

BEACONSFIELD RFC



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

24/25



Chair's report for 24/25 Annual General Meeting



7th September 2025

Welcome

Thank you to all attending this AGM in person at Oak Lodge Meadow or for voting in advance by proxy. The active involvement of members in the governance and running of the club underpins our vision: to ensure that Beaconsfield RFC remains the best amateur rugby club in the local area. The strength of Beaconsfield RFC has always been our sense of shared purpose, and that spirit has never been more evident than this season.

I'd like to thank our Honorary Secretary Fran Kučera for his hard work and assistance in preparing the proceedings for the AGM and the Treasurer, Mike Tackley, for his hard work throughout the season and for preparing the accounts. I would also like to thank the officers of the club, the Committee, Coaches, Age Group Managers and volunteers for their hard work throughout the season. Their dedication sets this club apart.

This has been a landmark year for Beaconsfield RFC: the first ever BRFC Women's 1st XV game was played, there were record-breaking league performances on the pitch, a strong financial performance off it, and continued strength in our volunteer community. From minis to seniors, boys and girls, men and women, Beaconsfield RFC is thriving, and we are proud to be a club for everyone. Whether you want to compete, play socially or just be part of the club environment, there is a place for everyone.

This year marks the end of my tenure as Chairman after four years. I would like to thank every one of our volunteers, coaches, managers, committee members and sponsors who together make this club so special. With that in mind, it is fitting to recognise the outstanding contribution of Mike Wood, who also steps down after sixteen years as President. Mike has been part of the club for six decades as a player, Captain, Chairman and President. His dedication is unmatched, and we are delighted that he continues to serve as Senior Vice President of Bucks RFU. We welcome Mike Hall as President Elect, whose leadership experience at both BRFC and Bucks RFU will serve us well in the years ahead.

As I hand over to Noel O'Mahony, Chairman Elect, I do so with confidence that the club is in safe hands and thriving both on and off the field. Rugby at every level is flourishing, the clubhouse is alive with activity, and our financial performance has improved. That is a huge turnaround and reflects the hard work of the Treasurer, Committee and Commercial team.

Governance

At the last AGM members voted for a more streamlined Committee structure. This has proven highly effective, with sub-committees focusing on rugby, clubhouse operations, commercial and finance while the main Committee concentrates on wider strategy. This has led to clearer decisions and a stronger sense of purpose.

Members will also elect the Chair moving forwards, returning to a practice that strengthens our democratic tradition. Committee members will serve three-year terms, giving them the opportunity to make a full and lasting contribution. This structure allows us to remain volunteer-led but increasingly professional in how we manage the club's affairs.

Finances Report

Executive Summary:

The Club's financial year closed on 30th April 2025, and the auditors completed their audit of the consolidated accounts at the end of August. The auditors have issued a clean audit report, with no material weaknesses identified. The Committee members who are on the Board for both BRFC and T&S met on 2nd September to sign off on the accounts.

The Club has been able to deliver a much-improved set of financials when compared to last season and I will be going through a short presentation at the AGM to highlight the main areas of income and expenditure which has contributed toward this. A high-level summary of which is outlined below:

Financial Performance:

- Income: increased year-on-year by 30%, largely driven by the benefit of Ball income.
- Expenditure: Cost of sales increased by 10% year on year, driven by the Ball costs, but savings have been made on ground maintenance (£35k) and wages & salaries (£25k). Admin costs saw an overall reduction of 16% year on year.
- Profit/Loss: On a consolidated basis, the club made a loss for the financial year, (i.e. after depreciation etc) of just under £10k, compared to a loss of £88k last year, noting the budgeted loss for y/end 2025 was c£25k.
- Cash position: Cash held at year end was £145k, including £73k of restricted funds.

As we now progress through the 2025/26 season, the focus for the Committee is to ensure budgets are in place and can be monitored at a more operational level and therefore, the following projects are currently underway:

Key Initiatives:

- New financial reporting platform in place for 2025: Xero is being implemented to record the income and expenditure for the Club, which will provide much improved efficiency for the Club's financial reporting.

- Setting a strategy for the Club going forward: the Committee are currently working on a strategy paper for discussion with the Club's members. The objective of this is to help define the direction of the Club over the next number of years.
- Use of Restricted funds: as part of the strategy review, the Club will also consider the most effective use of its restricted funds and how this cash should be designated.
- New till system: for both the Bar and the Kitchen, which will allow for improved reporting within the Clubhouse, providing a better understanding of revenues and associated costs.

Challenges:

- Costs still to be incurred relating to the extension of the Clubhouse: Estimated figure currently in the region of £30-£40k. A recent inspection from Building Control has highlighted several issues with the work carried out on the extension for the changing rooms that isn't to an acceptable standard. The Club has been able to pay the Construction Industry Levy of £5.8k and associated interest charges £2k without the need to use any restricted funds. This will be considered as part of the strategy review.
- Revenue generation: the Club still faces challenges in generating money. Whilst we have a relatively stable income from our members, focus should be on increased revenue from Sponsorship and using the clubhouse and grounds to host events. The clubhouse has excellent facilities, and we should be promoting them wherever possible within the terms allowed by our leases.
- RFU Loan balance £84k: repayments of the loan commence August 2026 but accrued interest of c£6.8k falls due in June 2026. The Club will need to ensure that funds are available to pay the interest element on a timely basis and loan repayments, being £949 per month until July 2034 will be captured in future budgets. Given that the interest on the loan is 2%, it wouldn't make commercial sense at this juncture to repay early, unless the outcome of the strategy review defines otherwise.
- Current economic environment: the Club, like many others faces several financial challenges, with cost increases in all supplier goods and recent increases in Employer costs.

Finally, it would be difficult to complete this report without giving my thanks to all those in the Club who support rugby and help to raise much needed revenues. Our Sponsors provide a significant boost to the funds, for which we are incredibly grateful, but it would be great if we could find a few others. Several members of the Club, many of whom are no longer playing, freely give of their time in volunteering at events, covering a wide range of tasks, and do so willingly. Without that support the Club would not survive, so thank you all. I look forward to meeting more of you at the pre-match lunches and other events being held at the club this season.

Mike Tackley

Honorary Treasurer, BRFC

Clubhouse Operations

Thanks go to Roger Levesley for his outstanding work in ensuring the smooth running of clubhouse operations and driving significant increases in revenue. The bar team led by Clinton Lucas and the dedication of Angie Elliott in the kitchen have transformed the matchday and event experience, making the clubhouse a true hub of activity. Jane Wood deserves a special mention for her many years preparing pre-match lunches, which have been a highlight of the club calendar. Her final lunch fittingly coincided with Mike Wood's last President's Lunch, a packed house, an historic 1st XV fixture and the presence of RFU CEO Bill Sweeney.

Sponsorship

The club secured over £55k in sponsorship from local businesses, and we are hugely grateful to all our sponsors. Special thanks go to our headline sponsors Doctor Now and Oakwood Estates, whose generous support makes a tangible difference on and off the pitch. Player sponsorship, led by Luke Davis and Dan Wilson, also played a vital role. These partnerships are more than financial support; they are collaborations that connect the club with the wider community.

Social Committee

The Social Committee once again brought the clubhouse alive with well-organised and well-attended events. From the Sportsman's Dinner and comedy nights to the quiz evening, these occasions not only strengthened our finances but reinforced our reputation as a welcoming, lively club. Thank you to all those who contributed their time and energy to make these events a success. In particular; Noel O'Mahony, Nick Stroud, Zoe Crone, Roger Levesley, Tina Moore and Russ Whitlock.

Marketing and Communications

Our volunteers have worked hard to keep members engaged through social media, photography, match reports and newsletters. This work makes the club attractive to our membership and followers, and we are grateful to Alex Watson, Rhys Amos, Richard Gommo, Olivia Sargent, Russ Bolton, Luke Davies and Ross Thorburn for their efforts. Improving consistency and effectiveness of communications will remain a key focus moving forwards.

Membership

A huge thank you to Mike Tackley for doing an excellent job with the membership. Membership in SportMember at the end of the 2024/25 was down by 3% overall compared to the previous year but still up 7% on 2022/23. The main driver for this slight reduction appears to be in age groups where concerns around concussion and injury might have been heightened as a result of negative reports in the media.

Membership Type	24/25	23/24	+/-	22/23
Mini and Youth	496	582	-86	473
Y2S	58	51	7	54
Bobcats	13	10	3	6
Ladies	15	0	15	0
Student members	71	74	-3	77
Senior Members	92	75	17	68
Coaches	131	130	1	126
Life members	31	31	0	31
VP	23	26	-3	44
Social	112	97	15	97
Club official	11	10	1	8
	1053	1086	-33	984

This year, the Committee has agreed on a small increase in membership fees. The price of BRFC membership remains very competitive compared to other local clubs. A 15% members discount (reduced from 20% due to cost pressures) will be in place in the bar but social membership fees will remain unchanged at £50 to encourage even more supporters to join us on the touchline.

Safeguarding

Beaconsfield RFC takes the safety and well-being of all players extremely seriously. Our Safeguarding Officers Andy Galligan, supported by Rachel Harmen, have worked hard to ensure we uphold the highest standards, giving parents and players the confidence that rugby at BRFC is safe, welcoming and inclusive.

Grounds

Our grounds continue to be a source of pride, thanks to the work of Groundsman Ben Taylor and Committee member Matt Jordan. The installation of a new irrigation system on the 1st XV pitch this summer has already shown its worth, keeping the playing surface in top condition. This is more than just maintenance: it is a long-term investment in quality rugby for all sections of the club, from minis festivals to senior league matches.

BRFC 1st XV

The 1st XV had a truly outstanding season, finishing 4th in Regional 2 Thames — the highest league position in the club's history. This is a remarkable achievement given we were promoted into the league only two years ago.

Under Head Coach Russ Bolton, with support from Aled Lewis, Lee Goodall and Manager James Taylor, the team built on the momentum of their unbeaten 2023/24 campaign and the Papa John's Regional 2 South Shield victory in 2023.

The season began in style with a powerful away win at London Irish Wild Geese, followed by victories against Teddington, Old Priorians and Aylesbury. The squad combined physicality up front with pace and creativity behind the scrum, and showed resilience in one of the toughest Regional 2 leagues.

In late November, a narrow loss to Belsize Park ended a 28-match unbeaten streak stretching back to March 2023 — a run that will live long in club memory. The squad regrouped quickly, finishing with 13 wins and 9 losses in a highly competitive league where only three points separated 4th from 6th place. This consistency underlines how far the side has come and the exciting potential for seasons ahead.

Perhaps most pleasing is that 10 or more of the 1st XV were regularly home-grown players, graduates of our minis and youth system. Few clubs at this level can match such a connection from grassroots to senior rugby, and it is a source of huge pride.

Women's Rugby – A Historic First Match

Friday 25 April 2025 will forever be remembered at Beaconsfield RFC as the night our Women's 1st XV played their inaugural fixture against the Buckingham Swans. A huge thank you to Wendy Boyde, Women's Chair, and the coaching team led by David Rendell who made this possible.

The evening had a special sense of occasion — jerseys hung in the changing rooms with handwritten notes and roses, music playing, and anticipation building. Led by captain Charlotte Wright, the team stormed onto the pitch determined to make history.

That moment came in the second half when Zara Martin, a proud original Bobcat now studying at Loughborough, cut through the defence with a perfectly timed dummy and sprint to score Beaconsfield's first-ever senior women's try. The crowd erupted, teammates embraced her, and coaches shed tears of pride.

Adding to the occasion, Beaconsfield alumna and England legend Rocky Clarke — the most capped player in English rugby history — stepped onto the pitch for Buckingham. Her presence linked the club's proud history with its exciting future.

The support from the sidelines was phenomenal, and thanks to our sponsors, this was more than a game of rugby — it was a celebration of progress, inclusion and the beginning of a new era for women's rugby at BRFC. With the recent appointment of England internationals Poppy Cleall and Connie Powell as BRFC Women's Head Coaches we are confident that this season's Inner Warrior league will help the team get to the next level.

BRFC 2nd XV

The 2nd XV also had their best season ever, finishing 4th in Counties 2 Berks/Bucks & Oxon East. Led by Max Wright and Luke Davies, and coached by Nick Martin, the squad combined commitment and consistency to provide vital depth for the club and a stepping stone for younger players moving up. Impressively, 12 of the 2nd XV are home-grown players, another success story for our pathway. We can look forwards to the coming season with confidence. As Nick Martin would say "Vamos !!"

Bandits & Returning Students

The Bandits kept Friday night rugby alive under Finlay Currie, and with player numbers growing, plans are in place for a more regular 3rd XV.

This year also saw the return of the traditional Good Friday Students' Match, played as a three-way with A&C and Henley. Alumni returned in numbers, reconnecting with teammates and even lending a full front row to our rivals to ensure the games went ahead. It was a proud reminder that once you're part of BRFC, you're always part of the family.

Youth Rugby

The Youth section remains strong, with over 200 players and nearly 100 fixtures played despite weather disruptions.

- U16s went unbeaten in their OBB league and lifted the County Cup final away at Chiltern.
- U15s rebounded from early setbacks to win the Bucks Plate.
- Colts faced challenges with numbers but finished with silverware at Grasshoppers and six county representatives.
- U14s hosted a successful 7s tournament; U13s regularly fielded two teams.

The link between youth and senior rugby is stronger than ever, with senior players coaching junior squads and three Colts making senior debuts this year. The Youth-to-Senior pathway is thriving.

Minis Rugby

This season the Minis were chaired by Nick Stroud, who worked tirelessly to support the section and coordinate fixtures. From next season, Jim Brunt and Tina Moore will step into the role, already leading recruitment drives through school fêtes and flyers to attract new players. They are being expertly assisted by Ollie Perry, England U18 coach.

Highlights included:

- The U12s cementing themselves as one of the strongest squads in the region, winning festival honours and lifting the Leicester Tigers Challenge Bowl.
- U11s–U9s developing strongly, showing great spirit despite kit shortages and recruitment challenges.
- U8s and U5s welcoming new players and families, setting the foundation for future success.

The Autumn and Spring Minis Festivals brought over 2,000 players to Oak Lodge Meadow, a testament to the scale and strength of our Minis section. Huge thanks to Davenies School for sponsorship and to all the coaches, AGMs and volunteers for delivering another brilliant year of mini rugby.

Bobcats (Girls Youth)

Numbers remain a challenge across U12–U18 and a fresh start is required. With the launch of the Women's senior side, girls now have a complete pathway from minis to senior rugby. With the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 now under way, and with a very strong women's coaching representation across the club we can be optimistic that more girls will join Beaconsfield RFC to play the game.

Touch Rugby

Thanks to Mark Holmes, "Touch For All" continues to thrive with three to four matches running most Sundays throughout the summer. It brings together minis, youth, seniors and parents – showing rugby at Beaconsfield is truly for all.

T1 Rugby

Alongside Touch, this season also saw Beaconsfield RFC embrace T1 Rugby, a fast-paced, non-contact format of the game that focuses on speed, handling and decision-making. T1 is accessible to players of all ages and abilities, whether seasoned players looking to sharpen skills or newcomers wanting to try rugby in a safe, inclusive way. A huge thank you to David Rendell for getting this up and running.

Finally, I would like to thank the outgoing members of the Committee for their hard work and to wish Mike Hall, Noel O'Mahony and the incoming Committee every success in the future.

Kind regards,

Dr Laurence Sargent

Chair, BRFC

BRFC 1st XV 2024/25



#	TEAM	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	London Scottish Lions	22	19	0	3	854	376	478	19	2	97
2	H.A.C.	22	18	0	4	732	289	443	16	4	92
3	Belsize Park	22	17	0	5	691	468	223	13	3	84
4	Beaconsfield	22	13	0	9	679	583	96	13	4	69
5	London Irish Wild Geese	22	13	0	9	638	572	66	13	3	68
6	Old Priorians	22	12	0	10	620	609	11	15	3	66
7	Grasshoppers	22	10	0	12	679	662	17	14	4	58
8	Teddington	22	8	0	14	572	724	-152	13	4	49
9	Marlow	22	8	0	14	488	687	-199	13	3	48
10	Aylesbury	22	5	0	17	566	879	-313	14	6	40
11	Hemel Hempstead	22	5	0	17	488	866	-378	9	5	34
12	Old Haberdashers	22	4	0	18	456	748	-292	9	8	33

Overall record



13 Wins
0 Draws
9 Losses

Total points scored

30 points on average per game
4th of 12 in Regional 2 Thames

679

Total points conceded












583




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BRFC 2nd XV 2024/25



#	TEAM	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	 Henley II	20	20	0	0	858	179	679	16	0	100
2	 Rams III	20	13	1	6	683	342	341	13	2	70
3	 Marlow II	20	13	0	7	572	508	64	9	1	64
4	 Beaconsfield II	20	11	1	8	518	536	-18	12	2	62
5	 Maidenhead II	20	11	1	8	557	455	102	9	2	59
6	 Tadley	20	11	0	9	702	525	177	14	1	59
7	 Amersham & Chiltern II	20	9	0	11	457	477	-20	10	0	37
8	 Slough	20	8	0	12	519	563	-44	10	2	34
9	 Hungerford	20	5	0	15	290	554	-264	2	1	24
10	 Newbury II	20	4	1	15	398	566	-168	8	2	13
11	 Thatcham	20	3	0	17	161	1010	-849	2	0	-6

<div>Overall record</div> <div><div>18 Matches</div><div>9 Wins 1 Draws 8 Losses</div></div>	<div>Total points scored</div> <div> 28 points on average per game</div> <div> 4th of 11 in Counties 2 Tribute Berks/Bucks & Oxon South</div> <div>518</div>	<div>Total points conceded</div> <div>536</div>
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