

In Touch



The Official Newsletter of COVENTRY RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB Issue 6 September 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

Welcome to the sixth issue of In Touch, the official newsletter of Coventry Rugby Supporters Club and your link to all things connected with Coventry Rugby. We hope you find it an informative and interesting read.

At last Thursday's AGM I was elected as the new CRSC Chairman. I succeeded Cliff Bennett who, I am sure you will agree, did a fantastic job in helping to steer CRSC to its current level, now over 260 members from practically a standing start. Thank you Cliff.

Positivity was the name of the game last week. I am glad to say that your hard-working committee have been working overtime on your behalf, with thanks to all committee members who give their time so freely.

Upcoming over the next few weeks, we have The Two Johns on August 30th, John Butler and John Wilkinson, two venerated

journalists and doyens of the game talking all things rugby, free to members, £2 for non-members.

This is followed by Rugby Laws Explained, four Thursday's next month, September 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th, where DOR Rowland Winter, coaches, players and referees will run through any questions you might always have wanted to ask, but didn't know who to ask. Again, free to members, with a £2 cost to non-members.

A commitment to run coaches to all away games this season was once again stated, obviously Jersey is not being considered. Trying to organise hotels, travel and associated costs with a Jersey trip is not a risk that CRSC are prepared to undertake.

Three new partners have committed to a partnership link-up with CRSC, Ramada Hotels & Suites, Coventry, PRIME and Purity Brewery.

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We would like to thank these three new partners. who now join our existing, and valued partners, Akbars, Builders Supplies and Coventry Plumbing and Heating Supplies.

Finally, we continue to support, through sponsorship, Coventry Rugby. Our most recent donation, a Defibrillator for player and spectator safety will be available for any emergency.

Please remember the CRSC Committee are all Coventry supporters through and through, working on your behalf to maintain and foster links with the main club, fellow rugby clubs and rugby followers everywhere.

If you have any suggestions or thoughts you'd like us to consider then please email crsc1874@gmail.com and we will get in touch. We now also have our own dedicated Twitter account, so please Follow us on

<https://twitter.com/RugbyCoventry>

See you at BPA

Paul Ingleston

(Chairman)

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

Juniors Free of Charge

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

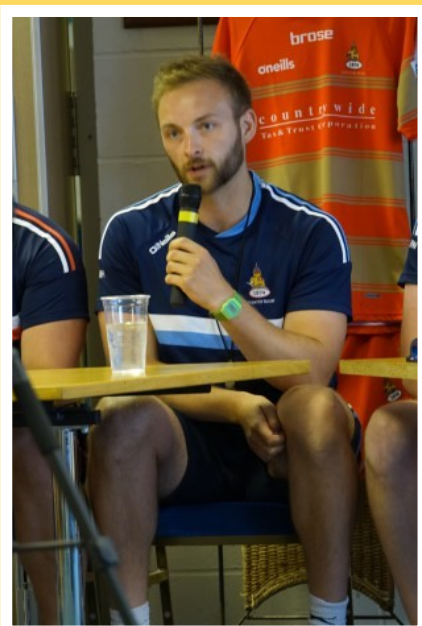
FAMILY FUN DAY

The 'Family Fun Day' event at BPA on Saturday 28th July was a day with something for all age groups to enjoy. The comments from supporters, players & coaches who attended the event has been extremely positive, with all saying how much they enjoyed the day. Indeed, Rowland Winter (Director of Rugby) sent an E-Mail to the Supporters' Club saying....."On behalf of the players & staff, thank you to the Supporters' Club for facilitating the event. We all enjoyed ourselves, and it was a great opportunity to get to know our fantastic supporters in a relaxed way."

Benefiting from generally decent weather overall, the event was attended by upwards of 250+ supporters, including not only the faithful Coventry Rugby supporters, but also parents of some of the players, friends, families and children as well as members of the playing squad.

Now into its second year, it's a format that works well...an open training practice followed by a 'Q&A' session with the coaches and then a few 'skills-based' activities with the youngsters to finish...kicking, line-out, tackle bags etc.

Throughout the training routines there were no breaks, no opportunities for water or a breather, it was a case of perpetual movement; with players rushing from one play to the next, from one side of the pitch to the other. It was non-stop and frenetic.



It was then indoors for a fans' forum style 'Q & A' session and an opportunity for the coaches to explain where they currently are in terms of their own preparations with the squad, as well as for questions at the end. It was compered by Rhys Davies and it was good to hear the likes of Louis Deacon and Jake Sharp, share their thoughts and ideas for the coming season.

Louis Deacon explained that he and the coaches had gone back to basics with the scrum, line-out and rucks, looking at, for instance, the lift in the line-out to enable players to jump higher to gain that little extra advantage, or starting with a 2 man ruck and building it up into a full 8 man scenario and he hoped we'd be competing in the top 4 within 2-3 seasons.

FAMILY FUN DAY (cont)

Max Hartman also spoke briefly about the GPS tracking that was enabling his conditioning team to monitor the performance of players on a match day and in training. Interestingly, there was little difference between the data coming from those who were at Coventry last season and those recruited from the Championship and above this summer.

Rowland Winter mentioned that he was fully supportive of the trial changes to the laws surrounding tackling that will come into effect in the Cup competition, explaining the reasons why, which were compelling. Rowland also explained the law changes could work positively with the bigger, stronger wide-men that Coventry have now being able to off-load more easily.



The 'Q&A' session was followed by the 'Family Fun' session outside with youngsters invited to take part in a number of training activities.

Those that got involved clearly enjoyed the experience. Nile Dacres in particular was brilliant with the smaller kids, showing great patience and understanding. He epitomised

what the day was really all about. There was an atmosphere of not only fun but also of hard work by the players in bonding with the supporters, finding every opportunity to mingle and to chat. They also gave a lot of time to the on field training routines which included line outs, scrums, tackling, etc. This was clearly particularly appreciated by the many youngsters who attended.

The crossbar challenge was won by Hendry Davies and he received a signed-ball donated from a particularly kind and generous supporter for his efforts.

Players mingled with supporters, supporters with players, it was just as it was planned to be.



PURITY BREWERY TOUR

9th June 2018, and about two dozen Coventry Rugby supporters were gathered in the car park at the Butts Park Arena, boarding a coach. With the season a month over, this wasn't a trip to an away match, nor a summer Sevens tournament, or pre-season game, but instead a trip over to Great Alne, in rural Warwickshire, near Alcester, and the premises at Upper Spennall Farm of the Purity Brewing Company.

We arrived at the Brewery, as most of the visitors were leaving, and once the coach had manoeuvred in the farmyard were invited through into a small bar off a courtyard behind the shop. There we were greeted by Alex Smith, the Purity account manager for the Coventry area, who served us beer, and proceeded to give a long and interesting talk on the Purity Brewing Company, and its products.

Purity had started as a micro-brewery, brewing in the area now occupied by the shop and the bar, in 2005. This craft brewery had started with a mission statement, to brew great beer without prejudice, with a conscience and with a consistency and an attention to detail, which



is second to none.

He explained what this meant; a green approach, using pure ingredients, minimising waste, even of water, and doing it in a way that would have minimum impact on the local surroundings. The business was summed up by the phrase 'Pure Sustainability'. The farm is still an active farm, and has influenced the brewery significantly, with the names of the various beers being derived mainly from specific animals on the farm.

Once our beers were finished the tour of the facilities started. We followed the materials through the process, seeing the grain hoppers, handling and smelling the hops, and having the role of different types of hops explained and eventually coming through into the



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PURITY BREWERY TOUR (cont)

brewing area itself. On the way we saw the care and attention to detail that typifies the business, right down to the area where the delivery vehicles are washed. We also saw how the brewery is centrally placed in the farm, while being segregated biologically from the cattle business being operated around it.

At the rugby club, most of our experience has been of the ales produced by Purity, but they do also produce Longhorn IPA, and Lawless Lager, and one of the newer facilities we were shown was a small canning plant to allow greater distribution of these beers. Bottling is done off-site in Burton, but distribution of larger containers is done directly from the brewery.



The tour of the indoor facilities being over the more mobile embers of the party went for a stroll beyond the car park to the wetlands – a series of ponds used to purify the waste water from the site before releasing it into the nearby River Arrow, which in turn feeds the Avon near Salford Priors. The smell of the first clay-lined pond was very strong, produced by the anaerobic reactions in it which start to break down the by-products as brewing. By the time the water is released into the river these are all gone, and the water is clear and pure.

Finally then, we returned to the bar, for another round of beers and conversation. Most



people took the chance to try a different beer, encouraged by what we had seen and heard on the tour. The discussion was more open, covering relationships with Wasps, another club with strong connections to Purity, and also the impact that sponsorship of the Greene King IPA Championship will have on the business relationship between Coventry Rugby and Purity. One thing was very clear – both the producers, and consumers present were very keen that it should continue to grow and prosper.

I'd like to thank the CRSC 1874 Supporters' Club committee members who organised and led this trip. I know from talking to Paul Ingleston that they were nervous of harm to their reputation, should they fail to bring off a successful event. They needn't have worried. It was an excellent few hours. I'd also like to thank our hosts, the Purity Brewery for the openness and enthusiasm with which they welcomed us, and in particular our guide Alex.

Nick Meredith





VIEW FROM THE COWSHED



THE VIEW

So the new black for the officials is tangerine in this league. Hmmmm....

Also the view from the Cowshed has been greatly improved with the introduction a picket fence in front of the Main-stand. This was deemed as a brilliant idea by the Club Management, to keep the rowdy “sitters” in check. And with our Blue Boys beating the Jersey Red “Taytows” (a compromise between potatoes and cows) 20-15, that fence held fast, holding back any pitch invasion.

WONKY START

The Coventry defence did start a bit wonky. However, with previous performances against Leinster ‘A’ and Wobbies ‘A’, the Cowshed was confident that something was going to patiently click into place.

EAGLE!!!

It came in a smooth combo-pass sequence between Maisey, Tuitupou and Stevens. It set Stokes free in the wing with the ball. He saw the line, and then...he...glided like an eagle over for the try. But NO! The ball wrenched itself away from Stokes, like a pigeon from its prey. A scoring opportunity went a begging. (During half time analysis, it was decided Stokes lost the ball, because he forgot to incorporate his man-bun in trajectory calculations.)

Was it going to be one of those days, where Coventry would not get the run of the ball? Halaifouna was “guillotined” in mid-air. The man in tangerine decided to wave everyone away and play continued. Good on Coventry, as they carried on playing, not losing their heads.

CRICKING NECKS

It took Coventry half an hour to kick into gear. Maisey made Cowshed necks crick, as the first points for the Blue Boys flashed on the scoreboard. Then, a melee under the Railway End posts threw an enormous floaty-light pass to the hands of Voss, who proceeded to whoosh along the wing and over the line for Coventry’s first try of the regular season. Half time score of 10-12 was happily accepted by the Cowshed. There was a feeling of expectation of something more.

QUIET REVENGE

As the second half started, Coventry took control! Coventry took the lead! Could there be a second half score lockout? The Main-stand started croaking “Coventry... Coventry...Coventry”. Halaifonua got his own back on the “Taytows” by scoring a try. Maisey’s super boots increased the lead and the crowd got louder.

But, then, horror! With a bit of naivety from Coventry and Mr Tangerine Man’s intervention, the Cowshed was watching thirteen Coventry players on the pitch.

ANGELIC VOICES

Coventry held up. They were like that picket fence protecting the Main-stand: bright, fresh and sturdy, pushing back Jersey at every opportunity. Suddenly, a chorus of broken voices from all sides of the ground just harmonised and sang as one: “**COVENTRY! COVENTRY! COVENTRY!**”

Okay, the ‘Taytows’ did manage to get the losing bonus point, but our Blue Boys got their deserved win.

And many beverages were quaffed in celebration.

INSIDE OUT

Please keep an eye out for our 'Inside Out' series which will be posted onto the CRSC website.

To date we have had articles on Rowland Winter, Anthony Matoto and Eric Richardson.

We plan to issue at least one article a month and have acquired the writing talents of former Coventry Telegraph sports journalists, Steve 'Scribble' Evans, Mark Forster, John Wilkinson & John Butler, who have very kindly volunteered to write articles on former players, current players, including Development & Under 18's, as well as the backroom staff at the Rugby Club.

www.crsc1874.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 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

PLAYING SQUAD 2018 / 19

The playing squad for the coming season have been posted onto the Home page of the CRSC website, with the names of the players shown underneath their photograph. The photo's scroll across the Home page so hopefully it will help to identify who's who.

AN EVENING WITH DODDIE

What a wonderful evening we all enjoyed in late May when the great Doddie Weir honoured Coventry Rugby Club with his immense presence - he does stand at 6ft 6ins and has filled out a bit from his playing days.

Once described by the legendary Bill McLaren as being “on the charge like a wild giraffe” the 61 times capped former Scottish second row, resplendent in his self designed yellow tartan suit, regaled the assembled with tales and anecdotes from his playing days, which had all of us in stitches.

Doddie suffered a catastrophic knee injury whilst touring with the British Lions in South Africa in 1997 and later still survived a serious car crash - but these events were nothing compared to the devastating news announced in June 2017, that he was suffering from Motor Neurone Disease.

Most people receiving this terrible news would probably be consumed by self-pity and prepared for the inevitable, but not Doddie. He bears his unwanted burden with great fortitude, dignity and not a little humour.

Simple things like fastening a shirt button, tying shoe laces and more importantly, holding a pint of beer are becoming more difficult with the passing of time, but as he said on the night “that’s the way it is wee man”

Inspired in no small way by the example of that other late rugby great, Joost van der Westhuizen, he has taken a positive approach to his predicament. He has set up My Name’s Doddie Foundation raising funds to aid research into Motor Neurone Disease and has received great support from the worldwide rugby fraternity.



AN EVENING WITH DODDIE (cont)



Despite everything, the “wild giraffe” still poked fun at himself, his former playing colleagues and opponents as well as many of those present. Many items were auctioned and all funds raised went to his foundation.

But the evening wasn't finished yet. We had to have some rugby.

He got hold of a ball and proceeded to lope across the room selecting a band of 15 men of all shapes sizes and ages and organised a lineout made up of some “wee fat fellas and a couple of big lads” with an array of smaller individuals posing as backs. The aim was for the ball to be thrown into a lineout, possession won and fed to the backs (it was flung precariously behind and above tables) with the final pass going to the wee winger for him to score a great try. The winger however dropped the final pass - Doddie was not best pleased, so the exercise was repeated. This time the “titchy fella” held the pass to the cheers and delight of all.

He posed for numerous photos with guests and went round most tables adding to everyone's enjoyment. He appreciated the genuine warmth of his reception and gained total admiration from those fortunate enough to have been present.

He departed well after 11.00 pm as he had to be in Edinburgh by 8.00 am the next morning for another fundraising event. He travelled by road - enough said

A wonderful rewarding evening spent in the company of a remarkable man.



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 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

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.

**Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club
Presents**

RUGBY LAW EXPLAINED

**Presentation, chat & questions on the
laws of the game with referee**

Rhys Davies

**Supported by Rowland Winter, coaching
staff & players**

**Four sessions - Thursday 6th, 13th, 20th &
27th September 2018**

**7.30pm in The Centurions Suite BPA
Bar open plus tea, coffee & biscuits**

Session 1 Tackle, ruck & maul

Session 2 Scrum

Session 3 Lineout & open play

Session 4 Referee signals, questions



**Entry free to CRSC members. £2 per session
for non-members**

**To secure a place contact crsc1874@gmail.com or visit
the CRSC Stand, which will be open prior to kick off at the
pre season games and is located in the Jon Sharp Suite**



FIREWORK PARTY

Coventry Rugby Butts Park Arena

Sunday 4 November 3pm to 6.30pm

Bars Open • Hot Food • Live Music

Children's Entertainment / Kids Village

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

Contact 02476 231001 enquiries@coventryrugby.co.uk

On the day tickets:

Adults £5, Child £3, no family tickets will be available

Ticket price is non-refundable

Sponsored by

**Builders
Supply**