



SALISBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Director of Rugby (Seniors)

2019 AGM Report

The Senior Men's season was something of a mixed bag with frequent selection changes affecting the ability of any of our 4 teams to settle into their playing patterns. The 1st XV started slowly but had a strong New Year to ensure safety before finishing with strong performances against all the table toppers. The United had a good run before Christmas, bolstered by some new Army players, but struggled for cohesion due to the weekly changes. The 'A' XV were competing for top honours until the later stages, and denied the chance to defend the Dorset & Wilts Cup due to a contested match selection. Our appeal being unsuccessful. Just getting the Stones out onto the pitch and fulfilling their League fixtures was a success.

This season we had over 200 players represent the Club and it seems that we are going to have to live with high turnover. We are still attracting players from the local schools and our Colts (with 8 appearing across the teams last season), the military and new players to the area. However we remain a net exporter of rugby players as boys go to University or have to take jobs further afield. The military cohort are very welcome, but exercises and postings are a constant threat. Managing our resources is a critical factor, and highlights the difficulties facing our coaches when trying to develop individual, unit and team capabilities.

On the pitch there were two particular areas where we were successful 1) our discipline and 2) our work ethic and perseverance to play the full 80 minutes. Martin Plimsoll wrote to congratulate us on not having to bother him or his disciplinary committee during the season, whilst countless games across the four teams saw us take wins or grab bonus points in the final minutes of games.

There will be changes in the coaching team, with John Kimberley remaining as Head Coach, supported by former players Jeff Watt and George Morgan, and Nik Mould coming up after running the Colts for the past two seasons. Mark Lerpiniere completes the quartet in a player/coach capacity. Michael 'Taff' Bamsay decided to take a break from coaching and was thanked for all his efforts at the Players Dinner held on the last day of the season.

We are a Club that likes to play rugby. That will continue to be our philosophy whilst we develop better decision-making and clearer thinking to maximise our ability to win games. Off the pitch we will continue to work on player availability, building a strong (and fun) culture across the four teams, developing the coaching team and mitigating the disruption whilst the new changing rooms are built. Longer term I am working on plans discussed with the Board to set up programmes of work to target player recruitment and availability.

Our Women have been playing a series of fixtures of different formats to prepare them for entry into the Leagues this coming season. Player recruitment has continued as we need to ensure the squad is sufficient to honour our League games. Under the coaching of Greg Leadshom and management of Laura Nicholson we wish them well. Training



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nights are Tuesday, so if you have wives, daughters or friends who might like to try rugby, encourage them along. They will enjoy the whole experience.

The Vets (Bustards) didn't manage to play any fixtures. A combination of struggling to find fixtures, being let down by Clubs and low numbers of players. With four teams there is sufficient opportunity for them to play, so it is not a major concern. Our walking rugby section are continuing to prosper, now under the leadership of Peter King as Pat Clash continues his recovery. Runners-up in the National Vintage Games and an increasing number of club fixtures, including our own tournament, is keeping them busy. The most amazing aspect though is we can now cater for boys, girls, men and women from the ages of 4 to 85 or older !

Player Awards 2018/2019 Season

- Player of the Year = Josh Green
- Players' Player = Joe Goldsmith
- 2nd Team Player = Lagi Lagi
- 3rd Team Player = Scott Nicol
- 4th Team Player = Will Penton
- Young Player = Joe Tully
- Most Improved = Rory MacTaggart
- Womens Player = Tess Fitz