

SSA NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER

2017



Contact us

www.saracenssupporters.org

Twitter: @SarriesSupport

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Membership: membermojo.co.uk/ssa

Or just grab one of us on a match day or at an event.

Forthcoming Events

September 2nd The Fox/LDH

September 9th The Boater

September 16th Philly this match is a slow burner any plans will be emailed

Sept 23rd Fez Boy Day

Sept 29th Warriors bars

October 21st Ospreys come to town

December 10th Clermont come to town

December 16/17 Cafe Pascal, Clermont

December 24th Tigers away.
Christmas jumpers anyone?

Coaches Review/AGM

Oh what a night! It's difficult to know where to start this evening is rapidly becoming unmissable for Sarries supporters.

Mark, Dan and Kev kicked the evening off and ably guided, sometimes accidentally by Ed, were witty, entertaining and informative. They seemed to relax much more with us this year with tales of their garden exploits, Billy's girlfriend intermixed with forthright analysis of the team and games.

Following the Coaches we had a short chat with our 3 sponsored players and Joel Kpoku, Tadgh McElroy and Nina Vistisen showed we have made the right choice. Nina, in particular, was so passionate and grateful for the support it was like a breathe of fresh air.

Emily from the Sports Foundation gave us a great insight to some of their plans and how they are going to work with the SSA.

Andy Duckworth, again relaxed into the role answered various questions regarding the West Stand, Training Ground, Heath Harvey, Tickets ably assisted by Herman and Ally who stepped several times into the breach.

Last but not least we had our first exposure to our summer Noise Maker project which brought the House down. Some coaches present from Seattle Saracens were left speechless and ensured that the video has been shared across the North American Rugby fraternity. If you haven't seen the videos go to our YouTube account and have a look. It's worth it!



Record Breakers

Thank you thank you!

Firstly we had a record number of members to the Coaches Evening/AGM with over 140 in the room more than we have ever had at an event.

Also through renewals and new memberships we passed our highest ever total on the night.

We know we are going to have to set standards high this year and we want to keep breaking records.



Gathering at The Fox

We have something to live up to after last season so we wanted to kick this one off with a bang.

We know some of you like to start early and that some prefer a traditional pub for pre match so our designated pub is - The Fox, 39 Church Street in Twickenham. There are plenty of hostelrys around such as the Eel & Pie just opposite but if you get a chance please pop in and see us. It's a 20 minute walk to Twickers so we will leave just after 1pm.



YOUR COMMITTEE

Rules are rules and after an amazing 4 years John Trigg had to step down as Chairman. We did manage to persuade him to stay on the committee as Club Liaison! Elected as new Chairman was Malcolm Denton.

Your committee is:

Malcolm Denton

Graeme Davis

Phil Mayo

John Trigg

Steve Cummins

David Loxham

Mark Callaby

Alun Morgan

We've got a tough act to follow this year but are going to do our best but we need your support.

Due to unforeseen circumstances there will be no Club Gathering at HQ. We had hoped to use this to introduce you to the Band who will be joining us at home matches as part of our Noise Maker initiative. The Band will be there though sitting in L22 so please say hi and make them welcome.



THE BOATER

It'll be on us before we know game 2 away in the lovely City of Bath. And when in Bath what do we do? We go to the rugby and on the way we go to The Boater and as if you need to know, 9 Argyle Street BA2 4BQ.

If you haven't been with us here before we will have the upstairs bar and they have kindly agreed to man this from 11:30 as its a slightly early kick off at 14:00.

Our reputation proceeds us so no doubt there will be done banter on the chalk board out front. The manager has said over each of the 3 previous years we have had bigger groups each year. The challenge is on and I have no doubt we will smash it!



WORCESTER

The matches are coming fast and furious and it's the first of 2 Friday Night Lights.

Always a friendly place to visit with the Friday night factor we will be meeting up at the Ground before the match and probably into the Marquee if it's in operation after.



Fez Boys Day

This is the 21st season for the Fez Boys who have been a major force for Saracens and the SSA with the Fez now recognised throughout the rugby community.

The idea came after a match against Quins at the back of an SSA bus when brains were racked on how could Sarries fans be easily identified. Luckily the curly toe slippers were discarded and the Fez chosen.

The actual date is 9th March 1997 when a merry band of 6 donned the fez at Southbury Road for the match against Bristol. The original 6 were McNab, Big Bri, Mush, Gonz O'Brien, Dickfez and Kev. From there it grew and the rest is history.

We wanted to therefore, celebrate the 21st season starting off with the first game of the season. So September 23rd, the first home match is Fez Boy Day. Amongst the plans are an interview with some of the original Fez Boys on the pitch and an article in the program.

We do have a surprise to present them but this is a state secret!

The Club have come on board and are going to be giving away Fezzes on the day.

After the game please join us in the Olympic Bar where there will be cake and fez cupcakes and if you don't know these guys it's a perfect opportunity to say hi.

The Fez Boys themselves, aware of their position in Sarries history and the importance of continuing tradition have made their own gesture to celebrate this landmark as reported in this newsletter.



Fez Boy 21st T Shirts

To celebrate the Fez Boys 21st Year our friends at Premium Force Clothing have produced a commemorative t shirt. Not only that but for junior SSA members this t short is free. Email us for a code or give them a call. What a lovely gesture.



The South Coast Challenge

So they did it! 11 Sarries supporters took on the 50K and 100k challenge for the benefit of the Saracens Sport Foundation and what a success it was. The Challenge clearly caught peoples imagination. A raffle at our AGM raised a breath taking £724 which then became £1,024 due to the generosity of an SSA member. Many SSA members made individual donations and the current total is just shy of £11,500 before gift aid. Astounding.

Having followed the event to social media it was clear how real this challenge was. We can only admire what Sarah Vickers, Alice And Dave Horton, Gordon Banks, David Shepherd, Steve Cummins, Jo Learthmouth, Alison and Neil Pearson and Team Leader Steve Greaves with guest Charlie accomplished during this walk. We often talk about making memories that happened in spades over Saturday and Sunday

We know from the team how much the messages of support and the videos made in support kept them going. These came from far and wide including players and from our great friends at Glasgow Warriors.

If you see them at AzP gently pat them on their back, shake their hands but whatever you do don't step on their feet.

If you can make a donation the page is still open details via the guys Facebook pages or ours or just ask.

Rugby Tonight

So Rugby Tonight was back on Wednesday

and, of course there could only be one guest, the one and only Maro Itoje. With Saracens Amateurs providing the demo teams we were thrilled that the SSA was

contacted to try and provide a targeted audience. With not much notice we were able to take a group of over 40 Sarries supporters and they surely made some noise and had a great evening. Maro dancing to our singing was pretty special.

