

# In Touch



The Official Newsletter of COVENTRY RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB Issue 5 May 2018

Honorary Members: Harry Walker & Ted Wainwright



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A warm welcome to this fifth issue of In Touch, the Official Newsletter of Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club.

Surely there can't be any supporter who has not been thrilled at the progress which Coventry Rugby has made, culminating in winning the National League One title and promotion to the Championship with five games still to play.

Alongside the enormous development of the playing side of the club there has also been a massive improvement in the communications coming out of the club, which have played a substantial part in providing news, updates, information, etc, to supporters.

The official recognition of the Supporters' Club has also been notable, and we are delighted to be asked to have a say or to be involved in a great deal of what is going on and is being planned by the club.

The Supporters' Club is delighted to welcome two new organisations with whom we have reached a Partnership Agreement::

## Ramada Hotel & Suites, Coventry

### PRIME

We would like to thank them for their support. Full details of the Agreement can be found inside this edition.

Next season is going to be challenging, to put it mildly, but with Jon Sharp at the helm, with Rowland in his position as DoR, and with Nick and Louis as coaches along with senior members of the squad who are supporting the training activities, the prospect of meeting that challenge looks promising.

The Supporters' Club now has 234 members and we continue to be highly rated by the players, many of whom have no hesitation in saying the the Coventry supporters are the best they have the pleasure of playing in front of.

Let's take these very positive attributes into next season and get behind Coventry Rugby and support them in making their mark in the Championship!

*Cliff Bennett* (Chairman)

# STAGE ONE - BOX TICKED

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Where to start to write about a tumultuous season? League won, promotion to the Championship secured, civic reception and recognition, positive exposure on TV, radio and in the press, ground development plan launched and records all over the shop: most points, most tries and biggest ever attendance. It has all come together in a rush, it seems, when in reality it has been part of a long, hard slog.

We should remind ourselves that it all goes back nine years back when a dedicated group of True Blues rescued this club from bankruptcy and possible extinction. So what was effectively 'Ground Zero' was established as a starting point and although for a while survival was uncertain, at least we had the bones of a club and a ray of hope.

Like all success stories the various elements break down into manageable bites, the analysis of which reveals the careful planning and immense effort by so many people that has underlined every one of those headlines. I will try to illustrate what I mean by relating a little of the story, starting at what was the beginning for me.

When I first came on to the board, I realised very quickly that we were faced with a multitude of challenges, and they had to be broken down into winnable battles. The first was that the club was simply not trusted in the city. How so many of you kept the faith is inspirational, but unfortunately many didn't and took their support elsewhere. The city council, who had been badly let down, were almost disdainful of us (and no wonder they threw their lot in with others), suppliers would not extend us credit, most players were here for themselves only, some who we tried to recruit flatly refused to come here, the unofficial website was full of vitriol and there was little positive energy anywhere. Just a few stalwart believers.

A hearts and minds campaign was therefore



absolutely essential. I am sometimes accused of self-promotion but a name and face was required to establish a focal point that signalled change. We had to be public-facing, open and accountable. Attainable if distant aspirations had to be developed and expressed in a consistent manner. Thus we grew slowly back into the city's consciousness as an important and trusted part of the community. We suffered several indignities on the way, notably the outright deception over who came to stay up the road. Now we are seen very differently; we are welcomed into the Lord Mayor's parlour and our exciting development plans are enthusiastically supported by our civic leaders who see us as someone with huge potential that they can work with. The media has been all over us of recent in a most positive manner and the snowball has truly started rolling. Different organisations, including property developers, pop events organisers, other business partners and a host of local enterprises are in regular dialogue with us.

The resurrection of the CRSC has been a key part of that hearts and minds campaign. I remember a sunny afternoon at Henley when Cliff first approached me and proposed the idea of re-establishing it, almost asking my permission. Great idea was my reaction, let's go! And go you did, the subsequent heady progress is testament to not only your hard work, but how it has been sorely needed. Buses to the away games are happy places and it is marvellous to hear the Cov roar; the players love it, the opposition surprised and in some cases intimidated. That was never more evident than at Darlington, where we out-cheered the opposition, despite the

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## STAGE ONE - BOX TICKED (cont)

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increasingly hysterical attempts of the man on the tannoy.

Most importantly, you can now see the pride, energy and excitement bursting out of everybody working here, paid and voluntary alike, knowing it is for a worthwhile cause; it is not only the players who put their bodies on the line, but so many others behind the scenes are making a huge personal commitment.

With that growing confidence were able to start to grow the business. I have always said that we have to run this club tightly like a business and it is daily ever more the case. Can you believe that six years ago there were no management accounts in any coherent form whatsoever? Next year we will have a turnover exceeding two million pounds – you can't run that on the back of an envelope. There is still a long way to go to improve and recruitment is under way to complete the commercial and operations team, and the successful conclusion of that will make a huge difference. We need to get that side of the business on a par with the excellence that the rugby administration attains. We want BPA to be the venue of choice for conferences, parties and the like, generating revenue for the club. To be successful at that we need to become even more professional at delivering the goods, as there is so much competition for the same space around the city.

Could all this business focus be delivered whilst maintaining that special 'Cov' spirit, which I see as being at the heart of our on-field success and which is absolutely typified by the supporters club? Outside of my family, my life's work has been Engine Lease Finance Corporation (take a look at the website) which I founded 29 years ago. The company has always been well-known for being a friendly company to work for and work with, and that ethic has successfully continued over time despite us now having grown to 83 employees and owning a portfolio of aero engines valued at some \$3 billion. We recruit the best because

they hear it is a great place to work; an illustration of that 'family' ethos is in the fact that my first ever two employees from 29 years back still work there.

Today of course I am very lucky to have a new life's work in the rebirth of Coventry Rugby and so why not apply exactly the same principles, despite it being a very different operation. I am fortunate to have inherited a fine tradition and heritage (if you block out a decade or so). That heritage will be maintained and respected as we focus on the future. The 'Cov family' is the past, present and future.

Another thing that utterly perplexed me in the early days was how could we not own the lease to the surrounding land? We have to walk over someone else's property to get to the pitch? What happens if they get nasty and charge for access? What happens if they surround us with high rise inhabited by people telling us to shush? Unbelievable. So after much soul-searching and false starts, we managed to buy the lease last year so that we could be masters of our own destiny. That purchase however used funds that could have been well utilised elsewhere – an artificial pitch, extra changing rooms, a cowshed and outside bars spring to mind but we could not have done any of those things anyway, because we didn't own the land. Catch 22. So we had to bite the bullet, buy the land and worry about financing the next stage afterwards. So now we will be embarking on a fundraising campaign to raise the necessary to go ahead with those plans, outline concepts of which you will have seen in brochures floating around recently.

The starting point has to be a first class artificial pitch with accompanying facilities. The mess our pitch has been in this latter half of the season makes a clear case for it. We want to work the facilities all week long to generate revenues and therefore cannot rely upon the British weather. The RFU and other sporting bodies do offer limited funding for such a thing, but it comes with all sorts of restrictions and we do not want to dance to someone else's tune, so we are going to have to go our own way.

The architect's ideas do of course go further in several stages which culminate in a fully

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## STAGE ONE - BOX TICKED (cont)

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enclosed 12,000 capacity stadium, but that would be some time in the future. One step at a time. We must not run before we walk and apart from the fact that I will not allow the club to be burdened with commercial debt, neither will I allow it to suffer an unsustainable overhead. No good if you are not attracting spectators, which we were never going to get without a better performance on the park. Despite a ray of hope with the long unbeaten run three seasons ago, the wheels then came off and we fell back into the slough of despond. Confidence faltered, gates and therefore revenues dropped, the “I told you so” brigade were out in force and bigger plans had to be shelved.

Then along came Rowland. People have asked, and I can confirm that it was he who first contacted me, so we arranged a date and he came over and sat on my sofa and we talked. We shared our respective visions with each other and he talked animatedly about his ambition; he was quite definite that he was then taking Cambridge back into National One and that his next personal ambition was to be a DoR in the Championship. He had done his research and had decided he was coming here, and that was that. To Rowland, Cov represented his best and most immediate opportunity of achieving the next stage in his personal life plan: working in the Championship within four years. He saw Cov as a massively underachieving club, liked my vision for the future and talked about revitalising our whole rugby set-up and our game. He told me that he required absolute hire and fire authority over all rugby staff. That showed me a business-like clarity, even if it was tough for me to square that with the family concept of looking after people that we hold dearly as part of our ethos, but he insisted he needed to be a new broom in order to change entrenched attitudes and so even some good people would have to go. He had heard of ‘Cov dog’ but had seen no evidence of what it really meant, believing we had to effectively re-boot the system.

So after a further meeting, and the involvement of key board members, I took a deep breath and shook hands with a 31 year old. My immediate reward was that I was roundly vilified on the unofficial site and elsewhere, and even some of my own board were not amused. It has been a bit quiet in those quarters of recent.

Rowland set out a three year plan which I signed off on before he physically arrived at BPA. The new squad of players, coaches, physios, S & C guys and team managers was assembled. To that he has steadily added analysts, media and more. Planning, organisation and discipline have been evident throughout. We now know that it was a shaky start, which further fuelled the doomsayers, but then it came together towards the end of that first season and continued into the next. Some people had to go and others were brought in. The plan had many features to it, including development of youth rugby, not all of which has been achieved, largely because of the strictures of only having just the one pitch. But what a joyous day when for the first time for twenty years almost exactly to the day, Cov supporters were able to see two matches involving Cov sides back to back on our home turf.

We got to the Christmas break last year, undefeated. Then came Rowland’s familiar slight raise of the eyebrows, “Boss, can we talk?” which usually signals something very expensive. But I was already there. We met and I said something like, “We are going to win this - aren’t we - so you want to start planning for life in the Championship next year, don’t you?” Of course that was what he had in mind, and by starting a measured recruitment process then, we could identify the ‘best buys’ and start working on them before they got snapped up by clubs not so forward thinking. We also – with the incredibly valuable help of CRSC – upgraded the medical facilities so that they meet Championship standards. This paid off when the Vice-Chair of the Championship committee visited me later in the year, because he professed himself entirely satisfied with our facilities, and he had focussed particularly on the medical room. Good job everybody!

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## STAGE ONE - BOX TICKED (cont)

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The rest of the season went past in a whirl and you know all about it. My only regrets are to be leaving National One never having won at Ampthill or at Blackheath's new ground, but I'll take that any day for what we do have.

Recruitment has been intense and you know nearly all of the signings by now. But go back a few weeks and cue another slight raise of the eyebrows and, "Boss, can we talk?" Rowland's pitch was that there was such a buzz around the rugby fraternity about Cov, how good was the set-up, the coaching and support, and how ambitious the club was, that some top players were making noises about wanting to come here and so that afforded the opportunity to pick them up relatively economically because they were willing in the first place. This was of course an easy sell by Rowland as it played on my biggest fear: the worst thing that could happen to us would be that we go up and come straight back down. That would destroy all the impetus that we have developed over so long (remind yourselves of the first few paragraphs of this article). So we tweaked the budget a little, moving from a plan to finish near the top of the bottom half of the table to something more ambitious.

Budgeting for next year has been difficult. We know what we want to achieve on the playing front, so we can fix the costs side of the account fairly easily. However forecasting revenues is much more a piece of guesswork because of our lack of hard experience at that level at BPA. We have produced (what I hope is) a realistic budget and have set aside sums to shore it up if we underachieve. It is essential that we develop new revenue flows to ensure the long-term financial stability of this club; we cannot fall back into the bad old days. We are, in the longer term, expecting an uplift in revenue as our position as a Championship club becomes more established, and is hence further fuel for the 'easy sell' referred to above. The loss of Unipart Logistics as main sponsor is a blow, but one we can ride. We hope the

higher profile, greater press coverage plus TV coming to the odd game will attract sponsors who will value the exposure afforded by Championship Rugby.

The business plan and the stadium development plan, themselves co-ordinated, must in turn be aligned with the rugby plan. Rowland has dusted off his original three year rugby plan, the main objective of which was of course achieved in two years. So instead of a plan for the next three years, we have rolled over the final year into what is now a four year plan. I have had a discussion with Rowland about the longer term and I can tell you that our ambitions, both personal and for the club, continue to coincide. We will develop the playing side of the club in parallel with growing the commercial side and developing the site. As you know, an under 18 academy is being launched this year and other age groups will be added over time. We have already appointed a new academy coach and will shortly announce a new head of community who is expected to take that activity to higher levels, both generating revenue and raising our profile amongst families in this city and surrounds.

I have named this article 'Stage One – box ticked' because that is what is etched on the crystal wine glasses so kindly presented to me by Quent on behalf of the CRSC at the awards dinner Friday last. I was deeply touched, thank you. They have already been christened. But thank you most of all for your continuing support of this great rugby club.

First, Ground Zero: established. Stage One: box now ticked. We have already started to work on Stage Two, which is re-establishing ourselves as one of this country's great clubs, financially sound in the highest reaches of the Championship, and reaching deep into the heart of this City of Coventry. Then we can start thinking about Stage Three.

**Jon Sharp**  
**Chairman**  
**Coventry Rugby**



# CHAMPIONS

In the final few minutes of the Hull game on 28th April thoughts turned to the presentation and the resulting celebrations.

The game had looked like petering out in the last quarter, but one last piece of brilliance from Max Trimble ensured that the season ended on a high and the attempted conversion by none other than Scott Tolmie was the icing on the cake. The party started as he began his run-up and for all I know might well be continuing even now such was the delight of both supporters and players alike.

As the two sets of players filed past each other, the tables came out, the cup emerged and an area in front of the main stand was sectioned off. It was done with the minimum of fuss, a quiet and efficient operation that typified everything that had gone on before it. If this had been a test of the club's ability to handle large crowds and big occasions, then it would have passed with flying colours.

Blue and white, of course.

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And as the players walked across the pitch to the area where the presentation was to take place they did what they'd done all season, they showed their appreciation to a rapturous crowd who stood as one to acknowledge their heroes.

Yes, there was an element of sadness to it all, with players of the calibre of Brett Daynes and Andy Brown playing their last games for the club, but the overriding emotion was one of pride and respect for a group of players who time and time again during the course of the season had left everything out on the pitch.

Battle-weary, they'd struggled to reproduce the form that had won them the title and brought Championship rugby back to the BPA some 5 games previously, but that was firmly behind them now.

It was about supporters and players coming together.

A family united.

Jon Sharp made a point of going around the players, shaking hands and giving hugs and despite what must have been a moment of huge personal triumph for the man who has invested so much time, energy and money into the club, his first thoughts were for the players and staff.

A special hug, lasting far longer than for the other players, was reserved for Phil Boulton, captain fantastic and the leader who arguably had helped galvanise the squad from January of last year, turning them from a good side in National One to an outstanding one.

And as the players waited for their medals, Jon Sharp and Rowland Winter stood side by side as they've done for the last two seasons, smiles lighting their faces, the respect for each other clear for all to see.

I wonder what words were exchanged in those brief moments?

Two men, a shared vision, a dream fulfilled.

Or maybe only part thereof...

...both are ambitious and I doubt that even in those moments of celebration that it felt as if it was mission accomplished, or anything like.

As they looked up into the stands and saw the response from the crowd, I can't help but believe that already they were thinking ahead to what successes might yet lie in wait for this stirring giant of a club.



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The players duly received their medals individually before regrouping as a team in readiness for the final accolade, the lifting of the cup.

The presentation itself wasn't without some humour, with Rowland Winter discretely whispering the names of each player into Billy Bell's ear before he announced their names out to the crowd.

It took a good couple of minutes for the medals to be given out and the waiting got the better of many of the

players who'd already received theirs and a champagne (or more likely prosecco) frenzy broke out well before Phil Boulton lifted the trophy.

Presentations were made to John Butler and John Wilkinson, both retiring from their current roles, although John B will still be involved at the home games next season.

Jon Sharp then briefly spoke to the crowd, generously paying tribute to Rowland Winter for helping to turning



the club round on and off the pitch in the last 2 years and to the supporters for their part in this season's success.

And then came the moment itself.

Phil Boulton stepped up, raised the trophy aloft and skipped his way over to the team; having never won a trophy in his career before, it was obvious just how much this meant to Phil. For just a few second the Cov captain let his emotions get the better

of him as he leapt in the air several times, a signal for the players to once again pop the corks and douse each other with fizz.

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The supporters, many of whom had gathered on the walkway alongside the press to take their own photos, took this as their sign that the formal presentations were over and, after waiting for the champagne shower to end, started to mingle with the players.

It was the perfect end to what had been pretty much the perfect season.

Players, coaches, support staff and supporters as one, shaking hands and sharing thanks-yous, everyone genuinely appreciative of each other. Mutuality and reciprocity very much the order of the day.

The players welcomed the outstretched hands of grateful fans, and patiently posed for photos with the young, the old and all those in-between. The trophy was handed from one player to the next and always, always offered to any wide-eyed, open-mouthed youngsters who happened to be nearby, desperate to share the moment with their heroes.



Loyalties were formed out there that will last a life-time and many of those children who stood side-by-side with the players will, as a result, be Cov supporters for the rest of their lives.

And to cap it all, suddenly over the PA blared the dulcet tones of none other than Brett Daynes, serenading the crowd to a rather different ('tuneless' would be a bit harsh given the occasion) rendition of a schmaltzy classic.

And there, as everyone turned around, stood Brett a-top of the stand by the press box,

microphone in hand and grinning from ear-to-ear.

As memories go, that will live longer than most. The guy's irreplaceable.

And he'll be missed.

On weekends when Cov aren't playing next season, or it's a particularly long journey, I'll take a trip up to Binley Woods just to see how Brett's getting on.

And I'm sure I won't be the only one from Cov there either.



## COACHES

The Supporters' Club has enjoyed a very successful season regarding away coach travel and have run coaches to every away game.

The number of supporters travelling on the coaches has surpassed our expectations

achieving an average of 50 supporters per coach, which is a 47% increase compared to last season. In total, 754 supporters have taken advantage of coach travel this season.



**The feel-good factor amongst supporters bodes well and we are already looking forward to next season.**

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

For those members who would like to renew their Supporters' Club Membership the CRSC Stand will be open before the pre-season home games, details will be released when the dates of these games are published.

The membership subscriptions have not been subjected to any increase and are as follows:

**Joint Membership £30**

**Adult £20**

**Junior £5**

Alternatively, membership subscriptions can be paid at anytime up until September 1st via internet banking, details are:

**Lloyds Bank**

**Sort Code 30 99 15**

**Account Number 27006060**

## CRSC1874.COM WEBSITE

The Supporters' Club website was officially launched on May 1st last year and has proven to be a resounding success with over 21,000 hits on our website to date.

It is kept up to date to provide as much information as possible such as:

- Notices as to forthcoming events
- Information on coach trips to away games,
- Previous newsletters
- Upcoming fixtures
- Partner information & offers
- CRSC documents

Please visit our website on -

[www.crsc1874.com](http://www.crsc1874.com)

and add it to your 'favourites'.

## BIRTHDAY CARDS

Since the last issue of In Touch we have sent birthday cards to our two Honorary Members - Harry Walker who was 103 at the beginning of February and Ted Wainwright who was 86 at the beginning of April.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Any suggestions as to how we can improve the Supporters' Club are always welcome, and should be made via our email address or via a committee member. Similarly, any suggestions as to how the match day experience can be enhanced by Coventry Rugby will be welcomed. We will add those suggestions to the agenda at our regular meetings at BPA.



## TELEVISION GAMES

The previous weekend's away games are now being shown on the big screens in the Jon Sharp Suite (previously known as the Arena Bar) before each home game, from 1.00 pm.



# END OF SEASON AWARDS DINNER

*“Oh what a night! Late December, back in ‘63.”*

Well no, in fact it was May 4th, 2018 at the BPA, but Oh what a great night was had by all who attended the Coventry Rugby Awards Dinner.

Players, back room staff, coaches and supporters had a super night, which was admirably led by Club President Peter Rossborough, who was the evening's master of ceremonies.

Peter's unique style and storytelling, like a fine glass of wine gets better and better with maturity and the humour and good banter was in evidence all evening and kept everyone entertained.

Each table of 10 people and I believe there were

18 tables had two Cov players sitting on them joining the guests, a fantastic way of getting to know the players better and to enjoy their company.

Following a very good meal provided by Chef's Kitchen, MC Peter started off the awards part of the evening.

The Try of the Season was the first award. No surprise here, James Stokes excellent try in the away mauling of DMP was the runaway winner; James soon followed this by picking up the award for Top Try Scorer with his 21 try tally, a remarkable achievement.

Uniquely, Clubman of the Year became Clubmen of the Year this year, a true reflection on the efforts of the small team who help keep the BPA in its most welcoming look.

Brian Gladstone, Richard Evans, Harry Denton, Ian Mitchell, Tony Lord and Roger Pulley all truly deserved awards and they were very well received.

The next presentations were both poignant and warmly welcomed. The four Cov players leaving us, either retiring or moving on to pastures new or at least different playing arenas:

Matt Price, Tom Poole, Andy Brown and Brett Daynes picked up their awards, Centurion's all, and each spoke eloquently about their time at Cov, a standing ovation for them all richly deserved, the odd tear of emotion was evident.

After a break for Dessert, the awards continued.

Will Priestley, James Neal, Cameron Gray, Kailus Hutchinson were all presented with Champions medals, followed by awards for two more departing players, Alex Groves and the



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# END OF SEASON AWARDS DINNER (cont)

London Scottish bound, Jimmy Litchfield.

Awards were presented to the highly respected and successful Sports and Conditioning department, Max Hartman, Hannah Walker and all her team.

Coaches, Nick Walshe, Louis Deacon, Luke Narraway and DoR Rowland Winter also received awards, as did the back room staff.

The major awards followed, Luc Jeannot picking up the Young Player of the Year award,

Standout flanker Jack Preece took the Players' Player of the Season award.

The Blenkinsopp Trophy awarded for the Supporters Player of the Season award was an extremely close call with just two votes separating first and second place the winner by a short head was our club Captain Phil Boulton, visibly moved Boulton thanked all who voted for him and the emotions in the room raised a little bit.



The final award of the evening was a surprise CRSC presentation for Cov Chairman Jon Sharp.

Rumoured to enjoy a glass of wine, a pair of engraved crystal wine glasses were presented to Jon on behalf of the Supporters club for the appreciation of all his efforts, this came as a real surprise for the recipient, a standing ovation followed, wet eyes were dried and the realisation of what the Club has achieved and where we are going had left beaming smiles on everyone's faces.

***Paul Ingleston & Phil Reynolds***

## **Phil Boulton on receiving the Supporters Player of the Season (via Twitter):-**

"I've never played rugby for accolades, I've only played to make great memories. Tonight will go down as a great memory and I thank Coventry Rugby supporters for voting for me as their player of the season. I still can't believe it."

## **Jon Sharp on receiving the Supporters' Club Special Award for Outstanding Contribution to Coventry Rugby (via E-Mail):-**

I was caught completely unawares by your extremely kind gift tonight. A bit emotional. I am now home thinking over some of this journey, and about to raise a glass of Malbec to you, in a glass which will forever be special. Thank you.

## **Rowland Winter (via E-Mail):-**

On behalf of the players & coaches, thank you very much for all the work the Supporters' Club put in to making the End of Season Awards dinner such a success. Please pass this on to the others involved as well. It was a great evening, and a fantastic way to complete a fantastic season. Next year we will need a bigger room !!

# RECORD BREAKERS

## Coventry Rugby create EIGHT new records in the title winning season

- Most wins in a season - 27
- Most points scored in a season - 1,213
- Most tries scored in a season - 183
- Longest winning run in a season - 16 games (equalled)
- Longest winning run overall - 24 games (Feb 2017 – Jan 2018)
- Longest unbeaten run overall - 24 games (Feb 2017 – Jan 2018)
- Longest winning home run - 25 games (Oct 2016 - April 2018)
- Most individual tries scored in a season – James Stokes, 21

## SCOREBOARD

The Scoreboard at BPA has been the source of much angst for supporters for a considerable period of time. The Supporters' Club is delighted that we have been able to sponsor a temporary scoreboard until the end of the season, which made its debut at the home game vs Cambridge and proved to be a significant improvement. As part of this sponsorship arrangement, the Supporters' Club will also be sponsoring the two new Information Boards, which incorporate fully electronic scoreboards, until the end of the 2018 / 2019 season. The Information boards will be installed over the summer months, although it is hoped that one of them just maybe available for the final home game of this season vs Hull Ionians.





# CHRIS MAY PRESENTATION

Saturday 6th January 2018 heralded the return of Old Albanian Rugby club to Butts Park Arena, and I am sure everyone remembers the previous season's match and the horrendous injury received by the Albanian's centre Chris May.

CRSC committee invited a representative for Chris (unable to attend) in the form of Richard Milnes (Past President of OA's) as a guest for a pre-match lunch held in the Harry Walker Suite. Richard was presented with a gift (Letter rack engraved with CRSC logo) on behalf of the CRSC along with best wishes for Chris on his bright future in the teaching profession.

Chris sustained fractures to both tib and fib which led to surgery and many months of physio and unfortunately an end to his rugby career. Two weeks after the incident Chris delivered a message via Coventry's Rob Conquest, thanking Rob and Brendon Burke for the comfort given on the pitch that day. Chris gave thanks also to the club's medical team and all who played a part on that fateful day.

Revealed on this day, were the inadequacies of the Butts treatment room with the door being too narrow for the stretcher and the extremely cramped conditions in which the medical team were working.

As a result of this and some consultation with the club and medical team, CRSC offered to help with a treatment room transformation programme. CRSC begged borrowed and cajoled sponsors and tradesmen to lend a hand in the alteration/ supply and fit of new doors and equipment, a credit to all involved.



## MASCOT

We are delighted that one of our members has found someone who is prepared to put the mascot suit on and to parade around the ground on home match days. The mascot re-appeared at the home game against Rosslyn Park and was widely welcomed by all supporters. We hope that this is the beginning of what will be a permanent future and will help to establish BPA as a fortress.



The Supporters' Club is currently being consulted by Coventry Rugby regarding the formation of a Kids Club for children under the age of 13 and a Juniors Club for 13 - 16 year olds and it is intended that the Mascot will be an integral part of these clubs. More details will be provided over the coming months.

## ARTICLES FOR IN TOUCH

If you wish to submit an article for publishing in In Touch, or you would like to see something included, please make contact via a committee member or our email address –

[crsc1874@gmail.com](mailto:crsc1874@gmail.com)

## CAR WINDOW STICKERS

Car window stickers which proudly proclaim ...



**COVENTRY RUGBY**  
**OUR CITY...OUR CLUB**

are available free of charge to all members. Please either email your request for one, or come to our stand in the Arena Bar before each home game.

# PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



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

**Queens Road**  
MEDITERRANEAN KITCHEN

**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.

## PURITY BREWING

We are currently working with Purity Brewing who have offered us a tour of their brewery in Great Alne during May. Date/s and details will be communicated to members by email as soon as we have them.

Purity Brewing have also offered to be our Partners in the Meet the Players and Coaches which we are planning to hold again this year during the closed season. Again, further details will be released when they are available.





# PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

We are also delighted to have reached a Partnership Agreement with **Prime (Physiotherapy, Rehabilitation, Injury Management, Expertise)**, who offer a wide range of services from physiotherapy assessment of all musculoskeletal problems to sports massage and injury prevention assessment and advice. You can be sure to get expert management of your aches & pains.

All of this is available in the newly refurbished and upgraded Medical facilities at BPA. Supporters' Club members will also benefit from a 10% discount on their first appointment.

Prime offer a wide range of services from physiotherapy assessment of all musculoskeletal problems to sports massage and injury prevention assessment and advice, you can be sure to get expert management of your aches and pains.

-  Sports Massage
-  Arthritis
-  Back and Neck Pain
-  Whiplash
-  Post-Op Rehabilitation
-  Joint Problems
-  Injury Assessment and Rehab
-  Muscle and Soft Tissue Injury



10% off  
your first  
appointment  
with this card



If you have any questions or queries about what we can do to help you, please do not hesitate to contact us on...

t: 07901 910910 e: [hannah@primephysiotherapy.co.uk](mailto:hannah@primephysiotherapy.co.uk) w: [www.primephysiotherapy.co.uk](http://www.primephysiotherapy.co.uk)

## 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.

# 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 222213 / 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.





# 2018/19

## SEASON TICKETS

### ON SALE EARLY BIRD OFFER

# SAVE UP TO 25%

WITH OUR EARLY BIRD OFFER\*

INCLUDES:

11 - Championship Games

3 - Cup Games

Entry to All Pre-Season Games including Wasps!



1874

COVENTRY RUGBY

SEATED  
STANDING

ADULT  
£202

CONCESSIONS  
£158

ADULT  
£168

CONCESSIONS  
£146

\*Early bird offer is valid until the 31st May 2018.

## TICKET HOTLINE: 02476 231001