

Report on Senior Rugby 2016/17

This has been a very successful season for the Senior teams.

Neil Loader as Head Coach, led a re-structured coaching team including Liam Gilbert (forwards/lineout), Mark Saunby (Scrum & 2nd Team), Ian Smith (Scrum), Stewart Roderick (Defence), Richard Lloyd (Backs & 2nd Team) and Del Gurney (3rd Team). The players were also supported off the field by Ian Landon (Physio), Nick Taylor (Strength & Conditioning), Barry White (Chairman of Selectors) and Neil Bowditch (Team Administration and much more!) and Ian Wilkins (Army Liaison).

Attendance at training remained high throughout the season, although the opportunities for the 1st XV squad to train consistently were limited, due to many of the players living some distance from Salisbury.

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
1st XV	28	9	0	19	527	812
2nd XV	26	19	0	7	809	487
3rd XV	26	15	1	10	769	461
4th XV	20	9	0	11	330	538
Vets XV	3	3	0	0	41	31

1st XV

We entered the season following our promotion through the play-offs from South West 1. Neil Loader and the coaching/management team set an early objective of finishing mid table in National 3 South West, mindful that promotion should not be immediately followed by relegation given the increase in challenge presented in the higher league. After a fantastic opening win against Bournemouth RFC, backed up by another home win in game three versus Bracknell RFC, hopes were high in the club house and within the squad.

However, the reality of life in the National Leagues quickly became apparent, with an eleven game losing run, including narrow defeats to Launceston RFC, Brixham RFC, Lydney RFC and Ivybridge RFC taking us into the Christmas break. Whilst the results were disappointing, the squad was adapting and beginning to understand what is required to win games in National 3.

Following the Christmas break, the players, under Josh Green's leadership, won four of their next five games before the end of season run in resulted in relegation back to South West 1 for the 2017-2018 season.

2nd XV

The 2nd XV, led by Richard Roe and coached and managed by Richard Lloyd and Mark Saunby, had a very successful season, including winning the Dorset & Wilts II team cup.

Wins in 19 of their 26 games, included impressive wins over Bournemouth RFC II XV in the Dorset & Wilts Cup semi-final and a 19-10 win over North Dorset RFC in the Cup Final.

Stable management and a settled core of players allowed an attacking game plan that produced 809 points, whilst conceding 487.

3rd XV

The 3rd team season started slowly with two away losses to New Milton RFC II and Bridport RFC, before an impressive home win against North Dorset RFC III 52-12 and Puddletown RFC 41-22.

Mark Lerpiniere led a successful mix of experienced and young players to fifteen wins, ten losses and one draw, supported by the coaching and management of Del Gurney.

A strong performance to beat local rivals The Wheatsheaf Cabin Crew 27-24, was a particular highlight.

4th XV

The 4th team began the season under the leadership of Dave Crompton, before Tom Hopper took over the captaincy in November.

The squad won nine of their 20 fixtures scoring 330 points in the process. Commitment and availability was consistent and enabled games to be completed, even with the constant demands from the 2nd and 3rd XV's for players. Highlights include hard fought wins against Weymouth and Portland RFC (55-10) and Blandford RFC II (45-17). Games were called off by other sides and on many occasions the players stepped up to support the 3rd XV in their efforts to complete their league fixtures. We are grateful for the squad's commitment and look forward to next season.

Vets XV

Hamish Morton again managed the Vets XV. They played three fixtures during the season which included an excellent win against local rivals Devizes RFC (41-31). A strong showing at the Beer festival 7s completed their season.

Further fixtures are planned for the 2017-18 season and we look forward to seeing many 'old faces' (some older than others!) once again shining for a Salisbury RFC XV.

Senior Rugby 2017/18

Like every organisation we need to recognise our areas for development and work on them for next season. Our plans include:

- Recruitment of Senior players locally and through the Services network to strengthen each of the Senior Teams
- The introduction of Game analysis software to provide accurate feedback to coaches and players
- The re-structuring and strengthening of the coaching team to include:
 - Neil Loader – Head Coach (Attack)
 - Liam Gilbert – Forwards (Lineout)
 - Taff Bamsey – Forwards (Scrum/Breakdown)
 - Stewart Roderick – Defence
 - Richard Lloyd – Backs (2nd Team)
 - Mark Saunby – Forwards (2nd Team)
 - Del Gurney – Skills
 - Pat Griffey – Athletic Development
 - Mark Lerpiniere – Video Analysis
 - Hannah Roberts – Sports Science Intern (University of Chichester)
- Continued development of the players strength and conditioning through programmes designed by Nick Taylor and delivered at Sarum Crossfit.