



Chairman's Report — July 2024

I hope you agree that despite some disappointments, we have had another successful season!

The First XV were relegated from the re-organised Regional Level 2 league at the end of the season to counties level 1. The league proved to be a step up from our previous experience, especially with new teams like Jersey and London Irish Wild Geese. This takes nothing away from the commitment and effort that all players put in.

We continue to run 3 senior men's sides, but it was still a struggle to fulfil all the 3rd team fixtures. This is something that we will continue to support. However, the 2nd XV had a hugely successful season, finishing fourth in Counties 2 Tribute Dorset & Wilts Central and reaching the final of the counties 2 Plate competition.

There is still plenty of work on-going to keep this momentum and improve, especially in terms of Women's rugby which has not yet recovered. It is proving difficult to get Ladies rugby up and running again, but hopefully with the Women's world cup next year we can gain some momentum. The juniors continue to make huge strides in getting more girls to play rugby and hopefully this will feed into ladies' rugby.

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 repeat the success of the previous year to win the Pat Clash Trophy for the second time. 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 colts are especially flourishing. They narrowly lost the Dorset and Wilts Colt's cup final and we hope to run two colts sides next season. I must give the Youth Director, Jason, a special mention for all the hard work he is doing in promoting youth rugby in the area with the Youth Academy and also for the wellbeing of the players by collaborating with the Star Scheme. If you do not know what this involves then please come and find out.

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

Jim Olsen

Adrian Browning

Sir Christopher Benson

Mark Clement

John Hill

Our thoughts are with their families and apologise if I have missed anyone.

This is my third 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



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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.

Finally, I would like to make a special mention to Richard Bathurst. He has been the club's Finance Director for the last 10 years at least and as a volunteer has put in an enormous amount of time and effort to make the club successful and profitable. Although he had planned to step down this year, his withdraw from the committee was forced upon us in December due to a serious health issue. Thankfully he is making a good recovery and I look forward to seeing him back at the club for many more years. It is only through the dedication and commitment from volunteers, like Richard, that this club will continue to operate and be a success. I urge everyone to consider supporting the club by volunteering and put their names forward for any committee position or other role within the club. I congratulate and thank all the existing volunteers, including the coaches at mini, junior, and senior levels, age grade admins and senior team managers and match day helpers.

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