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BATH RUGBY SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1 SEASON 2025/2026

Wasn't it an amazing season last year with our dreams being realised after such a long time? It was wonderful to see our players unite as a team and keep playing to the very last second of every game and also to see the Academy players coming to the fore.

One of the best things about Bath Rugby is the supporters. Bath supporters are loyal, vocal and prepared to travel to support their club through good times and bad – and we are all now looking forward to more of the good stuff!

This is coming out to you as we start the new season and we are all looking forward to another exciting year! Read on to find out about the BSRC Annual Awards Dinner, future fixtures, coach travel & ticketing.

I have just taken on the Newsletter as our previous editor had to resign due to increased responsibilities at work. I hope to hear from members as to how you feel about it and what you think future editions should include (we are already planning a couple of items for a more interesting read). Please email comments and requests to news@bathrugbysupportersclub.co.uk. It is a little daunting for me and I will need help!

On that note I would like to thank Doug Wigglesworth, our Chair, for the assistance with this edition. Sadly Doug is also resigning due to family commitments. He has been a dedicated Chair, putting in many hours to the job. We would all like to thank him and wish him well for the future. He will, of course, remain a loyal supporter so we will see him, hopefully, on regular occasions.

Janeen

In the meantime....

Come On You Bath!



Where the
faithful belong





Membership

When we opened up to applications this summer we were amazed by the sheer numbers of people wishing to join/rejoin. To date we have incredibly already surpassed last year's membership numbers, and we have yet to start the season! Our membership secretary, Huw, has processed over 1300 applications in the last few months – we estimate this has taken nearly 80 hours to complete. In order to reduce Huw's administrative duties we would like people to join or renew online.

We have completed sending all the membership packs. However if you have not received your pack please email members@bathrugbysupportersclub.co.uk. We have a number of packs that members elected to collect from the Gazebo, and they will be available at the next few home games.

We had our BRSC Gazebo up for the Season Launch on 25th August and were totally amazed by the number of people visiting us – see the picture below! It was wonderful to see everyone and we hope to see you at every home game and as many away games as possible!





Annual Awards Dinner 2025

This was a wonderful evening, held on the 14th of August at the Doubletree by Hilton. Over 150 people (BRSC Members, Sponsors, Players and Coaches) attended the dinner. The highlight was having all three of our trophies on display and each member was given the opportunity to have a photograph of themselves with the trophies!

The attending players had their table numbers drawn out of a hat and then took the seats. Tom Dunn raised a laugh by carrying the Gallagher Premiership Cup in and putting it on his table, swapping it for the table decoration! We were informed later that as it was the last Gallagher Premiership Cup (we now have the Gallagher PREM Cup) we would, as the final winning team, be allowed to keep the cup in our trophy cabinet (where, we trust, it will be joined by the new cup in 2026!)

After a delicious meal, we had a silent auction for bottles of wine signed by players and David Trick was the Auctioneer for the prize of a balloon ride, which raised £700! This was followed by the Awards Ceremony where the players each received a trophy (which they had to hand back to be kept in the BRSC trophy cabinet in the Clubhouse) together with an engraved Welsh Slate they could keep, as well as a voucher".

Winners were: **Becky Thompson** for the **Bath Rugby Ladies Cup** (*Portman Boutiques*), **Ciaran Donoghue** for **Academy Player of the Season** (*Titcombe Bespoke Jewellery*); **Guy Pepper** for **Young Player of the Year** (*David Maxwell Hairdressing*); **Miles Reid** for **Unsung Hero of the Season** (*Wick Farm Bath*); **Alfie Barbeary** for **Personality of the Season** (*SP Green & Co Ltd*); **Tom Dunn** for **Try of the Season** (*Manu Packaging UK Ltd*); **Ben Spencer** for **Player of the Season** (*Sulis Hospital, Bath*); **Jaco Coetzee** for **Impact Player of the Season** (*Vic & Leah Hogg*). The **Stone King Award for services to BRSC & Bath Rugby** was awarded (in a surprise visit earlier in the week) to **Tarquin McDonald**. A special memento was given to **Johann van Graan** in recognition of his work over the last two years which had such an impact. (*Italics = Sponsors*)

The Cup for the Impact Player of the Season is a new one in memory of Issy Hogg. I was fortunate to meet Issy last year, a few months before she died, and even in the few hours we spent together she became one of the people who will always be an inspiration to me. We had a wonderful discussion on so many topics, many quite deep or emotional. This cup is an apt tribute to this amazing lady who had such an impact herself.

Speeches were given by our Secretary David Harrington and David Trick, with a few words from the Chair (Doug Wigglesworth) and the evening's organiser Karen Willetts. We were then thrilled that Johann van Graan asked to speak and after listening to him we have even more hopes for the coming season.

Much organisation goes into these events and we would like to thank the staff at the hotel and the members of the committee (and their families!) who worked very hard to set things up and a special mention to Karen for her superb organisation of a very successful and enjoyable evening.





Away Games – Gallagher PREM

BRSC plan to run coaches to selected Gallagher PREM Away matches. The coaches will run only if we sell sufficient seats and the decision on the viability of each trip will be made **two weeks before** the fixture date. If BRSC have to cancel the trip full refunds will be given.

This is coach travel only so you will need to purchase your match tickets separately. These are usually sourced from the website of the Away team. We plan to have the coach places available soon on the members' platform, Membermojo. Check out our website!

Date	Saturday 18 Oct	Sunday 30 Nov	Saturday 24 Jan	Saturday 25 April	Saturday 9 May	Saturday 30 May
Away Team	Leicester Tigers	Saracens	Gloucester Rugby	Northampt on Saints	Exeter Chiefs	Bristol Bears
Stadium & Postcode	Welford Road LE2 7TR	Stone X NW4 1RL	Kingsholm GL1 3AX	Cinch NN5 5BG	Sandy Park EX2 7NN	Ashton Gate BS3 2EJ
Pick Up Odd Down	09:00	10:00	11:15	09:00	09:45	11:00
Pick Up The Bird	09:15	10:15	11:30	09:15	10:00	11:15
Arrive at Ground	12:00	13:00	13:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Kick Off	14:05	15:00	15:00	14:00	14:00	14:00
Departure	16:45	17:45	17:45	16:45	16:45	16:45
Arrive The Bird	19:30	20:30	19:15	19:30	18:45	17:30
Arrive Odd Down	19:45	20:45	19:30	19:45	20:00	17:45
Cost	£24	£24	£19	£24	£24	£19



Bath Rugby Ladies

The World Cup has been amazing, we were told it was the second largest number of spectators at any Rugby World Cup (men or women). Hope you have all watched. It showcased the manner in which the women's game has improved and things will only get better!

We are fortunate in having two senior teams and a mixed ability team playing at Lambridge, where Bath Rugby Ladies make their home.

Take a look at their website to see what they are doing and more about their fixtures and perhaps support Bath Rugby Ladies by watching some of their home games.

<https://www.bathrugbyladies.co.uk/>



Johann van Graan presents Becky Thompson with the Bath Rugby Ladies Award (sponsored by Portman Boutiques – Nickie Portman).



Clea Fawcett, the BRL captain. We sponsored her last season and will sponsor her again this season!

Bath Rugby Foundation

Bath Rugby Foundation was set up in November 2003 to give back to the local community, by coaching rugby to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Later it became obvious that the delivery programmes needed to be changed to fit the challenges of all the less fortunate areas of the city.

The coaches aim to enhance the lives of young people through sport; to motivate, raise self-esteem, increase confidence and improve life skills by imparting the values found in rugby - camaraderie, loyalty, discipline and respect.

Based at The Rec Sports Hub since 2017 the staff, trustees and partners are committed to giving all young people an equal opportunity. BRSC are proud to support them and this last year we raised the magnificent sum of £6396.52 to do so.



Mike Elliott (new BRSC, Chair), Halena Coury (BRL, Head of Fundraising), David Trick (ex-Bath Rugby legend and now BRL, Corporate Fundraiser) and Doug Wrigglesworth (ex-BRSC, Chair)



Why join BRSC ...

... what do you get out of it?

All those who work for BRSC are volunteers and do it 'for love' – it is fun but takes effort. The gazebo is at nearly every home game and in the background the committee are constantly organising events. BRSC is one of the largest (if not the largest) independent supporters' clubs in Europe. Bath Rugby supporters are passionate about their Club and it is good to be with others who feel the same way.

So, in answer to the question:

We have a gazebo at most home games where you can meet up, find out about events, buy useful objects, etc

We arrange events regularly, such as Q&A sessions with coaches, players and other interesting people, quiz nights, a visit to Farleigh House, etc, etc.

We have organised discounts for our members with numerous businesses in and around Bath for everything from golf to clothes to meals out to hairdressers (the list goes on!)

We organise coaches to away games at very good prices and will also arrange tickets to the semi-final and final (fingers crossed).

We have the annual Awards Dinner where we present trophies to those players selected by our members.

We sponsor two players each year, this year we are sponsoring Ciaran Donoghue and Clea Fawcett.

Finally and, importantly, we raise money for the Bath Rugby Foundation.



Where the
faithful belong



September

06	KO 15.00	Glasgow Warriors PS	
12	KO 19.00	Munster Rugby PS	H
19	KO 19.45	Worcester Warriors PS	A
20	KO 15.05	Exeter Chiefs PS	H
26	KO 19.45	Harlequins GP	A

October

03	KO 19.45	Sale Sharks GP	H
11	KO 17.30	Gloucester Rugby GP	H
18	KO 15.05	Leicester Tigers GP	A
25	KO 15.05	Bristol Bears GP	H
31	KO 19.45	Bristol Bears PC	A

November

14	KO 19.30	Gloucester Rugby PC	A
22	KO 15.00	Sale Sharks PC	H
30	KO 15.00	Saracens GP	A

December

6	KO 20.00	Munster Rugby EPCR	H
14	KO 15.15	RC Toulon EPCR	A
21	KO 15.00	Newcastle Falcons GP	A
27	KO 17.30	Northampton Saints GP	H

January

3	KO 15.05	Exeter Chiefs GP	H
9	KO 20.00	Castres Olympique EPCR	A
16	KO 20.00	Edinburgh Rugby EPCR	H
23/24/25	KO	Gloucester Rugby GP	A

February

6/7/8	Sale Sharks PC	A
14 KO 15.00	Bristol Bears PC	H
21 KO 16.30	Exeter Chiefs GP	A
28 KO 5.00	Gloucester Rugby GP	H

March

6/7/8	PREM Rugby Cup SF EPCR	
13/14/15	PREM Rugby Cup Final EPCR	
20/21/22	Saracens GP	H
27/28/29	Sale Sharks GP	A

April

3/4/5	EPCR Round of 15 EPCR	
10/11/12	EPCR QF EPCR	
17/18/19	Harlequins GP	H
24/25/26	Northampton Saints GP	A

May

1/2/3	EPCR SF EPCR	
8/9/10	Exeter Chiefs GP	A
15/16/17	Newcastle Falcons GP	H
22/23	EPCR Final EPCR	
29/30/31	Bristol Bears GP	A

June

5/6/7	Leicester Tigers GP	H
12/13/14	Gallagher PREM Play Offs GP	
20	Gallagher PREM Final GP	

GP = Gallagher PREM / PC = PREM Cup / EPCR = European Cup Rugby / PS – Pre-Season