

Bourne Proud



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

NEW WOMENS SUNDAY FITNESS TRAINING



Sunday 24 March was the first of the Women's fitness and skill training session. These sessions for women and girls of all ages will work on general fitness and ball handling technique.

We are trying to develop our women's and girl's section, so it would be great if there are any new players who would like to join us.

Everyone welcome, every Sunday at 10am - 11:30am.

WE NEED YOU | VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

We are only able to run our club with the help, support, dedication and good will of our volunteers. The club is solely run by volunteers who give their time to make everything happen.

To ensure that we can provide the range of opportunities and support required, we are looking for more support across a range of areas, please see Volunteering Opportunities section further on in the newsletter for more information.

Vice Presidents & Volunteer Lunch

In November 2023, at our VP lunch The Club recognised the contribution of Hedley and Gillian [pictured]

A Much-Loved Duo - As we bid goodbye to two of our most dedicated and beloved members, Hedley and Gillian, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for their service to our club. They have been instrumental in shaping the club's culture, values, and success over the years, and we will miss them dearly.



Hedley's Leadership and Legacy - Hedley has held various positions in the club, including Secretary, Vice Chairman, and President. He has been a visionary leader, a passionate advocate, and a generous mentor. He was instrumental in setting up the mini rugby section, and coached several teams through all age groups, right to the colts. He has inspired countless young players to pursue their dreams and develop their skills. He has also been a key figure in securing funding, sponsorship, and partnerships for the club, as well as organizing events, tournaments, and social activities.

Gillian's Support and Service - Gillian, although not holding any official role, has been a vital part of the club's operations and community. She has supported Hedley in his duties, and helped with the administration and communication of the club. She has also been a wonderful hostess, preparing food and drinks for the players, coaches, and supporters on Saturdays and Sundays. She has always greeted everyone with a smile, a kind word, and a warm welcome. She has been a friend, a confidante, and a mother figure to many.

Thank You and Good Luck - We are sad to see Hedley and Gillian leave, but we are happy for them as they embark on a new adventure in Cornwall closer to their two sons (Gareth & Allan, great player) and their three Grandsons. We hope they will keep in touch and visit us often. We thank them for all their service and dedication, and we wish them all the best for the future. They have left a lasting mark on our club, and we will always remember them with gratitude and affection.

'The Club is run solely by Volunteers, who tirelessly give their time and support each week for free to support grass roots rugby. The VP & Volunteers lunch was the clubs opportunity to go some way to recognise this contribution' ~ Chris Nuttley, Chairman

On 17th February, VP and Volunteers attended our Club lunch event. After the lunch the 1st XV took on Old Elthamians RFC. Thank you to our match sponsors [Olivina Building Services](#) and [Rodmersham Squash and Fitness Club](#).

U10s & U11s Evening Festival

Our U10s and U11 Teams visited Dartford Valley Rugby Club on Saturday 9th March for a mini festival under the floodlights!

Every single one of the Team put in a fantastic effort and an amazing experience was had by players, coaches and parents!

A huge thank you to Dartford Valley for welcoming us to their ground and to all those parents who made the journey.

Take a look at the video from the event on our socials!

[U10s & U11s Video](#)



Wooden Spoon

The children's charity of rugby

CHARITY SUPPORT

As a Club we look to support charitable organisations when ever we can. One of those charities is Wooden Spoon. Wooden Spoon is the children's charity of rugby. They raise funds to support charitable projects and help children an young people across the UK & Ireland. Take a look at their website to fine out more. In the last 6 years The Club has raised over £4,000 for Wooden Spoon!

www.woodenspoon.org.uk

This financial year The Club have also raised £1,478 for Tiny Toes premature baby unit, in memory of The Clubs respected member Poly. The Boxing Day match raised funds for a local young person. The Club have also supported attendance at Quiz night fundraising events run by our members.

The Executive Committee

The Administration of the Club and its affairs is run by the Club Board of Directors [the Executive Committee], supported by a number of subsidiary committees and key roles. All individuals are volunteers. The Board of Directors constitutes the Executive Committee and is responsible for all aspects of the administration of the affairs of the Club in accordance with the governing documents for Sittingbourne Rugby Union Football Club



PRESIDENT
Roger Down
president@srufc.com



CHAIR
Chris Nutley
chair@srufc.com



VICE CHAIR
Bob Broderick
vicechair@srufc.com



SECRETARY
David Hall
secretary@srufc.com



TREASURER
James Fassenfelt
treasurer@srufc.com

The Club AGM will be held on the 28th May, at Gore Court at 8pm. **A change to the Exec Committee will be presented for approval.** Subject to votes approving this, the meeting will see our Club Chairman Chris Nutley step down and move into the role of Vice Chair for the new Development and also support mentoring of the new Chair, James Hobson. Our Club Captain Paul Prett will step down, a huge thank you to Paul for his years of commitment. David Hall will move to the Secretary role permanently,

Subsidiary Committees & Support Roles

THE COMMITTEE

The committee consists of the following roles:

HEAD COACH | Gary Miller

CLUB CAPTAIN | Paul Prett

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR | Steve Jeffery & Dean Gaunt

MATCHDAY MANAGER & COACH COORDINATOR | Owen Nightingale

COACH COORDINATOR | Andy Butler

WOMENS & GIRLS COORDINATOR | Rachael Spencer

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER | Hayley Clark

SOCIAL COMMITTEE | Lucy Davies

COMMITTEE MEMBERS | Lucy Griffin

THE MINI AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

The mini and youth committee consists of the following roles:

MINIS COORDINATOR | James Hobson

JUNIORS COORDINATOR | Alan Sharman

YOUTH SECRETARY & FIXTURES | David Hall

TREASURER | James Fassenfelt

SCHOOLS LIAISON | George Catlin

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER | Hayley Clark

For full contact information and photos of all individuals, please take a look at [The Club website](#).

Get to Know the Committee

Chris [Nutley] - Chairman



CHAIR
Chris Nutley
chair@srufc.com

I have been playing for 40 years, starting at 5 years old playing through the youth set up and then started playing seniors at 15 years old. I became a senior team captain at 20 and then joined the committee at 21. The club has helped me on many occasions throughout my life and I have made some lifelong friends along the way so when the club was struggling it felt the right thing to do to give back a little, now 24 years later I have held nearly every committee role available.

I have had many highlights at the club over the years, I think the most significant is always being there to bring through the next generations, passing on the traditions and values that make our club what it is.

As a club we are always in need of volunteers, it is extra work clearly but many options available with job shares, task based options and many more. Please get involved if you have any spare time.

Lucy - Committee Member

I've been part of SRUFC for around 40 years, on and off, but I started being more involved and volunteering when my children started playing rugby (about 20 years ago!) I've helped with numerous things, including running the kit shop, helping in the kitchen and being part of events and tour committees.

I think the highlight of volunteering was on the Nat West days when loads of us got together to help out. It was a whole weekend thing and there was always lots of people, plus a bbq, and socialising. It was good fun and we all felt we had achieved something. Volunteering is a great way to get involved and meet new people who share the same interests.

I also volunteered at the Rugby World cup in 2015 at the Olympic stadium, which was a great opportunity, even though England got knocked out quite early on!



COMMITTEE MEMBER
Lucy Griffin

Survey Feedback

In December 2023 and January 2024, we opened up a survey to the Mini and Junior sections to ask for feedback about the club. We would like to share some responses to the themes identified in the survey, to hopefully answer some of the feedback which was raised. We really appreciate all of the input and have taken onboard the comments. Please do always raise any constructive feedback or concerns through your age group coach or a member of the Committee.

Opening the Club House and availability of drinks -The bar is run by Gore Court and as a club we have to guarantee a minimum of two games being played to ensure that the Gore Court will open the club, as this needs to be financially viable for them as an external business. We would love to open to club for Tea & Coffee at weekends and would be grateful to hear from any volunteers who are willing to help on the day and to coordinate a rota. Post match food is supported by Club Volunteers. When the new club opens we are considering how best to manage the bar and refreshments element.

Session Lengths - All mini session are now the same length, 90 minutes, every Sunday morning. There should only be the relevant time spent on key rugby activity on the pitch, as defined in Regulation 15. Other time allocated in the session outside of the Regulation 15 specified time is included will be for breaks, discussion, encouragement and fun peer games [not rugby matches]. All sessions are based on the RFU requirements - Age Grade Rugby Summary from RFU - [Age_Grade_Flyer_Update_V3 \(englandrugby.com\)](#).

How do individuals raise concerns and provide feedback - The Club strives to listen to feedback and take learning from situations to help grow, develop and move forwards. You can provide general feedback to your child/young person's coach, or age group lead directly. This can be done before or after any training session. You can contact some of the club Committee members directly, contact details can be found on the Club website - [Contact Us - Sittingbourne Rugby Club \(srufc.com\)](#)

Club Communication - Following the survey, communication tools were discussed at the Committee Meeting and the new Club WhatsApp Community has been set up, with the objective to reach more of our club community. There is the overall Announcement section which will be used to post whole club related content and updates. There are then subgroups for different club areas and age group related content and conversations. If you are unsure about how to access this group, please email info@srufc.com for more information and support.

Equipment and Kit - We have recently shared club match shirts with all age groups coaches, so every player should have access to a match shirt. If this is not the case, please speak to your age group coach. Equipment is a regular agenda item on the Committee Agenda and the club are doing what we can to look at local grants and sponsorship for new and rolling replacement kit. This will also be part of our fundraising campaign for our new club. If there is specific kit which you feel needs attention, please feed this back to your age group coach, who can then bring this to the next committee meeting for discussion.

Survey Feedback

Valuing our Volunteers - The Club is completely reliant on Volunteers to keep going, from Coaches to Committee, everyone gives their time and efforts for free. The contribution of all volunteers is valued. This year, for the first time all Volunteers were invited to attend the VP Club lunch before one of our first team matches as a gesture of thanks for their ongoing support. We will continue to look at other ways to thank and support our volunteers.

Thank you to those who put forward their details to express an interest in supporting the club, our Volunteer Coordinator will be passed your details and will be in touch to discuss how you might be able to help.

Recruitment - Club Recruitment for all of our minis and youth age groups is a standing agenda item discussed at every committee meeting. We do host younger age group taster sessions. Ongoing Recruitment for all age groups is acknowledged by the Committee as key to the clubs success. We hope that the profile raising of the new building will help support raising awareness of rugby in the local community. As a voluntary club, any help or support that parents and those linked to the club can provide to support recruitment is appreciated. Any local contacts who the club can reach out to, to raise awareness and aid recruitment, would be gratefully received.

Individualised help and support - As a club we understand that you as parents know your child best, if there are particular ways that we can approach training and support for your child, we would value your input. If you would like a 1:1 catch up with your child's age group coach to ensure that your child is getting the best out of their rugby experience, then please do speak to your age group coach or a member of the committee and we can ensure that this takes place.

Volunteering Opportunities

We are always looking for volunteer support, and totally rely on the help of those in our Club Community to deliver our grass roots rugby.

We are currently looking for help with:

Coaches | Referees

Advertising/Fundraising Manager

Assets Manager

If you are able to help or want to find out more about any roles, please contact info@sruvc.com

THE RUGBY COMMUNITY

Canterbury Hellfire Wheelchair Rugby Club are looking to raise their profile and seek to engage with new members - please help us spread the word about this fantastic club! As the only GBWR wheelchair rugby union club in Kent covering the whole county, they are looking to other rugby clubs to see if we can help introduce them to injured players or wheelchair users within both their club and the local community.

CALLING ALL KENT CLUBS

Canterbury Hellfire Wheelchair Rugby Club need your help

- Finding injured players and wheelchair users.
- Reaching out to your communities.



Part of
Canterbury
Rugby Club

www.canterburyhellfire.co.uk
@HellfireWRC

Keep up to date and Support The Club

OUR SOCIALS

Our social media accounts are the best way to keep up to date with match fixtures and updates.



LOTTERY

Joining our monthly lottery helps support to raise funds for the club, whilst giving you the chance to win 10%, 15% or 25% of the monthly total playing ticket value

SIGN UP TO JOIN THE LOTTERY TODAY!

Contact Us

 info@srufc.com

THE ANNUAL SITTINGBOURNE RUGBY CLUB

GOLF DAY

FRIDAY 28 JUNE 2024

UPCHURCH RIVER VALLEY GOLF CLUB

£50 per person which includes your green fee & Full English Breakfast



Wooden Spoon

The children's charity of rugby



WE PLAY
RUGBY

CODE OF RUGBY

EVERYONE INVOLVED IN RUGBY IN ENGLAND, WHETHER AS A PLAYER, COACH REFEREE, ADMINISTRATOR, PARENT OR SPECTATOR IS EXPECTED TO UPHOLD THE CORE VALUES OF OUR SPORT

TEAMWORK . RESPECT . ENJOYMENT
DISCIPLINE . SPORTSMANSHIP