



SARACENS
Club Partnership Programme 2004/5

CLUBS UPDATE

5th October 2004

**NEXT HOME GAME is this weekend:
Saracens v Northampton - Sunday 10th October - kick off 3pm.**

TEAM NEWS

London Irish Match Reaction

Following last weekend's defeat at London Irish at a rain-soaked Madejski Stadium, Head Coach Rod Kafer revealed:

"We are very disappointed with the result. There is no point making excuses, we were outplayed regardless of any injuries. There were a number of situations that were influencing the game in the second half and we needed to deal with them a lot better and then we found ourselves on the wrong end of the scoreboard.

"There is a lack of confidence in the team and we need to work very hard on that, but we have enough players to put in good performances. It might be the case that we need to simplify things and we'll look at that this week with a real focus on catching, passing and basic skills."

CLUB PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Coach Development

The first Coaches Open Day of the new season is being held on Thursday 14th October. This is an opportunity for all partner Club Coaches to attend Saracens' Training session and watch the first team in action as they prepare for their match against Newcastle Falcons.

In addition to this we have the dates of this season's 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 9th November – Herts Sports Village – 7.00-8.30pm – TURNOVER BALL

2. Tuesday 25th January – Herts Sports Village – 7.00-8.30pm – CONTINUITY
3. Tuesday 8th March – Herts Sports Village – 7.00-8.30pm

To book your place onto one, or both, of these sessions please email 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 Northampton we will have a busy day with many partner clubs attending the game. Tabard and Fullerians RFC will be taking up the pre-match coaching opportunities. In addition to this Barnet RFC, Dunstablians RFC, Watford RFC and Stevenage RFC will all be taking part in the Matchday Challenge which will take place on the Vicarage Road pitch. Dunstablians 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, or see your club members in action.

Sarrie's Squad

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

This weekend's matchday is also the first opportunity for members of Sarrie's Squad to attend the game and come and pick up their special Gilbert rugby balls. If you are unable to attend, make sure you return your ticket and swap it for one of the other special ball collection games.

For more details, or for an application form if you are not yet a member, call Kate on 01923 204611 or e-mail sarriessquad@saracens.net. Alternatively pick up an application form from your club.

FORTHCOMING HOME GAMES (at Vicarage Road):

Saracens v Bayonne – Friday 29th October - kick off 7.45pm

Saracens' first venture into the European competition will be on a Friday night. A great way to start your weekend, or a good excuse to get out of work early! Either way we'll see you there for a night of excitement.

Tickets are available through **Saracens Juniors, Harlow RFC or Fullerians RFC** 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

Hill to undergo knee scan on Tuesday...

Saracens flanker **Richard Hill** will have an MRI scan on his left knee and a specialist review late tomorrow (Tuesday) following the injury he sustained against London Irish on Sunday.

Hill met up with the England squad earlier today as part of a two-day camp at Pennyhill Park in Surrey.

Following tomorrow's scan, a more definite prognosis will be available.

Saracens impress with Zurich A League victory...

Saracens A Team recorded their first victory in this season's Zurich A League on Monday beating Bath 22-13 at Old Albanians, St Albans.

Two tries from the impressive Dan Harris and one a piece from Kenny Bingham and Steffon Armitage

was enough to see off the challenge of the West Country visitors despite trailing 5-8 at the break.

Saracens were the first to score with Harris bagging the first of his brace with an impressive finish but Bath hit back before half time with a try and a penalty to take a half time lead as Saracens were twice left a man down with successive sin binnings.

In the second half, and with a full compliment of players, Saracens set about taking the game to the visitors and soon had them on the back foot. The pack were holding their own and the back line constantly trying to ask questions of the defence and as the minutes ticked by the likelihood of a Saracens score looked more probable.

Scrum half Bingham took Saracens into the lead after a series of phases took Saracens within striking distance and then Dan Harris extended the lead after an interception showing a quick pair of heals.

Steffon Armitage looked to have had the final word with just minutes to spare as he crashed over the line to put the win beyond doubt and even a last minute Bath try was too little too late to have any bearing and what was a rousing victory for the team and the supporters that turned out.