



SARACENS

Club Partnership Programme 2004/5

CLUBS UPDATE

11th November 2004

TEAM NEWS

Bath Match Reaction

Head Coach Rod Kafer has thanked all Saracens supporters who made the trip to Franklin's Gardens on Saturday.

Although disappointed with the 37-30 defeat to Bath, Kafer praised fans who were able to make the trip and cheer on the Men In Black.

Saracens launched an audacious fight back to rescue two bonus points and could have forced a draw but for some frantic and contentious Bath defence deep in injury time. The visitors in this rearranged fixture thought they were home and dry at 18-37 in the 62nd minute but a Glen Jackson inspired fight back fell agonizingly short.

Both sides scored four tries a piece, two in each half but Saracens wobbly start in the opening periods of each half was their downfall.

Kafer said: *"On behalf of the squad and coaching staff, I'd like to say a big thank-you to all of you who were able to make the game on Saturday.*

"I know switching the game caused you a lot of inconvenience, but I thought the backing you gave the team was excellent and it really helped. We're sorry we didn't come back out on to the field at the end of the game to say thanks, but we were all disappointed with the result.

"I know changing the game meant some supporters were unable to attend the match, but we hope to see you all back at Vicarage Road when we face Gloucester on Sunday 21st November. Once again, thanks for your support on Saturday and throughout the season. "

NEXT MATCH: NEC Harlequins vs Saracens at The Stoop, Twickenham

NEC Harlequins are currently rooted to the foot of the table but don't let that fool you. Despite not winning a game in ten attempts, eight of them in the Zurich Premiership, the Twickenham based side have amassed a healthy amount of bonus points, three for losing by less than seven points and two for a draw.

On Friday night they played Wasps at Wycombe and lost by the narrowest of margins and their previous two games in the Heineken Cup saw them only just lose away to Munster and then draw at home against Castres.

Harlequins, coached by Mark Evans, have strengthened their side further in recent weeks with the signings of Southern Hemisphere locks Geo Cronje and Simon Malin and they are desperately seeking to break their duck. As they edge closer and closer to victory Saracens must be at their best as they will have surely targeted this home game as their first win of the season.

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 evening is now full with representatives coming from the majority of our partner clubs. If you are interested in developing your coaching skills we will be holding a number of additional sessions over the season.

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 Boxing Day fixture against NEC Harlequins. 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

Keep an eye out for details of our next course over the February half term 2005 on Saracens website: <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>

If you have yet to pick up your Sarrie's Squad ball there are a number of forthcoming games which you can exchange your initial FREE ticket for and pick it up.

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

The Richard Hill Diaries

“The squad are very much looking forward to the next round of the European Challenge Cup where we face Italian opposition but that is now a month away and we have the Zurich Premiership to focus on.

Following last week’s Bayonne game we saw the climax of the ‘moustache growing competition’ which was eagerly awaited by many, the wives and girlfriends of the contestants in particular, so that they would finally be shaved off.

There was a big prize on offer which included £160 worth of beauty vouchers and a bottle of champagne and Linda Wray was invited to head up the judging panel as she has apparently had previous experience of the ‘sport’ with Nigel’s various attempts in his early years.

Unfortunately, to the disgust of many of his fellow contestants, Morgan Williams was crowned ‘King Tache’ with what can only be described as a bit of Maoris artwork on his face which included a thin traditional moustache with handlebars which then spread out at the sides ending in a little curl once it had reached his cheek. The chief dissenter at the decision was Taine Randell who even challenged the decision forcing a second vote as he felt that his ‘large slug’ was a worthy winner, needless to say he felt very aggrieved that his effort wasn’t rewarded.

On Saturday, as we had a rear day off, we had a team social event which started in Barnet and had a Halloween theme. Some of the players opted to carry round pumpkins with dodgy faces drawn on them and others went to greater lengths but Morgan Williams was victorious again with the best costume. After about half an hour at our first venue the eccentric Canadian disappeared to the toilet with his bag and before to long had reappeared in a full gorilla outfit.

He then went on to make a nuisance of himself as we made our way into London on the tube as he swung from the rails and accosted fellow passengers and befriended others very much like Chris Pontius on ‘Jackass’. A special mention must go to our new arrival Glen Jackson who turned up a very convincing Dracula, a very good effort on his first attempt. The worst dressed prize I’m afraid goes to one of younger members Joe Bedford. He turned up after

making no effort at all and ended up with a token swab on his finger with a touch of fake blood.

The finale to the evening was our arrival in Covent Garden where there was a surprise 30th Birthday Party for Taine Randell. A surprise for Taine as he was trying to keep his birthday and age quiet and wasn't aware of the month or more of planning. A surprise to us as we thought that he had passed this milestone long ago!

For more from Hilly, check out www.saracens.com.