

# In Touch



The Official Newsletter of COVENTRY RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB Issue 3 October 2017

Honorary Members: Harry Walker & Ted Wainwright



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

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

We appear to be watching and witnessing a significantly improved Coventry who have now gone (on the Wednesday before the Esher game) a long time unbeaten and are sitting in a promising position in the table. It looks like a good time to be a Coventry Rugby supporter.

We have every right to consider that the Supporters' Club had a successful first year to the extent that in excess of 95% of 2016/17 members have renewed their membership for 2017/18. A number of new members have also joined, taking our total currently to over 200.

We held a number of very successful and very much appreciated events during the season, and we have plans for more during this season. Notifications of future events will be send out by email, and will also be posted on our website – [www.crsc1874.com](http://www.crsc1874.com)

Work is continuing on the refurbishment and

redevelopment of the Medical Room to which we will be making a substantial financial contribution (an article from Hannah Walker can be found elsewhere in this issue). When the works are complete we will organise a tour for supporters, and those organisations and individuals who have contributed either practically or financially (this includes three of our Partners - BSS, CPHS and Akbars) will be invited to a formal opening. We are also looking at sponsoring the Medical staff who will wear tabards, or bibs, proudly proclaiming "Sponsored by Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club".

As part of our role to "be the official supporter's voice and to liaise accordingly with Coventry Rugby" we are in discussions as to improvements to the scoreboard, improvements to the PA system, and the generation of an income stream to provide funds to support the proposed 4G playing surface.

On 17th September we held our first AGM which was attended by 27 members.

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Some new members were voted onto the committee (see the “Useful Documentation” tab on our website) and a generally positive review, both practically and financially, of our first year was met with approval. A couple of resolutions were voted on (Honorary Membership, Life Membership and the dates of the financial year) which will be added onto the Constitution (in the “Useful Documents” tab) on our website.

I would like to record my sincere thanks to all those who contributed so much as committee members during the year. Whilst I am able to give time to the Supporters’ Club, being retired, it is inconceivable that we would have made such progress and achieved so much without the unstinting contribution from the committee members. This has largely contributed to my decision to be Chairman again for the year 2017/18.

I would also like to record my thanks to Jon Sharp, Philip Crossman (whose contribution can be found elsewhere in this issue) and Rowland Winter for their wholehearted support.

*Cliff Bennett* (Chairman)

## CARDS

**Since the last issue of In Touch we have sent cards as follows:**

**Get Well cards to -**

- Tony Fenner following the game at Hull Ionians where he broke 2 ribs
- Tom Poole in respect of his impending operation (he'll be out until the New Year

and a specific card to Cliffie Hodgson thanking him for his contribution over the years to Coventry Rugby and wishing him all the very best for his new role at Broadstreet RFC.

## 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.



## 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)

# INTRODUCTION FROM PHILIP CROSSMAN

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Hello to all in the Coventry Supporters Club

Cliff has kindly given me the opportunity to introduce myself to you as I have been involved with the club for a few months now.

Firstly some background, I was born in Chapelfields and attended Woodlands School (sadly now gone) and despite working all over the country, have maintained by home base in the City.

My working life has been in the motor industry, starting in 1973 as an apprentice at Triumph Motors in Canley (also now gone!) and ending in December last year as Managing Director of Honda UK - looking after the Car, Motorcycle, Power Product Divisions and the domestic Touring Car and Superbike teams.

Towards the start of the summer Jon Sharp asked me to support him at the club, principally looking at the commercial operations and helping prepare us to sustain a Championship Rugby operation.

The key objective is to create a sustainable club for the long term, to do this will involve developing a business that is financially self-sufficient and capable of sustaining a full-time professional side and associated feeder teams.

There are a lot of people, passionate about this club, who are already working tirelessly to generate more footfall and income for the club which is fantastic and we will need that momentum to continue.

Alongside this we will need to develop funding from every source that we can and the first steps along that path are to install an artificial pitch which will ensure that we can continue to welcome other teams (such as Coventry United and Coventry Bears) and also other sports to the BPA 7 days a week.

The key to sustain the club is utilising the asset of the BPA and releasing some of its development potential. The opportunities are great, but the obstacles and challenges that will have to be overcome are also great.

It is a great opportunity and time to be involved with Coventry Rugby and I will tackle these challenges with energy and commitment.

Regards

**Philip Crossman**

**Chief Executive Officer, Coventry Rugby**

**Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club member number 199**

# MASCOT

Coventry Rugby is urgently looking for someone to wear the mascot suit at home games and we have agreed to do all we can to help. With the team playing so well and with BPA becoming a fortress, the atmosphere which the mascot helps to generate needs to be maintained and strengthened.



There are two options in place -

- To pay the wearer of the mascot suit on a game by game basis
- To obtain sponsorship which will cover not only payment to the wearer but will also cover repair and maintenance as well as guest appearances

If you know of anyone who would be willing to wear the mascot suit, or any organisation which might be prepared to enter into a sponsorship deal, please contact us via our email address or via a committee member.

## THE RUGBY PAPER

Two articles which The Rugby Paper published about Coventry Rugby a few weeks ago were reprinted on our website with their kind permission. They gave a fascinating insight into the Coventry of yesteryear and the editor had no difficulty in allowing us to put the article onto our website.

They can be found under the [Posts](#) tab.

# MEET THE SQUAD

## DAY - 22nd JULY

The sun was kind: contrary to forecast, the rain mostly skirted the Field of Dreams. Arriving promptly at 11.00 we feared at first that the little huddle at the far end of the stand would be it for the day. But as others filtered in over the next hour or so, many accompanied by those smaller people known as children, the atmosphere started to lift. Soon we knew it would all be fine. By the time the squad came out to start running through their training drills, we had a crowd larger than the season's aggregate at Hartpury College.

The first task for all of us, I'm sure, was trying to identify the many new arrivals sporting the sacred shirt. We'd seen the pictures, and read the introductions on the website. But I don't think it had really prepared me for the display of enormous newcomers on show. The first team squad looks immeasurably strengthened from an already strong group last year and, in addition, the development squad look an impressive bunch. Strength in depth, skills from the Championship and beyond...it really whets the appetite for the season to come.



We were missing very few players from the full squad (Cliffie Hodgson trotted out the lame excuse of being on honeymoon). Such a turn-out of players and coaches for a social event is a massive indicator of the change in

the way the club interacts with its supporter base.



Every last player there did his bit to mix with the crowd and entertain the kids. Children were hoisted in line-outs. They ran the gauntlet in the gladiator challenge. They showed surprising skill in the cross-bar challenge. One of them could grow into another Owen Farrell, or go one further and be a Will Maisey. There was coaching, banter, and general mucking about. Many of the players were there with their own wives, children, girlfriends, and parents. Seeing them in this light adds to the community feel that is developing so strongly these days.

A brief word now about another important issue. Barbecue batches were a very reasonable £5 for two, and served with charm and onions. The burger was really rather good. Such things make me happy. I did see a number of the players go back for seconds, but to be fair they take a lot of feeding.

As the rain started to fall, the action went indoors, with a player and coach Q and A session which was MC'd by Matt Price.

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Director of Rugby Rowland Winter gave his usual dry and succinct responses to questions about the new squad and the prospects for the coming season. Ever a realist, Rowland was careful not to over-promise – but it is clear that hopes are high among the team and supporters for a real push this coming season. Players also took questions, and from both the supporters and players/coaches there was a genuine air of confidence and enthusiasm. I always feel at this sort of session that Rowland and his team are open and straightforward with the supporters, and determined to make it a real two-way street between club and community.

Other highlights of the day: the Big Reveal of the new kit. Nice. Home and away shirts were on offer, and I wonder if the rather

dapper training top will also be available? There is probably a good reason why St Helen's shirts were on sale but I didn't get to the bottom of it, not that I actually asked. The Supporter's club were there in force being their usual helpful selves – thanks for all you did to make the day happen. I hope a few more supporters joined up. Club staff were also on hand, sorting out season tickets and suchlike. And finally there was the never-ending raffle. There seemed to be more prizes than tickets. Night fell and dawn broke again and still tickets were being fished out of the bucket. Nigel Harrison , who had gamely manned the microphone all day, kept calling them until his voice was but a pained rasp. I was more than happy myself to win a Cov scarf: I think it was the 83rd prize.

## BEER CUPS / GLASSES



**£2.00 each** at our stand in the arena bar before each home game or they can be ordered via our email address -

**crsc1874@gmail.com**

We have commissioned beer (pint) glasses (cups) which are suitable for outdoor use, being made of polycarbonate, which have the name of the players, coaches, management & medical staff, for the 2017/18 season, printed on them.

They are colourful, light and reusable time and again. Rowland has ordered one for each player in the squad and sales to supporters are going well.

We have them on sale for just

# MEDICAL ROOM UPDATE

Firstly I would like to express my thanks to the Supporters' Club for agreeing to fund the refurbishment to the medical facilities and am looking forward to bringing them up to standard.

We are in the early stages of the refurbishment, but already I can see how much difference this is going to make to the facility.

Work started on the medical room whilst I was away with the first team squad in Jersey, when a new wall was erected between the away changing room and the medical room, creating a cavity between the 2 rooms initially and then 2 weeks later the wall from the medical room was removed, to give us the much needed extra space, from which we are already benefitting. We can now easily fit two treatment couches in, with the possibility of a third if required.

The internal door has been widened, and now we are able to access the room with a stretcher and stretcher bearers, should an incident necessitate this. This means we can treat any major illness or injury with much more dignity and professionalism.

The wall coverings are going up this week and so the walls will be more hygienic than they have been in the past. Then the electrics, flooring, plumbing and fixtures and fittings will need to be installed. Quentin is managing the project well, and I'm sure he will be as relieved as me to get the work finished, and he can stop getting nagging texts, phone calls and emails from me, eagerly chasing the next stage of the refurbishment!

I am looking forward to being able to provide you with a further update and in the very near future, being able to welcome you to have a look around once the refurbishment is complete.

**Hannah**

Head of Medical



# 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](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 % 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.



# 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.

## NICK MACKLEY

I would like to say “thank you” to the Supporters’ Club and Coventry Rugby Club for their kind words and floral tribute in relation to my late husband Nick Mackley. Nick had been a supporter for many years both professional and personal. He always enjoyed going to Coundon Road where he would give talks to the young players (the academy players) on various topics as part of his community safety role. Nick always enjoyed coming to the Butts to watch the games and supporting the club.

On behalf of myself and my family thank you.

**Sharon Mackley**

## INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

We have been able to get agreement from Coventry Rugby that two (2) tickets for international matches, from the club’s allocation from the RFU, will be made available to the Supporters’ Club.

At our next committee meeting we will discuss and agree the means by which those tickets will be made available to members, and all members will be notified accordingly. This is a very generous offer by Coventry Rugby and one which we appreciate enormously.



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS



## Proposed events Autumn / Winter 2017

### Referees Night #3

After our first 2 very successful Ref's evenings, Rhys will be giving an overview of new laws that have been implemented, & looking at current ones with the help of players and coaches.

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### The Two Johns

We are particularly excited about offering supporters the opportunity to spend the evening in the company of Cov legends John Wilkinson and John Butler, as they reminisce on their experiences with Coventry RFC over the years.

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### Fans Forum

An evening offering an interesting insight into the developments currently taking place at Coventry Rugby, both on the pitch and behind the scenes.

To Include a tour of the newly refurbished Medical Room.

**Further details of the above events to be announced shortly.**

All events will be open to members and non-members of the Supporters' Club. However priority is given to Supporters Club members, and where a charge is made, non-members will pay more. We will be confirming these events by email, on Cov RFC's Facebook and web pages, on the unofficial forum and on our own web page [www.crsc1874.com](http://www.crsc1874.com) over the next few weeks.



# COVENTRY RUGBY FIRE WORK PARTY

Butts Park Arena

Sunday 5 November 3pm to 6.30pm

**Bars Open • Hot Food • Live Music  
Children's Entertainment • Rides**

Adult £4.00 Child £2.00 (under 18)

Family Ticket £10

(2 Adults & 2 Children under 18)

Under 18's must be accompanied by an adult

**Tickets now on sale from the Rugby Club**

Contact 02476 231001 [enquiries@coventryrugby.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@coventryrugby.co.uk)

All Tickets must be purchased prior to the event

NO tickets will be available on the day

Ticket price is non-refundable

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