

In Touch



The Official Newsletter of **COVENTRY RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB** Issue 19 May 2023

Honorary President: **Jon Sharp**

Honorary Members: **Harry Walker (1915-2018) & Ted Wainwright (1923 - 2022)**

FROM THE CHAIR...



“And it came to pass, Lurcio.”

I will let our older members explain reference that to some of our younger members!

The news that the RFU have withdrawn the licence for Wasps to play in next season's Championship, 2023/2024, should not come as a surprise to anyone. The vow of silence, from the proposed board and organisers since the granting of said licence in December 2022, was beginning to give lots of followers of our great game real concerns. The only surprise, to me, was why were Wasps granted a licence in the first place. We, haven't you, had questions why it was

granted? To go into administration owing circa £95m, that's £95m, and then be allowed to build again was quite impossible to comprehend. Astonishing.

This has had a major effect on all Championship clubs. How are you able to prepare for a new season? Delayed budgetary options, player recruitment on hold and no news on the Championship formation. All very disruptive. But , hopefully, we move on, although I expect there is still a lot of news on Wasps to come.

Getting back to Coventry Rugby, everyone knows what a fantastic season it was and has been covered widely. For the new season, Cov have lost a few of our favourites, some to better things, deserved better things whilst others have moved on,



Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club
OUR CITY...OUR CLUB

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(A breakdown of these moves can be read later in this issue).

You will also find news of playing additions included within.

This is a big year for Coventry Rugby . This will be Coventry Rugby's 150th Anniversary Season and soon you will be informed of lots of the events that are currently being planned, beginning from December this year. Stand by for the exciting news.

On the Coventry Rugby Supporters Club front, things continue to go from strength to strength. Increased memberships, obviously due to the success of last season's on field excellence. A finish of 3rd place was more than I, and many others expected last September. Memberships are now being taken for the new season, with the Early Bird Offer, now open. (Details later on).

Don't forget CRSC are always open if you feel you could contribute to the running of CRSC, just email crsc1874@gmail.com to indicate your interest.

That's enough from me for now. Thank you for all your support over the years and I hope we can continue to maintain that support. Issues, queries or anything else can be emailed to the CRSC address.

In the meantime, have a super summer and we will probably issue a new In Touch after one of the Home Nations have won the 2023 Rugby World Cup!!

See you all soon.

Paul Ingleston

Chair

Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club

COVENTRY RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB OFFICERS 2022-2023

Chair	Paul Ingleston
Club Secretary	Phil Reynolds
Treasurer	Frank Morris
General Committee Members	Steve Hood Quentin Melhuish Rachel Morris Claire Nairn Brian Nairn Peter Redhead

COVENTRY 38 NOTTINGHAM 24

ANOTHER HOME WIN, FAREWELLS AND THANK YOU'S

Another home win for Cov, a 3rd place finish already guaranteed, a very healthy 3000+ crowd and another five point haul. Post match there was a chance to say goodbyes and thanks to the nine departing players, all moving on to fresh and exciting challenges. Thank you guys.



Photos by John Coles

COVENTRY 38 NOTTINGHAM 24



Photos by John Coles

DEPARTING PLAYERS END OF SEASON 2022-23

The players who left Coventry Rugby after the Bedford game at Goldington Road are detailed below, with as much information as I have garnered as to their destinations.

Josh Bainbridge - all action flanker Josh, a very impressive cog for Cov. Hardworking Josh was in his element scrambling for the ball at rucks, very often 'jackalling' to maximum effect. Very possibly the first name on a Coventry team sheet for match days. Josh has joined Gallagher Premiership side Newcastle Falcons and deserves his chance in the elite league. 43 appearances for Cov.

Jake Bridges - prop Jake is a product of Coventry Academy, arriving from Northampton Saints Junior Academy. Jake, 26 appearances for Cov, has tremendous potential, always affable and friendly around the club and will be missed. It is understood that Jake will still be at the BPA in time as Jake is believed to be joining our Championship rivals, Nottingham. The sight of replacement Jake solidifying our creaking scrum in the Doncaster home Championship is a worthwhile memory.

Louis Brown - full back/wing Louis has also joined Newcastle Falcons. Despite suffering a long-term injury this season, Louis bounced back to form with a couple of eye-catching performances near season end. Louis is a creative runner, an excellent and solid recipient of the high ball with a booming kick to clear his lines. Like Josh, Louis will not let himself down and also deserves a shot in the Premiership.

Tom Dodd - back- rower Tom's arrival in October provided a bit of Premiership 'sparkle' and class to our forward play, very combative in the loose and driving Cov forward. 13 appearances for Cov, Tom is bound for Edinburgh in the URC and, in reality, it would have been near impossible to retain Tom as he is clearly destined for the top.

Adam Peters - Mr Versatile, playing across the back row and in the second row, Adam played 88 times for Cov and has been at the BPA since our Championship return in the Summer of 2018. Powerful and effective, whilst being a big loss, a chance to play in France at a Pro3 side near Toulon would be too promising a chance to turn down. We might hear more from Adam later in the year!

Joe Snow - scrum half Joe leaves Cov after making 27 appearances, arriving from Exeter Chiefs, initially on a dual registration basis. Joe has had to overcome a long-term injury, the injury restricting his appearance tally. Joe was, until recently, coaching at Kenilworth RFC and is considering going out to New Zealand to play.

Ollie Stone - prop Ollie, another product of Coventry Academy, is also moving on. Ollie, who has been playing at Kenilworth, told me he hoped to be going to Perth, Western Australia, to play in the future. In the immediate future Ollie has signed for Midlands side Bournville RFC to play in season 2023/2024. Ollie is joined by recent Academy player Christian Bannister who has also signed for Bournville.

DEPARTING PLAYERS END OF SEASON 2022-23

Rhys Thomas - Rhys joined at the beginning of the 2021/2022 season and appeared 21 times for Coventry . Capped by Wales at U18 and U20 levels, Rhys has had a number of injuries which has restricted his appearances for Cov, but his brace of tries in the win at Ealing Trailfinders last season is a fitting testament to back-row/lock Rhys's capabilities. Rhys is returning to Wales, possibly joining Merthyr RFC.

Will Talbot-Davies - finally, but by no means last, we are literally losing a Will! Will, or WTD, is a bit different. The utility back rower joined us at the beginning of last season, joining from Dragons , and made 20 appearances in the Blue and White. Like Louis Brown, strong under the high ball and an effective runner. No club for Will at the moment as he is returning to training to be a solicitor and will, probably, be playing in the Community Game, studying permitting. I am sure when he returns on visits to the West Midlands, Will be paying us a visit. Good luck Will.

And that's that. Best wishes to all players leaving us, thanks to wearing the shirt and all of your efforts in the Blue and White. Please don't forget us!

Paul Ingleston

NEW ARRIVALS TO COVENTRY RUGBY

There will be some new faces at the BPA for season 2023/2024. Dan Lewis has been announcing these new players and here are the released details from the official Coventry website.

Thanks Dan.

<https://www.coventryrugby.co.uk/jack-bartlett-signs-for-coventry/>

<https://www.coventryrugby.co.uk/ryan-hutler-joins-coventry/>

<https://www.coventryrugby.co.uk/paddy-ryan-signs-for-coventry/>

<https://www.coventryrugby.co.uk/coventry-sign-eliot-salt/>

Yesterday, Monday 22nd May, the latest signing was announced and it was probably the biggest with the signing of Matt Kvesic.

Here is the information provided by Dan Lewis for the official Coventry Rugby website. There is probably one more signing ' in the pipeline' according to the rumour mill. We will keep you updated as and when...

<https://www.coventryrugby.co.uk/matt-kvesic-joins-coventry/>

JORDAN POOLE

JORDON POOLE – THE INJURY, THE HOPE OF HIS RETURN – EGGACTLY!

It has been a very up and down season for Coventry Rugby's captain, Jordon Poole. Paul Ingleston caught up with hooker Jordon and got his thoughts.

Jordon, it has been a difficult season for you. Injury, recovery and injured again. How are things looking for you?

Yes, it has been a very frustrating season for me! Unfortunately, these things happen in rugby but things are looking up now. I have a return date/ period in my head and just working towards that making sure, I come back bigger and better.

After the first setback, Jersey away, you seemed to come back flying.

Yes, after returning from 10 weeks out with the first injury, I had a lot of emotion/ frustration and feelings of catch up to do. Therefore, throughout those seven games back I was involved in, I knew each week I had to keep progressing and keep showing why I had been chosen captain at the beginning of the season.

When the latest injury occurred, did you think it was a bad one?

It was actually weird. For those that do not know I ruptured my ligaments in my big toe, tore my plantar plate and tore one of my sesamoid bones off. When you hear it, like that, it sounds bad but when it first happened, I thought I had just broken my boot, but I was not in any physical pain when it happened. I did know something wasn't right when I tried to walk, I was very off balance, and then, once 24hours had passed, the pain and swelling began to set in and it came apparent something wasn't right.

I understand it has been a difficult injury to assess.

The injury was hard to assess for the medical department and for the other specialists I saw. There was too much swelling to actually see what the problem initially was, on my first scan (x-ray). So then, I was sent for a MRI to which the consultant said I could have ruptured ligaments but could not see the problem with the sesamoid and plantar plate because of swelling still, and I was then was referred for another MRI and ultrasound before actually getting to the bottom of it all.

As the team has continued its excellent form, has it been difficult to watch for you? Are you a good watcher?

It has and it hasn't. It is great to see the



JORDAN POOLE

team/lads doing so well knowing how hard we worked throughout pre-season and working just as hard still throughout the season. But it has also been tough for me mentally because at times I have felt so distant, and a bit of a fraud. Mainly because I feel as if I am not contributing to the success when I'm just stuck in the medical room or gym most of the time while the lads are out prepping & grafting.

What have you been doing to keep in touch or in shape?

Well, when being injured, it allows you to get some good work in the gym. So, during the first injury, I went on an upper body hypertrophy block, which enabled me to work on my bulk up top, and I put on 3kg of muscle mass which defo helped when I returned coming up against the likes of Doncaster, Jersey and Ealing. I am now currently doing a similar hypertrophy block for my lower body to help balance things out for the beginning of pre-season in 23/24.

I have also been keeping myself busy by cooking for the lads every morning. Alongside my rugby, I am qualified in catering so this season I took on the task of feeding 50+ athletes and staff at the club every morning that we train, so my poached egg abilities have dramatically increased having to poach 100+ eggs 3 or 4 days a week!

For you, what has been the difference in the squad this season?

The difference this year for me has been a combination of real youth and how together we all are, on and off the pitch. Alex Rae did a fantastic job on recruitment this season so you have to tip your hat to him. He brought in some good players from a variety of different leagues, some with a lot of experience and some with little but each and everyone of the new lads he brought in added something different in a good way and they are all great lads off the pitch as well.

From a supporters' viewpoint, players have been stepping up and raising their performances this season? Have you been surprised at this?



No not surprised because I believe Alex wouldn't have recruited them if they didn't have the potential to push on and compete for starting jerseys. The competitive standards we have in training is what's driving these performances from the lads because they know when they get their shot starting, or even off the bench, they need to perform so they are give Razor a headache the following week when it comes to selection.

Sad to say that, with only three games left, your season is over and you have to look forward to the new season. What are your plans for the summer?

JORDAN POOLE

My plans are to firstly get on top of this injury and make sure I am ready to go on day 1 of pre-season and, with a bit of luck, hopefully this will be the last of my problems. Secondly, I will go home and see my family and friends back in Yorkshire. My parents have been great throughout this season coming down and checking up on me while I could not get around, to travelling up and seeing them, so I probably owe them a few hot dinners! Lastly, I would like to get away for some sun even if it's just a few days away with the lads or someone. Just get out of England and enjoy soaking up some vitamin D.

I am sure that all Coventry Rugby supporters want to see you back again, fit and aggressive. Good luck as you strive to get back ready for the battles ahead. Thank you Jordon.

Thank you very much! I will see you at the last few games and I hope you don't get too bored at home when the season finishes.

CRSC MEMBERSHIP FEES SEASON 2023/24

Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club have released details of Subscription Fees for Season 2023/2024.

As in previous years we are again offering reduced payments with our Early Bird Offer:

From Thursday June 1st, 2023 until Friday July 30th, 2023, the fees are as follows:

Adults £15 per season (After July 30th £20 per Adult will be the amount to be paid.)

Joint Memberships , Adults, £25 (After July 30th, will revert back to £30 per couple)

CRSC are delighted to announce that, as in per previous years, **Under 21's are Free of Charge.**

A couple of points for you to consider please:

New membership cards will be available to collect once the new season begins.

Membership numbers are likely to change after the Early Bird offer ends.

Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club are very, very grateful for your continued support and hope to attract, or at least see , some of you on one, or more , of our Supporters' coaches during the upcoming Championship or Premiership Cup season.

Thank you.

JAMES TYAS & SUVA MA'ASI

Coventry Rugby Supporters Club are delighted to announce that, for season 2023/2024, we will be sponsoring James and Suva. Two highly respected members of the senior squad, both James and Suva's names were at the top of the CRSC list when it was decided to take the sponsorship plunge.

James, an integral part of the pack but also a born analyst had a stellar and prominent role in the Championship season just completed.

Suva really stepped up when Jordon Poole was injured in the second Championship game at Jersey. A try scorer but also very effective in the loose, and also plays the game with a smile.

For CRSC, this is a big step. Our previous forays in the fraught field of Player Sponsorship were not classed as successes as injuries to our choices were incurred. Nothing to worry here chaps!

But seriously, CRSC are extremely excited to sponsor both James and Suva.

Photos by John Coles



COVENTRY RUGBY SUPPORTERS' PLAYER OF THE SEASON

This year we had a very wide range of votes for players, a true reflection of all the players' fantastic efforts throughout 2022/2023.

The results, 1,2 and 3 for Coventry Rugby Supporters Players of the Season, in reverse order, were as follows:

3rd was **James Tyas** with 10.87 % of the vote. James, I hope you will agree, has had a tremendous season, both in the line-out and the loose. Line-out analysis and execution of well rehearsed drills are to James what thrillers were to Alfred Hitchcock! Good work James and thanks.



2nd placed was **Josh Bainbridge**. No surprises in the voting for Josh who had an excellent season. Full of energy, jackalling and a constant nuisance to the opposition. Josh will be a big loss to us and should be a big hit , and hitter, at Newcastle Falcons. Josh goes with my , and I hope your, best wishes in this massive career opportunity. 14.13 % of the vote was received for Josh.

The winner of the award, with over a 3rd of the votes cast, 35.87 % was **Will Chudley**. I think it's fair to say that Will's arrival in October was a surprise, but it turned out to be a masterstroke. Will's calm efficiency, drive and authority allowed our beloved side to grow in effectiveness, skill and power . His calm approach is also benefitting other players and has been a massive influence on our landmark season. Will's signing for season 2023-2024 is a major boost and adds hope for the upcoming season.



Congratulations Will and thanks.

When it's possible a photo of the trophy presentation will be circulated.

Many, many thanks for everyone who voted and took the time to take part in this year's vote.

ARE YOU READY?

COMING SOON!

150

**DETAILS NEXT
MONTH...**

CRSC PARTNERS

Coventry Rugby Supporters Club (CRSC) would like to say a massive THANK YOU, to our partners who have magnificently supported us throughout last season.

LBV are a local Coventry gym who offer help, advice and support to you if you want to change your lifestyle, get fit, healthy or just feel it's time for a change.

Contact LBV for more information.

Sapphire Louvres were coach sponsors of our Championship trip to Doncaster Knights in March and greatly enhanced our trip on that day. It was a fantastic day, a full coach and, more importantly, a big W to boot. Great.

Royal Oak, Earlsdon have been terrific for CRSC this year, allowing us to use the back room of the pub for our monthly meetings. This has been a boon for our Committee, allowing us to discuss, decide and motivate us to move forward in keeping the Supporters Club active and unhindered.

Thank you everyone.

PARTNERS

We are constantly investigating the prospect of setting up more partnership agreements with local organisations. If you know of any potential opportunity which you think we should explore, or would like to find out more, please email us via our email address - crsc1874@gmail.com or contact a committee member.