# Battersea Ironsides Rugby Football Club Management Committee (MC) Report 2022/2023

## **Introduction**

The Club Management Committee along with the Senior Men, Women's Committees have all worked incredibly hard to ensure the Club continues to run as effectively as ever whilst looking after the interests of all our members and always working hard to find ways to improve and progress in every part of the Club.

Numbers of players continues to increase as we benefit from a wide catchment area but principally, we believe it is our ethos and passionate belief in Rugby's core values that continue to attract players and families to our club. We are proud to have a long-standing reputation for being one of the most fun sociable and inclusive clubs around as well as having an incredibly supportive volunteer and parental base.

Our facilities are modest by many standards but our ambitions to improve the grounds and infrastructure at Openview are resolute but frustrated by complex constitutional matters. We are now even more determined than ever to resolve these, and we are currently taking proactive action to do so. Nevertheless, the exceptional rugby success we have seen during the season is testament to the quality of our coaching and the ambitions we have as a club to constantly improve.

Finally, our grateful, thanks to not just committee members, but all our fantastic volunteers who have worked so hard throughout the season for the benefit of so many young people in this club and its wider community.

## **Rugby Success**

#### Senior Men

Led by Alex Hadley and Shane Cooney, along with the rest of our coaching staff, our Men's teams continued to develop our mindset to become:

- The most positive team in the league
- The hardest-working team in the league
- The most welcoming team in the league

This mindset has helped us to continue to put out 5 regular Men's senior teams this season, as well as our vet's (over-35) team and a U23 occasional side. This effort has been led by our 5 Men's captains: Euan Chess, Dan Hyde, Ross Lynam-Carter, Alex Pedersen & Chris Burslam-Dawe as well as our Vet's Captain, U23's Manager and Fixture Secretary, Paddy Flynn, who

have all been key in ensuring our members could play as much rugby as possible. This has sometimes been in trying circumstances as our fellow clubs are still struggling with availability post-COVID, leading to multiple games cancelled at short notice.

Paddy has been instrumental in getting matches played wherever possible. As a result of this Surrey Rugby awarded Paddy their Game On Champion award this season to recognise his efforts in this regard. Similarly, Wendy Price, our Clubhouse Manager was also recognised by Surrey Rugby with the Chairman Award for, among other things, creating a wonderful, welcoming atmosphere at the club that has encouraged our players to create bonds and friendships on and off the field both this season and for many seasons previously.

This welcoming, positive mindset along with hard work both in games and in training has led to a season of success for the Men's section.

Following our promotion two seasons ago to Level 6, this season our Men's 1XV were competing in the newly renamed and restructured Regional 2 South East league. After a slow start to the season, losing 4 out of the first 5 games, the players dug deep, and we ended up finishing a creditable 5th in the league – our highest position to date. Notable highlights included a resounding home win over eventual league champions Horsham and doing the league double over second-placed Farnham with an aggregate scoreline of 95-31.

However, it was in the inaugural Papa Johns Cup where the team really showed their promise, putting together a winning run that included victories over the three teams that finished immediately above us in the league to win the Regional 2 South Plate with a 18-3 victory over Reeds Weybridge in the final.

Thank you to all the club members who travelled to Saracens' StoneX Stadium to provide incredible support and watch Marcus Bailey, a youth section alumnus and our captain for the day in place of the injured Euan Chess, lift the trophy. You far outmatched any other team both in numbers and volume!

Our other Men's senior teams also continued to reflect the continuing success of the club by all finishing in the Top 4 of their respective leagues. Special mention should go to the Men's 3XV who under the leadership of coach Pete Donell and captain Ross Lynam-Carter won the Surrey Championship 1 for the second consecutive season.

This success across all our teams has also led to individual recognition at county level with Frazer MacDonald-Lister, Calum Glendinning, Henry Campbell and Oli Davies all representing Surrey Men and Jamie Pender representing Surrey's u22 team.

Finally, we would like to thank the volunteer Men's committee members who are stepping down from their roles:

• Alex Williams - Men's Section Chair

- Tom Pugh Men's Treasurer
- Dan Hyde 2XV Captain & Equipment manager
- Ross Lynam-Carter 3XV Captain
- Chris Burslam-Dawe 5XV Captain
- Peter Wilkin Social Secretary
- Paddy Flynn u23s Manager

Tom has been involved on the committee in various roles for a decade and has our special thanks. Ross is stepping back from the 3XV captaincy to focus on his role as Club Captain and Chris from the 5XV captaincy to become the new Men's Section Chair. We wish both the best in these roles.

#### Women

Another successful season for the Women's section with section numbers continuing to increase this year alongside an increase in coaches - our first season with a full team of coaches led by the outstanding Andy Penniceard.

The Women's section trailed their first season of vegetarian meals, under the guidance of the Sustainability Lead at Ironsides Simon Wardley.

We also had our first successful triple header with Men's teams both home and away at Guildford - and came away with two wins.

#### 1st XV

The first XV started their first season in Championship 2 (2 leagues below premiership) unbeaten. Their 30-match win streak came to an end after an intensely fought match against Wimbledon with a number if our usual players absent.

However, we achieved a notable win against eventual league winners Sutton & Epsom - which I believe is a first for any Seniors side!

We finished the season having won 11 out of 16 games and just 6 points below the eventual winners. This earned us 4th place in this league in our first year.

We're also saying goodbye (for now) to the 1st XV captain Grace after 6 years at the helm. A massive thank you to her for all her efforts and successes over the years.

#### 2nd XV

The 2nd XV has had an outstanding season and have been rightly PROMOTED! From NC3 to NC2 - having achieved 55 points out of an available 60 points in the league - 14 more than last year.

Their strong performance can best be shown in the consistent results, notably the 117-5 win against Tabard - with a special shout out to Fly Half Emma Murray for landing 16 out of 17 conversions in this game.

The team only lost one fixture this season against Ruislip with a depleted squad due to sickness and injuries but beat them convincingly 24-0 in the reverse fixture.

From the whole of the Women's section, thank you to all Ironsides members we see week after week cheering us on at the sidelines (Nigel, Rob and Dickie to name a few). The support doesn't go unnoticed, and we welcome any new faces who'd like to come down and support on a Sunday afternoon.

# Youth Boys

The 2022/23 was another season of growth and development for the Youth Boys section at the club. Going into the new season we now have nearly 50 registered players at Colts level and very strong numbers from U12 through to U15. This means that (possibly for the first time ever) we will be fielding two teams at Colts, U15 and U14 levels. This success in terms of player retention has been built on the fantastic foundation provided by the Mini's section (we call it The Wave from Dave) and the continuing voluntary commitment of coaches, managers, first aiders and others who collectively put in around 500 hours every Sunday across the Youth Section! A huge thank you to you all for making the club what it is.

A particular focus of last season's efforts was on the rejuvenation of the Colts (U17/U18) age group under a new coaching team led by Mick Walsh. Our ambition here is to create a beacon of success to which players in the rest of the Youth section of the Club will aspire, and to strengthen connections with the Senior Men's' section so that our players have a pathway into adult rugby. And by success we don't just mean winning rugby matches (though we obviously do want to do that) but ensuring we provide a supportive, inclusive and honest environment where all our players can develop as rugby players and as young men – and have fun! We see this as the fundamental basis of success on the rugby pitch.

As we move into 2023/24, we are building on this to develop an "academy" model – which we hope over time will support the ambitions of the Seniors to progress further up the leagues. In practice this means our U16s group (who are relatively low on numbers this season) working more closely with our Colts. The aim is to align our coaching philosophy and playing style through the club (taking into account of age and the players' strengths) and to leverage a larger group of coaches so we can be more focused on individual player needs – both for experienced and developing players. Mick has agreed to act as a mentor figure for the Academy – while Phil O'Sullivan has stepped up to lead the coaching team.

We are fortunate also to have some very strong squads coming through the club at U12-U15 levels too. All age groups showed great progress in terms of developing their rugby and gave an

excellent account of themselves in the Surrey Cup Competitions last season. Particular congratulations go to the U13s and U14s (2022/23). The U13 A team were unbeaten for the season and crowned Surrey champions for the second year running, and the U13 B team narrowly lost their Cup final and were otherwise unbeaten all season. Our U14s A team made their second cup final in a row and narrowly missed out on retaining their status as Surrey Champions in a gritty 12-10 defeat to Esher at the Stoop. Our U14 Bs also clinched silverware on finals day – having competed mostly against other club's A teams. Gambling types might want to place a bet on Ironsides Colts in the National U18 Cup in 2026/27!

We also celebrated unprecedented individual success last season. No fewer than fourteen U14s were selected to play for Quins or London Irish (now RFU London) Developing Player Programmes. Congratulations to William Burke, William Courtney, Ollie Cowie, Sebbie Datta, Tom Gillions, Sam Godber, Ted Keen, Fin Meyer, James Stephens, Zack Stringer, Edo Walker, Rory Walker and Jonny Watson! Congratulations are also due to Colts Kanye Jones-Cummings and Daniel Odumeru who were selected for Surrey U18, Finn Walsh and Patrick Dumbili who made the Surrey U17 team, Adam Cowie who was selected for Kent U17s, and Cian McDonagh who was selected for Irish Exiles U17s.

In terms of individual achievements, we were also delighted to see former Ironsider Jamie Miller – stalwart of the famous triple Surrey Cup winning U13s of 2018/19 – progress to represent both Harlequins and England at U18 level. Many of you will recall a commentator saying a few years back in response to Kyle Sinckler's emergence in international rugby that "all England props should come from Battersea Ironsides." Jamie seems to have taken that instruction to heart, and we wish him every success with his future rugby career.

# Youth Girls

We are very fortunate to have two excellent and committed coaches Fiona Sutherland and Amy Chestnutt who worked with coach Robyn Beese, and Susie Al-Qassab this year to build on their successes last season and finished the 22/23 season with a strong and committed core of players numbering around 29.

The U12, U14 and U16 age groups all participated in the Surrey Waterfall Cup. The Girls attended several festivals including at Cobham and Chobham.

The Girls section hosted several successful taster sessions to attract prospective new young players. In the December 'Friday Night Lights with the Red Roses' saw over 50 girls attend and enjoy a great evening of fun and games. England International Rugby stars Bryony Cleall, Rosie Galligan and - England captain - Marlie Packer coached and inspired. That evening the bar

opened for a Q&A in the clubhouse and members from all club sections joined to hear about their experiences as international rugby players.

Two girls' players have been selected for country ERDPP (England Rugby Girls' Developing Player Programme). Congratulations to Nathalie Rolland who has succeeded at recent Surrey trials and is now part of the U16s Surrey ERDPP. And congratulations to Azzura Salam who was successful at Middlesex trials and has been selected for the U16 Middlesex ERDPP.

The club is very grateful to Fiona, Amy, Susie, and Robyn, and the additional support of the women's section in creating a thriving Girls section. The success of their work evidenced by the 36 players registered this season, who have already attended their first tournament of the season and will be competing in the Surrey Waterfall Cup again this season. The club is committed to continuing to support the youth girls' section and wish them all the best for the season ahead.

## Minis

The Mini's season started with an enormous drive by Angus Philipson to train as many ironsides coaches as possible. Bespoke coaches with the RFU were arranged in Sept 2022 with over 100+ coaches trained. We are very grateful to Angus for all his efforts in this area.

The season opened in Sept, with the U5/6 & 7'S Club house. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Toby Wait for his enormous contribution to the Rugby Club and in particular his outstanding efforts with the younger age groups (U5/6) as this is usually parents, kids and volunteers first interaction with Battersea ironsides.

We are also delighted to have secured the football pitch at the Club house every other week so more of our younger children get to play at OpenView. Wendy Price continued to ensure all the Mini's managed to train a suitable venue despite any last-minute cancellations by the Council.

Zoe Goodwin along with all the Age Group Managers and Head coaches deserve a very special mention ensuring that all our kids U7 upwards mange to attend over 40 festivals and tournaments throughout the season.

The Mini Rugby Tour had over 500+ parents and kids visits Butlins Bognor Regis and the Saturday night entertainment arranged by Zoe and the U10's was spectacular.

We currently have over 700 children registered to play rugby between the ages of 5-11 years old and we are indebted to all the parents, coaches, kids, and volunteers for their continued contribution to a wonderful section.

Our inclusivity fund has also ensured that families who may experience difficulty paying for rugby kit, fees or tour has been ever present this season.

Finally, I'd like to thank Charlotte White and all the Mini Managers who regularly collected food donations from their Age Groups. All going to our local food bank at St Andrews Church Garrett Lane, I witnessed for myself the thanks and gratitude of local Earlsfield residents. You are a credit to an extremely generous and thoughtful Community based Rugby Club.

## Financial Strength

Your Rugby Club continues to be in good financial health, with performance reported in the books of Battersea Ironsides Rugby Football Club (BIRFC) Ltd and BIRFC Operations Ltd.

## **BIRFC Ltd**

The Rugby Club has recovered from the pandemic in good health these last couple of seasons. That said, we cannot be complacent. It is important that we maintain a strong balance sheet and cash position to continue investing into our Club and supporting our numerous rugby teams across all grades and age bands. The deficit of £13k recorded this recent financial period to May 2023 reflects a deliberate repositioning to ensure the Club remains well supported and that matches, festivals, tournaments and other events organised by the Rugby Club are both well attended and delivered to a high standard.

The income of BIRFC is like that of last year and continues to reflect that of an industrious and active Rugby Club; training, playing games and entering festivals and tournaments with all their associated costs in coaching, player welfare, buying kit, hiring pitches, etc. The health and wellbeing of our rugby players is paramount, and we have invested significantly here over the last year to the tune of £22k (these initiatives include a high quality professional Injury Management System across the Club with particular emphasis on Head Injury and Concussion issues), which has led to costs increasing from the prior year.

The strength of the balance sheet, built up over the last 10+ years, has enabled the Club to cover these costs and invest in the re-furbishment of the Club House and fund the working capital requirement to set up and run the bar. This investment was capitalised in the prior year as a £90k loan to Battersea Ironsides Sports Operations Ltd (BISOL). Repayments were received for the Club House refurbishment (£15k) and a short term working capital loan (£5k) provided to BIRFC Operations Ltd, reducing the total loan to BIRFC Operations Ltd to £70k. In addition, the Sports Club (BISOL) repaid £7.5k in the year, reducing its total loan monies outstanding to BIRFC Ltd to £78.3k

We note that careful consideration will be given to increasing membership subscriptions across all sections for the 2024/25 season. This is being looked at closely by the Treasurer as part of a broader cost review and process to finalise upcoming budgets with sign off by the Management Committee. There is also committed expenditure this forthcoming financial year which included the 80<sup>th</sup>Anniversary celebration in September 2023, Springfield pitch planning permissions and legal advice to instigate changes in the Sports Club governance. The Management Committee is also considering capital expenditure regarding the Scout Hut where we, as a Rugby Club, are

7 years into a 25 year lease. This lease includes an obligation to refurbish, which is becoming a more pressing need.

#### **BIRFC Operations Ltd**

This is the operating company set up by the Rugby Club to take on full responsibility for bar kitchen and related operations relating to the club house.

The performance of the Operations company has been solid, generating sales of £122,000 although a resulting loss of £15,000 primarily a reflection of the challenges of running a Club House with the current way playing sport on the OpenView site is organised; namely, next to no income coming through the bar over the summer months during the cricket season and our ability to generate income during the Rugby season being severely hampered by the lack of a rugby pitch at Openview. Nevertheless, this financial performance reflects the continued hard work and efforts of Wendy and her team, not only to make the Club House a very welcoming place for our members and guests but also their close attention to cost control and waste reduction.

#### **Infrastructure**

## **Sports Club**

It is worth reiterating that our grounds at Openview are shared between cricket, football and junior sport with rugby making up the 4th part of Battersea Ironsides Sports Club. The grounds are managed jointly with representatives from the four sport sections on the committees of Battersea Ironsides Sports Club (BISC) and its operating entity Battersea Ironsides Sports Operations Ltd (BISOL).

This constitutional arrangement brings considerable complications largely due to the very limited space we have available and issues of overuse of grass areas and competing demands and priorities of the various sports.

In the Rugby Club we remain very committed to developing Openview to its full potential which we see as a redeveloped or new build multi sport clubhouse which the whole sports club can be proud of, and grounds which all three sports can share in an equitable way. To do so, we need to change the way the Sports Club is currently run which will also involve changing the Sports Club constitutions and simplification of its overly complex legal structure. We have reached out to the other sports to share our vision and to work with them on what we see as a joint endeavor. However, at present it is only the Rugby club that has the drive and ambition to make these changes happen and we are working hard to convince the other sports that we are stronger working together.

To this end Battersea Ironsides Sports Club (BISC) held an AGM on 15th November 2022 at which the Rugby Club proposed a motion that effectively stated Battersea Ironsides Sports Operating Company was no longer fit for purpose and that its responsibilities should be

transferred to a company that BIRFC Ltd considered was fit for purpose. The motion was overwhelmingly supported. Subsequently the cricket and football sections have expressed their view through BISOL Ltd that a decision made democratically by members of BISC at its AGM can subsequently be ignored. Rugby however remains resolute in its opinion that the manner in which the sports club is currently run is not sustainable and has now instructed lawyers to explore options to improve matters for the eventual benefit of all the sports sections. We remain convinced that we are stronger as a multi sports club although it seems only rugby has the vision, ambition and capability to initiate change.

## Clubhouse

As Covid restrictions eased it was found the costs to ensure the building was wind and watertight as well as fully compliant with health and safety requirements were substantially beyond the resources of the Sport Club operating company (BISOL). In addition, BISOL advised that they no longer wished to operate the bar and kitchen which had made significant losses in previous years. In view that the Rugby Club is the main Clubhouse user we agreed to fund much of the repair and maintenance work as well as entirely refitting the kitchen which was no longer fit for purpose. The Rugby Club managed the whole project, and the club house was reopened in January 2022, providing bar facilities, team meals and other food provision.

With Wendy appointed subsequently as Club Manager, it is operational and clearly avoiding the significant losses of the past. There are of course inevitable issues not least of which is the widespread shortage of good staff prepared to work in the bar/catering industry. This is especially the case with cooks/chefs willing to work unsociable hours. We also rely on the Sports Club (BISOL) to undertake maintenance of the building which can be a challenge.

Our thanks to Wendy for negotiating staffing issues and working so incredibly hard for us. We do receive a lot of great feedback from visiting clubs who praise our incredibly friendly welcome and traditional rugby atmosphere.

So many congratulations to Wendy for being the recipient of the Surrey Rugby Chairman's Award at the award event in June.

## **Springfield Development**

The Springfield Site is under development, and we remain very committed to securing a rugby pitch, which forms part of the sport provision on this site, as originally planned. As you will have seen, the landscape has been transformed on the site with much open parkland and has been redeveloped with new build housing and hospital buildings.

Our Springfield team is led by Ross Lynam-Carter ably assisted by property expert and ex player Martin Waller and we continue to work collaboratively with Spencer Sports Club and Broomwood FC as we believe there is strength in our community approach and shared resources.

In February a motion was put forward to the membership to approve a maximum amount of £40k plus VAT in connection with planning consent, which would allow a rugby pitch within the Springfield site. The motion was approved and after much work by the team, a pre-planning application has been submitted to London Borough of Wandsworth Planning department. We currently await the outcome and feel confident having held senior level meetings with the council and ensured as far as practical our objectives align with those of Wandsworth.

## The Scout Hut Garratt Green

The former Scout Hut on Garrett Green is a rugby club asset due for refurbishment although Covid 19 put potential plans on hold and further delays have arisen due to the Council's concerns about its structural stability as well as some uncertainty about liability for any structural repairs. Further decisions on the next step will depend on factors including infrastructure investment priorities.

With the departure of key individuals who had worked on this project we are assembling a new team to resolve complex legal, structural, and other issues and to drive the project forward.

As reported above, we hold a 25 year lease of which we are now into the 7th year, with refurbishment held up however now more pressing due to its current state.

## **Volunteers**

We are incredibly lucky to have so many wonderful volunteers in our Club. The fact we are such a successful and highly regarded Club reflects the incredible work our volunteers put into the Club, as well as having so many supportive parents.

Our player numbers at the end of the season were:

- 778 mini players
- 340 youth players
- 24 girls
- 263 senior men and women

In addition, we inevitably have a very large waiting list.

These are astonishing numbers and to manage a Club this size is a huge and complex task. That means we rely hugely on a supportive volunteer base, and we are so incredibly lucky to have such a large number of mainly parents willing to help as volunteers.

At the end of the season, we had in the sections:

• Youth - 135 volunteers

- Minis 212 volunteers
- First aiders 164 volunteers

That does not include all the other volunteers who assist the senior men and women. A huge thank you to all of you - your help is critically important to us. However, there is always room for more assistance and if you think you can help, please let someone know - your age group head coach or manager or any committee member. You might have specific skills and experiences or just energy and passion. Either way you will be welcomed into a fun and worthwhile community. Please do not wait to be asked!

## **Environmental Issues**

Like any organisation, we have a responsibility to our Members and our Community to consider the environmental impact of what we do, what waste we produce, how we use energy, etc. The Committee is of the opinion that Ironsides Rugby Club should set an example to our youngest Members and reflect the concerns of our Youth and Senior Players by thinking of ways to minimise any negative impact on the environment of our activities.

Our grateful thanks therefore to Simon Wardley who for the very first time has endeavored to lead environmental change at the clubhouse on behalf of the Club. Luckily Simon will continue in this position, but I am sure he would appreciate wider support within the club along with any offers of assistance. We remain of the opinion that the Sports Club could be much more engaged, and the Rugby Club is determined to lead the way.

# <u>Other</u>

We were delighted that we had three very worthy shortlisted nominees at the annual Wandsworth Active Awards Dave Watson, Zoe Goodwin and Zac Carr, the latter recently played for England U20s. We were delighted that Zoe picked up the annual volunteer award.

Congratulations also to Paddy Flynn for another Surrey Award the Game on Champion of the season. Congratulations also to both Zoe and Angus Phillipson for worthy nominations in the Honda Volunteer Recognition Programme.

We have organised several social events through the season including Quiz Night, BBQs and of course Big Game 14 at Twickenham.

In addition, the Women and Girls organised the very successful Red Roses night referred to in the Girls report above.

In other events the Club raised the bar in terms of social events. We enjoyed a fabulous evening hosting Jason Leonard at the Club who was an outstanding speaker and brilliant company.

For those who missed the Drag Bingo Night at the Club, this must have been one of the most hilariously funny nights ever held here.

The recent 80th celebration was also an ambitious event to hold at the club due to the scale and potential costs balanced against the number of attendees. In fact, it proved to be a huge success in every way possible reaching the highest level of presentation and organisation we have ever seen at our Club. All those who attended had a fabulous time and our thanks to those who put such hard work into making this a success, as well as other events held this year.

Mention should be made of Zoe without whose ambition, drive and commitment, these events may not have reached the incredible high standards that we have seen this season.

# Management Committee Summary

Just for some context, the Management Committee is appointed in accordance with the Rugby Club Rules and holds board meetings monthly, usually via zoom. Much of the work of the MC concerns the ongoing management and administration of the club with much of the day to day, running off the playing and coaching elements delegated to the four chairs of each section and the senior Men's and Women's Committees. Ensuring the ongoing financial strength of the Club is, of course a key objective.

Some of the additional matters dealt with by the MC included:

- The two year renewal Return2play medical sport specialist which provides a high quality professional Injury Management System across the whole Club with particular emphasis on Head Injury and Concussion issues. The benefits include unlimited access to specialist sport doctors, anytime online appointments and Club training and resource. This service has raised the Club's first aid provision to a new level. Many thanks to Leti and Luke for their outstanding working in driving up first aid standards at the club.
- 2. Complete revision of the Club disciplinary policy now based more closely to the RFU recommended policy.
- 3. Appointment of Wendy Price as Clubhouse Manager reporting to BIRFC Operations Ltd.
- 4. MC sub committees /working parties with MC member involvement primarily:
  - Springfield Trust Development
  - Club Sponsorship
  - Scout Hut redevelopment
  - Clubhouse Operations
  - Rugby /BISOL + BISC
  - BISC/BISOL representation

5. Revision of Club International Ticket Policy making this a more transparent and above fairer process giving all volunteers a better opportunity to obtain tickets. This is also part of a process to revise other Club Policies.

My sincere thanks to all who were part of the MC this season. I have seen at firsthand how committed dedicated and passionate our MC members have been during this year, but I also hope it has been rewarding and fun for them to be part of a great team working for the benefit of this great Club and all its wonderful members.

My thanks to former chairs Tania Nadarajah and Alex Williams who served so well on the MC this year. Additionally personal thanks to Alan Wilkins who has made a truly exceptional contribution by making so many profound and far-reaching changes to the club, particularly regarding governance and constitutional changes, transparency accountability and ensuring our long-term financial strength and security.

Also, Dave Watson our exceptional Mini Chair. Thanks to Dave, the Minis section must surely be one of largest, best organised and most successful in so many ways - in the country. Dave has also led the fight to drive up standards within the whole Sports Club.

Finally, Bob Hughes former player, MC member and rugby rep for the BISOL board doing his best to ensure day to day operations were improved.

Rob Newman Chair