



**SARACENS**

Club Partnership Programme 2004/5

## **CLUBS UPDATE**

7<sup>th</sup> September 2004

**\*\*\* IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF A PARTNER CLUB YOU CAN JOIN SARRIE'S SQUAD (Saracens Junior Fan Club) FOR FREE! For an application form call Kate on 01923 204 611 or pick one up from the club house.\*\*\***

### **TEAM NEWS**

Saracens got the 2004/05 season off to a winning start with a 13-11 success over last year's champions Wasps at Twickenham on Saturday - but Head Coach Rod Kafer warned there is still much hard work to be done before next weekend's clash against Worcester Warriors.

The Premiership new boys visit Vicarage Road on Sunday, kick off 3pm, and the squad will be back in training this morning - gearing up for what will be another hard game.

Kafer said: "We're satisfied with the performance against Wasps, but you don't win anything on a hot afternoon in September. There is still a lot of hard work in front of us and key areas we need to focus on, but in saying that, I can't speak highly enough of the performance from the team.

"We performed well on Saturday, but it's only the first game of the season. We've worked hard all pre-season on getting things right in terms of our recruitment of players and our preparations. It's good to start with a win, but our focus now is on Worcester."

Kevin Yates scored the only try of the game and a penalty and conversion from Thomas Castaignede also added towards the total. However, Nicky Little's late penalty saw the Men In Black regain the lead and claim the victory in front of 51,000 fans at Twickenham as part of the London Double Header.

"I think it is a wonderful concept and a brilliant way to start the season," added Kafer. "I think you have to pay Premier Rugby and those involved with organising the event great respect. It was a wonderful occasion."

Richard Hill came off at half time during the game following the Elite Players Squad (EPS) ruling which only allowed those in action in England's final test match of the summer tour to play 40 minutes.

But Kafer admitted that he wants his players to be striving for international selection. "Our intention is to have as many players as possible on international duty. If that means that 20 of our players are on England duty, then that would be fantastic. That would mean they would be playing well for Saracens and we have some pretty decent players in the squad."

## **CLUB PARTNERSHIP NEWS**

What a great start to the season! But there is a long way to go and the team are determined to keep improving in all areas of their game. After a huge turn out from fans on Saturday (with over 1,400 people coming directly through the Club Partnership Programme) the players have highlighted how important the fans support is going to be for the forthcoming season. With all the new signings and a world class coaching team this season should prove to be one not to be missed.

### **Be Part of the Squad – Great New opportunities from Saracens**

This year we are offering a special ticketing offer to our partner clubs which will help them raise money for your own club through CashBack, allow you to sit in other areas of the stadium other than the South Stand and attend more Saracens games.

The first offer is for discounted season tickets, with Cashback going to your club. Tickets will guarantee your seat for the whole season and show your true colour for 2004-5 – BLACK! Season tickets start from just £120 for adults and £30 for concessions (U16s, Students and OAPs). With a Saracens Season Ticket if you miss any of the games you can exchange your ticket for another game later in the season to bring a friend and still get your money's worth.

If you are unable to attend every game, this season we are launching our **BRAND NEW 'Six Pack' offer** exclusive to partner clubs. This offer entitles you to pick SIX games which you would like to attend over the season, and order all of them at the same time for a discounted price. Why not pick the same four games that your club is targeting plus two big games that you can't bear to miss? These tickets are available in all stands and as with the STs, if you miss one of the games you pick, Saracens can exchange the ticket for another match.

For more details speak to the Saracens co-ordinator at your club for more details, alternatively call **Clare on 01923 204606**.

Remember for every Six Pack or Season Ticket bought by a member of your club, Saracens will pay Cashback to the club to spend on new equipment or even next Easter's tour.

### **Next Coach Development Session**

The next coaches open day is going to be held in late September or early October. The day will take the same format as last season where partner club coaches will be invited along to a day of training for the Saracens Squad. There will be the chance to meet with the coaches and chat about coaching techniques before watching the team being put through their paces in the lead up to their next Zurich Premiership Match. Watch this space for a confirmed date, which we'll hopefully have by next week.

### **Join Sarrie's Squad FOR FREE**

As an exclusive offer to partner Club members only – Saracens are offering FREE membership to all U6-U12 members. Each member will receive an official Sarrie's Squad Membership Card - The chance to be a Saracens Mascot (U12s only), and lead out the team at Vicarage Road - A 2004/05 Saracens Squad poster - A free child's ticket to a Saracens matchday - Birthday E-Card and your name on the Sarrie's Squad page on the Saracens Official Website - Regular competitions with exciting prizes - An invite to meet the players at an exclusive Sarrie's Squad event - Fortnightly e-mailed Newsletters (to your own or a family e-mail address) - A Domino's Pizza Voucher Booklet

In addition to all this, each member is entitled to a discounted 'Sarries Squad' Gilbert Rugby Ball for just £5.

For more details, or for an application form, call Kate on 01923 204611 or e-mail [sarriessquad@saracens.net](mailto:sarriessquad@saracens.net). Alternatively pick up an application form from your club.

## **www.saracens.com - Updated**

In addition to this we've also updated the community pages on the website to show more information about your club. This will hopefully allow newcomers to rugby to easily find out how they can get involved at our local clubs. To check out the new look information click on the following link:

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

## **Coaches Needed**

Are you a Level 1 or Level 2 RFU qualified coach?

Would you be interested in working with the Saracens Community Team during school holidays?

Saracens Community are looking to broaden their coaching resources, particularly for Masterclass Coaching courses during the school holidays.

If you're interested in getting involved please send a Coaching CV with details of your experience to Dave Hesketh at Rigby House, 34 The Parade, High Street, Watford, Herts WD17 1EA

## **FORTHCOMING MATCHES**

### **NEXT HOME GAME (at Vicarage Road):**

#### **Saracens v Worcester**

Saracens entertain Worcester Warriors at Vicarage Road on Sunday 12th September - kick off 3pm - in the first meeting of the two clubs in the Zurich Premiership.

The newly promoted side started their season with a defeat against Newcastle Falcons, but will be keen to get their first league points on the board. Head Coach Andy Keast has done his best to hang on to a fair chunk of the squad and has sought to strengthen his side's chances of staying in the premiership by signing the likes of Clive Stuart-Smith (Leeds), Pat Sanderson (Harlequins), Thomas Lombard (Stade Francais), Thinus Delpont (Gloucester) - making them a tough proposition.

If you have training at your club next Sunday morning – why not come along afterwards to see the match? Tickets are available through Saracens Juniors RFC and Chess Valley RFC who have targeted this match. Alternatively you can ring up the ticket office on 01923 475222 or buy through [www.saracens.com](http://www.saracens.com).

## **NEWS FROM THE TRAINING GROUND**

After the news that Saracens lock Alex Codling has decided to take a break from the game, Rod Kafer has hinted that he is looking for a replacement who left the club last week - to try and cure long-term injury problems.

"It's a real shame for Alex because he is a good player and one who always gives everything to the club. He'll be missed around the dressing room and we are on the lookout to replace him."