorman@coventryrugby.co.uk).



Photos courtesy of Erin Barber

# COVENTRY U18'S TRIP TO WALES

## Boys Clubs of Wales Under 18's 19 Coventry Rugby U18's 17

Sunday 3rd April saw Coventry's Under 18's travel to Pyle RFC for this fixture, falling to a narrow defeat to their hosts. Thanks to all who wore the shirt representing Cov and, hopefully, this will be the continuation of your progress in the game, whether it will be with Cov, or your junior side. Enjoy the game and we look forward to seeing your progression. Thank you.

Coventry Rugby Supporters Club assisted with some of the travel costs to South Wales and will always support the game and its growth.



Many thanks to John Coles for the photos

# QUENTIN MELHUISH

It was with regret that Coventry Rugby Supporters Club (CRSC) received, late February, and accepted, the resignation as our Club Secretary of Quentin Melhuish.

Due to external issues that had arisen, Quent felt that this was restricting and affecting his effectiveness in his role as our Secretary and as a CRSC official. This decision has, for Quent, been made in the best interests of all. All of CRSC's Committee members are saddened to see Quent step down, but fully accepted his reasons for his taking this decision and action.

Since the reforming of CRSC in 2016, Quent has been an integral part of the club, an efficient and defining part of the running of the club, supportive and a vital cog. Obviously, although disappointed, hope this decision will help him and we will always be on hand to provide any support required.

Going forward, the post of CRSC Club Secretary will be advertised in the run-up to our Annual General Meeting later this year and we would be willing to accept indications from any interested party who might be willing to fill the now vacant position of CRSC Secretary.

In the immediate future the duties will be shared by Paul Ingleston, Chair, and Phil Reynolds, Treasurer.

The CRSC Committee would like to offer our most sincere thanks to Quent for his energy, efforts, support and drive during his tenure as Club Secretary.

Paul Ingleston

Chair, CRSC



# PARTNERS

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We have been very fortunate in agreeing partnerships with local organisations who have agreed to work with us to the benefit of members.



## Coventry Plumbing and Heating Supplies (CPHS)

[www.covplumbing.co.uk](http://www.covplumbing.co.uk)

Coventry's largest independent plumbers merchants have been trading for over 30 years and have showrooms in Swan Lane and Curriers Close, Coventry, and in Weddington Road, Nuneaton.

**CPHS have made a significant financial contribution towards the costs of setting up our website, for which we are extremely grateful.**



## Builders Supply Stores

<http://www.bsscov.co.uk/>

**Archways House, Spon End, Coventry CV1 3HG. 02476 712000/412733**

Established in 1931 BSS is an independent builders and plumbers merchant.

**BSS have agreed to pay 1 1/2 % of the total value of sales purchased by CRSC members into the CRSC bank account each quarter.**

They will set up a monitoring system at their sales points and will give the customer, who must show his CRSC membership card, a receipt accordingly.

<http://www.akbarscuisine.com>

**Akbars Indian Cuisine, 7-9 Butts, Coventry CV1 3GJ 02476 22213 / 228899**



An organisation which has been in business for over 30 years, this is a high quality restaurant serving contemporary Indian Cuisine at its best, as well as Indian tapas. It has modern décor, a bar, a lounge and a terrace.

**Upon production of their membership card, Supporters' Club members will benefit from a discount of 15% off their food bill.**

Please note: a party of 4 or less receives a 15% discount on their food bill. For parties of more than 4 people the 15% discount is applied to 4 of the party, the additional attendees receive a 7.5% discount on their food bill.

Members are asked to show their CRSC membership card to staff both when they order from the menu AND when they ask for the bill, in order to assist staff in their preparation of the bill.

# PARTNERS



We are delighted to have reached a Partnership Agreement with the **Ramada Hotel**, in The Butts (less than 5 minutes walk from BPA) who are offering:

**Car parking** - supporters can use the Ramada car park on match days for a discounted price of £2.00. On returning to their car at the end of the match supporters will be required to go into reception and produce either:

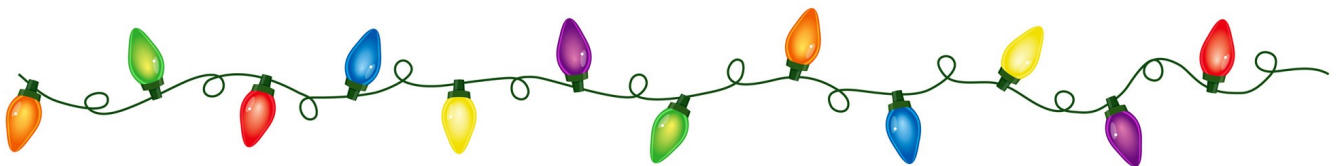
- a current **Supporters' Club membership card**
- a current **season member ticket**
- a **date-and-game-specific match ticket**



**Restaurant dining** - upon production of a current Supporter's Club membership card the bill will be subject to a 10% discount

**Accommodation** - £75.00 for bed and breakfast and £125.00 for dinner bed and breakfast, for a couple sharing either a twin or a double standard room, and subject to availability. To take advantage of this offer supporters must book directly with the hotel either by telephone (02476 238110) or email [reservations@ramadacoventry.co.uk](mailto:reservations@ramadacoventry.co.uk) since this is a local agreement - the discount cannot be applied to reservations made online - and by quoting "Coventry Rugby". It may be necessary to produce your membership card to the reception staff.

This offer is also being sent to all Championship clubs and to their Supporters Club, for their visit to Coventry next season, in the hope that many supporters' in particular will take advantage and use their weekend stay to explore and appreciate the tourist features which Coventry has to offer. We are also extolling the fact that Coventry will be the City of Culture in 2021.



## PARTNERS

We are constantly investigating the prospect of setting up more Partnership Agreements with local organisations to provide benefits for members. If you know of any potential opportunity which you think we should explore, please email us via our email address - [crsc1874@gmail.com](mailto:crsc1874@gmail.com) or via a committee member.

# UPCOMING CRSC EVENTS



Please make a note of these upcoming events

## COACH TRIP TO CHAMPIONSHIP CUP GAME AT AMPHILL

**9th April 2022**

The cost of this trip is £15 for members, £20 for non members, U18s at £10 and £15 respectively.

Payment via BACS to

CRSC

Sort code 30 99 15

Acc No 27006060

## ENGLAND V BARBARIANS - TWICKENHAM

**19th June 2022**

**SOLD OUT**

## AN EVENING WITH SARAH COX - PREMIERSHIP REFEREE

**15th September 2022**

Sarah will be talking about her life, issues within the game and her rise to becoming a Premiership referee.

More details will be issued nearer the date.

**The CRSC AGM will also be in September, on a date yet to be decided and details will be released when the AGM is called.**

We will be confirming these events by email, on both our and Coventry Rugby's websites and the unofficial forum .