Chris Cracknell: new coach of the Black Devils.

Brussels, 17 November 2022 - The Board of Directors of Belgium Rugby has appointed Chris Cracknell as Head Coach of the Black Devils.

"The return to the Rugby Europe Championship (REC) required a new impulse. I am delighted that Chris is joining Belgium Rugby. We needed to find someone with the right skills, who would bring fresh air and new methods, but also a personality that would fit with our culture. I am sure that Chris' professionalism and experience will help us grow," says Michiel Leysen, President of Belgium Rugby.

"I am very honoured to be able to bring my experience to the players of the national team, the Black Devils. The confidence that the board of directors has placed in me is very important and together with the coaching staff and players we will create a dynamic group to take on the challenge of REC 2023. I look forward to getting to know the players and coaches better, engaging with them to set a new standard of Belgium Rugby, We also want to create a clear plan on growth with the talent coming through as seen in the recent u20s competition. In the mean time full focus is on REC 2023 and look forward to seeing our support on the 4th of February for our first match in the REC, against Portugal", says Chris Cracknell, Head Coach of the Black Devils - Belgium Rugby National Men's XV team.

Frederic Cocqu, Technical Director of Belgium Rugby adds: "I am sure that Chris will bring a different expertise to the team than the one we have had for several years. And he will bring a new dynamic to the Black Devils squad."

But who is Chris Cracknell?

Chris Cracknell (born 6 August 1984 in Windsor, England) is a former English Premiership and international rugby union player,

He coached the Fiji 7s team notably at the 2016 Olympic Games. Cracknell is therefore a specialist in both XV and VII.

A flanker, Cracknell has previously played for, Harlequins, Cornish Pirates, Exeter Chiefs, Bath, Worcester Warriors and England 7s.

For more information

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