



Chairman's Report — July 2023

I hope you agree that we have had another successful season!

The First XV were promoted at the end of last season to Regional Level 2 and acquitted themselves well in finishing mid table. It was far from perfect and there are improvements that we can make, especially with the re-arranged league tables for next year. I am sure some of you already know that London Irish (Wild Geese) and Jersey are in our league next season. We continued to run 3 senior men's sides but struggled to fulfil all the 3rd team fixtures. Part of the reason for this was that we were unable to offer regular fixtures because the 3rd team league was reduced in size so there were more reserve weekends than playing weekends. I also think that the RFU structured league has not helped with even the 1st XV finishing mid-March. The players and coaches deserve huge congratulations, but we need to recruit new players to maintain the playing levels.

There is plenty of work on-going to keep this momentum and improve, especially in terms of Women's rugby which has not yet recovered. The juniors are making huge strides in getting more girls to play rugby and hopefully this will feed into ladies' rugby. With the current Premier 15's being more widely available and the Women's World Cup in 2025 now is the time to raise the profile of Ladies Rugby in Salisbury.

Walking Rugby is continuing to go from strength to strength and had a very well supported festival at the end of April. Twelve teams took part, including two Salisbury teams. Salisbury managed to win the inaugural Pat Clash Trophy which was kindly donated by Pat last year. Unfortunately, we lost Pat earlier this year, but his memory will continue. There are further festivals throughout the summer where Salisbury will be well represented.

The colts, juniors and minis have continued to prosper and flourish with more numbers than ever before and great success on and off the pitch. More emphasis is being placed on the transition to senior rugby and integration with the colts to bridge the gap and make the transition less daunting.

The Centenary Celebrations have been a huge success and congratulations must go to the organising committee, especially the President Richard Larcombe, and the clubhouse team, superbly led by Vincent Hayward. The main events included touch rugby on the Friday evening, celebration dinner on Saturday and mini/junior fun day on Sunday. The touch rugby encompassed a wide range of abilities and ages, going from teenagers to over 60's. The dinner, with guest speaker Nigel Owens, MC Tim Stimpson and Henry Tuilagi's Gin Bar was a great success with around 230 in attendance, most of whom were long standing club members. The junior fun day was attended by all age groups and looked to be a lot of fun.

Sadly, in the last season we have lost some long-standing members of the Club.

Bob Baker — Hon Life VP

David Jugg — VP

Pat Clash — VP



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Chris Whalley — VP

Our thoughts are with their families.

This is my second season as Chairman and am still enjoying the experience immensely. It has been a pleasure and honour to be an officer of the club and I look forward to continuing this next season (voting permitting). I thank the Board and all the Club members I have worked with during season for their support and good humour during my tenure. I also thank the club house team for all their hard work in putting up with us and making the club welcoming and fun to come to.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you in the clubhouse or pitch side very soon.

Russell Jugg
Hon. Chairman