



FIRST TIME
FANS GUIDE

NEWPORT COUNTY AFC

Everything you need to know for your first trip to Rodney Parade

INDEX

- ABOUT NEWPORT COUNTY AFC-
- OUR MANAGER-
- OUR STADIUM-
- BEFORE THE GAME-
- GETTING TO RODNEY PARADE-
- UNDERSTANDING YOUR TICKET-
- MATCHDAY TOP TIPS-
- VOLUNTEERS-
- SPYTTY THE DOG-
- EXTRA INFORMATION-
- THE MATCH-
- NEXT TIME-

ABOUT NEWPORT COUNTY AFC



Founded in 1912, the 1st World War tragically stalled our progress. But we recovered thanks to our steely determination; a feature of the Club's commitment that has remained ever since.

In 1937/38, we gained Promotion to what we currently call 'The Championship' but after a couple of games it was disrupted again by World War II.

In 1948/49, we reached the 5th Round of the FA Cup, away against Portsmouth, who won the old 1st Division League Title that season and the next! Their International stars were confronted by the passion that our Club has shown on so many occasions in our 115-year history.

In 1972/73, we thought we had won promoted due to the Radio announcing a score wrong! We lost out on the narrowest of goal averages.

In 1976/77, dire financial circumstances were overcome due to the loyalty and efforts of so many. This led us to 'The Great Escape', saving us from Relegation out of the Football League with wins in all of our last five games.

And then it all got so much better, 1979/80 not only saw Promotion, but a 2nd Division scalp was claimed in the shape of Shrewsbury, winning both legs and lifting the Welsh Cup qualifying us for the European Cup Winners' Cup where we reached the Quarter- Finals.

ABOUT NEWPORT COUNTY AFC



In 1982/83, we came extremely close to promotion to the 2nd Division, just losing out on the last game of the season. Unfortunately, financial problems saw us fold in 1989, but the commitment of supporters was stronger than ever and we rapidly reformed determined to restore League Football!

In 2009/10 we won promotion to the Conference. Our first trip to Wembley in 2011/12 for the FA Trophy Final was followed a year later with a Wembley return, seeing us promoted back to the Football League.

In 2016/17, The Exiles pulled off 'The Great Escape'. Following a 4-0 home defeat to relegation rivals Leyton Orient and with 26 points on the board, the Club parted ways with manager Graham Westley and appointed First Team Coach Michael Flynn as Caretaker manager. He was tasked with restoring some pride to the Club. He said: "We won't go down without a fight, not on my watch". What followed were two wins in a row - something the Exiles hadn't achieved since November - and a run of form that bettered any Club in the league. Winning seven of their final twelve games and losing just four, County managed to rack up enough points to see them out of the relegation zone going into the final match of the season. The task? To better Hartlepool United's result. It took an 89th minute goal from a defender who'd never previously scored a League Goal (Mark O'Brien) to win the game for the Exiles and secure their league status. The match was played in front of 7,300 fans - the most in County's recent history.

OUR MANAGER



Newport born and bred; James Rowberry has a long relationship with the Club as his father played for the club in the 1990s.

Following a playing career with Bristol City's youth team, he began his coaching career at an early age, and at 29 years old became one of the youngest people to ever gain the UEFA Pro Licence. James has previously been a youth coach at Newport and Cardiff City, where he was made first-team coach in 2014.

James was appointed manager of Newport County on 19th October 2021 with a contract until summer 2024.

OUR STADIUM



Rodney Parade has been our home since the beginning of the 2012/13 season. Situated on the East bank of the River Usk, the stadium offers both seated stands and open terracing.

On one side is the Bisley Stand that was opened in 2011. This covered seating stand has a capacity of just over 2,500 seats with 13 executive boxes, that run along the back of the stand. One unusual aspect of the stand is that the seats comprise a number of different colours, making for an eye catching 'polka dot' effect.

Opposite is the classic looking Compeed Stand. This covered stand has seating to the rear (with windshields to either side) and terracing to the front. The Compeed stand stretches the majority of the touchline and has a portion of open terracing on one side towards the North End.

The North terrace (only used for capacity games) is uncovered which allows some good views across the centre of Newport and to the rolling countryside behind.

At the South End, there is the Purevans.com Stand which is a small open temporary stand of seating which is located on one side towards the Bisley Stand. The Purevans.com stand is for Away Fans only.

BEFORE THE GAME



CHOOSING A MATCH:

Our next match is always displayed beneath the news section on the Homepage of our website. If you're planning your visit further ahead of time, all of our fixtures can be found on the Fixtures Page.

Saturday games usually kick off at 3pm with evening games usually kicking off at 7.45pm. Kick off times can also be found on the Fixtures Page as well as links to buy tickets.

SELECTING YOUR SEATS:

Rodney Parade is divided into four functioning sections, consisting of both terraced and seated stands.

Home supporters can choose from seats in the Bisley or Compeed stands or unreserved standing behind the dugouts on the Hazell Terrace.

If you are attending with children we recommend that you select seats in the designated Family Area - Blocks A & B of the Bisley Stand.

Please note that supporters seated in the first five rows of the Bisley Stand (Rows A, B, C, D & E) are likely to get wet if it's raining. Please remember to dress appropriately or select seats further back if you wish to stay out of the rain.

All tickets purchased from the Newport County AFC Ticket Office are for Home Fans unless otherwise stated. Opposition supporters will need to contact their own club for information on away tickets. Away fans can purchase seated tickets for both the Away Section of the Bisley Stand or the Purevans.com Stand subject to demand.



GETTING YOUR TICKETS:

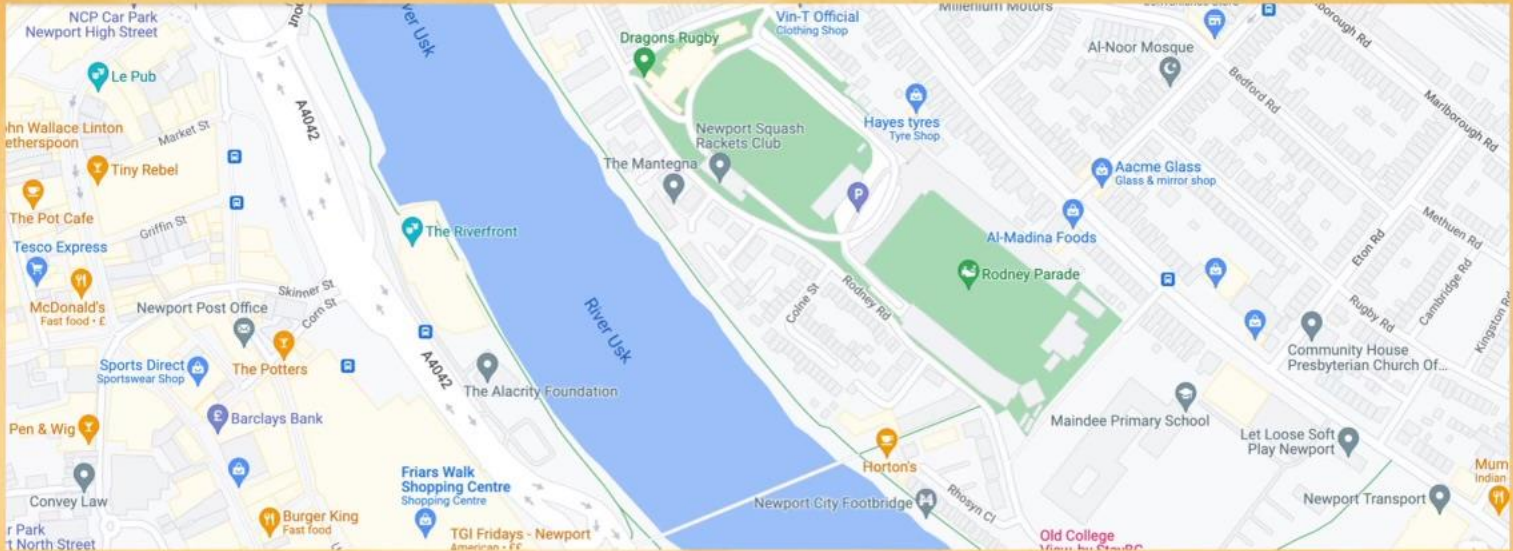
In order to accommodate all fans, we offer the chance to purchase match day tickets in a number of ways;

- Visit our website and purchase your tickets online
 - Call our ticket office on 01633 481896.
- Visit our Ticket Offices in person at Rodney Parade.

If you order at least three days before the game, your tickets can be posted straight to your home or you can choose to collect your pre-paid tickets on matchday. Collections are available from the Ticket Office, located at the Main Entrance gate to Rodney Parade while Away Fans can collect their tickets from the Away Gate.



GETTING TO RODNEY PARADE



PARKING:

Parking is very limited on match days within Rodney Parade and only those with pre-booked parking spaces should park at the stadium. Most supporters park in side streets near the stadium - please be aware of any parking restrictions - or use the multistorey car parks in the town centre and take a short walk over the footbridge to Rodney Parade.

DIRECTIONS FROM NEWPORT TRAIN STATION:

Newport Railway Station is situated around a quarter of a mile away from the stadium and is a relatively short walk. The station is served by trains from London Paddington, Bristol Temple Meads & Birmingham New Street. As you come out of the main station entrance turn left along the main (Queensway) road. Follow this road until you reach a large roundabout. Take the pedestrian underpass down underneath the roundabout and at the centre turn left towards Clarence Place/River Usk. After you have come back up to street level you should see a bridge in front of you going across the river. Cross the bridge and then take the first right hand turn into Rodney Parade and the stadium is down this road on the left.

DIRECTIONS BY CAR:

From the North & East:

Leave the M4 at Junction 24 and take the B4237, signposted Newport (E). After approximately 2.5 five miles turn left at a set of traffic lights, signposted B4237.

Go under a bridge and at the next set of traffic lights turn right into Corporation Road.

the away supporters entrance will be on your left. For the stadium main entrance take the next left into Grafton Road.

From the West:

Leave the M4 at Junction 26 and take the A4051 towards Newport.

After going under a flyover (which is the A4042) you will reach a large roundabout where you take the 2nd exit keeping in the filter lane towards the City Centre/Railway Station.

At the next roundabout take the 1st exit going across the river onto the B4591 towards Maindee.

At the traffic lights bear right onto Chepstow Road and then take the first right into Corporation Road.

Take the next right into Grafton Road and the entrance is down on the left.

way.

Post Code for Sat Nav: NP19 0UU

UNDERSTANDING YOUR TICKET

Information regarding the date and kick of time of the fixture will be clearly visible on your match ticket.

Your Stand - You'll see either the Bisley Stand, South Stand, Hazell stand or Hazell Terrace stated on your ticket this refers to the side of the ground you'll be located on.

Your Block - the Bisley and Hazell Stands seating is divided into blocks with designated letters. Look for your block letter at the back of the stand.

Your Row - Each block has lettered rows starting with row A pitch side and progressing through the alphabet as you move up the stand towards the back.

Your Seat - Your seat number within your row.

Once you have arrived and are ready to enter the stadium, your ticket will advise which gate to enter the ground through. If you have any issues with locating any of these areas please approach a steward who will be happy to help.

MATCHDAY

Top 10 tips

- Check our website and follow us on social media to get all the latest news and build- up ahead of kick-off as well as Club Shop opening times.
- Buy your match tickets in advance of match day to avoid match day queues.
- It can get cold in both the stands and terraces especially during the winter months so make sure you dress appropriately and wrap up warm.
- Buy some County merchandise or a souvenir of your visit from the club pop-up shop at the ground.
- The players will normally warm-up out on the pitch about 45 minutes before kick-off - don't miss the team practice!
- Make sure you're wearing plenty of black and amber to show your support for the Exiles.
- You'll want to make sure you enter the ground half an hour before kick-off in order to avoid the last-minute rush as well as taking up your seats at least 10 minutes before kick-off to welcome the teams onto the pitch.
- Plan ahead! Keep an eye out for weather forecasts and build time into your day to visit food and beverage kiosks.
- Beware that these match day events can generate large volumes of noise, so young children may require earmuffs.
- We want you to have a great day out at Rodney Parade so if you do have any concerns on the day, please make contact with a Club employee or stadium steward.

VOLUNTEERS



We have over 70 volunteers to assist on a match day. Our volunteers are friendly and knowledgeable and are always happy to assist with anything you need. Our volunteers wear bright orange bibs to ensure they are easily seen and one of our volunteers even has a "Here to Help" above his head so you really can't miss him!

HALF TIME DRAW:

The Half Time Draw is a fundraiser for Newport County AFC which takes place on home match days. You can purchase tickets for just £1 around the Stadium and, if you're lucky enough to have your number drawn at half time, then you could be going home with one of these fantastic prizes!

1st Place - 50% of the Draw's takings

2nd Place - 2 Free Tickets to County's next game



SPYTTY THE DOG



His name is a play on Spit the Dog, the puppet popularised 1970s British Children's television show Tiswas, and the location of County's former home ground at Newport Stadium, Spytty Park. He proudly wears the squad number 'K9.'

Spytty also possesses his own competitive nature. He is a regular participant in the Mascot Grand National with his highest placing being 4th in 2005 and the Welsh National Mascot Derby with a win coming in 2002. In 2013, Spytty won the Children's Trust mascot dash at Worcester Racecourse. In 2014 Spytty won the Windsor Mascot Race at Windsor Racecourse.

Spytty can be spotted around the ground on match days and loves having his photo taken with fans!

PROGRAMMES:

Matchday Programmes are available to buy from volunteers at the ground and will cost £2

GATE OPENING TIMES:

Gates to all stands are open approximately an hour and a half before kickoff to allow fans ample time to enter the ground.

INSIDE THE GROUND:

Bars are located in all stands of the ground for hot and cold refreshments throughout the buildup and during the game. Once inside the ground you can't leave and re-enter - so please ensure you have everything you need to enjoy the game before entering the ground. Please note that Rodney Parade is a cash free ground.

Please be aware the EFL has a strict No Alcohol in the stands policy so you will need to finish your drink before heading to your seat.

CHILD SAFETY:

If you have any issues over safety or a lost child, please contact your nearest steward immediately. Stewards are located throughout the stadium within each block of seating and will be wearing high visibility jackets.

We recommend providing your child with your mobile number before attending the game so that you are easily contactable and arranging a meeting point within the stadium should any of your party get lost.

EMERGENCIES:

In the case of an emergency, please contact your nearest steward for any assistance or to get medical help.

THE MATCH



Now all that's left is to sit back and enjoy the match - although feel free to jump up and get excited when we score!

Shouting your support is great but do bear in mind that the Club employs the 'Enjoy the Match' (Acceptable Conduct) policy, which can be viewed on our website.

Anyone engaging in offensive, or unacceptable, behaviour, e.g. using racist, foul, abusive, or sectarian language, letting off flares, bangers, throwing missiles or entering the field of play etc., will be removed from the ground. If you see, or hear, anything you think is unacceptable, please inform the nearest steward or police officer.

Setting off flares and/or bangers is prohibited, doing so will mean you will be ejected from the ground.

NEXT TIME




BRING A FRIEND:


If you enjoyed supporting the Exiles, why not spread the word and bring some friends and family along next time? We would love to welcome you back.

KEEP IN TOUCH:

Follow our social media accounts for all match reaction and updates:

 @newportcounty

 @Newportcountyafcofficial_

 @NewportCountyAFC

Visit our official website again to read match reports, hear interviews from players and manager and see fantastic action shots of the match.

SEASON TICKETS:

If you're now going to be with us every week, a season ticket is a great idea. Not only will you make a great saving as oppose to paying week by week, for the Compeed and Bisley Stands, you'll be able to select the seat you like and have that for every game. There's no need to visit the ticket office on match days, saving you time in the ticket office.

These tickets can be purchased online, over the phone and in person at the Ticket Office.

