



SARACENS

Club Partnership Programme 2004/5

CLUBS UPDATE

19th October 2004

*****SARACENS AUTUMN MASTERCLASS COACHING COURSE*****
U7/8s and U15/16 places are still available, but other age groups are sold out –
for more details call 01923 475231 or go to

<http://www.saracens.com/community/masterclass.php>

TEAM NEWS

Newcastle Match Reaction

Saracens Head Coach Rod Kafer admitted a lack of execution at crucial times cost his team victory at Newcastle Falcons on Sunday.

The match ended in a 20-20 draw, but it seemed as though the Men In Black had secured the win with an injury time drop goal from Mark Bartholomeusz - only for Jonny Wilkinson to level with the last kick of the game.

Earlier, Saracens had taken the lead thanks to a Thomas Castaignede try after only four minutes, but Matthew Tait hit back for the home side. Castaignede was forced to leave the field on 13 minutes but it didn't stop the visitors pushing forward. But despite spending dominating possession, the only score before the interval came from a Robbie Kydd penalty.

After the break, Newcastle enjoyed more of the game and took the lead with another Tait try. But Saracens hit back immediately and levelled through Matt Cairns before the swapping of drop goals in added time.

"I thought we did enough to win the game, but we lacked execution at key times," admitted Kafer. "You have to take the sort of opportunities that we were given in the first half. We didn't and it allowed Newcastle back into the match.

"I was very pleased with the effort from the player and it is disappointing to draw as we worked so hard. But we'll take the two points and now our attention switches to Bayonne in the European Challenge Cup next weekend."

The players will report for their injury clinic today with Kafer waiting on reports of several players. Castaignede limped off at Newcastle while Raphael Ibanez failed a late fitness test and was ruled out of the match

Kafer also revealed after the game that Kyran Bracken is out for eight weeks as he needs surgery on a back injury

NEXT MATCH

Bayonne vs Saracens

Although newly promoted to the top league in France, Bayonne have certainly arrived with a bang. They shocked the French rugby world last month with a 27-22 victory over local rivals Biarritz - a result which belies their position in the lower reaches of the league table.

Situated just a few miles from the coastal town of Biarritz in South West France, Bayonne have long lived in the shadow of their neighbours but have been grabbing headlines of their own and boast an experienced squad.

Perhaps none more so that fly-half Lissandro Arbizu. The Argentinian, formerly of Brive, can also play in the centre and has years of international experience. He played 84 times for his country over a 13-year spell before his last match just prior to the 2003 World Cup - captaining the side 48 times.

Another experienced international in the squad is Scot James McLaren. The 32-year-old centre was a member of Scotland's recent World Cup squad and had made 30 appearances for his country, his last coming against the Wallabies during the competition.

The pick of the club's French players is lock Thierry Cleda. At 33 he brings with him great league experience and nine international caps - the last of which came in 1999.

CLUB PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Masterclass Coaching Courses – last places available in U7/8s and U15/16s age groups.

Next week will see Saracens' next Masterclass coaching course beginning on Tuesday.

The course is being held in the Autumn Half term from the 26th – 28th October. Places are still available in the U7/8s and U15/16s age groups, whereas the other age groups are sold out. For more information call Dave Hesketh on 01923 475231 or click on the following link for details and an application form <http://www.saracens.com/community/masterclass.php>.

The Saracens Masterclass is an opportunity for young players to improve their playing skills in a fun, safe, motivational environment, where Saracens top players will help with coaching on each day of the course.

Coach Development

The first Coaches Open Day of the new season was held on Thursday last week and started out as a distinctly wet day. Once the players had finally got going the coaches that attending were treated to a full blooded contact session, under the watchful eye of the coaching staff and also on of the league's professional referees. There were some good example of specific skill development coaching as well as set piece work and team play. Hopefully all those that attended enjoyed the day and having the opportunity to see behind the scenes at a Premiership Club.

This season's forthcoming Coach the Coaches evenings will be run in a similar way to last year with sessions run on a Tuesday from 7.00pm – 8.30pm, meet from 6.30 onwards for buffet snacks for those coming straight from work.

The sessions are free to Partner Club Coaches (and possibly players interested in learning more about the game) and will be made up of a theory session indoors and a practical session outdoors observing Saracens coaches working with academy players.

The dates for the first two sessions are as follows (BOOK THEM IN YOUR DIARY NOW!):

1. Tuesday 9th November – Herts Sports Village – 7.00-8.30pm – TURNOVER BALL

2. Tuesday 25th January – Herts Sports Village – 7.00-8.30pm – CONTINUITY
3. Tuesday 8th March – Herts Sports Village – 7.00-8.30pm – *TOPIC TBC*

To book your place onto one, or both, of these sessions please email davehesketh@saracens.net with your name and which partner club you are linked to.

Matchday Activities

At the next home game on Friday 29th October, when Saracens take on Bayonne in the first round of the European Competition, we will be running a coaching session for **Harrow RFC**, and **Saracens Amateurs RFC** and **Fullerians RFC** will help make up the guard of honour tunnel.

Following on from the Bayonne match, Sarries will face Bath in the premiership on Sunday 7th November. On this day we have a number of Partner Clubs attending the match including **Stockwood Park RFC**, **Watford RFC**, **Letchworth RFC**, **Harlow RFC**, **Hemel Hempstead RFC** and **South Woodham Ferrers RFC**.

If you are a member of one of these clubs you will be able to purchase tickets for these matches through your club.

Sarrie's Squad

<http://www.saracens.com/sarries/news.php>

Free Membership Still available

All partner club members in the U12s or under are entitled to free membership to Sarrie's Squad. If you have yet to become a member and are interested please get in touch with kate on 01923 204611.

FORTHCOMING HOME GAMES (at Vicarage Road):

Saracens v Bayonne – Friday 29th October - kick off 7.45pm

Saracens' first venture into the European competition will be on a Friday night. A great way to start your weekend, or a good excuse to get out of work early! Either way we'll see you there for a night of excitement.

Tickets are available through **Saracens Juniors**, **Harlow RFC** or **Fullerians RFC** who have targeted this match. Alternatively you can ring up the ticket office on 01923 475222 or buy through www.saracens.com.

NEWS FROM THE TRAINING GROUND

Bracken to undergo surgery...

Saracens received some more bad injury news this weekend as Kyran Bracken, who dropped out of this weekend's Zurich Premiership meeting with Newcastle, has been diagnosed as suffering from a disc problem which requires surgery.

Kyran will go under the knife on Tuesday and will then face around 8 weeks on the sidelines as he recovers. This now means that both of Saracens' World Cup winners are sidelined with Richard Hill out for up to nine months after an injury a fortnight ago.

"Kyran picked up the injury in training late last week," explained Head Coach Rod Kafer, "and after an initial assessment he didn't travel with us to Newcastle.

“Since the first assessment he was examined further and found to be suffering from a disc problem which needs surgery, so we’re sending him in at the earliest opportunity. Following the operation he’ll be out for around 2 months which is a bit of blow as he has in good form.”