



SUPPORTERS' CLUB

# BATH RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB

## DISCOUNTS & BENEFITS (all for just £5)

Members of the Supporters' Club have free entry or reduced cost of admission to all the BRSC events. You will save £2 every time you take the supporters' coach to an away match. You will receive a quarterly Newsletter as a member of the BRSC. We should also like to remind you of the following discounts that can be obtained on production of your current Membership Card:

### Abbey Ales & Star Inn, The Paragon, Bath.

Abbey Ales offers a 10% discount off a 36-pint pack of Bellringer. Just click on [www.abbeyales.co.uk](http://www.abbeyales.co.uk) or [www.star-inn-bath.co.uk](http://www.star-inn-bath.co.uk) for details.

### Apartment in Dubai - [www.apartmentonthepalm.co.uk](http://www.apartmentonthepalm.co.uk)

BRSC member, Melanie Edwards, owns a luxury apartment on The Palm Jumeirah in Dubai and is offering a 10% discount to members. Contact Melanie on [melanie.edwards80@virgin.net](mailto:melanie.edwards80@virgin.net).

### Bath Aqua Glass, Walcot Street, Bath. Tel: 01225 463436/428146

20% discount off any non-sale products (jewellery, glassware, mirrors and hangings). <http://www.bathaquaglass.com/>

### Bath Rugby Clubhouse Recreation Ground, Bath.

Tel: 01225 469230

5% discount off your booking for the hire of the Clubhouse.

### Bath Rugby Shop, 1 Argyle Street, Bath.

Tel: 01225 311950

5% discount off your purchases, if you are not already a season ticket holder.

### Chez Gérard (formerly Caffè Uno), The Empire, Grand Parade, Bath.

Tel: 01225 461140. Reservation by telephone is recommended for peak times.

15% discount off food (not drinks) for up to 8 people; every day of the week. This offer is limited to the Supporters' Club member and up to seven guests at any one sitting.

### CoralQuay Fairtrade, 8-9 New Bond Street Place, Bath BA1 1BH Tel 01225 446 362

[www.coralquay.co.uk](http://www.coralquay.co.uk)

10% discount offered on all crafts, jewellery & furniture. This does not include goods already discounted.

### Gascoyne Place, opp The Theatre Royal, Saw Close, Bath.

Tel: 01225 445854

Offering, with immediate effect, 15% off total food bill for member + up to 7 guests, except on Saturday evenings (bookings required for 6+).

<http://www.gascoyneplace.co.uk/>

### Nigel Dando - Jeweller & Goldsmith - 11 Pulteney Bridge, Bath BA2 4AY

Tel/Fax: 01225 464013

Preferential terms on selected items only for Bath Rugby Supporters' Club members throughout the season.

### Golf and Beach Holidays in Costa Almeria, Mojacar, Spain

Keeping it in the family, Jenefer Dando has a 2-bed apartment to let, overlooking the course at the Valle del Este Golf resort. Generous discounts are being offered to Bath Rugby supporters. To find out more, go to: [www.golf-holidays-spain.net](http://www.golf-holidays-spain.net).

### Ivy House Complimentary Therapies and Tisserand

Products, Ivy House, St. Annes, Bristol. Tel: 0117 9771807



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## JULY 2009 ARE YOU READY?



We are now gearing ourselves for the new season and we make no apologies for wanting to draw a line under the end of last. We know the Club and the players all want to move on and so say all of us!

Whilst the Rec development is still in the melting pot (see the item on the Firs Field); the Club has been granted the extension to the lease on the east stand (now the IPL Stand); has had plans accepted for "Operation Sardine" (to be able increase the capacity at the Rec to

over 11,000); plans have been submitted for new training and fitness facilities at Lambridge; new signings have been made to cover departures and the longer term injuries and, generally, we have reason to feel optimistic.

We would ask our members for their continued support: with Bath Rugby going places (and we don't mean Swindon!) we want to be a part of it. If it means doing a spot of fund-raising to have space for our filing cabinet and table in our own office at the new Rec, then we'll do it!

*Penny Brunton, Editor*

Remedial treatments, manicures, pedicures. 10% off treatments; 5% off Tisserand products.

### Royal Hotel, Manvers Street, Bath. Tel: 01225 442931

(opp Bath Spa Station)

10% discount off all meals, any day except Fridays and Saturdays. <http://www.royalhotelbath.co.uk/>

### The Really Expensive Chocolate Company, Farmers' Market,

Green Park, Bath Contact Tel: 01179 616629

The market is held next to Sainsburys in Bath on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. 10% off all products.

### Squeeze Juice Bar, 7 Pulteney Bridge, Bath BA1 1HZ

10% discount to Supporters' Club members.

### Test Stationers - Tel: 01225 444224. Fax: 01225 311871

(Test Office Limited), 18 Union Passage, Bath

Suppliers of raffle tickets to the BRSC. 10% off purchases over £10 (with some minor exceptions).

### The Green Park Brasserie - [www.greenparkbrasserie.com](http://www.greenparkbrasserie.com)

Green Park Station, Bath. Tel: 01225 338565

15% off meals and accompanying beverages to BRSC members for up to 8 people; every day of the week, except after 7pm on Saturdays.

### Yak Yeti Yak Nepalese Restaurant, 12 Pierrepont Street, Bath BA1 1LA Tel: 01225 442299

This Nepalese restaurant near the station is offering a 10% discount, Monday to Thursday, to Supporters' Club members. The discount applies to members and their guests, up to 4 people in total.

### Zoë Kenway Prints - [www.zoekenwaypublica.co.uk](http://www.zoekenwaypublica.co.uk)

20% off Zoë's exceptional prints featuring Bath Rugby.

There are also discounts still being negotiated ready for the new season. The Saracens Head Inn on Broad Street in Bath is likely to come on board and, with a possible discount with a wedding photographer, it would seem we are getting all bases covered!

The Committee has expended some energy in negotiating these discounts for our members and would like to remind you that if we do not use them we may lose them. So drop in on them when

visiting the city, whether on a match day or at other times. We have tried to choose the types of places that would be of interest to all tastes. We shall continue to work to increase this list.

The BRSC is always looking for further discounts for its members. If any local outlet wishes to get involved, please contact either Penny Brunton on 07778 388 665 or Mike Senior on 07766 166999.

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# The new Season is almost upon us!

Season ticket application forms have been received and returned, with hard-earned cash accompanying them. Fixtures have been published - and what a start - away to Glaws! European Pools have been identified and the first thoughts of travel arrangements to Paris, Edinburgh and Belfast (£16.99 return on Ryanair at the moment from Bris, pity we don't know the dates) have been made.

The revolving door at the Rec has hardly stopped turning, with some well-liked familiar faces, Shaun Berne, Jim Scaysbrook, Eliota, Paulica Ion and Lawrence Ovens moving on; Olly returning and joined by Ben Skirving and David Wilson, who did so well with Banners on the England summer tour to Manchester and Argentina. If you are an aficionado of the Currie Cup you must have seen and admired Luke Watson, who seems the complete back rower - Chris Cracknell provides cover in the back row until Luke arrives at the Rec in November; a couple of competent Aussies, if you read their

CVs, in Julian Salvi and Matt Carraro and, finally, Nicky Little, the first Fijian to grace a Bath shirt, a solid kicker who will provide competition for Ryan and possibly Olly for the 10 shirt until Butch resumes normal business at the end of the year. We also look forward to Shontayne Hape improving even more next season, and seeing if Josh Ovens and Jack Cuthbert can break through this year, as Banners and Nick did a couple of years ago.

Probably the biggest surprise in terms of moves out of the Rec has been Mark Bakewell. He did a good job with the forwards over the years, always approachable, a good bloke in our book but, as one door closes another opens, as Haagy arrives back via Bristol and England to coach the forwards - one of the most under-rated players ever to wear the blue, black and white. Welcome back, Martin, great to see you.

We mentioned fixtures earlier. We have been dealt a pretty poor hand this year with away games at Glaws, Sale and Quins

and home games against Wasps and Tigers in the first group of matches before the European Cup. If we win three out of five we shall do well. The "new" Anglo-Welsh tournament gets underway during the Internationals before and after Christmas. This is still, we believe, a competition too far.

Lastly, the dreaded ELVs! The one we hated the most; the ability to pull down a maul has been consigned from whence it should never have appeared in the first place! Wasn't it great to see the Lions and the Springboks using one of the most devastating and skilful tools in the forwards' locker again during the recent Tour?

If for no other reason than seeing the reappearance of the maul, roll on the new season!!!

Allez Bath!

*Barry Cleeve*

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## The Rec/Firs Field - Land Swap: Killing two birds with one stone?

Anyone who has passed through Combe Down in Bath in the last few years cannot have missed the enormous concrete batching plant on the area of land known locally as Firs Field. Now that the stone mine stabilisation works are drawing to a close, the area will be restored to its former condition, as a public open space. The land is owned by Bath and North East Somerset Council. Part of it is owned as "asset" land and part of it in a charitable trust.

A local group, the "Friends of Firs Field" applied to the Council to try and obtain Village Green status for the Firs Field, which would protect the area from future development and keep it as a public open space. However, to qualify for this status, the land must have been used as such by the community without the permission of the landowner. Whilst B&NES, as the landowner, had not granted formal

permission for use, it had not prevented such use and therefore Firs Field does not qualify for this protection.

At the same time as this application was made, B&NES was also discussing possible solutions to the Rec problem. The area of Firs Field held outside of trust is approximately the same area as the area of the Rec leased by Bath Rugby and is currently used as open public space. The land leased by Bath Rugby is essentially unavailable for use and, so, a "land swap", if possible, could potentially solve two problems. The Firs Field would be protected by being held in a trust and the land on the Rec, no longer in trust, would then be available for development by Bath Rugby.

Recently, a meeting was held for Combe Down residents to hear and discuss the proposals. Active and heated discussions

were held, with many residents worried that a land swap would mean Bath Rugby would want to build their new stadium on Firs Field! Once this confusion was relieved, more discussions were held about the possible nature of the Trust, and of the benefits to the village and residents.

At the current time, nothing is decided. The Combe Down community wants to hold further discussions on the offer the Council has made. Even if the land swap successfully takes place, it is not certain that the Charity Commission will accept this as a way for Bath Rugby to continue at the Rec and carry out the development the Club so badly needs. It is possible that this is a way for Combe Down and Bath Rugby to "kill two birds with one stone" but, unsurprisingly, nothing is certain at the moment. We can only wait and see....

*George Barratt*



## COACH TRAVEL

RESERVATIONS: RING JAN/MIKE 01380 871416

Whilst Jan and Mike Warrington are busy putting together travel packages for the coming season, they would just like to say a few words about last season:

2008-09 was an excellent season on the coach travel front.

Barring the Sale EDF game and Toulouse away, we managed to run coaches to all other away games, including five coaches to Leicester for the quarter-final of the Heineken Cup and the semi-final of the Championship play-offs.

When we did not run a coach to Sale, Bath actually managed a win! This probably tells us that the run up the M5/M6 on a Friday evening is nothing but aggravation and heartache and a long drag back home. Over the past few seasons we have only managed to get enough hardy travellers together to book a 33-seater coach.

It has been officially agreed on the coaches that all wine must be screw-topped (very much more helpful). The wine also keeps the voice fresh for shouting or soothing the throat in sympathy!

The raffles, however, have continued to be a huge success. Most of the prizes are donated by supporters, who then buy the raffle tickets to win them back! To give those of you who do not travel with us an example of

how long it takes to finish the raffle; our away trip to London Irish usually sees the raffle complete just as we are about to turn into the Madjeski Stadium. This time is often taken up by the indecision of the odd blonde or the "Do I drink beer or eat chocolates today?" variety.

The generosity of our travelling supporters regarding the raffles has enabled us to raise £2,000. A cheque for this amount will be handed over to HELP FOR HEROES at half-time at our first home game of the new season against Wasps.

Our coaches are friendly, noisy and very welcoming. Why not give us a try? Many thanks for a fabulous season of away travel.

*Jan & Mike Warrington*

## COACH TRAVEL FOR THE NEW SEASON

Although prices, dates and times are still to be finalised, the coaches for the Friendlies are in place:

**Gloucester - Friendly!** (It may be Mearsy's Testimonial but will it really be "friendly" in front of The Shed?) – **Saturday, 15 August 2009**

The Supporters' Club will be running a coach (or possibly more) to the above game. At present we do not have a kick-off time but costs will be as follows:-

BRSC Member £8/Non-member £10.

**Llanelli - Friendly - Saturday 22 August 2009**

Again, we will be running coach/es. Costs are £11.50 for Supporters' Club Members and £13.50 for Non Members.

*Interested? Then please ring Jan/Mike on  
01380 871416 to reserve your seat.*

# PLAYER APPEARANCES

The first team and some Academy players are currently at a training camp in Portugal and we have heard from Steve Meehan that, for the coming season, the players' weekly timetables have been altered. The players will now have Wednesday as their day off prior to a Saturday game and we have therefore had to shift some of our scheduling. In future, for player appearances, BRSC events are likely to be held on a Tuesday night. This should not, however, exempt Academy players or injured first team players from attending. For instance, Danny Grewcock came to our Ladies' Night last year but, because we had been unable to advertise the fact, the Clubhouse, unfortunately, was not packed to the rafters!

## Sponsored Player

For a number of years, the BRSC has been proud to sponsor Academy players. This year is no exception and we are pleased to announce that Paul Roberts, fly-half/centre, is our sponsored player for the coming season. Paul is already training with the first team and we hope that he has a bright future with the Club.



20-year old Paul is a product of Colston School and is currently studying at the University of Bath. We look forward to welcoming him to our social events during the course of the coming year.

# BRSC

## Membership Subscriptions

As a Committee, we have debated long and hard as to whether or not to increase the annual membership subscriptions. There has been no change since the BRSC's inception in 1997. However, we are a non-profit-making organisation and, provided we have a small amount in the kitty to carry forward each year for contingencies, we see no reason at this stage for any increase.

Bath Rugby sent out our 2009/10

application forms with the season ticket mailing but you do not have to be a STH to be a member of the BRSC. Forms are included with this Newsletter, so go ahead, renew your membership and talk your friends and family into joining as well. All the discounts available to members are listed on the front page.

## Fund-Raising

The BRSC's fund-raising was extensive throughout last season:

- The Saturday shirt raffles at all home games raised £12,000 for the Bath Community Foundation.

- A special shirt raffle and other events raised £1,950 for Tamara Johnson.
- The raffle of the Bath and Saracens signed shirts at the last home game of the season raised over £2,000 for L'Aquila Rugby Club, with a further £100 being donated by the "inmates" of Box 11 on the day.
- The Race Night in April for Lee Mears' Testimonial raised £900 for his chosen charity, the Willow Foundation.
- Last, but by no means least, the coach travellers raised £2,000 for "Help for Heroes".

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday  
18th August 2009**

You will see from the enclosed 'Notice Convening' and Agenda that the BRSC will be holding its 13th AGM on 18th August. As has now become traditional, Steve Meehan has agreed to come along and speak to supporters beforehand about his views on the forthcoming season and also to introduce us to the new signings made during the close season. One of these, of course, will not be so 'new' as we welcome Olly Barkley back to the Rec. We look

forward to welcoming the other players but won't be seeing Luke Watson until arrives in Bath, after the end of the Currie Cup campaign in South Africa.

Steve and the players will be at the Clubhouse at 7.30pm and the AGM will get underway some time after 8. We would hope to have a good attendance, despite the date being so much earlier than in previous years.

## Committee

The current committee has been in place for quite a while and, with the pressure of work, the credit crunch and a variety of other reasons, a number feel it is time to make way for fresh thinking and new energy to take us forward into a rejuvenated era at Bath Rugby. If you feel you can help, please see the enclosed Notice and contact the acting Hon Sec.

# PLAYERS' AWARDS SUPPER

**Tuesday, 25th August 2009**

You will see from the enclosed form that we have now set the date for our annual awards supper. Despite this being slightly earlier than in previous years, we hope that you will be able to attend. You have voted for your Player of the Season, Young Player, Try, Personality and Unsung Hero and the winners of these awards will be named at the AGM on Tuesday, 18th August. The recipients will be joining us to receive their trophies at the supper the following week. They will be joined by at least six other first team members and supporters will have a player at each table.

In these cash-strapped times, we have

returned to the idea of a "supper" and you will note that this year we are serving just two courses (a main and a dessert) and reducing the price by £10 from the prices we charged last year. This does not make the evening any less special but, provided you are not away on holiday, we hope that you will find it easier to include the occasion in your budget.

Bob Calleja, with just a week to go as Bath Rugby's CEO, will be the guest speaker and we look forward to hearing how the Club has turned him from a callow youth and Sheffield Wednesday supporter into a white-haired gent and avid rugby fan!

Please complete the enclosed form and get your booking off to Penny Dale as soon as possible.



Last year's Player of the Season, Michael Claassens, receives the Vince Dyer Memorial Trophy from Doreen Dyer.

# COO!

Congratulations, Bob, on your 'horizontal gavotte' and passing the CEO reins to Nick Blofeld.

Bob Calleja, Bath Rugby's Chief Executive Office for many a long year, has had a little pressure taken from his shoulders by taking on the role of Chief Operating Officer - to concentrate on developing the Rec and putting training facilities

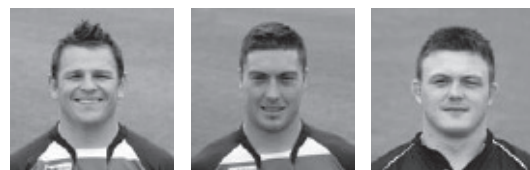
in place at Lambridge

- thus leaving the running of Bath Rugby to Nick. Welcome to Nick and good luck. We all know that Bath is the best club in the Premiership and we look forward to continuing our close association with the management.



Bath Rugby's new CEO, Nick Blofeld

## CONGRATULATIONS, BOYS!



Mearsy, our favourite Lion, is joined in the EPS by Banners and Davey Wilson.

## \*\* STOP PRESS \*\*

### HEINEKEN CUP FIXTURES

Bath's first round of matches has now been announced as follows:

- Friday, 9th October 2009 - Ulster (A)
- Sunday, 18th October 2009 - Stade (H)
- Sunday, 13th December 2009 - Edinburgh (H)
- Saturday, 19th December 2009 - Edinburgh (A)
- Weekend of 15/16/17 January 2010 - Stade (A)
- Weekend of 22/23/24 January 2010 - Ulster (H)