



Cardiff Blues Supporters' Club

#StayStrongForOws

Programme Notes: Cardiff Blues v Leinster, Friday 31st August 2018

New season and new promise

Following from last season's strong finish in both league and cup Cardiff Blues fans are looking for even more from this season. Despite coaching changes and steady player retention rather than spectacular money signings most fans are confident about the new season. Given the relative shortage of funding versus other PRO14 teams the Welsh regions must rely on bringing through and retaining young talented Welsh players. The new coaching setup led by John Mulvihill is determined to build on the work of Danny Wilson and his team with the existing squad and blend in the new signings especially Arhip and Manoa in the pack.

The preseason games saw a close defeat for a young Blues team to a good Leicester team at the Arms Park and a more comprehensive defeat to strong Exeter team at Sandy Park. Good performances from a young pack and the return of fan favourites Dan Fish and Tom James were highlights of those games.

One player not returning this season is Sam Warburton, the late preseason announcement of his retirement was a shock when released and all Cardiff Blues fans thank him for his one club commitment and wish him well in his future career.

Today's teams bring three trophies to the Arms Park pitch from last season and Leinster offer the Blues an early opportunity to test their progress towards a league playoff and Heineken cup challenge this season. Welcome to all our visitors from Leinster and good luck with your season, after today.

CBSC Player of the Year 2017/18 event

Following the voting after the CBSC Annual General Meeting at Summerfest the winners of the awards were;

Player of the Year: Josh Navidi & Ellis Jenkins

Newcomer of the Year: Olly Robinson

Juniors Player of the Year: Josh Navidi

The players will be awarded their trophies at the CBSC POTY Dinner on Saturday 29th September after the Cardiff Blues A (Munster) and Cardiff RFC (Bargoed) double header games (dress code is casual in case you are attending these games). The event will start at 7pm for food at 7:30pm in The Gareth Edwards Lounge at the Arms Park. Prices are £25 for adults (including a welcome drink) and £20 juniors for a two-course carvery and dessert table meal. Special guests have yet to be finalised, but Welsh Rugby journalist Carolyn Hitt is amongst those confirmed so far. As well as the awards and

a player Q&A, CBSC will be holding a raffle and auction to raise funds for the #StayStrongForOws campaign.

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 2018/19 season CBSC membership pin in 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 also gives you a vote in the end of season Player of the Year awards. Also included are discounted travel prices for official CBSC away trips in the PRO14 and for the upcoming European Champions cup fixtures.

Junior flag bearers

CBSC have agreed to supply flag bearers for the home game against the Dragons on Saturday 22nd December KO 5:15pm 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 Sarah Hopkins, Catherine Smart, Graeme Prance, Carol Esposti, Simon Harrington, James Lewis, David Elsmere, Richard Taylor, Kate Parkinson, Mike Reynolds and Nicola Jenkins.

CBSC trips

CBSC are planning the following trips;

Sunday 9th December Saracens (Heineken Champions Cup) KO 1pm, coaches will leave The Arms Park at 8am for 1pm KO at Allianz Park and will leave approximately 1 hour after the end of the game for the return trip we should be back in Cardiff between 7pm and 8pm. Prices are £20 for adult CBSC members and £10 for junior members, £25 for adult non-members and £15 for junior non-members. The Blues will be receiving a ticket allocation for the game and we will advise members when details are available. CBSC are in discussions with Saracens supporters club and Mill Hill Rugby club about hosting us for this trip.

Scarlets (PRO14) Saturday 29th December KO 5:15pm and Ospreys (PRO14) 4/5/6th January KO (tbc dependent upon Swansea City's FA cup draw) we are planning these trips at this time and will release details when finalised. Usually for these trips we would leave around 2 hours before KO and return to the Arms Park around 2 hours after the end of the game.

We are not organising a trip for the Dragons (PRO14) game on Saturday 6th October KO 5:15pm as public transport is available, usually Blues fans congregate on the uncovered North Terrace at Rodney Parade.

For the Heineken Champions cup trips to Lyon and Glasgow CBSC are not organising official trips but will share travel and hotel options and organise away HQ'S for these games.

Round 1; Lyon Sunday 14th October KO 2pm (local time), fans are flying direct from Birmingham to Lyon or Bristol to Geneva then by train to Lyon. Hotels are available around the main Lyon train station Part-Dieu at the terminus of the airport train transfer which are handy for the city centre and the old town. Or near the ground the Ibis budget Lyon Gerland is 5 minutes from the Stade de Gerland which is situated near the Lyon docks. The stadium is served by metro line B (blue on maps) and the stadium stop Stade de Gerland is approximately 15-20 minutes from the centre of Lyon. When tickets are available CBSC will advise where in the ground we will be purchasing tickets and we will announce an away HQ as soon as decided.

Round 5: Glasgow Sunday 13th January KO 3:15pm, fans have booked Saturday to Monday flights from Bristol to Glasgow. Many hotels are available in the city some fans have already booked into Jury's Inn near the central train station and the Holiday Inn Express on the riverfront. Travel to the ground is around 20 minutes by train on Scotrail from the central station to Scotstounhill station or via bus number x4 from Argyle Street/central station to Westland Drive or N6 from Hope Street/central station to Anniesland Road. When tickets are available we will advise where fans can purchase tickets and the details of the away HQ.

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.

Come on the Blues!

Simon Harrington

Juniors Ambassador

#bluesfamily #staystrongforows #walescapitalregion

For more information, log onto our new official website www.cardiffbluessc.co.uk (e-mail info@cardiffbluessc.co.uk), joining our Facebook group [@cbsupportersclub](https://www.facebook.com/cbsupportersclub) or following

us on Twitter [@cardiffbluessc](#) or Instagram [@CardiffBluesSC](#)