



# Fairford RFC Newsletter

April 2020



**WE NEED YOU**

**Please be a Club Volunteer**  
**Contact [rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk](mailto:rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk)**

## Season ends early due to Covid-19

Sadly our 2019/2020 season came to an abrupt halt with the arrival of Covid-19 across all sports. Fairford RFC will be back as soon as possible to begin the 2020/2021 season for all ages. Please keep a close eye on the website [www.fairfordrfc.co.uk](http://www.fairfordrfc.co.uk) and social media for updates including fixture lists for next season. We offer rugby from U5 – U14 in the mini and junior section as well as a 1<sup>st</sup> XV and 2<sup>nd</sup> XV. We also have a new ladies team so there is something for everyone so feel free to get in touch and join in the fun [rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk](mailto:rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk)





### New Sponsorship

Premier Leasing are now the proud sponsors of the U12/U13. Thank you to Greg Jones for his continued support. We are always looking for new sponsors so if this is something you or your company may be interested in please get in touch [rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk](mailto:rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk)



Match Reports from seniors



### North Bristol -v- Fairford

**FAIRFORD produced a resolute away day display with a 33-24 victory at North Bristol on Saturday, which despite being far from a complete performance, illustrated the side's strength in depth and the character within the club.**

Flying winger James Wrona set the visitors on their way with an 11<sup>th</sup> minute finish, converted by Jake Summers after a combative start against a dogged North Bristol outfit - whose powerful scrum was a constant thorn in the side of the green and black pack.

The hosts reply came in the form of a well-worked try, breaking through after a series of sustained round the corner drives. With the score 7-7 approaching the half-hour mark, Fairford's patience in possession paid off as scrum-half Ben Taylor broke clear with a neat finish and with Summers adding the extras, the 14-7 lead provided Fairford with a platform on which to build.

And build they did with a try of the highest order. Having collected the resulting kick-off deep in his own, flanker Robbie Dalglish evaded countless tackles with a series of rangy side-steps and an off-load on the half-way line set the backs free and - orchestrated by influential fly-half Ben Cohoon - slick hands from debutant Jake Hancock and Summers carved the space for Wrona to glide home for his second of the day to make it 19-7.

Poor defensive shape allowed North Bristol another foothold in the encounter with a simple score to reduce the arrears at 19-12 going into the break, but a brace of changes at the break added considerable heft to the Fairford pack which steadied the Badgers' ship.

A flowing move ten minutes into the second half saw neat hands from Wrona and Chris Tanner out wide release supporting flanker Adam Blizzard who crossed for an important converted try as the advantage extended to 26-12. A superbly executed backs move saw man of the match Mike Wrona thunder through three tackles from a set piece to stretch the lead to 33-12.

A brace of yellow cards for poor discipline in the tackle saw the visitors defend their lead with 13 men for the closing nine minutes and the home side needed no second invitation to put their foot on the gas. The numerical advantage contributed to both tries with a simple maul proving unstoppable to make it 33-19 on 76 minutes before a cross field kick complementing the numerical mismatch for a well-finished last-minute score to round off what had been a competitive encounter.

At the final whistle Fairford coach Danny Briggs reminded the players of how far they had come in such a short time - but set the squad a target of being in the top two at Christmas.

With a week off before games against leaders Old Cryptians (Saturday 7th December) and a trip to third-placed Old Elizabethans seven days later, he insists the club have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

“After Saturday we sit at the top end of the table – it’s a position we have worked hard for but we must continue to train with the same intensity that we play games at. The coaching team are incredibly proud of all the players and with new faces arriving all of the time, competition for places remains high and the future is green and black.”

F/T: North Bristol 24 Fairford 33



Fairford -v- Old Cryptians

**FAIRFORD'S top of the table clash with Old Cryptians saw the two sides share the spoils after a pulsating encounter at Coln House on Saturday.**

The visitors arrived in GL7 having won all nine rounds of their Wadworth Gloucestershire 1 season but were met with another steadfast display from the Green Army.

After a predictably tight opening quarter of a confrontational encounter, it was Fairford who struck first. Fly-half Ben Cohoon sized a half chance with a neat interception to dot down for the opening score of the afternoon for a 5-0 lead.

Skipper Ben Goodey needed little invitation to score the second, crashing over in the corner for a second unconverted score to extend the advantage to 10-0.

The visitors' response arrived before the break with number eight Matt Hurdle the man to breach the Badgers' line as he powered through under the posts, converted by centre Luke McMahon.

Half-time offered both sides the chance to draw breath from what had been a demanding first half, with Fairford holding a 10-7 lead going into the second period – roared on by another excellent Coln House crowd.

The only score of the second half was a penalty from McMahon – who held his nerve from distance for what proved to be a crucial score to level the game up at 10-10.

Chances were created for both sides, matched by excellent defensive shifts as the league's top two sides played out a cracking encounter – proving the strength of rugby being played at the summit of Gloucester 1.

Post-match Fairford Head Coach Danny Briggs was proud of his side's efforts – with the result another building block in what has been a progressive few years for the Gloucestershire side.

"I am incredibly proud of all involved with the club; we competed with the league's runaway leaders and possibly deserved the win. The result wasn't only down to the 18 man squad, but also those not selected, those injured, the management team and the amazing Green Army."

He added: "Those outside the club can continue to underestimate us, but as a club and a town we know what hard work can achieve. This success is because of us all and for all of us. We will not get carried away but we will continue to fight for one another and spring a few surprises

"F/T: Fairford 10 Old Cryptians 10

[Fairford -v- St Brendan's Old Boys](#)

**ST BRENDAN'S Old Boys completed the double over Fairford as they emerged with a 31-22 victory from a bruising Coln House encounter on Saturday.**

It was the first time the Badgers had suffered back to back defeats in 2019/20 – with Saturday's encounter following the pre-Christmas reverse at Old Elizabethans.

The game proved entertaining for the neutral with over 50 points scored – with the visitors quick off the mark to race into a 10-0 lead inside six minutes thanks to a converted try and a penalty.

Fairford's response was a slick move down the blindside with Luke Sawyer's pick-up from the base of a solid scrum feeding scrum-half Ben Taylor who set **Mike Wrona** away to thunder through the visitors' rearguard to make it 5-10. In turn, St Brendan's continued to build their score with another converted finish for 5-17 with 20 minutes on the clock.

The end to end flow continued as just a minute later, a strong driving run from the effervescent Adam Blizzard set up a strong platform, from which swift hands down the blindside from Taylor and Ben Goodey found centre **Eric White** to finish in the corner. The width of the post denied Jake Summers the extras at 10-17. A well-executed chip and chase kept the visitor's scoreboard ticking at 10-24 but once again Fairford were not bowed. Hooker Richie Craig's pinpoint throw set up Robbie Dalgleish with a driving maul, with **Craig** on hand to gather and cross the whitewash from the base of a driving maul for a 15-24 scoreline at the interval.

Calculated power play from the home pack early in the second period provided good ball for fly-half **Harry Johnson**, whose footwork forced a penalty try to reduce the arrears to 22-24 and it was game on.

A tight final quarter of the affair ensued, where collective indiscipline from the hosts saw Dalgleish sent to the bin and the Bristol side capitalised on the numerical advantage with a penalty try from the last play of the day.

Coach **Danny Briggs** commented: "St Brendan's Old Boys thoroughly deserved their victory, they executed their moves and game plan better than us. We had the opportunities to get the win, however today wasn't our day; this shouldn't take the shine off what has been an exceptionally good season thus far and with a hard weeks training, Cirencester can expect us to be back at our very best next week."

**F/T:** Fairford 22 St Brendan's Old Boys 31





Fairford -v- Dursley

**GAMES are won and lost by fine margins and Saturday's topsy-turvy encounter at Coln House saw Dursley strike late on to secure a narrow away victory in Wadworth Gloucester 1.**

Fairford had come from behind to restore parity, before turning second half pressure into a valuable lead, but it was Dursley who ended the day with the points.

Dursley – who started the day in fourth one place behind Fairford – made a fast start with a turnover on the home '22 launching a counter-attack with a kick and chase gathered by the number eight to cross for the opening score of the game just six minutes in.

Scrum dominance on the quarter of an hour mark saw a powerful break from Luke Sawyer release scrum-half Ben **Taylor** who needed no second invitation to level the scores from close range. Fairford kept up the pressure at the scrum and Dursley soon lost a man to the sin bin for persistent infringements.

Despite the numerical disadvantage, it was Dursley who crossed next; with a rare foray into the Badgers' half resulting in several phases being put together to build their second try of the game.

**H/T:** Fairford 5 Dursley 10

The second half saw Fairford, backed by another superb following from the sidelines, reduce the arrears with **Taylor** breaking clear and surging home from distance to level the game at 10-10.

Fairford continued to build momentum and captain Ben Goodey then crossed out wide with Ben Cohoon hitting the post with the subsequent touchline conversion to leave the score poised at 15-10.

However, a series of team infringements soon after the hour saw the hosts reduced in number, with Goodey taking the hit for a ten minute sojourn. Dursley capitalised with a pushover try from close range and with the extras added, the visitors held on to a 17-15 lead despite a determined final push from the home side.

**F/T** Fairford 15 Dursley 17

Round up from Danny Briggs Senior Coach



With the season finished early due to COVID 19, the RFU have calculated the final league table which see's us finish in 5th position. Although almost all of us would have taken this at the start of the season, I for one believe that we have the talent and ability to have gained the results in our final few games to finish in the top 3.

Beating several established clubs throughout the season notably Cirencester home and away, as well as not losing to runaway leaders Old Cryptians, proved that we are a team to take seriously.

Next season cant come quickly enough, where with the restructured leagues, we will face opposition for the first time in our history. I for one can not wait to face the challenge head first. I know that with a little recruitment, coupled with the togetherness of the current playing group, we will have every chance of topping the league and playing even more 2nd team fixtures throughout the season.

Myself and the team would like to thank everybody involved within the club, all players, all those who give their time to help throughout and all those who follow us up and down the M4.

Stay together, stay safe and look after yourselves and your families. It will be a long off season but we will be ready to bounce back as soon as it is safe to do so.

#### GL1

▲ Old Cryptians	101.44
▲ Old Elizabethans	73.33
Smiths Rugby	69.30
Dursley	68.44
Fairford	64.78
Cirencester	57.44
St Brendan's Old Boys	53.90
Gloucester Old Boys	44.00
Gordon League	37.40
Tewkesbury	31.08
North Bristol	22.00
Old Colstonians	19.00

Once we have a new date for the end of season event and awards ceremony we will let you know, there are lots of things already been planned so hopefully we can get the go ahead later in the year. We always like to thank all of our volunteers and coaches for all their time and commitment to the club. So that you can get to know some of the faces from behind the scenes at FRFC here is a quick run down

### George Ellis



Is the founder of Fairford RFC in 1994 and general good egg he can often be found manning the buttie van or setting up for mini and junior rugby from 7.30am on a Sunday morning

### Scott Cohoon



Club President

I started as a junior coach in 2005. I then became the Junior Chairman in 2007 we managed to increase the numbers from about 50 ish to just over 100 in that time

I then started my very long task of obtaining Leaffield road pitches in around 2008,

When Ben my son joined the seniors in 2016/17 I took a back seat from the juniors and became more involved with the club development.

### Beamer



#### Chair of Fairford RFC

Joined the club in 2001 and was Captain of the side that won the club's first league championship in 2005/6.

Retired from playing in 2007, 2008, 2009....and still retiring at the end of each season.

Became Chairman in 2015 and started coaching the U5s in 2018.

#### Steve Darley



#### Club Secretary

Joined the club in the early days, playing at nine (believe it or not). Scored FRFC's first try in League rugby, just beating Ants to a bouncing ball! Now mostly found doing the live game updates from the touch line for Social Media, keeping the Green Army happy and up to date. I also write up the meeting minutes and deal with any Club disciplinary matters.

#### Helen Ross



#### Club Treasurer

I've been involved with the club helping with youth at the start and recently looking after the banking. I've always enjoyed being part of the club and helping where I can. My children take part in the U9 rugby and love it.



### Kenny Robins



to the seniors eventually when they are ready.

I joined the club as a player in 2012 and started coaching a year later. As coach coordinator my role is to organise the coaches so that we are up to date with all our RFU courses and we all sing of the same hymn sheet when it comes to coaching. The aim is for the pathway to exist so children can enjoy their junior rugby at FRFC and transition

### Danny Briggs



a full time 2nd team over the next 2 seasons.

Head Coach Senior mens Senior XV

Involved in the club since 2004 as a player having moved to the area with the RAF.

Coached with the club since 2017.

Aim is to take us to Glos Premier Division whilst welcoming and developing all players no matter the standard.

I am excited about the growth in the club through the youth and ladies section and hope that we can develop

### Laura Stiff



help improve the clubs social media presence.

Fairford Vixens Captain, I play inside centre. New to the club for the 2019/20 season, and founder of the ladies team at Fairford. My son also plays in the Under 10s team.

I've thoroughly enjoyed being part of the club this season and helping behind the scenes where I can.

My goals for next season are to play as many games as possible with the Vixens, encourage new players to the clubs at all levels but especially girls and women, and to

### Debbie Rees



I've been a volunteer at the club since my son started playing for the under 5's. I got involved as I thought it was a good idea to stock kit for the children to enable them "to try before they buy" as it's so hard guessing sizes online. Therefore, we set up a small shop in the cabin. It is also a nice way to meet other children and parents. As I work in horseracing, some weekends are spent at work, so if anyone fancies helping, please let me know.

### Katherine Buchanan



Club Volunteer co ordinator

As a "newbie" to both Fairford and the Rugby club, our Son who plays in the under 7's, joined the club for the 19/20 season and I soon signed up to be a volunteer! Being pitch side most weeks as both a Mum and member of the club, it puts me in a great position to help when needed.

### Lindsey Thurlow



Is everything admin and also Safeeguarding officer at FRFC I am where all those mystery emails and social media posts come from! Please feel free to email back I don't bite – Very often! I also have a son who plays in the U14 at Fairford and thoroughly enjoys his rugby.

**Cake Sale raised an impressive £166.65**



Huge thanks to everyone who has supported the cakes sales the cake sales on behalf of Lindsey and

#violetsdish due to everyones generosity Lindsey has reached her fund raising target of £2800 for makeawish so once it is possible Violets wish will be granted.



## Parking and Spectators etiquette ahead for the new season

Parking for the Youth is at Farmors school and George has fitted a new gate so you can walk straight to the pitches. Please do not park in front of peoples driveways or in between the cones.



Parking for the seniors is at the Youth Football pitches, please respect our neighbours and DO NOT park on the road

Please can all spectators respect the referee and be mindful of bad language, etc – bad behaviour can make us lose points



Once we get the all clear from the government pitches will be open for all members and friends to use out of season but please take care of them!



We are keen that members continue to use the Leafield pitches over the summer months. We will keep the pitches mown and marked out and encourage you all to come and use them to keep your rugby skills fresh, meet your friends or hold family picnics. It is a community asset and hope you will make use of this offer. Please enter through the Leafield Road gate and take all your rubbish home and hope to see some of you over the summer months at the ground

## URGENT Volunteers Needed

The club is growing quickly and we need new volunteers in a variety of role from coaches, to support at events, to baking cakes for cake sale. We have a strong band of merry green and black volunteers but need more help. All our volunteers are busy people with full time jobs / families, they already commit a huge amount of their time and there is a limit in what we can ask people to do. I am sure you will agree that we need to share the work in running a successful club. We ask that everyone does their bit and hope that you will consider putting your name forward for the roles we have below. Katherine Buchanan is our brilliant, super-efficient volunteer coordinator and would be more than happy to discuss with any of you the below in more detail. She can be contacted at: [familybuchanan@outlook.com](mailto:familybuchanan@outlook.com)



## Buttie Van

We have a fabulous 'Buttie Technician Crew' however new additions are always welcome to support the Sunday rota, in particular when we have home games.

## Support for Sunday 'set-up / take-down'

We are now looking for volunteers that can help us on Sunday mornings with the setting up and clearing away for rugby training. Rugby starts at 10:30 so we would like some willing volunteers to arrive for 09:30 to have everything in place ready so that the children can get the most out of their training.

## Coaches

We need more coaches (male and female) as our numbers are growing and the club is 'buzzing'. We really do need your support to ensure that we have enough coaches for each age group for the start of the 2020/2021 Season in September. Without new coaches and growing numbers we will struggle to meet demand.



## Business Support

We often get the opportunity to bid for pots of community funding for the club. We are looking for willing volunteers that would work with committee members to develop a pack of mini 'business cases'.

This will allow us to be prepared to respond to funding opportunities as they arise



### Kit Store – Selling and Orders from the Cabin on Sundays

We have an exciting range of Fairford RFU clothing and accessories which will be sold from the cabin on training days and which can be ordered on line, both mini's and seniors. We will have samples of all sizes in the cabin for you to try and we can order items for you direct from Raging Bull.



### Our Facebook Page

Don't forget to keep to speed with the what the club is doing by following our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/frfcjuniors/>

### Your Feedback

If you are receiving this newsletter but no longer wish to please email Lindsey at [rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk](mailto:rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk). If you have feedback on the Newsletter or content that you would like to added to the next edition please contact Lindsey at [rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk](mailto:rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk)

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