



**25/26
SEASON**

Annual General Meeting

September 2nd 2026

Chairman's Report

Ben Hamps, Chairman

Introduction & Overview

Another year has passed us by at the Old Reigatian Rugby Football Club, and it is once again my privilege to put pen to paper to summarise the past season. This report serves as a reflection on what we have experienced, what we have accomplished, and a look toward the bright future that lies ahead for our club.

Reflecting on the past year, it has been an immensely positive season overall. I would strongly urge you to read the detailed section reports provided by my fellow committee members and colleagues; as they outline our various successes and achievements both on and off the pitch.

Section Successes & Financial Health

We continue to operate highly successful Mini, Junior, and Girls sections, providing a vibrant environment for the next generation of rugby talent. Furthermore, this year we made club history with the proud launch of our inaugural competitive Women's team—a monumental milestone for ORRFC. Our overall membership levels have remained stable. Operationally, it has been a robust and strong year, bolstered by a series of highly successful club events and a very welcome increase in corporate hire revenue. This healthy commercial performance has been further strengthened by prudent investments in cost-saving initiatives. The installation of our solar panels is a prime example of this forward-thinking strategy, ensuring that the club's finances remain in good shape.

Facilities & Infrastructure Upgrades

Our strong financial positioning has allowed for continued, significant investment into our clubhouse and grounds. The absolute highlight of our estate works this year was the installation of a comprehensive drainage solution across the three westerly pitches. I must offer my sincere thanks and deepest gratitude to United Learning and Dunottar School, whose generous funding made this vital project possible. Not only does this infrastructure permit the use of these pitches for rugby throughout the wetter winter months, but it also opens exciting alternative sporting opportunities during the summer, such as cricket. Of course, given the relentlessly dry weather we have experienced in the south-east this summer, one cannot help but see a touch of irony in finally having a state-of-the-art drainage system fully operational!

Inside the clubhouse, the upgrades have been equally impressive. The beautiful oak flooring has been meticulously restored, and the Holt Room has been completely redecorated thanks to the generosity of Russ Simmons. We have also fitted brand-new bars—both inside and outside—as we embark on an exciting new partnership with Dropkick Brewery. Additionally, the toilets have been fully retiled (with special thanks to club parent Nic Shannon), the changing room taps have been replaced following our recent shower upgrades, and fresh new flooring has been laid in both the bar and storage rooms.

Looking ahead to the 2026/27 season, we have no intention of resting on our laurels when it comes to upgrading the facilities at Park Lane. Very shortly, the floodlights on the 'A' XV Pitch will be upgraded to the latest LED technology. Furthermore, we expect to share some incredibly exciting news soon regarding the much-anticipated construction of an all-weather pitch at Park Lane. A very significant proportion of the funding for this project will come from one of our current valued sponsors, Aerotron. The club is exceptionally grateful for this landmark support, and I would like to personally thank Mark Westley for his immense generosity.

Chairman's Report (Cont)

Ben Hamps, Chairman

Senior Men's Rugby & Coaching Transitions

Regrettably, it has not all been plain sailing this year. Our Senior Men's sides have endured a notably challenging season. By the turn of the new year, it became apparent that the club needed to take decisive action and implement structural changes. The easy option would have been to maintain the status quo and simply hope for an upturn in fortunes. However, that passive approach does not align with our club values; we must always be prepared to make difficult, uncomfortable decisions when the long-term future of the club demands it.

One of those tough decisions was parting company with our long-standing Head of Rugby, Richie Andrews. This was a profoundly difficult step to take, despite how the matter was characterised in the Surrey Mirror. Richie leaves with our deepest gratitude for the immense hard work, passion, and dedication he has poured into ORRFC over the last nine years, and we wish him the absolute best in his new role at Crawley RFC. Similarly, Brian Small decided to move on from his role as Colts and 2nd XV Head Coach to take up a new position at Dorking RFC. We send Brian our warmest thanks and best wishes for his next chapter.

In light of these departures, we are thrilled to welcome Clayton Saunders to ORRFC as our new Senior Men's Head Coach. Clay, a New Zealander and an RFU Level 3 Coach, joins us with a wealth of experience, having previously held successful Head Coach roles at East Grinstead, Shoreham, and Pulborough.

The club strives continuously to provide the absolute best environment for our senior players. In tandem with the new coaching structure, we have invested heavily in player support, including:

- Sourcing an additional dedicated team physiotherapist.
- Securing winter access to local 4G training facilities to guarantee training continuity regardless of the weather.
- Purchasing high-quality gym equipment to provide players with unrestricted training access.
- Recruiting external, specialised coaching talent, including British Olympian Greg Cackett.
- Continuing the student travel fund to ease the financial burden on young players traveling back to represent the club.

To maximise these extensive resources and return our senior squads to winning ways, it is now vital that our players show total commitment, engage positively with Clay and the wider coaching staff, and—above all else—enjoy their rugby.

Charity, Community & Club Events

I am delighted to announce that our chosen charity for the upcoming 2026/27 season will be Home-Start East Surrey. This incredible local organisation provides invaluable friendship, emotional support, and practical help to parents with at least one child under eleven years old. Affiliated with Home-Start UK—the country's leading family support charity—their mission is to deliver early intervention to families navigating a wide range of modern difficulties, including isolation, low self-esteem, mental health challenges, and parenting struggles. I encourage you to visit their website at home-starteastsurrey.org.uk to see how we can support their vital mission.

Chairman's Report (Cont)

Ben Hamps, Chairman

Once again, I must extend my profound gratitude to Ed Bartlett for organising three fantastic fundraising events this past year, which collectively raised just shy of £32,000. We were delighted to welcome England legend Chris Ashton to our Six Nations Dinner in January, and Danny Care alongside John Inverdale to our inaugural Business Lunch in March. This was followed by another highly successful ORRFC Golf Day in May, hosted at the stunning Woldingham Golf Club.

Looking forward, this season's Six Nations Dinner will take place on January 30th, where we will be joined by none other than the legendary Welsh winger Shane Williams. Furthermore, as we begin building momentum toward our landmark 100th Anniversary, we will be hosting a special Centenary Business Lunch on Friday, November 12th, featuring rugby giant Dean Richards, held up in the City of London.

Star-Studded Moments & Volunteer Transitions

On the subject of famous faces at Park Lane, those of you who happened to visit the club mid-week over the last few months could easily be forgiven for thinking you were dreaming. A rather iconic fly-half, whose legendary drop kick won England the 2003 Rugby World Cup, was spotted on several occasions striking balls between the uprights on our 1st XV pitch. It was no mirage; Jonny Wilkinson, CBE, was indeed using our facilities to film content for his recent social media venture. I was fortunate enough to meet the great man during one of his sessions and politely enquired about his playing availability for the upcoming season. Oddly enough, I am still waiting for a response!

As we embark on a new campaign, it is naturally a time of transition when some of our incredible, long-serving members hang up their volunteer boots, and an exciting moment as we welcome new faces into prominent leadership roles.

After over a decade of continuous, passionate involvement with Girls' and Women's rugby at OR's, David McGuigan is standing down as Women's Chair. David—or "McGoo" as he is fondly known to us all—was the foundational catalyst for female rugby at our club. He was instrumental in growing the section from just a handful of players in those early days to what it is now: one of the largest and most respected female rugby setups in England. He has worked tirelessly for years, and his professional guidance and unique skill set were particularly invaluable following the catastrophic clubhouse fire, where he expertly and successfully navigated us through the rough waters of our complex insurance claim. Alongside his wife, Caroline, who selflessly managed the club kit shop for many years, I want to express my deepest thanks to them both for their monumental contributions to the fabric of ORRFC.

Additionally, Rob Forsyth will be handing over the Club Captain reins to Sam Foreman and Harry Smith. Meanwhile, Rachel Gilroy has stood down from her position as Safeguarding Officer, leaving the role temporarily vacant as we look for a successor. I extend my sincere thanks to Rob and Rachel for their dedicated service in these vital roles.

Chairman's Report (Cont)

Ben Hamps, Chairman

Looking Toward our Centenary

As I conclude my report this year, our thoughts naturally turn toward our historic Centenary in 2027. We will be celebrating our magnificent club in all its glory, looking back on a century of community, camaraderie, and excellent rugby. The very first celebratory event on our calendar will be a grand New Year's Eve party this coming December, so I urge you all to lock the date into your diaries immediately.

Finally, I must extend a massive, heartfelt thank you to you—our members, staff, sponsors, committee members, club officers, coaches, players, team managers, and the small army of volunteers who give up your precious time week in, week out, throughout the season and beyond. Without your unwavering dedication, Old Reigatian RFC simply could not exist.

Here's to a successful, enjoyable, and historic season ahead.

Ben

Countdown to the Centenary

David Forsyth

Old Reigatian RFC was formed in October 1927 and plans are well in hand to celebrate the centenary of our amazing club. The Centenary Executive have met regularly to ensure that we celebrate this anniversary in style. Our objectives are to celebrate the centenary emphasising inclusivity and engagement at all levels throughout the club.

Hopefully members will already have seen the Old Reigatian gin distilled by the Batts Hills Distillery and we will shortly be laying the first tiles in our Old Reigatian pathway. Our book, Old Reigatian RFC 100 Years of rugby is about to go to print and will be on sale in time for Christmas.

As a precursor to the Centenary celebrations we have planned a New Years Eve party at the club to see in the Centenary year.

Rugby events include a senior club tour to Biarritz in May 2027 - open to players and spectators alike, a Walking rugby Festival to take place in August 2027 and a Four Nations Girls rugby tournament. Our celebrations will commence with a "Kick off the Centenary" party in September 2027 and include Brendan Keeley's final gig in England, the annual fireworks evening and a London lunch on Friday 12th November 2027 with guest of honour Dean Richards.

We are planning a Centenary New Years Eve party followed by the Six Nations Dinner and rounded off with a Centenary Summer Ball on 10th June 2028.

As a club we are incredibly fortunate to have such amazing facilities and our centenary offers a unique opportunity to celebrate. We would welcome any offers of ideas, sponsorship or assistance so that we can really say we are one club.

Financial Report

Paul Shrimpton, Honorary Treasurer

Over all the accounts for the financial year to 30 April 2026 show an encouraging improvement from the previous year with a surplus of £41,624 compared with a deficit of £2,786 last year.

On the downside senior players' subscriptions were disappointingly down 15% due partially to an unusual number of retiring players. Student and Junior subscriptions were at a similar level to the previous year.

Senior coaching expenditure was £5000 over budget and £4000 more than last year. The current year costs should be more in keeping with earlier years.

Having control of our own gym and our current agreements with the three physios are working out better financially for us than the previous lease arrangement. Gym income was 10 per cent up year on year. Kit sales managed by Kate reached a record of £31,000 and achieved a small profit which helps to set off against write-downs of defunct stock.

Bar turnover was down £15000 v last year but tighter staffing control and economical beer purchasing helped to keep the effect on lost profit under £4k.

Club hire recovered from last year's doldrums with a 34% increase which was helped by some new and lucrative parties for local companies pre-Christmas and in March, and more weddings including a mid-week one in April. Thanks to Cathey, Tim and Sophia for their hard work and enthusiasm for these functions,

Club events were popular and lucrative with the fireworks evening and the business lunch alone bringing in a profit of around £30K. Thanks to all involved (in the case of the firework event too many to mention) and for the Businessmen's lunch to Ed Bartlet who of course also organised yet another successful 6 Nations dinner and charity golf day.

Sponsorship at £40k was 10% up on last year.

In clubhouse overheads utility costs were working their way downwards thanks to the work done by Dan and Bruce over the last 2 years. In the case of gas the cost plummeted from £7k pa. to £1700 pa. Electricity bills have been reducing and from May onwards this year we are also benefitting from our array of solar panels.

With these savings and now all the clubhouse refurbishments that your committee has sanctioned over the summer period we look forward to a continuing improvement in our trading and financial stability.



Senior Rugby

Sam Foreman

The 2025/2026 season was a tough, challenging campaign for both the 1st XV and 2nd XV of the senior club.

The 1st XV played 22 games, winning 1 and losing 21, which resulted in the 1st XV being relegated from Regional 2 South East (Level 6) to Counties 1 Surrey/Sussex (Level 7), following four seasons at Level 6 – the highest level the club has played at.

The 2nd XV played 18 games, winning 4 and losing 14. However, we have been reliably informed that there were some discrepancies on the results section of the RFU website, which resulted in at least one walkover for the 2nd XV being incorrectly recorded as a win for the opposing team, so take this record with a pinch of salt.

A combination of retirements (Ryan Taylor-Travers, Alex Skinner and Sam Foreman), players heading off travelling, and unfortunate injuries, meant that 2025/26 was always going to be a tougher season than previous years. A serious ankle injury to Joey Goldsmith (the previous season's Player of the Year) in the first league game of the season was a further sign of the tough times to come, depleting an already hollowed out back row.

An all-time high (from memory) 62 players represented the 1st team last season vs 44 in the first season at Level 6 in 2022/23. This seriously tested the strength and depth of the club's playing pool, as well as the ability to consistently put out two teams, with a number of regular 2nd XV players stepping up for 1st XV duty throughout the season. However, despite the results, there was some fantastic young talent who had the opportunity to run out for the 1s and 2s, and the experience they have gained should put the club in great stead for seasons to come.

When a club goes through a streak of poor results, it is easy for heads to drop, effort to suffer, and wonder when the bounce of the ball is going to go your way. However, everyone who represented the 1st XV and 2nd XV, led by Captains Tom Allen and Patrick White, should be proud of the way they kept showing up, ultimately resulting in the 1st XV earning a rare, but well-deserved win away at Bromley in the second half of the season.



Senior Rugby (cont.)

Sam Foreman

On an individual level, congratulations to the following players who received awards at the Senior's End of Season Dinner.

- 1st XV Player of the Year - Paul Marshall
- 1st XV Most improved – Jonny Bridges
- AXV Player of the Year – Dan John
- AXV Clubman of the Year – Kieran Pescod
- U22s Player of the Year – Ethan Monk
- Clubman of the Year – Sam Foreman

Thank you to Doug Cooper and Seb Driscoll from the coaching team who worked hard on continuing to develop the playing group and keep motivation levels high throughout the season. Thank you also to Toby Marcroft, lead physio, for helping keep as many men as he could fit to play and on the pitch.

A big thank you as well to the supporters, bar staff, caterers, and wider volunteers at the club. Your work and support are greatly appreciated by the men in the senior squad.

Looking ahead to the 2026/27 season, there has been a significant amount of change to the senior coaching and leadership team.

We would like to thank Director of Rugby, Richie Andrews, who has left the club after 9 seasons, and 2nd XV Coach, Brian Small, who has left to take up a role at Dorking RFC, for their respective contributions to the seniors. A big thank you as well to Backs Coach, Cam Anderson, who has stepped down due to his professional playing commitments, for his valuable input over the last two seasons.

The new Senior Rugby Leadership team is now fully recruited, and the team are excited about the senior group's potential for this coming season.

- Senior Head Coach – Clayton Saunders
- Head of Rugby Development – Doug Cooper
- Forwards Coach – Seb Driscoll
- Assistant Backs & Kicking Coach – Richard Larkin
- Assistant Colts & 2nd XV Coach – Dylan Jones
- Co-Club Captains – Sam Foreman/Harry Smith

Thank you, in advance, to everyone across the club for your support for the season ahead. There is nothing better than a sunny day down at Park Lane, with a big crowd on the sidelines, and we look forward to hopefully returning to winning ways this season.



Junior Rugby

Jonathan Burton, Junior Chair

The Junior Section enjoyed another strong season, with encouraging player numbers, competitive performances and excellent opportunities for players to progress and represent the Club at higher levels.

Colts

The Colts enjoyed a highly successful season, with the A team narrowly missing out on a place in the Quins Cup by a single point. Before Christmas, the A team remained unbeaten in the Surrey League, whilst the B team also produced several memorable performances. The two age groups continued to develop together exceptionally well, having previously joined when U16/U15s. Surrey representatives included Ollie Burton, Ollie Burnett and Oscar Blake, with Kris Sadler representing Sussex. Ollie Burton progressed to represent London South East against the North and South West.

U16

The U16s enjoyed another strong season, continuing to produce excellent playing numbers and successfully fielding three competitive teams throughout the year.

Building on their Quins Cup success as U15s, the A team retained the Surrey title before Christmas and narrowly missed out in the Quins Cup semi-final. The Bs and Cs had a challenging first half of the season after being placed in leagues that proved too strong, but both enjoyed a much more positive spring. The Bs recorded an excellent away win against Dorking A and narrowly lost a thrilling bronze medal match in Tier 3, while the Cs formed a very successful partnership with Old Ruts in Tier 6, with the boys quickly gelling and playing some fantastic, enjoyable rugby.

Across all three teams, a large number of players had opportunities to develop and compete, providing an excellent foundation for the transition into Colts rugby. Seven players remain within the significantly reduced Harlequins academy programme, while a large cohort have also been accepted into ACE rugby schools or other high-performance school pathways.

With GCSEs taking priority, there was no tour this season, but overall it was another highly successful year for the age group, both in terms of participation and player development.

U15

The U15s fielded two squads, A and B, with around 45 players. Before Christmas, a mixed team competed in Surrey League 3, winning all five matches to finish top of the league. Post-Christmas, the A team competed in Tier 1 of the Quins Cup, finishing third in their pool and narrowly losing their final match, whilst the B team competed strongly in Tier 4. Individual success was particularly impressive, with 10 players selected for the Harlequins Academy programme, six of whom remain in the programme. Ethan Rees also represented Harlequins U17 at Malvern. A successful tour to Bristol provided a fitting end to an excellent season.

U14

The U14s enjoyed a remarkable season of two halves, overcoming significant challenges to finish strongly. Following the post-Christmas merger with Reigate's year group and coaches, numbers grew substantially, enabling the Club to field a large and highly competitive squad.

Moving from Tier 3 to Tier 2 in the Waterfall/Surrey Cup, the team finished a very creditable mid-table. A successful end-of-season tour to Bristol and Gloucester, including Kingsholm, provided a memorable finale.

Junior Rugby, cont

Jonathan Burton, Junior Chair

U13

The U13s successfully navigated the challenges of new laws, a larger pitch and changing playing positions, whilst growing to an impressive 60 players following new arrivals from Reigate and local schools. Strong early-season victories were followed by excellent Waterfall Cup performances, with the Blues reaching the final and the Greens beating London Irish. Two teams also competed strongly at Esher 7s, before 96 players and coaches enjoyed a fantastic Gloucestershire tour.

U12

The U12s had an excellent season, growing from 28 players to 42 and establishing two strong teams. Both teams performed impressively in the Waterfall Cup, each finishing second in their group and reaching the Bronze finals. The Greens won their final 7–1 against Camberley, whilst the Blues narrowly lost 4 – 6 to Chobham. Further impressive victories included beating Tonbridge and defeating both Dorking teams, providing an excellent platform for next season.

Looking Ahead

A huge vote of thanks goes to all our Head Coaches, Team Managers, Coaches, First Aiders and, importantly, the many parent helpers whose time, commitment and enthusiasm make Junior rugby at ORs possible. The continued growth in numbers, player development and representation at county and representative level is hugely encouraging. We look forward to building on this success and making the 2026/27 season another outstanding one for the Junior Section.



Minis Rugby

Mark Reid, Minis Chair

The 2025/26 season has been another fantastic year for the ORRFC Minis section. Across all age groups, from U6 to U11, our young players have demonstrated enthusiasm, commitment, and continual improvement, supported by an outstanding team of volunteer coaches, managers, and parents.

U6

Our newest players enjoyed a fun and engaging introduction to rugby, with sessions focused on developing confidence, movement skills, teamwork, and a love for sport in a safe and supportive environment.

U7

The Rhinos continued to build their tag rugby skills through training, festivals, and fixtures against local clubs, as they developed both individually and as a squad.

U8

The Raptors showed great progress in their understanding of the game, combining strong tag rugby fundamentals with increasing confidence and game awareness.

U9

Our U9s embraced the introduction of contact rugby, demonstrating resilience, strong teamwork, and growing confidence in both attack and defence throughout the year.

U10

The Rockets continued to refine their core rugby skills, including passing, tackling, rucking, and support play. Their positive attitude and sportsmanship were consistently praised by coaches, opposition teams, and festival organisers alike.

U11

As the oldest age group within the Minis section, the U11s demonstrated excellent leadership and maturity. Their increasing tactical awareness, teamwork, and commitment provided a fitting culmination to their Minis rugby journey before moving on to the Youth section.

Our dedicated volunteers have once again played a vital role in creating a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for all players. Throughout the season, the focus remained on player development, enjoyment, respect, and teamwork, ensuring every child had the opportunity to grow both on and off the pitch.

The spirit of the Minis section extends well beyond Sunday mornings. Players and families continued to support club events throughout the season, strengthening the connection between the Minis section and the wider ORRFC community. End-of-season celebrations, mixed-age rugby activities, and awards provided a fitting opportunity to recognise the efforts and achievements of players, coaches, and volunteers.

As we look forward to the 2026/27 season, we remain committed to providing a welcoming environment where young players can develop their rugby skills, make lasting friendships, and enjoy being part of the ORRFC family. A huge thank you to all players, coaches, team managers, volunteers, parents, and guardians whose time, energy, and support continue to make the ORRFC Minis section such a special part of the club.

Girls Rugby

Iain Woodhams, Girls Chair

The Girls Section continues to thrive, with 107 registered players across U12, U14, U16, U18 and U23 age groups. We are proud to be one of only seven sections in the London & South East region to exceed 100 players — a remarkable achievement considering it is just 13 years since David McGuigan first introduced girls' rugby at Old Reigatian.

During the season, the section took part in 66 fixtures, including friendlies, festivals and competitive matches. Performance across all age groups has been exceptional, with multiple county, regional and national honours.

Competitive Achievements

- U12 — Surrey Shield Winners
- U14 — Surrey Shield Winners; Ealing Trailfinders 7s Champions; Emeralds 7s Runners Up
- U16 — Surrey Runners Up; Last 16 in the National Cup
- U18 — Surrey Runners Up; National Cup Quarter Finalists
- U23 — Surrey Champions, completing the competition without conceding a try

Representative Honours

- 9 players represented EggChaser 7s in Austria
- 13 players represented the South East Region in Touch Rugby
- 5 players earned England Touch caps
- Liv (U16), Jos (U18) and Tilly (former U18) have been selected for the England Touch squad for the European Championships in August
- 2 players are part of the Jamaica pathway squad
- 5 U18 players represented Surrey this season
- A further 5 U18 players were selected for the Surrey, Kent & Sussex PDG
- 16 players represented Surrey at U16 and U18 levels
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Volunteers and Support

The section is supported by 24 volunteer coaches, 4 team managers, and a dedicated group of first aiders. Their commitment, professionalism and care underpin everything we achieve. We thank all volunteers for the significant time and energy they contribute.

Looking Forward

The section is in a strong and healthy position, but we remain committed to continued growth and development. We will always welcome new players and volunteers, and encourage anyone interested to become part of what is now a well-established, successful and inclusive part of Old Reigatian RFC.



Walking Rugby

Phil Smith, Chair of Walking Rugby

The Walking Rugby players have continued to develop over the last year, as has the game nationally, into a much quicker version than that played only 4/5 years ago. ORs are becoming one of the best clubs in this version of the game.

In recent months the section has combined with the walkers of Reigate RFC as the Reigate Allstars WR team. So, there are now 2 training sessions a week, year-round, with more than 40 players. Although a mixed sport we have not been able recently to attract women players to the game and this will be the recruitment focus for the next year.

Over the winter a few matches were played but it is during the spring to autumn period that the festivals (non-competitive) and competitions are played and in these we have enjoyed success. At the Burgess Hill competition, the Allstars regained the title they won in 2024 while and after the successful trip to Calais last year, the team decided to venture a little further to Waterloo, near Brussels, for their competition where we came 3rd. Later this year we will be returning to Calais. Visits to Kingswood RFC, Bristol and Esher RFC for their Festivals were great events (Most sporting trophy won at Esher) and we're already planning the full weekend tour to Bristol next year, the largest WR Festival in the UK (over 50 teams). In addition the Allstars were again present at the Sports Parkinson Tri-athlon sports day at the Stoop. This year we were joined by Gavin Hastings, Rob Andrew and Charlie Sharples promoting WR as a great activity for those with Parkinsons to enjoy.

The Reigate Allstars Walking Rugby Festival 2026 was held at Reigate RFC with around 20 teams taking part and raising funds for Sports Parkinsons and Brain Research UK.

A reminder that Walking rugby sessions are held at Old Reigatian on Saturday morning 10.15 – 12.00 and Reigate RFC on Friday evening at 7.00pm.



Women's Rugby

David McGuigan, Women's Chair

The 2025/26 season, the last of my 13 seasons as Women and Girls, and latterly Women's, Chair proved to be another great season.

Our Women's Touch section continues to grow in numbers, enthusiasm and enjoyment, and the regular Saturday and Wednesday sessions continued to be displays of growing confidence and regular laughter - what more could we ask for

We continue to enter occasional Festivals around Surrey, generally with great squad numbers and a good level of success, and we now have an increasing number of ex Girl-Section players that join in - showing the great strength in depth that we now have in the Women & Girls part of the club.

From a Contact Rugby perspective, the highlight of this season, for the second year in a row, was winning the Surrey Rugby Jo Fisher U23 Cup - a fantastic day out where we won all three of our matches against the best that Surrey had to throw at us (4 tries to 0 v Hollowegians, 4 tries to 0 v Guildford/Farnham and 3 tries to 0 v Guildfordians). The Women played fantastic rugby and showed what we can hopefully look forward to in years to come.

Left to right - Back row - Florence Kirsten-Foster, Toni Norman, Laila Hassan, Lauryn Walter, Beth Willars, Hati Sutherland, Pip Sutherland, Melissa Maiklem

Front Row - Izzy Sheehan, Monique Spencer, Tia Hunter-Haschka, Erica Doane, Lily Woodhams, Abi Lunberg, Gwen Sheehan, Liv Rawlinson, Caitie McGuigan, Mia Newton



I depart with a huge sense of pride in what all of us have been able to achieve for the Women & Girls game, but particularly the volunteer coaches with their boundless enthusiasm - but also with huge confidence in what our new joint chairs, Laura and Michelle, will go on to achieve as we now venture further into the Women's Contact side of the sport - I wish them enormous success and I hope that they enjoy it as much as I have

Women's Rugby - The Future

Laura Turney and Michelle Hallett

"We want to say a massive thank you for everything David has done for the Girl's and Women's sections over the years, and we are excited about what the future holds for us this year.

In the 2026/27 season we are taking the next step towards Women's competitive contact rugby. We have entered the Inner Warrior Series, which will bring new women in to the game at an introductory level. We are also arranging a number of friendlies against NC2 and NC3 teams to give our more experienced players the chance to put on the blue and green stripes at senior level! Where possible we'll arrange double headers to align with the men's games to bring more support as well a greater cohesion between the sections.

We will also continue to run our Women's touch sessions every week. We plan to enter local tournaments whenever we can.

We want ORs to be the local club for all and especially the girls that have grown through the club to come back to after school, uni, travelling etc. Our plan is to grow to have 2 teams: a champ and a challenge team in the next 2-5 years.

We are excited for the future!

Vets Rugby

Ed Bartlett, Vets Captain

We played two games, 1 in the first half of the year and 1 in the second.

The first one was against Sutton & Epsom where a scratch side, we had 12 on the day, that swelled to 19 by kick off as favours were pulled left right and centre. There was even a call up for an Egham Hollowegians player who turned up to play, scored a try and got sin binned, what a day out! Sadly and probably rather expectedly we were on the wrong end of the scoresheet, but big Luke scored a worldie of a try down the right win bouncing over 3 of their players. A 40-17 defeat on the face of it wasn't actually an awful result again the eventual Surrey Cup Winners.

The next and final game was against Trinity away on a cold early March night. A much stronger squad took the field that day and despite conceding the first try in each half that was all Trinity had to how for themselves. The boys played some fluid rugby dominating their pack to run out comfortable 47-12 winners away from home.

If we can get a team out with the right people we are very competitive. The challenge as ever is doing that on a consistent basis! Onto next year...

Touch Rugby

Jason Potter, Chair of Touch

Having helped Lee Hodges with Touch over the previous couple of years until his departure, the transition from the 2024/25 season has been seamless – a big thank you for your help, Lee !

With steady numbers growing throughout the new season, the biggest challenge has been maintaining growth during the summer months, while critical works have been carried out to the pitches due to the number of players. We have made it work, without sending any players away and now look forward to playing on the newly refurbished pitches.

Senior Mixed Touch 14 + (Monday evenings 7.30 to 9.00pm)

The touch sessions continue throughout the year – in rain or sunshine, we had an unexpected 30 plus players in January, which has remained on average around this figure and peaking towards late 30s in a session. With help from Rory Sinclair and our core players (around 20) the inclusive environment welcomes all new players, young and old to join as a team; play and enjoy. The feedback has been very positive, resulting in player retention throughout the year and us building on the core players.

Junior Mixed Touch 9 to 14 (Monday evenings 6.30 to 7.30pm)

A great re-launch of the junior mixed touch in April with a lot of help from Simone De Acetis (a star behind the scenes) in recruitment, marketing, encouraging the players to enter various mixed tournaments, including trials for the nationals; we now have 110 registered players, with numbers generally between 25-30 and again peaking towards late 30s in a session (surprisingly similar to the senior touch). This has resulted in us splitting the age groups into 9 to U12 and 12 to U14 – a fantastic achievement in just over four months !

With amazing support from Helena and daughter Evelyn, Noush, Aslan, Jonny, Anton, Drew, James, Pete, Jocelyn and Ann; all teaching the juniors with active feedback; integrating the players regardless of sex or size; while encouraging discipline, respect, teamwork and to enjoy the session. All of this has resulted in the numbers growing and positive feedback.

To add to all the excitement, 5 of our coaches completed their Level 1 touch rugby coaching course. Overall, a very successful re-launch of the junior mixed touch.



Grounds

Ethan Monk, Grounds Manager

As we complete our second year with our new contract, Sports Turf maintenance we once again were provided with high quality playing surfaces for both training and matches.

The summer renovations are well under way, every penny that is spent in the summer's renovations go towards making our pitches even better for the next season. I am pleased to say this year we have yet again re seeded the 1st XV pitch, A pitch and up and down to get the best grass coverage possible for next year.

You may have already read or at least seen the work that has been going down on the 12 acre pitches. The pitches have had drainage put in to end the annoying period in the winter where it can stay like a big for weeks on end during the bad weather.

I'd also like to introduce two new colleagues we have! We have two new robot lawn mowers which assist the grounds team and I in every day lawn mowing. You may have seen them located in their shelters by the floodlight between the A pitch and up and down.

As we go into the new season the final touches to the pitches will be getting them game ready with rugby and football markings.

Sponsorship

Mark Cameron, Sponsorship Manager

The club continues to be incredibly well supported by our sponsors, and we want to extend our thanks to every business and individual who has backed Old Reigatian RFC this season. Your contributions make a genuine difference across all areas of the club, from facilities and equipment to opportunities for players of every age. Every pound received has been reinvested directly back into the club, ensuring we can keep improving what we offer on and off the pitch.

Looking ahead, we are exploring new and varied sponsorship ideas to broaden the ways businesses can get involved. Traditional packages remain important, but we are also keen to develop creative, flexible options that suit different types of organisations. We are always open to conversations with potential new sponsors and welcome approaches from anyone interested in supporting the club's future.

This year, Tim has taken charge of the Business Directory, with the aim of getting it fully functional and turning it into a valuable resource for members and local companies alike. His work will help strengthen the connection between the club and the wider business community, creating even more opportunities for partnership.



Operations

Tim Bostel, Operations Manager

Club / Bar

As with everything and the ever increase in the price of living, we have once again had to increase the price of products to keep in line with the rise in costs that our suppliers also have. However, we are still more competitive than high street establishments and although moving into the new season there will be another increase, we will still remain very competitive and will maintain a healthy gross profit margin without being excessive.

In an ever fluid market place we still maintain a healthy amount of off season bookings. Whether it is corporate or private. Although some of the events that have been held have not resulted in as healthy a spend over the bar like we have seen previously. On the flip side, we have had some new companies (WSPA, Lindner Group and Barnados to name a few) now utilise the facilities and we still have many with repeat business. One thing that has been very apparent has been word of mouth and recommendations, which is a huge positive, and also puts us in front of more people who may not have been to the club before, or unaware of how good the facilities are and how we operate.

November's Fireworks, were once again a success, and increasing annually in regard to revenue. To add to this we also hosted the annual Christmas Eve Match last year, which also generates a strong amount of revenue in a very short period of time.

Revenue has also been boosted by the new outside bar, which essentially paid for itself on it's opening day last year and has been a welcome addition to the options that we are able to offer. Fully fitted bar equipment and another coffee machine to aid with service on Sundays and events has reduced the pressure on the upstairs bar and made it easier for supporter and parents to access hot and cold drinks.

Dramatic changes have been made during the off season. The club oak floor has been completely stripped back, sealed and heavy duty varnish applied. As well as the landing, and the route to the gym. The stairs should also have been completed as well. All the tables and chairs have had protective boots added to them to ensure longevity.

Another big change is our move from long time brewery, Shepherd Neame, to local Dropkick Brewery. Fin McCartney, an ex RGS pupil and OR's player, composed a proposition for the club which has progressed. This has resulted in a newly fitted bar. New pumps, new lines, chiller units, back bar in the cellar. A new cellar floor has also been fitted. The Holt Room and the shed have both had new fittings and Thatcher's have also installed new taps, including the Thatchers fusion tap (Blood Orange, Apple & Black Currant and Cloudy Lemon infused ciders).

Further enhancements have been in the Holt Room, which has been updated and repainted and the hanging of the old clubhouse portrait (courtesy of John Lister), which has not had a home for some time. Huge thanks to Russ Simmons for his contribution and to Reilly Franklin-Talbot for doing the painting.

Staffing

More changes. Shaun Doyle, the previous Bar Manager, has retired and stepping in from October last year is Sophia May. Sophia had previously worked behind the bar and had then gone on to manage a pub in Staines. She has come in with a fresh outlook and has been an admirable replacement and addition to the workings of the bar.

Operations (cont.)

Tim Bostel, Operations Manager

As always we have had a plethora of well trained younger staff and this has always been a constant for us and are highly regarded by those that attend the club. We will be going through another transition period where some of the older staff head off or back to university in August / September, but we always have strong staff. To add to this we have had a number of staff who have been able to step into a Supervisory role as and when required.

In line with government regulations the staff pay has increased, and another reason as to increased costs and product pricing.

Facilities

- Both the ladies and Gents toilets have been tiled. Aesthetically a huge improvement, and making it easier from a cleaning perspective as well. Nic Shannon, a club member, kindly supplied the tiles a labour free of charge to the club.
- The entrance mat to the club has been replaced.
- Part of the kitchen floor has had new laminate put down to comply with EHO regulations and health and safety regulations.
- Solar panels have been fitted to the rear roof of the club. This has dramatically reduced our electricity costs, especially with additional batteries.
- New taps are being fitted into the changing rooms. This in turn will irradiate the issue of taps left running. These will be installed gradually.
- Toilet flushing systems are succumbing to age, and these are also gradually being replaced throughout the changing rooms and toilets.
- A large portion of the 1XV fence has been replaced. Again, age and rotting were compromising its integrity, aesthetics and safety

Catering

A continued theme of change. Bhunnys have now taken over from TGE as the main club caterers. Where before they had been doing external events and a smattering of internal events, they are now fully ensconced in all areas. They will be moving into the new season doing match teas, Sundays, Supporters Lunches and so forth. We are excited to see what they will bring to the table and we are certain to see some more offerings.

ECG have continued to provide exemplary food for corporate events and weddings etc. In the last couple of years we seem to have really struggled with attendances at Supporters Lunches. Plans will be in place to hopefully rectify this by having menus out well in advance and looking at tailored events. But we will still need buy in from supporters and members.

Additional Comments

- Sports Turf have continued to exceptionally good at maintaining the pitches and grounds in general. Obviously, the repeat of 1976 this summer has taken a massive toll on the pitches, but they have been doing their best. With the drainage work that has been carried out on 12 acres, they have helped where they can and worked with Agripower to ensure that the best result was reached.
- Peak Performance are our new gym incumbents. Same coaching staff, but Performance Elite have moved on, and the gym is now under the club's control.

Operations (cont.)

Tim Bostel, Operations Manager

- The Cabin, was taken off site and the exhaust system was raised to a height where the fumes were not being blown into everyone's face. Bhunnys will also be making more use of this for food sales.
- Club Clean Up Day. So, the clean up day at the end of June, was by far the most productive day we have had in some time. With the grounds shed receiving a complete re-stain, all the fence panels along the path having been given a new lease of life and colour. The ground posts being stained and the steps up to the orchard area. All looking refreshed. Painting galore on the shed and front panels to the club, and since then the 1XV posts have been given a clean. Everything is looking very fresh.
- Attendance of televised sport. It seemed that we struggled with people watching sport at the club. The 6 Nations was busy enough, but still could be much better. Even with the recent Football World Cup, it was a surprise that even though the Semi-Final was pretty busy (about 120/130), of those watching there were only 5 club members
- Centenary. Next year sees the Centenary of the club, so expect a number of events on the build-up (New Year's Eve Party). Summer Ball etc. More info to come.
- RWC 2027. So thoughtful of them to make sure it coincides with our Centenary. Of course there will be plenty of bar offers.
- Dunottar. Surrey School 7's are in the pipeline again for this coming season. And hopefully they will also be benefitting from the new drainage on the 12 Acres.
- TRY Sports. They will return again next year as they get progressively bigger. With 12 Acres back in the mix, they believe they will still need Wallfield as well.
- Volunteers – As always it would be great to see some new faces getting involved and supporting the club in whichever way possible.

Challenges aside, as they will always arise, once again, there have been more positives and the club is in a fantastic position as we launch ourselves into our Centenary year. Thanks again goes out to everyone who continues to support and contribute to the club's success.

