



**SARACENS**

Club Partnership Programme 2004/5

## **CLUBS UPDATE**

21<sup>th</sup> September 2004

**NEXT HOME GAME is this weekend:  
Saracens v Leeds - Sunday 26th September - kick off 3pm.**

### **TEAM NEWS**

#### **Sale Sharks Match Reaction**

Saracens Head Coach Rod Kafer was left ruing missed chances after seeing his side suffer at 25-15 defeat at Sale Sharks on Friday night.

Despite falling behind to two early tries from Mark Cueto, the Men In Black fought back to enjoy much of the possession for the rest of the game but they failed to turn it into points. A late Charlie Hodgson penalty ended any hopes of a bonus point from the game.

*"I thought we lost the game with lapses of concentration in the opening and closing 10 minutes," explained Kafer. "That's frustrating as in between them I thought we controlled the game well. The first 10 minutes cost us two tries whereas the last 10 minutes saw us go from losing the chance to win the game to conceding a penalty that wiped out the bonus point that we'd worked so hard for.*

*"Once we'd settled down and got into the game we pretty much stuck to our game plan which was pleasing but you just can't hand a team like Sale 19 points on a plate as they will make you pay.*

*"Looking back over the match I was pleased by the way that we responded to our poor start and we did create several scoring chances only for our finishing to let us down at the final second. It's fair to say that we have been working very hard on our defence and set piece play, which are beginning to show promise. However, we haven't spent as much time on our attacking play, which is something that we will begin to focus more on although not at the expense of the basics.*

*"As the team develops and more members of the squad become available we will develop further in all aspects of our game but we have to be able to continue to take points where ever they may come from and that it something that the players are well aware of."*

Saracens next fixture at Vicarage Road sees them entertain Leeds Tykes on Sunday 26th September - kick off 3pm. Tickets are on sale now from [www.saracens.com](http://www.saracens.com) or alternatively they are available through a number of Partner Club who are attending the game as a group. These include Stockwood Park RFC, Harrow RFC, Harpenden RFC, Royston RFC, Bishop's Stortford RFC, Fullerians RFC and Old Albanians RFC.

## CLUB PARTNERSHIP NEWS

### Coach Development

We're still waiting for a date for the first Coaches Open Day of the new season, but in the mean time we do have some further details of forthcoming Coach the Coaches sessions. These will be run in a similar way to last year with sessions run on a Tuesday evening 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 9<sup>th</sup> November – Herts Sports Village – 7.00-8.30pm – TURNOVER BALL
2. Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Herts Sports Village – 7.00-8.30pm – CONTINUITY
3. The third session will be held in March – but a final date & topic is still to be confirmed.

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

### Matchday Activities

At the next home game, when Saracens take on Leeds, Stockwood Park RFC and Harpenden RFC will be taking up the pre-match coaching opportunities. In addition to this Harrow RFC, Bishop's Stortford RFC and OAs RFC will all be taking part in the Matchday Challenge which will take place on the Vicarage Road pitch. Royston RFC will then be making up the Guard of Honour Tunnel for the players to run through as they come onto the pitch prior to kick off. If you are a member of one of these clubs make sure you get your tickets to this match to get involved in the activities on offer.

### 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.

### Sarrie's Squad

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

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.

### **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 Leeds - Sunday 26th September - kick off 3pm**

Boosted by summer signings Tim Stimpson and Iain Balshaw, Leeds Tykes Head Coach Phil Davies will be looking for an improvement on last season that saw the Yorkshire club scrapping it out in the bottom half of the table.

Another player making his way to Headingley for the 2004/05 season is former Springbok flanker Pierre Uys. The former Stormers star is sure to fit in at Tykes with his uncompromising, hard-nosed play - and his strong work ethic can only help drive the club forward this season.

They are captained by Tom Palmer, the up-and-coming England second row, and with the likes of Mark Regan, Gordon Ross and Andre Snyman in their ranks they're sure to cause most teams problems this season.

Tickets are available through **Stockwood Park RFC, Harrow RFC, Harpenden RFC, Royston RFC, Bishop's Stortford RFC, Fullerians RFC and Old Albanians 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**

### **The calm before the storm as International camps take their toll...**

The early part of this week at Bramley Road has seen the training ground quieter than usual with both England and Scotland holding training camps.

Richard Hill, Hugh Vyvyan, Dan Scarbrough, Alex Sanderson, Richard Haughton, Ben T Russell and Ben Skirving have all met up with their respective full and 7s squads for the two-day get together which started on Monday.

For acting England Head Coach Andy Robinson, it's the first of four two-day sessions over the next few months as the team prepare for the Autumn Internationals against Canada, South Africa and Australia.

It's also the first time the Sevens squad has got together ahead of the 2005 Rugby World Cup Sevens in Hong Kong (March 18th-20th) and the 2004/05 IRB World Sevens Series, which starts this December in Dubai.

Sevens coach Mike Friday will be attempting to complete a unique 'double' by aiming to win the RWC Sevens in Hong Kong following England's RWC success in Australia last November.

This week has also seen Robbie Kydd, Iain Fullarton and Nick Lloyd meet up with the Scotland squad as part of a series of training days at Murrayfield every Monday in September. They have been joined by Saracens kicking coach Mick Byrne as part of his role with the country.

Come tomorrow everything will return to normal at Bramley Road with all players reporting for duty to begin preparations for Sunday's game against Leeds Tykes at Vicarage Road Stadium. Hopefully by then Kafer will have some good news on the current injury status of his squad which, at the beginning of the week, was beginning to look a little daunting. Check out [www.saracens.com](http://www.saracens.com) for more details.

### **Saracens contingent help London Academy to victory...**

The Academy Conference games have been set up, by the RFU national Academy, to enable the best U19 Academy players in England to play with and against the best in the country. Saracens were represented by Jon Mason(hooker), Nathan Lines(prop), Steffon Armitage(openside), Donald Barrell(No 8) and Adam Powell(centre). Tosh Askew (National Academy Attack coach/England U19 coach) and Brian Aston (National Academy Manager) were in attendance for the first game and must have been suitably impressed by what they saw.

The London division academy team began the first Academy Conference competition in great form and produced a 10 try demolition of the South West down in Bristol on Saturday. Donald Barrell opened the scoring when he showed great speed and determination to run 40 metres to chase a missed drop goal attempt, to beat the opposition winger to the ball and touch down for the first try of the game.

The London forwards were starting to dominate the scrums and lineouts. Just before half time, the London pack made their domination tell. Jon Mason found himself at the bottom of a pile following a well organized and dynamic catch and drive from the lineout. This took the half time score to 31-0.

Steffon Armitage showed great power and strength with some very aggressive ball carries into the heart of the South West defence. Steffon was also very effective in the tackle area where he slowed up and stole a lot of the opposition ball.

Nathan Lines came on at half time and added good impetus to the scrum. The longer the game went on, the more momentum the London pack generated. Nathan worked hard around the field and had a couple of very strong, dynamic runs with the ball.

Although Adam Powell did not get his name on the scoreboard, he had an impressive game both in attack and defence. Adam was often the catalyst for many of the London attacks. Adam looked strong in the contact area and distributed the ball well when necessary. His involvement in the 2nd XV games has certainly aided his development.

The final score was 60-0. It was particularly pleasing to not concede any points. The defence by the forwards was at times ferocious, as were some of the tackles made by Adam Powell in the midfield.

*"Although the scoreline reflects a good performance," commented Mike Hynard, London Academy Team Manager, "the pleasing aspect is that there is still a great deal of improvement to be made. At times our handling was not as good as it could be, our counter attack can be better organized, as can the forward organization both in the set piece and in open play."*

The London Academy Conference team will play the North at Old Albanians on Sunday 31st October, 2pm kick off. Check out [www.saracens.com](http://www.saracens.com) for more details.