



BATH RUGBY SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2 SEASON 2025/2026

First of all, (belated) Happy New Year!

We have enjoyed a very interesting start to our season with highs and lows and a bit of nail-biting. It has been wonderful to see our young players having such good games. Congratulations to Vilikesa (Billy) Sela and Louie Hennessey for their first call-up to England and Wales respectively.

I have had some interesting suggestions for future newsletters and am looking into implementing them. Please, please let me have more! Email news@bathrugbysupportersclub.co.uk.

Bath Rugby supporters are wonderful and turn up rain or shine, through good times and bad. We also have many supporters who live quite a long way from Bath, all over this country and even abroad – I met one last year who can only attend a couple of games a year as he lives in the Falklands! I would love to hear from those of you who make a trek to Bath to attend home games or who are avid supporters and can only watch on TV. If you can, tell me why you love Bath Rugby, how long you have been a supporter, how often you watch and any stories you may have.

Is there anything you would like to have included in the Newsletter? Do you have any photos we could use?

Remember to visit the Gazebo which is outside the Swift Half at (nearly) every home game, where you can chat, get information, buy some bits and pieces and find out what is going on with the BRSC.

We have quite a few events coming up, read on to find out more and also see some photos or stories from recent events.

Janeen





Events / Entertainment (1 of 4)

The Gazebo:

A place to meet, greet and find out what is going on!



Beverley, consorting with the enemy...



Huw, with one of our younger 'solo' members



TV stars! Mike and David chat to Flats



Christmas Raffle Prize Winners

Mike presenting Marcus Jenkins with the first prize of a shirt signed (by JVG, Finn & others)



Mike presenting 5th prize of a collection of rugby books to Christian Pavey.



On a very cold Saturday afternoon we served hot mulled wine and mince pies to our members prior to the Saints game..... *not one of our best games, just saying* 😊

Sadly, I have no pictures of ...
2nd prize winner, Philip Edmonds (Limited Edition print of the Rec, signed by Tom Dunn);
3rd prize winner, Nigel Hill, (FOUR tickets to Bath v Bristol Bears on 14th February);
4th prize winner, Douglas Hutchinson (a bottle of Courvoisier Brandy signed by Tom Dunn).



Events / Entertainment (2 of 4)

Meet The Players: Nine players came along in person (plus Chris Harris on Zoom) to meet BRSC members or one should say ?? members came to meet the players! Karen, our Events Organiser, arranged it as a 'speed dating event' with a player at each table so that members could sit at a table chatting to a player for a fixed time before moving to the next table. Everyone had an amazing time and, as this is a regular event, if you haven't attended, try and make sure you do next year.



Meet the Players in the Clubhouse - 17 December

The players who attended this year were:

Santiago (Santi) Carreras (27), a very versatile player as we know, although predominantly plays Full Back or Fly Half. He signed a 3-year deal to join us from Gloucester.

Dan Frost (28), Hooker, joined us from Exeter Chiefs on a 2-year deal.

Chris Harris (34), Centre, joined us from Gloucester on a 1-year deal, as injury cover for Ollie Lawrence.

Bernard van der Linde (25), Scrum Half, joined us from Vodacom Bulls on a 2-year deal.

Sam Winters (Full Back/Wing) is a student at Bath University and a member of their BUCS Super Rugby team. He has made 3 appearances for Bath Rugby.

James Linegar, (Fly Half) is also at Bath University. He has a Senior Academy Contract with the club since early last summer.

Oscar Thomas (Hooker) joined Bath Rugby U18s from London Irish last season and has also signed a Senior Academy Contract.

Isaac Mears (Scrum Half) is studying Sports Management and Coaching at Bath University. He had his first England U18s cap last season.

Enoch Opoku-Gyamfi (No 8 & Lock) is studying Sport Performance, one of the contingent of Bath Rugby players at Bath University. He has already been capped by Italy.

Jack Harrison (Centre) represented Wales at U18 level. He signed a Senior Academy contract last May.

Alex Ridgway (Back Row) earned a Senior Academy contract and has competed in the BUCS Super Rugby tournament.



Events / Entertainment (3 of 4)

The Curfew: We had a small gathering with Munster supporters before the game in December. It was a bit dual purpose as we also used the time to make a presentation to Doug Wigglesworth to thank him for all the great work he had done for BRSC, especially during his time as Chairman. The Munster lads were lovely – although most had made the trip all the way from London!



Swapping gifts



Some of the gathering



Doug and Mike

Rengen House: A new venue for us. Before the Edinburgh game about 80 of us entertained some Edinburgh supporters at Rengen, which was a perfect place to be on a cold, wet, January Friday evening. We received a lovely thank-you from Edinburgh (below) and overheard a comment in the stand later, "Supporters club arranged fantastic pre-match gathering at Rengen which was brilliant!"

Message & pictures received from an Edinburgh supporter



From an Edinburgh fan first of all thanks to the bath supporters club for making us so welcome

Sorry we couldn't bring the fight that your team merited, boys against men is all I felt from tonight, hopefully Edinburgh take that in and get ready for the remainder of our season.

The rec is fantastic and Barbeary is a terrifying specimen



Events / Entertainment (4 of 4)

Bath Rugby Legends: This was, as is usual for this annual event, a great success, hosted by David Trick, a Bath Legend himself! This year he invited Phil de Glanville, Richard Hill and Ruairidh McConnochie to answer his "Tricky" questions – which included some suggested on your booking forms – and share their stories of their days in rugby. Later they answered questions from the floor.



LOOK OUT FOR FUTURE EVENTS

Quiz Night: Tuesday 10th February

A entertaining evening with raffle and prizes. There is also a fun on-line quiz which will go out at 6.45 pm on 10th, testing one's knowledge of Bath Rugby past and present, for those of us who cannot attend an evening in Bath.

Ask the Ref: Tuesday 10th March

This will be hosted by Tony Spreadbury (EPCR Head of Match Officials). Always popular — listen, question & discuss.

Rengen: Friday 20th March

Details to follow !!

Tom Dunn: Friday 3rd July

Black tie Testimonial Dinner in support of Bath Rugby Foundation and Dorothy House.

Player Table = 9 guests and a player

Standard Table = 10 guests

For further information or to book contact

amy@ourlegend.com





Away Trip

BRSC Trip to Castres – January 2026 (Contributed by Chrissy Webb)

Wednesday 7th: A group of BRSC members went on a trip to Castres, organised by Thrive Sports Company. We were met at Bristol airport by Tom Giles who handed us our boarding passes and tickets for the match on Friday night. We arrived in Castres later that day in the dark and rain, and checked into our 4-star accommodation, Le Grand Hotel, which was very central to the small town.

Thursday 8th: A free day started with a hearty and leisurely breakfast, enjoying the great selection. Donning waterproofs most of us visited the tourist office before wandering around the town spotting other Bath Rugby supporters in coffee shops and bars seeking refuge from the wet conditions. Castres is a picturesque town, with many narrow streets, interesting architecture and colourful old houses. The River Agout flows through the middle, earning Castres the nickname of the Little Venice of Languedoc.

Friday 9th – Match Day: As the KO for the match wasn't until 21.00 local time we had most of the day at our leisure. More coffee shops, bars and restaurants were frequented by the increasing number of blue, black and white shirts. Tom had arranged for us to have a meal with the Castres Supporters' Club before the match. They have their own clubhouse and BRSC members were treated to great French hospitality. We had four courses, washed down with red wine and other alcohol. We were lucky that one of our party spoke French very well and was able to translate for us all. We enjoyed a couple of hours in their company then headed over to the match. We did our best to drown out the French drums with 'Come on you Bath' and we became more vocal as the match progressed. We were even heard on the TV! Back at the hotel bar we celebrated our win and some very happy supporters headed for bed.

Saturday 10th: Once again, we had a free day so some ventured into Albi, another small town, and others headed towards the train station for a ride into Toulouse.

Sunday 11th: We woke up to blue skies and sunshine. After our last plentiful breakfast many of us used the time to take more photos of the town, this time in the sunshine and have our last French coffee. We enjoyed the coach journey to Toulouse airport as this time it was in daylight. Flights were on time and we arrived back in Bristol earlier than anticipated.

It was a great trip and very well organised. I enjoyed getting to know other BRSC members and WE WON!





Bath Rugby Ladies



Clea Fawcett, Second Row

The World Cup was amazing! We were told it was the second largest number of spectators at any Rugby World Cup (men or women). Hope you 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 (Bath Ladies Trojans) 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, there are quite a few home games coming up during February and March. Perhaps you could support them by watching one or two?

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





Bath Rugby Foundation

Thanks to your generosity with donations made when renewing or signing up for membership, BRSC has been able to sponsor two students for this season (25/26). This will definitely help with the brilliant work that Bath Rugby Foundation does for the less fortunate young people of Bath. The Foundation has given us permission to publish two very different case histories, showing what the work can achieve for local youngsters. Although student sponsorship is not specific to a student both these students may well have been supported by BSRC.

Case study: Hi5! Club

When Morgan first joined Bath Rugby Foundation's Hi5! Club at just seven years old, he was shy and unsure about team sports. His mum, Catherine, stayed by his side through those early sessions, helping him take the first steps towards confidence.

Through encouragement, friendship, and trust, Morgan began to flourish. Hi5! Club became his safe space - a place where he could be himself, build friendships, and feel part of a community.

Now 22, Morgan is a confident, thriving young man who has become an inspiration to others. From a reserved child, he has grown into a Bath Rugby Ambassador, proudly representing the Foundation in London to receive a national award alongside Bath Rugby players and coaches.

He's also a key member of the Walcot Warriors Mixed Ability Rugby Team, where he continues to push his boundaries, build his skills, and lead by example. His love for Bath Rugby runs deep - he rarely misses a match and cheers louder than anyone when his team plays.

Catherine says, "Bath Rugby Foundation has made us feel supported, both for Morgan as a participant and for us as parents. We feel comfortable leaving him in great care, knowing he is happy."

Morgan's story has inspired his whole family, showing how inclusion and opportunity can change young lives. Once hesitant to join in, he now embraces every challenge with excitement - even discovering a love for new activities like golf through Hi5! Sport and Social Club.



Case study: Advantage

When Bobbi Mai first joined Bath Rugby Foundation's Summer Advantage course, she was unsure about what came next. Like many young people aged 16–25 who are not currently in education, employment, or training, she felt stuck, uncertain about her future and unsure where to begin.

"I didn't really know what I wanted to do," she recalls. "I'd tried looking for jobs but didn't have much confidence or experience to put myself out there."

Advantage is designed exactly for young people like Bobbi - providing a free space where participants can build confidence, gain life and work skills, and take practical steps towards employment or education.

During the course, Bobbi took part in a focused CV writing session led by the Foundation's team. Within just two hours of sending her CV alongside a job application, she had been invited to her first job interview.

"That moment gave me such a boost," says Bobbi. "It showed me that I do have something to offer, and that I just needed a bit of help to show it."

"Bobbi came in unsure but open-minded," says Liam, Advantage Lead. "By the end of the course, she was full of energy, motivation, and belief in herself. That's exactly what Advantage is about - breaking down barriers and helping young people move forward."

Since completing Advantage, Bobbi has attended an interview and is now exploring a college course in Hair and Beauty at College, a career path she discovered after Bath Rugby Foundation helped her uncover her passion and believe in her potential to pursue it.

"I'm really looking forward to starting something new," she says. "Before coming to Bath Rugby Foundation, I wouldn't have had the confidence to even try."

Impact Report 2025

432 classroom teaching hours at The Alternative Learning Hub; 700 nutritious, hot meals for children and young people; 1045 young people with disabilities and learning needs attended Wraparound Support; 1532 young women and girls working with Maddy's Mark to engage in sport; 2354 hours of physical activity delivered to young people and children; 5475 young people supported.



FIXTURES



February

Sun 8 th	15:00	Sale Sharks PC	A
Sat 14 th	14:30	Bristol Bears PC	H
Sat 21 st	16:30	Exeter Chiefs PC	A
Sat 28 th	15:05	Gloucester Rugby PC	H

April

Sat 4 th	15:00	Saracens EPCR	H
10/11/12		EPCR QF EPCR	
Sat 18 th	17:30	Harlequins GP	H
Sat 25 th	17:30	Northampton Saints GP	A

June

Sat 6 th	15:00	Leicester Tigers GP	A
12/13/14		Gallagher Semi Final	
Sat 20 th		Gallagher Final	

March

6/7/8		PREM Rugby Cup SF EPCR	
13/14/15		PREM Rugby Cup Final EPCR	
Fri 20 th	19:45	Saracens GP	H
Sun 29 th	15:00	Sale Sharks GP	A

May

1/2/3		EPCR SF EPCR	
Sun 10 th	15:00	Exeter Chiefs GP	A
Sat 16 th	15:00	Newcastle Red Bulls GP	H
22/23		ECPR Final EPCR	
Fri 29 th	19:45	Bristol Bears GP	A

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





Membership

Our growing membership continues to amaze us - thank you everyone! As this goes to press we have over 1550 members. Tell others about the benefits we enjoy as members of BRSC and the things we offer.

Events: These are often free to members or for a nominal fee. We have enjoyed several events this season and plan quite a few more. As these often sell out make sure you book as soon as possible when you get the email.

Discounts: Beverley is doing a wonderful job for BRSC members and you can find a list of discounts available (ranging from pubs, restaurants and hotels to retail, leisure and various services) on the BRSC discounts page at our [website](#).

Coaches: We put on coaches for many away games (if supported!)

Charity: We support Bath Rugby Foundation – more case studies in the future.

Sponsorship: This year we are sponsoring Ciaran Donoghue and Clea Fawcett (Bath Ladies).

Gazebo: You can come along to the Gazebo at each home game, have a good chat with the committee and buy all sorts of interesting and useful items, and we are always ready to help. Two little stories: ⁽¹⁾ A lady called into the gazebo (after we had packed up) to collect her membership badges, so Gary went to the storage and managed to collect the badges from our boxes so she could have them straight away rather than waiting for another day! ⁽²⁾ A lady emailed Mike (Chairman) asking about the availability of a book "After The Lemons" (written by member Kevin Coughlan). Mike said we'd look for one & forward it by post, unfortunately we didn't have one, but Kevin came to the rescue with a copy that he offered to sign and it was soon on its way!

Hospitality: We entertain or are entertained by other supporter clubs, sharing our love of rugby.

We are looking at holding events in other areas or running coaches from outside Bath. If you think you may be able to help with any of these things please let us know.