



**SARACENS**

Club Partnership Programme 2004/5

## **CLUBS UPDATE**

20<sup>th</sup> July 2004

### **CLUB NEWS**

#### **Saracens announce Man Group plc sponsorship agreement**

Saracens, one of the top English Premiership rugby clubs, have announced a major three-year club sponsorship agreement with Man Group plc, the leading global provider of alternative investment products and solutions as well as one of the world's largest futures brokers.

The deal will see Man Group become the club's premier sponsorship partner as Saracens builds towards its plan for domestic and European success.

Saracens Chief Executive Mark Sinderberry said: "We're delighted to welcome such an internationally respected partner to Saracens. Over the last 10 months, we have built the foundations to start fulfilling our potential through European success.

"We want to build a winning team both on and off the pitch and our partnership with Man Group will help us achieve that aim."

Man Group Chief Executive Stanley Fink said: "We're very pleased to sponsor Saracens and look forward to becoming part of their team.

"Saracens have made their ambitions for the new season clear with a series of excellent signings and they match our vision of striving for success. We both aim for consistent strong performance and to be innovative across all aspects of our business - making this an ideal partnership. We hope that with Man Group's support, Saracens will enjoy great success in the future."

### **CLUB PARTNERSHIP NEWS**

With the new season about to start in a 6 weeks time, that players are busy training – but there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes in preparation for The Club Partnership Programme for 2004-5. The Saracens Website is being updated with more information about the partner clubs, dates for the next 'coach the coaches' sessions and open days are being discussed with the coaching team. With the fixture list recently published partner clubs are picking which games they are going to target over the season – so make sure you know when your club is coming to Vicarage Road. This season we are extending the number of matchday activities which players from the partner clubs can be involved in, so don't miss you're chance to play at

Vicarage Road or be coached by Saracens Players. In addition to all this Saracens are also offering FREE membership to all U12s members of Partner Clubs to Sarrie's Squad the all new Junior Fan Club – look out for an application form at your club's registration day.

## **MASTERCLASS 04**

Supported by  and 

This Summer's Masterclass Courses are now completely sold out for both Bishop's Stortford and Old Albanians. Watch this space for details of future courses over the season.

## **NEWS FROM THE TRAINING GROUND**

### **NEXT HOME GAME:**

The next 'home' game will be against London Wasps as part of the London Double Header at Twickenham on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2004. The Double Header will see all four Premiership teams from the capital battling it out in two huge games.

Saracens will meet London Wasps (Kick off 4.15pm) and Harlequins face London Irish (Kick off 2.00pm) as the 2004/05 Zurich Premiership season starts with a bang!

The event promises to be a great day out and will be the first chance for supporters to see the new Saracens players in action in a league match. Season Ticket Holders get the game free as part of their package but with adult prices at just £20 - it's great value to watch two games at the home of England Rugby in what promises to be one of the top events on the London sporting calendar. Make sure you buy your tickets through your club to help them raise funds for new equipment in the 2004-5 season.

### **PLAYER NEWS**

#### **Fly half Glen Jackson has signed for Saracens for the 2004/05 season.**

The 28-year-old goal kicking Waikato Chiefs and Bay of Plenty playmaker has initially signed a one-year deal with the Men In Black. He will join Saracens in October following the end of his NPC commitments with Bay of Plenty.

Saracens Head Coach Rod Kafer said: "We are delighted that Glen will be joining us next season. He is a very skilful player, an excellent goal kicker and meets our recruitment criteria.

"He is in the right age bracket and brings with him a wealth of experience from the Super 12 and NPC competitions. He's not had the international recognition we feel a player of his quality deserves, but that may be something he addresses while with us.

Kafer added: "Initially he has joined us on a one-year deal but we are hopeful that we will have the opportunity of extending this further."

As one of the most experienced players in the Waikato line-up, Jackson played an important role in the team which lost out in this year's Super 12 semi-finals to the eventual champions the ACT Brumbies. His 59 appearances for the Chiefs since his debut in 1999 have brought him a points haul of 479.

More recently, Jackson was part of NZ Moari side that beat England in the final of the Churchill Cup. He also played for New Zealand Barbarians at Twickenham in December 2003 when he came face to face with Richard Hill, then captaining the England side in their first match since their World Cup victory.

#### **Ben Skirving has signed a contract extension with Saracens.**

The 21-year-old No. 8 has put pen to paper on a new deal as Head Coach Rod Kafer secures the long-term future of the club's talented youngsters.

Skirving said: "I'm absolutely delighted to be extending my contract. I still had a year left to run on my existing deal, but I'm more than happy to commit myself to the club now.

"There have been a lot of exciting changes at the club over the past year and they have made me want to stay even more. There are some great players at the club along with excellent coaches and we are building a strong team.

"I have no doubt that this is the right place to continue my development as a player and get more experience."

The England U21 international missed the final part of last season after undergoing shoulder surgery, but he's almost back to full fitness.

He said: "The surgery went really well and I'm nearly at the end of my rehab. It's all been going well and hopefully I should be back at 100 per cent within the next month."

#### **Saracens are in talks with Tongan winger Pila Fifita.**

The 29-year-old international currently plays for NPC outfit North Otago in New Zealand.

Saracens Head Coach Rod Kafer said: "We have been in contact with the player and talks are at an advanced stage. We are hopeful of concluding a deal."

The 5ft 11in, 16st 7lb winger made his debut for Tonga last year and has played 33 times for North Otago - scoring 154 points.