



# Cardiff Blues Supporters' Club

## #StayStrongForOws

**Programme notes: Cardiff Blues v Cheetahs, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

### **Season crunch point already**

After 5 games the Blues are already facing a season turning point game, if we lose we could be 16 points off a playoff place and effectively this seasons' league campaign is all but over with two thirds of the games still to be played. With away games against Benetton and Ospreys and home games against Dragons and Scarlets the next 5 games are demanding a return of 14 points or more to keep the Blues hopes of a playoff place alive. With 4 Challenge Cup games sandwiched between these league games a radical improvement in performances is needed to stop this season being over by the new year.

Much has been said about the Munster game last week by both fans and management hopefully it will be a turning point, the free scoring Cheetahs team will take every advantage of any defensive frailties so the Blues must show a big improvement on last week.

#### Cardiff Blues Supporters Club membership

CBSC membership for the current season is on sale from the CBSC website or in person from committee members in the Jack Matthews bar under the Arms Park South stand before or after home games. Membership costs £10 for adults with 2 free junior (under 18) places with each adult membership. Your membership pack includes a specially designed 2019/20 season CBSC membership pin and a CBSC membership card. All members get priority access to CBSC events throughout the season and junior members also have a chance to be CBSC flag bearers at a home match during the season. Membership discounted travel prices for official CBSC away trips in the PRO14 and for the upcoming European Champions cup fixtures.

#### Junior flag bearers

CBSC will arrange a game for junior flag bearers soon, if you would like your child to be considered please register an interest with the CBSC via e-mail or talk to me in the Jack Matthews bar pre or post game. Priority will be given to CBSC Junior members.

#### Stay Strong For OWS

Once again Cardiff Blues Supporters Club will be focusing our fundraising efforts on the Owen Williams charity fund through the Cardiff Blues Benevolent Trust. Throughout the season we will be running fundraising events and as a start £1 from every membership fee will be donated to the Trust.

Our committee this season is confirmed as David Elsmere, Carol Esposti, Simon Harrington, Nicola Jenkins, Andy Lee, James Lewis, Kate Parkinson, Mike Reynolds and Richard Taylor.

#### CBSC trips

CBSC are planning the following trips (Scarlets away will be played as part of Judgement Day Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Cardiff Blues will be issuing ticket information nearer the game);

#### **PRO14:**

Ospreys: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, KO 7:35pm

Dragons Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May, date & KO to be confirmed

#### **European Challenge Cup:**

Leicester Tigers Sun 12 Jan KO 3:15pm

CBSC will not be running trips to Calvisano or Pau but groups of supporters are travelling independently to these games.

Round 1; Calvisano Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November KO 2:30pm (local time), fans are flying direct from Gatwick to Verona on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November then by train to Brescia. Hotels are available around the main Brescia train station, Calvisano has no hotel facilities itself. On gameday we will travel from Brescia to Calvisano by train, around 30 minutes travel time. The ground will not be sold out so tickets can be bought on entry, Calvisano is a small village and the ground is only a 10 to 15-minute walk from the train station (last train back to Brescia is around 8:30pm!) We will announce a Brescia away HQ as soon as decided. Most fans are returning to Cardiff Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>. Away HQ's for both Brescia and Calvisano will be announced nearer the time.

Round 4: Pau Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December KO 8pm (local time), fans are flying Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December from Bristol to Toulouse and staying overnight in Toulouse then travelling to Pau by coach Friday morning. Some fans are booked into the Hotel Ibis Pau Centre, but many other hotels are available. The Galway Irish bar on the Boulevard des Pyrenees was our away HQ last time but we will confirm nearer the time. The main taxi rank is located here and as the ground is quite a way out of the centre of Pau we shared taxis to get to the game last time. The club do run buses for the return journey for the centre of Pau or the University campus. When we have details of the tickets that are available, we will let fans know. Most people are returning Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December on the late-night flight from Toulouse to Bristol. On the Saturday night Biarritz are playing Grenoble at home in the French D2 league should you be looking for any more live rugby to watch.

If we progress to the Challenge cup knockout stage, then we will look to arrange any European away trips if feasible.

If you want to book or register an interest in any of these trips, then you can do so on the CBSC website or in person with a committee member in the refurbished Jack Matthews bar before or after home games.

#### CBSC Player of the Year 2019/20 event

Following the voting after the CBSC Annual General Meeting at Summerfest the winners of the awards for the 2018/19 season were;

Player of the Year: Owen Lane

Newcomer of the Year: Jason Harries & Harri Millard

Juniors player of the Year: Olly Robinson & Owen Lane

The players will be awarded their trophies at a CBSC event to arranged hopefully by Christmas.

**Come on the Blues!**

*Simon Harrington*

Juniors Ambassador

#bluesfamily #staystrongforows #walescapitalregion

For more information, log onto our new official website [www.cardiffbluessc.co.uk](http://www.cardiffbluessc.co.uk) (e-mail [info@cardiffbluessc.co.uk](mailto:info@cardiffbluessc.co.uk)), joining our Facebook group [@cbsupportersclub](https://www.facebook.com/cbsupportersclub) or following us on Twitter [@cardiffbluessc](https://twitter.com/cardiffbluessc) or Instagram [@CardiffBluesSC](https://www.instagram.com/CardiffBluesSC)