

# BRSC Newsletter

Christmas 2023

BRSC—your independent Supporters' Club



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
From Bath Rugby Supporters' Club**



# 1000 Members on the horizon

As we look forward to Christmas, we are delighted to share with you that our Membership of BRSC sits on the unprecedented cusp of nearly 1,000 Members. We wanted to share with you that BRSC will celebrate this milestone with a raffle in which all Members will be entered into a prize draw.

Over the last 12 months we have worked hard to reinvigorate the supporters' club after the pandemic. We now have a lot more to offer including a full events programme, a working partnership with our chosen charity Bath Rugby Foundation, a new location and presence on "home" match days and over 40 local businesses that offer discounts to BRSC Members.

New to the benefits for Members are the free prize for voting in Try of the Month, this could be a gift voucher or a Bath Rugby shirt. We also have the BRSC 100 Charity Lottery draw with prizes that include match day hospitality in The Presidents Lounge, signed and framed Bath Rugby shirt and signed Bath Rugby shirts from the current and past seasons.

Let your friends and family know about BRSC and see if we can push past that 1000 Members barrier.

We will not be able to process Membership applications at the match day gazebo until after Christmas. However, people can join online or download the Membership form and send it to us at the address on the form. All ex-Members who re-join before 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023, will be entered into the free draw.

On behalf of the BRSC Committee, I thank you for your continued support and wish you, and your families, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Join us at the gazebo for Mulled Wine and Mince Pies  
this Saturday 23rd December between 1pm and 2pm**

**Free for Members**

**We will close at 2pm and will have a limited service, we will not be able to process Membership applications**

**Please be prepared to show your current valid membership card**

# Quiz Night

This years Annual Quiz Night was held in the Clubhouse on Tuesday 12th December 2023.

We were joined by teams from Bath Rugby Foundation, Bath Rugby Ladies and a team led by Josh Bayliss and another led by Will Muir.

Photos of the evening can be found in the gallery section of our website [Here](#)



## Cardiff Rugby V Bath Rugby

Saturday 16th December 2023

Members of BRSC filled two coaches and made the trip across the border to the famous Cardiff Arms Park. For some of us this was like old times, when Bath played all the great Welsh clubs. They were fond memories and although the rivalry was intense, the welcome and hospitality from the clubs was second to none. I was glad that this was still the case.

The Bath support had just about taken over the North Stand and I felt sorry for the few isolated Cardiff fans surrounded by the BBW. I think Cardiff were a little taken aback by the wall of noise emanating from the North Stand, in what was their largest crowd of the season.

A particularly nice gesture was made by Johann van Graan, when immediately after the final whistle he walked across the pitch to acknowledge the travelling support.

Round Three will take place on Sunday 14th January 2024, when an unbeaten Bath take on a winless Racing 92, something none of us dreamed of a year ago!

After that we travel to Toulouse in what will be a very tough match, another Sunday fixture which takes place 9 years and 3 days after that famous 18-35 victory in 2015. The most recent fixture between the clubs, also in Toulouse, was in 2019 when Bath lost by just 3

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# The Rec Times

## FUNDRAISING

A raffle held at the Quiz Night raised £300 for Bath Rugby Foundation

## FUNDRAISING

A raffle held on the two coaches to Cardiff raised £500 for Bath Rugby Foundation

## New Stadium

Planning Permission has been submitted and is expected to be heard in the New Year. The application had overwhelming support from the public, during the consultation period.

## Mini BBW Bobble Hats

You may have noticed that BRSC has been selling mini BBW bobble hats, perfect for the Christmas tree, over 150 have been sold raising £450 for Bath Rugby Foundation

Saturday 23rd December 2023

Bath Rugby Vs Harlequins

Mulled wine and mince pies, served at the gazebo, between 1pm and 2pm

**Free to Members**

(please be prepared to show your current Membership card)

## BRSC 100 Charity Lottery

Tickets available at the Matchday Gazebo next the swift half or e-mail: [Admin@allez-bath.co.uk](mailto:Admin@allez-bath.co.uk)

Members can buy tickets via the BRSC shop on the members platform at Membermojo [here](#)

## DISCOUNTS

**BRSC now has over 40 discount partners, these are local businesses which offer a discount to BRSC members**

**A full list of our discount partners can be found on our**

**[website](#)**

Assembly Inn

Bath Aqua Glass

Bath Escape & Detective  
Tours in Bath

Bath Hat Company

Bertinet Kitchen

Broadleaf

Bullfrog Bottles

Channii.B – Shoes by design

Chapter 22, Roots and  
Records

Club Colours

Coeur de Lion

Farleigh Road Farm Shop  
and Café

Las Iguanas

Loake Shoemakers

Minuteman Press Printers

Mission Burrito

Nick Cudworth Gallery

Nigel Dando

No.15 by GuestHouse

Picnic Coffee

Portman

S.P.GREEN

The Bird Bath

The Stable - cider loving  
pizza makers

FitHer You

Flamingo

Funtastic! Party Balloon and  
Flags Shop

Funtastic! Souvenirs

Guildhall Barber Shop, Bath

Hampton by Hilton

Holburne Museum Garden  
Cafe

Homewood Park Hotel

Honey Willow

Icarus Photography

Independent Spirit

Titcombe bespoke Jewellery

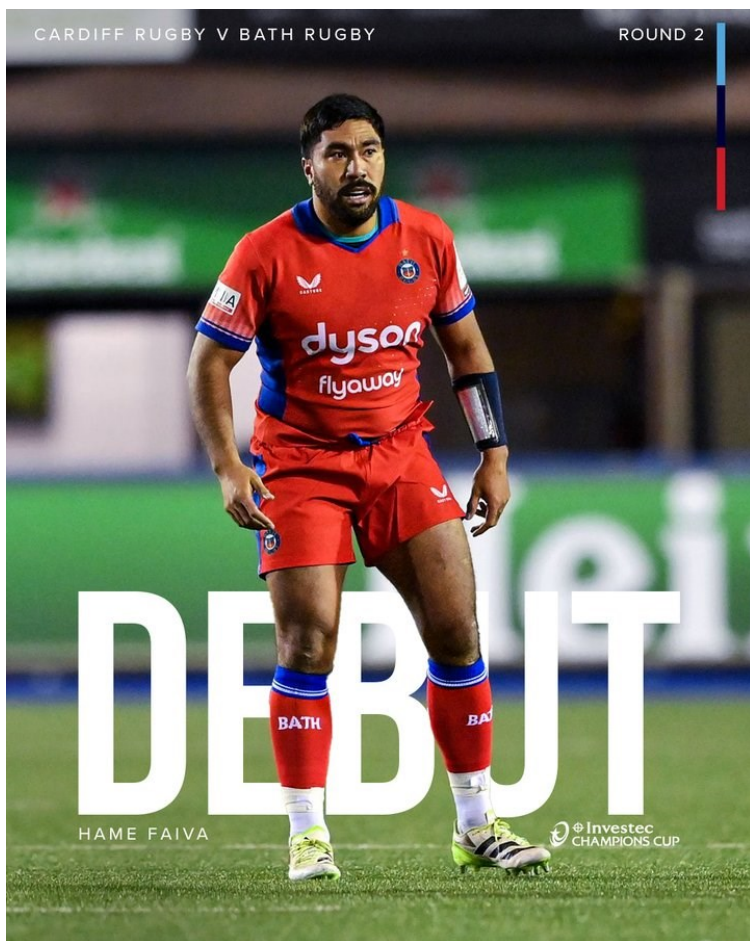
Jones Bootmakers

**Discounts vary per business and are only valid for current Members and on production of a valid 2023/24 Membership card.**

**BRSC would like to thank all our discount partners for their support**

## Seeing Red?

Love it or loathe it and although not traditional Blue, Black & White, I must admit I do like the red Champions Cup kit which is growing on me.



1<sup>ST</sup> LOUISIANA ZOUAVE BATTALION  
(COPPEN'S ZOUAVES) 1861  
BY MARK MARITTO

Hame Faiva on his debut for Bath Rugby  
on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### But why red?

Well, one reason could be – HISTORY.

*Towards the end of 1865 a group of young men in Bath decided to form a football club, playing the Rugby Code, under the name **Bath Zouaves**.*

*But why did they call themselves the Bath Zouaves? Originally the name of an elite light infantry corps of the French army drawn from the Berber tribes of Algeria, the Zouaves were renowned for their courage and fine physique. Zouaves' distinctive regimental dress consisted of a loose dark blue jacket and waistcoat, baggy Turkish trousers, yellow leather leggings, white gaiters, a sky blue sash and a red fez with yellow tassel.*



*The first playing strip comprised blue jerseys and red caps, almost certainly an echo of the Zouaves' uniform. But, although the elite French infantrymen had distinguished themselves during the Crimean War a decade earlier, the role model for the young men of Bath may well have been American militia who adopted the same extravagant uniforms during the recently concluded American Civil War (1861 – 1865).*

*Source: "Before the Lemons" written by Kevin Coughlan, Peter Hall & Colin Gale.*

Our very first strip was **Blue Jerseys, White Shorts (known as "Knicks"), Red Stockings and Red Caps**. It was later changed to Blue and Black hoops and in 1906 it changed again to white jerseys with the City Coat of Arms. The current Coat of Arms was not granted until 1971 and before that various versions were in use however the crest remained constant.



Coat of Arms - City of Bath (1971)

Coat of Arms - City of Bath (1906)

City of Bath Crest 1931

**The badge has changed over the years but still retains the crest.**



## BBW

In the 1908/1909 season they returned to the Blue and Black, with the addition of White hoops. To this day, the club crest still contains the blue and red of the Zouaves' battle dress.



Left A Zouave Uniform from the American Civil war (1861-1865)

Below French Zouaves during WW1 (1914)

