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Black & Amber Alliance

Issue 12

[Editor: tingeydavec@aol.com](mailto:tingeydavec@aol.com)

Lap Top

Black & Amber Alliance Issue 10 contained the announcement that FoNR were going to fund the provision of state of the art computer software that would enable the playing staff to analyse their own performances. Amongst other features this software gives the opportunity to either jump from phase to phase of a game, or to follow a particular player's entire contribution throughout a match. FoNR have also supplied the specialised lap top that is needed to run the software. The total cost of this equipment



Andy & Nathan caught studying a game

was close to £2000, careful consideration was given before such a large expenditure was made, but our research convinced us of the worth of this purchase.

Similar equipment is currently used by a host of top sides, including virtually all Guinness premiership sides and Magners league sides. Also after research and a good deal of negotiation we managed to achieve a fairly substantial discount off the original price quoted.

We are very pleased to report that this computer equipment is now in the hands of the players and is being used on a regular basis.



Andy Coombs receiving the lap top from FoNR's ugliest bloke.

"This provides a big boost to the management and players. It will assist the players in terms of improving their individual performances, thereby improving team performance through eradicating mistakes and building on the positives that are derived from the analysis."

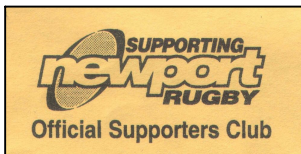
Mike Sage, Newport RFC Team Manager.

"This will be a great help, it will allow the boys to look at our own game and develop what we do."

Andrew Coombs, Newport RFC Captain.

"We can all watch the games, including past matches. We can break each game down which should help with future encounters."

Nathan Williams, Newport RFC.



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



Latest Members Prize Draw Winners:

Neath – 28th Feb 2009

Adult: Paul Bridges

Junior: Kim Berry

Bridgend – 20th Mar 2009

Adult: Phil Stallard

Junior: Joel Fowler

Members Prize Draw Winners: Every Supporters' Club member is automatically entered into a free Prize Draw at every home league game.

The latest winners are shown opposite. Adult winners get a £25 voucher and junior winners get a £10 voucher which can be spent in the Club Shop at Rodney Parade, all free with membership.

Join the Supporters' Club Today!



Rodney Hall Photographs: Back in 2004, the Supporters' Club funded and arranged for the display of the large photographs on the walls in the Rodney Hall. This was part of a wider project to refurbish and display club memorabilia in the Clubhouse. We are delighted to confirm that we have agreed to add to the photographs in the Rodney Hall several players who have made a significant contribution to Newport Rugby Club and this will be completed in the next few weeks.



Player of the Month Awards: We have begun catching up on a number of outstanding Player of the Month Awards for both Newport RFC and Newport Gwent Dragons. Following the game against Munster, we presented awards to Joe Bearman and Jason Tovey. Further presentations to the winning Dragons players will be made after the Connacht game.



We will catch up with the presentations to the latest winners of the Newport RFC Player of the Month awards following the Glamorgan Wanderers home game on Saturday, 4th April. The presentations will be made in the Rodney Hall approximately an hour after the end of the match so please come and show your support to the worthy winners.

Forthcoming Coaches:

Tuesday, 7th Apr 2009

Pontypridd RFC v Newport RFC

Saturday, 18th Apr 2009

Llanelli RFC v Newport RFC

Saturday, 25th Apr 2009

Aberavon RFC v Newport RFC

Saturday, 2nd May 2009

Bedwas RFC v Newport RFC

We will also announce coaches to any SWALEC Cup away fixtures as and when confirmed

Away Travel: The Supporters' Club continues to offer coach travel to all Newport RFC away fixtures. Travel on the coaches is for members only but non-members can always book their place on the coach and then join 'on the day'.

Bookings for the coaches can be made at the Supporters' Club table in the Rodney Hall at any home game or by contacting the Newport Ticket Office in person or by telephoning Newport 670690 at any time. The information opposite shows the away games left this season that we intend arranging coaches for (any further fixtures announced will be confirmed in due course).

Newport RFC End of Season Dance: We are currently finalising arrangements for the annual Newport RFC End of Season Dance to be held in May. Arrangements will be confirmed in early April but will of course include the presentations to the Player of the Year and Clubman of the Year. Supporters' Club members choose the Player of the Year through a vote and voting forms will be sent to all members in the next few weeks.



Supporters' Club AGM: As we approach the end of another season, we will shortly be confirming the date of the annual AGM. Members will receive notification of the date at least four weeks before the event.

Match Day Mascots: There are still opportunities for junior members to be a mascot at a Newport RFC home game this season. If you know someone who would enjoy this special match day experience, please make contact at either the Supporters' Club or FONR tables in the clubhouse on any match day.

PLEASE HELP US TO SUPPORT OUR CLUB: We would be very pleased to receive your application form for membership at the earliest opportunity. Membership application forms can be downloaded from our website or completed at the Supporters' Club table in the Rodney Hall at any home game. Many thanks for your continued support!

Help Us: We currently have a number of vacancies on the Supporters' Club committee and we would welcome hearing from any member who feels that they can give the time and commitment to help run the Supporters' Club. If you are interested, please visit our match day table in the Rodney Hall or contact any committee member for more information or to discuss how you can help.

Get ready for the beach



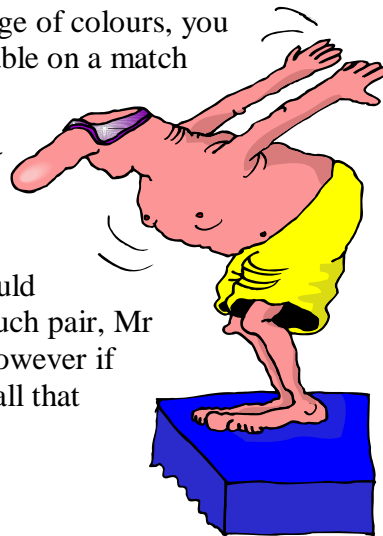
FoNR would like to thank Newport & Newport Gwent Dragons Prop **Gethin Robinson** for agreeing to model the latest addition to our range of Newport RFC badged merchandise. Gethin always gives everything to the Newport cause which endears him to all supporters, we are extremely grateful to him for agreeing to pose.

It would be poor journalism if I were to recount some of the excuses dragged out by certain squad members as to why they couldn't also pose. Equally I feel that naming names would be disrespectful, Mr Coombs! It would also be wrong to single out Sam Waldron for the limpest excuse, so I better not do that!

Anyway back to the towels, these come in a range of colours, you name it we can do it! Place your orders at our table on a match day, or email us via tingevdavec@aol.com

Quality towels just £10 per towel!

I understand that similarly badged **Swimming Trunks** are available in a range of colours. Should there be enough demand then the owner of on such pair, Mr Nick Jackson, will model in the next edition! However if enough donations are received I will spare you all that ordeal!



Black & Amber Bullion Jackpot Draw *Backing the future of rugby in Newport*

February Bullion Draw

February's draw was performed by Newport RFC full back Mike Burke. Congratulations to all the winners.

1st (£300) - Joanne Williams
2nd (£75) - Peter Roberts
3rd (£25) - Claire Rogers



March Draw



The March draw was held at the Newport V Bridgend fixture. Newport's all time record point scorer Dan Griffiths was on hand to pull the numbers out of the hat.

1st (£300) - Pauline Card
2nd (£100) - David Hobbs
3rd (£50) - Ken Mould

Bullion Draw has raised £11,395.00

Please consider joining to help raise funds to support Newport RFC. Forms can be picked up the clubhouse at Rodney Parade.



The Rotary Club of Newport Uskmouth

FoNR would like to express its sincere thanks to The Rotary Club of Newport Uskmouth and to its members. We are extremely thankful that we have been chosen as one of their good causes and as such we have been able to participate in their grand prize raffle.

Many local charities and fund raising organisations were invited to join, basically those groups were given a quantity of tickets to sell, all the prizes and the tickets etc were supplied thanks to the hard work of the Rotarians. All we had to do was sell the tickets and bank the proceeds, every single penny of every ticket sale goes into the accounts of the group that sold it!

We were given 950 tickets to sell, so it is our hope that by selling each and every one of those tickets we will have raised £950 to further FoNR's work either here at Rodney Parade, or within the local community.

Whilst it would be impossible to name all of the Rotarians in full, our particular thanks go to **Mr Paul Stephens** for inviting us to participate, Paul is a regular visit to Rodney Parade and has seen first hand the work carried out by FoNR. Paul and his colleagues arranged for more than a dozen prizes to be donated by local businesses, one of these was supplied by our Rodney Parade Limited. I know Paul was grateful for the support of CEO Gethin Jenkins for not only the prize, but for the use of Rodney Parade for the launch meeting and also the grand draw which will take place on Friday 8th May.

FoNR would also like to thank the efforts of those members of ours that "volunteered" to sell tickets on our behalf. We would however like to remind those volunteers that all ticket stubs and the cash needs returning to us ASAP, as our deadline to collate these and return to the Rotary Club is imminent.

Thank you to all involved!

Community News.

Friends of Newport Rugby are once again helping grassroots rugby in and around the Newport area. The Trust has received a very generous donation of mint condition rugby training and coaching books from Newport author and 'Black and Amber' fan Steve Lewis. Steve runs the Internet bookshop – rugbybuythebook.co.uk – and has always been very supportive of the work that FoNR do for Newport RFC and the local rugby community.

The books are being passed on to those involved with coaching junior rugby in our area. Donations have already been received by Bettws RFC and Caldicot RFC youth team management.

Jason Elliott coaches the Caldicot youngsters. Jason quoted 'We are very pleased that Friends of Newport Rugby have made such a generous donation to our youth team. As coaches we put a big emphasis on ensuring that the lads are coached correctly and we take every opportunity to learn from the experience of others. These books will be a great help.'

Stuart Grant is a former Newport United player and has been involved with running the junior teams at Bettws RFC for many years. Stuart said 'We have an excellent relationship with everyone at FoNR and have benefited in the past from the generosity of their organisation and all those at Newport RFC. This is another great example of Newport RFC working closely with the junior clubs in the town and we are very grateful for this kind donation.'

As mentioned previously, we have filled all our mascot spots for this season with very special guests appearing at our last home game against Crosskeys on 11th April. Our latest mascot was Young Tomos Little who met centurion Richard Dale and inspired Newport to a crucial victory over current league champions Neath.



At the same match, we were hosts to children from Eveswell Primary School who are now Rodney Parade regulars. The familiar red and white jerseys were on show as Eveswell ran across the hallowed turf prior to Newport over coming Neath in breathtaking style.



At the final home match, children who won our art competition will receive their prizes from a Newport hero. This competition has been run annually and is a big success in creating more interest in the community for rugby at Rodney Parade.

Eight year old Harry Cullen was expecting to make his appearance as mascot back in January, but the original fixture fell foul of the weather leaving Harry with a long frustrating wait. It was all worthwhile however as Newport overpowered a Bridgend side, bolstered by regional players, to chalk up a convincing bonus point win. Harry's favourite black and amber hero, Dan Griffiths



was still nursing an injury but we were lucky enough to ambush him outside the players tunnel to grab the all important photograph. Harry also asked to meet try scoring marvel, Mike Poole for a picture before leading out the 'Port with Captain Andy Coombs.



Ground Redevelopment – FoNR Statement

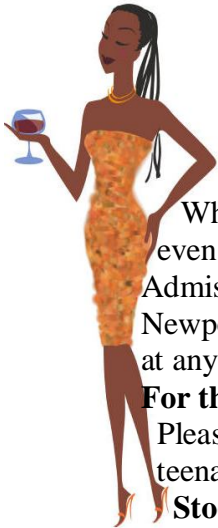
FoNR welcome the development of Rodney Parade. We have been consulted throughout the process and continue to have regular meetings with Rodney Parade Ltd. Our ideas have been welcomed and many of our requests and suggestions have been taken on board and incorporated into the submitted planning application. We are extremely pleased that an area of terracing has been included in the plans and that the Memorial Gates will be repositioned to comprise one of the main entrances to the redesigned stadium. We have also lobbied for the memorabilia that upholds the proud tradition of Newport RFC to be given a prominent public display and we have received assurances that this will happen. The development of Rodney Parade will always be an emotive subject, however it is clear that the existing stadium is in need of modernisation and the opportunity to remain at Rodney Parade, whilst seeing improvements in the stadium is one that FoNR very much welcome. We recognise that with two teams currently playing out of RP that opinions can be polarised and that this is a source of anxiety to some supporters. We are, however, satisfied that the investment in the redeveloped stadium is going to be managed in a sensible and prudent way. The stadium will evolve in phases, which will commence at the “Scoreboard” end with a new stand, clubhouse, training barn and other facilities. The phased approach will enable decisions to be made (e.g. prevailing economic conditions etc) at the right time without committing to a wholesale redevelopment in one go. Should it be necessary to sell any land to finance any of the redevelopment it is the understanding of FoNR that this proposal would be put before the shareholders to approve. The way in which the WRU currently structure Regional and Club rugby has increased pressures on the premier teams. FoNR are taking a very active role in ensuring that Newport RFC are able to survive despite this structure and it is our view that the redevelopment of the ground is likely help achieve this objective. It is highly unlikely that Newport RFC could generate enough income to remain playing at Rodney Parade if the regional team were not based here. Furthermore, not only will the redevelopment help in financial terms but it will also bring with it massive benefits to the playing squads of both sides. The training barn and gymnasiums will provide considerable improvements to the existing facilities that all players currently use. It is hoped that this will help with the continued development of our existing players, it should also help in

the future recruitment of players to Newport RFC as well as the regional team.

Looking further ahead, later phases of the planned redevelopment include accommodation, retail outlets and conference facilities and these income streams will help to ensure the continued presence of Newport RFC at Rodney Parade for years to come. The redevelopment will take away much of the current dependence placed upon receipts generated from the Newport Gwent Dragons either through the turnstiles or from the annual payment from the WRU. To put this into context, it is a fact that the monies generated through the gates, season tickets and walk-ups etc for both teams amounts to less than 10% of the total income – This is why other forms of income are so important going forward.

FoNR exists to help promote rugby at Rodney Parade and also in the local community. We primarily focus our energies on Newport RFC, but we acknowledge the place that the Newport Gwent Dragons hold in the current WRU set up.

We would like to thank all of our members for their continued support and urge all rugby supporters at Rodney Parade to join us. We are making a difference, we do have a voice that is not just heard, but listened to. Our input is sought after by the board not just accepted. Together we can make a difference and ensure that Rugby at Rodney Parade becomes a financially viable proposition, and that the great name and proud traditions of Newport RFC can be maintained.



Fashionable Occasion

A Fashion Show and Sale will be held in the Rodney Hall on **Tuesday 21st April at 7:30 PM**. In the past this has proved to be an extremely enjoyable and popular event.

Why not come along and have a good night out, you may even grab yourself a bargain!

Admission is £4 which includes a glass of wine. All proceeds to Newport team funds. Tickets can be obtained from Mary Bennett at any home game or telephone: 07929958175

For the guys there will be a grand quiz in the bar.

Please support this event, bring your partner, granny and the teenagers. All are very welcome to attend.

Stock on show is normally from a range of extremely well known high street retailers & the prices are ridiculously low.

100 Appearances – Congratulations

Our congratulations and thanks go to the latest players to receive their Newport RFC Caps after reaching 100 appearances in Black & Amber. Back row forward Richard Dale made his 100th appearance against Neath, and another stalwart in the back row, Paul “Doc” Williams made his 100th against Bridgend. Both players were accorded the honour of leading out the sides at the respective matches.



Richard and Paul become the 8th and 9th players from current squad to be awarded their caps.

They were presented with their caps by Newport RFC chairman Will Godfrey after the Bridgend match on Friday March 20th 2009 at Rodney Parade.

