



Black & Amber Alliance

Issue 17

FoNR's latest sponsorship.

Recent sponsorship provided by Friends of Newport Rugby include a contribution to the new scoreboard at Rodney Parade



We are working on ways to produce scores like the one recorded above!

We have also contributed to a number of smaller items such as an extra radio, lifting aids and training bibs, all for the direct benefit of the team. The trust also arranges for the sponsorship of the team members, with the money raised being passed directly on to the club.

We are looking to raise funds to help with essential improvements to clubhouse facilities in the form of upgrades to the ladies toilets and proper disabled toilet facilities. More about fundraising plans inside.

Community News

The Community Section of the Trust is constantly looking for new projects and this season we have launched a training scheme for our young visitors. This provides an opportunity for our Guards of Honour to bring a coach and have a short training session with one of the Newport players before kick off. Mike Sage, the Dragons Community Officer and Newport Team Manager kindly supplied some balls and away we went.

First we approached ever popular Mike Poole who was overcoming a long term injury. Pooley agreed to help us out and also roped in Jamie Tibbs and Dan Watchurst.

First up were Undy Rugby Academy who spent an hour on the cabbage patch with the boys. The whole session was a great success and Pooley has no doubt gained himself a new batch of young fans. The Trust Committee would like to thank Mike for giving his time for the kids and also Mike Sage for his input.



Join the Bullion Trail

The Bullion Draw is one of the Trust's main fundraisers, and so far it has produced almost £25,000 for the benefit of Newport RFC and projects in the clubhouse.

It's a straightforward subscription draw. You pay £5 per month for each entry (multiple entries are fine!) and there is a draw each month. At present the first prize each month is £300 with smaller amounts for second and third. Twice a year we hold Superdraws with more and bigger prizes. Overall half of the entry money is returned as prizes, so that's a lot better than many other draws, and you can bask in the satisfaction of helping the Trust help the Club.



The draw is made on the pitch at home games in the season, and above is a picture of our Captain making a recent draw

For details, ask at the Trust table on matchdays, or you can learn more and download a form at <http://www.fonr.co.uk/bullion/join.php>

Ten Minutes with John Bryant

FoNR recently had the chance to have a chat with Newport backs coach Jon Bryant to review how he felt the season had progressed. We started by talking about the huge injury list:

'In all my time in rugby as a youngster, a professional player and now as a coach I have never known an injury situation as acute as it has been for Newport this season. I went through all of my career playing as an aggressive ball carrier and first up tackler without breaking any bones and only dislocating a finger once.'

The breakages and ligament damage we have seen have been unprecedented and I'm struggling to find any pattern to understand them. Gareth Chapman's broken leg, dislocated ankle and ruptured ligaments are as bad a leg injury as I have ever seen. Craig Hill has also has a broken leg, Adam Frampton had collarbone damage, Jamie Tibbs is out for the season due to a dislocated shoulder, Mike Poole and Alan Awcock have long term knee and ankle ligament issues that have kept them out for some time to come. Add to that list James Thomas dislocated kneecap, Jon Evans broken wrist, Dan Watchurst and recent injuries to Dan McShane, Dafydd Rosser, Rhys Jones and Aaron Coundley and it shows what a terrible run of luck we have had.'



'We are fortunate that the players who have come in have fitted in quickly and everyone in the match day 22 has given 100%. We are grateful to FoNR for the financial help they have given in recent years that has enabled us to have first class equipment to deal with injuries on the field and also help with rehabilitation and I know that head physio Jeremy Williams is particularly appreciative of this.'

'Whilst we have won more games than lost and generally performed quite well, we as coaches know that there is plenty of work to do to get to the standard that we aspire to. I may need to ask FoNR for some sponsorship to renew some of the advertising hoardings that I have kicked at times as it has been frustrating not to always play to our po-

tential but some of the effort and intensity shown, especially during the BIC games has been outstanding.'

'The Dragons have suffered their fair share of injuries and I have been delighted to see players developed at Newport RFC such as Adam Hughes, Pat Leach, Andrew Coombs and Tom Riley do so well in the fully professional game now that they have been given a chance on the big stage.'

'One constant has been the excellent support we have had both at Rodney Parade and on the road. The boys and coaches all appreciate this. I am particularly impressed with the work that FoNR are doing to support the team. I have never seen such a hard working group of volunteer supporters at any club and we thank you for that. The players are always willing to help FoNR and we have developed a great working relationship.'

'As ever we are keen to acquire some silverware. The BIC is gone and we need to improve our league position to be in the competition next season. My fingers are crossed that we can get our injured squad members back so that we can compete.'

'All of the coaches and players are working hard and giving 100% to put in the performances supporters are used to seeing. We greatly appreciate your support through thick and thin and we appreciate that this is certainly a difficult time. However you have to go through come difficult times and situations to come out of the other side stronger. We are all in this together. OUR team consists of players coaches and supporters, so please continue to back the boys and good times will again shine on Rodney Parade. '

Left is a picture of one of the treatment tables sponsored by FoNR.

It seems that shots of an unoccupied table are all too rare



Charity Day

Newport RFC and Friends of Newport Rugby Trust are organising a charity day at the fixture between Newport and Tonmawr On 2nd April

The Newport team will be wearing a special jersey for the game with a departure from the usual 'Black & Amber'. The shirts have fluorescent hoops and will carry the logos of the selected benefitting charity, Tenovus, as well as match sponsors Quiff Accountancy.

Many Newport supporters have benefitted from the excellent cancer care, treatment and support that Tenovus provide and we could think of no better deserving cause.

Quiff Accountancy and Quiff Consultancy are long time supporters of Newport RFC and were only too pleased to volunteer to financially sponsor the game with all the money being passed to Tenovus.

A bucket collection will be held on the day with a presentation on the pitch at half time. All of the match worn shirts will be signed and then made available for sale at £40 each with the proceeds going towards Friends of Newport Rugby.

FoNR are delighted to be able to organise this event on behalf of the club and support such a worthwhile local charity.



Merchandise

The trust offers a range of Newport related merchandise from the table in the clubhouse at all Newport games, and can supply a wide range of clothing. There is a catalogue available to look through.

Apart from clothing, we stock a range of smaller items, plus books and programmes. The trust website has a link

A popular recent addition has been a Rodney Parade badge



Colour Version

You can view this copy of our newsletter in full colour on the Trust website at www.fonr.co.uk.

Be warned, however, that viewing the kit to be worn for the charity day's match against Tonmawr may require the wearing of sunglasses!

Trust AGM

The Trust's AGM will be held at Rodney Parade on Thursday 7 April at 7.30. All members are of course welcome. Non members are just as welcome, but will be converted into members if they want to get in!

How you can help

The simplest way is just to join up. It's only £10 for full membership. Extra help with fundraising activity is always welcome or you can help by joining the bullion draw, buying raffle tickets (without moaning too much) and generally supporting our activities.

If you'd like to sponsor a match or a match ball, we can arrange a suitable package for you directly with the club - there is a range of options to suit all pockets.

Thanks

It's always nice to get some help, and a big thank you goes to Mary Bennett for her hard work in organising a raffle and handing the proceeds to the Trust for the benefit of the club.

Future Projects

Our immediate objectives are to help the club with providing proper disabled toilet facilities in the clubhouse, and with improvements to the ladies toilets.

Although the first vision for the ground improvements would have seen the clubhouse moved into the stadium, it's now clear that it's going to be with us for more than a few years, so it's essential that the facilities are updated.

Although we have our table in the main bar for Newport games, it's proved very difficult to do so for Dragons games because of the larger crowds. We've therefore agreed to try a new initiative with the club to use their trailer to sell both our usual range of goods, plus Dragons merchandise in conjunction with the club shop.

This was first tried at the Leinster game, and proved very successful. We were grateful for the help

of some new volunteers and will be repeating the exercise at future games.

Our primary focus remains Newport RFC, but this venture enables us to tap into the larger crowds at Dragons matches, and projects such as clubhouse improvements benefit supporters of both teams

The additional money raised will help with the disabled toilets and similar initiatives.

Our Shopping portal

If you like shopping online, don't forget the Trust's shopping portal at www.buy.at/fonr. There are links to dozens of top retailers, and your shopping won't cost any more than if you go direct. There will be a commission to the Trust from shops ranging from Asda to Zavvi via Littlewoods, Expedia and even the National Trust.

You don't lose and the Trust gains.

History Site

Don't forget to check out the site at www.historyofnewport.co.uk.

New information is added all the time and it's a place to browse through and remember.

