SUPPORTERS CLUB

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Community

BATH RUGBY CLUB SUPPORTERS CLUB
SEASON 2026/27
NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1

I started preparing a newsletter in the run-up to the semi-final and was preparing a happy and triumphant issue… However, what will be, will be and we can only hope and trust in the team. Actually, since then, I have rewritten my notes countless times!

It seems a difficult start to the season, with so many Friday evenings and late games, and such a mix of the Prem, Prem Cup and European Cup. I hope many of you can make more games than I can!

We had a very interesting AGM where we heard from Tarquin McDonald about the stadium plans and were able to ask questions. Most of the questions involved seating for season ticket holders. We were assured that this is being given a lot of thought and everyone should be happy eventually. I did smile when Tarquin said that one of the problems was when people asked *not* to sit near the people they currently sit with! Bath Rugby will be sending out lots of updates telling us what is happening and at the moment it all looks good. Of course, it will be difficult for everyone who has to move around when work starts but very exciting!

♥♥♡Congratulations to Liz Neilson, a member for since the 1950's! She was delighted to win the prize of a signed shirt in the renewals draw. ♥♥♡

We have a lot to look forward to and it is great to see so many of our young players being picked to play— and they have been amazing. Chris Lilley, our new President, is very enthusiastic about the young players and right to be so.

Janeen

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Where the faithful belong

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & OUR COMMITTEE

Our AGM took place on 16th September with more than 30 members attended.

Before the AGM we were given two talks, the first of which was from Tarquin McDonald, Tarquin discussed the club's stable ownership, squad continuity, and the challenges posed by the salary cap. He also detailed the stadium redevelopment project, which will see significant changes over the next few years, and emphasized the importance of retaining players and staff. He emphasised that BR will keep in touch with all of us, sending out emails and updates on a regular basis and that BRSC will be involved, particularly with transportation to and from the 'home' games held elsewhere once demolition begins. He reminded us that it will be difficult while stands are demolished and we will have to move around, but it will be worth it.

Sarah Tarling of Bath Rugby Foundation gave a very short talk, just to thank us for our contributions. She told us that our funding is unrestricted, which means that the money can be used to respond swiftly to problems and situations, many involving young people who are struggling.

After a short break the AGM began. We had reports from the Acting Chairman, the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer detailing a significant increase in membership and a healthy financial position.

There was no need for a vote as only one person was standing for each of the vacant positions. We were all delighted to learn that Chris Lilley had agreed to be our President, following John Hall standing down. Chris has so much experience and knows Bath Rugby, BRSC and our young players and comes to the position having already been an Ambassador for our Club.

Mike Elliott(4) is our new Chairman; John Roost(7) our new Treasurer, Janeen Evans(9) our new Secretary and Huw Willetts(5) continues as Membership Secretary. Karen Willetts(12) (Events), Beverley Boss (Discounts), Jon Evans(8) (IT), Gary Passmore(11) and Nicola Curtis also continue on the Committee and Andrew Baldrian(6), Ben Baker(1) (Away Games) and Andy Viveash(3) (Social Media) were elected. We also have Kevin Coughlan(2) as a co-opted member, Clive Hoskins(13) (Examiner of Accounts for 15 years!) and Chris Lilley, our new President(10).



After the AGM we drew the raffle. David Rawlings won a copy of the book "Lemons" by Kevin Coughlan and a bottle of wine signed by Dan de Preez, Janeen Evans won a copy of "Lemons and a bottle of wine signed by Jamie Bhattie and Terri Guymer and Michael Mohan each won a Goody Bag.





JOHN ROOST

In Issue 4 last season we introduced our co-opted members Andy Viveash and Ben Baker (now full committee members) but John's information arrived too late. John was co-opted onto the committee to 'shadow' Mike as Treasurer with a view to being elected Treasurer at the AGM – which has now happened.

John says:

My original sporting interest was with the other shape ball. But after I stopped refereeing soccer matches, and way back in the amateur era, my family and I started to watch Bath Rugby. It was a member's club back in those days and I am probably one of the few left who stood on the old 'flowerpot' stand. I was also present at the meeting in the Bath Pavillion when the decision was made to accept the financial proposal from Mr Brownsword and go professional.

As a family we then purchased three season tickets in front of the West Stand. I now only need one of these seats but most of the people around have also kept their seats and a good atmosphere remains (hope this can continue in the new stadium).

After serving an apprenticeship at the Bath Chronicle I spent my career with printing firms whose main product was books. In 2006 I formed my own small company to offer production services to publishing organisations who required to out-source some of their operation. In 2024 I retired.

I am not a chartered accountant, but my experience provides good bookkeeping skills and plenty of knowledge of dealing with banks and suppliers.

Welcome John!

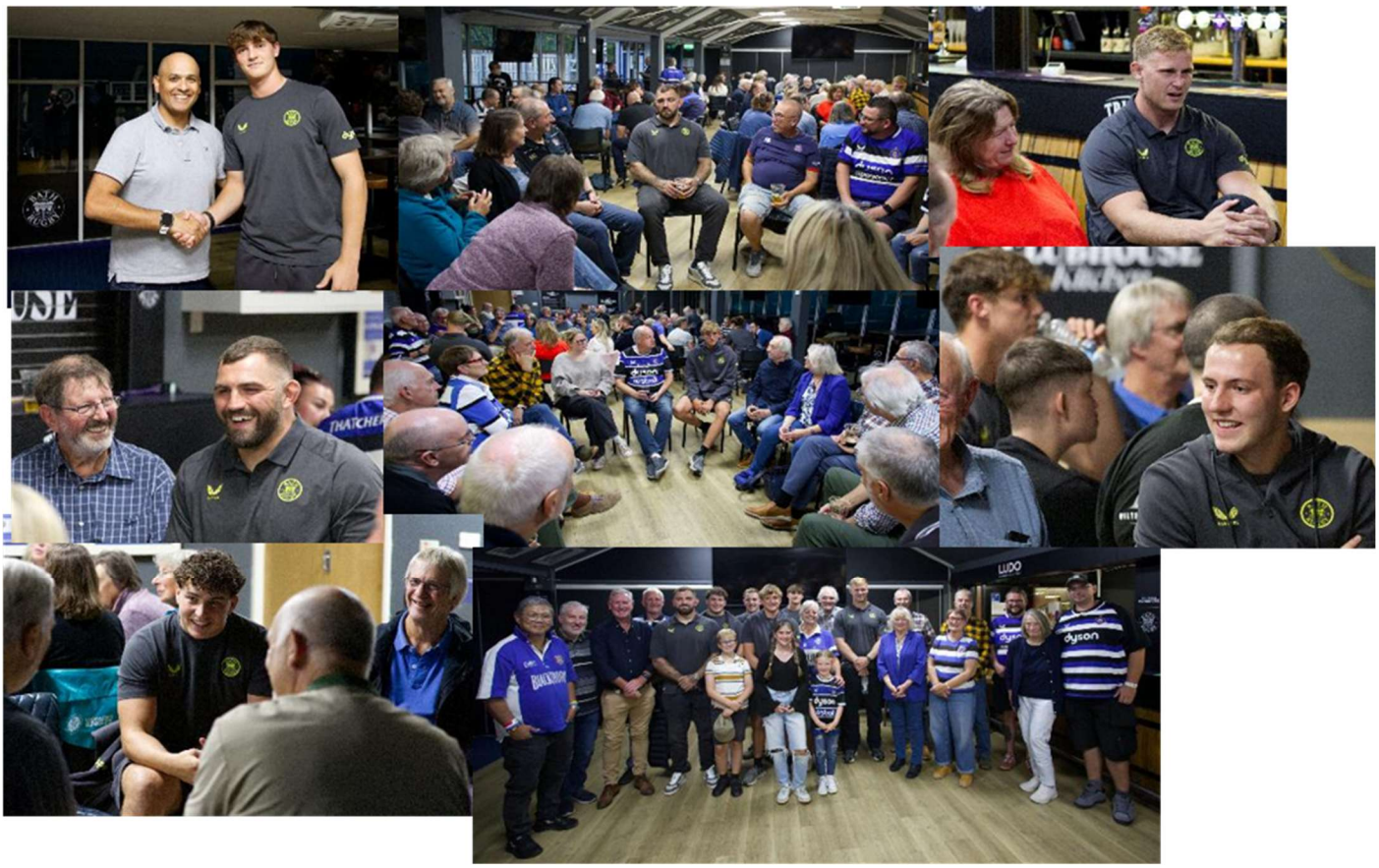
Events

We have lots of events coming up this season and I will try to write about as many as possible. One of the things we are hoping to arrange is another visit to Farleigh House. We were given a tour last July, the tickets for which sold out in no time flat and there is a report of the visit on the next page.

We have already held one successful event: A few pictures below. One of our members sent an email after the event which **Meet the Players** summed up what everyone was saying afterwards.

> *"Just to say a big thank you for organising the event. Really nice to see seasoned pros and the young lads give their time to the supporters. The young lads came over confident and assured and hopefully enjoyed themselves too."*

The players who came to the event were: Jamie Bhatti, Bailey Cutts, Dan du Preez, Max Hooper, Declan Treacey and Alex Yeabsley



Supporters Enjoy Exclusive Visit to Bath Rugby's Farleigh House

from Karen Willetts

More than 50 members of the Bath Rugby Supporters Club were treated to a memorable behind-the-scenes visit to **Farleigh House**, Bath Rugby's iconic training base, on a glorious summer's day.

Hosted by **James Wiltshire, Head of Partnerships**, members were given a fascinating tour of the historic house and its beautiful grounds. James generously took time out of his busy schedule to explain how Farleigh House operates as the heart of Bath Rugby, offering a unique insight into the club's daily activities and the exceptional facilities available to players and staff.

Our thanks also go to **Lel**, who shared an engaging history of Farleigh House, helping members appreciate the rich heritage of this magnificent Grade II listed building and its journey to becoming the home of Bath Rugby.

Walking through the impressive reception hall, members admired the stunning architecture before enjoying one of the highlights of the visit—the display of Bath Rugby's replica trophies, including last season's silverware, a proud reminder of the club's recent success.

The tour continued through the landscaped gardens overlooking the immaculate training pitches, where James explained **Johann van Graan's** meticulous approach to preparation, training and creating a high-performance environment. Members gained a real appreciation of the standards, attention to detail and culture that have helped Bath Rugby be so successful in recent years.

With the Bath Rugby flag flying proudly above the house and the sunshine showing Farleigh House at its very best, the visit provided countless photographic opportunities. The magnificent frontage of the house, the beautifully maintained gardens and panoramic views across the training fields made for a truly unforgettable setting.

The afternoon concluded with a group photograph in the impressive entrance hall—a fitting end to a thoroughly enjoyable and informative visit.

The Bath Rugby Supporters Club would like to extend its sincere thanks to **James Wiltshire**, **Lel** and everyone at Bath Rugby for their warm welcome and generosity in making the day such a success.

We look forward to many more opportunities to strengthen the close relationship between the Supporters Club and Bath Rugby.