



Fairford RFC Newsletter

Autumn 2021



As you would expect, we are dedicating a large part of this month's Newsletter to tributes to our late Club Chairman, Jonathan 'Beamer' Chambers, who very sadly passed away following a short illness, on 18th October 2021.



England
Rugby



GLOUCESTERSHIRE
RUGBY
FOOTBALL
UNION

TEAMWORK

RESPECT

ENJOYMENT

DISCIPLINE

SPORTSMANSHIP

Beamer

Below are a collection of pictures from over the years, alongside tributes, on behalf of the Club, from our President, Scott Cohoon and Club Secretary Steve Darley.

From Scott Cohoon

Chairman, Teammate and friend: *We were all absolutely devastated to learn of the very untimely death of Jonathan 'Beamer' Chambers, who was a fantastic leader, Chariman and worked tirelessly to improve FRFC.*

Words like 'iconic' are not wasted upon people like Beamer and from a personal point of view, I have never worked with anyone who commanded a Club like he did. It was an exceptional honour to have served on the Committee alongside him, to have spectated with him and to be called his friend. His rugby personality and infamous grin will leave a lasting memory with us all.

Unfortunately, I never had the privilege of playing alongside Beamer, however many of his teammates have told me that he left nothing in the changing rooms, giving 110% commitment each and every game.

As I write this, it is still very difficult to imagine Fairford Rugby Club without Beamer. My deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to Beamer's wife Gemma and all his family and friends. He was an absolute inspiration – in rugby, in life and as a friend.

We will all miss him loads – especially that infectious smile. Goodbye mate.

God bless you Beams'. R.I.P.

'Scotty'

(The above tribute from Scott was included in the special Seniors' matchday programme 30/10/21).

From Steve Darley

Beamer was a man who understood the 'ingredients for a good life'. The things that made him happy were simple; his family, his friends and of course the greatest sport in the world – Rugby Union.

Beamer's twenty years with Fairford Rugby Club saw him star in many roles. As a player, Captain, Chairman and minis coach, but first, let's talk about his rugby life before Fairford.

Beamer was a proud airman; he joined the RAF as a boy of sixteen and gave 23 years of loyal service.

During his time in uniform Beamer took full advantage of what the Royal Air Force could offer; whether that was 5 days white water rafting down the Apurimac River in Peru, followed by trekking up the Macchu Picchu Inca trail, competing at the top level in Tug O' War or playing and touring with RAF Station Rugby teams at home and abroad.

Beamer toured South Africa and Australia with the Bruggen Bears, and South Africa again with the Leuchars Nomads, playing some of the hardest rugby of his life. He toured to Leiden in Holland with RAF Cottesmore, where they won the tournament. He also played at RAF Sealand and of course Brize Norton during a long and distinguished RAF Rugby career. If anyone was to epitomise Rugby's core values of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship then Beamer was that man.

*As a **player**, Beamer was a tenacious ball carrying number 8 and latterly second row. He led by example and never left anything on the park. No one will ever forget his booming call of 'Beamer's ball' as, looking heavenwards, he set himself ready to catch every high ball within his reach. He even caught some of them! Although to be honest, not many!*

Beamer retired from playing in 2007, then again in 2008, 2009, 2010, and so on. In fact, he pulled on the Fairford Green and Black well after his fiftieth birthday. Still playing with the same commitment, drive, skill and enthusiasm that he always had.

*As a **captain**, Beamer led the Badgers to their first League championship. Having played in and won all of the first 13 league games, Beamer was unavailable for the next, whereby Danny Briggs our current Coach took over as skipper – we lost. Beamer returned for the final games, and he and the team remained undefeated for the rest of that year.*

*As a **Chairman**, Beamer took the reins at a difficult time for the club, leading us through our move from the Dorset and Wilts leagues back into the Gloucester fold. His leadership over the last six years has taken the club from strength to strength, putting us on a far better footing for ongoing success in the future. The many messages from other committee members and clubs within the Combination and County are testament to the high esteem he was held in by all who came into contact with him, whilst representing the club.*

*And finally, as a **minis coach**, taking on the Under 5s and Under 6s when his daughter began her rugby life. He took to this role easily, passing on his vast experience and love for the game to Chloe and the rest of that age group.*

We could go on with the many rugby stories from Beamer's time with Fairford, but to be honest to best know the man is to see the reaction of our rugby community and beyond since he left us. From the packed pub on the day he went, to the crowds of people who came to pay their respects to him at the two games in late October and even more so to hundreds who attended his funeral.

A day in his company was a privilege. Beamer you may be out of sight but you will not be forgotten; Fairford Rugby Club won't ever let you be.

Everybody that has memories of Beamer mention the same thing. His incredible smile. It was big enough to fill any room and would put a smile on anyone's face that saw it. It's with that thought that I want to leave you, Beamer's smile epitomised what he was all about; big hearted, friendly and easy to love.

A mentor, a leader, and a friend.

We all miss you mate.

(This tribute was included in Steve's eulogy at Beamer's recent funeral)





As Scotty said, we all join together in sending our heartfelt condolences to Beamer's wife Gemma, his three children and all his family and friends. We hope the love and respect expressed for Beamer, on social media, at recent matches and at his funeral on 1st November is, in some small way, helping you at this time. As Danny Briggs recently said, Beamer's beloved Fairford Rugby Football Club is with you all, every step of the way.

Club Memorial - 4th December 2021 (VP day)

Club President, Scott, will be unveiling a memorial bench for Beamer, ahead of the Mens' game on the 4th December. Scott will be hosting the afternoon, welcoming our VPs, old and new and offering them the normal refreshments during the game.

It is very fitting that the game is against the Club's old rivals (and friends) Cirencester, a match which always attracts a good crowd and we hope this season's contest will be an extra special day. Come along if you can, lets make Beamer proud of the Green Army and help make sure the boys get a fitting result.

It is still to be decided where Beamer's bench will be situated permanently, whether at CHOP, the junior pitches or elsewhere, but we will be sure to let you know in a future issue.

Below are a few pics from the last VP day, lets try to beat that phenomenal crowd!



Other news in brief

Vixens – Changes to coaching personnel

We are delighted to announce that, alongside his responsibilities for the Mens' Seniors, Danny Briggs has now agreed to take on the coaching of our Ladies team. He says it's an honour to be involved.

Luke Sawyer will continue to support the Girls' squad at their Wednesday training sessions.

The Club and the Vixens' players would like to extend their massive thanks to Luke and Laura Stitt for their efforts in starting our female sections and getting them to where they are now.

Danny's involvement started with training on 27th October, followed by a very high scoring and impressive match against Supermarine on 31st October. Although the game was lost in the final minutes, the Vixens' effort and commitment was second to none and everyone present said they should be very proud of their performance. George also said he couldn't get them out of the bar afterwards so they obviously were in the mood to celebrate!

Onwards and upwards ladies.

Developing Player Programme (DPP)

We congratulated Harry Maunder and Guy James in September's Newsletter, for being selected to join the Gloucestershire DPP, which supports the rugby and athletic development of talented young players.

Charlie, Harry's Mum, provided a brief update, saying they loved their first session on 5th October and she sent us a couple of pictures, thanks Charlie.



FRFC Girls at the Bath Rec

On 29th October, Poppy, Lucy, Estella and Summer had the privilege of attending the Next Generation Camp at the Rec. The girls had a great day training with 22 other U13s, with lots of skills, contact and strength work completed and fun had by everyone.

Huge thanks to Bath ladies who came to coach and to the Mens' team for allowing the girls to watch the Captain's run. They were very happy to get their signed flags.



New Cabin

Here's a couple of pictures of the now kitted out cabin; it has a kitchen, physio and changing areas. It is now in full use by all sections of the Club, providing a great space for match preparation and injury treatment/rehabilitation, as needed. At the Seniors' match on 30th October, Gaia and Keiran from the Outside Inn Company also used it for the first time to provide refreshments for the sizeable crowd of supporters.



FRFC 'Housekeeping' Content

Premiership Rugby Tickets

For any Club member buying these, be aware that if you use affiliation discount code **AFFRFC**, you will pay less for your tickets, £2 saved per adult and £1 per child.

FRFC Kit

As always, 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_GWZE6sfyZWhoepayP8RlzQs9wGyJ4_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

Always 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

Keeping in touch

Finally, 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.

