

Dear Member,

### **BRFC Members Newsletter – August 2017**

Well what a nail biting finish it was last season for our National Two South side. With four games to go we looked safe to stay up. Then some remarkably unusual results involving those teams around us happened that put our league position under extreme pressure. In the end, we pulled through on number of wins and live to fight another day in this challenging league. Well done to the players and coaches for battling through a difficult start and providing such thrilling entertainment at Pottington Road. Thanks also to our loyal band of vociferous supporters who make our ground so formidable. I hope you will continue supporting us with your membership subscriptions and presence on match days. **Please take particular note of the changes to the membership categories and entry charges.**

#### **Playing Matters**

Head coach Steve Perry says "Eight wins at home and one away.... This demonstrates how important you are! Pottington Road is a fantastic place to play, and the players do realise how lucky they are. We thank you for your continued support and Barum Spirit. National 2 is a tremendous league to be involved in with a huge influence from Premiership and Championship clubs as well as ex pros prolonging their careers. You saw last year the rise in intensity and quality and I hope it whet your appetite for more. We have lost Bishop Stortford, Old Elthamians, Barnes and Exmouth from the Division. In their place Broadstreet, Old Redcliffians, Wimbledon and Tonbridge Juddians have all been promoted from their respective National 3 leagues. On the recruitment front: Gareth Evans and Jarrard Hayler (Navy), Jack Bond (Newton Abbott) and Fraser Honey (Launceston) add Experience and Youth. Many of our treble winning Colts have been training over the summer, which is very positive, hopefully all will wear a senior shirt this year, and maybe a first team one. Mark Berry and I have decided to retire, however Mark continues to be registered, so the squad stays stable which is very pleasing. On the Coaching front, Bryn Jenkins and Pat McManus continue to do a tremendous job. I have added Josh Squire to the coaching staff, a club man, who I'm excited to work with and see how he develops. I look forward to seeing you at the ground and in the clubhouse." Three Devon Cup wins on the trot brings back memories of the heady days of Stan Sumner and Ken Thompson as Colts coaches. Well done to the squad of players and congratulations to Gus's team of coaches for such outstanding results.

#### **Mini & Juniors**

The mini and junior section continue to successfully bowl along with full squads looked after by qualified coaches. As you cross the Taw Bridge take a look at the number of children running around on the pitches on a Sunday morning. It's a wonderful sight and a measure of the dedication and enthusiasm generated by the coaches and parents. The future of the club looks in safe hands.

## **Membership Fees and Home Game Admission Charges**

A year completed in National Two has opened our eyes not only in terms of standards of play on the pitch but also to the cost of watching away games where often charges are made for car parking, programs and access to Grandstands. This together with a perusal of membership and admission charges levied by our opposition has led us to think again at our prices. The temptation is to make increases in line with these other clubs. However, your committee considers our supporters are the best by far in the league, and bearing in mind the low economy area we live in, do not want to discourage their support. Consequently, we have taken the decision to make increases that will have a minimal effect on our regular fans and members. The main changes are: - Increasing the admission charge for non-members to £10, increasing the basic membership (Red Members) and Playing Members by £10. Discontinuing the 100 Club and Gold Membership category and keeping the Season Ticket membership unchanged at £100 (£90 for OAP's). **Hopefully you will note the extremely good value of the Season Ticket Membership giving you free admission to home league games and a discounted entry charge for their partner. This represents a whopping £50 per year saving on admission charges for the holder alone and I would urge all our former Gold and Red members to take up this offer – it's a way of the club thanking you for your loyalty.** Some have said the prices should have been raised across the board. If you think likewise and would like to help maintain the level of rugby we are playing at I would invite you to consider making an extra donation to the club – it really is a most effective way to raise funds with no VAT to pay. Finally, a change to the colour of the season ticket membership card colour. This will become known as Silver Membership and I can assure you it is not a reflection on the hairstyle of many of our supporters! Details of the new charges are on the reverse of the Membership Application Form or give me a call if you have any queries.

## **International Tickets**

Members only may apply for tickets for England's home games through Trevor Edwards on the application form enclosed with this newsletter. Please reply directly to him.

## **Fixture List**

A working copy of the full fixture list is attached for a heads up while the final version is being prepared. For those that receive this via email, rather than a hard copy, the fixture list contains links to the websites of our opponents.

## **Club and Player Sponsors**

Huge thanks go to those companies and individuals who support us so generously with their sponsorship and donations. Without their support, we would not be able to provide this level of rugby to the extent that we enjoy today. Your contributions help to provide first class rugby facilities for our local population with ages ranging from six to sixty and hopefully we will repay your support with our patronage.

Yours Sincerely

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