



Black & Amber Alliance

Issue 13

www.fonr.co.uk

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FoNR is growing, in terms of membership, funds raised, profile and influence. All funds raised are used to promote Rugby here at Rodney Parade and in our local community. Not only have we provided substantial help over the years to Newport RFC but we have made large financial contributions to local junior rugby sides. We have also made significant financial contributions to many improvements to the infrastructure here at Rodney Parade, these projects have been of **benefit to the players and supporters of all sides that play here, be it Club, Regional, Home or Away!** Here are a few examples –



- Goal Post Refurbishment**
- Floodlight Upgrade**
- Lounge Bar Refurbishment**
- Memorabilia**
- Memorial Gates**
- Gymnasium Heating**
- Clubhouse Toilets**
- Bar Staff Uniforms**



FoNR's support of these projects, and others, give supporters a voice at Rodney Parade, with your help we can continue that support and increase the influence that all supporters have.

Be heard, complete the enclosed membership application and return it to the ticket office.

Supporting Rugby at Rodney Parade & Rugby in the Community

Rod Snow becomes FoNR Vice Patron

Friends of Newport Rugby were delighted to unveil Newport RFC & Newport Gwent Dragon legend Rod Snow as their Vice Patron. Canadian prop Rod was touring with his new side "Newfoundland Rock" and their game against Newport RFC provided the ideal opportunity.



FoNR secretary, Kev Jarvis, explains "Rod showed real loyalty to the club and stuck with us through thick and thin. He is such an icon and was a real clubman who turned down a number of offers to go elsewhere. He was a special guest of ours in 2004 when he

gave a very good speech about what Newport meant to him and it is clear that he has such an affinity for the club."

"Rod is such a huge favourite and we are delighted that he has agreed to be Vice Patron and take up this figurehead role."

At the same match FoNR organised a balloon race and sold limited edition "Snowy T Shirts", this all helped to raise funds to continue the works undertaken. We were thankful to the Supporters Club for organizing a DJ in the club house, which all added to the party atmosphere.

Vice Patron "Snowy" addresses the supporters.



Dragon fires 'Port'

Jon Bryant had a pretty illustrious career as a hard tackling centre before becoming the Newport RFC Backs coach. Aberdare born Jon has been happily married to his wife Rebecca for 7 years, he has 2 step children Craig & Amy together with 5 year old daughter Tia and 1 year old son Harvey. The Bryant family live in Barry with Rob Sidoli & ex Newport RFC favourite Nick Kelly as neighbours. I guess this might explain why youthful 32 year old Jon doesn't look a day over 40!



Away from Rugby Jon has a successful Eden Park clothing franchise to run, any spare time is spent on the golf course. "When allowed" to play (hope Rebecca doesn't see this,) Jon states his handicap is himself, officially he plays off of a handicap of 22, he did have a broad grin when he said this and the word "Bandit" was mentioned!

Jon is currently studying for his level 4 coaching badge along with Newport Gwent Dragon head coach Paul Turner. He believes that one of his main attributes as a coach is his understanding with the players, he can connect with them especially as he has only just finished playing. "I'm still developing as a coach it's very early days. It is strange though that the way I coach rugby is different to the way I was told to play. Rugby is a 15 man game these days and players can't be tied by the number on their jersey."

With a playing career starting with Merthyr, encompassing Pontypridd, Celtic Warriors, Cardiff Blues, Sale Sharks, Barbarians, Wales as well as Newport RFC & Newport Gwent Dragons you can understand why the current crop of players respect him!

When asked about the highlights of his career Jon has done little to endear himself with supporters at Rodney Parade, winning the cup with Pontypridd was a major highlight. Jon was known for strong running and fearsome tackles throughout his playing career, he picked one such "Bone Cruncher" as a second highlight. Playing a Parker Pen European Challenge match, again for Pontypridd, Jon put in a particularly solid tackle on the London Irish talisman Brendon Ventner. That one tackle, if Jon is to be believed, appears to have destroyed the opponents will to win and single handedly changed the course of the game!

Without doubt another high point of Jon's playing days was his single cap for Wales. Playing Romania in Wrexham in August 2003 Jon

made his debut along with other Rodney Parade favorites Nathan Brew, Andy Williams and Paul Young. Also in the side were Chris Anthony, Ian Gough, Gareth Wyatt, Alix Popham and Andy Marinos, all who have at some stage of their careers worn our colours.

Finally, after a far bit of probing, Jon came up with the statement "I've always enjoyed playing at Rodney Parade, whoever it's been for or against, and I have loved the support." (Bit late maybe but win us something this year and we may forgive you!)

When asked about the coming season Jon was extremely positive, "we have recruited well and we have retained everyone we wanted to. It was our aim to bolster the squad as last year injuries to key players at critical times cost us dearly. Ideally we want to have 2 people really competing for every position, this would give us the opportunity we didn't have last year to rest key players at certain times of the season. We have a new competition, the British & Irish Cup to cope with this year, this will bring added incentives."

"It is important to us as a coaching squad that we try and win something this year for the fans." When asked what he most wanted to win the answer came quickly "it doesn't really matter too much just as long as we can drink from the trophy!"

"I also must pay tribute to the part that Sven Cronk, Dai Gray & Mike Sage have played, I am a young coach and I have a big learning curve, the experience that those three bring is phenomenal!"

As a supporter I can only say that it is great to have Jon's playing experience and the infectious enthusiasm as part of the coaching set up, thanks Jon and good luck with the coming season.



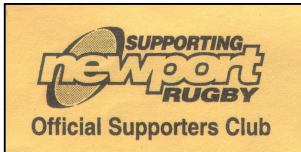
Fashion Sense

Mary Bennett is once again organising a Fashion Show, profits are all going to help NRFC. The show will be at Rodney Parade on **Tuesday 3rd November at 7.30pm**. Admission is £4 which includes a glass of wine. Tickets from Mary at any home game or phone 07929958175.

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

Please support this event, bring your partner, granny and neighbours. The last was an extremely enjoyable affair and raised just over £400

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



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



Player of the Month Awards: The Supporters' Club have once again agreed to organise and fund the Player of the Month awards for both Newport RFC and Newport Gwent Dragons for the 2009/10 season. Supporters can vote for their favourite player for both teams at any home game and the winners will be presented with their award after matches at Rodney Parade throughout the forthcoming season.

Away Travel

The Supporters' Club will be offering coach travel to Newport RFC away fixtures and certain Newport Gwent Dragons fixtures, subject to demand.

Bookings for the coaches can be made at the SC table in the Rodney Hall at any home game or by contacting the Newport Ticket Office on 01633 670690.

Player Sponsorship: The Supporters' Club are pleased to confirm continued sponsorship of two Newport RFC players for the 2009/10 season. For the fourth year, we will sponsor Mike Poole and for the second year, we will sponsor Tom Riley. We are delighted to continue this sponsorship as an excellent method of using Supporters' Club funds to directly financially support Newport RFC.

PLEASE HELP US TO SUPPORT OUR CLUB: We would be very pleased to receive your application form for membership at the earliest opportunity. Completed application forms can be returned to us at the Supporters' Club table in the Rodney Hall at any home game or by posting to the club at the address at the top of this page. Many thanks for your continued support and **please join the Supporters' Club TODAY!**

www.newportrugbysupportersclub.com

Members Prize Draw

Once again for the 2009/10 season, there will be a FREE Members Prize at every home league match. Adult winners get a £25 voucher, junior winners get a £10 voucher which can be spent in the Club Shop at Rodney Parade. Entry is FREE with membership, so join up today!

Match Day Mascots: We will continue to offer the chance 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. This scheme is run in conjunction with FoNR.

STOP PRESS! CREDIT CRUNCH! Membership fees FROZEN AGAIN!

For the EIGHTH year running, Membership Fees remain frozen at £3.50 for Adults and £2.00 for seniors & under 16's. Don't forget the membership fee includes our free 'only with



Player of the Year 2008/09 Mike Poole

Mike Poole joined Newport RFC and at the start of the 2006/07 season, making his debut against Aberavon on 2nd Sept 2006.

Poole was Newport RFC's top try scorer last season with 19 touch downs. About to start his fourth season at the club, he has made 76 appearances to date scoring 28 tries on total.

Clubman of the Year 2008/09 Mark Workman

Worky is now starting his 12th season playing for Newport RFC, having made his debut against London Irish on 12th April 1993.

He made his 250th appearance for the club against Bridgend at Rodney Parade on 24th January 2009.

At the end of the 2008/09 season, he had made 263 appearances for the club and scored 27 tries.



Player of the Month April 2009 Dan Griffiths

We also took the opportunity to ask Rod to present the April 2009 Player of the Month award to Dan Griffiths.

Dan had made 166 appearances for Newport RFC by the end of the 2008/09 season and is of course the clubs all time leading points scorer, currently on 1461 and counting!

Newport Rugby Official Supporters Club are very grateful for the assistance of Black and Amber legend, Rod Snow, who made the traditional end of season presentations when he brought his Newfoundland Rock team to Rodney Parade over the summer.



Utility Warehouse

As many of you will be aware, Friends of Newport Rugby have teamed up with Utility Warehouse – This initiative has taken off really well over the last year or so and we now have many people signed up to the great value for money offers on gas, electricity, home phone, mobile phone and broadband.

You can take as many or as few services as you want, but every service that you take will directly benefit Newport RFC – Imagine every time you turn on a light, boil a kettle or make a call, not only will **you** be saving but FoNR will benefit too...

We all know that we currently live in very uncertain times and that utilities in particular have seen price increases – It is a simple fact that most people do not change their current suppliers, however, you have got absolutely nothing to lose -the process is very easy and straight forward and can easily be done online at www.telecomplus.org.uk/savewithfonr If you want more information or help with this, please contact our Corporate Officer, Andrew Hopkins an his email address andrew@fonr.co.uk and he'll be delighted to help you.

The more people that sign up with Utility Warehouse the more money that we can raise to support FoNR, who in turn provide outstanding support both to Newport RFC and Rodney Parade and you save too!

Single bill for all your utilities
Award-winning customer service
Value that's unbeatable
Easy to switch

****Newsflash** Utility Warehouse is just awarded Which ? Magazine Best Buys for all of its Broadband Products**

You can join the trust as a full member for as little as £10 per year. There is a concessionary rate for senior citizens and full time students. All adults (over 16 years) can join the Trust as full members. Full membership entitles the member to vote at the Trust's AGM, as well as other Trust meetings such as EGM's and trust member ballots. Junior members are not entitled to vote.

Full Name

Address

Postcode **email**

Home Tel **Mobile**

Full Membership £10 **Junior £5**

Concessionary £5 **Family (2+2) £24**

Signed **Dated**

To the Manager (name and full postal address of your bank)

Please accept this instruction to credit Friends of Newport Rugby Trust Fund;
 Sort Code / / Account No. _____ at the
 Co-operative Bank quoting reference no. _____

Sort Code / / **Account No.**

First Payment Due

Please post to FoNR, Rodney Parade Ltd, Rodney Parade, Rodney Road. Newport, NP19 0UU

Newport retain their crown

Saturday 8th September saw the annual **Men of Gwent 7's** tournament being held at Rodney Parade. This annual event was contested by most of the regions Premiership sides, together with some of the local sides from lower divisions. Also competing, as in previous years was a very talented side representing the Newport Gwent Dragons Academy, however real spice was added with the inclusion of an invitational side “The Welsh Wizards.” The “Wizards are a professional 7's side that competes regularly on the “circuit” and were strongly tipped at the outset to grab the £1250 winners cheque together with the trophy.



Newport RFC fielded a squad that due to injuries contained only one forward, so from the outset it appeared that the odds were stacked against them. Once again the squad was led by the man with a gold medal from being part of the World Championship winning Welsh side the 7's expert Craig Hill and as usual “medallion man” was inspirational to much of the days events.

First match up was against the “Wizards” this proved to be an exciting game with the honours being shared. Victory against Newbridge



meant Newport RFC qualifying for the knockout stages albeit as group runners up to the invitational side.

The ¼ finals saw Caerphilly dispatched 43 -5, and the semi final against Cross Keys was another impressive effort with “The Port” running out 28-12 victors.

This brought up a repeat of the first match for the final, the result however was completely different Newport dominated the game and run out easy winners with the final score 20-7. This was a particularly impressive display as during the day no other side

came close to scoring against the invitational side.

Victorious captain Craig Hill said “They had nilled everyone else so this was a great squad effort, after drawing in the opening game we saw their strengths and weaknesses. We tried to rattle them in the final and it worked, they play sevens week in, week out, so credit to the boys. We only had one forward in the one forward in the whole squad due to injuries, but they did a really good job.”





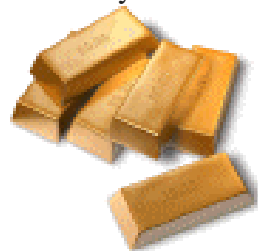
The August numbers were drawn out of the hat by Newport RFC three-quarter Nathan Williams at halftime during the fixture versus Newfoundland Rock.



- 1st (£300) - John James
- 2nd (£75) - Diana Evans
- 3rd (£25) - Mary Bennett

The June draw was carried out at the FoNR AGM. FoNR were delighted that former Newport prop Gordon Keeley was on hand to make the draw. Gordon is a life member of The Trust and his support is very much appreciated.

- 1st (£300) - Brian Humphries
- 2nd (£75) - Joe Crocker
- 3rd (£25) - Ian Wilson



Join now to raise funds to support Newport RFC. Pick up a form from the clubhouse at Rodney Parade.

The Rotary Club of Newport Uskmouth

Last season you may recall that, with your support we raised over £900 to help Rugby at Rodney Parade and in the community. We are really pleased to announce that we have once again been given the opportunity to participate in their next draw. So once again we will be asking you for your help in selling tickets!



Some of the “New Kids on the Block”

Chris Wannell

Outside half, made debut for Newport RFC last season on permit from Blackwood, and has signed this season on dual contract.



Ryan Owen

Signed from Bedford, has represented Wales at U18 level, and can play either, Wing, Centre or Fullback.



Alan Awcock

Full back, has played for England Students. Played on permit from UWIC last season against Aberavon, scoring a try on his debut.



Gareth Wyatt

Wing or Fullback Gareth joins Newport RFC this season from the Newport Gwent Dragons. Has played for Wales as well as Wales 7's, U19's, U21's

David Walsh

Scrum half, joins from Cardiff having previously played for Worcester Warriors. Represented Wales at U16, U18 & U19 levels



FoNR would like to welcome all new players to Newport RFC