



SSA NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

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www.saracenssupporters.org

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

Forthcoming Events

March

14th An Evening with Schalk, Mike and Henry

April

1st Welcome the Warriors Part 1 (remember places limited sign up)

2nd Welcome the Warriors Part 2

May

6th Wasps Away

Schalk, Mike & Henry

Not a law firm or a boy band just a World Rugby Player of the Year, one of the best signings Saracens have ever made and the most inspirational young man you could ever hope to meet. Where can you meet them all together? Only on Tuesday 14th March at Allianz Park.

The SSA and Saracens Supporters Services for the first time, but hopefully not the last are proud to present an Evening with Schalk Burger and Mike Rhodes including special guest Henry Fraser. This will be a hosted event with the chance for Q & A and will also give us a chance to properly present Henry with his Life time membership of the SSA.



Schalk and Mike have been friends since their Stormer days and this promises to be a magical evening of story telling and humour.

Doors will open at 7:00 and there'll be the usual cash bar and bar food. You should shortly receive an email from Supporters Services with full details and we hope for a bumper crowd



Halfbacks Evening

Wow what a great evening! In the fourth of our evenings covering the positions in our great game it was the turn of the Young guns at half back. Each evening has been different and this was possibly the best. The guys belying their youth were interesting, insightful and humorous. Henry and Tom's stories of their journeys before coming to Saracens caused many a damp eye in the room and reaffirmed to us how lucky we are to be part of this Sarries family.

A special thanks to Roo. How good was he? I think we would have been happy with an evening just talking with him! We will certainly be looking to engage with him again.

Next season it'll be the Centres and I can't wait !



Warriors are Coming

If you think we are excited about the forthcoming European Quarter Final then North of the Border they have gone completely bonkers! They sold out their allocation plus additional tickets supplied by Saracens.

Such excitement is infectious and we can't wait to welcome the Glasgow Warriors and their supporters to our enhanced home. We've been discussing with their supporters club the superbly named XVI Warrior how we can mark this wonderful occasion.

Following the success of our evening with Les Fadas we have arranged with the Club to host the XVI Warriors on the Saturday evening before the match. Whilst we won't have a live rugby match we will be able to show the Munster v Toulouse match at 5:45 pm which we will then follow with a curry at 8:00pm. After the curry we will ask for a team from each side to compete in a fun Question of Sport type quiz with possibly some rugby bar games thrown in. Places are strictly limited as, of course, the Club has a rather big rugby match the next day.

Booking is essential and is open via the article on our website so if you can make it on April 1st please register now. Entry is free and if you don't want to turn up early to watch the Munster match that's fine as long as we know you're coming for Catering purposes.

Part 2 of our welcome will come on Saturday before the match. In a first for us the Club have allocated us an exclusive area on the grass bank above the Piazza. There will be a BBQ, a bottle bar and a bus with draft beer will be parked close by. We hope to have some special visitors and that you'll be able to come and say hello dear support

Fez Boys

The Fez is now part of the fabric of our Club but 20 years ago it wasn't. We have the original FezBoys to thank that we now have this wonderful instantly identifiable headwear. The Fez Boys have always been an integral and important part of the SSA.

This week is the 20th anniversary of the first wearing of the fez and in their own words this is how it came about:

"On returning from the Pilkington Cup quarter final (away at Harlequins - we lost 28 to 21) on 23rd February 1997 there was a frenzied discussion at the back of the SSA bus. We had supported the team most vociferously and felt that we had lifted the mighty Saracens. How could we bring this forward and make our presence felt again in the future? Some suggested curly toed slippers, some a desert mode of dress until the now famous 'Fez on a head' was agreed on. It was also decided that we were to be called 'Fezboys'[1] irrespective of age, sex or any other perversion.

On the 9th March at home (then Southbury Road), a 'merry' band of six Fezboys appeared to cheer on a 33 - 15 win against Bristol. The original six were; McNab, Big Bri, Mush, Gonz O'Brien, Dickfez and Kev.

The rest, as they say, is now history"

We want to recognise and celebrate this important milestone and are in discussion of

Richard Barrington

Continuing our series of interviews getting to know players:

It's "Baz" 4th season at Saracens. Not bad for a player who started playing rugby in Okehampton RFC before moving to Hartpury College where his team mates were Jonny May, Alex Cuthbert, Henry Trinder etc. He started as a centre as a child, followed by flanker, and finally as a loose head prop as he grew in size. His first professional Rugby job was on the beautiful island of Jersey, before being called out to play for a small North London Rugby club, called Saracens;-). The rest is history and Richard has now played 104 games for the club and has scored 7 tries: Chapeau, as it's not that easy for a prop to do this! Baz is very popular amongst the Saracens supporters and was recognised for his amazing vocal achievements "Remix" in the changing room, after Saracens won the European Championship. He was the proud recipient of "the SSA Champagne Moment" in September last year: You can view his full interview on our SSA Tube Channel: SarriessupportersTV

His sporting hero when he was growing up: Michael Owen.

His best moment in his rugby career: winning the European Championship in Lyon last year.

His favourite ground to play is: Wembley as it's the home of football and he's a massive football fan.

His pre-match superstition is: always to wear his socks down.

The sporting event he would like to attend is: the Football World cup final.

His favourite food is: Thai food.

If he wasn't a rugby player, he would have liked to be either a lawyer or....a wrestler.

His hobbies include playing FIFA and he's ranked in the top 100 in the world and plays football and golf.



Wasps Away

Last match of the season and a planned Saracens RFC game being arranged by the Foundation. Nothing has been finalised yet as tickets are not yet on sale and other details such as a potential Big Bash have not been finalised.

Once we have ticket details we will email everyone with details and post on our usual social media sight.

Perhaps this will be an opportunity to try out the larger flag!

Walk to Wembley

We know lots of you have signed up for the UCH Cancer Fund Walk to Wembley but if you are still considering it please visit www.uchcancerfund.org.uk for more information.

If you have signed up please let us know with a link to your fund raising page and we will try and give all our members a shout out in the next couple of weeks 🙌



Thanks

Big thanks to Mark at Premium Force Clothing for donating the superb flag which one side shows the Saracens badge and the other embracing our history the Fez Boys motif. This was debuted at Newcastle Falcons and certainly went down well including the players who gave it several thumbs up. We think you'll be seeing a lot of this!

Mark has an even bigger flag but that might take some planning lol!

