



Black & Amber Alliance

Issue 6

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Welcome to Issue 6 of the Black & Amber Alliance. As always we would welcome your comments.

FoNR's Achievements so far this season include:

Clubhouse Lounge Bar:

A major financial contribution to the refurbishment of the Clubhouse Lounge bar and the supply of new "uniforms" for all



Kath with Steve and Sharon Clarke

members of bar staff throughout the Rodney Parade bars. It was felt to be of importance that the club maximise on all potential income from this valuable source. The comfort and convenience of all supporters of Newport Rugby and that of visitors was of prime importance.

Player sponsorship: Once again sponsorship of all Newport RFC players has been arranged. This season we have extended the sponsorship to the coaches and backroom staff, consequently the total amount raised this season is at a new record high. A small function for all sponsors was held in the Snelling Lounge on the day of the Ebbw Vale match. FoNR arranged the raffle of Newport RFC captain, Dai Pattison's shirt.



This raffle was also open to "non sponsors," we would like to thank all who helped us in raising over £100

Winner Peter White with Dai Pattison.

Bullion Draw continues to be a major fundraiser The November Bullion draw was held at half time at the Ebbw Vale game.

Will Kershaw-Naylor gave some pre-Christmas cheer to the following winners by pulling their numbers from the bag: -

1st - W Norris £300

2nd - E Hurn £75

3rd - R Booth £25

Congratulations to the lucky winners.



WKN performs the draw

BLACK & AMBER BULLION

is a monthly jackpot draw with major cash prizes on offer.

Monthly payments are automatically collected from your bank via standing order.



Become part of the excitement!
Hit the Bullion Trail!

Player Support once again we have provided training kits for the players, we also continue to supply and maintain the "Hydration Kits" that the players find so beneficial. Last season we were able to provide the funding for a qualified masseuse **The Goal Posts** are looking increasingly "tatty". It is hoped that in the near future these can be given a new lease of life. Negotiations are currently under way to obtain the necessary equipment to achieve this aim in a way that satisfies health and safety obligations. Another major consideration in undertaking this project is the need to work closely with the ground staff. Under no circumstances would we wish to compromise our excellent playing surface.

Newport RFC 11 v Australia 0

Friday 23rd November marked the exact 50th anniversary of Newport's fine victory over the 1957 touring Australian Wallabies. Newport won the game 11 - 0. It was the Australian's biggest defeat and the only game on the tour where they failed to score a single point. To celebrate this occasion a reunion was held for the former players and we were delighted that five members of the team on that day were able to join with us. Brian Cresswell, Ian Ford, Brian Scrivens, Des Greenslade and Bryn Meredith joined another thirty or so of their former colleagues to celebrate the victory and at the same time watch Newport beat Llanelli from the comfort of the Burnett Suite, named after another player who featured in the game.

Kev Jarvis welcomed everybody to the event before Brian Price (The Former Players Association President) gave an excellent speech outlining how the successful Newport team of the 1950's encouraged him to play to the best of his ability so that he could join the Black & Ambers. He spoke with pride of how the likes of this team had inspired players such as Dai Watkins and himself.

At half-time the former players were introduced to the Rodney Parade crowd on the pitch and they received a tremendous reception from all those present.



L to R Brian Scrivens, Brian Cresswell, Des Greenslade, Bryn Meredith & Ian Ford

After the match a 'Question & Answer' session was held in the Rodney Hall where supporters had the opportunity to ask the players about a wide range of subjects. All of the responses indicated what a great experience it was to play for Newport and how Newport RFC had played a massive part in their lives both then and now. There was much discussion about the merits of the amateur game and how their love of the team and the game was all the payment that they required.

Bryn Meredith gave a fascinating insight into touring with the British Lions at a time when overseas tours were a

very rare and special occasion. He spoke of his honour at representing his club and country in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.



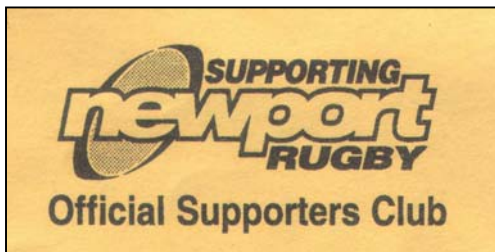
Des Greenslade & Brian Cresswell

There was widespread agreement and much cheering when all of the players admitted that the team they most looked forward to playing and beating was Cardiff. Brian Cresswell recounted his memories of playing in classic local derbies during the 1950's when these two massive club names used to meet four times a season.

There was much discussion regarding the price of tickets for club, regional and international fixtures with Bryn Meredith particularly keen to point out that the game shouldn't be priced out of the range of working class people and children. Bryn also had strong views on the current regional identities. He and the other players agreed that there had been no need to create regions when in fact Newport along with Cardiff, Swansea and Llanelli were already fulfilling regional responsibilities for their area.

Brian Cresswell closed proceedings with an emotional tale of a visit to New Zealand where he was treated with great respect due to his association with Newport RFC. He also made an appeal to the supporters to never let the name of Newport RFC be forgotten and for the club to strive to remain at the top tier of the game.

FoNR and the Supporters Club were delighted to be able to help the Former Players Association hold this event and we look forward to working with them closely again in the future

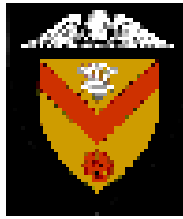


Newport Rugby Official Supporters Club Contact Details:

Website: www.newportrugbysupportersclub.com

E-Mail: admin@newportrugbysupportersclub.com

Post: c/o Newport RFC, Rodney Road, Newport NP19 0UU



Newport Rugby Official Supporters Club continues to support Newport RFC financially through player sponsorship. The Supporters' Club currently sponsors three players for the 2007-08 season – Matthew Veater, James Dixon and Mike Poole and we are delighted to continue this association.



Meet the Players Evening: The Supporters' Club once again hosted the 'Meet the Players' evening at the beginning of the season. During the course of the evening Newport RFC Chairman, Will Godfrey, presented club caps to players with more than 100 appearances with Mark Workman, Matthew Veater, Sven Cronk, Dai Pattison, Gethin Robinson and Dan Griffiths receiving their caps. There was a further cap for ex-player Rhys Jones, who was unable to collect it in person on the night.

Player of the Month: The Supporters' Club continues to sponsor the 'Player of the Month' awards for Newport RFC. Any supporter is able to vote each month by completing a voting form and posting it in the ballot box at the Supporters' Club table in the Rodney Hall at any home game. Congratulations to the early season winners – Richard Fussell for September and Scott Williams for October.



Merchandise: We offer a small range of traditional Newport RFC merchandise, Polo Shirts are available in various colours and sizes at a cost of just £15 and ties at just £11.



Social Events: Once again this year the Supporters' Club have arranged the highly popular New Years Eve party in the clubhouse at Rodney Parade. This is always a popular event and a fantastic way to see in the New Year with live entertainment from the Floodlights band and a disco to keep the party going into the early hours of 2008. To add to the party atmosphere, the clubhouse decorations include balloons, streamers and party novelties to make the evening go with a bang. Tickets are now on sale from any committee member at a cost of just £6.

Away Travel: The Supporters' Club continues to arrange coach travel to all Newport RFC away fixtures (except Cardiff RFC). Travel on the coaches is for members only but non-members can always book their place and then join 'on the day'. Bookings can be made at the Supporters' Club table at any home game or by contacting the Newport Ticket Office in person or by telephoning Newport 670690.



Members Free Prize Draw: All members are automatically entered into a free prize draw for every home league game. Adult winners get a £25 club shop voucher and Junior members receive £10. Congratulations to one of our latest Junior winners who was Carwyn Hunt – a long distance supporter from Queensland, Australia!



How To Join: Membership still costs just £3.50 for adults and £2 for juniors and seniors and that includes a free 'only with membership' lapel badge! Application Forms can be downloaded from our website and returned by post or completed in person at the Supporters' Club table in the Rodney Hall at any home game. Your contribution is vital to us and will help us do even more in support of Newport RFC projects.

PLEASE HELP US TO SUPPORT OUR CLUB:

We have recently sent out reminders to previous members who have not renewed their membership for the current season. If you have received one but not yet rejoined, we would be very pleased to receive your application form. Many thanks for your continued support!

Meet the Boss



Black & Amber Alliance had the opportunity recently to meet Gethin Jenkins, Chief Executive Officer of Rodney Parade Ltd

During the meeting we discussed many issues regarding his career to date, his hopes and aspirations for the sides playing out of Rodney Parade and also the planned development of the new stadium.

Career to date

Gethin is now 37 years of age, single and living in Cardiff, the place of his birth. His interests outside of rugby all revolve around sport, his other main interest being the “round ball game” where he supports his home town club, Cardiff City FC.

Prior to joining Rodney Parade Ltd as Commercial Director in 2004, Gethin spent many years working as Competitions Manager for the International Rugby Board. As part of their Tournament Department he was responsible for bringing together the development and commercial aspects of competitions. In this role he was directly involved in the organisation of some of their major tournaments, organising The RWC Sevens Final and World Sevens Series in places as far flung as Argentina, Chile, Malaysia and China. He was also responsible for the organisation of the World U19 & U21 Championships that were held in South Africa, but previously in France, Scotland, England and Italy. Another involvement was the organisation and delivery of the Women’s Rugby World Cup Finals in Barcelona and the qualification process for the 2003 Rugby World Cup.

During the IRB Rugby World Cup Finals he was involved as a match manager, notably being in charge of the 2003 England versus South Africa pool stage match, (I was watching on TV from Llandoverly!)

On the evening of 22nd November 2003 a certain game was reaching the end of extra time our CEO was desperately scrambling for a coin, he had both Sir Clive Woodward and Eddie Jones stood alongside him ready to “Toss the Coin” ready for the start of a second period of extra time. Luckily for me (as an Englishman), this search became unnecessary courtesy of that famous drop goal!

Prior to this Gethin spent time working for British Universities as a Tournaments Administrator, also spending some time with the WRU ticketing operation.

Role as CEO

The main function of the CEO is the day to day running of the business, delivering the policies of the Board and implementing structures and processes for a sustainable business. Long term this means living within our means as Gethin is keen to build a robust business with both teams playing at the top of their respective leagues.

Gethin stated that it was important to try and achieve a commercial balance between the needs and aspirations of the supporters of both sides. The ground is undeniably Newport RFC’s, but the bulk of the income is generated by the regional side. It is this complex relationship that needs careful management. It is also about staff delivering good service and catering to the needs of the teams and supporters in general. He was pleased to stress that he was surrounded by a good and committed management and staff team, and cited the example of the ground staff who have consistently produced an excellent playing surface.

Stadium development



Planning for the new stadium is progressing with a management company having been appointed, their role is to bring together all facets of the development including the appointment of architects, engineers and all other associated agencies. One of their key roles is also provide a business model for the new stadium; areas under consideration are possible retail outlets, hotel and conference facilities as well as

student accommodation. It is hoped that these will be decided in time for a planning application to be submitted in the spring of next year with work starting in January 2009 with completion planned for September 2010. The management company is the same one as that involved with the redevelopment of the memorial ground Bristol and has vast experience in this type of project.

Ultimately it is seen as being essential that the planned development creates an income stream that will sustain the ground in the longer term, a stadium and the teams which play in it can not be sustained based on just the revenue created by rugby alone especially if they wish to compete at the highest levels.

The challenge of where the 2 teams will play in the meantime is still being investigated, both sides having different needs regarding capacities etc, it is hoped that Newport RFC will remain Newport based in this period, however it is likely that the Dragons will have to go slightly further a field. At this time no decisions have been made.

Playing Staff

The development of home grown Welsh qualified players is a key criterion in the recruitment of the regional playing staff. It is essential to develop local players and to give them opportunities. It is not unusual for the Dragons to field a side with 14 or 15 Welsh qualified players. This should be the ultimate aim of all regions.

Having said that, Gethin was keen to stress that money would be available should the right player become available. That player would need to be one that had something real to offer Newport Rugby over a period of time, quoting the likes of Teichman, Snow and



Howarth, rather than a player just seeing out their last season. Another comparison drawn was with the Blues signings of Rush and Lomu, one being of real tangible value whereas the other was not. Whilst money



was available for the right signing there was no possibility of throwing a cheque book at the matter just to get any name.

When asked about the rumoured interest in Stephen Larkham, Gethin confirmed that an interest had been shown, but that at the end of the day the cost involved was unrealistic, particularly bearing in mind that at the time of our interview (1/3 of the season gone,) the player was still injured and consequently unable to play. When asked whether the region had potential signings in mind he replied that there were some under consideration but that signings were unlikely to happen until next season, unsurprisingly Gethin would not be drawn on names.



International fixtures

A strong bid had been placed with the WRU to host the U20 Six Nations Internationals. At the time of interview, this bid was being considered by the WRU, but Gethin was hopeful for a successful result. In the past these have been well attended and received well by all supporters, also providing some additional revenue and recognition for Newport Rugby!

Financial Services

For no **obligation** advice on Investment Planning, Estate Preservation, Mortgages, & all insurance needs, contact

Dugdale Taylor & Co,
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Cardiff Gate Business Park,
Cardiff, CF23 8RS
Tel 02920 547067

Email davidtingey@dugdaletaylorandco.com

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Beauty and The Beast



Saturday 24th Nov 2007 saw the wedding of Newport scrum half Mathew Thomas to his Fiancée Sally. As you will see Matt even had a wash and shave

prior to the event, (whether he went as far as shaving his legs again is another story!)

You've got to feel sorry for Sally, in most fairy tales the frog turns into a handsome Prince, she ended up with Matt!

All at Newport RFC wish them well in their new life together. We are delighted to be able to include a "match report" together with some photos, these are courtesy of our "Raving Reporter" Matt's father Jeff.

Well the big day has finally arrived! (No not Newport's win over Llanelli) Matthew's wedding day. Although the result on the Friday night really cheered him up!

K.O. magazine were there to take photographs and Matthew & Sally have sold their story & photographic rights to FoNR.

Sally spoke live on radio Wales on the morning of the wedding on the Owen Money show after a friend nominated her for a guest appearance. She was very good, but let out a few secrets about her early days with Matthew!

Matthew and Sally were very grateful for the kind messages and cards they received and would like to thank all the Newport RFC supporters with special thanks to videographers Marge & Mark for their video "tribute". The messages were played on the morning of the wedding & we all thoroughly enjoyed them. Fortunately or unfortunately some of the messages did not appear as they should due to technical difficulties!



The wedding went really smoothly with good service, quick delivery and Matthew bossing the best man & ushers the same way as he bosses the Newport pack!



Thank goodness Sally has safer hands than Matthew as she is a midwife!



There were some big names present like Craig Hill (or the saviour of Gwent rugby as he likes to be known) Nathan Williams, Dan Griffiths, Mike Poole & Gareth Wyatt.

One final thank you from Sally, is to the coaching staff and in particular Ian Hembrow for allowing Matthew the Friday night off! She made us keep him in the house and promise not to let him anywhere near Rodney Parade that night as he threatened to cover the bench if necessary!

A good day and night was had by all once again thank you friends, players, supporters and staff at Rodney Parade

Jeff Thomas



Black & Amber Leisure shirts

Friends of Newport Rugby Trust are launching a new polo shirt featuring the Traditional Newport Crest. Each shirt costs £28. If you are interested in ordering one, please come and see us at the stall on match days. Alternatively e-mail



Kevin.jarvis@ntlworld.com all usual sizes between S and XXXL are available. We can arrange delivery if required.