

# BRSC News



## 25th Anniversary Special Edition

BRSC—your independent Supporters' Club

As many of you know, 2022 sees the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of Bath Rugby Supporters' Club (BRSC), being the official independent Supporters' Club of Bath Rugby with our income derived solely from Membership subscriptions. BRSC is proud and delighted to enjoy an excellent relationship with the Management, Staff and Players of Bath Rugby.

What follows is primarily intended as a tribute, to all the original and early Members of BRSC, and to thank them for 'kicking off' what we are now able to benefit from today. Equally, I would like to dedicate these few words to all the Members of BRSC, past and present who had the 'vision' to support the "Best Rugby Club in the World".



To focus our minds, it might be helpful to quote our own 'Vision' and 'Objectives', as detailed in the BRSC Constitution, which are as follows:

### Vision

To promote the growth, development and standing of the Bath Rugby Supporters' Club by furthering the interests of its Members at every opportunity, and by a continuing programme of proactive engagement with Bath Rugby Management at all levels, whilst retaining its independence.

### Objectives

To identify, understand and promote the interests of the Members.

To provide activities and services for the benefit of those who support Bath Rugby, including

- the organisation and delivery of a range of social events
- an effective communications strategy with an active, current Website and social media presence
- organising fundraising activities in support of the BRSC nominated charities
- supporting all of the players and teams of Bath Rugby, on and off the pitch
- liaising with Bath Rugby to represent supporters' views, foster mutual understanding, and act co-operatively to deliver the best possible match day experience
- assisting supporters wishing to travel to away fixtures or special events by publishing information provided to BRSC relating to transport services
- fostering good relations with rugby supporters throughout the world

I think you'll agree, quite a challenging agenda!

Whilst I have been an ardent supporter of Bath Rugby for more years than I care to remember, I have only been closely involved with the BRSC Committee for three years, now that I have 'hung up my boots' and therefore, gratefully, have the time to indulge my 'passion'.

It occurred to me a while ago now that whilst I am 'learning the ropes' of the current Committee and its workings, I knew relatively little about its creation and the early days of BRSC. That's when I got the idea of contacting a small, random selection of 'long-term' BRSC Members to gather their reminiscences, memories and anecdotes, and with their permission, share them with you, our 'wider rugby family'.

In gathering these recollections, it has involved exchanges of emails, letters, photographs and even visits to the homes of some supporters. First and foremost, I must say a hearty thank you to all our contributors for their time and effort – I'm sure you will enjoy reading their stories, it may also bring back some memories of your own.

Professionalism in the game of Rugby Union 'kicked off' when the 'International Rugby Football Board' (now 'World Rugby') met in Paris between 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August 1995. Following this conference, and almost exactly 100 years after the 'Great Schism' that split rugby into two codes, former World Rugby Chairman, Vernon Pugh declared that Union would become "an open game", with England international and Bath Rugby's Mike Catt, becoming the game's first fully professional player.

Mike Catt, whilst born in Port Elizabeth, South Africa on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1971, had an English mother. He joined Bath Rugby in 1992 as understudy to the then England fly-half Stuart Barnes and made his debut against Northampton, aged 21. After a stellar career with Bath Rugby, Mike Catt joined London Irish in 2004.

BRSC is one of the largest independent supporters' clubs dating back 25 years, having been formed in 1997, some 18 months after the game turned professional. Our aim then was to maintain links between the club, its players and the supporters.

Prior to the game turning professional, the clubs relied upon its Membership for volunteers to act as an integral part of the club's management and structure, Bath Rugby was no different. Post professionalism brought new challenges to both the supporters and the clubs – the potential for a disconnect between the two was obvious and thus Bath Rugby Supporters' Club came into existence.

BRSC is and always has been, independent from Bath Rugby, a supporters' club run by supporters. Today we exist to identify, understand and promote the interests of Bath Rugby and our Members, providing services and activities for all who support Bath Rugby.

BRSC is proud of its status as an independent supporters' club and enjoys an excellent, and much appreciated working relationship with Bath Rugby.

So, Bath Rugby has played a pivotal role in the professional game since its inception and Bath Rugby supporters have steadfastly stood by the Club ever since, through 'thick and thin' and with the co-operation of our contributors, I hope the following will help uncover some of "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly".

## Between 1984 – 2006

David and Anita Murray recall many of Bath Rugby's 'Glory Days' when the Club frequently ended the season in the play-offs at 'HQ' (Twickenham) and being thrilled at the skills of Jeremy Guscott, Stuart Barnes, Andy Robinson, Jonathan Webb, Tony Swift (who still holds the record as Bath Rugby's top try scorer with 161), Graham Dawe and Matt Perry. Many of these players had jobs locally, arranged by the Club (Stuart Barnes was the local Building Society Manager) and the much-respected Malcolm Pearce, who sadly passed away on 17th February 2022.

## **David & Anita Murray (BRSC Membership Nos. 34 & 35)**

(Editor's Note: Much of this time was when Jack Rowell coached Bath between 1978-1994 and John Hall was Club Captain. John Hall was appointed 'DOR' of Bath Rugby in 1995/96 and Jack Rowell returned to Bath Rugby as 'DOR' in 2002. BRSC is delighted that John Hall became its President at the 2022 AGM).

## Late 1980's

David Murray became a Member of Bath RFC in the late 1980's and had a seat in the West Stand which he, together with several other members, subsequently gave up at the request of the Club, as they wanted to allocate them to sponsors. David then decided to become a Season Ticket Holder (STH) and chose a seat in the East Stand.

David was joined by his wife (Anita) as a STH in the early 1990's and over the succeeding years, both went on to develop long lasting friendships with those regularly sitting around them.

Anita Murray recalls Referee, Ashley Rowden being subjected to good natured banter from the crowd and whilst, in a totally 'professional' manner, Ashley never openly acknowledged it, was clearly laughing. Ashley Rowden is now a Sports Commentator and 'After Dinner Raconteur' but holds the accolade of being the "longest serving referee in English rugby union history".

## **David & Anita Murray (BRSC Membership Nos. 34 & 35)**

## 1990

Bath Rugby 48 v 6 Gloucester Rugby in the final of The Pilkington Cup on 5th May 1990 at Twickenham.

## **David White (BRSC Membership No. 131)**

## 1994

The "Bath Rugby 48-6 Club" was formed in a pub in Richmond, London on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1994 and was so called as this was the score when Bath Rugby beat Gloucester Rugby in the final of The Pilkington Cup (on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1990). The aim of the "Bath Rugby 48-6 Club" remains to "Promote friendship within the game of rugby".

## **David White (BRSC Membership No. 131)**



## 1996

The saying “Allez-Bath” started in 1996 and was **BEFORE** Wasps also adopted it.

### **Jan & Mike Warrington (BRSC HLM Membership Nos. 63 & 64)**

David & Anita Murray remember, following the game turning professional in 1995, the arrival of Andrew Brownsword who became the first “owner” of Bath Rugby in 1996 with a majority shareholding – the remaining shares were held by Members of the amateur Club as of October 1995.

In 1996, David & Anita Murray retired and moved from Frome, Somerset to Derbyshire, where they still live, although occasionally return to Bath but still take a keen interest in the fortunes of Bath Rugby.

### **David & Anita Murray (BRSC Membership Nos. 34 & 35)**

#### **Pre-1997 – (pre-Bath Rugby turning professional and pre-BRSC being formed)**

Anne Kirkham (ex-Membership Secretary) – “There had been a thriving Supporters’ Club for many years when the Club was amateur – once Bath Rugby turned professional the relationship between the players, coaches etc. and the supporters changed”.

Hence, BRSC was formed.



### **Anne Kirkham (ex-BRSC Membership Secretary)**

## 1997

Sue Andrew (and her late husband Richard, who was Membership Secretary), were also Founder Members of BRSC. “Initially, there was a lot of concern and ‘grumbling’ about what ‘Professionalism’ would mean but a group of people, of mixed ages, who had been involved with Bath Rugby for some time, got together to do something positive”.

Sue remembers, “Many early mornings in August & September sending out precious little booklets with tear-off tickets for each game, using labels provided by Alan, at the Club”. They also helped as Stewards, on the gates on match days, enjoying the camaraderie with supporters as they entered the ground. “The supporters felt a degree of ownership of the Club and with professionalism that was suddenly swept away”.

### **Sue Andrew (BRSC Membership No. 1)**

Jan Cattermoul attended the first ever meeting of BRSC in 1997 and helped out in the early days. Jan remained as a BRSC Member for 30 years, although has now had to give up her Membership. Jan, then living in Bristol, travelled to support Bath Rugby.

One of Jan’s favourite players was Joe Maddock, who as we all know, has now returned to Bath Rugby, as Attack Coach for season 2022/23.

### **Jan Cattermoul (was BRSC Membership No. 14)**

Jan & Mike Warrington used to live in Weymouth and travelled to support Bath Rugby but one of the reasons to move house back to Trowbridge, was to be nearer Bath Rugby. Both Jan & Mike were Committee Members during their close association with BRSC.

## Jan & Mike Warrington (BRSC HLM Membership Nos. 63 & 64)

"I was aware that the formation of a Club was happening but never put my hand up to do anything useful – my excuse was that I lived in South Wales. However, it wasn't long before Jerry Keeling was badgering me to succeed him as Chairman".

"I almost fell for it but thought my period of office would coincide with the future of The Rec. being decided with the resultant media attention – so, chickened out. I needn't have worried, we are still waiting 25 years later".

## Julian Trump (BRSC Membership No. 81)

David White also remembers being a BRSC Member from its inception.

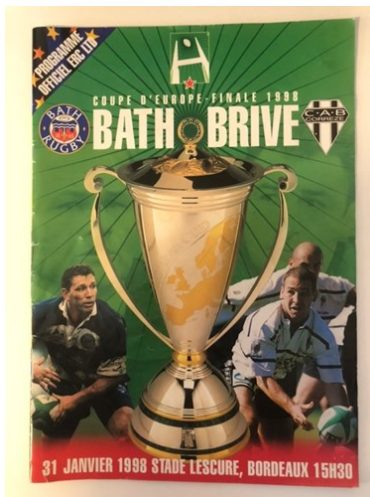
## David White (BRSC Membership No. 131)

### 1998

Inevitably, most Members best memories are of the year 1998, and why?

There was a certain rugby match played on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1998 at the Stade Lescure, Bordeaux, where some 36,500 rugby fans watched as Andy Nicol (Bath Rugby Captain) lifted the Heineken European Cup after the result.

## Bath Rugby 19 v 18 Brive



Sue Andrew recalls that Bath Rugby Supporters' Club wanted to produce something for the final that would help identify BRSC Members and "let our colours shine out" – hence, the 'Wigs' were created! Sue told me, bags full of wigs were taken with the supporters, plus small flags, which were deposited all over Bordeaux, on the morning of the match.



In the above photograph is (from L to R) Sue Andrew, Jan Warrington, Jan Gregory and AN Other (in a yellow shirt), unless of course, you can name this person? They are pictured in a French pub, 'preparing' for the match, all sporting their 'Wigs'.

Having 'trained and prepared' thoroughly, BRSC Members made it to the Stade Lescure in good time for the game and the photograph on the previous page shows a capacity crowd in the Stadium, moments before kick-off. The atmosphere inside the ground was "electrifying".

## And the result?



BRIVE 18	BATH 19
	<b>Try:</b> Callard (59min)
	<b>Conversion:</b> Callard
<b>Penalty goals:</b> Lamaison 5 (2min, 10, 17, 30, 40)	<b>Penalty goals:</b> Callard 4 (19, 33, 66, 82)
<b>Dropped goal:</b> Penaud (65)	

FROM DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT  
IN BORDEAUX



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## Sue Andrew (BRSC Membership No. 1)

Much was reported in both the local press and back at home. 'Passions' were, understandably running very high and to this day, memories are crystal clear.

"Nothing could beat the 1998 Heineken Cup Final in Bordeaux. I was on a high for weeks after that. I did a 'there-and-back' in the day, flying out of Bristol, having got my children out of schools in Brecon and Monmouth and back again in the process. I have a treasured photograph from the Chronicle of the Bath section of the crowd going wild at the final whistle with the scoreboard in the background. It's the one I'd go back into a burning house to retrieve".

## Julian Trump (BRSC Membership No. 81)

"Bath Rugby didn't expect to win the Final, so had made no arrangements to celebrate their victory – David White and his fellow supporters were in McDonald's in Bordeaux, when in walked the Bath Rugby team, to get some food!"

## David White (BRSC Membership No. 131)

Look closely at the bottom photograph and you can see how the local press rated individual performances.

Needless to say, much 'celebration' was imbibed after the match, as the photograph below indicates, it's Ieuan Evans recovering 'the morning after', with a strong, black French coffee!



## 'Glory Days' will come again.

Still in 1998, Sue Andrew remembers the first function the new Supporters' Club was allowed to run at The Rec. It was a buffet meal for all attendees, cooked and prepared by the Committee Members (especially Jan Gregory, whose cooking was "sublime"). After that session the Supporters' Club was required to use the Club caterers, if they wanted to provide refreshments!

### **Sue Andrew (BRSC Membership No. 1)**

At a game in and against Toulouse, at the time of the French Student riots, Jan & Mike Warrington remember getting caught up in a tear gas attack by French Police – at the same game they also remember Raymond and Maureen Perry getting lost in Toulouse and were faced with a Police water canon heading towards them, in an effort to control the riots!

### **Jan & Mike Warrington (BRSC Membership Nos. 63 & 64)**

I mentioned above about the "Bath Rugby 48-6 Club", well, the first outing of their Union flag, that was thankfully recovered and restored to its rightful owners, was at the Heineken Champions Cup Final, in Bordeaux in 1998 – "a much loved and revered flag". David White is pictured far left, proudly wearing his B, B & W wig.



### **David White (BRSC Membership No. 131)**

#### **1999**

Sue Andrew was elected Chair of BRSC at the AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1999 (Andy Robinson, Bath Rugby First Team Coach, was guest speaker) for season 1999-2000. Penny Brunton was elected as Secretary at the same AGM.

### **Sue Andrew (BRSC Membership No. 1)**

#### **2000**

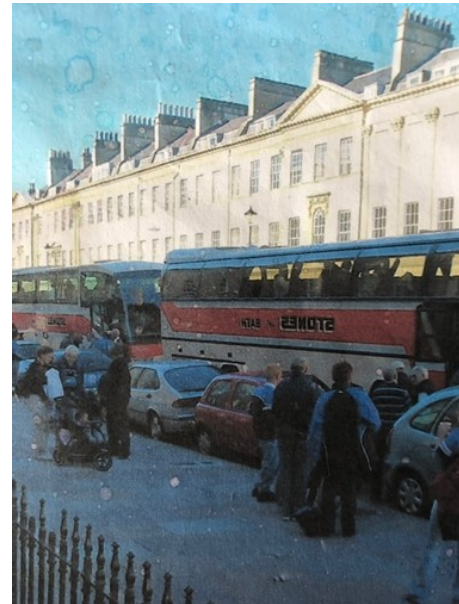
Jan and Mike Warrington remember a game against Gloucester Rugby when Barbara Hill & Sue Guscott managed to consume 7 (seven) bottles of wine between them, on the coach travelling to the game!  
**(Editor's Note:** this is uncorroborated, so apologies to Barbara & Sue, if it was more than 7 bottles!).

### **David White (BRSC Membership No. 131)**



## 2001

Jan & Mike Warrington were responsible for organising 'Away' coach travel for BRSC and continued for 18 years, ending in 2019. They attributed their success to a "very friendly atmosphere amongst the travelling supporters". I think the raffles (with good prizes) held on every coach and the on-board wine, might also have had something to do with it!



Jan Warrington would book a 40-seater coach, originally from 'Stones Coaches' of Bath and then on-sell the seat tickets. Jan & Mike told me, the first ever coach they organised was to Newport (South Wales) with a seat cost of £3.00 per head. Over the years they organised coaches to Newcastle, Sale, Scotland, Ireland and France and many more grounds – they once took 10 full coaches to a game against Wasps!

After 'Stones Coaches', Jan & Mike Warrington used 'Hatts Coaches' from Chippenham and then 'Berkeley Coaches' from Paulton.

During their 18 years organising 'Away' coaches they raised a total of £20,000.00 for various Charities – so, an enormous well done and thank you to Jan & Mike Warrington for all their efforts.

**Jan & Mike Warrington (BRSC HLM Membership Nos. 63 & 64)**

## 2002

David White remembers the ever-popular evenings when referees Tony Spreadbury (k/a 'Spreaders'), who refereed at the 2003 Rugby World Cup and Ed Morrison (who refereed the 1995 Rugby World Cup Final and in 1998 became England's first full-time professional referee) were visiting speakers to BRSC, when jokes flowed one-a-minute recounting why they couldn't 'Ref' at The Rec., or the Memorial Ground.

**David & Anita Murray (BRSC Membership Nos. 34 & 35)**

On one particularly memorable occasion 'Spreaders' told of the time he "Yellow Carded" the entire "Shed" and received a sharp rebuke from his bosses for doing so!

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In December 2021 'Spreaders' was appointed EPCR's "Head of Match Officials" when he left his position as "Head of Professional Game Match Officials" at the RFU. BRSC is delighted and proud to confirm that 'Spreaders' still returns to The Rec., every year and gives up his evening to entertain BRSC Members with his "Ask the Ref" presentation, to update us all on the rule changes being introduced the following season. ('Spreaders' last "Ask the Ref" evening at The Rec., was on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and BRSC will be inviting him again towards the end of 2022). The photograph shows 'Spreaders' on his last visit to The Rec.



David White recalls when the BRSC Committee (particularly Jan & Mike Warrington) regularly organised "Ladies Nights", "Race Nights" and Quizzes etc.

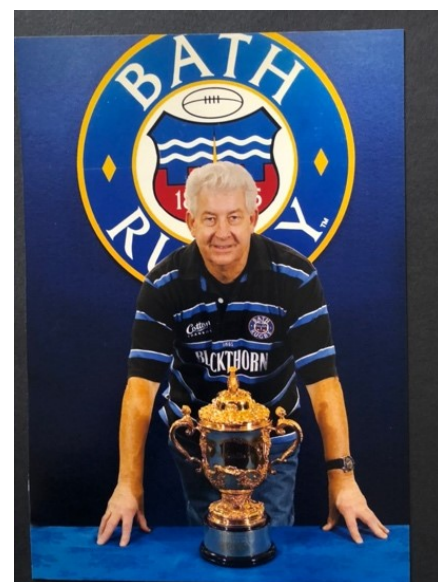
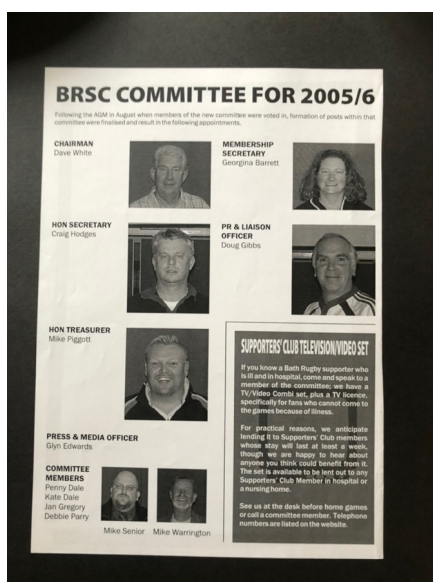
**David White (BRSC Membership No. 131)**

## 2005

Jan & Mike Warrington remember organising three 'Stones Coaches' to Paris when Joe Maddock was playing for Bath Rugby – at this game the French seats in the Stadium all collected water but had no drainage holes, so all Bath Rugby supporters were given pink coloured 'Ponchos' to wear.

**Jan & Mike Warrington (BRSC Membership Nos. 63 & 64)**

David White was Chair of BRSC in season 2005/06. Barry Cleeve took over as Chair from David. Below is David White proudly standing behind the Rugby World Cup, when it visited Bath.



Above s the BRSC Committee for season 2005/6.

The "Bath Rugby 48-6 Club" flag was taken to New Zealand to support the British and Irish Lions tour in 2005. At the start of the first test in Christchurch, the flag was carefully positioned near the middle of the stand, over the wall of an exit, where it would be safe, as four New Zealand policemen were sitting in front of it. It was a very wet and cold day, and the Lions lost the test but at the final whistle, the "Bath Rugby 48-6 Club" Members watched in sheer horror, as a group of "All-Blacks" fans stole the flag. Club Members gave chase but lost the perpetrators in the crowd. Steve Eades (then Chair of the '48-6 Club') emailed the Christchurch Herald Newspaper pleading for them to publicize for its return. On the Saturday of the second test in Wellington, Steve Eades was in his hotel room when he received a telephone call from "Penny, in Christchurch" to say that a very 'sheepish' All-Blacks supporter had handed it in, and the newspaper had arranged to put the flag on an aeroplane from Christchurch and couriered it to Wellington (some 270 miles). At 6.00pm that evening, about 90 minutes before the second test kicked off, the courier arrived at the hotel, with the flag. It then made its way to the second test. Unfortunately, it didn't help the result as New Zealand 48 v 18 Lions, (their highest recorded score against the Lions). The "All-Blacks" were totally dominant and it was probably the finest ever performance from a young man called Dan Carter, who amassed a personal 33-points haul. (See the photograph below for the Newspaper report of "The Missing Flag").



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Thursday nights in The Clubhouse at The Rec., were always good fun as they were “Press Nights”, when Bath Rugby would announce the team for the following Saturday.

**David White (BRSC Membership No. 131)**

## 2006

BRSC sponsored the shirt of Nick Abendanon (Full Back), for one season only, when he started in the Bath Rugby 1<sup>st</sup> XV. At the end of the season the shirt was handed to BRSC which raffled it. After 8 years with Bath Rugby, on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014, Nick Abendanon signed for French giants, ASM Clermont Auvergne.

Pictured is the BRSC Annual Awards Supper programme for 2006.



## 2009



Do you remember this? A “Race Night” organised by Jan & Mike Warrington (they were well known for the excellent prizes they provided) on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009. These events were always well supported by many of the Bath Rugby 1<sup>st</sup> XV. If you look carefully, on the far right, second photograph down, is a picture of Joe Maddock.

**Jan & Mike Warrington (BRSC HLM Membership Nos. 63 & 64)**

## 2010

The photograph on the right shows a cheque being presented to Jimmy Deane (Bath Rugby Hooker and Bath Rugby Foundation Manager) centre, with David White far right and Doug Gibbs far left.

BRSC has been proud to continually raise funds for nominated Charities, over many years, as the picture above confirms – this was a cheque for £13,000.00 raised for and presented to, Bath Rugby Community Foundation on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010. My research reveals this cheque was presented before the Guinness Premiership match between Bath Rugby 39 v 3 Yorkshire Carnegie (Attendance: 11,700).

In achieving this bonus point win, Bath Rugby booked their semi-final spot with an ‘away’ tie against league champions, Leicester at Welford Road on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Try scorers on the day were: - Nick Abendanon x 2, Michael Claassens, Matt Bananhan and Joe Maddock – Olly Barclay also kicked 4 x conversions and 2 x penalties.



**David White (BRSC Membership No. 131)**

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## 2011

The above photograph shows one of the initial BRSC 'letters', with a welcome by the then Chair Barry Cleeve, which has now developed into our "Newsflashes". It welcomes all to the first 'home' game of the 2011-12 season – Bath Rugby 26 v 28 Saracens on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (KO 15:15). Saracens won with a last minute penalty by Owen Farrell. It also shows the Award winners for the season 2010-11.

David White (BRSC Membership No. 131)



## Memories from Julian Trump against which it is difficult to place a date.

"Most of my memories concern coach travel and foreign travel. The coaches were always good fun. The rowdy bunch were in the back and the rather more cerebral were upwind of the loo. Mind you, there was a pecking order. You had to earn your promotion to forward positions. We always travelled in good heart and were reflective on the way home as to "Why the Ref. never gave us anything". Without the coaches these days, there seems to be fewer Bath Rugby supporters at 'Away' matches. For those who do travel, now by car, there is less atmosphere. A pity".

**(Editor's Note** – the main initiative BRSC undertook in season 2021/22 was a joint venture with Centurion Travel Ltd. (based in Midsomer Norton) to resurrect 'Away' coach travel for Bath Rugby supporters, largely as a result of requests from fans when they approached BRSC Committee Members at the Gazebo, at The Rec. BRSC appreciates the timing of the launch of this service was difficult, as we were just 'coming out' of Covid-19 restrictions and to be honest, our 'on-field' results last season (2021/22) were not what we would have hoped, to say the least. However, the take-up of booked coach seats was very disappointing with the majority of trips having to be cancelled for lack of numbers, making it uneconomic to run them. BRSC is currently discussing with Centurion Travel Ltd. the possibility of continuing this venture and we are hopeful that 'Away' coaches will run, to selected games, in season 2022/23. So, as Julian Trump says, we may be able to offer you more 'good fun' and enhance your match day experience by joining us on the 'Away' coach travel. Please visit the BRSC website ([www.allez-bath.co.uk](http://www.allez-bath.co.uk)) for more details on how to book your coach seats for the coming season).

"Foreign travel was, for me, the great indulgence. Sometimes we went to the great theatres of French rugby in Toulouse, Toulon, Stade and Clermont Auvergne but it was just as much fun to go to the little-known French and Italian outposts. L'Aquila anyone? Or the first time in Parma when the Police kept us apart from the 'home' support, football style, until they saw the futility of it. How about the oysters in the square in Auch and far too much Armagnac pre-match? Yes, shock horror, rugby fans drink Armagnac. Do you remember the bitter, bitter cold at Montauban (I hope someone has told Roko) or me playing silly beggars running up the down escalators while in Lyon or Bourgoin? I was younger then! Bucharest – now there was an 'off the beaten track' treat. Was it there that lady fans were charged 10 Euros to enter and the men 5 Euros, or was that somewhere else? It might have been Calvisano or Mogliano where at one or the other we stayed in a B&B where the home made Limoncello and Arancello were to die for. A long weekend in Venice for Treviso was special. Wherever we went we'd meet other BRSC Members and common interests would become friendships".

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“Recollections of BRSC Award Dinners. Hugely enjoyable and always with the expectation of some top player on our table. We had ‘Flouw’ one year and then Dave Attwood and Will Spencer, both huge men. There was Gavin Hastings, destined for greater things and the quiet and polite Rhys Priestland at the last pre-Covid-19 Dinner”.

“Well, BRSC is still here and in top form and so there’ll always be someone to help me to my seat in The ‘New’ Rec., long after it’s beyond me to get there on my own”.

**The above four memories were all from Julian Trump (BRSC Membership No. 81)**

BRSC is delighted to fully support Bath Rugby Ladies which is developing apace under the direction of Maria Crowfoot, Bath Rugby Development Lead (Women & Girls). Congratulations on a fantastic season in 2021/22 and BRSC’s best wishes for the future.

There weren’t too many recent memories from our contributors, which originally concerned me, but on reflection, at the start of this I wanted to get more from the ‘earlier’ days, which I think we have achieved. That together with virtually the last three years being ruled out by Covid, the intervening years are probably still ‘more fresh’ in the memory.

I have thoroughly enjoyed collating this journey through BRSC’s history and sincerely hope it has rekindled some rugby ‘passion’ in you, if not having brought back some memories which were shrouded in the mists of time.



**Perhaps we may even see a similar picture to this again in France in 2023?**



A picture of Mike Catt holding the Rugby World Cup flanked by Mike Tindall and Danny Grewcock.

Can you name the other two gentlemen?

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I could have written a small book (some might say, I have!) with the number of memories gratefully provided by our contributors, but in the interests of 'brevity', the detail has been condensed. I'm certain a lot more notable occasions have occurred over the last 25 years, that we haven't mentioned, if one of those was your favourite, I apologise for not including it. We have only been able to contact a relatively small number of 'original' BRSC Members, on a random basis, so please excuse us if you think we should have contacted you personally.

Nevertheless, please do still send us your memories, from any time during the past 25 years, as we would be delighted to receive them, especially as many of our original records were destroyed in a flood, a few years ago, when the paper versions were stored under the old West Stand.

I must also thank the Bath Rugby Heritage team, based at Farleigh House, for their help and co-operation and am certain Steve Richards (Project Manager) would be interested in anymore 'gems' you could uncover or unique memorabilia that you might want to donate to Bath Rugby and the Bath Rugby Heritage team, in perpetuity.

A theme that quickly emerged when I started collecting these memories was that initial, casual acquaintances with a mutual interest in Rugby Union, soon developed into firm friendships, some which have lasted longer than BRSC has been in existence! – when all is said and done, whilst the rugby is important, the wider 'rugby family' and the fellowship and friendship of like-minded supporters takes top priority – long may that 'love of the game' and the respect of others, continue.

Equally, we are predominantly dealing with memories here and, as we all know, these tend to 'cloud' as time passes. However, every effort has been made to place these 'gems' in chronological order, so please give us the benefit of the doubt, if you are certain we are one or two years adrift, in some cases!

I couldn't finish without an 'advert' for joining BRSC. There are many great reasons to join the Official Independent Bath Rugby Supporters' Club, one of the longest running in the Gallagher Premiership:

- receive a unique annual BRSC Badge and Membership Card
- benefit from many local business discounts in and around Bath – many will cover your Membership fee with just one purchase e.g. 10% discount in the Bath Rugby shop when you show your valid Membership Card
- have the opportunity to join us at the Annual Awards Supper and enjoy a meal in the company of a 1st XV team player, at your table
- through the BRSC Committee, have your voice heard by Senior Management at Bath Rugby
- enjoy and support a varied range of Events organised for Members including our annual quiz hosted by Dave Stock and the ever popular 'Ask the Ref' evening with Tony Spreadbury, now that he has become 'EPCR Head of Match Officials'

All this and much more for Membership prices from just £10.00 per year (Single Membership).

Finally, I must say a huge thank you to all those who contributed to this little exercise, and apologies again, to those to whom we didn't get - it has certainly widened my understanding and appreciation of Bath Rugby and BRSC. I would also like to take a minute to remember all those BRSC Members who are sadly no longer with us and especially those who finally succumbed to Covid-19.



# 25th Anniversary Special Edition

BRSC—your independent Supporters' Club



**Your new BRSC Committee as elected at the BRSC AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

Left to right: - Nicola Curtis (Website & Social Media); Paul Russell (IT Manager (Webmaster)); Emma Ellis (Membership Secretary); Andy Warren (Committee Member); John Hall (President – non-Committee position); Beverley Wallis (Supplier Discount Co-ordinator); David Harrington (Secretary); Mike Elliott (Treasurer); Karen Willetts (Events Manager); Doug Wrigglesworth (Chair) & Clive Hoskin (Independent Examiner of BRSC Accounts – non-Committee position).

## **Allez-Bath**

**David Harrington.**

**BRSC, Secretary.**

**The BRSC nominated Charities for the forthcoming season 2022/23 are jointly: “Breast Cancer Now” and “Young Lives vs Cancer” – please give generously, if you are able.**

