



Fairford RFC Newsletter

August 2021



As summer 2021 draws to a close (well, when we say summer.....think August got lost after letter 2 and turned to Autumn!) isn't it exciting to think that in a few short weeks, we will be back on the pitch/standing on the touchline for full rules rugby. It's been soooooo long!

This issue of the newsletter reflects on some summer activity and looks forward to what will hopefully be a successful and enjoyable Club 2021/22 season. We hope you enjoy the read and, remember, this is your (the Club community's) Newsletter, so if there's anything you'd like to see included in future issues, just get in touch kspour@sky.com



England Rugby



GLOUCESTERSHIRE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP

Return to Rugby Roadmap

There's no new roadmap picture from the RFU but this previous map from them confirms the return to 'no restrictions' rugby, at step 4 of the government's guidelines, which came in on 19th July as expected – yay!

England Rugby RETURN TO RUGBY ROAD MAP: COMMUNITY GAME 12/07/21

FOR INFORMATION ON USE OF CLUBHOUSE, CHANGING ROOMS AND GYM PLEASE SEE WWW.GLOUCESTERSHIRERUGBY.COM/COMMUNITY

A	D1	D2	E1	E2	F
INDIVIDUAL TRAINING WITH ONE OTHER PERSON	READY A RUGBY & SOME CONTACT TRAINING	ADAPTED LAW MATCHES	FULL CONTACT TRAINING	FULL CONTACT ADULT MATCHES	ALL RESTRICTIONS LIFTED
UNTIL 29TH MARCH	FROM 29TH MARCH	FROM 26TH APRIL	FROM 19TH JULY	FROM 7TH AUGUST	STEP 4 OF GOVERNMENT ROADMAP COMMENCED - 19TH JULY PAGE 7 WILL ALSO ALLOW SIDE STAIRS & EE
CURRENT LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS REMAIN. INDIVIDUALS ALLOWED TO EXERCISE WITH ONE OTHER PERSON (MAXIMUM 2 METRES APART) AND TO PLAY FOOTBALL IN THE GARDEN.	CONTACT TRAINING (EXCLUDING SCRUM & MAUL) READY A RUGBY, OS TOUCH & TAG PARTNER PLAY (OPTIONAL) CLUBS	CONTACT TRAINING (EXCLUDING SCRUM & MAUL) JUVENILE & AGE GRADE MATCHES WITH ADAPTED LAWS (NO SCRUM & MAUL)	FULL CONTACT TRAINING (INCLUDING SCRUM & MAUL) & 4 WEEKS EXERCISES LEAD UP TO TRAINING MATCHES (NONE OF ADULT MATCHES ALLOWED)	ADULT FULL CONTACT MATCHES AGE GRADE MATCHES RESTARTED UNDER ADAPTED LAW VARIATIONS	ALL RESTRICTIONS LIFTED
<p>PLEASE NOTE All adult and age grade competitions anticipated to start in September as normal, under full laws. Full details on Age Grade Summer Activity Framework and Return to Scrummaging are available here</p>					

Sponsorship Deals

The Club continues to try to secure further partnerships as we move forward, so if any of you want to get involved (or know of businesses that might) then please get in touch rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk. Details of the deals available are in the poster below.

We remain very grateful to our continuing and new sponsors (see end of newsletter). Please support these businesses whenever you can, to ensure an enduring 'win win' relationship.

FAIRFORD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Annual Sponsorship Packages

Annual sponsorship opportunities

Our pitch side advertising boards feature as a backdrop to Match / Training Sessions. Matches and training are frequently photographed generating impressive local awareness in social media and print bringing positive PR to your business. Your logo will also be included in our newsletters and on our website www.fairfordrfc.co.uk

For the period of the sponsorship period, you will have our permission to use both the club name and it's crest along with a strapline of "*Sponsor Name* is a proud sponsor of Fairford Rugby Football Club" (alternative straplines will always be considered)

Level	Sponsorship	Business Benefit
GOLD	£1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As per the 'silver' package ● Eligible to be a VP including opportunity for RFU International Tickets ● FRFC kit bundle ● 2x Club membership of your choice
SILVER	£500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As per the 'bronze' package ● Hospitality at Fairford RFC key matches ● Open invite to all club social events ● 1x Club membership of your choice
BRONZE	£250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advertising board 6 x 2' displayed either at Coln House or Leafield Pitches



FRFC

Come and be part of Fairford's rugby community



fairfordrfc.co.uk [fairfordrfc](https://www.facebook.com/fairfordrfc) [@fairfordrfc](https://twitter.com/fairfordrfc)

Clubhouse Update

New cabin @ Coln pitches: We continue to source the right cabin (for changing rooms, physio etc) at the right price. It's unlikely this will be in place for the first matches, but will be as soon as is possible.

Permanent home solution: Several options are being considered, all of which can

only be moved forward with a lot of negotiation with potential partners and ‘hoop jumping’ with authorities, as you would expect. Meanwhile, we continue to use the Cricket Club facilities to host our opponents post match and for other Club events.

The new season – players, coaches and fixtures

Players - In last month’s issue we repeated the Club’s appeal for new players and coaches – see poster. The Vixens have done pretty well on the recruitment front (although there’s always room for more of course!) but we do still desperately need more senior mens’ players. You may have seen Danny Briggs’ social media post.



FAIRFORD RUGBY NOW RECRUITING!

We're looking for players of all standards and youth coaches

Men's	Women's (Vixens)	Minis & Juniors
1st team in Glos One 2nd team in Merit League	New and experienced players welcome	All primary and secondary school children
Training Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.45pm - 8.15pm Coln House School	Training Wednesdays 7 - 9pm Coln House School	Training Sundays 10.30 - 12am Leaffield pitches, parking at Farmor's School
Contact Head Coach Danny Briggs 07908 417 519 rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk	Contact Laura Skitt 07983 427 234 ladies@fairfordrfc.co.uk	Contact Lindsey Thurlow 07789 773 083 rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk

Come and be part of
Fairford's rugby community

FRFC

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Designed and produced by Nick Lane Creative 07888 862875

Please, if you’re tempted, know anyone thinking of playing who doesn’t have an obvious club to join, or even if you can print the poster and put it in the window of your house/business or share on social media, we would really appreciate your support in the recruitment drive. After the success of the last few seasons it would be a shame if we weren’t able to build on this.

Coaches - the Club has been aiming to put in place a ‘Coaching Co-ordinator’ to ensure the coaching across all sections is co-ordinated, resourced and well managed. In particular, the holder of this role will want to:

- a) target specific coaching based on need in the Seniors squad
- b) ensure coaching is available/appropriate for Vixens & girls teams (now both training on a Wednesday evening)
- c) make sure minis/juniors have adequate coaching across the age ranges
- d) deliver Club coaching with appropriate badges/safeguarding measures in place.

We are happy to announce that Adam Blizzard has been appointed to this role so will now be working with all squads/managers/parents to understand and focus on priority areas.

Meanwhile if you know of anyone interested and committed to development of local rugby, then get in touch, so we can pass on details to Adam (Blizz).

Fixtures – We have shared fixtures for 2021/22 in previous issues, but here they are, for all sections, in one place. Thanks to Chris Jackson ('CJ') for pulling this together.



FRFC Fixtures
2021-22 (Whole Club)

Charity Challenges

As we all know, it's not only the on pitch exploits that make a rugby club a great club to be part of, but how it inspires and supports its local community. The challenges run during the pandemic, led by Danny, demonstrate why this Club is an enviable one to be a part of, looking after the well being of its players, their families and the wider community, through coming together to achieve great things, all in the support of charity.

We are very pleased to confirm the amount raised in response to the July 2021 (12 hour touch rugby and running/cycling) events continued to climb. Now the just giving page records a total of £4536.44, which is fantastic. Proceeds were shared equally between the Club and Crohns & Colitis UK, two worthy and very grateful recipients.

Rugby Club Socials

Tours

Over the weekend 13th-16th August both the Vixens and Mens squads went 'on tour' for a bit of post season fun and frolics.....separately, of course!. Below are (suitably censored) 'reports' of these trips, courtesy of Davina Hedges and Ben Goodey:

Vixens tour to Somerset – *The Vixens had their first ever tour to the Weston Supermare Beach Rugby Fest 2021 and its safe to say a great time was had by all.*

This was the first time we played tag rugby and on the sand too! But everyone took it in their stride and put in a fantastic effort with Fay Butler being the top try scorer of the weekend. The chances to let our hair down after the weirdest year ever was not missed with the usual tour fancy dress, games, a pint of two and apparently the best chips ever!

The worst injury was incurred by the only sober non rugby player Sarah who did a spectacular slide on the promenade!

It's safe to say Weston will have a place in the Vixens hearts forever now and we look forward to the next tour.



Mens Senior tour to Nottingham – The weekend of Friday 13th, unlucky for some!! We headed to Nottingham for a UK based tour in lieu of the COVID cancelled tour to Gent in Belgium.

The weekend was a total success with the boys representing the Club professionally, safely and in immensely entertaining fashion! 'Fashion' being the operative word with some of the outfits seen on charity shop Sunday!

On the Friday, we attended the new style cricket format "The Hundred" at the famous Trent Bridge Stadium which was a brilliant day out; even better that the Wetherspoons next door was £2.10 a pint!!!

With weary eyes and sore heads, we returned home to GL7 on the Monday, a massive thank you to Danny Briggs for organising and a huge shout out to the very patient Ellisons' coach driver.



Fairfest

After a year off in 2020 (for obvious reasons), the weekend of 20th – 22nd August saw the return of this great community event, organised and managed by the Club, through George Ellis and his team from The Outside Inn Company.

The weather on Friday and Sunday was ok, in fact there was quite a lot of sunshine on the Sunday. The less said about the weather on Saturday the better, but that didn't stop everyone turning up and having a great time.

We particularly liked this Facebook post the next day from the lovely Lucy Poyntz:



As always, the event overall was a great success; here's what was posted on the Fairfest Facebook page the following day:

That's it all finished for another year and it's been FANTASTIC! Thank you to everyone who came in all weathers to join in what has to have been one of the best ever Fairfests. We saw people we haven't seen for 2 years, danced to amazing bands, played games, got creative, got tattooed, drank and ate way too much fabulous food. Pretty sure we all needed this after what, safe to say, has been a trying time. Big love to the Fairfest massive.

That just about sums it up.....well apart from a few pics from the weekend:





Finally, huge love to all our amazing volunteers who help George and his team each year, without whom the event wouldn't be the success that it is (below a few pics of them in action). It's a great team to be part of so do get in touch if you'd like to join us in preparation for the 2022 Fairfest!



'Spotlight'

In this issue we feature two of our senior players:

A founding Vixen.....

Name	Laura Stitt
Current role at Club	Vixens and Girls' teams manager
Preferred Position(s)	Centre or Scrum Half
How long at Club	2 years
How did it all start?	When I approached the Club to start a womens team, now known as the Vixens
Best memory	Walking out at Coln House as captain to the first women's game at Fairford RFC
Worst memory	Being injured for Vixens first win
Fun Fact	Laura can down a glass of champagne without touching the glass with her hands! (or so she claims, maybe ask her to demonstrate next time you see here..... not maybe while shes playing though!)



..... and a relatively new Mens Senior.....

Name	Ellis Powell
Which Team?	Mens' Seniors
Preferred Position(s)	Scrum Half
How long at Club	8 months
Reason for joining FRFC?	Richie Craig's physique
Fun Fact	Grew up in a place called Tonypandy, based on where Fireman Sam lives.



FRFC 'Housekeeping' Content

Membership Fees

You may recently have received an email from the Club, confirming you can now purchase your 2021/22 membership for Fairford RFC online <http://www.fairfordrfc.co.uk> under the relevant tab (Seniors/Ladies/Juniors). Any

problems please drop a message to rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk. We look forward to welcoming you all back.

FRFC Kit

For anyone turning attention from summer to winter and getting ready for the 2021/22 season, remember to go to the Raging Bull link below for all your 'kit' needs. There are sections for Seniors, Vixens and Juniors.

https://www.ragingbullsportswear.com/product-category/rugby-union-club-stores/fairford-rfc/?fbclid=IwAR0QxAVizwzyW_GWZE6sfyZWwhoepayP8RIzQs9wGyJ4_0OwHsK3FxvyUOUg

If you want to check availability on 'in stock' kit or if you have any queries, you can email our brilliant volunteer kit co-ordinator Debbie Rees-Jones on dbracewell72@googlemail.com.

Volunteers

Still keen to attract new blood to the Club to help out with the various back office and other tasks that go into the successful running of a Club like yours.

Don't be shy. If you are interested in getting involved with Fairford RFC please drop an email to rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk and we can discuss things and timings to suit your skills and existing commitments.

Dates for your diary

Date	What/Where
5 th September 2021	2021/22 season resumes for minis/juniors
11 th September 2021	Friendly mens match – details TBC
25 th September 2021	First seniors match of 2021/22 season (Glos Old Boys at home!)
3 rd October 2021	Vixens first match of the season v Allianz IWS Glos (aw ay, time TBC)

Keeping in touch

If you're not already following the Club's Social Media, it's a great way to keep in touch with what members of the Club are up to and engage in the 'banter' so give the Club a follow on Facebook or Instagram.

Fairford RFC 2021/2022 Sponsors

