

In Touch



The Official Newsletter of **COVENTRY RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB** Issue 18 March 2023

Honorary President: Jon Sharp

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



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Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club

OUR CITY...OUR CLUB

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FROM THE CHAIR...



Just back from Penzance, tired, a stressed bank account but in a good place. A narrow defeat at the Pirates, a thriller of a game, four tries apiece but enthused by a Cov

performance that epitomised how far we have travelled this season in terms of performances, improvement and thrills. Add to that the many player apologies on going down to that narrow defeat and we have to say it's been an excellent season, so far. The players, to a man, were

downcast but we, as supporters, could only have been happier if we had won. As Head Coach Alex Rae put it, " We should have been out of sight." Suspect training this week will again be intensive.

Coventry Rugby is in a good place, I hope you would agree. Gates, or attendances, are holding up pretty well, especially in terms of the current cost of living difficulties and strains. Thank you, I am sure, on behalf of the club for your continued support.

As a Supporters Club we can only marvel at this continued support. CRSC will continue to run coaches to away fixtures, as long as you continue to support them. The good news is that our trip to Doncaster Knights this month has sold out, this coach

is being sponsored by Hinckley firm, Sapphire Lourves, the firm's proprietor, Steve Brown, almost eligible for 'frequent traveller' status on his CRSC trips! Thank you Steve.

But not to worry, we still have some away trips to plan, Richmond (15.4.2023) and Bedford Blues (29.4.2023), currently the final game of the season, sure to be a thriller. We need your support for this one! There is also the small matter of the away game at Ampthill to be officially rearranged. This has, due to the regulations, to come from the RFU, then Ampthill will let us know. I am sure most of us have a suspicion of when that date will be but, until our Governing Body confirm this.....! Think they might have a few other issues to deal with at the moment.

So, tell me Paul, what's the next Championship season going to look like? I wish I knew!

It really seems to be a while before that is generally known. All that I can glean from rumours, statements and conjecture is that there will be a Wasps side in the Championship after, seeming, to pass the requirements to be admitted to the competition. Since then there is more radio silence than a nuclear submarine on operational duties. Worcester Warriors, through their new owners, Atlas, withdrew their request to join the Championship and seem to have other plans. We await developments on these plans, although radio silence seems to be in play here also.

It's not generally known that Coventry Rugby, owing to our determined stance not to be 'railroaded' into RFU/PL plans are seen to be one of the 'awkward' clubs, along with Ealing and Pirates. I think it's fair to say CRSC support the club's stance.

From what I can gather, or glean, the

Championship Clubs Committee could be viewed in distinct groups:

The Firm Stancers': Cov, Cornish Pirates and Ealing, clubs who are determined to not be walked over by the GB or the elite clubs.

Willing to Accept: Ampthill, Bedford, Doncaster, Hartpury, Jersey, Nottingham, happy to form 'strategic partnerships' with elite clubs, being used and using players from these clubs because, 'we will take players from the elites, overloading squads with DR players, because it works for us (whilst sacrificing their own identity)'. (I have included Hartpury in this group as they offer a chance for Bris/Glows to give players a runout and it offers Bill Sweeney a chance to highlight Hartpury as his ideal type of club in a 'franchise setting').

Waiting and Watchers: Caldy, London Scottish, Richmond, these three are trying to maintain their identities, although The Exiles are in danger of becoming purely and simply a reserve side for Harlequins, 'McQuins' and losing their own distinct identity. Some of their fans are not very happy.

And that's about enough from me, although in the background, major plans are underway by Coventry Rugby for the next 15 months or so. Keep looking out for the information that will soon be released via social media outlets and prepare to get involved and celebrate!

See you all soon.

Paul Ingleston

Chair

Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club

150 COMING SOON...



Watch this space for further details

GET FIT WITH LEAN BODY VISION

Coventry Rugby Supporters Club are delighted to announce a new sponsor partner in Lean Body Vision. Based in Earlsdon, the company are sponsoring our coach to Amphil, postponed but soon to be rescheduled.

CRSC are also delighted that , if you decide that Lean Body Vision is for you, then as a CRSC Member you will be entitled to a discounted rate.

To find out more email info@leanbodyvision.com with your enquiry or call Hannah on 07907 781497

SAPPHIRE LOUVRES

Coventry Rugby Supporters Club (CRSC) would like to say a massive thank you for Sapphire Louvres Ltd. Manufacturers of made to measure, high quality louvres grills and window ventilation for the architectural industry. Based in Hinckley, Sapphire have sponsored our CRSC coach to Doncaster this month.

Once again, thank you.

THE COWSHED LUNCH 4th MARCH 2023



1 The Calm Before The Storm



2 Former Player, Rob Callaway hears for the 1000th time why he's called 'Foot-up!'



3 Great to see lock Brian Kidner in attendance



4 Louie Hall and Alan Joseph discuss Caribbean adventures



5 Brian Kidner and Cov President, Peter Rossborough

Photos by John Coles

THE COWSHED LUNCH 4th MARCH 2023



6 Ron Jones, another Cov great



7 Legendary former Cov prop, Lee Johnson, was in great form



8 Former scrum half, Anthony 'Tigger' Dawson



9 Peter Rossborough and Alistair McHarg share 1974 Final memories

Photos by John Coles



10 Play 'Spot the Ex-player' as the MC entertains

EALING TRAILFINDERS 19 COVENTRY 22

It's, so far, been an excellent season with plenty of firsts for this talented bunch. First win at London Scottish for a number of years, a rare win at Nottingham and an extremely rare win at Ealing Trailfinders in January. Here are a few pictorial memories from Vallis Way.....

Now, how about that rare win at Amphilhill , Coventry Rugby?



Photos by John Coles

FREE SCORING COV REPEL MILITARY ADVANCE

Cov's first 'Gift to the Community' game wasn't short on action, skills and efforts, Cov easing to a 65-12 win over the visiting UK Armed forces side, (formerly known as Combined Services). Most of the action, and not without its controversial or at least surprising moments, took place in the first period.

Cov, with a side bolstered by Tobi Wilson, Joe Snow, Ollie Betteridge, George Smith took control practically from the off, despite a yellow card for Ray Kanyasa for what looked like a line out offence, jumped into a 17-0 lead through close range tries for hooker Owen Postlethwaite and Smith and a fine run from George Hallam, Wilson converting the initial score, this with 25 minutes gone.



The UKAF team then lost their outside centre to a red card for a tip tackle on the impressive David Okupu a few minutes later.

Smith's galloping run on 33, the lock giving his finest Harlem Globetrotter's impression, one-handed carrying and passing inside to the supporting Snow. Wilson converted.

Two more visiting yellow cards, for offside at a close in ruck and another maul offence sandwiched tries for the impressive James Bennett and the powerful Kanyasa, Wilson converting the former, another Kanyasa try, unconverted, close out the half for a 43-0 home lead, the servicemen ending the first period with 12 players.

It had been an impressive first half for Cov.

Home changes at the break, Wilson, Betteridge, Snow and Smith all being replaced, but the scores continued unabated.



James Bennett grabbed his second, Okupu and replacement, Christian Bannister, also crossed the whitewash, all unconverted.

Two late scores (65) and (74) from the visitors were just rewards for their commitment and efforts, the latter converted.

It was left to Kanyasa to complete

FREE SCORING COV REPEL MILITARY ADVANCE

the scoring, the lock completing his hat-trick for his eventful 80 minutes. Leo Jowett added the extras.

David Okupo was named Man of the Match, a fitting and deserved acknowledgment of a display of pace and verve throughout.

The bulk of the side was from the Coventry Rugby Under 19s squad, having an impressive season, when they manage to play a game, their last two matches being

cancelled due to various issues. I have to say, if these players continue to progress, and it is with Coventry Rugby, then the future looks very bright indeed.

The attendance was a respectable 1240, obviously the free admission the key, but if it continues to showcase the efforts Coventry Rugby are making, trying to spread the word, trying to increase awareness then their efforts will, hopefully, be rewarded.



COVENTRY RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB AWAY TRAVEL 2022-23

- **25.03.2023** **Doncaster Knights Championship - Fully booked**
- **15.04.2023** **Richmond Championship**
- **29.04.2023** **Bedford Blues Championship**

Information regarding booking, prices, departure times etc will be released in due course. We will be maintaining our Early Bird booking criteria and look forward to you travelling with us. Our preferred method of payments are by bank transfer but contact us for more details when booking your travel.

Keep watching for updated information, as and when it is released, but for more information visit our website **crsc174.com**.

GORDON ROSS

Coventry Rugby is thrilled to announce Gordon Ross as the new Head of Academy Pathway and Talent Development.

Gordon will be looking at the local rugby talent in the surrounding schools and colleges, whilst identifying potential players that will come through the Coventry system. Ross's development plan with the youngsters will focus on both developing the player as well as the person.

Ross has already spent some time around the club and around senior training sessions. When asked what stood out about this particular environment, Gordon spoke of a 'no ego' atmosphere.

"It seems a happy, hard-working environment with no egos in the group. The work ethic has been excellent but there's also been plenty of enjoyment in there.

I'll be looking to create an environment for players to develop on and off the pitch, and then its about getting more numbers through the system."

CEO of Coventry Rugby, Nick Johnston, is thrilled that Coventry has managed to attract the calibre of Gordon Ross to join the club on its journey. "Gordon's professionalism, accompanied by his ability to both spot and nurture young talent will be a real asset to the club. His experience and achievements in his career to date, demonstrate the positive impact that Gordon will have here at Coventry, accelerating and maintaining a successful pipeline of young, home-grown talent."

Everyone at Coventry Rugby would like to give a warm welcome to Gordon, and we are all excited to see what he can achieve whilst at Butts Park.

By Dan Lewis



HIGH FLYING RAF SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

Coventry 17 RAF 66

In an impressive display, epitomised by a dominant pack performance, the RAF side served up a performance of power and speed in a final prep game before facing The Army at Kingsholm, on April 15th.

Five tries to the good, a penalty try included, by halftime, including a brace for live wire scrum half, Corporal Joe Parkin, the servicemen led 33-5 at the break. Cov loose head prop Ollie Stone was yellow carded for his indiscretion when the penalty try was awarded.

The only highlight for Cov was an eighth minute try, all his own work, fielding a high ball and running it back from 40 metres out for the unconverted score.

The Cov eight will have been glad of the 15 minutes break. It had been a torrid half as the RAF dominated the scrums at will.

Two more visiting scores , both converted, meant the flyers stretched further away in the opening minutes.

However, Cov finally struck back with two tries from flanker, Harry Stone (50) and 54 minutes, the latter converted for a 17-47 score line.

Sadly, that was as good as it got. Three more tries in the last quarter, the latter two converted, meant an easy win for the strong RAF side.

Overall, a difficult evening for the youthful home side but the rugged visitors were full value for the win. The final ' Gift to the Community' game is scheduled have promotion chasing Leicester Lions visiting the BPA on Good Friday, April 7th, 7.30pm. Let's hope it's at least good, or at least a better, outcome than this.



Photos by John Coles

JAMES TYAS

Coventry Rugby is thrilled to announce the re-signing of second row, James Tyas, ahead of the 2023/24 season.

The reliable second row has been a mainstay in the Coventry starting line up since joining the club midway through last season from former Championship rivals, London Scottish. Not only has James served the club admirably with his consistent performances on the pitch, but also with his secondary role as Head Analyst here at Butts Park Arena.

Tyas brought both Championship and Premiership Cup experience from his time with the Exiles and Wasps to the BPA. As a senior member of what is a relatively youthful playing group, James is relishing the chance to extend his stay.

“I’m thrilled to have re-signed at Coventry for next season. I’ve loved every minute being in this brilliant environment at Cov, and the fans’ support week in week out has made it really special for me. I look forward to building on our success next year.”

Tyas has started 28 out of the 31 games since he joined the club, and Head Coach, Alex Rae, was very happy to see James putting pen to paper ahead of the 2023/24 campaign.

“It’s great to have James on board again for next season. Not only has his contribution on the field been impressive, but the work off the field that isn’t seen is equally impressive. He’s fully bought into what being a Coventry player is about.

More importantly he’s a really good person and when you couple that with his qualities on the field, that’s exactly the type of person we want.”

Everyone at Coventry Rugby is looking to seeing more of James in blue and white, and we hope he continues to enjoy his time as part of the Coventry family.

By Dan Lewis



COVENTRY RUGBY UNDER 19s 59 NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNI 4ths 0 - 25.1.2023

Coventry Rugby Under 19s bounced back into action as they faced their East Midlands visitors, Nottingham Trent Uni 4ths at the BPA.

A combative Trent Uni side only conceded two scores in the first period, a pushover try (18) and an excellent Freddie Painter try just before the break, converted by Theo Mannion for a 12-0 home lead.

The second half was a different story. The hosts powered ahead with tries at regular intervals from James Bennett, Mannion, Max Robinson, James Brazier, George Hallam, A N Other and Painter grabbing his second. Theo Mannion, with his seven conversions, plus his try, ended with a 19 points tally. Not a bad day.



Photos by John Coles

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON 7 COVENTRY UNDER 19s 35

1st February 2023, Coventry Rugby Under 19s travelled to face their next opponents, University of Northampton. The hosts put up a fierce challenge on their All-weather pitch but ultimately fell short. Cov established a 21-0 interval lead, tries from Ralph Gawthorpe, Max Robinson and Freddie Painter, all converted by Theo Mannion. The visitors had to play players in different positions during the second period, due to enforced changes but still scored next through George Hallam, playing in an unaccustomed outside centre position, again Mannion with the extras.

The University hosts were then rewarded for their efforts with a converted try, delighting the home players, but Hallam had the last word strolling through a broken defence for his second try, Theo Mannion landing his fifth conversion with Coventry Rugby Under 19s continuing their relentless progression.



Photos by John Coles

COVENTRY RUGBY UNDER 18's v BOY'S CLUBS OF WALES UNDER 18's

On 12.3.2023, Coventry Rugby Under 18's entertained, in a return fixture, The Boys Clubs of Wales Under 18's at the BPA. A new and young home side had a tough encounter with their Welsh visitors. Hoping to gain a morale boosting win, the Cov youngsters fell to a 31-nil defeat but will, hopefully, gel into a successful side. Thank you for your efforts boys and thank you to everyone who rocked up and supported both teams.



Photos by John Coles.

AN AUDIENCE WITH JOHN BUTLER

John, last year you celebrated 50 years in broadcasting. Been a long stint, but tell us your first memories of watching Coventry RFC, as it was then.

My first memories of watching Coventry RFC go back way before broadcasting began in 1972. April 1947 was the first actual time when my Dad took me to watch them play Old Blues. Onwards to September 1955 & when I first started selling match programmes. From there roles which I loved within the Supporters' Club & later the Coventry club.

Happy memories?

Oh many. Cov winning the two Twickenham finals in 1973 & 1974 both stand out. The defeat deep in injury time v Newcastle in 1996 also stands out. I must also mention my first visit to Twickenham in 1959 when I saw Peter Jackson score his match winning try for 14 man England v Australia to seal a 9 -6 win in injury time. No replacements in those days, with Cov's Peter Robbins moving to centre to cover the injury. I lost my voice for a week !

I know you have a long association with Rugby Union and both your boys played rugby didn't they?

Yes, they did & both played for Coventry Colts as scrum halves. Dave the eldest made his first team debut in 1993 v Rugby Lions at Webb Ellis Road. He had to come on & play on the wing where he found himself marking Eddie Saunders. Just after a replacement appearance again v Wanderers in Dublin, that time at full back. That was special for me because it was on one of the several occasions I ventured over to sample the Wanderers hospitality.

Mike, two years younger, made his debut v Moseley at the Reddings in 1995, where he marked Richard Moon. Just afterwards the club asked him to play fly half down at Newport, when Cov, through injuries, sent a very weakened sidedown.

Mike then in December that year won his Oxford Blue in a losing side against Cambridge. At fly half for Oxford was David Humpries who went on to play for Ireland.

After University, Dave joined Walsall, Mike, with his job taking him to the North East joined Blaydon.

The game of Rugby Union has changed greatly and continues to change. For the best?

No, not always. Some of the elements brought in have improved areas of play, for example not being able to kick direct to touch outside your 22 & the more recent one where a long kick into opposition territory can bring an attacking line out providing the ball rolls into touch.

Conversely, hookers are almost redundant with scrum ball invariably being put into the second row of a scrum. Teams are also being given far too long to form a line out. The

AN AUDIENCE WITH JOHN BUTLER

most recent edict to referees to speed matches up might hopefully change the latter. That latter element I have to say continues to bug me !

As regards all the recent publicity over the height of tackling, the jury is surely out, but the controversy has certainly hit hard in the game below professional level.

You have been involved with Cov for many years and in many different roles. Your most satisfying role?

Being asked to become Fixture Secretary in 1985, a role I then held until 1998.

I took over from the late John Barton. Fixture Secretaries in those days were almost like a part of being in " a club in themselves". The closeness & contacts built up were just stupendous. I always considered it a real privilege to have worked along side many famous names who had graced the game as players. The fact that I had not been able to go down that route never made the slightest difference, they were all pretty well without exception brilliant. Peter Ford of Gloucester is one who stood out for me; doing me personally a great favour very early on when I needed to break up a run of away dates. Peter could well have taken real stick for that at Kingsholm.

When I took over, Cov ran just the two sides, 1st team & Extra Firsts, but within two years came the decision to run a Wanderers 3rd team & Colts. That made for many interesting challenges; the first colts captain was Richard Cockerill.

On the downside, with the advent of league Rugby in 1987, very soon after came the loss of the Welsh fixtures; that was tough to take, but there was nothing I could do about it.

During the 1960's and, as is often described, 'the glory years' of the 1970's, who, of the many famous and revered Cov names, always endures in your mind?

There are so many. Peter Jackson my boyhood hero & later to become a close personal family friend. David Duckham, was he the greatest Cov player ever? That discussion will rumble on for sure. Phil Judd, " Bomber" Evans, George Cole. In honesty I could go on & on.

The two wins in the old John Player Cup must bring back happy memories.

Actually thinking back, the dear old RFU did not like the word " cup" in those far off days, John Player came later, with Cov winning the quaintly named " RFU Club Knock Out Competition". The first was at the end of my opening season in local radio, with the commentary shared with BBC Radio Bristol. We were placed in the Overseas Commentators Box in the old West Stand at Twickenham. Bearing in mind the box overhung between the upper & lower tiers & the only way in was through the roof ! No health & safety to my knowledge in 1973 ! Climbing out for a toilet break at half time was an interesting experience.

1974 & London Scottish saw Anne & myself sitting in the West Stand. With no other

AN AUDIENCE WITH JOHN BUTLER

station to share costs with, BBC Radio Birmingham, as they were then, decided not to cover the game. One of the rare occasions over the last 50 years when I have been able to bellow out "c'mon Cov".

What is your greatest Coventry Rugby moment?

The win over Newcastle in "that game" in 1996, ranks there, probably shared now with the recent superb first ever win at Ealing Trailfinders.

Our paths crossed many times in the broadcasting arena, what is your worst moment broadcasting? Mine was when on air, trying to do a report and choking on air, and I heard the presenter in the studio say, "We'll go back to Paul once he has finished his lunch!" Mortified, I was. Have you experienced anything similar?

Probably back in the Mercia Sound days of the 1980's. A mid week game at Nuneaton against whom I cannot remember. The Wednesday evening though was freezing cold & I had taken the radio car to the Harry Cleaver ground. The car was fitted with a retractable thick aerial, which meant when it was in position the car engine would not fire. Come the end of the game & the aerial was frozen solid & I could not budge it. What to do ? A knock on the Nuneaton dressing room door proved to be the answer; would a number of strapping forwards kindly brave the cold again & apply some help. It did not take them long, I have to say the sight of them in action ranked with the game itself !

A close second. Again a Mercia Sound radio car this time beaking down just outside Otley, after I had covered Rugby Lions up there. Thankfully even though it was not my car & my membership details were at home, the RAC came to the rescue. You should have seen the thickness of the jump leads they used !

What are your thoughts on the games future?

At the moment, very mixed. The game in general would benefit immensely from better leadership both from the International Game Board, but also the Rugby Football Union. There are many concerns being expressed concerning the way the RFU have handled the amended tackling law & unless they clear up the mess they have left there, those concerns will only grow particularly below professional level. A real risk of players leaving the game, plus others not joining because of it. Concussion issues have to be resolved for sure, but the way that is dealt with is also so important.

The unanswered questions too from RFU relative as to how the Championship in England will survive ? Certainly not in it's present form & where will proper funding & sponsorship come from if it is to become a clear link with the Premiership, the latter particularly being vitally important ?

Fifty years in broadcasting is a massive achievement. Did you ever imagine it would last so long when you first picked up the microphone?

AN AUDIENCE WITH JOHN BUTLER

Good gracious no ! It all began quite casually with the then BBC Radio Birmingham coming to the Club early in 1972 saying, " we have covered Rugby at Moseley since our inception last year, would anyone at Coventry feel like getting on board" ? Only two came forward, former Cov Rugby prop forward & icon Mike McLean & yours truly. Mike sadly died very suddenly in 1978, as for the rest I have simply tried my best always to carry it on. Always importantly enjoying doing it, which I hope still comes through.

As most people know, a life long problem with my back & right leg will never go away & with worsening mobility, I sadly had to make the decision in 2022

to only cover home games. I am still getting used to listening to others when Cov are away, both Richard Moon & Alec Blackman & BBC CWR are continuing to carry on the tradition consummately.

Thank you for your time John and hope broadcasting retirement is a long way off.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to pen some thoughts, I still nurture hopes of seeing Cov back in the Premiership (it was not called that of course at the time Cov had the one season there in 1987). We can all dream !



OBITUARY - DAVE SMITH

Although not a CRSC member, we have been made aware of the sad passing of David Smith. David was a longtime Coventry Rugby supporter who used to travel on many away days in the previous body of Coventry Supporters Club.

Living in Litchfield, Dave's match day travelling used to involve train from Litchfield, and bus to Coventry, with the same return journey. A true traveller.

Dave was a gentle man, softly spoken and quietly knowledgeable. Nothing would please Dave more than arriving in the clubhouse fairly early, sit quietly at a table and chat to old friends, many fellow past Cov supporting travellers.

In recent years Dave was to be found at Bath Rugby matches at the Rec, where a friend had a season ticket

However, Dave saw the light and had returned to supporting Cov.

We do not have funeral details to hand but from us all at CRSC, RIP Dave. You will be missed.

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

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 STORE

One of our original Sponsors, Builders' Supply Store, Spon End, are now under new ownership with members of the Ballinger family now contemplating a life of leisure, possibly retirement. We wish Julian, Mike and other family members all the very best wishes for the future.

When CRSC were in the process of reforming, one of our earliest partners/sponsors were Builders' Supply Store. Their boost of confidence and sponsorship allowed CRSC to push forward helping to create the position where we are today, a strong ally to Coventry Rugby and you, the Coventry Rugby supporter.

It was also, through the sponsorship of the company, through the efforts of Julian, Mike and others in the family, helped by Leofric Lions, that we saw the return of the very popular Fireworks

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<http://www.akbarscuisine.com>

**Akbars Indian Cuisine, 7-9 Butts,
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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.

Display. This yearly extravaganza epitomises the spirit of Coventry, community. The thousands of attendees now look forward to this annual event, the happy faces on show, the laughter often heard make it all worthwhile, hard work for lots of people, but worthwhile.

To Julian, Mike and other members of the Ballinger family, we, on behalf of everyone who have benefited from your help and largesse we say thank you, thank you. We couldn't have done it without you.

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.

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.