



SARACENS

Club Partnership Programme 2004/5

CLUBS UPDATE

12th October 2004

*****SARACENS AUTUMN MASTERCLASS COACHING COURSE*****

Places are still available if you are quick! – for more details call 01923 475231
or go to <http://www.saracens.com/community/masterclass.php>

TEAM NEWS

Northampton Match Reaction

Kafer pleased with performance and now seeks consistency...

Two tries from Richard Haughton and a score from Ben Broster saw Saracens to a 23-12 victory over Northampton Saints at Vicarage Road on Sunday.

And Head Coach Rod Kafer was pleased with a much improved team performance during the game. He said: *"If you would have told me before the game that we were going to get four points and deny Northampton a bonus point, I would have gladly accepted that. We achieved what we wanted to do - win the match with a good performance.*

"Saints are a side who play a confrontational game so we knew it would be a hard match. We were beaten up a bit last week at London Irish but it was a better display and we took a step forward - but there is still a lot of hard work ahead for us."

But for traffic congestion, Haughton would have started the game on the bench. *"Richard only found out 10 minutes before kick off that he was starting,"* explained Kafer. *"We felt he'd been lacking a bit of confidence in recent weeks but he scored two very good tries.*

"The squad to a man have been disappointed with their last two performances and they have taken a lot of criticism which has been led by the management. They responded well against Northampton. They have been trying as hard as they could and putting in the effort, but things haven't been working. We're happy with the four points, but it is only one victory. We now have to step the performance up another level and move forward."

NEXT MATCH

Newcastle vs Saracens

Newcastle have had a good start to the season with three straight wins over premiership new boys Worcester (9-30), Bath (18-33) and NEC Harlequins (22-21), two of which were away from home.

The return of Jonny Wilkinson seemed to have inspired the Falcons to their best start for some years and the addition to the squad of players like Charvis and Burke seemed to be paying dividends.

Their last two outings haven't proved to be quite as rewarding after Gloucester (17-31) and then Leicester (15-44) lay siege to Kingston Park coming away with victories.

In the first game of the season last year Saracens recorded their first ever win at Kingston Park, breaking the curse of one of their remaining bogey grounds (just a few remaining like Welford Road and Kingsholm). The two sides are both battling to stay in touch with the leaders and there will be plenty to play for.

CLUB PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Masterclass Coaching Courses

During the Autumn Half term from the 26th – 28th October, Saracens will be holding their next Masterclass Coaching Course. Places are still available, although they are selling quickly, for more information call Dave Hesketh on 01923 475231 or click on the following link for details and an application form <http://www.saracens.com/community/masterclass.php>.

The Saracens Masterclass is an opportunity for young players to improve their playing skills in a fun, safe, motivational environment, where Saracens top players will help with coaching on each day of the course.

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 – *TOPIC TBC*

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 on Friday 29th October, when Saracens take on Bayonne in the first round of the European Competition, we will be running a coaching session for **Harrow RFC, and Saracens Amateurs RFC** and **Fullerians RFC** will help make up the guard of honour tunnel.

Following on from the Bayonne match, Sarries will face Bath in the premiership on Sunday 7th November. On this day we have a number of Partner Clubs attending the match including **Stockwood Park RFC, Watford RFC, Letchworth RFC, Harlow RFC, Hemel Hempstead RFC and South Woodham Ferrers RFC**.

If you are a member of one of these clubs you will be able to purchase tickets for these matches through your club.

Sarrie's Squad

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

Sarrie's Squad Collection Day Huge Success...

Sarrie the Camel had a great day at Sunday's match as met over 600 of his Sarrie's Squad members.

The youngsters, who have been signing up to his Squad since August, came to the match to collect their Sarrie's Squad balls and posters at the North East corner of the stadium.

Sarrie enjoyed having the chance to meet many of you face to face, and he certainly felt you made a difference to the noise levels in the crowd!

If you're a Sarrie's Squad member, don't forget to check your e-mail for your latest update from the Sarrie himself. For more details on Sarrie's Squad, or to join e-mail sarriessquad@saracens.net.

If you have yet to pick up your ball from Sarrie, then you have the chance to attend one of our forthcoming games to pick it up. Just send in your ticket and we'll exchange it for one to the match you would like to attend – choose from Bath, Gloucester or NEC Harlequins.

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 Fulleriens 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

Saracens keep a clean sheet...

As well keeping a clean sheet on Sunday with Saracens keeping Northampton's try count to zero it also looks as though they managed to keep a clean sheet on the injury front too.

This is all the more surprising after the intensity of Saracens defence which saw the Men in Black make nearly three times as many tackles as the visitors. There was only one player that hobbled from the pitch and that was Dan Scarbrough after a heavy collision at the end of the first half. He will sit out the first few days of training this week to let his body recover but other wise he is thought to be okay.

On the longer term injury front the Physio Room is pretty much unchanged with Alex Sanderson continuing in his march towards full fitness and the likes of Morgan Williams and Iain Fullarton still thought to be a week or so away from a return to training

Fifita to stay put, Jackson still on his way...

Saracens have today confirmed that **Pila Fifita**, the Tongan International wing from North Otago, will not be joining the club from New Zealand after passport / immigration issues have meant that he will be unable to take up his contract.

He was expected to travel to the UK later this month but, as mentioned by Rod Kafer during his 'LIVE'

Forum on Friday, he will now be staying put with Saracens possibly reviewing the situation in 9 months time.

Another player due to be arriving in the UK from New Zealand is **Glen Jackson**. The fly half is scheduled to arrive on the 28th October once his NPC commitments are over unless the All Blacks management decide that they want to use him as cover for the injured Carlos Spencer for their autumn tour.

He will be under the selector's eye on Saturday morning (7.30am UK time) as his side Bay of Plenty take on Canterbury at Jade Stadium in the Semi Finals of the NPC and you can follow his progress too as it is being broadcast live on Sky Sports 2.

Commenting on both situations Head Coach Rod Kafer said: "We always knew that there might be an issue with Pila and although we're disappointed he won't be coming we won't be looking to replace him after picking up Tevita Vaikona.

"We're looking forward to welcoming Glen to the club at the end of the month and had got him pencilled in for the Bath game (Sunday 7th November). Obviously if he gets called up for New Zealand then we will have to wait a little longer and we wish him well on that front and in his game at the weekend."