

Fairford RFC Newsletter



July 2021

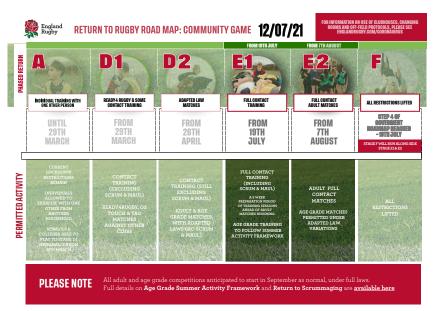
In the June issue, we wished you all a happy summer as the intention, then, was to move to a newsletter once every two months. But, here we are with more exciting content for you a few weeks later; your Committee decided there is always plenty going on for a monthly publication.

In fact, there's some exciting updates this month on new sponsor deals, Clubhouse options being considered and some summaries and pictures from our early summer challenges and events, as well as other bits and pieces; we hope you enjoy.

Oh.... And did we mention the great run for England in the Euros and a first Test win for the Lions since the last issue? That, together with the lifting of COVID restrictions, should help to carry us through to the start of the coming Rugby season. Isn't it great to be able to look forward to that in more 'normal' times. Can't wait!



Return to Rugby Roadmap



Here's the latest update from the RFU:

Sponsorship Deals:

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	As per the 'silver package'		
GOLD	1,000	 Eligible to be a VP including opportunity for RFU International Tickets 		
		FRFC kit bundle		
		 2x Club membership of your choice 		
SILVER	£500	 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	 Advertising board 6' x 2' displayed either at Coln House or Leafield Pitches. 		



Come and be part of Fairford's rugby community

fairfordrfc.co.uk 🕤 fairfordrfc 💟 @fairfordrfc







During recent months, the Club Committee has been working tirelessly to design and secure new sponsorship packages, that provide great value to the Club and its financial backers. The packages have been streamlined to ensure deals struck are transparent and fair. Committee approved packages available are in the poster below:

The Club has already secured the (ongoing or new) backing of 11 partners, all of whom are featured below, with their respective logos included, as normal, at the end of this newsletter.

Fairford Rugby Football Club is delighted to be supported by the following:



Cullimore Group of Companies – Cullimore Group is a group of companies still run and owned by the Cullimore family. The businesses are involved in transport and general haulage, heavy

haulage, quarry ing producing and supply ing aggregates, sands and decorative products to all types of construction to retail, general builders and the major housing and infrastructure developers. We also have a ready-mix concrete business that delivers high quality concrete to all applications. We have HGV workshop facilities servicing and MOT's. We remove inert waste from site. We also have arable and beef farming producing the finest Red Tractor approved grains and meats.



Wrona Project Management - have proudly supported the club over the years from ongoing sponsorship to even playing for the team! (Both youths and now). The company specialise in all forms of project management from custom builds, extensions & swimming pools to specialist work & dev

elopment. Based in Fairford, we believe it is important to work with and support the local community and will continue to do so in years to come.



The Outside Inn Company – our very own George Ellis (founding ex-play er, full time fan and provider of all Club food and drink needs, including the Butty Van) provides ongoing sponsorship through his very successful events catering business. George and his team offer

unique and bespoke catering services that will never disappoint. The Outside Inn Company is resident caterer at Jenners Barn, so whether there or at any other v enue, whatever your party/wedding/sport event etc catering needs, George is your man. Reliable for: quality of the

f ood/serv ice/professionalism/sense of fun. George is happy to consider discounts for Club members and associates.



Jason Little Carpet and Flooring Ltd – we are a small independent family business, who undertake all aspects of flooring with 18 years experience. As an ex player Jason Little proudly sponsors Fairford Rugby Club, good luck for 21/22 season.



Jenners Barn – of fers a rural picturesque Cotswold stone barn for any style of wedding, party or function. Exclusively yours for the entire weekend to include the Barn, our dramatic contemporary marquee, 5 acres of water meadow and totally private setting to create your perfect

indoor/outdoor wedding or party. For further info please call Deborah 07886 037224.



Premier Leasing & Finance Ltd - are proud to support and be a part of the Fairford Rugby club. Premier's MD Greg Jones has had a lif elong passion for the game and after sponsoring the club in recent y ears he very rarely misses a Fairford match! It is great to work with and support such a successful club like Fairford and we look forward to

continuing our relationship with the club for many years to come. Premier is locally based in Gloucestershire and has been established for coming up to 30 years. We are proud to be known as one of the UK's top asset finance companies and are here to support businesses of all sizes with any leasing or finance requirements that they may have.



Total Impact – established in 1995, we are a small sign company based in the Cotswolds. We specialise in creative and bespoke designs, particularly for the sign industry and the motor

trade. We also offer wide format printing for banners and large full colour prints.

New for the 2021 season - the Mini & Junior Shirts will be sponsored by the following organisations:

(see below for an image of how this looks on the new kit, which we are all very excited about):



Eventuality UK – a bespoke corporate ev ent management company, specialising in providing exclusive, tailor made events to major brands and organisations. With over 20 years' experience they bring extensive

knowledge and creativity to conferences, dinners, promotional events and roadshows for major brands including Breitling, Porsche, Jaguar, Airbus and Ministry of Defence. Clive & Catherine Elliott have been familiar faces on the side lines since their son started playing from reception.



Cliveden Conservation - an award-winning company and one of the country's leading experts for the conservation of stonemasonry, terracotta, plaster, wall paintings and the decorative arts. The

company operates three workshops in Berkshire, Somerset and Norfolk that are

strategically positioned to provide conservation on both a practical and consultancy basis to different areas of the country. Shortlisted for the Restoration Conservation Project of the Year in this year's Museum & Heritage Awards.



Lynwood & Co – we are committed to supporting local junior sports clubs whether it be football or Rugby (or London Marathons). It is important for us that kids are given the opportunity to get out and get valuable exercise and we are delighted to be able to assist in provding kit for the teams. The ongoing health and mental health benefits are well documented.



Hotcakes Creative – with over 30 years in the design industry we have the experience to deliver single or multi channel campaigns that stand out to create an instant, positive impact with your target audience. Brand dev elopment, logo design, brochure design. Fully integrated acquisition programmes including DRTV, direct mail, press ad, inserts, door drops, and digital ads. Do you want your products or services to sell like hotcakes? Contact Kevan on 07565 962 072.

Massive thanks to each and every one of them, without whom the Club could not operate. If anyone reading this Newsletter knows of any other business that might be keen to take advantage of one of these great deals, then please get in touch rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk



Other supporters:

As well as sponsors who have committed through the above packages, we have other Club partners, to whom we are equally grateful:



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce The Prime Practice to Fairford RFC. The Prime Practice is a small musculoskeletal injury clinic based in Stroud that specialises, sports injuries and pitch side first aid. Over the last four years we have focused our provision around the community game. Senior players at the club will be able to access injury clinics, rehabilitation sessions, concussion screening and match day support, with our senior therapists.

We very much look forward to working with all teams at the club over the coming season, and would like to take this opportunity to wish the club every success both on and off the field 2021/22 season

Vixens

Laura Stitt confirmed the following on behalf of her team:

"We have been very lucky to receive a mid season sponsorship from Walters Lake and Cohort Fencing, for some sub coats just for the Vixens team. Thanks very much, they will come in very handy next season". (Indeed, they were already very handy for the Vixens taking part in the 3 July Charity event, when it was a tad wet at times).





The support of every one of our sponsors/partners is crucial to the Club's success and is highly valued. We take this opportunity to thank them ALL massively for their commitment

Clubhouse Update:

Earlier this year, we said the newsletter would provide regular updates on the progress towards having a place we could call home. Whilst work has been frantic in the background, pursuing a number of options, there has been little of any particular interest to share, to date.

Good news: We can now confirm the Club's intention to purchase a new cabin for Coln pitches, ahead of the new season, to house changing facilities, a physio, and it will be the home for hosting our supporters, serving food and drink too.

Bad and good news: We would have been able to confirm this new cabin plan with you earlier, had the Club not been the subject of a scam. Despite rigorous due diligence checks of the vendor, before parting with the Club's cash, no cabin was ultimately delivered. The club has been pursuing recovery of funds through appropriate channels, which has been a long and arduous process, but we are very pleased to confirm that, on the day of writing, we managed to recover funds from our bank. Great work, Club Committee, thanks for all your hard work (Danny, can you please now return your plank award from the EOSD......never deserved it anyway haha).

The new cabin will be a real step forward while we continue to pursue a more permanent Clubhouse solution. IAs you will appreciate this long term solution takes time, but we re making good progress.

Shout out for new players:

The Club has managed to attract a few to its ranks for the upcoming 2021/22 season, but we are still keen to see more new faces around the place. See advertising poster below, which we have shared before..... please help us get the word out there, throughs friends and family, your social media feeds etc.

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

Men's

1st team in Glos One 2nd team in Merit League

Training

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.45pm - 8.15pm **Coln House School**

Contact

Head Coach Danny Briggs 07908 417 519 rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk

Women's (Vixens)

New and experienced players welcome

Training

Wednesdays 7 - 9pm **Coln House School**

Contact

Laura Stitt 07983 427 234 ladies@fairfordrfc.co.uk

Minis & Juniors

All primary and secondary school children

Training

Sundays 10.30 - 12am Leafield pitches, parking at Farmor's School

Contact

Lindsey Thurlow 07789 773 093 rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk

Come and be part of Fairford's rugby community





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@fairfordrfc

As the poster says, we are also looking for *new coaches to help out with the minis/juniors*, so it would be great if we could find some new youngsters to play, who could bring along their enthusiastic parents to join us too. Or maybe you know a young male or female college student, doing a sports related course, who maybe wants to get into professional coaching and could do with some volunteer work on their CV.

As we all know it's a great Club to be part of, on and off the pitch, so we just want to make sure lots more people get to see that for themselves!

Charity Challenges:

You will have seen advertising for these summer events, to raise funds jointly for **Fairford RFC** and 'Crohns and Colitis UK', in the Newsletter and on social media. Well, what a fantastic success they were – see details from the days below!

Thanks (again and again!) to our Head Coach (now chief Royal Correspondent for the Club hehe), the one and only Danny Briggs (plus his band of merry helpers) for making this happen.

At time of writing, the #justgiving page had collected £4094, exceeding its target of £4000, which is just brilliant. We know the Club and Crohns&ColitisUK will be very grateful for these extra funds and will put them to very good use. Thanks to all who took part, supported and/or donated, great team and community effort.

If you've been meaning to but haven't got round to donating, in honour of the efforts from everyone involved then it's not too late. The page is still open:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/frfc

12 Hour touch rugby – Saturday 3rd July:

What a great event, wasn't quite the best weather, bit wet (but at least no one over heated!) but much fun was had. Here's a write up by the man himself, Mr Briggs:

On Sat 3rd July Fairford Seniors, ladies and juniors, plus a couple of Witney Angels guest

players played a 12 hour touch rugby match in the first of two events to raise funds for both Crohns and Colitis UK and Fairford Rugby Club. Starting at 8am and finishing at 8pm, the two 15 player squads played 10 a side for 12 hours. Club members refereed, scored, baked cakes and supported from the touch line.

The two teams, Wronas Renegades sponsored by Wrona Project Management and Hadgies Heroes, sponsored by Inspirations Fairford, battled, it was neck and neck until the very end.

The final score: Wronas Renegades 87 Hadgie's Heroes 85.

Players of the match were: Wronas Renegades Callum Thurlow and Ellis Frail. Hadgies Heroes Jake Page-Maskell and Fay Butler.

The day was a huge success and we would like to thank all for your support, sponsorship, cakes, refreshments and words of encouragement; it will be needed even more next year as we make it a 24 hour event.

The 2nd event takes place on Saturday 24th July where 70 club members compete in a challenge day where each member will compete in either a 10km, half marathon or full marathon run or a 50 mile, 75 mile or 100 mile cycle.

The club are proud of what we do off the pitch but couldn't do it without all the support we receive from the local community. Thank you to you all.

Danny Briggs FRFC

Here's a picture of the awards 'ceremony' and a few more from the day:













Charity cycle/run day – Saturday 24th July:

Another fantastic Club day, starting at 8.30am with the juniors mile run, then adult runners, walkers and cyclists heading off at 9am, covering various distances from 10km on foot to 100miles on bike. The weather was forecast to include lots of rain and lightning/thunder storms.....but actually was quite kind (albeit a little breezy).

So many deserve a 'shout out' for their efforts in taking part and supporting, but here are just a few mentions, as posted by Danny on Facebook, the next day:

As the final challenge of the summer comes to an end can I just thank you all for your efforts to train, to gain sponsorship and to support one another. So proud of you all. I have lost my sheet of paper with all the times on etc so can not give a full breakdown of the activites however a little update on the fastest runs and rides If I have missed anyone please forgive me

1 mile Jack Fairbanks10km Callum ThrulowHalf Marathon Zoe WilkinsonMarathon Steve Keating

25 Miles Adam Blizzard and Ben Goodey50 Miles Tim Rozier75 Miles Keelan Little and Sam Bird100 Miles Colin SpourAthelte of the day Steve Keating

Special recognition to

Colin Spour 100 miles on his trusty steed

Lindsey Thurlow and Nadine Brown marathon effort

Gareth Bowman and Jim Keir both battled 20 miles

Leanne Ricketts for an awesome 13.1 miles run and Dan Withers competing with 15 Kg weight on his back

Davina Hedges and Fay Butler for their 10km battle

Chloe and Beamer Chambers – 1 mile effort

Becky Keating and Karen Spour 50 miles smashed on their bikes

The whole Keir Stopka gang all smashed it out of the park in their efforts and then instrumental in the success of the evening

Special thanks to Tracey Fairbanks for the massages, George Ellis and his team for for feeding us and Jenners barn for hosting us

Massive High 5 to everyone involved!

But, as you would expect, Danny doesn't mention Danny, so we do...thanks for setting up, taking part, your inspiration and just being an all round legend.

Here's a few competitor pictures, including Sam Bird, who's now off to check out 'declipping' on YouTube haha. Luckily, he wasn't injured and was happy to entertain.























End of season event – Evening 24th July:

After all the running and cycling was completed, awards for the charity event were given, showers had, Lions triumphed in their first Test, then the evening event began.

Normally a more 'formal' end of season dinner event, the EOSD was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID. So the Club decided to take advantage of the fact that many club members and players were already together at Jenners Barn, by holding the 2020 postponed/2021 events jointly on the evening of the 24th.

Very special thanks go again to:

#Johnathan and Leonie for the continued use of Jenners, into the evening. #George and his Outside Inn team for excellent food and keeping the alcohol flowing freely.....wouldn't want to pick up the total tab for the night, but a good night it was #Jim Keir for his absolutely awesome 'set', making sure the evening rocked.

We make no apology for stealing a perfect summary of the Seniors' awards, posted again by Danny on Facebook:

Really was one of the best days and nights I can remember at our amazing club with so many people playing a part in it. The just giving page is still ticking over and is above 4K now!! Awesome effort everyone

Mens Trophy Winners

Most improved player Adam Blizzard Not only does Adam stand out on the pitch, he is 100% reliable and committed to this club. His discipline on the pitch has improved and he certainly is a leader amongst men. Still life in the old dog and he will continue to achieve great things.

Young player Daniel Pearce Whether at flank, centre or on the wing, Dan has a very bright future ahead of him. Tackles head first, runs with guile and purpose he certainly is the future of the club.

Supporters Player Ben Taylor I do not think I gave this man enough credit yesterday during his award speech. He is one of the best 9's about, he leads from the front and is instrumental to how we play. A box of tricks all round, and a great guy off the park.

Coaches Player Luke Sawyer Hard as nails on the pitch an unbelievable ball carrier and a huge hitter. Luke always has a good game

It truly was a fabulous night, with dancing continuing until the bar closed at midnight, followed by ongoing partying and singing around the camp fire, until everyone crashed into a tent (their own or someone else's, eh Aidan?!) or fell into a taxi.



















Women's awards winners 2021, as confirmed by Vixen's captain Laura Stitt, were:

Most improved player - Fay Butler

A late starter to the team, but always keen to train and play. A great winger and team player showing promise as a future full back.

Young player - Maia Smith

A brave and bold player with a natural talent to succeed on the pitch. She is a pleasure to coach, and an asset to the team.

Coaches player - Wendy Button

Mum of the team and really stepped up to take the lead in the last few games of the season. She always puts 100% in at training, a great leader for the vixens.

Captains Cup - Ellis Paisley Frail

Quite possibly the gutsiest player in the team, with a natural talent. A great player on the pitch so will be exciting to watch when we start contact next season.

Players player - Wendy Button

Great team leader, and mother hen of the team. With a drive to push the team on and off the pitch she is a vixen through and through.

Baton of Shame - Katy Perrett

For dodging fitness at training but playing like a boss on game day, and taking the bait.

The Vixens would also like to thank our coaching team for their support, knowledge and time over the last 18months, Luke Sawyer, Keelan Little and Richie Craig. Hopefully we can start playing some proper rugby soon and make you all proud.















'Spotlight':

In this issue we feature the lovely Pughs, who help coach our youngster

Name	Daniel and Lorna Pugh			
Which Team/section do/did you coach	U5s/U6s, including their little Ollie			
Preferred Position(s)	N/A			
How long at Club	Since 2019			
Best memory	Watching Scotland eclaim the Calcutta Cup from England in the final stages of the 6 Nations match at Twickenham in 2018, when everyone thought it was all over (think Lorna might have written this!) At the Club; this year's fun day with the Seniors takie over. The kids had such fun anf George's pizzas were on point.			
Worst memory	Arriving in Edinburgh to watch Scotland v England for Daniel's first international in Feb 2020 and it being the wort and wettest game in rugby history with ridiculous winds Fortunately, Daniel's new found love of rugby wasn't dampened with a victory for England.			
Fun Fact	Whilst Daniel is very obviously the fittest part of our duo, he's th leat flexible. He can't cross his legs but Lorna can still put her feet behind her headon a good day (not sure if demonstrations are available haha)			

In addition, the spotlight turns to a new FRFC recruit:

Introducing Sam Bailey our new Rugby Safe Lead at Fairford RFC

2021/2022:

Hi I'm Sam, I have been involved with the club since my 2 boys started playing at Fairford 5 years ago. During that time, my husband has been a coach and I have also been an assistant coach attending various courses and training. I am a qualified nurse who has experience in both A&E and primary

care, I also have a vast amount of experience working in child protection and safeguarding as qualified health visitor and school nurse. I'm sure this experience will help with my new role as Rugby Safe Lead to support the club to be rugby safe. Fairford Rugby club are a big part of our family life so it is important to us to support the club in any way we can. Please feel free to say Hi, I can usually be found on the sideline drinking tea from the butty van!

Junior Summer Camps:

If you're desperately trying to find ways to occupy your youngsters in the summer holidays, perhaps a local rugby summer camp is an option – see below:





Join **Gloucester Rugby** at our Summer Holiday Camps

Tewkesbury RFC

26 & 27 July | Boys & Girls (U7s - U11s & U12s-U16s) **28 July** | Girls Camp (U12s - U18s)

Sir William Romney's School (Tetbury)

29 & 30 July | Boys & Girls (U7s - U11s & U12s-U16s)

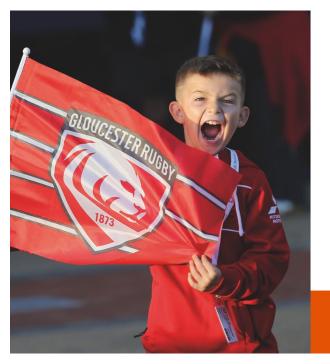
Faringdon RFC

2 & 3 August | Boys & Girls (U7s - U11s & U12s-U16s)
One Day Camp just £30 | Two Day Camp just £60

BRING IT ON! BOOK NOW

gloucesterrugby.co.uk/rugbycamps

All enquires email cdp@gloucesterrugby.co.uk





Join Gloucester Rugby at our **Summer Holiday Camps**

Stroud RFC | Multi-Sport

Monday 9 August - Friday 13 August Boys & Girls (6 - 15 year olds)

5 Day Camp | £150 per child

BRING IT ON! **BOOK NOW** All enquires email cdp@gloucesterrugby.co.uk

gloucesterrugby.co.uk/rugbycamps

FRFC 'Housekeeping' Content:

Protecting our rubgy space:

Working with Fairford Youth Football club to stop fouling of the pitches a fine job by Cohort Fencing









First aid training:







Recently, some of our coaches attended a valuable first aid course at Jenners Barn, making them better plced to look after our youngsters, should there be injuries or an emergency.

If any of our members would like to complete similar training, please see the attached flyer. There is availability in Stroud on 18 August, so if you're interested, please get in touch rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk

FRFC kit:

For anyone getting ready for the 2021/22 season already, remember to go to the Raging Bull link below for all your 'kit' needs. There are sections for Seniors, Vixens and Junior

https://www.ragingbullsportswear.com/product-category/rugby-union-club-stores/fairford-

rfc/?fbclid=lwAR0QxAVizwzyW GWZE6sfyZWhoepayP8RIzQs9wGyJ4 0OwHsK3F xvyUOUg

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.

Club Bank Details:

Please note Fairford RFC now has new bank details, see below. These details can be used for any payments to the club for membership, merchandise etc

Fairford Rugby Football Club Ltd
S/G: 20-68-15
Acc: 53538524
Using your name as a reference

Any problems, please contact Katharine our treasurer treasurer@fairfordrfc.co.uk

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
29 July 2021	Club AGM – Jenners Barn – 7.30pm
20th – Sun 22nd Aug	Fairfest at Walnut Tree Field
4th August 2021	Vixens training restarts (Coln House pitches)
5th September 2021	2021/22 season resumes for minis/juniors
25 September 2021	First seniors match of 2021/22 season (Glos Old Boys at home!)

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





















