



Founded 1889

Newlands Park

BLINDSIDE

Newsletter for CRC / Newlands Park

Issue 1
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Newlands Park Purchased

Cheltenham RFC is set to benefit from the purchase of the Freehold of Newlands Park, a 19 acre site.

The area will boost the club tremendously as it boasts car parking for 100 cars, three full size rugby pitches, six dedicated mini-midi pitches, three football pitches, a floodlit training area, two enclosed tennis courts, nine changing room with shower facilities, two bar areas, a games room and a female changing area.

These new facilities will help Cheltenham RFC fulfil their ambitions, which includes the likes of hosting mini and junior games on one site, increasing and improving the partnership between the club and the Local Authority, Gloucester Sports Partnership, local schools, colleges and clubs. The club also hopes to increase playing numbers across all age ranges both for men and women, boys and girls.

The Gloucestershire club have been able to purchase Newlands Park thanks to a Rugby Football Foundation (RFF) loan of £80,000, a Community Club Development Programme (CCDP) award of £75,000 and a National Sports Foundation (NSF) award of £58,000.

The RFU's Head of Funding and Facilities Simon Winman said: "We are delighted to make this award to Cheltenham RFC. The club is key to the local and regional development of rugby union and we are committed to making sure that the club continues to provide increased opportunities for all who wish to participate in rugby.

"Now in our fourth year of working with Sport England, the partnership is continuing to be a success. Investments like this means the game continues to grow and Cheltenham RFC are an example of this. Investments like this are helping the RFU achieve its vision of more people enjoying their rugby at better clubs that are open to all.

Steve Ratcliffe, Chairman of Cheltenham Rugby Club, added: "This a fantastic day for the Club. Our minis and juniors were formed in 1972 and have steadily grown and improved over the years. They have been the envy of many in the area and nationally. However the facilities the club were able to provide never met their aspirations. It has been an objective since 1998, to find a secure and dedicated training and playing base for youngsters. After much hard work and a few changes of direction, we have finally arrived. We now have facilities we can be proud of. We will work to improve and develop these facilities to provide a quality environment and long-term base for not only rugby, but many other sports as well. These are challenging and exciting times for all at Cheltenham Rugby. We are grateful to all our backers and supporters for all the help and assistance that has been provided especially those at the Rugby Football Union and look to the future with optimism. We have plans to celebrate this major achievement with a formal dinner in the near future. The Club has already received congratulations from the New Zealand Rugby Union and a signed All Black shirt has been sent for display in the new facilities. Our future plans were discussed with our mini and junior players and parents at our first ever joint end of season presentation evening on the 11th May, attended by nearly 500 members. The excitement this project has brought to the club is phenomenal. All those I spoke to cannot wait for the news season to start"

David Evans, Club Secretary, and Business Advisor said: "The key to this project was the completion of a sound Business Plan, which included a Five Year Development Plan for Newlands Park. The Plan incorporates all the twenty-two sports teams that regularly use Newlands as their base. Each team has taken on specific objectives and measurable criteria. We are looking to attract new sports in the future".

Tigers complete Cheltenham Combination Double

The Club won both the Senior and Junior Cups by beating close rivals Old Patesians. Holding the Senior Cup aloft, Club Captain Matt Mudway said: "This was one game we all wanted to win and to finish the season on a high note". Head Coach, Liam Middleton went on to receive further honours by guiding Hartpury College to success in the British Universities Cup Final and the RFU Junior Vase, both finals were played at Twickenham.

Play Rugby for Cheltenham Tigers

Senior training starts at Newlands Park on Tuesday 3rd July, commencing at 7pm. We are pleased to announce that Head Coach, Liam Middleton has had his contract extended until the end of 2009 season.

The Club will continue to use the prestigious Prince of Wales Stadium for all senior matches.

All playing enquiries to Team Manager, Jeff McMahon, Tel:07722/019185

CRC/Newlands Park Commercial Team

Mal Place heads up the Commercial Team and he will be pleased to hear from anyone, who wishes to become a partner in our exciting new plans for Newlands Park. There are many corporate opportunities and he will be happy to share our Marketing Plan, with local businesses, to establish if there are reciprocal benefits to be gained.

Mal can be contacted by email: malcolm.place@hotmail.com

Newlands Park hosts Cheltenham & District Top Rugby Tournament

Thirty-two local Schools participated in the largest School Tag Festival in the South West, on 21st March, at Newlands Park. Seven pitches had been marked out for the forty-three teams and 344 players taking part. Clive Stuart-Smith, Organiser and Director of Youth Rugby at Cheltenham Rugby Club said: "the event was a great success and we were proud to have been given the opportunity of organising this event on behalf of Cheltenham Schools Sports Coordinator". The tournament was won by Lakeside Primary School.

Newlands Park/Community Venue

Five meeting and social rooms (some with bars) are available for hiring by the local Community. Many will have seen the regular marquees at Newlands, which have been hired for wedding parties and social events.

CRC/Newlands have made a commitment to the Tewkesbury Borough Council for the venue to be available to the local community.

All enquiries to Tom Holland, Facilities Manager at Newlands Park:Tel 01242/672752

Newlands Park....Community Sports Venue

The following sports teams have their base at our venue and we are pleased to share our facilities with them.

- Smiths RFC
- Newton Heath FC
- Hatherley Rangers FC
- Barometrics FC
- Outcasts FC
- St. Marks U.13's FC
- Gotherington Juniors FC
- Smiths Table Tennis Club

Forthcoming Events at Newlands Park

Tigers Junior Fun Rugby Camp

9th/10th/11th August

Cost £80, including a visit to Twickenham, by coach, to see England v France on Sat 11th August.

Six 'special' **CAR BOOT SALES** are planned to be held at Newlands Park on **Fridays June 15th July 6th & 20th Aug 3rd 17th & 24th, from 3pm til 6pm**

For both events contact Mal Place Tel 07860667487. Places are limited.

Cheltenham Cricket Festival Tuesday 24th July - Friday 3rd August at Cheltenham College. Hospitality packages available in the club marquee.

For further information on any of these items contact David Evans Tel. 07970 713585