



**24/25
SEASON**

Annual General Meeting

September 10th 2025

Chairman's Report

Ben Hamps, Chairman

As we reflect on the past season, I'm proud to say that our club continues to grow in spirit, resilience and ambition. Our players, coaches, volunteers, staff and supporters have shown unwavering commitment to the values that define our rugby community.

This Annual Report is an opportunity to celebrate our achievements, acknowledge our challenges but to also look ahead to the exciting opportunities that lie before us in the upcoming season at the Old Reigatian Rugby Football Club.

I look forward to welcoming you to this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be held on Wednesday 10th September. The Officers of the club will have the opportunity to update the members on a range of matters, but more importantly, the AGM gives you a direct say in how you feel the club is run and also on its future direction. Although the committee are tasked with running the club on your behalf, this is your club and it's vital that you can communicate your thoughts to us directly, whether these are positive or where you feel improvements can be made. I encourage as many of you as possible to attend. However, if you are unable to, the committee are always open to members thoughts and not just at the AGM.

Please take time to read the section reports from my fellow colleagues below, as they outline their successes and achievements both on and off the pitch. On the playing front it is pleasing to see that we continue to provide such varied formats of the game, over such a large demographic. From our Minis, Juniors, Girls, Seniors and Vet's, to Women's, Walking and Touch rugby; we not only offer all these opportunities, we do so successfully as highlighted by the number of accolades received during the preceding twelve months from club through to National level.

Operationally, it has been a very challenging year financially. Revenue from sales and events has decreased due to wider financial pressures on us all, against a backdrop of increasing costs, such as utilities. Our wonderful clubhouse is starting to require some significant maintenance due to natural wear and tear. Notably, the replacement of two water tanks and a much-needed upgrade to the changing room showers has cost £50,000. The Treasurer and finance team have done a fantastic job to mitigate some of these costs and continue to exercise caution as we plan for future expenditure, both known and with some consideration for the unexpected.

However, operationally, it is not all doom and gloom. The water tanks and the installation of solar panels next year (for which we received a grant), will certainly help reduce our exposure and cost of utilities. Despite these financial pressures, with some tough decisions made, the committee will continue to strike a balance between controlling our costs and investing in the future so that the club and grounds are maintained to the high standard we all enjoy and expect. We are, of course, always open to help and suggestions, so if you are reading this and have skills or ideas that you feel could help (no matter how small or large) please get in touch.



Chairman's Report (Cont)

Ben Hamps, Chairman

Regarding investment, the fencing by the 1st XV pitch will shortly be mended and thanks to the generosity of a club member, an outside bar will also be built on the clubhouse patio before the opening day of the season on the 6th of September.

Over the past few years, I'm sure many of you would not have failed to notice the now annual problem we experience with waterlogged pitches, most notably on the three westerly '12 Acre' pitches, where the local geology and weather clearly have a significant impact. Despite the installation of a pump a couple of years ago to remedy the issue, it became apparent to the committee that a significantly bigger solution was required. After lengthy negotiation and planning, I'm delighted to announce that last week we signed a 'Heads of Terms' with United Learning (UL), the parent company of Dunottar School, to install a full drainage solution across all three '12 Acre' pitches. UL are meeting the significant cost of this project. This is obviously fantastic news for the school and club, and I must offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to UL. Dunottar's licence has also been extended providing security for them, and ORs with a continued revenue stream for the lease of the pitches.

A contractor has already been selected, and it is anticipated that the work will start in April 2026. This date has been chosen to cause the minimal amount of disruption to rugby activities but also because the project is very much weather dependent. The work is scheduled to take 6 weeks with a subsequent further 8-12 weeks of recovery before the pitches can be used, the aim being that they are ready in time for the 26/27 season.

Throughout its history, ORs has been the proud supporter of several very worthwhile charities. This year is no exception, and I am pleased that our chosen charity for the 2025/26 season will be Austin's Powers. I would urge you all to visit **austinspowers.com** and read the story about Austin Hunter, a truly brave and utterly inspirational young man and the work of the Evelina Children's Hospital, London. There is also a GoFundMe page set up, with details available on his website.

Two notable fundraisers this year were the 6 Nations Dinner in January and the ORRFC Golf Day in May at Woldingham Golf Club. Between the two, we raised a staggering £12,761. My thanks go to Ed Bartlett for organising these events.

As we look forward to the rugby season ahead, our ever growing and popular Fireworks' Night is back once again with a bang on Friday 7th November. Last year, the event was attended by over 2,000 people, and in the process raised £12,000 that was invested back into the club and our supported charities.

At the beginning of any season, we sometimes sadly say goodbye to some committee members and offer a warm welcome to others. After a monumental stint of over a decade, Dave Hutchinson (Sponsorship Secretary) and Peter Duff (Hon. Treasurer) have decided to hang up their committee boots. Over those ten or so years both have been integral in the running of the club on so many fronts. I would like to thank them both personally and on behalf of the committee for their service over such a long period. Mark Cameron will become Sponsorship Secretary, after many years of age group management, and Paul Shrimpton, past player and club stalwart will become Honorary Treasurer. I look forward to welcoming them both formally onto the committee following the AGM.

Chairman's Report (Cont)

Ben Hamps, Chairman

Regarding club volunteer roles, we are always in need of new recruits. Even with an adult membership of over 700 we still struggle to fill some vacancies. I'm sure there is a vast untapped skill set within the membership, that could really benefit the club in so many ways. Please can I ask you to visit oldreigatianrfc.com/vacancies to discover how you can help or speak to Kate (our Honorary Secretary).

As I conclude my report this year, we are of course getting closer towards our centenary in 2027, where we will be celebrating our great club in all it's glory.

Finally, once again I must say a big thank you to you our members, staff, sponsors, committee members, Club officers, coaches, players, team managers, our President and all of you that volunteer your time week in/week out throughout the season and beyond. Also, to the 150 Club and to Dunottar School for their continued support.

Here's to a great 2025/26 season!



Financial Report

Paul Shrimpton, Acting Treasurer

2024-25 was a difficult year financially in that costs continued to rise (in the case of utilities, much above the general inflation rate) while income was harder to come by.

Catering and events revenues and club and grounds hire were adversely affected by a tightening of local companies' belts in respect of out-of-office meetings, seminars, staff parties, etc. The number of local companies closing offices or downsizing post-COVID compounded the issue.

A gross profit on subscriptions and trading of £548,329 (last year £598,884) on turnover of £744,687 (last year £807,002) was below budget.

Overall expenses at £550,348 were much the same as last year (£547,175), leaving a net loss of just £731 (last year's profit was £53,317).

Cost controls were exercised, but the surge in utility spending (c.30%) was impossible to avoid in the short term. Looking forward, steps taken by club management should bring a reduction in costs for the current financial year. The new boilers installed in the Spring are more efficient and more economical. An underground leak from a water supply pipe in the car park was the main cause of the rise in water charges and was fixed in April. Finally, next Spring, the committee are planning the installation of a solar panel array on the South-facing rear roof of the clubhouse and battery storage. This should bring about significant savings in our electricity bills. A substantial grant has already been obtained towards the cost of this project.

The balance sheet as of 30th April shows a reduction in our cash balances because of the expenditure on new plant and machinery. This was for a new cabin for use by Dunottar school as part of their lease agreement, and the works and equipment for the new hot water and shower system.

Because of these and other capital projects in prospect, monthly cash flow forecasting has been implemented to help with decisions on project timing and the need for loan finance.

I have been very fortunate in my role to have the services of Peter Turnbull and Sophie Bartlett, who work tirelessly to great effect to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of our accounting records. I am indebted to them.



Senior Rugby

Richie Andrews, DoR

Last Season proved to be a challenging one with some incredible highs and disappointing lows. It was always going to be tougher than the previous few campaigns, following the loss of Max Coyle & Gareth Stephens to Dorking, and compounded by the decision of Lucas Overtom (1st XV Flyhalf), Jack Baart (1st XV Back Row), and Sam Turner (Utility Back) to all go travelling to Australia.

The Season started very strongly with three straight wins, including a 43-48 victory away over Sutton & Epsom. However, the following fixture clashed with an annual Golf Trip many of the 1st XV players take part in, which led to a heavy 59-7 defeat against a strong Sidcup Team. To continue the bad luck, Tom Allen discovered he had broken his leg against S&E. He tried to warm up against Sidcup but was in too much pain and had to pull out within 5 minutes of the start of the game.

In November, we travelled to league leaders Beckenham and lost 40-15. Attack Coach Graig Burgess was finding juggling his day job at RGS with his Coaching and Coffee business difficult and, unfortunately, had to step back from the Rugby Club. To demonstrate how fortunes had changed from the first few weeks of the Season, when we beat Old Colfeians 50-26 at Home in December, we travelled to Colfeians and were defeated 43-37. Later on in December, with the return visit of Sutton & Epsom, we won again, making it a double against them with another tight win, 21-15.

Early in 2025, we showed some good form following the win over S&E and even pushed Sidcup close, only losing 10-18, showing the level the team can perform at. In February, League Leaders Beckenham travelled to Park Lane. They were met by our best performance of the Season, with the 1st XV beating them 35-29 to seal a memorable victory and again show that we deserve our place in this league.

It was great to see Ex-Colts Tom Baldwin and Will Parker establishing themselves in the 1st XV, and Sam Lenihan. Finn Goodrich from the same cohort & current Colt Jack Nicol also made 1st XV appearances. We used 50 players in the 1st XV last Season. Captain Reilly Franklin Talbot made the most appearances with 20, Tom Allen was awarded Player of the Season, and Val Garrec, who only took up Rugby last season, was awarded Most Improved Player (making seven 1st XV appearances at Prop in his 30s).



Senior Rugby (cont.)

Richie Andrews, DoR

The second XV had a good season, just missing out on winning their league. Brian Small did a great job fielding a team every week, integrating the senior Colts into Senior Rugby, and giving them great experience.

Sadly, Ryan Taylor Travers has decided to retire following an injury against Reeds, and Finlay Lock will be travelling the first half of next Season.

Thank you to Ian Repton, the 1st XV Physio, whose work commitments don't allow him to continue with the Club, so I am very pleased to welcome Toby Marcroft & Charlotte Summers to the Club, and between them, they will cover the 1st XV duties.

Lastly, George Head has been released by Harlequins after 6 seasons and will be playing for Dorking next Season. Therefore, the Attack Coach for next Season will be Cam Anderson, who joined us towards the end of last Season, and the Forwards Coach, Seb Driscoll, an ex-Old Reigatian age group player and full-time professional at Harlequins after finishing at Exeter Uni. Very happy to confirm Doug Cooper & Brian Small will continue in their current roles. Sam Foreman is moving into the role of 1st XV Manager following his retirement from playing due to concussion.



Junior Rugby

Jonathan Burton, Junior Chair

U12

The U12 continued to grow in numbers throughout the season, ensuring we had a core squad to consistently field 2 teams with a full bench. As an age group, we had a tough Waterfall Cup campaign, coming up against teams with much bigger boys. However, it was pleasing to see the skill development and continued stronger performances as the season went on. Ultimately, the team spirit and resolve the boys showed in tough times will outlast the memories of those early losses.

As has become customary for the U12's, we had another very successful tour. This year's tour included attending the "try-fest" Premiership match between Bristol Bears and Exeter Chiefs, a mini festival and a little surfing. Needless to say, it was a great bonding experience for the boys and parents alike.

U13

The U13s built a more robust squad, running two teams this season. As a developing set of players, we sat somewhere in the middle tier in this age group of Surrey. Still, we are particularly delighted with the A and B teams' performances in the WC. The As in particular performed brilliantly, closely losing to local rivals Dorking in the opener, but trouncing the additional four teams in the table 6-0, and winning our final unofficially 10-1. The season finale was a set of friendlies at Home where we showed how deeply set our progress truly was. We turned Dorking over 12-2, a massive accolade to the boys, a double win with the Bs securing victory by a closer, but well-deserved margin.

We look forward to tiering up for U14s season, and already have an exciting set of players, attracting more talent to prevail next season.

U14

The U14s had a very successful season, fielding A and B teams throughout. Overall, we had a player base of 45 for the two squads. The A team finished third in Surrey Waterfall for the second year running, beating Sutton and Epsom in the bronze match. The team missed out on the gold final by a points difference of just 1, having beaten Cobham, Wimbledon, Warlingham and losing to Guilford.

The B team won the Cedar division after drawing 12-12 with Warlingham on finals day, but won by scoring the first try of the match.

U15

The 2024/25 season was another great one for our U15 Raiders. After a summer of intensive strength and conditioning with our fitness coach, the boys came out raring to go!

In the pre-Christmas Waterfall Cup, our A team was in tier 1, our B team in tier 3, but unfortunately, Surrey rugby didn't allow our C team to enter. We strengthened the squad over the summer with some excellent players from Warlingham joining us. Our A team managed to win all their games on the way to the cup. Our B team struggled to begin with against much larger opposition. Still, they came in mid-table, and our C team played some very competitive friendlies.

Post-Christmas saw us being able to enter all three teams in the Quins Cup – our As still in tier 1, our Bs up to tier 2 and our Cs in tier 6.

Junior Rugby, cont

Jonathan Burton, Junior Chair

After gaining a couple of Dorking converts and some boys returning from school duties, our A team breezed through unbeaten to set up a welcome grudge match with Esher. Another step up for our Bs saw them rise to the challenge and, after two feisty matches with Cobham A, get to the final. And it was great to see our Cs improve match by match with proper match play and get to their final.

On finals day, our Bs came up short against a very impressive Old Wimbledonians A team; however, it was an incredible season for them, playing exclusively against A teams and finishing 2 tiers above the next highest B team. A great sign of our depth! Our Cs managed an incredible turnaround from the group stages to beat Guildford B, much to the dismay of their supporters! After reaching the final, our As had the fantastic experience of playing at the Harlequins Stoop against Esher. It was an incredible evening with loads of supporters coming up on the bus. A dominant scrum and indomitable defence saw us over the line and jubilant scenes at the end—a well-deserved unbeaten season for the boys. We have an incredible 16 boys in the Quins DPP and wish them well over the summer.

To cap a fantastic season off, we decided to put on a special tour before exams get serious next year and went to Lille, France, for a long weekend in May. We can't discuss anything about it here, but let's say it was epic, and somehow we returned with all 50 boys!

U16

The U16s combined this year with Effingham & Leatherhead to form a competitive team affectionately named The REagles. New friends were made, new challenges were overcome on and off the pitch and some great rugby was played. A special mention for Oren, who returned after a very long injury layoff. With more wins than losses during the season, the players can look back on a unique experience to draw on in their future rugby careers. Now onto the Colts!

Colts

The 24/25 season was one of more highs than lows. The boys gelled as a group early on, and this stood them in good stead. Consistently improved performances punctuated a busy season. The Surrey League saw us finish second to Old Cranleighans despite beating them in the league. A subpar performance vs Teddington, leading to our only loss.

After Christmas, we competed in the Harlequins Cup. It was our goal to win our tier. A new group of opponents saw us challenged across the squad. However, we dug deep and, despite a loss to Effingham and Leatherhead in a tightly contested away game, managed to qualify for the semi-finals. This led to a rematch against worthy arch-rivals E&L. This match proved to be the making of our group. We came back from an early (entirely unfair) red card, leaving us 21-10 down with 12 minutes to go. Clay wasn't happy with us being down to 14, and summarily got a yellow?! Somehow, with us being down to 13, we clawed our way back into the game. And then pulled away...winning 32-21!

The final saw us take on a Twickenham team that was unbeaten in their last 10 matches. A fast start saw us build a 19-0 lead. Twickenham were never going to lie down, and they fought back with three strong tries. Concerted pressure and steady goal kicking saw us convert our advantage and run out Champions at 25-21. This capped off an exciting and successful season.

Many thanks to all involved in making it so memorable. Roll on 25/26!!

Minis Rugby

Mark Reid, Minis Chair

The 2024/25 season has been another exciting and rewarding year for the Minis, as the section continues to go from strength to strength. Our young players, between the age-groups of U6 to U11, have shown fantastic enthusiasm, development, and teamwork throughout the year.

U6 – Rexes

Our youngest players took their first steps into rugby with fun-focused sessions that built confidence, coordination, and friendships. The emphasis was on enjoyment and basic movement skills.

U7 – Rhinos

The Rhinos embraced tag rugby with energy and excitement. They participated in joint training sessions with local clubs and festivals, showing great progress in spatial awareness and teamwork.

U8 – Raptors

Our Raptors continued to develop their tag rugby skills, with more structured gameplay and positional understanding, thriving in the increasingly competitive nature of festivals.

U9 – Rockets

With the introduction of contact rugby, the Rockets showed resilience and courage. Their tackling technique and game understanding improved significantly over the season, culminating in dominant performances from all 4 teams in their final festival at Effingham & Leatherhead.

U10 – Rebels

Our Rebels demonstrated strong development in rucking, passing, and support play. They represented the club proudly at all festivals, showing great sportsmanship and skill development.

U11 – Rampage

The Rampage squad matured into confident players, with a strong grasp of game strategy and teamwork. Their season highlight was hosting and excelling at the Surrey U11s festival – a massive thank you to all those involved in organising another hugely successful festival!

Our committed coaching team, made up of dedicated volunteers, has worked tirelessly to create a safe, inclusive, and fun environment for all players. The season focused on the development of core skills, game awareness and decision-making, all underpinned by respect and teamwork. A number of coaches have completed RFU courses during the season, to support the delivery of high-quality coaching.

Again, this season, a large number of Minis and their parents attended lunches ahead of supporting our 1st XV, and we concluded the season with a fun day of mixed-aged group games and awards. These events help strengthen the bond among players, coaches, and families, creating a real sense of community.

As we prepare for the 2025/26 season, we look forward to welcoming new players and families, expanding our coaching team, and continuing to build a strong, inclusive rugby culture. A huge thank you to parents and guardians for your commitment and support, and to all our players, coaches, managers, and volunteers - your energy and passion make our Minis section a special part of the club.

Girls Rugby

Iain Woodhams, Girls Chair

Some key numbers for what has been an amazing season for the Girls section. Roll on next season.

- 117. The number of players in the section. The 2nd largest section nationwide. Remember, it's just 12 years since David McGuigan made the tentative steps in offering girls rugby.
- 27 coaches
- Across the section, we were involved in 85 friendlies, festivals, and competitive fixtures. That's just 1 less than last season, despite the increased number of postponements due to pitch conditions and poor weather.
- Our roll call of successes this season is so impressive. Are you ready for this
 - oReigate & Banstead Borough Council 2024 Sports Club of the Year (Girls section specific)
 - oU12 Surrey Shield Winners
 - oU14 Surrey Runners Up
 - oU16 Surrey Champions and last 16 in the National Cup
 - oU18 National Cup Regional Runners Up
- 5 of our U18 girls have been selected for Scotland trials, with 2 making their international debuts this season
- 1 of our U18 players has represented the Irish Exile u20 team
- 3 of our U18 girls are representing England Touch
- 1 of our U16 players has represented Jamaica UK 15's and 7's team
- 3 of our U18 have played within Harlequins CoE all season
- 16 of our girls have represented Surrey at U16 and U18 levels

We will always welcome new players and volunteers, so pls don't be shy about joining what is a fabulous Section to be a part of.



Walking Rugby

Phil Smith, Manager, Walking Rugby

The Walking Rugby section has had another successful year with very few cancelled Saturday mornings despite the wet autumn and winter. The Thursday evening sessions were intermittent but good fun when they happened.

The 2024 Surrey WR Festival was held at Park Lane on a sunny August Sunday, with some 16 sides playing, including a Pilgrim Brewery side and a Sports Parkinson's team put together by WR captain, Hamish "McSkip" Turnbull. At lunchtime, live music was provided by Red's Dreamers. Throughout the day, a tombola ran, raising about £800 for Sports Parkinsons and Active Prospects (local Reigate charity). The success of the festival led to the Walking Rugby section winning the Walking Rugby club award at the Surrey Rugby Awards evening.

The squad have not played as many matches and festivals as last year, but they did attempt to defend the title they won at the Burgess Hill Festival the previous year. Sadly, we lost in the semi-final to the eventual winners, Guildfordians WR.

Coming up in October will be our first trip overseas, all 22 miles, to Calais for the Amicale Rugby Calaisien Walking Rugby Festival. Such is the success of WR that the spread of the game is reaching several countries in Europe, and ORs intend on taking full advantage of these opportunities to travel.

What is hoped to become a traditional fixture was held on January 1st this year between Old Reigatians WR and Reigate WR. This year, Reigate were the hosts, and many players had a great morning's rugby. During the year, the two clubs have come together several times to enjoy the benefits of the game, including attending the start of Reigate's 90th anniversary celebrations in October 2024.

One aspect we will be focusing on this coming year is to recruit more ladies to join us. Experience is not necessary, but having fun while exercising is very important. A great opportunity for grandparents to get involved in life at the Club. For more, contact Phil Smith or Mike Kiy at walkingrugby@oldreigatianrfc.com.



Women's Rugby

David McGuigan, Women's Chair

2024/25 was another successful season for our growing Women's Section, particularly our U23's who won the Jo Fisher Surrey U23 Cup. This (small but growing) tournament was a great opportunity for the players that have gone through our Girls section to play together and they had a great day having fun and showing off the great array of skills they have acquired over the last 12 years i.e. since our girls section started - plus of course their time at rugby specialist colleges and universities.

Most of the rugby played by the section continues to be Touch Rugby, but this is something that the group excels at. Our squad plays twice a week (Wednesdays and Saturdays) all year round, and players are able to join in whenever suits them and their families - but despite this, we regularly get 20 players out, come rain or shine, along with local tournaments where we continue to show our skills.

In addition, we still have the goal of gradually increasing our Contact Rugby content, building towards a Contact Rugby team playing regular fixtures.

The ethos of the Women's Section at OR's continues to be having fun playing rugby, and our wonderful group of Women are very good at doing that.

Finally, a huge shout-out to the wonderful group of players who turn out in all conditions to have fun playing rugby.

There is a huge age range from 18 to over 60, but they are now all great friends, and our social outings are fantastic evenings out.

All in all, another wonderful season



Vets Rugby

Ed Bartlett, Vets Captain

In January, we beat the much-adhered Cobham RFC away, thumping them 48-20, bullying them up front with Ciaran Lee scoring a hat trick of tries. We lost Russ Simmons to a broken flipper that day and he tore his bicep clean off the bone.

Finally we took on East Grinstead RFC at home and also came away with the victory of 36-17, in another comfortable victory.

Hopefully in 2025-26 we will get out on the park more often.

Touch Rugby

Lee Hodges, Chair of Touch

Touch Rugby continued throughout the 24/25 season and, as usual, continued through the summer off-season. Through the winter, the sessions are attended by a hard-core group of 16-30 regulars with numbers constantly increasing as the weather improves.

Senior Touch (played on Monday nights) continues to offer a fully inclusive environment, with members of all sexes and ages 14 to 64 playing together! The adage youth and vitality are no match for old age and treachery often applies. Of course, once that doesn't work, we can encourage our veterans to join Walking Rugby.

We have also provided Touch Rugby for U10-U14 Juniors in September-November and May-July.

It is fantastic that our club offers both non-contact and contact rugby.

Our girls continue to be the pride and joy of the touch group and the club, many of them linking with the South-East and London regional squads and gaining selection for National Squads. This year, Tilly Palmer-Denning received her third consecutive call-up for England duty, Jocelyn De Acetis her second and Isla Kinniburgh her first England squad selection. At the recent International Youth Cup, Tilly helped England secure a Silver in the U20S (to add to her previous two golds), Jocelyn won gold (her second gold) with the U18S, and Isla also bagged a gold with the U15S. Isla also secured the "player of the tournament" award and captained her school to victory in the Try-Sports Schools Touch competition.

It is always pleasing to see girls/women regularly playing to up the standards and show up the guys/boys.

Finally, after 7 years, Lee Hodges is handing over Touch Rugby Chair duties to Jason Potter so he can focus on coaching Juniors. Lee introduced "proper" touch rugby to the club back in 2018 and helped grow the group, which helped develop our players to achieve the success we continue to see today. Under Lee's leadership the Touch Group was recognised as a Gold Standard by the RFU, helped build skills used by players in their progression towards elite level (as many of the ladies called up by their country at U18/U20 etc in the 15s format as well as Touch Rugby, would attest to) and as mentioned above created a fully inclusive and fun addition to the clubs offering that continues to thrive—best of Luck to Jason.



Grounds

Ethan Monk, Grounds Manager

This season is the first year we have had our new grounds team in Sports Turf Maintenance. It's been a brilliant year for us to have STM in. Having spoken to many club members, I have heard nothing but good feedback, which is great. It's been brilliant working with them, and we look forward to many more seasons with STM.

This year's summer renovations have gone brilliantly. We have reseeded the 1st XV pitch, A pitch and up and down pitch to be ready for the start of the season. Even with the really hot and dry spell we had between June and July, the use of our sprinkler and now the heavy rain has worked wonders for the grass. All pitches are looking very good.

A big issue we have had this year is the 1st XV fence, and I'm pleased to say this is being prepared for the start of the season.

With the start of the new season on the horizon, I want to remind everyone to respect the training pitches in the coming months and ask for your cooperation as always to protect them as best as possible. Please refer to the pitch policy found on the website.

Sponsorship

David Hutchinson, Sponsorship Manager

This season we have continued benefit from the support of both long standing club sponsors and a number of new companies this year whose contributions are gratefully received. This revenue enables us to contribute towards the running costs of our amazing club and purchase equipment/kit for the benefit all of our playing sections and social members.

Next season there are a number of sponsorship and commercial opportunities available at ORRFC. This includes various new initiatives linked to our upcoming centenary such as purchasing a tile on the centenary walk, or adding your company to the recently launched ORRFC business directory.

If you would like to discuss various sponsorship options please do get in touch with the sponsorship team who can explain the sponsorship packages and bespoke options available to promote your business to our members and support our club at the same time.



Operations

Tim Bostel, Operations Manager

Club / Bar

We've experienced rising product costs over the past year. While we've done our best to maintain our highly competitive prices relative to the high street, we have had to implement slight price increases to maintain a healthy gross profit margin of 65%. Further reviews will be necessary moving forward, though we remain committed to keeping prices as low as possible.

Compared to last year, we are down on corporate events—a bulk booking from BA Euroflyer significantly bolstered the previous year's figures. To help counteract this shortfall, we have run a series of drinks promotions to encourage match-day retention and increased bar spend.

We've also been fortunate to host several large-scale events, which significantly boost bar takings, such as JellyFest and Vets Fest 2024, which alone brought in £30,000 over a day and a half. However, such events are not frequent, and the void they leave in the calendar is difficult to fill.

Looking ahead, we have the U19 and U22 Christmas Eve Matches, which are historically profitable and should provide a welcome boost.

Staffing

Our staffing cycle tends to revolve around younger, well-trained individuals, many of whom move on to university, creating regular turnover. Recently, we've had an influx of new staff—some of whom are still undergoing training, and several who are unavailable on weekends due to sporting commitments.

Mya Saunders, our Supervisor, left to travel in February. Megan Thomas stepped in and performed admirably, but will also be going to university in September. As always, feedback on staff professionalism remains consistently positive and appreciated.

Facilities

- The bar floor has been replaced following flooding, mostly covered by insurance.
- The hot water system and showers in the changing rooms have undergone extensive upgrades. The old tanks were removed from the plant room and replaced with two new, efficient tanks in Bay 2.
- All shower heads and pressure buttons have been replaced in the main changing rooms.
- Changing rooms 1 & 2 have been upgraded with Bluetooth ceiling speakers.

Catering

Both ECG and Bhunny's have continued to provide outstanding service. TGE also improved across the 2024/25 season, with further enhancements and new offerings on the horizon. If you've tried their sausage rolls, you'll know why there's excitement around their upcoming changes!

Additional Comments

- We've introduced online ticketing and booking systems for Supporters' Lunches, significantly improving user convenience.
- Dunottar has once again secured the Surrey Schools 7s, now for the third consecutive year, showcasing the club's value as a premier hosting venue. While not a direct revenue stream, it's an excellent opportunity to demonstrate our facilities, and this year will also focus on recruitment.
- The TRY Sports Schools Touch Tournament will also return for the third year, on a significantly larger scale. With 113 schools confirmed (up from 70), the growth reflects our reputation as a high-quality venue. Plans include vendor stalls and a more festive atmosphere.
- Volunteers Needed – As always, we welcome and encourage new faces to get involved. Your support really makes a difference.

This year has presented challenges, but also many opportunities and positive steps forward. Thank you to everyone who continues to support and contribute to the club's success.