



MRFC's mini's show the 1st XV how to beat top of the league Newbury Blues



On Saturday 16th February, a number of mini players from the various age groups kindly gave up their free time to come and give the 1st XV some moral support in their most competitive and must win game of the season. The first team were at home to top of league Newbury Blues, who had so far not lost a game in nineteen matches.

The lads and lass kindly entertained former mini/junior coach Shanks aka Andrew Horwood, by allowing him to run through some moves and passes with them. Next up was some of the first team players who needed a proper warm up before the big game. Mitieli Vulikijapani's (Mitchai), Inosi Laqekoro (Knoxy), Avenai Cakaunitavuki (Caka) and Viliame Waqandidrola (Qila) were put through their paces.

Next on their list was first team Captain, Jamie Pittams, after a brief conversation on the game's tactics, they each shook his hand and wished him luck -he was going to need it.

Once they were happy that Elisi had everything under control, they left pitch for a short break, still keeping a watchful eye on their elder team mates.

Then as kick off time approached, each of mini players grabbed hold of a first team player by the hand, quietly reassuring them everything was good, led them across the road safely and onto the pitch. They had done all that they could, it was now down to the players on the pitch to do their stuff and boy did they.

A full on energetic, hard hitting, heart stopping eighty minutes, then when we thought Newbury had just

beaten us by a point, we won a penalty. Jake goes for the posts, there is silence apart from the odd disgruntled Newbury spectator, calmly Jake goes for the kick, Marlborough holds their breath, then jubilation, he'd done it, Newbury's nineteen match winning streak finally came to end. What was one of the most thrilling matches that's been seen on the Common and with around three hundred people watching, priceless!

A great many thanks must go out to the kids who came and helped steady the nerves, you were brilliant and also thanks to the chauffeurs (the parents) for bringing them, they made a fantastic day even more special.

Colts are one match away from winning the Dorset & Wilts Plate

Even when they are down to 14 men, they still can't be stopped. On Sunday 17th February, the Colts travelled down to Wells to play their semi-final game. It was a hard-fought game, but the Colts won 41 points to 3. Unfortunately, Haz may miss the final due to a suspected broken nose. The final will be played against the winner of Yeovil or Walcott game and at a neutral ground to be confirmed at a later date. Congratulations lads, the Club is very proud of you and roll on the 10th March.

Manu Vunipola goes one better and is selected to play in England U20s' match against Wales on Friday 22nd February

Former 1st XV player and Elisi's son, Manu, was picked to be part of the U20s' England squad for their match against Wales at the ZipWorld Stadium, in Wales.

This was Manu's first call up for the England squad, where he started on the bench but came on to play the last 15 minutes. Unfortunately, England lost 11 points to 10 with a Wales try in the dying seconds of the game. Everyone at MRFC would like to wish Manu all the best in his career at Saracens and hopefully there's more to come from him playing for England as well.





Marlborough Rugby
Club proud
supporters of the
British Army

Marlborough is very proud to have cemented an excellent relationship with the British Army, without their support it is unlikely that MRFC would exist as a senior side let alone be able to compete at a competitive level. Marlborough has a population of 8,000 with 2,000 between the age of 0-17 and 2,000 at 65+, so with 16,000 army personnel based in and around Salisbury plain it seemed sensible to tap into this resource.

Dorset & Wilts RFU and the Army Rugby Union have for several years been trying to encourage more clubs to consider integrating army personnel into their teams. *"The Army Rugby Union wishes to see far more British Army personnel (male & female) playing rugby at their local community rugby club. It is in both the Armies' and local clubs' interest that players maximise their availability"*
James Cook OBE – Army Rugby Union.

Marlborough now has a relationships with several regiments and being an all-inclusive club is pleased to welcome players of all nations.

dwrugby.co.uk/military/

Mighty Marlborough end Newbury Blues' unbeaten record in South West One East

Newbury travelled to the Common as firm favourites, having won all 19 of their league fixtures so far, but it was Marlborough who were able to galvanise themselves and renew their own promotion push to climb to fourth in the table.

The home side set off with intensity and an accurate penalty was sent to touch, followed by a strong lineout drive that led to Marlborough taking the lead inside two minutes. Anthony Maka was the man to touch down as Williams converted. Marlborough then began to dominate and a couple of penalties from Williams extend their lead to 13-0.

After their slow start, Newbury began to show their form and a good spell of pressure paid off when a pass sent a winger over in the corner for a converted try just before the half-hour mark. Two minutes before half-time, Mitieli Vulikijapani caught Newbury off guard as he stretched his legs to cruise past the desperate defence, with William's conversion pushing the home side's lead back out to 20-7.



That cushion did not last long and Newbury trimmed the gap to 20-10 at half-time with a penalty.



The second half continued at the same rapid pace as Williams and the Blues kicker traded penalties in the opening skirmishes. After a number of injuries broke up the flow of the game, Newbury began to pile on the pressure again and got their reward on the hour when a penalty reduced the gap to seven points.

Three minutes later, the visitors clawed themselves back with a chip ahead, which led to a try, although the conversion that would have brought the scores level was missed. Marlborough found themselves hanging on with ten minutes to play, and had it not been for Anthony Maka's huge tackle, the Blues would have had another try.

With two minutes to play, Newbury did get in front for the first time via a penalty. However, Marlborough's resolve did not falter and they won the ball back from the kick-off and pushed forward, with the forwards eventually winning a penalty 35m out. Williams stepped up and maintained his perfect record from the tee for the day to snatch a deserved win for the hosts.

1871 Club Members visit Ramsbury brewery

The latest meeting of the 1871 Club saw 12 of its members pay a visit to the impressive Ramsbury Estates brewery and distillery.



Ramsbury is a main sponsor of Marlborough Rugby Club and as a result agreed to host a private visit for us on a Thursday night.

The group was given a guided tour by Tibor, the Brewery's Operations Manager. He proved to be both a knowledgeable and amusing host. The several pints of free beer sampled also helped to fuel our appreciation of his words.

The group were shown around the brewery itself where they make the famous Ramsbury Gold, as well as a range of other seasonal offerings. We heard about how the brewery fits into the rest of the Ramsbury Estate. The barley that goes into the beer is grown on the Estate's fields surrounding the brewery and the water comes from a bore hole under the building. However, it doesn't stop there; waste products from beer production are used to feed the cattle and pigs on the Estate. A truly integrated process that is both efficient and good for the environment.

The group then moved on to tour the distillery where they make Ramsbury Vodka and Gin.

A hugely impressive facility which produces some very high-quality products. Again many of the ingredients are sourced from the Estate itself, one of very few spirit producers in the UK who can make that claim.

The 1871 Club members who visited Ramsbury left with a new appreciation for the work of one of our Sponsors and would like to thank Tibor and all the staff at Ramsbury for their hospitality

If you'd like to join the 1871 Club for one of its future evenings, please contact Rod Adams (rodneyandjoyce@supanet.com). It's open to all Club members, friends, parents or anyone else who's interested in talking about Rugby and having the occasional beer. Don't be shy, come and join us— you never know, you might even learn something!

You can also be in with a chance of winning a bottle of Ramsbury Gin or Ramsbury Vodka by taking part in our Six Nations promotion. Every Six Nations weekend you can collect a stamp card from the bar and get a free pint for every six you buy. Then simply put your telephone number on the completed card to enter the draw at the end of the Six Nations competition



Domo with Waisale Serevi in Las Vegas

Lomaiviti Marlborough make Bowl Final in Las Vegas

After a team dropped out, a call was made from Las Vegas to the UK to invite Lomaiviti Marlborough to play in the Elite Men's 7's Competition, which is one level down from the HSBC World 7's Competition, which was to be the showcase of the weekend in Las Vegas. After a few frantic phone calls by team manger Domonakibau Madigi (Domo), enough players had been rounded up and the 7's shirts bearing the Marlborough RFC badge and Compeed logo were on a flight bound for Sin City.

With no 7's rugby having been played by the Lomaiviti side this season, you would have thought they were the underdogs, but a visit from former Fiji International Rugby Union player and coach, Fiji international 7's player and World Rugby Hall of Fame member, "The Wizard" Waisale Serevi, gave them the boost they needed.

Marlborough Lomaiviti had gone through the pool stages and were to face Sacramento in the Semi-Final of the Bowl. A convincing win of 17-10 saw them facing Denver in the final. Marlborough Lomaiviti were on top and leading into the final quarter of the second half but a couple of infringements saw two of the Marlborough Lomaiviti players in the sin bin. The two man advantage for Denver was just too much for Marlborough Lomaiviti to defend against, and eventually they lost the match 19-10.

Best of luck to Marlborough Lomaiviti for the rest of their season. A full list of Marlborough Lomaiviti's fixtures for this coming season can be found on the next page. If you find yourself missing some good quality rugby during the summer then why not pop down and watch a tournament.

Coaching courses

Salisbury RFC

Monday 18th March
Play it Safe—Safeguarding
7:00pm—10:00pm

Monday 1st April
Kids First Refereeing Children
7:00pm—10:00pm

Sunday 7th April
Emergency First Aid CPD
9:00am—6:00pm

Monday 29th April
Rugby Ready
7:00pm—10:00pm

Marlborough RFC

Tuesday 9th July
Scrum Factory CPD
7:00pm—10:00pm

Tuesday 16th July
Kids Fist U13's Transition CPD
7:00pm—10:00pm

Bradford On Avon RFC

Saturday 22nd June Saturday 6th &
13th July (3 day course)
England Rugby Coaching Award
(This is now the entry level course for
all coaches from U9—Senior with
differentiation during the course)

Marlborough Lomaiviti 7's

UK Fixtures 2019

31st March
Winchester 7's

27th April
Farnham 7's

4th May
Middlesex 7's

3-4th May
London 7's

18th May
UR 7's Guilford

25th-26th May
Bournemouth 7's

15th June
Chester 7's

5th-7th July
Heart of Wales 7's

July TBC
24/7 Series

August TBC
Kaiviti 7's Petersfield

Overseas Tour

1st-16th August
Fiji Tour

19th-26th August
Rugby Town Colorado

11th-17th December
Hawaii International 7's

Pewsey Hasbeens Donation

'Marlborough Rugby Club would like to thank Jimmy Sprules and members of the Pewsey Hasbeens (Pewsey Gentlemen's Club) for their generous donation of £250 which will be going towards the annual upkeep and service of our Defibrillator. Without the generosity of people like yourselves we would not be able to achieve such important goals.'

Rodney Adams

Marlborough RFC 1871 Club

Dates for the Diary in March

Mondays
9.30 am - 12.00 pm
Zumba

Wednesdays
9:45am—10:45am
11:00am—12:00pm
Sing & Sign

Every Saturday at 9.00 am
Parkrun on the Common

Six Nations on the Big Screen

Saturday 9th March
2:15pm Scotland v Wales
6:45pm England v Italy

Sunday 10th March
3:00pm Ireland v France

Saturday 16th March
12:30pm Italy v France
2:45pm Wales v Ireland
5:00pm England v Scotland

Wine Appreciation

28th March
7.00 pm—9.00 pm

New Club members welcome

And finally, welcome to our youngest and newest Club member, Olivia Grant, born 4th March. Congratulations to Will & Clare on their new arrival



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In addition they will also be hoping to take part in the GB Super 7's Series through May and June and the Europe 7's Series through June and July, as well as an overseas tour to include Fiji, Colorado Rugby Town and Hawaii International 7's

