

# Annual General Meeting

August 6, 2023

Chairmans Report

31st March 2022 - 31st March 2023



We hope everyone agrees that we have really seen some significant changes across the club all thanks to the drive and commitment from our Committees' who have worked incredibly hard to ensure we have had the funding and the support to get some important works completed. We must also thank all of our amazing volunteers and those who work so hard to make the club what it is today.

You can read more about the changes in this report, but we must recognise that this work would not have happened had it not been for the hard work of the team. Finding grant money is incredibly challenging as in many instances we just don't meet the strict criteria many trusts now require. It takes a lot of time and effort to find trusts that will support grass roots rugby and then complete the often lengthy application forms that require a lot of detail.

The RFU recently announced a huge financial investment into Women's Rugby and will be making available funds to help get more girls and women playing. We have already been successful in securing a grant from the RFU to refurbish the ladies toilets in the foyer and work will commence in August. Further grants will be available from the RFU and we will be working with our Women's team to identify their priorities and what they want from the Club to help them grow so that we can present a strong case for investment.

We know that we have a way to go and we have a number of projects in the pipeline where we have applied for grants and are waiting for the outcome. Sadly some of our projects don't meet any criteria, namely the main patio doors in the clubhouse, which many of you will have noticed remain closed until we can replace them. Replacement doors have been costed at just over £7,000 and this will have to come from revenues over the bar, but we are hopeful that we will be able to replace in the coming season.

We would like to extend our thanks to those who have stepped down or will step down at the AGM. Firstly, Adrian "Bish" Bishop for his amazing contribution to the club over many years. Bish decided to step down as Junior Chairman earlier in the year, but will continue as a Director of the Club. We thank him for his enthusiasm and commitment over the years.

Teri Watkins and Zoe Gamble will also be standing down from the Management Committee at the AGM. We would like to thank them both for their hard work over the years. However, they won't be going too far as both are still involved with our women's team - although we won't be seeing Zoe playing for a while as she is expecting her first child. Congratulations Zoe and Luke.



**TEWKESBURY RFC**

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## Chairmans Report

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Dan told us that he wanted to step back from his duties as deputy chair and co-captain for a period of time, but we look forward to seeing him back in the foreseeable future both on and off the pitch.

We have seen some new appointments as well, which has brought a wealth of experience and expertise to the club. This has allowed us to start assigning roles and responsibilities so that we can share out the vast amount of work that has to be done to ensure we comply with our legal obligations when it comes to running a business. I think it's important to reiterate to our members that whilst we are first and foremost a rugby club we are also a limited company which brings with it a range of legal requirements that we must adhere to.

Welcome to Jamie Burns who was appointed Health & Safety Officer, Mark Goodridge (Colts Coach) joined the team and his role will be announced later in the year and finally Rich Barber another junior coach was appointed Junior Chairman & Safeguarding Officer.

We are all looking forward to a great AGM and hope that this report will give you the same sense of excitement that we all have that the club is strong and has a great future.

*David Randall*

Chairman Tewkesbury RFC

## Management Committee

**2022/2023**

David Randall - Chairman  
Dan Morrish-Harnett - Deputy Chairman  
Mark Woodham - Honorary Secretary  
James Arnold - Honorary Treasurer  
Martin Thomas - Director of Rugby  
Rich Barber - Junior Chairman/Safeguarding Officer  
Gill Mould - Communications  
Rich Johns - Membership Secretary/Data Protection  
Zoe Gamble - Women's Rep  
Teri Watkins - Women's Rep  
Jamie Burn - Health & Safety Officer  
Mark Goodridge  
Adrian Bishop

### **Directors**

Mark Woodham  
Nick Smith  
David Bull  
Kevin Watkins  
Adrian Bishop

## Election Officers of the Club Chairman

In line with our commitment to appoint the Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary positions on a rolling basis every 3 years the Chairmans role is due for appointment.

Mark Woodham proposed Dave to continue in his role as Chairman for a further term which has been seconded by James Arnold (Honorary Treasurer).

Dave has been an incredible Chairman for the Management Committee. His commitment and leadership over the years has kept us on an even keel and the Management Committee have no hesitation in recommending to our members his re-appointment.

## Health & Safety

Having a robust health & safety system in place is essential and it is our responsibility to ensure that we are fully compliant with health & safety legislation.

Legislation can be a minefield so we were delighted when Jamie Burn (pictured right) agreed take on this important role for the Club. Jamie has a wealth of expertise in the world of Health & Safety and will be a valuable asset to the Management Committee.



## Communications

In the coming months we will be trialling a new electronic "Newsletter" which will be delivered directly to your email when you sign up.

We know a lot of our members use Facebook but this is another opportunity to target specific information. We will send a mid-year update around Christmas time. We do not intend to send emails every week or even every month.

To sign up visit our website - a pop up window asking you to subscribe will pop up on screen.

If you have any difficulties please email us at [info@tewkesburyrfc.co.uk](mailto:info@tewkesburyrfc.co.uk)





## Rugby Report

**Martin Thomas**  
**Director of Rugby**

The start of the 2022/23 season saw us start in the Counties 3 Gloucestershire North following a complete restructure of the RFU leagues.

We retained the services of Billy McGinty to ensure the coaching of players was kept to a very high standard and together with the package offered to playing members helps us achieve part of our rugby strategy to Recruit and Retain player's. The package now includes:

- ✓ Level 3 Coaching for both Senior Men's teams;
- ✓ A trained HCP Physiotherapist to run a clinic on Tuesday evening and to be pitch side for 1st XV matches and a trained First aider available for 2nd XV matches;
- ✓ All paying members were again provided with some branded stash.
- ✓ Loss of income insurance was taken out to ensure when players were injured we able to claim for loss of income;
- ✓ Beers for all players after all Home matches.

On top of this we also continued with the Transition strand of the rugby strategy. This saw us transfer Brenden L, Joe G, Jack H, Jack B, Michael T and Alex R from the older group of colts into the senior team. This is the first time in a long time that we have seen 6 Juniors transition.

However, this was not the end of it as there were not enough younger colts left to form a team, so we made the decision to gain RFU dispensation for Archie W, Omar L, Max V, Shay N, Josh W, Morgan H and Matthew A into the senior teams a year earlier than expected.. So all in all, we had 13 new players transition from Juniors to Seniors. Wow I hear you say!

Wow indeed! What season it was for these players as well. With two of them ending up having Southwest England trials. Brenden L also was the league's top try scorer with 22 tries. This was a massive success for the Club and is a good sign that our strategic decision making regarding transition is starting to pay off. Lots more of the Juniors are waiting in the wings to move up and we look forward to this being an ongoing conveyor belt into the future.

## Results

The actual rugby results for season were as follows:-

1st XV - 8 wins, 12 losses. This included 8 try bonus points and 3 losing bonus points. This resulted in us finishing mid table. The season saw us use 52 different players in the 1st XV not something we want to repeat going forward but shows the strength and depth of the playing members when we must call on them.

2nd XV – 3 wins and 11 losses. This meant that they finished 7th. This was not a good season considering the numbers of players lost to the 1st XV.

At the end of the season, we saw Billy McGinty step down as Head Coach and we are excited to see Rory Teague take up post for pre-season and September. A very exciting time for Tewkesbury RFC and a considerable appointment given Rory's background.

Thank you to all our members for their support through the season. We look forward to seeing you all on the side-lines cheering us on in 23/24 and we hope to provide you with the reward of some great rugby and more success!

## Sponsorship

Sponsorship continues to go from strength to strength with our main sponsor for Senior Men, BMW, remaining, along with BPS remaining as our sponsor for all Junior teams.

We also had 26 companies with boards around the main pitch and once again our thanks goes to those local companies for their support.

We are already on the lookout for more sponsors for the 23/24 and with Mark Linton (pictured right) drafted in to support with sponsorship we can only see this going from Strength to Strength. We are always on the lookout for sponsors so if you or anyone you know is interested please point them in our direction so that we can work together to deliver the right package.





## Junior Rugby Report

Rich Barber (Junior Chairman/Safeguarding Officer)

What a year it's been for the Junior Club!

Firstly I'd like to introduce myself as the new Chairman of the Junior Committee. I have been a part of this amazing club for 8 years now when my son joined at Under 7s and I agreed to help out as one of the Coaches. I now combine my new role with coaching the Under 15/16s and am really looking forward to another great year ahead.

I'd like to take a moment to thank the huge contributions made to the successful running of the Junior Section by the members of the Committee. Gill, Carol, Charlotte, Karen, Kerri, Kirstie, Mark and Sarah work so hard both individually and collectively, as well as others who have been major contributors in the last year including Selina and Adrian. This club really owes you a huge amount of gratitude for the time and energy you put in on an entirely voluntary basis.

In particular I'd like to recognise our outgoing Chairman Adrian Bishop for the incredible contribution made to the Junior Committee over a long period of time. I really look forward to seeing you on the coaching field soon as the young people we grow through the game have so much they can learn from your knowledge and passion.

In addition, a special mention for our coaches. We have now over 30 coaches across the Junior Section, again on an entirely voluntary basis and the work that they are doing in introducing children to the game and developing both teams and individuals as they grow up through the age groups is really special to see. One of our key strategic priorities this year is to support and build the coaching network so that this group becomes the very best team we have across the club.

On the pitch we've seen some fantastic Rugby being played. We had 25 registered players playing U6s and U7s this year with Fin, Hannah, Giles and Euan which is a great cohort into the Minis. At the other end of the club we had an enormous 36 registered at U16s with Rich, Nic and Steve with early indications being that we will have a really strong team moving into Colts Rugby this coming season. In total we had 201 young people registered with us this last year which is a brilliant number, but we know we've got more opportunity to grow- the number of girls playing with us at present is a good example of where we can do more.

As a Junior Section this year we are focused on 3 clear priorities:

1. Growing our playing membership. We want more young people playing our game! We think it's a great sport and that we are a fantastic club. We want as many young people playing with us as possible.
2. Investing in our Coaches. The key to player retention is great coaching. We want to support coaches to develop as individuals and the group to develop as a supportive network for each other. Training and development opportunities are plentiful in this role and we hope to be able to attract more people to want to join our coaching setup.
3. Develop our Club as a community hub for members and their families to meet, socialise and spend time together. We can do this through fantastically run events throughout the year as well as with a brilliant clubhouse experience on matchdays and after training.

In summary I believe that the future of the club is bright. There is much to be done going forward to ensure that we continue to grow sustainably over time however and we must not be complacent as there are a number of challenges facing the community game in our country and in our town.



Junior Presentation Day in May saw one of our largest attendances for a presentation day when we welcomed players, family and friends to celebrate everyone's achievements.

## Women's Rugby

Kirstie Grimshaw and Zoe Gamble  
Co-Captains Season 2022/2023

The women have had a rollercoaster of a season. We gained some new faces, celebrated some massive wins, welcomed new Head Coach Emily Hatherall and said goodbye to a dear friend, Paige McCormack.

Emily brought a wealth of coaching experience to the team and with her input we chose to focus on team bonding to build a culture that would build us as a team and allow us to progress in the years ahead. This approach has allowed us to take Tewkesbury Women's team on tour for the first time since Covid-19.



We've had some great wins this season, but we've also had some disappointments. Women's Rugby in general struggles to attract numbers to field a team, and we've had a few examples this season where the opposition simply haven't had enough players to field a team. It is therefore heartening to learn that the RFU recognise that they need to build on the success of the "Red Roses" and encourage more women into the game.

We also saw a new sponsor this season and we would like to thank Hazlewoods (Independent Business Advisors and



Chartered Accountants) for their support. As we look to the new season, we have a new Women's Committee with fresh ideas and who will no doubt do their best to bring out the best in our team.

We are excited to already be welcoming new team mates and with the support of the club and it's members, we are looking forward to a bright season.

**PLEASE LEND YOUR SUPPORT TO OUR TEAMS - FIXTURES FOR THE COMING SEASON WILL BE SHARED ON OUR WEBSITE AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

## Girls Rugby

Sarah Hayes and Pete Healey

We know we have some work to do in terms of getting more girls and women into the game, something that is also recognised by the RFU who have allocated funding to help and something we will certainly take advantage of if we meet their criteria.

Currently we have a small squad made up of U18 and U16 girls, who have trained regularly and played games with the Gloucester Hurricanes a Barbarian team made up from Gloucester teams.

Our plan for the coming season is to include all girls from U12 to U18 in our Wednesday training session and finding hubs where they can play and train from girls from their age groups U12, U14, U16 & U18. The club is looking to offer sessions for Y4,5 and 6 girls. This will tie in with Wednesday evenings when we have a female presence at the Club.

## Colts

This season we took the difficult decision not to play colts rugby and instead move the younger players up into seniors a year early. Although a tough decision at the time, this has paid off as we have seen 13 boys make that step up into senior rugby playing 1st and 2nd XV games at Tewkesbury RFC.

As we enter into 23/24 season we will see TRFC entering the U17 Gloucestershire Development league with a Colts team again, something we are very proud of as this group brings a lot of promise and the chance to see boys making that transition again to adult rugby. If you have the chance then please come down Sunday afternoons and support the boys.

## Walking Rugby

Our Walking Rugby side continue to play throughout the year amongst ourselves and are planning to play Droitwich and the newly formed Gloucester Old Boys in the coming months, when we will hopefully be sporting some new match shirts which we have been able to buy thanks to a donation by Bookworm. We're also looking forward to fielding a team for the touch tournament in August.

The team are always looking for new/old players to come and join them on a Wednesday evening from 6.00pm followed by a beverage.



# Ground Report

**Mark Woodham**  
**Honorary Secretary**

This season has seen a lot of investment both financially and in terms of volunteer effort to bring about improvements to the clubs grounds and playing surfaces.

The investment of approx. £20,000 through grants from Enovert Community Trust, Summerfield trust and the clubs own funds has meant we now have a fully functioning sustainable water source, storage tanks, pump house and irrigation system.

This system means we have the ability to deliver 120,000 litres of water per week to our pitches during the dry months, which will enable the club to capitalise on its annual pitch maintenance investments as we look to create the best surfaces possible for our teams.

In order we can maximise the use of the pitches in winter time the club also invested in lighting around the juniors pitch, increasing the height of the poles on one side and commissioning new LED flood lights on the opposite side. With this in place it meant we can light 3 different training areas during the dark evenings.

Additionally we have invested in a new hard standing bin area to tidy up the front of the club grounds, moved containers to enable easier access for kit during games and through working with our ground maintenance contractors set about ensuring the club grounds are as presentable as possible all season long.

Looking forward into next season we are hopeful of more positive outcomes from further grant applications that would see more improvement to our facilities.



## Stop Press: New Grant

Literally just before finalising our report we received the brilliant news that the Enovert Community Trust have approved a further grant to us that will allow us to replace the existing pitch side fencing.

The original fencing was installed in the mid-eighties and no longer meets todays requirements under modern safety standards. The new fencing will dramatically change the player and spectator experience by creating a safer space for teams, officials and supporters as well as projecting a smarter and more professional area for teams and opposition teams.





## Clubhouse Report

The clubhouse continues to be our main income stream but as every business we have encountered higher costs due to the cost of living increases.

We are certainly seeing an increase in the number of events and party hires but importantly we are seeing an increase from the business world particularly in the weekdays when the clubhouse is normally closed during



the day. This is really encouraging that we are attracting new business and we are set to welcome more.

We know that the clubhouse needs some investment, primarily the replacement of the sliding patio doors, and this is certainly in our plan for the coming year. We have looked at grants and indeed applied for a grant to install solar panels on the clubhouse roof, but thus far our search for funding has proved unsuccessful, but we will keep trying.

However, we have received a grant of £5,000 from the RFU to refurbish the ladies toilets in the foyer. The RFU have launched a large grant predominantly aimed at encouraging more women into the game. There were several specific pots of money one of which was up to £5,000 for women's toilet refurbishment. Work will start in August. We will certainly be looking at applying for any funding available that will help develop the club.

Many of you will also have noticed the additional of a new bean-to-cup coffee machine. The installation of the machine was mainly driven by our junior section parents when we noticed many parents turning up with cups of coffee from "well known coffee companies" on a Sunday morning. Quick to harness a new opportunity to bring more parents into the bar on a Sunday the machine offers a great selection of coffees as well as a great tasting hot chocolate.



## Thank you to the 200 Club

Many of you will have noticed the huge improvement to the lighting in the clubhouse and it is with thanks to the 200 Club that we have been able to carry out this work.

Replacement of the old strip lights was one of our key improvements not only from an aesthetic point of view but to move to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly solution.

Over the years we've had sockets, railings put on the ceiling so when we did the lights it was the right time to improve the ceiling and paint. We still need to put a further coat of paint on the ceiling but hope to schedule this in this year.

## Past Players Lunch

We were delighted to host the Past Players Lunch earlier this year.

With 87 past players and guests attending enjoyed a three course meal and enjoyed music from over the course of the afternoon and evening as well as a healthy serving of rugby from our 1st XV against Whidden as well as two Six Nation matches.

The event raised £1,750 for the Wooden Spoon Charity.

Congratulations to Bill Neild and Kerry Reynolds for organising the event and for their hard work to make it a successful. We are looking forward to this becoming a regular feature on the calendar.

