



# Fairford RFC Newsletter

May 2020



We hope that this latest newsletter from Fairford RFC finds you well and staying safe. This is a very difficult time. It is a period in our lives that, in just 6 weeks, has erupted from nowhere but has impacted us all, well beyond any anticipation. We are all dealing with the challenges that this situation has brought, keeping our immediate loved ones safe and well, and many of us have been handed a financial challenge that, being so hard to overcome, leads to uncertainty and magnifies our stress. But as has been said by many people, we will get through this, it will pass. If anyone needs any help or support the club is here to help please just get in touch [rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk](mailto:rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk). The committee continues to work remotely so the club can be ready for the new season.

The club will remain closed until we are advised it can reopen.



Given the season ended so abruptly we haven't had chance to award and congratulate teams and individuals. But rest assured when we start to return to normal this will be addressed so keep an eye on your emails. Please take time to reflect on this

difficult year but then please look forward to the future with renewed enthusiasm. I hope beyond all else, that despite having been through difficult times, we are all looking forward to continuing with our support for this fine club. Let us now work to make it greater and stronger both on the field and off it.

Thank you to everyone at this key moment in our history. From our youngest age groups to the most senior of VPs, support staff, committee members and finally to our sponsors, I thank you all.

Take care of yourselves, your families and friends. Stay safe!

## 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 to 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)



## Meet the Coaches for the 2020/2021 season

### Kenny Robins



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 to the seniors eventually when they are ready.

### Beamer Chambers



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.

### Johann Bagoban



Coaching: (was) under 7's (will be under 8's)

Started playing rugby at school and really enjoyed it. So, after joining the school team I went to the local town team Reading RFC where I continued to enjoy it I was a regular team member on the 1st and our team while I was there was undefeated! We won the Berkshire cup! I was selected to play for Oxfordshire schools and from Reading RFC our entire team was selected to represent Berkshire clubs. I continued to play as loose head prop for schools, colleges, and counties and thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the sport. I stopped playing in 2010 and did my

last half game for Faringdon RFC where I realised I had become too old! Luckily I'm not completely out of the sport and can still take part through coaching the u7's which is thoroughly enjoyable.



## Barney Jenkins



My son Sam and I have been part of FRFC since he was in the U6s, I started coaching from U7s and it has been a blast...even in the rain!

Every Sunday we try to achieve something new and most of the time we get there. I have been with the same squad for 3 years now so we're a close gang and I can't wait to get together again as U10s!

My favourite rugby memory was watching England beat the All Blacks at Twickenham in 1983, Dusty Hare was a legend that day and not just because his name made me laugh.

When I'm not at the club I spend my time in lycra riding around the Cotswolds or at home cooking up something new.

For my sins I still follow football and I'm a big Liverpool fan so I may be wearing red at training from time to time.

## Jonny Butler (U11s)



**International Team:** England

### **Why I chose to coach for FRFC**

Having played for Hungerford 1<sup>st</sup> in my younger years I was keen to find a club with a similar ethos. A club that embodies the rugby values, and lives them. A club that does its best to encourage its youngster so no matter what their ability. In my mind, Fairford is that club.

### **Most Inspiring Player**

Joost van der Westhuizen, a physical scrum half who mixed it with the best of them. A integral part of South African 1995 world cup winning team.

Later on in his life, the way he tackled motor neurone disease was an inspiration. A legend on and off the field.

## Jim Huish (U11s)



**International Team:** England

### Why I chose to coach for FRFC

Having played as a senior on and off since we moved to the area and working the Buttie Van for a couple of seasons, when the opportunity to coach came up I was keen to give it a go. Fairford is a cracking club with a real sense of the 'rugby family', so it is a pleasure for me to support the club and watch the youngsters get involved in grass roots rugby and teaching them the true values of the sport.

Hoping at some point to have a Lads and Dads match but that will put me probably me in my late 40's and my lad's already got more technique than me!

### Most Inspiring Player

Richie McCaw - like him or loath him, a very skilful and strategic player and leader on and off the pitch.

## Dave Jackson



Age 38 (Although the wife says I look 45)

I've been with my wife Emma for 22 years, we have 4 children, Georgie 21, James 20, Abbie 14 and Luke 12, we live in Carterton and have done so for the past 14 years. We hope to move to Fairford once our eldest children are out of University.

I've been at Fairford for the past 6 years, having coached most age groups I am now the U12/13 coach and although they are a small group I am so proud of how they have developed over the past few years. We love the club not only for the great rugby ethos it has but the people we have come to call friends.

I have been in the Royal Airforce for 19 years as an Air Traffic Controller, I'm currently working at the National Air Traffic Centre in Southampton, where I stay during the week.

I have been lucky enough to get a few run outs for the Fairford seconds which is a great leveller especially when I do all the things I coach the kids not to do.

My Premiership/Championship rugby team is Saracens having grown up in Essex they were and still are the best team to follow (Especially if you need a financial backer) 😊

## Luke Sawyer



Age-30

Position- 8

Been playing rugby since I was 9.

Played 3 season for Newbury Blues National level.

I'm now a senior player for Fairford RFC, I also coach the ladies team Fairford vixens RFC.

## Danny Briggs



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

Contact: [ladies@fairfordrfc.co.uk](mailto:ladies@fairfordrfc.co.uk)



**FAIRFORD VIXENS**

Wednesday  
19:00-21:00

**FUN FRIENDSHIP FITNESS**

Coln house school  
pitches GL7 4DB

We are recruiting new players for the coming season., zero experience required. If you would like further information please drop Laura a message [ladies@fairfordrfc.co.uk](mailto:ladies@fairfordrfc.co.uk) or look us up on social media

<https://www.facebook.com/FairfordLRFC>

<https://www.instagram.com/fairfordvixens/>

**A great article in the Wiltshire Glos Standard about our very own Matt and Katy Dawson**

**An engineering firm from the Cotswolds has joined forces with a local packaging supplier to manufacture critical PPE for health and care workers.**



Orthotropic Engineering, based in Quenington, has created the visors after building on work from the field of 3D printing.

In total, 1,000 of the face visors will be donated.

Matthew Dawson, director at Orthotropic said:

“Several companies and numerous enthusiasts have started using 3D printers to help make visors.

"Although this is a great initiative, 3D printing is a fairly slow process more suited to prototyping than serial production.

“The visor we have created is an adaptation of an open-source design for 3-D printing.

"However, it can be manufactured immediately and rapidly in large quantities without the need for any bespoke tooling.

"It's delivered to where it's needed in flat-pack form for easy shipping and storage, and can easily be assembled for use in less than a minute.”

Having crowd-funded over £8,000 on JustGiving to cover the cost of materials, Orthotropic turned to packaging manufacturer GWP Group in order to produce the required elements of the visors.

This included the fabrication of the foam strip used to provide protection from above, as well as the outer corrugated boxes used to ship the visors.

Matthew added: “We were genuinely blown away by the public response to our fundraising as well as the rapid and generous response of suppliers such as GWP.”

Ian Heskins, business development director at GWP Group, said: “When we were approached by Matthew at Orthotropic we were only too happy to help.

"With the material costs covered by the crowdfunding, we were able to provide the manufacturing expertise and capacity at no cost."

"Two weeks ago a friend of mine arrived for her shift at work. She is a locum doctor, taking on extra shifts to help out as much as she can during the Coronavirus crisis.

"When she arrived the only PPE available to her was a pair of plastic gloves. She is a friend, a wife, mother to two girls, a daughter and a sister, and she was helping patients with Covid-19 without the correct equipment.

"Even though these visors will help, we believe there must be other people out there that could also manufacture them.

"Therefore, we've made the drawings available on our website for free download anywhere in the world. We will also gladly and freely provide the design files needed to get the parts cut."

For the designs, go to [www.orthotropic.co.uk](http://www.orthotropic.co.uk).

**We would like to say a big thank you to our rugby family and particularly Fairford rugby club for their generous donation.. We're really pleased that we have been able to make sure our local key workers are well equipped - your support has made a huge difference to a lot of people Katy and Matt Dawson**



## Pitch maintenance

This is a picture of the professional ground care company re-seeding and fertilising our training paddock under the lights and up the middle of the senior pitch at Coln House, lots of ground care going on youth pitches are growing very well after chain harrowing twice and heavy rolled, and already two cuts with Tina Toro ( our big mower ) it's is growing fast, recovering well and looking good, Coln House is a different story it has struggled, with the



training paddock getting so much damage during an unusually wet winter and the senior pitch getting hammered with matches being played in horrid conditions all taking its toll, we have chain harrowed but are yet to give it a cut as the new seeds need rain !! And the ground is very patchy, so looking forward to some rain !!!! Didn't think I would be saying that !!!!

I am continuing to mark out the senior pitch so as soon as we get the green light, with rain forecast we will have a pitch looking great and ready for action, bring it on cheers G

## 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

## Kit Store on-line

In preparation for the new season Fairford RFU Junior and Mini rugby kit can be bought online through the club website:

<https://www.ragingbullsportswear.com/fairford-rfc-juniors>

The cabin will be stocked ready for the new season any questions please ask Debbie [dbracewell72@gmail.com](mailto:dbracewell72@gmail.com)

## 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/>

(Note - we do also use email to update in-between newsletters for non- Facebook users)

## **We are also looking to recruit a TEAM MANAGER for each age group**

### **PURPOSE**

To represent the team to the admin, fixture secretary and coach, to keep the team in the loop on club requirements and to pass on knowledge about the game and act as a role model.

### **Key aspects of the role**

#### **Set up and pack away**

Organise helpers to set up and pack away before and after each session

#### **Organise the dissemination of all match information**

Make sure players, families and supports know where they are playing and training each week. Work with the coach to share information before matches with players/parents where appropriate

#### **Ensure any team kit is properly maintained**

Make sure all team has appropriate kit for matches, share responsibility for kit washing where necessary. Report to club admin if any training equipment needs replacing

#### **Comply with player registration**

Liaise with admin team to take a register each week and ensure all players are registered and before a match complete team sheets

#### **Is this role for you?**

If you are a good listener who is easy to approach, a good timekeeper who is well organised, enthusiastic and motivating then this could be the volunteer role for you. If you are interested then please get in touch [rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk](mailto:rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk)



## Fairford RFC Helping others

The club received a lovely email from Make a Wish that we thought we would share with you all

Make-A-Wish UK would like to recognise the incredible fundraising activity of all at Fairford RFC over the last 12 months. The club has raised an incredible £7,924 (including Gift Aid) through two challenge events:

- The London Landmarks Half Marathon – Fairford Rugby Runners – April 2019
- Vixens Snowden Challenge for Violets Wish – March 2020



A huge thank-you to everyone who has participated and raised this amazing sum of money for wish children, in Fairford and across the UK. Thank-you to all who have supported in baking cakes, attending quizzes, events and putting your hands in your pockets to show your support, you have all been incredibly generous. It means so much to our wish children to have a life changing wish, even more so during these difficult times, when we have 2,000 children currently waiting for wishes.

Lindsey who does all the club admin, has gone to extraordinary efforts as she has raised within 18 months a whopping £11,716 (including Gift Aid) for Make-A-Wish UK through running (lots)!

- 2018/19 - Marathons for Make-A-Wish 2019/20
- Violets wish - £3,287 (includes Gift Aid)





Between Fairford RFC and Lindsey have raised £19,640 (including Gift Aid) which equates to 7 or 8 wishes for children. Thank-you all so much for engaging in what we do.

## Start of the New Season

We are sure you are all very much looking forward to the start of the new season as you can appreciate we are in uncertain times at the moment so please make sure the club has your most recent up to date contact details [rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk](mailto:rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk)

Ahead of the new season the committee has been working hard to offer all players and families value for money. So subject to ratification at the next AGM the membership prices will be as follows for the 2020/2021 season

Seniors £70 membership plus £30 match fees

2<sup>nd</sup> Team Player TBC

Student u18 £40

University/guest player £10

Social membership £10

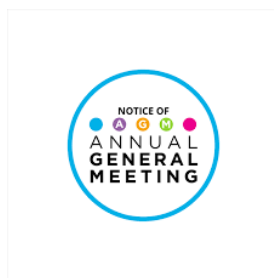
Ladies £50 membership plus £5 per game or £20 total match fees

Juniors £60 first child £30 sibling and a free water bottle if you sign up in first 3 weeks

Offer across the minis and juniors if you recommend a friend who signs up to FRFC you and the friend get a £10 gift voucher for the cabin min spend £20

The first three sessions of 2020/2021 will be free for mini and juniors and we encourage you to bring all your friends and family to give it a go. We start from Reception age, upwards. Please, please, please spread the word

We hope you agree that this is great value for money. You will also be able to complete your membership online via our website [www.fairfordrfc.co.uk](http://www.fairfordrfc.co.uk)



### Fairford RFC AGM Calling notice 28 days date TBC

If you have any items for the committee to discuss we hold monthly meetings please submit to Steve Darley [rafbadger@googlemail.com](mailto:rafbadger@googlemail.com)

### Colouring to Support the NHS

Here is something for you to enjoy with the kids. Print out and colour our "rainbow thank you" poster.

Display it in your window and show your support for all the people still working to keep us safe.

Download the poster here <https://www.29-design.co.uk/read-our-blogs/>

The poster has been kindly created for us by

**29 design**



### 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 (June 2020) please contact Lindsey at [rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk](mailto:rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk) items need to be submitted by 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Thank-you to all our sponsors:







