



# BATH RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB

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

For just £5, you will have either free or reduced admission to all BRSC events; £2 per head reduction on all your away coach travel (unless fixed prices for weekend stays, etc), in addition to 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

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<http://www.bathaquaglass.com/>

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Tel: 01225 311950

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

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

### Gascogne 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.gascogneplace.co.uk/>

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

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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).

### Icarus Photography

Weddings and family occasions photography by Bath-based professional. 10% discount offered to BRSC members, please email us on [enquiries@icarusphotography.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@icarusphotography.co.uk) or visit our website [www.icarusphotography.co.uk](http://www.icarusphotography.co.uk).



After a shaky start, Bath Rugby has finally got its 2009-10 campaign underway. The Club has seen a significant change of personnel in its administration, which, as announced in our July Newsletter, saw Bob Calleja move sideways into the role of Chief Operating Officer and Nick Blofeld move into the Chief Executive Office post.

Some of the BRSC Committee had a most productive meeting with Nick, with a view to working more closely with the Club and to achieving more involvement with both management and players - whilst the jury is still out as to whether the BRSC should maintain its independence. It is important that we should have space in which to criticise (where constructive criticism is due) and not be seen to be agreeing blindly with all things Bath Rugby. At the same time, we call ourselves "supporters" and so we shall continue to be, whilst serving the best interests of our members.

Other changes, of course, have seen John Neal

brought in as Performance Coach and Martin Haag as Forwards Coach. The Club has now appointed Rowly Williams as Kicking Coach - a role much needed in light of our losses that could so easily have been wins, had the ball dissected the uprights!

The end of last season also saw a big change of personnel on the BRSC Committee - see separate item. Whilst the two Pennys (Brunton and Dale) have become entrenched, together with Membership Secretary, George Barratt and Mike Senior, in charge of Discounts, the remainder are gradually finding their feet. We are hoping that new ideas and fresh thinking will enhance the profile of the BRSC within the Club and help increase membership.

As far as the proposed "land swap" of the Firs Field, (Combe Down, Bath) for part of the Recreation Ground is concerned, a poll recently carried out amongst the Combe Down residents has proved inconclusive and negotiations continue. In the meantime, Nick Blofeld is quoted as saying he "believes that Bath Rugby will announce plans by the end of November, which will state whether or not the Club will remain on the Rec." We are still living in hope.

At the time of going to press, we are yet to play Quins, another club having to come to terms with difficult summer months. Then the season starts in earnest with the Pool stages of the Heineken Cup. Onwards and upwards.

Allez Bath!

*Editor, Penny Brunton*

### Ivy House Complimentary Therapies and Tisserand Products, Ivy House, St. Annes, Bristol. Tel: 0117 9771807

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

### Jonquil Florist, 134 High Street, Weston, Bath BA1 4DF.

Tel: 01225 421914

Either free delivery to any address in the Bath area or a free box of chocolates to BRSC members. If ordering by phone, please remember to quote "Support Bath" and give your BRSC membership number. Website: [www.jonquillflorist.co.uk](http://www.jonquillflorist.co.uk)

### 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.

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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# Back on the field - at long last: September Reviewed

More than enough has been said and written about laboratories, tribunals and lawyers in the last few months – not to mention joke shops and unnecessary stitches – to last a sporting lifetime. What a relief it was finally to be able to get back to what we had all assumed the game for us was really about – the ups and downs of our team's fortunes on the field.

From the moment they were first announced, the fixtures in September looked to have given Bath a fairly difficult start to the campaign. After all, we've not got a good recent record against Gloucester; Wasps have proved to be our main 'bogey' side in the last few years; the trip to Edgeley Park on a Friday night is probably as gloomy a prospect for the players as it is for we long-suffering travelling supporters, and Leicester remain a team who could never be described as 'easy to beat'. So, after a pre-season draw in Mearsy's testimonial at Kingsholm and narrow back-to-back wins over Llanelli Scarlets, it was a swift return up the A46.

All of the Red Devils Army Parachute Display Team managed to land on the pitch shortly before kick-off, something that Bath effectively failed to do in a dismal first half, during which they were starved of possession and territory by an energetic Gloucester side liberally sprinkled with Bath Old Boys. It was a better showing after the break, but still not enough to make amends for two gift-wrapped interception tries and no points from the boot for the visitors. Hape's try for Bath was well-crafted – as was Simpson-Daniel's for the home side – but our general play never looked likely to earn (nor did it really deserve) a losing bonus point.

On the following Saturday the Rec provided a splendid picture frame for the first home game

of the season for Bath – it was just a shame that the painting was not up to the standard anticipated by the home fans. A new record crowd of 11,300 were packed into the most picturesque setting in professional sport, accompanied by beautiful weather and superb playing conditions. All that was needed was a convincing performance and a win, but it was our nemesis of recent years, Wasps, who left with the victory as Bath came up short again – though not as badly as at Kingsholm the week before.

Debate raged after the game over how many more consecutive penalties a side has to concede before Chris White awards a penalty try against them, and over what exactly constitutes sufficient distraction of the kicker (and early charging of a kick) for a second attempt to be awarded by the referee? That said, Wasps took the points on the day because they burned Bath with their raw pace out wide in the first half and defended efficiently with their usual streetwise application in the second, when Bath dominated possession but could not quite put enough points on the scoreboard.

The prospect of the long trek north to Sale for the Friday night match seemed rather less of an imposition than in previous seasons, even though it still didn't feel quite right to be watching rugby just before the weekend. The small yet intrepid band of travelling Bath supporters hardly swelled the meagre crowd, yet the sight of a well-grassed pitch and the mild weather (not a combination we have often been greeted with in Stockport) encouraged pre-match hopes of a winning start – at the third attempt. The eventual 25-12 victory was just as deserved as it was welcome and was by no means 'third time lucky'.

After victory up at Sale, most Bath supporters at the Rec for the visit of the Tigers would have been expecting, rather than hoping for, a continuation of improving form. The same could no doubt have been said for the Leicester followers in the record crowd and, to some degree, both would have been satisfied with what they witnessed. A full-blooded encounter – as is almost always the case between these two traditional rivals – confirmed that neither has so far hit anything like the level of performance that their squads of players are capable of, no doubt to the continuing frustration of their respective coaches.

Both clubs are still missing a number of key players due to injuries or unavailability and that is most certainly a factor in analysing why neither team has so far made a significant statement of intent this season as to their right to be considered serious contenders for honours come the spring. Bath have been far less consistent in their achievements over the last decade, but the current squad still looks stronger than those which came close over the last couple of years, so there is no reason for pessimism just yet on the playing front. Barkley, Wilson, Watson, and James, will make a real difference, and add significantly to the options available to Steve Meehan as the season progresses.

However, for a few moments at the end of September the game of rugby was put into its real perspective by reflection on the events in the Pacific. The tsunami that caused loss of life in Samoa reminds us all – with our present and past connections to that country through Jonny Fa'amatuainu, Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu and Zak Feaunati - that sport really is just a game, after all. As with the earthquake in L'Aquila in Italy back in April, our rugby connections may well cause us to feel rather less detached than others from such natural disasters far away from the West Country.

*Glyn Edwards*

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## BRSC CHARITY FOR 2009-10

There has been some discussion as to what local charity the BRSC should support this year. After receiving the following letter from one of our supporters, it has been decided that the Bath Cats and Dogs Home at Claverton, Bath, would be a worthy recipient.

*At the Supporters' Club Awards Dinner, I was fortunate enough to win a signed rugby shirt in the raffle. I then went round and got the other players to sign the shirt.*

*I am also a volunteer worker for the Bath Cats and Dogs Home so, with their Open Day coming up, I offered the signed shirt as*

*a prize in their raffle. The fund raising staff snatched the shirt out of my hands saying that anything to do with Bath Rugby went down well with contributors to the Home. The shirt went in as the second prize in the raffle (the first prize was a voucher for £250). As I was selling raffle tickets on the day, I know that the shirt raised a considerable amount of interest and there were several attempts to buy the shirt before the raffle, which were rejected in view of raffle fairness.*

*After the Open Day, it was revealed that the raffle raised £9,000 for the work of the*

*Cats and Dogs Home and I am sure that the signed shirt had a big impact on this sum.*

*The Bath Cats and Dogs Home is part of the national RSPCA scheme but gets no central funding from them and has to raise all necessary funds locally. It would be good for the supporters' club and Bath Rugby to support this charity as it is a local Bath charity and every penny would be invested in Bath and the local area.*

Whether an animal lover or not, we trust that you agree.

# L'AQUILA RUGBY

Following our successful fund-raising at the end of last season with over £2,000 having been raised by the shirt raffle and other donations at the Saracens match, we were delighted to learn that the IRB has presented the Italian club, L'Aquila, with the IRB Spirit of Rugby Award 2009, "following an extraordinary year which saw the rugby club aid and support its local community".

We have since been able to get the following Italian press item translated (thanks to Vicky Heslop), which further enhances L'Aquila's reputation:

## La Gazzetta dello Sport 10 Sept 2009

### Finally, injured L'Aquila recovers its pride

*We all try not to become upset. Yesterday at L'Aquila it was impossible. The city damaged by the earthquake on April 6 yesterday shouted to the world with all its soul. For here the shape of the oval ball lives on. Yesterday for the first time since that day, the team got back out onto the Fattori pitch. The stadium, re-opened with a special dispensation, had been closed for 5 months even though it had survived the quake as it was used as a heliport and it was too close to the red zone. Captain Maurizio Zaffiri said, "It was a beautiful feeling, even just to train. We are at home: the stands, the pitch, 'Gran Sasso' up there. Today we need the support of our people." In L'Aquila Rugby is much more than just a sport. 42 years in the top division, relegated in 2007, the team is now back in the Super 10. And tomorrow Viadana come for a pre-season friendly. Entry is free, 5 euro in the stands.*

*Along with the other 19 or so people clinging to the players at Agriservice, the first supply store to re-open after the quake, there was also Marta Edda Valente, awarded teacher of the year alongside stand-off Dario Pallotta. Marta had spent 23 hours trapped under the rubble of a collapsed street*

*(via XX settembre), had rescued 2 old ladies from a collapsing building, and has been adopted by the team. On Sunday she will kick-off the game: "I am so happy," she said. "They say the Aquilani are strong and gentle, just like rugby players." The new shirt has also been presented, chosen from a hundred designs sent in by supporters to newspaper Il Centro. It could only every have been black and green, split down the middle. On the shoulder, the curved symbol of Atalanta – who adopted the team, housing and raising funds for them. The Marketing Director, Marco Molina said, "But there are no sponsors. We have been given great amounts of help but now we need some economic support."*

### Difficulties

*Indeed it has not been easy to manage this period. Mascioletti, championship coach since 1994, said "Some of the boys are still homeless. Some have been put up in Rocca di Mezzo, 30km from here and 1600m above sea level. Some are commuting from Rome. We have taken our gym up to Rocca di Mestra and we are training there, or at Ovindoli and Avezzano. Our training base, at Acquasanta, currently hosts a mass of tents. Starting off against Viadana will be like climbing a mountain, but there is a drive in us: helping to keep our region in the spotlight. We know that Rugby means a lot around here. Important players have come, but the squad spirit will be important. And that, I assure you, we already have."*

### Sebastiani

*Prop Lorenzo "Ciccio" Sebastiani, who would have turned 21 in 18 days time, and who died while his friends were helping other injured people, is being remembered. On every shirt, at the top of the chest, "1 Ciccio" will be written. Lorenzo will be pushing in the pack with his team-mates. The number 1 shirt will remain his. The L'Aquila loose head prop will wear 99 for as long as the squares, churches and fountains of L'Aquila stand. More alive than ever.*

## PAST EVENTS



**AGM:** On Tuesday, 18th August, over 100 people attended the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Supporters' Club. The evening kicked off with Bob Calleja giving a brief Rec update, before Steve

Meehan introduced members to new signings David Wilson, Ben Skirving, Matt Carraro, Nicky Little, Julian Salvi and, of course, Olly Barkley. Many thanks to all of them for coming along and fielding some awkward questions.

The AGM proper started at 8.25pm. Mike Senior chaired the meeting, as Chairman Penny Brunton was acting as Hon Sec. Following the Chairman's, Membership Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, the winners of the players' awards were revealed as follows:

Player of the Season - Joe Maddock;

Wilts Electrical Young Player - Nick Abendanon;

Hamptons Try of the Season - Butch James versus Leicester (home);  
Wincanton Personality of the Season - Duncan Bell;  
Helphire Unsung Hero - Stuart Hooper.

Congratulations all.

The new Committee was announced and, under AOB, Doug Gibbs requested help with selling raffle tickets at the home games. There being no other business, the meeting closed just after 9 o'clock.

### AWARDS SUPPER:

On Tuesday, 25th August, the players mentioned above were able to collect their awards at the BRSC's Awards Supper. Also present were Nicky Little, Matt Carraro, Julian Salvi, Jonny Fa'amatuainu, Paul Roberts (BRSC's sponsored player), Rhys Crane, Davey Wilson, Ben Skirving and Olly Barkley (without crutches).

The evening was a sell-out and went with a swing. The guest speaker, Bob Calleja, gave a most entertaining speech and was then silenced when he was presented with the Mowbray Woodwards Award for Outstanding Service to Bath Rugby. Congratulations, Bob - well deserved.

The evening was expertly MC'd by Barry Cleeve and all the arrangements had been made by Penny Dale. Sincere thanks to them and everyone involved. Photographs can now be viewed on the Allez-Bath website Picture Gallery.

## MERCHANDISE

At the BRSC table on matchdays, you can purchase the following items:

Supporters' Club ties	@	£8.99 or £15 for 2;
Trumpets	@	£11;
Blue, black & white flags	@	£5;
BRSC badges (not current)	@	50p;
"Before the Lemons"	@	£7.50 (RRP £14.00)
Ref!Link	@	£25 (£23 to BRSC members)

Penny Dale also has an assortment of keyrings, fridge magnets, cards, etc from which to choose.



# BRSC COMMITTEE

Your new Committee, announced at the AGM on the 18th August, is as follows:

Penny Brunton (Chair); Steve Eades (Deputy Chair); Tom Riley (Hon Treasurer); George Barratt (Membership Secretary); Diane Shearn (Hon Secretary); Glyn Edwards (Press Secretary); Mike Senior (Promotions); Penny Dale (Club Liaison); Andy Thatcher (Marketing); Kevin Lawrence (Functions); with Peter Downey

(ex officio liaison with the Real Friends of the Rec) and Bob Calleja remaining as ex officio member from Bath Rugby. All the new contacts are now on the "allez-bath" website, although some of the new Committee are evidently somewhat camera-shy!

With only four of last season's Committee remaining, the new members have now experienced their first full Committee meeting

and the aim is to increase the profile of the BRSC and to arrange some interesting functions during the course of the coming season.

We are aiming to hold events on the second Tuesday in each month and, to this end, we have now set the dates for a forum entitled "All in the Mind" with Performance Coach, John Neal and Strength & Conditioning Coach, Paul Bunce on 13th October; a Christmas Fayre on 10th November and a Quiz Night on 8th December. See separate "Social Diary" item for more details.



Hello Folks! The start of another season. Can we better last year? The phenomenal regular supporting crowd raised a magnificent £2,000 towards "Help for Heroes," produced 99% of raffle prizes and then bought tickets to win them back. How do you beat that? (Suggestions, please!)

We have already had some great trips to Llanelli and Gloucester and an extra special trip to SALE – sunlight, grass on the pitch and, best of all, A WIN. Needless to say, this made for a quite chatty return journey.

Below you will see our two Heineken trips. Don't forget: no extra cost for baggage allowance; booking in on-line; etc. Drinks are allowed and there is a kangaroo service! (Work that one out.)

Ladies, if you don't wish to watch the rugby, you can leave your hubbies in our special care whilst you disappear to the Moulin Rouge, etc, etc.

## Edinburgh Weekend – 18/19/20 December

Depart Bath 0800hrs on Friday, 18th December. 2 nights bed/breakfast. Return to Bath on Sunday, 20th December.

Itinerary can be picked up from Supporters' Club table on match days or by telephoning Jan/Mike on **01380 871416**.

Cost £128 per person sharing twin/double room; £44 single supplement. Deposit £25 per person on booking (non returnable). Balance to be paid by the end of November.

## Stade Francais – Weekend 15/16/17 January 2010

We have managed to obtain a THIRD coach for the Paris weekend; same hotel and same itinerary. See Link on the allez-bath website; pick up an itinerary from the Supporters' Club table on match days or telephone Jan/Mike on **01380 871416**.

Leave Bath at 2130hrs on Thursday, 14th January for Dover and ferry to Calais. 2 nights bed/breakfast in Novotel Paris Rueil-Malmaison hotel. Depart Sunday after breakfast returning to Dover at 1540 local time and return to Bath.

Cost £150 per person sharing double/twin room; £53.50 single supplement. Deposit £50 per person (non returnable). Balance to be paid by end November.

# SOCIAL DIARY

## "All in the Mind"

### Tuesday, 13th October 2009

In the Clubhouse – 7.00 for 7.30pm. The bar will be open from 7.00pm.

Entrance: Free to BRSC members and £1 to non-members.

John Neal (Performance Coach) and Paul Bunce (Strength & Conditioning Coach) have kindly agreed to give brief talks and answer questions about the work they do at the Club. Put the date in your diary and come along to find out more.

## Christmas Fayre

### Tuesday, 10th November 2009

Something different this year!

It is getting near to "that time of year" again and you may have noticed that there is no mention this time of "Ladies' Night". Well, this

year we decided to stop being sexist and let men in to do some Christmas shopping.

We are holding a Christmas Fayre on Tuesday 10th November, in the Clubhouse. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30 start. The bar will be open for drinks and we are also hoping to serve mince pies and mulled wine. Some of the players will be making an appearance and helping you with your shopping.

There will be a wide selection of things to buy, ranging from cosmetics; Bristol Blue glass; gourmet food products; children's books and other items; toys; handmade cards and more.

A raffle will be held with all proceeds from the evening going to the Bath Cats and Dogs Home. The BCDH will also have their own stall and will be bringing along a (well-behaved) dog.

So come along and have a fun evening. You never know, you may even see Father Christmas!

## Stocky's Christmas Quiz

### Tuesday, 8th December 2009

In the Clubhouse – 7.00 for 7.30pm. The bar will be open from 7.00pm.

Entrance: The cost has still to be finalised but will include a bangers and mash supper. Further details on price and tickets will be advised on the allez-bath website.

Dave Stock will once again be holding his legendary quiz night with the Barry Clough Memorial Shield being awarded to the winning team. Eight of the Bath players will be attending, so you will have to pit your wits against some other masterminds.

Details of events to be held after Christmas can be classified as "work in progress" and the Committee is working on finding something new for supporters to attend.