



SARACENS

Club Partnership Programme 2004/5

CLUBS UPDATE

2nd November 2004

TEAM NEWS

Bayonne Match Reaction

At Vicarage Road Stadium on Friday night Saracens earned passage into Round 2 of the European Challenge Cup with a 36-10 victory over French side Bayonne. The five try victory was another step in the right direction as Saracens remain unbeaten for the last four matches, but Head Coach Rod Kafer isn't getting carried away despite being happy with the result.

"I was pleased with the performance and result on Friday night," explained Kafer, "and we achieved what we set out to do. In both the home and away legs we showed signs of a more cohesive unit and this is certainly promising but the next step is the real test.

"We now head back into the Zurich Premiership to play Bath, a team that has been playing in the Heineken Cup. While we have been playing Bayonne teams like Bath have been playing a much higher level of opposition, which gives them an advantage over us. We will have to adapt very quickly in training this week to the change in pace and have to keep improving if we are to continue to move on from our early disappointment.

NEXT MATCH

Saracens vs Bath at Franklins Gardens

Bath were the form team last season, an astonishing fact considering that one, they were involved in the end of season dog fight for relegation the previous season, and two, they made more than 16 new signings over the summer.

This season's campaign got off to a wobbly start but after nearly recording a victory at Welford Road against premiership leaders Leicester the West Country outfit have rediscovered the form that saw them finish top of the premiership last season.

Summer signings included Christian Loader, Joe Maddock and Nicke Walshe and despite the loss of players like Mike Catt, Iain Balshaw and Kevin Maggs the Bath machine is still likely to be in fine working order with players like Danny Grewcock, Mike Tindall, Olly Barkley and Michael Lipman leading from the front.

CLUB PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Coach the Coaches - Tues 9th Nov – Herts Sports Village – 7.00-8.30pm – TURNOVER BALL

This season's first Coach the Coaches evenings will be held on Tuesday next week, and only has a couple of places left if you are interested. The sessions will be run in a similar way to last year - meet at 6.30pm for buffet snacks for those coming straight from work, with the session going from 7.00-8.30pm.

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.

We will also be holding another two coach the coaches sessions later in the year:

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

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

Coaches' Open Day

The next coaches open day will be held on Tuesday 21st December. This is your opportunity to see the Saracens squad train as they prepare for their fixture against NEC Harlequins on Boxing day. As it is the school holidays we are also happy to invite young players (U12 and above only) to attend with their parents. ALL young players MUST be accompanied by a parent/guardian, and it must be made clear that this will not be an opportunity to meet the players, but to watch the training session and try to pick up a few tips from the professionals.

There are only limited places available to members of our partner clubs. To book up please email davehesketh@saracens.net

Masterclass Coaching

During the October half term we ran another successful Masterclass Coaching course, with over 100 players attending the three day course to be coached and meet Saracens players. Our next course is going to be held during February half term, further details will be put onto the following area of [saracens.com](http://www.saracens.com) as soon as we have finalised the details.
<http://www.saracens.com/community/masterclass.php>.

For more information call Dave Hesketh on 01923 475231.

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 Gloucester – Sunday 21st November

This fixture looks to be a busy one for partner clubs with 13 targeting this exciting fixture to come as a group. So far we are hoping for a big turn out from the following clubs:

Barnet
Bishop's Stortford
Chess Valley
Dunstablians
Harpenden
Harrow
Hemel Hempstead
Hertford

O A s
Royston
Stevenage
Tabard
Tring
Watford

Tickets are available through each of these clubs 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

New Fly Half has arrived....

Fly-half Glen Jackson had his first training session at Bramley Road earlier this week and admits he can't wait to make his debut for the Men In Black.

The Kiwi play-maker enjoyed a successful season in New Zealand and helped guide Bay of Plenty to the semi-finals of the NPC Championship after getting to the last four of the Super 12 with Waikato Chiefs.

But after a two-week break, Jackson stepped off the plane last week and within 24 hours had already taken part in a practice kicking session at Vicarage Road and is hoping to be available for selection for Saturday's game against Bath at Franklin's Gardens, kick off 3pm.

He said: "Everything has been really good so far. There is a good team spirit here and I'm delighted to be a part of it. It's been great to get rid of the cobwebs over the past few days and now I'm looking forward to making my debut."

His 138 points made the goalkicking Jackson the leading scorer in the NPC. "We had a good season," he explained. "We only had four professionals in the team and we were playing against clubs who are all fully professional - so it was a great year for us."

But now that's all behind him and it's the Zurich Premiership, the European Challenge Cup and the Powergen Cup to focus on. "There's lots of competitions to take part in and I'm really looking forward to it. I've played professionally in New Zealand for seven years and I wanted the chance to try playing in England and I'm delighted to have joined Saracens.

"I'm also excited to be joining up with Rod Kafer. He played a big part in the success of the ACT Brumbies. I know he's very ambitious - as am I. I saw the team in action against Bayonne and I was very impressed with the performance. We have a very talented squad and I'm looking forward to being a part of it."

Saracens prominent in London Academy victory...

On Sunday 31st October at Old Albanians the London Academy Conference team played their second game against the North. The forward battle was fiercely competitive, however, the London backs started where they finished against the South West and scored 9 tries to beat the North comfortably 53-21. Adam Powell scored the final try of the game after a magnificent performance at full back. Nine Saracens Academy players were involved in the game: Tom Mercey (Prop), Nathan Lines (Prop), Jon Mason (hooker), Ben Wickens (hooker), Tim Saull (lock), Richard Gill (Flanker), Steffon

Armitage (Flanker), Craig Wilson (centre) and Adam Powell (Full Back).

"The London backs were deadly in the first half. They scored 3 tries with their first 3 attacks of the game. The forwards battle was much more competitive, and our forwards were made to work hard to secure the ball for the backs. The scoreline could have been even more with several opportunities being missed in the second half. The players were disappointed to have conceded 3 tries which were all down to mistakes in the defensive system. This is to be expected from a squad that could only prepare for an hour in the morning of the game. The squad is now really looking forward to a championship decider against the Midlands on Saturday 20th November at Newark RFC." Mike Hynard (Team Manager).