

# Newbridge RFC Newsletter



[www.newbridgerfc.co.uk](http://www.newbridgerfc.co.uk)



## Summer Friendlies:

- Sat 16/08 – Blaina (A)
- Sat 23/08 – Brynmawr (A)
- Sun 31/08 – Ebbw Vale (H)

## Asda League Division 1 (East):

- Sat 06/09: Caerphilly (A)
- Sat 13/09: Newport Saracens (H)
- Sat 20/09: Beddau (A)
- Sat 27/09: Blackwood (A)
- Sat 04/10: Rumney (H)
- Sat 11/10: Ystrad Rhondda (A)
- Sat 18/10: Llanharan (H)
- Sat 25/10: Merthyr (H)

## Coaches Look Forward To Next Season

Newbridge RFC's coaches have been eager to get the squad together this Summer to begin the 2008/9 campaign in Division 1 East. Following a tumultuous season last year, Head Coach, Byron Hayward, is keen to get the Club back on track and raring to go. "The sad passing of Junna was a huge blow to the Club and we never really recovered momentum last season," commented Byron "but we showed what we're capable of in a number of games and will build on that for next season."

The tragic death of Steve 'Junna' Jones at the start of last season had a huge impact on the Club. A number of coaches stepped in to temporarily guide the players through the fixtures, and it was only in January that things settled down under Byron and Mark Thomas. A similar series of departures and arrivals among the squad further hampered any form of consistency.

Team Manager, Chris Jones, was equally keen to focus on the next season. "We've got some great youngsters in the squad and a nice blend of experience. We showed what we can do in patches last year and we'll be working on consistency during the summer to ensure we perform at our best in every game." Byron has highlighted the recruitment of former Ebbw Vale Coach, Wayne Jones, as a major positive in completing the coaching team. "Stability is something we lacked last year and now Wayne is on board for the long term, the players will respond positively to a settled management team." Speaking about Wayne, he added "[Wayne] will bring a new set of ideas to the forwards and is excited at the prospect of working with players at his disposal."

Retaining players is crucial to achieving stability but we will be looking to strengthen the squad through recruitment of



Newbridge RFC Coach, Byron Hayward.

the right sort of players. "A little competition is healthy," said Hayward "and I know my players, and I know how they will respond to competition for places. There's talent here, and under pressure these boys have got the capacity to raise their games even further. I'm hugely excited about next season."

September will be upon us pretty soon, so get your season tickets early and get ready to support your local Club.

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## 2008/9 Season Tickets Now On Sale

Get your orders in for next years season tickets before the 15th August and you'll qualify for a £5 discount off the standard price of £50.

Huge discounts are also available for pensioners and, as usual, our supporters under the age of 16 get in for free. Call us on 01495 243247.

The Club are working hard to arrange a greater number of friendlies for next year to increase the value of your season ticket and more details will be published as we secure these games. More details in the next edition.

This is your club and we want you to help us shape our fu-

ture. Our supporters are a critical member of the team and have long played an important part in the successes of Newbridge Rugby Football Club. There's a warm welcome guaranteed for everyone at the Welfare and we'd love to see supporters, old and new alike



Idris McCarthy  
Chairman, Newbridge RFC

*"We have invested heavily in the club infrastructure, with over £20,000 being spent on floodlights, not to mention a new training ground"*

## The Chairman's Column

The off season is always an unusual time for clubs and as with almost every other rugby club, we do have player movements. We are disappointed to lose some players but have also targeted personnel during the summer who we think will give us a far stronger squad for the 2008-9 season.

As chairman, my focus is to build the club for the long term future. We have invested heavily in the club infrastructure. The medical facilities must be the best in the league. We have a doctor, physiotherapist team and at least one dentist on hand for home games. We have great playing facilities, with over £20,000 being spent on floodlights, not to mention a new training ground, also with floodlights. Our coaches, Byron Hayward and Wayne Jones will also have new gym facilities to put our squad through their paces. These are some of the reasons why the Dragons academy squads have based themselves at Newbridge.

As well as being club chairman, I am as keen for success as our loyal band of supporters. Without doubt these are the key to our success and we are grateful for your continued support. Off the field, the clubhouse is "buzzing", particularly

after a win! We pride ourselves as being one of the most welcoming of clubs. Commercially as a club we are also keen to develop our relationships with new and old sponsors, and we are very grateful for their continued support.

Looking forward I am convinced that our coaching team of Byron Hayward and Wayne Jones are the most enthusiastic pair of forward thinking coaches. Byron and Wayne are both involved heavily with the Wales under 18 and 20 set ups and the Dragons region. I am sure they will do everything to move the club forward to achieve its desired aims.

Getting back to player movements, I am aware that supporters have questioned the departures of Tom Edwards, Rhys Bowen, Gavin Ashman and Dai Ford. However I can assure you all that we have done everything within our power to keep these players. My genuine best wishes to them. All will be welcome anytime at the club. Our aim like every other club in division 1 East, is to win promotion and to that aim, a number of new players are coming to Newbridge including Gareth Betts, Scott Marasco and Lenny Woodard amongst others. Further squad updates will be

announced on the web page over the summer.

As an ex Newbridge player (very ex...1960's), I also look at things from a players viewpoint. Why play for Newbridge? As a club we treat players with respect, honesty and integrity. We strive to be the best club in the league with the best team, medical facilities, the best coaching, best clubhouse, best pitch etc etc.

Finally, best wishes to everyone involved in the club including supporters, players, committee and sponsors for the forthcoming season.

## Newbridge United

Last season saw the resurrection of Newbridge United under the coaching team of Michael Peters and Robert Burgwin. In a short space of time they've bonded a talented group of players into a team that finished third in their league.

Hopes for the new campaign are high and pre-season training has already resumed. New players are always welcome at training, which takes place on Wednesday evenings on the playing fields.

## Youth Cups, League Titles, Mini's Success and International Caps

There are 11 teams in the Newbridge RFC family, from the Under-8's to the First XV, so there's plenty for fans and players of all ages to look forward to this season.

Last season saw the Youth complete a League and Cup double, in what proved to be an exceptionally successful season. Players and Coaches alike were extremely pleased

to follow league title with a 14-9 victory over Penallta Youth in the District Cup Final.

The Youth's success was matched by Under-10's, who were worthy winners of last seasons Risca Tournament.

As previously mentioned, there was a welcome return to the towns rugby fraternity for Newbridge United.

A special mention is reserved for Rhydian Wilson who won his first cap for Wales U-17's last season. Rhydian has played for Newbridge at every level from U-8's upwards and this is a tremendous achievement and thoroughly deserved.

The Club would like to wish Rhydian and all our teams the very best of luck for this season. We'll keep you posted.

## Coming to a Screen Near You (or Website or Newspaper)

The last six months have seen the Clubs profile raised like never before in the Welsh, and Worlds', media.

Following the tremendous success of The Legends Game last December that featured on Scrum V, BBC Wales nominated Newbridge RFC as their chosen 'Club of the 6 Nations'. BBC cameras were at the Club for all of Wales' games and dozens of Newbridge fans were asked to mark the Welsh boys out of ten in a regular slot on the news. Some of our boys travelled to Ireland for the Triple Crown match and even managed live spots on BBC

Wales news and Radio Wales' 'Morning Of The Match'.

Newbridge RFC contributing to Wales Grand Slam, eh? How could we better that?

Well, up stepped Joe Calzaghe: Newbridge's favourite son and Britain's greatest ever boxer. While Joe flew to America to take on and beat American legend, Bernard Hopkins, some of the world's media travelled to the Rugby Club to soak up the atmosphere as 120 of Joe's supporters stayed up through the early hours to watch their hero. Familiar faces around the Club subse-

quently appeared on BBC Wales, Setanta, HTV Wales, Sky, BBC Radio Wales and BBC Five Live as well as being spotted in The Sun, The South Wales Argus, the Western Mail and on websites the world over.

### A huge 'CONGRATULATIONS' to Joe from all at NRFC!

You can follow all the major sporting events this coming season at the Club. Details of forthcoming Internationals, The Lions tour, Joe v Roy Jones Jnr, Premiership football and more will be available on the website and in these pages.



Ryan Jones celebrates our second Grand Slam in four seasons.

## More Sporting Legends at the Rugby Club

Former Wales Rugby Union and Rugby League legend, Adrian Hadley is to be joined by ex-Pontypool and Wales hero John Perkins.

From the football world will be ex Cardiff and Swansea city star David Giles who is also well-known for his work as a Pundit with Real Radio and Soccer Sunday.

Completing the panel will be former Glamorgan and England superstar and

current Glamorgan coach Matthew Maynard at the Welfare for an evening of chat and questions. Join us for the evening for some hilarious banter and stories from the near (and not so near) past!

Tickets are strictly limited and will be on sale from the Club. Tables of 10 are available at £200 each, or individuals at £20 a head.

Hosting the evening will be

BBC Wales Football Correspondent Rob Phillips.

A packed programme of events over the summer is already planned so keep an eye on the website of check the next edition of the newsletter.

If you have a function booked and want to publicise it in our newsletter, please let us know. See 'Contact Details' on the back page.

*"A packed programme of events over the summer is already planned. If you want yours publicised, let us know"*

## NRFC Welcome Arrow Ford as our Newest Sponsors

Newbridge RFC are delighted to welcome to our newest sponsors, **Arrow Ford** of Pontllanfraith. We are delighted to be working with Arrow Director, Paul Rogers, and look forward to developing our relationship

over the coming seasons.

To see the latest additions to the Ford range or Arrow's latest deals, pop into the showroom or visit the website: [www.arrowmotors.com](http://www.arrowmotors.com)

If you would like to sponsor Newbridge RFC, or simply sponsor an edition of our newsletter, contact Matthew Jones, Commercial Manager on 07826 644521 or email at [matthew@newbridgerfc.co.uk](mailto:matthew@newbridgerfc.co.uk).



The new Ford Mondeo. Available at Arrow Ford, Pontllanfraith.



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Pontllanfraith, Blackwood,  
Gwent, NP12 2JG  
Tel: 01495 223366  
Email: [www.arrowmotors.com](http://www.arrowmotors.com)

[www.newbridgerfc.co.uk](http://www.newbridgerfc.co.uk)

Bridge Street  
Newbridge  
NP11 5FJ

Contact Details:

**Room/Facilities Hire:** Diane - 01495 243247 or 07796 883350

**Sponsorship:** Matthew Jones - 07826 644521

**Newsletter:** Chris McCarthy - 01495 243247

If you are interested in sponsoring Newbridge RFC in any way shape or form, please contact Matthew Jones at:

[matthew@newbridgerfc.co.uk](mailto:matthew@newbridgerfc.co.uk).

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We're on the web. Visit us at

[www.newbridgerfc.co.uk](http://www.newbridgerfc.co.uk)

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*Founded in 1888 and a member of the WRU since 1911, Newbridge Rugby Football Club has been at the heart of rugby in the area for over 120 years.*

*The Club is proud to have been a part of village life for over a century and is committed to continue serving the community. We have a number of facilities that are available to individuals and organizations and we are delighted to offer our Club for:*

*Weddings, Business Conferences & Meetings, Annual Dinners, Fundraising Events, Concerts, Parties, and Club/Society Functions and more.*

*Please contact Diane Williams for more information.*

*Call in and see us—a warm welcome is guaranteed to old and new alike.*

## City Living Ideally Suited to Newbridge RFC Supporters

Building on the successful development of the new station just up from Newbridge RFC, a local developer – Fairoak Homes Ltd – is in the final stages of re-developing what was a derelict site (& dangerous playground for bored kids) just off the town centre.

The former job centre at the bottom of Ashfield Road has made way for a stunning development of 13 one & two bed apartments all of which are spacious and come complete with secure, gated parking.

Whether a young couple looking for to buy their first home or an older couple looking to 'downsize' from their current house, these apartments offer a rare opportunity to acquire attractive, modern, mainte-

nance free accommodation in the centre of Newbridge within easy walking distance of the town centre and new station.

And of course with these new flats so close to Newbridge RFC and its clubhouse, we wouldn't be surprised if the development was of particular interest to Newbridge RFC supporters!

The current UK property market means there really are some fantastic deals available for those who are interested in buying at this time. A fantastic show flat is available to view now - if you're interested in having a look or in finding out more about the deals available, call Phil Paterson-Fox on 01633 255344 or you

can e-mail Phil at: [phil@fairoakhomes.co.uk](mailto:phil@fairoakhomes.co.uk).

Bring this newsletter with you and see what's on offer for Newbridge RFC supporters.



Artist's impression of what Trecelyn House on Ashfield Rd, Newbridge will look like.