

Painswick RFC Announcement April 2022

Painswick RFC is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Head Coach, Captain and Vice-Captain with immediate effect.

Dave Billingham will be the PRFC Head Coach for the Senior section of the club.

Neil Churchill will be Club Captain.

Calum Abbott will be Vice-Captain.

Dave Billingham stepped up voluntarily to coach the club during the COVID 19 disruption, after the previous coach had to stand down due to family commitments.

Dave has extensive experience in the game, here is a brief synopsis of his career to date.

His career started at West of Scotland FC, playing for and coaching Toronto Saracens in the off season. He moved South and played for Cheltenham RFC, then moving to London Scottish – winning promotion to National 2. Dave then moved back to Cheltenham. He played for and captained Old Patesians in 92-93, when they won promotion to Western Counties and won the Senior Cup. Dave also coached Old Pats Seniors, and coached Old Pats Juniors for 9 years, winning the County Cup twice.

Neil Churchill has played at Painswick RFC since childhood. The son of Rich Churchill, he has turned out for all the age groups, and is dedicated to his fitness and improving his all-round game play. He absolutely leads by example and deserves the position and responsibility.

Calum Abbott has also played for PRFC since childhood, and will lead the forwards, both vocally and with his dominant line-out skill and all-round pitch ability. He will be of great assistance to Neil and Dave with his enthusiasm and presence.

PRFC players and members would like to extend a huge vote of thanks to Craig Mayo, who has led the club for many years, in some extremely challenging times. The club would have been in a far worse position today if it were not for his diligence and tenacity. Craig can now focus on supporting the Mini & Youth section, where he is already creating a club focussed body, ably assisted by current and former senior players.

As with all clubs, PRFC have suffered from the enormous disruption caused by COVID 19, and our performances this season have been mixed. The intention behind the appointment of this keen and motivated team, is to put the responsibility and leadership back with two fine young players, whose immediate mission will be to recruit new players, and return those who have lost contact with the club.

The extra impetus behind these appointments, and new focus at PRFC, will be next seasons celebration of PRFC's 150 Anniversary. The anniversary will be celebrated with numerous events, which will be posted in the near future.

We feel these appointments, alongside re-invigorated club standards and behaviours, will allow Painswick RFC to return to their rightful place in the local rugby community.