



FOLLOW THE BLUES

February 2008
Number 40

News from the Blues Followers

Keep Going!

All will be delighted with the Blues results over the past few weeks, but perhaps more important has been the improvement in performance, especially now we are facing two difficult home games with the visit of the Pirates today and then Saints next week.

There is no doubt that the future is bright for the Club, both on and off the field. The Rights Issue has been a resounding success and we look forward to positive news from the Board at the forth-coming Shareholders AGM. I am sure that there will continue to be the need for careful planning of the future playing staff and the Club's finances.

One sad event is the departure of Nathan Stewart, who is leaving for warmer climes, as the fitness coach of the Hong Kong national squad. It is never clear how popular fitness coaches are, but there is no doubt that the work Nathan has done in Bedford has been respected and valued by all. Whatever else the team may have lacked it has never been fitness to keep competing for the full 80 minutes. At the same time I should like to wish Leith well in her training for the London Marathon. Thanks Nathan!

There is the usual agony and ecstasy for the followers of the various home nations- England and Scotland – dare I say failing to live up to expectations – and Wales about to beat the World! However, I am sure all would agree it is great to see Paul Sackey and Andy Gomershall in the England team. Also congratulations to Karl on his brother, Lee's, selection for the senior squad. Perhaps Karl will be following Lee!

Adrian Randall

Memories of my time at Bedford

It's hard to believe that it has been almost 3 years since Leith and I first came to Bedford. We have had a fantastic time and I have acquired some great memories.

I remember my first meeting with Mike Rayer, sitting in the sun enjoying a meal at Nichols on the Embankment, trying to convince him that I really was a non-drinking vegetarian from Australia.

I remember the first training session I had with the boys. As everyone was stretching down, Matt Volland asked me in front of the group 'do you have a nickname?' I replied 'the boys at my last club use to call me Little ----' All the boys' laughed, but it only took to the next session that they realised I wasn't joking.

Like everyone else I have some great memories of the 2005-2006 season, however mine may be a little different. I remember sitting in the Member's bar on a Saturday night listening to Gareth Davies and Keith Roberts lead the Welsh contingent in song. I remember seeing Jon Hayward standing in the freezing cold watching the rugby in a pair of shorts, and I remember the carnival atmosphere of our last game of that season against Newbury.

Above all, I will always remember the pride and the passion the Bedford Followers have for their club. I will remember Baz Townsend sweeping up leaves each morning in the freezing cold, I will remember Jackie Markham selling raffle tickets in the rain with no shoes on, and I will remember the noise of Goldington Road as the Blues run onto the field. Thanks for the memories.

Nathan Stewart

It's Quiz Time!

Last year we ran a quick quiz for The Followers Newsletter. Time for another, to see if your knowledge of the laws of the game has improved. Give yourself 2 seconds per ques-

tion to answer, that's longer than the referee gets!

Easy

Dickson passes the ball laterally to Allen missing out Patston. Roberts misses the ball, which bounces on the ground, which propels it forwards. Page gathers the ball. What does the referee give?

Middle

Bedford trail Plymouth by 2 points with seconds left in the match. The score is 9-7. From a scrum 10 meters from Plymouth's line, Plymouth concede a free kick offence. Dickson gets the ball at the back of the scrum, taps it, and passes it to Patston who kicks it, and it floats between the posts, over the bar. The referee blows for full time. Which side has won, and why?

Hard

A ruck forms just inside the opposition half. The ball is passed to Patston who kicks downfield. He is then late tackled. The ball bounces 10 meters from the opposition try line and 8 meters from the touchline. The ball then rolls a further 7 meters directly towards the opposition try line. Whistle for a penalty for the late tackle. Where on the pitch could any penalty award take place?

See Answers on back page (if you need them!)

Robin Dewson

Kirsty Goes Close

Brett Daynes, a young South African, is on loan from Northampton Old Scouts. He trained pre-season with Bedford and played against Cambridge. He then went to Northampton Old Scouts. Mike Rayer recalled Brett after a sudden injury problem with the back row. He hopes to one day make it in the first XV permanently, but with Nic, Sacha and Rory as competition it's going to be tough.

Date and place of Birth: 08.08.1987

Height: 194cm

Weight: 94kg

Position: Flanker

Occupation: (are you a full time rugby player?) Work as a researcher with a company in Towcester

Marital Status: Single

Representative Honours: Midlands U20, East Midlands Senior, East Midlands U20, East Midlands U18, Natal Schools U16

Biggest Influence on your rugby career? My dad and all my coaches

Most difficult opponent? Grant Anderson

Favourite Rugby ground? ABSA Stadium Durban

What is the best piece of advice anyone has given you? "It's not the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog"

Who is your sporting hero? Gary Teichmann, Richie McCaw

What match would you most like to play in and where? England Vs South Africa, Twickenham (For England)

What is your first Rugby memory? Playing in my garden with my first rugby ball and my dad coming out and kicking it to me. He kicked it too hard and we lost it.

What is your view on video referees? They should use them on more incidents on the field

What are your thoughts on ring fencing? Have no idea what it is so can't comment

What are your thoughts on women's rugby? All for it

What are your interests outside of rugby? Clubbing, drinking, music, cricket, women

What three words sum up your character? Confident,

What attracts you to the sport? The chance to make it big

Your best memory whilst being at Bedford Blues? Being asked to go to train with them

Which away team do you most like visiting and why? Northampton, great stadium and great pitch

What do you like/dislike about Goldington Road and why? I like the atmosphere during a game...it's amazing.

How old were you when you first played rugby? Eight or nine

Where would you like to see 'The Blues' in three years time? Back in the Premiership

What brought you to Goldington Road? Name got put forward for pre-season

Best thing about being a rugby player? Knowing that there is someone better than you and striving to be better than them.

Worst thing about being a rugby player? Knowing that there is someone better than you

Quiz Answers

Easy
Nothing. The ball went backwards from the pass (lateral is backwards). Play continues.

Medium
Plymouth. You cannot score a drop goal from a free kick until the ball is next dead, therefore Patston's kick doesn't count. If there was time, Plymouth could choose from a scrum where Patston kicked or a 22m-drop out.

Hard
Law 10.4(m) - You can either take the penalty where Ben was hit, 15 meters in from touch in line of where the ball landed, or where the offending team then played the ball (at least 15 meters in from touch and 5 meters out from the try line). So in this instance it would be where Ben kicked it, 10 meters from the try line and 15 meters in from touch, or finally, 5 meters from the try line and 15 meters in from touch.

CHARITY EVENTS

Kirsty Takes a Fall or is it a Dive?

You may all be wondering why Skydiving and why now?

It's my 21st Birthday this year and I wanted to do something that would remind me of it, and I thought why not make it a charity event.

I have chosen the Dyspraxia Foun-

dation because it is a cause that is close to my heart. I personally suffer from Dyspraxia and know how hard it is to cope without it affecting your daily life. I know that it is vital for those affected by Dyspraxia, whether individuals or families, that support is given. The Dyspraxia Foundation does that.

I have chosen skydiving to be different! I wanted to do something that I would not have been able to do without losing the weight that I currently have (2 stone 10lbs to date). Luckily I am below the maximum weight required for a tandem skydive. It gives me a bit of an extra incentive as to why I have lost weight.

I have to raise £300 for the skydive to go ahead.

Please visit my fundraising web page on www.justgiving.com/kirstyscharityskydive to sponsor me, or you can find me and I will have a sponsorship form on me.

AWAY TRIPS

**Sedgley Park 1st March. Dep 8.30
Cost £17 & £9**
**Moseley 22nd March Dep 11 Cost
£12 & £7**
**Doncaster 29th March Dep 9.45
Cost £16 & £9**

Please note: If you are paying on the day please pay by cheque.

Social Events

**QUIZ NIGHT Friday 14th
March – please note new
date. For further details contact
Jackie Markham.**

**MAY BALL – Saturday May
3rd. Probably the highlight of
Bedford's social calendar!
Reserve the date now. Speak
to Andy Cobley about details**

Next Issue:-

April 5th v Rotherham.

Please let me have your views either via the committee or arandall69@btinternet.com by Friday 28th March.

The views expressed in this Newsletter are the authors and do not represent the views either of the Followers Association or Bedford Rugby