



SUPPORTERS' CLUB

BATH RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB

September 2004

MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership is already over half of last year's total after just one home game. As mentioned at the AGM we would like to attain the 2005 members in 2005 so tell your friends about BRSC and see if we can swell the numbers!

A point raised at the recent AGM was the possibility of putting Supporters' Club members in touch with each other in order to organise travel etc. If you are willing to have your details circulated to other members please let me know in writing by email or letter. Obviously I will not give out any details without your written permission.

Lesley Steeper

DISCOUNTS & BENEFITS (all for just £5)

CaffÈ Uno The Empire, Grand Parade, Bath, Tel: 01225 461140

The Green Park Brasserie Green Park Station Bath Tel 01225 338565

At both restaurants, a massive 15% discount off meals and accompanying beverages for up to 8 people. Every day of the week, except after 7pm on Saturdays.

The Litten Tree 23 Milsom Street, Bath, Tel: 01225 310772

£1.50 per drink (excluding spirits), Monday-Saturday, 11am to 11pm and Sunday 12 noon to 10.30pm (members only, not guests). Show current membership card when you order.

Nigel Dando, Jeweller & Goldsmith 11 Pulteney Bridge, Bath BA2 4AY Tel/Fax 01225 464013 www.nigeldando.co.uk

Preferential terms to all members of the BRSC, on production of current membership card.

Test Stationers 18 Union Passage, Bath Tel: 01225 444224/ Fax: 01225 311871

10% off Purchases over £10 (with some minor exceptions)

Only for Bath Rugby Supporters' Club Members, throughout Season 2004/2005. To obtain the discount, the member must show his/her current Supporters' Club membership card at the time of purchase.

Spanish Villa to Rent

www.our-spanish-villa.co.uk
John 'Tuk-Tuk' Taylor has a villa in Spain for rent. 10% Discount to members. Telephone 01225 445754 for further details.

Zoe Kenway Prints

www.zoekenwaypublica.co.uk
Discount off Zoe's exceptional prints featuring Bath Rugby.

Bath Rugby Shop 12 Argyle Street, Bath, Tel: 01225 311950.

You do not have to be a season ticket holder to receive your 5% discount at the Bath Rugby shop, just produce your membership card at time of purchase.

Plus

Reduced cost of coach travel to away matches. Free or reduced admission to all BRSC functions.

Website
www.testoffice.co.uk
E-mail
testoffice@aol.com
18 Union Passage
BATH BA1 1RE
ALL YOUR
OFFICE NEEDS
UNDER ONE ROOF
"Bath's Leading Stationer"
Tel: 01225 444224 Fax: 01225 311871

A LAST LOOK AT THE 2003/04 SEASON

AWARDS SUPPER, 2 SEPTEMBER 2004



On Wednesday, 2 September, a hundred BRSC members and guests foregathered for the Club's annual Awards Supper. Phil and his assistants served drinks in the Premier Lounge at the start of the evening. An excellent three-course meal, prepared by Jerry (chef) was ably distributed by Dean and his willing band of helpers. After the coffee came the presentation of the awards.

Jack Rowell was there to present the award to Ollie Barkley, voted Young Player of the Season for the third year in succession. Ollie was on his feet once more for usurping Danny Grewcock in the title role of Ladies' Dish. This was presented by Penny Dale. Daughter Kate Dale presented Alex Crockett with the trophy for Try of the Season – voting members had appreciated his sheer cheek in stealing the ball for his try against Gloucester at the end of the season. Deservedly, Bath's Unsung Hero was former Shed favourite - Rob Fidler. His award was presented by former Rec favourite, Martin Haag. Andy Beattie collected the Vince Dyer Memorial Trophy for Player of the Season from Club chairman, Jerry Keeling.

We like to think that Jack Rowell was completely taken aback when he discovered that he was in fact an award winner himself, recipient of the Mowbray Woodward Award for Outstanding Services to Bath Rugby. A cut glass decanter and glasses were presented to him by Guy Woodward. Having been full of words when presenting Olly's award, he was rather more circumspect when receiving his own!

The Committee was then pleased to welcome Martin Haag, as Guest Speaker, who did not appreciate having to follow Jack. He was however most entertaining when recalling his days with Bath and all the players who had been with the Club along the way. He was most enthusiastic about his more recent role with Richard Hill in the rebuilding of Bristol Shoguns and life in the First Division. His speech was greeted with much applause.

After the votes of thanks, members and guests then either headed for the door or headed for the bar. The last carriages left at around midnight.



The Committee would like to thank Penny Dale for all her hard work, from printing and selling the tickets to organising the seating arrangements, not least because only two weeks beforehand she had been in hospital having both knees operated upon. Well done, Penny.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All at the Clubhouse	7pm for 7.30pm
Wednesday 20 October	Heineken Cup Preview - Fans Forum
Wednesday 10 November	Ladies Evening, 'Virgin Vie' Cosmetics with proceeds to Bristol Children's Hospital, details from Penny Dale on 01672 563089
Wednesday 24 November	Annual BRSC Quiz Night

For all the latest news, visit the Supporters club web site at www.allez-bath.co.uk

Printing "for the Job You Needed Yesterday"
MINUTEMAN PRESS®
45, Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BN
Tel: 01225 44 2000 Fax: 01225 31 1000

AGM - WEDNESDAY (NOT THURSDAY) 25TH AUGUST 2004

Many BRSC members descended on the Clubhouse on Wednesday night, glad that the new season is just about upon us.

John Connolly was there to tell us about his hopes for the forthcoming season and he was joined by new signings, Joe Maddock and Nick Walshe. He gave a very entertaining talk and answered a few searching questions.

The actual AGM eventually started at about 8.15pm; Jerry Keeling (Chairman) welcomed everyone and Penny Brunton (Hon Sec) convened the meeting and read the apologies. Everyone had had an opportunity to read the AGM 2003 Minutes. These were duly agreed and signed by the Chairman; there were no matters arising. Jerry presented his Chairman's Report, looking back over a most successful season, a variety of social gatherings and thanking all those at Bath Rugby and on the Committee for their hard work over the last year. There was a short break when Penny thought she must have resigned, as she was presented with a bottle of 7 year-old port and a large bouquet. It transpired that the Committee thought she would never stop complaining if she did not receive some acknowledgement for seven years' unstinting service to the BRSC and this wonderful Club.

Lesley Steeper presented the Membership Secretary's Report, stating that the numbers are now over 1,400. It was hoped that the membership could rise to over 2,000 by the end of 2005. In the absence of the Hon Treasurer (Mike York) and auditor (David Roy), Jerry said he hoped there were no queries with the audited

accounts. Fortunately, everyone seemed quite happy.

Of the current Committee, two members - Rowen Whittle and Gordon Hall - were resigning. Penny had received four nominations for the Committee - Mike Senior, Graham Coe, Jan Gregory and Mike Warrington - it was therefore necessary to appoint three scrutineers to deal with the voting. Voting papers



Joe Maddock - JC - Nick Walshe

were handed out and members voted for 7 out of the 9 nominees.

Whilst counting was underway, Penny Brunton announced the results of the voting for players' awards as follows:

Player of the Season - Andy Beattie (winner of the Vince Dyer Memorial Trophy)

Young Player of the Season - Olly Barkley

Try of the Season - Alex Crockett (versus Gloucester at home)

Ladies Dish - Olly Barkley

Unsung Hero - Rob Fidler.

As the scrutineers went to a recount, the meeting moved on to Any Other Business. Under AOB, members discussed putting more distant supporters in touch with each other, without contravening the Data Protection Act; 'Two in a Bath' - a further scheme for fund-

raising for Jimmy Deane's Community Development; Bob Calleja underlined all the hard work that was done in the community, which was not just rugby oriented; he then went on to give a Rec update. There was a call to increase the BRSC subscription to £10 but, after much discussion, this was declined.

The results of the Committee elections were eventually announced with commiserations going to Graham Coe and Mike Senior. (See separate item regarding Graham.)

Your current Committee now comprises the following:

Jerry Keeling - Chairman

Mike York - Honorary Treasurer

Penny Brunton - Honorary Secretary

Lesley Steeper - Membership Secretary

Glyn Edwards - Press/Media Officer

Doug Gibbs - PR and Club Liaison Officer

June Burnham

Penny Dale

Kate Dale

Jan Gregory

Mike Warrington

Bob Calleja - ex officio member (Bath Rugby)

The meeting finally closed at approximately 9.45pm.

(NB: A fuller report will be published on the Allez-Bath website - eventually.)

Bath Rugby Supporters visit Newcastle Falcons

26-27 March 2005

As in previous years, we are pleased to offer you a weekend away visiting the sunny North East.

The coach will leave Bath at 9.00 on Saturday, 26 March 2005, with the usual courtesy stops en route and a two-hour stop for lunch and sightseeing in either York or Harrogate. We shall arrive at The Sea Hotel in South Shields by 18.30 and will then enjoy a pleasant evening meal.

Following a leisurely breakfast on Sunday, we will check out of the hotel by 11.00 and will organise a lunch stop before arriving at the ground by 14.00 for a 15.00 kick off. We set off home and, allowing for

usual stops en route, will arrive back in Bath at approx. 01.00 on Monday, the 28th.

The cost per person will be £75.00. There is a single room supplement of £15.00 per person. All rooms have en suite facilities.

Please contact Sue & Richard on 01380 870691 to reserve your place on this trip. A non-refundable deposit of £25.00 is to be paid on booking and the remainder by the middle of January, please.

This has always been an enjoyable weekend and we hope that you will join us.

Graham Coe

Much has been written locally about the plight of Graham Coe, a Bath stalwart, who suffered a stroke in his early 40s and has travelled to the Rec and many away games over the past 6 years, thanks to the use of a motorised scooter, which, until 25th August 2004, he had been able to take on the train from Chippenham to Bath and back. Out of the blue, whilst trying to travel to the BRSC AGM, where he had been nominated for a place on the Committee, First Great Western suddenly decided that it was 'not safe' to permit him to travel by train, as the batteries on his buggy were deemed 'unstable.' Suffice to say, he missed the AGM, did not get on to the Committee (as his reasons for non-attendance were at that stage unknown) and was left in limbo in Chippenham.

Graham is not known to give up without a fight! Thanks to the efforts of the BRSC, Bath Rugby – management and players, the Bath Chronicle, HTV and, indeed, Graham himself, he managed to get to the first home game of the season, the United game the following Monday and acquired a lift to Worcester.

Thank you to everyone who has taken up the cause. Graham has been encouraged to start a petition and this is reproduced below:

A T O C

The Association of Train Operators' Council

Should ATOC be made to re-think their policies in allowing disabled people to travel with their battery-powered scooters/buggies on the rail network?

Please sign the attached to show how you feel. I hope that, with all the support that has been shown in and around Chippenham, they will. Hopefully this will allow not only me to travel but also others who like to have their independence. Signed Graham Coe

Please e-mail Penny Brunton, Hon Secretary, at penny@dwaalkop.demon.co.uk if you would like your name to be included on this petition.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT

Supporters Club helping the Bath Rugby Community Foundation



In case any of you missed the several photos of Jimmy Deane in the Newcastle Match programme earlier this month then we are pleased to show our own one of Jimmy receiving a cheque for £8,250 being the proceeds of the Shirt raffles last Season.

We are again running these raffles this season and are always keen to recruit volunteers to help us on Home Match days- usually the time involved is just over an hour before Kick off. We are also running the Two-in-a- Bath Competition and details are on our website and in the Match Programmes

And I once thought Rugby was a winter sport

Former Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson reportedly coined the phrase "a week is a long time in politics". I wonder if in every close season this has an echo for supporters of Bath rugby. I'm sure it used to, when the cricket season was pretty much left alone by the 'winter' games of soccer and rugby, and some gladiators even managed to play both cricket and one type of football at the highest level.

No longer, of course, as the demands of all professional sports now preclude such distractions. For the rugby supporter there really is no off-season anymore. Where previously only a Lions Tour every four years filled some of the summer, we now have World Cups, International Sevens, Test Series and Development Tours squeezed in-between domestic seasons. Satellite TV also provides coverage of all of the Southern Hemisphere competitions to satisfy the cravings of the 'rugby-nut' who can't go to the Rec for a few months. For the true Blue, Black & White follower, however, even watching the Currie Cup from South Africa, the NZ NPC, the Super-12s and the Tri-Nations cannot fully compensate. It might well ease the pain somewhat, but for some of us the withdrawal symptoms from being without our weekly 'fix' of following the fortunes of our beloved Bath Rugby are still something to be endured from May to September each year.

So, now the new season is upon us, it seems that some reflection on the last year and speculation as to what this campaign might bring is appropriate. For Bath, the summer of 2003 witnessed nothing less than a revolution so far as the playing staff at the Rec were concerned. A huge turnover of players preceded the arrival of a new Head Coach, and most Bath fans awaited the start of last season with a genuine mixture of hopeful anticipation and dread of what might happen if the 'new' team failed to gel

quickly enough or even at all. Only the belief that something drastic needed to have followed the two preceding relegation-haunted seasons united everyone who had Bath's interests at heart. Well, drastic it certainly was, and successful from the start to a degree that even the dreamier optimists would have struggled to predict. A

truly fantastic season ensued and, despite the ultimate lack of silverware, the rugby world took note that Bath were back – and with a bang.

This season the tasks for John Connolly and Jonathan Humphreys are to consolidate the enormous improvement made during the last year and then to try and squeeze that extra 10% from the squad in order to surpass the achievements of 2003-2004. As we saw from the first two games – and defeats – of this season that will require every bit as much hard work and commitment as we witnessed last season. Virtually all but the most pessimistic of fans would have been confident of that being delivered by a group of coaches and players who shirked none of those

challenges last time. However, after Northampton, and especially the real 'off-day' against Newcastle, a few more might harbour some doubts that the narrow win over Worcester will not have entirely dispelled. Contrasting what can only be described as the clinical finishing of the Saints with the careless generosity of Bath was only slightly less-worrying than the entirely baffling manner of the surrender to the Falcons. The only consolation is the belief that JC2, MF and RG cannot be as mystified as I was!

Two other ingredients are essential for such progress, however – good luck with injuries and the addition of a few quality players to a squad. Apart from employing the best conditioning and fitness specialists – which we seem to have done – we can do little else about our luck, other than justifiably claim that after two dreadful years we are certainly due an upturn in our fortunes. As for new signings - Brendon Daniel, Lee Best, and Gareth Delve effectively supplement Joe Maddock, Nick Walshe, Frikke Welsh and Christian Loader. This should satisfy even the most demanding of supporters, particularly as the balance is so obviously weighted towards backs – although inside centres still seem rather thin on the ground. The pack stunned us all last year with their consistent dominance, whereas the back division often failed to ignite and therefore excite. Defence was outstanding, and no doubt will be so again, despite evidence to the contrary at Franklins Gardens and against Squeaky's flyers. This year, however, we shall all be expecting to see the cutting edge of the sword as well as the strength of the shield!

Glyn Edwards



Christian Loader

ALBERT RANDALL: 'NO-SIDE'

It is with considerable sadness that we have to report the passing, on 23rd August 2004, of Mr Albert Randall, aged 75. Albert was one of Bath's most dedicated followers, having at one time acted as a ball-boy, retrieving errant and extravagant kicks from the River Avon. Also, many years ago, he operated the manual scoreboard at the Rec. Always one of the first down at the ground, to secure his place on the front row of the terracing, Albert will not only be fondly remembered but also most sorely missed by all of his many rugby friends in and around Bath and at the Club.