

In Touch



The Official Newsletter of **COVENTRY RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB** Issue 7 December 2018

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



We are proud to have the above companies as our partners, please click on the logos to visit their websites

Another eventful year has passed both on and off the field and I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect upon a highly successful year for Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club. Firstly, I'd like to thank the Committee and you the members for your ongoing support.

Membership of the Supporters' Club has grown to an impressive 268 members and we are very much looking forward towards 2019 and how we can grow, develop and improve further. If you have any thoughts, suggestions, or ideas, please contact any of the Committee Members, visit us at the CRSC Stand which is open on home match days, or, via E-Mail.

I'd also like to thank all of our partners & sponsors, all of which we will continue working with throughout 2019 and whose support of the CRSC is very much appreciated.

Discussions with other interested sponsors / partners will be formally commencing early in the New Year and hopefully we can bring these to a successful conclusion.

So, as we close out an eventful 2018 and look forward towards 2019, let's take a moment to

reflect upon what the Supporters' Club have achieved in the past 12 months:-

- Hosted a pre-match lunch & presented an award to Richard Milnes (Past President of Old Albanians Rugby Club), who accepted the invitation on behalf of Chris May. As you will recall Chris suffered a career ending injury, whilst playing for OA's at BPA.
- Organised the End of Season Awards & Supporters' Player of the Season Award
- Organised & hosted the Family Fun Day
- Worked closely with Coventry Rugby organising the Firework Event
- Organised a tour of Purity Brewery
- Organised & hosted the Two Johns event
- Organised & hosted the Rugby Law Explained sessions
- Set up our own dedicated Twitter account
- Raised £850 for Zoe's Place Children's Hospice (courtesy of Phil Reynolds & Oliver)

cont...

- Created the 'Inside Out' series of articles, which are published regularly on our website, features to date have included interviews with, Rowland Winter, Anthony Matoto, Eric Richardson, Phil Nilsen, Rob Knox, Kwaku Asiedu and a tribute to Harry Walker.
- Produced the Coventry Rugby 2019 Calendar
- Worked closely with Coventry Rugby, playing a leading role in getting the Club Shop reopened
- Organised & run coach travel to every away game in 2018

In terms of our sponsorship of Coventry Rugby we have achieved the following:

- The temporary electronic pitch side scoreboard used at the last 5 home games last season
- The new big screen electronic scoreboard
- The countdown clock which was added to the new scoreboard
- Procurement & installation of a sink in the new outdoor Medical Room
- Supplied a new Defibrillator to the Medical Team via a donation to the SADS charity
- Sponsorship of Hannah Walker (Head of Medical), Max Hartman / Marc Finney (Head of Performance), Hannah Foggett (Assistant Physiotherapist) and Tom Parfitt (Kit Assistant)
- Sponsorship of Luc Jeannot, Cameron Gray & Kalilus Hutchinson

Looking forward to 2019 we will continue to build upon our achievements over the past 12 months and some of the things already being planned are:

- Pint & Curry event which will be free to all members, with selected players, coaching & management staff in attendance. Members attending will be given a voucher for a free pint, or a drink of equivalent value, and a curry.
- Sponsors Dinner, which will be free of charge to members. It is proposed to ballot tickets to those CRSC members who are

interested in attending with the winners being awarded seats at the event.

- Purity Brewery tour – currently being arranged for April / May.
- 1874 Enamel Pin Badges – coming January
- Supporters' Club Pennant – coming January
- Rugby Law Explained Sessions – proposed for September, focusing on new laws for the IRB World Cup
- A rugby centric book & DVD Library – details to follow in the new year
- Inside Out feature on the life & times of John Butler
- Family Fun Day – tentatively scheduled for August, after the new 4G pitch has been installed
- Replacement & updating of the International & Club Captains Boards in the Jon Sharp Suite
- Collection & collation of Coventry Rugby memorabilia & supply of display cabinets, etc, (see below)

Albeit a longer term project, we have already started working with Coventry Rugby on the proposals for the redevelopment of BPA, in particular having a Supporters' / Sports Bar, which will be open to all in the New Cowshed, which will become the home and display for all Coventry Rugby memorabilia, including the new and updated Internationals & Club Captains Boards.

Finally, I'd like to wish you, your family & loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous and Happy New Year.

Paul Ingleston (Chairman)



THE VIEW FROM THE SHED

COVENTRY vs CANADA 5 NOVEMBER 2018

On a clear November night the Butts Park Arena was graced with international rugby for the first time and what followed was an entertaining game which held the crowd's interest from start to finish.

The evening began for me with a meal in the Platinum Suite and a short address from the Chairman outlining the strong links between Coventry and Canada. The mood was jovial with pie and mash being dished out and drinks flowing. As kick off approached it became, quite rightly, more sombre with the



Service of Remembrance. Honouring those who served our country and also paying tribute to John Cannon, the former Coventry and Canadian player it was a poignant moment with a backdrop of fireworks in the night sky. Both teams had been given a rapturous reception by the crowd.

Watching from the top of the stands as opposed to my usual spot on the touchline I got a different perspective and had a great view of Canada's opening try. Canada were on top in the early stages, perhaps expected with Coventry fielding so many players from the development ranks and I did fear the worst! To my relief Coventry began to settle and create chances of their own, with Phil Nilsen scoring to give the crowd something to celebrate.

It was difficult to keep up with the number of substitutions but there was some attacking flair shown by the Coventry players, line breaks from Junior Bulumakau and Rob Knox raised the volume in the stands. As Canada's experience and well drilled pack began to take control of the game being awarded a penalty try. Coventry continued to try to show attacking prowess. In the second half a moment of inspiration and improvisation from the returning James Stokes, flicking the ball through his legs, allowed Coventry to score again to the delight of the crowd. Sadly by the time the score came the game was out of reach as Canada had amassed five tries. Coventry continued to push for their third score but ultimately were unsuccessful. The final whistle came with the score at 12 - 35.

For those present this was a historic evening and a great occasion for the club. I am sure I am not alone in hoping that Canada get through their qualifying matches and make their way to the World Cup in Japan.





IT WAS ALL FOR CHARRRRRITTYYYYY



The 10k walk for Zoe's place in conjunction with Coventry Rugby Club was a fantastic concept and should be continued each year going forward.

I agree that the registration and the management could have been better so that there were more participants and I believe that this is something that will be looked at next year, having said that we raised money for young terminally ill children, which in itself made it all worthwhile.

I decided to represent the Coventry Rugby Supporters club for this event and when I volunteered I had no idea who would hand over their money.

The initial registration fee of £25 did in my opinion put many people off but once paid we were then set a target of £150 in sponsorship, there was no explanation as to what would happen if the "goal" was not achieved so again fears were raised with some people that they may have to fund any short fall themselves, this is one of the things that

needs to be addressed for future events.

But enough of the negatives the walk was a great success in terms of money raised.

13 people and a dog turned up on a beautiful sunny morning and strode away from the BPA. The scenic route through the centre of Coventry was really good followed by leafy suburbs, as is my want, I set out at a fast pace determined to beat the Club Management representative (Pete Brown) who was also taking part. This proved quite easy as we walked through the precinct, Dog (Ollie) in tow seemed to be enjoying it, needless to say things took a rapid slow down once we reached the leafy suburbs of Kenilworth road, Dogs do like their bushes and along this route they were in abundance, stop after stop soon had me trailing the group, my options were few, carry the dog? Hardly he is a 6 stone Rottweiler, drag him along, hardly he is a 6 stone Rottweiler! Arrange a pub stop in Earlsdon so his mum can pick him up, bingo, so a stop for refreshment was arranged as was a Dog rescue, let's face it he was knackered!!!

Dog free I set off again at a hearty pace, the group in my sights, one by one I hunted them down, by Hearsall Common there were only two left in front of me, but my pace was fierce each step took me closer, as we came on to Allesley old road from Craven street I knew I had them, The sun was out, there were nervous glances over the shoulder from Mr Brown, the gap was down to 10 meters as we approached the Old Dyers Pub, the pub door was open!!! Without even knowing how it happened I was ordering a beer at the bar, Doh!



My thirst being satisfied I made my way back to the finish where I was promptly attacked by a 6 stone Rottweiler and most participants were already waiting, the coffee and beef burger were greatly received at the finish line, well the burger was anyway, by a very grateful Ollie!

On a serious note I raised over £850 including tax relief and I thank everyone for their sponsorship.

Pete raised a lot more so congratulations must go to him but also to everyone who took part, I think the total was over £4000 which is a great effort, but I do believe that next time, with the support of all you wonderful Coventry fans we could get over £10k

Phil Reynolds and Ollie the Rottie

FANS' FORUM

November 8th saw the latest Fans Forum take place at the BPA, presented by Rowland Winter, ably assisted by Cov Captain Phil Boulton and fans favourite lock, George Oram.

As reported previously (Message Board thread, Fans Forum, 9.11.2018), there was the usual mixture of honesty, candour and thoughts from RW in answer to supporters queries.

Among the topics covered:

Playing Squad , 2018 - 2019:

In answer to a query regarding retained players, RW was unequivocal in his answer. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation he was able to show , at that snapshot in time , of all player appearances, new players, older members of the playing squad and Development players. The shot was very revealing. With some players yet to reach a 50 per cent threshold, due to various issues, injuries, non-availability etcetera it meant that some players, Luc Jeannot was highlighted, as having to play more games than had been expected. As we sit here in December, could Luc's season curtailing injury be as a result?

RW commented, as candid as ever, that he also questioned some of his recruited targets. One to watch, together with his comment that the retained/released list for 2019-20 might contain some surprising names. Phil and George then gave their thoughts on how the step up to the Greene King Championship had been perceived, in terms of different playing styles, physicality and defence or attacking methodology. Very interesting.

The Forum concluded with Rowland presenting an overview of what we, as Supporters, should be looking for in relation to the soon to be introduced lower tackling heights, what would be pinged for and what would be permissible.

Questions, queries were answered as always and welcomed. If you are yet to attend a Fans Forum, the first question is why not?

The second question to be asked is, can we make it more accessible, dates, times or whatever which would allow you to attend?

Let us know by emailing CRSC1874@gmail.com

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 - crsc1874@gmail.com 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.



WORDSEARCH CLASS OF 1973 (CUP WINNERS) +1

R	G	R	A	Y	S	G	N	I	T	T	I	T	S	.....
E	E	P	V	P	N	E	O	A	W	Y	M	T	D	.....
H	F	F	E	E	A	N	A	M	Y	W	F	L	A	.....
T	V	N	N	T	V	E	E	C	M	A	N	O	V	.....
O	E	O	D	E	E	R	E	V	A	L	O	H	I	.....
R	O	T	H	R	F	R	R	B	R	I	A	N	D	.....
B	E	R	I	A	F	A	P	A	L	F	L	A	D	.....
R	G	A	I	F	O	B	R	R	L	A	N	I	U	.....
I	H	B	D	E	E	R	C	R	E	G	O	R	C	.....
A	G	N	I	O	G	S	R	Y	N	E	K	B	K	.....
F	U	H	C	E	I	G	S	I	R	H	C	R	H	.....
H	O	O	K	C	T	N	E	L	A	O	I	E	A	.....
T	R	J	C	D	T	I	R	A	D	A	R	N	M	.....
I	O	R	O	A	I	T	M	W	N	D	E	O	A	.....
E	B	B	W	H	N	T	H	O	A	R	D	E	N	.....
K	S	A	M	A	N	I	E	L	I	E	O	G	H	.....
C	S	R	A	A	R	G	A	D	E	D	R	A	W	.....
H	O	L	N	L	E	L	R	R	M	A	B	H	A	.....
R	R	I	G	O	W	L	P	A	A	V	M	B	R	.....
I	R	A	R	R	Y	I	H	W	Y	A	I	R	D	.....
C	E	I	A	R	I	B	A	S	N	C	J	O	H	.....
K	T	N	M	A	N	R	A	I	F	R	O	T	O	.....
S	E	N	N	I	N	Y	R	R	A	B	W	W	L	.....
V	P	E	T	R	E	O	T	H	T	E	R	T	M	.....
N	D	S	A	W	S	R	H	C	H	R	I	F	S	.....

CONVERSO

H		0	0		
	0				0
	H				H
				0	
		0		H	H

1: Fill in each space with either a post or a ball so there are no more than two consecutive posts or balls in any row or column (diagonals don't count)

2: Each row and column must contain three posts and three balls.

Difficulty rating **

CAPTION COMPETITION



Entries should be submitted before Jan 1st by E-Mail to CRSC1874@gmail.com
The winner will win a free seat on the coach to an away game of their choice

R G R A Y S G N I T T I T S
 E E P V P N E O A W Y M T D
 H F F E E A N A M Y W F L A
 T V N N T V E E C M A N O V
 O E O D E E R E V A L O H I
 R O T H R F R R B R I A N D
 B E R I A F A P A L F L A D U
 R G A I F O B R R L A N I U
 I H B D E E R C R E G O R C
 A G N I O G S R Y N E K B K
 F U H C E I G S I R H C R H
 H O O K C T N E L A O I E A
 T R J C D T I R A D A I N M
 I O R O A I T M W N D E O A
 E B B W H N T H O A R D E N
 K S A M A N I E L I E O G H
 C S R A A R G A D E D R A W
 H O L N L E L R M A V B H A
 R R I G O W L P A A V M B B R
 I R A R R Y I H W Y A I R D
 C E I A R I B A S N C J O H
 K T N M A N R A I F R O T O
 S E N N I N Y R R A B W W L
 V P E T R E O T H T E R T M
 N D S A W S R H C H R I F S

Answers to Wordsearch: Players: Peter Preece, Brian Holt, Barry Ninnis, Ian Darnerrll, John Barton, Kieth Fairbrother, Geoff Evans, Chris Wardlow, Bill Gittings, Roger Creed, David Duckham, Jim Broderick, Peter Rosborough, Dick Cowman, John Gray.

Plus 1: Alf Wyman

Converso Solution

H	H	0	0	H	0
H	0	H	H	0	0
0	0	H	H	0	H
0	H	0	0	H	H
H	0	H	H	0	0
0	H	0	0	H	H

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

PARTNERS

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

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 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.

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.

PARTNERS

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 w: 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 or via a committee member.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Proposed Events 2019

FANS' FORUM

An opportunity to meet the players, coaches & management staff, with a free pint & curry for CRSC members

PURITY BREWING TOUR

Following the highly successful Purity Brewery Tour in June, the Supporters' Club have been offered a further tour

COVENTRY RUGBY 2019 WALL CALENDAR

The Supporters' Club are pleased to announce it has produced a 'Coventry Rugby 2019 Wall Calendar'. The calendar is A3 in size, spiral wire wound with hook and is available for sale

The calendars are very competitively priced at just £6 each and can be purchased from the Rugby Club Shop, which is open on home match days between 1.00pm & 5.00pm, or, from Jo in the BPA Office during weekday business hours. Alternatively, you can order and reserve a calendar(s) by E-Mail to the Supporters' Club at crsc1874@gmail.com

Please note: the calendars are a strictly limited edition and only available while stocks last.