

Bath Saracens RFC

Established 1947 as Bath Civil Service RFC

Affiliated to the RFU, Bath Combination RFU and Civil Service Sports Association

The Sulis Club, Claverton Down Road, Bath, BA2 7AU <http://www.bathsaracens.co.uk>



Dear Vice President,

As a hard season ends, Bath Saracens have secured their position in Dorset & Wilts 2 North. Continued coaching support from head coach Les Garton, the return of some key players from injury and the arrival of some new signings, has allowed a strong end to our campaign:

Bradford on Avon 2nds - 10th January 2015

Bath Saracens 38 Bradford on Avon 31

Bath Saracens kicked off 2015 by picking up maximum points in their first home fixture of the new year.

Sarries started in style, racing into a 19 - 0 lead inside the first 15 minutes, however the rest of the half was a different story. Their visitors who were shell-shocked in the open exchanges, soon showed why they had started the day placed second in the league, by drawing level with 3 tries of their own before half time.

The second half followed a similar pattern. Sarries regained the lead from the re-start, and then looked like they had sealed the game with a fifth touch down midway through the half. Once again Bradford closed the gap to 7 points with their fourth try, and when front row Simon Legg touched down to level the game at 31-31 shortly before time, they looked like they had grabbed a share of the points.

However, there was one final 'twist to the tail'. The home side regained possession from the restart, and after some great support play, centre Alex Reilly raced through under the posts to score the winning points.

Royal Wootton Bassett 2nds - 7th March 2015

Bath Saracens 26 Royal Wootton Bassett 38

Runaway league leaders Royal Wootton Bassett arrived at the Sulis club needing one more victory to secure the Dorset & Wilts Division 2 league title. The visitors were unbeaten since October and had been racking up some huge scores against their opponents since the turn of the year. However their hosts have been in good form in recent weeks and were in no mood to roll over. What followed was one of the best games played at the Sulis club in recent seasons. With 15 minutes remaining on the clock Sarries were in the lead and looked like they could spoil the party, however Bassett showed why they were "champions elect" and a final flurry of tries saw them walk away with maximum points and the league title.

The visitors had the better of the opening exchanges and took an early 12 point lead, but Sarries were putting together some good passages of play and at half time tries from lock Chris Revell and fly half Liam Emmett saw them remain in contention, trailing by 22 points to 12. After the break the hosts stepped up another gear and began to put the visitors under a lot of pressure. Scrum half Ed Bell and Revell added further tries and when Emmett slotted over his third successful conversion, they shocked their opponents by taking the lead. Moving into the final quarter the stage was set for an upset but the visitors showed their class by regaining the lead, and then added two further tries in the final minutes of the game. The final try right on the whistle not only sealed the game but also deprived Sarries of a much-deserved losing bonus point. However, they didn't leave completely empty-handed and collected a bonus point for their four tries and had the satisfaction of making the league champions fight to the end for their title.

Swindon College Old Boys 2nds - 28th March 2015

Swindon College Old Boys 33 Bath Saracens 27

The lead changed three times during the last five minutes in a close-fought match between two sides who have been in good form in recent weeks. On a blustery day with the wind blowing straight down the pitch, Sarries won the toss and chose to play with the elements in the first half. Things appeared to be going to plan when centre Alex Reilly slotted over a penalty, and followed this with his first try of the afternoon. On the half hour his centre partner Josh Jones added a further try, and Reilly's conversion stretched the lead to 15 points. Sarries then suffered a setback when they conceded a soft try right on the stroke of half time, and this cut their lead to a slender eight points when turning around to face the elements in the second half.

As expected, Swindon College threw everything at their visitors in the early stages, and were soon rewarded with a converted try that closed the gap to just one point. Sarries responded well and hit back midway through the half with a second try from Reilly.

With some determined defending, Sarries survived a second onslaught until the game moved into its final minutes. Then a handling error saw possession turned over deep in Swindon's half and the hosts promptly broke away and crossed the line for their third try. Things got worse for the visitors moments later when they conceded another try from another handling error this time in their own twenty two. With Swindon now in the lead for the first time in the game and less than five minutes remaining Sarries were able to regain possession from the re-start and drove deep into their opponents half. Flanker Manuel Nuno broke through the last line of defence and touched down under the posts to secure the try scoring bonus point, Reilly added the conversion and Sarries regained the lead. The game re-started with only minutes left on the clock. The hosts launched one last desperate attack and for not the first time this season Sarries were unable to hold onto their lead. The ball went loose in their twenty two and Swindon gratefully collected it and crossed for their match winning try.

Developments off the Pitch

Congratulations to Owen and Paula Swabey on the birth of their son Edward.

Congratulations to Tom and Laura Wildsmith on their recent wedding.

Our best wishes to Alex Reilly and Liam Emmett for a speedy recovery from injury.

Many Thanks to all of you for your donations and purchase of tickets for the annual lottery – another successful year with over a thousand pounds worth of tickets sold.

Forthcoming Events:

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday 12th June at The Ram in Widcombe, commencing at 19:30.

The Annual dinner will be held at the Claverton Rooms, The University of Bath on Friday 8th May from 19:00.

Tickets are £30.00 each or £55.00 for a couple. To make your reservation please contact:

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