

Friends of Newport Rugby



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Black & Amber Alliance

Issue 14

FoNR provide medical insurance

Newport Rugby are delighted that the Trust have again pledged their support to the club, this time by contributing to the private medical & health cover of the squad. "The well-being and fitness of our players is vital in order to get the best out of the squad both on & off the field of play", said Team Manager, Mike Sage.



David James receives medical attention

Highlighting the importance of this support, Newport Rugby Chartered Physiotherapist, Jeremy Williams stated, "the cover allows early assessment of injury to be acted upon immediately, it not only gives the players piece of mind but also ensures they have the most efficient and effective care possible. The support is much appreciated and will aid us enormously throughout the season, allowing us to get our players back to fitness as soon as possible doing what they are at the club to do, play rugby!"

Newport centre Scott Williams said "We are extremely grateful to FoNR for their assistance, the insurance gives peace of mind, and means that we can continue a career outside of rugby should an injury happen"

Paul Williams is helped from the field by Dr John & Noel Hines



Newport V South Africa 1969 Reunion

On the evening of October 29th a reunion was held for the Newport RFC team who beat South Africa 11 6 in 1969. To celebrate the event the team



reassembled at the Rodney Hall to watch the game on the big screen with the Newport supporters.

The event was hosted by Friends of Newport Rugby who are very grateful to Phil Steele of

the BBC for offering his services as compere for the night. Phil kept everyone entertained with his topical comedy and reminisces of his time as a player with Newport.

A charity raffle and donations raised over 200 pounds for the George Thomas Hospice. Newport's captain on the day, John Anthony,



John

Anthony presents the prize. made a speech outlining the events of the day, the tactics, match action and celebrations. Particular reference was made to the anti-apartheid demonstrations that were staged outside the ground. It was particularly pleasing to welcome back try scorer Allan Scrum Half Gwilym Treharne Skirving who had travelled from his home in Australia. Other speakers include players Ivor Taylor, Barry Llewelyn, Keith Poole, Del Haines and Bill Raybould.



A DVD copy of the match highlights is available from FONR for £10 , Send a cheque made payable to FONR to FONR, c/o Newport RFC, Rodney Parade, Newport. NP19 0UU.

Scott Williams meets B&A Alliance

Your intrepid B&A Alliance reporter met up with one of Newport's favourite players recently. 27 year old inside centre "Scotty" is undoubtedly one of the most popular players to pull on the famous Black & Amber shirt. Scott was born and raised in Cwmbran, attending school at Hollybush Primary, Llantarnum Comp, and then Cwmcarn School. He still lives in Cwmbran with his long term Fiancée Laura and their Chonzer dog called Jack. *(They tell me that a person can look like their dog, I've reproduced a photo of Jack, you can decide for yourselves!)*



Scott has recently started work as a teaching assistant working with autistic children at a school in Llantwit Fadre. Whilst this is proving extremely rewarding it is curtailing his practice on a PS3! The PS3 cropped up several times in our conversation and it is Scott's main method of "taking his brain off of rugby." However he also tells me that he enjoys watching all sport, and I can also state with certainty that his Netball skills are pretty good having once turned out for a charity match!

On the Rugby front Scott played for NHSOB, Cwmbran & Ynysdu before joining Newport Youth. Scott has also represented Wales at U16, U18, U21 levels and was captain of the U19's. He's had two spells at Newport making his debut prior to regionalization then being a member of the side that won the first Welsh Premiership Championship. Scott then left to try his luck with Pertemp Bees in the English 1st division, when I asked why he, along with many others at the time, chose to ply their trade in England the response was that the English clubs appeared to "want us more, it was

a chance to gain new experiences and the contracts that were being offered at that time were vastly different."

After a year travelling became problematic and Scott made the decision to return to Wales, the obvious question was what on earth made you go to Pontypool of all places? The simple answer was that "they were the only club that showed any interest in having me play for them!" Thankfully times changed and Scott is now back where he belongs.

Asked about his most memorable match the second answer was "making my debut for Newport RFC, Ian McIntosh was coach, we played Bridgend and I was opposite Lions John Deveraux and Daffyd James. I say second as the first he came out with was "turning Newport over while I was at Pooler!" *(I mustn't let Scott take all the blame for this as he was encouraged by his chauffeur, a certain Andrew Quick, who had joined us at this stage!)*

Asked about this season the response was "we are here just to win, that it always our sole aim, we are still aiming to win the league and do well in the cup. The British & Irish cup will be tough, we are expecting very hard physical games, winning our home matches will be vital, if we can do that then anything can happen!"

In wrapping up our chat Scott was keen to thank the fans in general for the support that they give him and the team. He also thanked FoNR in particular for the ongoing support that is received by Newport RFC, such



as help with the supply of nutritional foods and the masseur attached to the squad. In particular he singled out the recent provision of the lap top and game analysis software, this has proved to be a major success and extremely helpful to the playing squad and coaches alike.

Vice Captains Hall of Shame

In past “Halls of Shame” Scott has had a starring role in many unwanted categories. B&A Alliance thought it would be good to allow him to redress the balance, once again we ask the vital questions!

First to the bar - Dai Pattison

This award has previously been given on 2 separate occasions to Scotty, it is with great pleasure that he hands it on to someone who previously nominated him! I was banned from using the expression “turbo Pig,” so hopefully we can keep that a secret!



Last from the bar - Mark Workman

Another award that Scotty has dominated in the past. This time it goes to Lock Mark Workman, it would appear that “longstanding” now not only means that he has played more games for Newport RFC than any other current

player!



Tightfisted Award - Andrew Brown

“Browner” retains this award, apparently his “carefulness” is legendary within the squad! A previous winner of this award was Dan Griffiths (don’t worry Dan you were not forgotten!)



First to the grub - Luke Hunter

Apparently Prop Luke Hunter shows an amazing turn of speed, even outpacing previous winners Gethin Robinson & Andy Brown!

Last to the showers - Andrew Coombes

Captain Andy Coombes almost nominated himself for this award last season, in the end he took the easy way out and plumped for another of last seasons squad. (Prop Alex Murphy, now at Ebbw Vale.) This year Scott has righted the wrong!



Mirror hogging - Daniel Griffiths

Not only has Dan broken all previous records in becoming the highest ever



points scorer in the clubs history, but he also holds another record. Apparently “Zoolander” has now amassed more time in front of the mirror than even previous champion Craig Hill

.....& finally

Stupidest email address

As part of our quest to ensure that articles are factually correct we email the article to the various interviewees and ask for them to “proof read.” While for obvious reasons I can’t give Scotts email address here in full it does rank highly on the daft scale!



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Sponsors of Gethin Robinson

Community Sponsorship

The main activity of the Community Section of the Trust so far this season, was to organise a sponsorship deal with St.Julians High School Old Boys U10 RFC. The St. Julians club has been in existence for many years but only recently have they introduced min-and junior sections. The Under Ten age group were a new entity this season and as such needed a full kit out. As usual, this cost falls to the parents and coaches at the club. As the Trust is committed to the encouragement of youngsters to take up the game in Newport, we were only too pleased to help out and provided a £500 cash injection to help the team along. In return, Trust members will be pleased to see that St.Julians display our endorsement on their playing jerseys. In this way, the Trust is promoted wherever the youngsters play.



We asked Mike Poole to award the cheque at Rodney Parade earlier this season.

Matchday Guests

The Trust, in connection with the Supporters Club have launched this season's mascot scheme again and already have a healthy list of regular and new applicants for the honour of leading out Newport on matchday. We would dearly like some more new faces however, particularly this season with extra fixtures in the BI Cup. We have never turned anyone down so please don't be shy and sign up to head up the 'Port. See any committee member of either supporters group to take part.

There are also many opportunities for your club, school team or any other group to provide a Guard of Honour for the teams as they run out. All participants get free tickets to the game as well so it is a great opportunity. We like to get as many children involved with Newport Rugby as possible, so please sign up for this scheme. Again, contact a Trust Committee Member to apply.

FoNR's Community Officer lurks in the background. Looks happy doesn't he?



Fashion Show

In the previous edition of B&A Alliance we reported on an upcoming fashion show, all proceeds in aid of the club. We have received the following update from Mary Bennett that outlines the success of the show.

Our congratulations and thanks go to Mary.

“The fashion show was a great success with over 80 people attending and about 30 men taking part in the quiz in the bar. The ladies enjoyed looking at the clothes and nearly everyone snapped up a few bargains. The quiz was a close affair with The Welsh Alcoholics Touring Squad eventually winning by half a point. A big 'thank-you' to quizmaster, Alan Cording, for a very entertaining couple of hours. Everyone enjoyed the evening and the latest figures say that about £500 was raised for Newport RFC team funds. Thanks to those who came, those who donated raffle prizes, and those who bought raffle tickets.”





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: Once again this season, the Supporters' Club is pleased to sponsor both the Newport RFC and Newport Gwent Dragons 'Player of the Month' awards. All supporters can vote for their favourite player by completing a voting slip and posting it in the ballot box at the Supporters' Club table in the Rodney Hall at any home game.



The winners of the September awards were Scott Williams for Newport RFC and Tom Riley for Newport Gwent Dragons. Congratulations to both winners.

Don't forget to place your vote for your 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 season.



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 forthcoming away games that we intend arranging coaches for, including the two festive fixtures (please note any further fixtures will be confirmed in due course).

Forthcoming Coaches:

Saturday, 5th Dec 2009
Neath RFC v Newport RFC

Saturday, 26th Dec 2009
Ebbw Vale RFC v Newport RFC

Sunday, 27th Dec 2009
Cardiff Blues v Newport Gwent Dragons

Saturday, 9th Jan 2010
Carmarthen Quins v Newport RFC

Saturday, 23rd Jan 2010
Bedwas RFC v Newport RFC

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



NEW YEARS EVE PARTY: The highly popular New Years Eve party in the clubhouse at Rodney Parade is back this year with live entertainment from the One Night Only band to see out the final moments of 2009 and a disco to keep the party going into the early hours of 2010. Tickets are on sale NOW and available from the Supporters' Club table or the clubhouse bars. Cost is just £10, including a free first drink.

NEWPORT PLAYERS SHIRT RAFFLE:

The winner of the raffle held by the Supporters' Club for a players shirt signed by the current squad and Black and Ambers legend, Rod Snow, was recently drawn by scrum half Alex Walker. Congratulations to Rob Hillman who had the lucky winning ticket and many thanks to everyone who purchased tickets.



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.

Latest Members Prize Draw Winners:

Bedwas – 26th Sep 2009
Adult: D H Waite
Junior: Billy Watkins

Llandovery – 10th Oct 2009
Adult: Vilma Cole
Junior: Logan Ostler

Pontypool – 17th Oct 2009
Adult: Wayne Malpas
Junior: Dylan Matthews

Cardiff – 7th Nov 2009
Adult: Julia Burt
Junior: Kyarna Bevister

Llanelli – 14th Nov 2009
Adult: Mike Donovan
Junior: Jamie Hennessey

Join the Supporters' Club Today!

If you are not currently a member of the Supporters' Club, we would encourage you to join up now! Membership costs just £3.50 for adults and £2.00 for juniors and seniors (no increase for over seven years). Your contribution will ensure that we can do even more in support of Newport RFC projects in the future.

Membership fee's include our free 'only with membership' lapel badge, as well as automatic entry into our Members Free Prize Draw for all Newport RFC home matches. At each game, two lucky winners receive a Club Shop Voucher - £25 for Adults and £10 for Juniors. Another great reason to join the Supporters' Club! Membership Application Forms can be completed at our table in the Rodney Hall at any home game.



Friends of Newport Rugby Trust Fund

FANCY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH FoNR?



FoNR are pleased to be able to offer a range of NEWPORT R.F.C. merchandise. We have a selection of items that are available, all featuring the NEWPORT R.F.C. crest. Prices start from just 50p for a pencil or a ripper wallet for £5!

Some of our most popular products are:

- Polo shirts from £13.50
- Children's t-shirts and polo shirts from £7
- Contrast Neck Zip Fleeces, Hoodies and Sweatshirts from £20
- All available in a range of colours



Caps £8



V-Neck 100% Lambswool Jumper £35 available in a range of colours



R.F.C.

Mug Bargain Price - £4



Or a Bath Towel available in white, pink, yellow, or black for just £10 (Gethin Robinson *not* supplied as illustrated!)

MANY MORE BESPOKE ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE, JUST ASK AT THE STALL OR EMAIL:

kath.evans@newportrugbytrust.co.uk

**LAST ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS DELIVERY:
Saturday 14th November 2009
at Newport v Llanelli**



**Shopping online?
Visit the FoNR Portal.
Make your Christmas shopping easy, and help your team at the same time**

Some of the retailers working with us:



www.buy.at/fonr

You get the same great prices, FoNR receives a commission!

