

October 2019

Hello, everyone

With the evenings drawing in rapidly, attention inevitably turns to Christmas. Once again, we are preparing for our next Luncheon, which I hope you will all be able to support.

Our Christmas Luncheon

This has been arranged for **Thursday 5 December**, at The Memorial Stadium commencing at 12 noon, with the intention of concluding festivities at about 2.45 pm

Our Guest Speaker

We are absolutely delighted, and indeed privileged, that the Manager, **Graham Coughlan**, has very kindly agreed to speak to us after we have dined. It is the first time many of us will have had an opportunity to hear Graham in person and, from what I understand from others, he will provide a most entertaining and amusing talk.



Photo courtesy of Keith Brookman

What's on the menu?

Complimentary Drink on arrival

Roasted Red Pepper, Tomato & Basil Soup

**Roast Breast of Turkey, with Stuffing Balls, Chipolata Sausages and Cranberry Sauce
accompanied by a selection of fresh seasonal vegetables and potatoes**

(Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten free options are listed below but must be ordered at the time of booking)

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce

(There is an optional choice of Fruit Salad but this must be ordered at the time of booking.)

Freshly brewed filter Coffee and mini Mince Pies

Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten free options: (must be ordered at the time of booking)

*Cajun Sweet Potato Roulade filled with Vegan Cream Cheese,
sweet and spicy Red Pepper and Red Onion chutney (Nut free)*

or

Luxury Nut Roast and Wild Mushroom Rice mix with Cranberry, Cashew and Chestnuts

Following my previous Newsletter at the beginning of September when I outlined the new pricing policy of the Football Club, we have been able to obtain sponsorship specifically to reduce the price.

I am delighted to advise therefore that the price for this Luncheon will be £23 per head.

I hope that this will provide sufficient incentive for you all to support the function

How to Book

Simply transfer £23 per head into the Blue Diamond Club bank account

Sort code = 30-84-75 / Account = 54242268

Please add your name in the reference box

If you wish to pay by cheque, please email alancavill@btinternet.com for his address details

Bookings close on Thursday 28 November 2019

Reserve a table (of 10-12)

Please email rogerbrinsford@bristolrovers.co.uk with the names of the guests on your table once they have all paid

Raffle prizes for Christmas lunch

Even at this early stage, the following prizes have already been sourced:

Pair of tickets for a forthcoming Bristol Rovers home match

Bottles of red and white wine

(both the above have been kindly donated by Bristol Rovers FC)

Selection of Teas from Whittards of Chelsea

Litre bottle of Whisky

Selection box from Hotel Chocolat

In the past, as I have said before on many occasions, Andrew Baker has very kindly been able to obtain some very attractive and unusual prizes. We very much miss his imagination but if any of you feel able to supply a prize in keeping with the high standards already set and which would be acceptable to any of the recipients in the room, please let Roger Brinsford know. His contact details are at the bottom of this Newsletter.

Who we are supporting this time

Many of you who regularly attend games know that the Community Trust has resurrected the 'GasGirls' Womens' football teams. The first team are doing extremely well in their first season in the Gloucestershire County Womens League Division One. However, Adam Tutton has told us that our particular donation would enable the Trust to pay a Coach for a specific group coming through the ranks. This we consider will be an admirable cause in which to direct our donation.

Christmas Carols

Unfortunately, our keyboard player from the last two Christmases is unavailable having reached a milestone birthday and is celebrating away. At the moment we are endeavouring to find a keyboard player (with keyboard!) who can deputise and accompany us, as it would be disappointing if we can't render our version of the 'Twelve Nights'. Incidentally, if any of you are aware of someone who could assist, please contact Roger Brinsford or Mo Bell.

Welcome back

As you probably remember from the last two Christmases, our resident MC, Alan Cockayne, hands over his gavel for the occasion. We are delighted to welcome back Nick Day for our Festive lunch. With Nick having shed well over 10 stone since many of you last saw him, I am sure you will all want to congratulate him on his hugely successful slimming exercise. Not for nothing is he now known amongst his friends as 'Nick (half) Day!'

Accounts

We have great pleasure in attaching to this Newsletter the audited accounts for the year to 30 June 2019 which we trust you will find an interesting read. As you will see, your contributions have enabled us to donate £2,675 to charity from our raffles over the last couple of years. From this, well over £2,000 has been donated to Bristol Rovers' associated activities and projects.

I wish to place on record, our thanks to Alan Cavill, our Treasurer, for the meticulous way in which he maintains our financial affairs and to Clive Farquhar of the Farquhar Partnership Limited for so kindly auditing them for us. Thank you, Gentlemen.

Conclusion

I think that just about wraps up this edition of the Newsletter. We look forward to welcoming you all on the 5 December. Don't forget to notify Roger Brinsford before the closing date for bookings if you would like any of the options available on the menu.

David Perry



It was with great sadness that we learnt that Dave Perry had passed away on 16 September. Born and bred in Bristol, he was a devoted Gashead who travelled the length and breadth of the country following his beloved team. Despite ill health confining him to a motorised wheelchair in his final year, he was nevertheless still found at The Mem right until the end.

A devoted supporter, Dave was always to be found at meetings and functions - in fact anything 'Gas' related, he was always there.

We were also fortunate to count Dave as one of our Blue Diamond Club supporters, never missing one of our lunches and he was usually the first one to arrive into the bargain. It was most gratifying to see quite a few of our number in the congregation at his thanksgiving and cremation service held on 25th October in Weston-super-Mare.

Our sincere condolences go to his family. RIP Dave - a true Gashead

The BRBDC Committee

Chair: Roger Brinsford

Secretary: Mo Bell

Treasurer: Alan Cavill

Advisory Committee Members: Andrew Baker & Mike Tremlin

Master of Ceremonies: Alan Cockayne

The Bristol Rovers Blue Diamond Club (BRBDC) is an independent non-profit-making organisation run by elected volunteers. It aims to foster the spirit of Fellowship and Goodwill among retired Supporters of Bristol Rovers Football Club and their friends and to promote social activities for them such as luncheons

Website: www.brbdc.org.uk

Enquiries: rogerbrinsford@bristolrovers.co.uk