



# PORTSMOUTH RFC NEWSLETTER

December 2017

## PLAYER PROFILE:

**ROB GICQUEL**



**Position:** Second Row  
**Weight / Height:** 112kg / 200cm  
**Birth Place:** Portsmouth  
**Occupation:** Service Advisor  
**Favourite Player:** Paul O'Connell  
**Favourite Ground:** Aviva Stadium  
**Greatest achievement:** My son, Rex  
**Loves:** Travelling, cooking & rugby  
**Hates:** Football, washing up, bad drivers  
**First record:** Eminem  
**Which team do you look forward to playing most and why:** Gosport & Fareham bringing back those winning Hampshire cup memories!  
**Last Try scored:** Weybridge Vandals at home  
**What is your personal aim to this season?** Play more rugby!  
**Favourite food?** Roast Gammon  
**Who is the best dressed member of the club?** Curtis Barnes

**PORTSMOUTH RUGBY CLUB would like to congratulate Rob and his partner Jayne on the birth of their son, Rex!**



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT BY ED NEVILLE

### Rugby

Jim Pearce has done an amazing job leading our team of senior coaches: Jason Ford as lead coach, Matt Farnes backs, James Henriët, Rupert Neville and Dave Duffus. The outcome has been smiles on the players' faces as they have enjoyed a successful and fun filled start to the season. The 1s are currently third in the league and the 2s are second in theirs. The 2s results are particularly important this year as the top two teams will probably play in what will be the equivalent of Hampshire one next year.

The Valkyries are consolidating their position in the new league after promotion but our women deserve immense praise for recently fielding a second team, the Amazons. On that Sunday we put out two teams of 18 players. A great recruiting achievement reflecting the success and fun that they as a group are experiencing.

Well done coaches and managers!

### Re-development

We are still waiting for the Council to complete work on the changing rooms before we take them over. We are updating costings for the new club house extension and gym plus re-build of the junior club house.

We have had meetings with senior RFU representatives who have promised support for us getting a 3G pitch and were encouraging of the suggestion that we might do better to have it on the first team pitch site rather than on the training pitch. We would then have two flood lit pitches and it would be easier to make money renting out the Artificial Grass pitch if we had alternative training facilities. Also we would play our home fixtures under the new extended club balcony on the constantly good playing surface that an AGP allows

### Catering

Ben and Will Wright along with Clinton Ridley have ar-

ranged that the club will not be booked out on Saturdays during the season so that priority goes to the rugby players. There are still a couple of bookings that need to be honoured, but that should work through shortly. Away teams are encouraged to come back to the club

### Junior Club

It will not have escaped your notice that the junior club are now largely located upstairs in the main building. The kit shop and their memorabilia are the visible bits but it is the closer integration of the two parts of our club that is most important! A big step forward!

### Website

Thanks to Rob Jordan we are about to go live on the new website. Could players ensure that their own profiles are filled in. Send whatever you think should appear about yourself (not others!) to Dick Tyrrell

## JUNIOR UPDATE BY GEORGE WATSON

The start of the season has gone well with the move up to the Senior Club. Membership subscriptions are slightly higher than previous years, Junior Section now has over 240 paid-up members (up to Under-16) and over 30 Colts (Under-18s) – and these numbers are still increasing. As always, the early part of the season has seen changes to the management and coaching of various squads, but this is starting to settle down as individuals come forward to volunteer their support to the

club, and the Safeguarding Team (Malcolm Ponsford, Bernie Taylor and Malcolm Long) conduct / process the necessary DBS checks. Our Mini Fixtures Secretary is retiring at the end of the season and we are looking for someone who could give 2/3 hours a week to take on the role, if we have no fixture secretary we have no matches. If you know of anyone that would like to take on the role please contact The Chairman or Secretary of the Junior Section.

There was a very successful Halloween Party, put on in the Senior Clubhouse with the main Clubhouse decorated for the occasion and with organised party games. A big thank you to Louise Morrow and Julie Well for all the organising also a big thank you to Helen Watson and Lesley Giquel for their help in the Kitchen. This was very well attended, and enjoyed by our younger members in a variety of colourful and gruesome costumes, so all-in-all a good start to the 2017/18 season for PJRFC!

## MEMBERSHIP BY DAVID HARRIS

The new Membership cards were Launched in August and we now have more than 300 cards in circulation.

The cards provide an instant 15% bar discount for members with a simple swipe at the till.

They also allow members to preload the card with cash. This facility can be used to help with budgeting and pro-

vides a handy off-switch should the bearer accidentally overdo things!

If you Members prefer to deal in cash, the cards can be used this way too.

If you have paid your membership but not received your card yet, please enquire at the bar where they are held.

The changes in Playing membership payments means

that the costs of playing rugby are now being properly provided for.

There was a lot of discussion, pre-season, around the possibility of losing players because of cost.

In fact both the Playing and Non-Playing Memberships have grown considerably.

## KIT SHOP UPDATE

### AT RUGBY CAMP

Portsmouth Rugby Club has a well-stocked kit shop located upstairs in the clubhouse

Along with Mini match shirts, club ties, after Match shirts, shorts & socks we also carry both branded & basic collection items for both players & supporters e.g. hoodies, T shirts, sweat shirts & much more.

We also have a good selection of items for gifts such as mugs, keyrings, balls & tie pins, not forgetting our club baby grow &/ or bib for your new-borns.

Now the shop is located behind the bar in the senior clubhouse items can be purchased at any-time the bar is open - so don't despair if you've lost a stud or forgotten a gum shield or your socks! - we can usually sort you out!

We currently work with Victory Teamwear & majority of our clothing items are supplied by "Errea" this partnership allows us to offer an online shop - for when we are closed

Follow this link: - <https://www.victorytrophies.co.uk/product-category/clubs-teams/portsmouth-rugby-club/>

Orders can be placed for collection at the club or from: - [Victory Trophies. Portsmouth](http://VictoryTrophies.Portsmouth)

## RUGBY UPDATE BY NIGEL MORGAN

Both our 3rd and Veterans XVs have struggled this season in their respective leagues only winning one game each. However the Veterans defeated Winchester Vets in quarter final of the Hampshire Cup 35-24, in a hard fought game, finally decided by a trade mark try by Matthew

Gronow. They then played Havant Vets away on the 18th November in the semi final which was a hard fought game which ultimately Havant won, 17-8. Havant then went on to host and win the final on Saturday 2nd December against Trojans. After defeating United Ser-

vices 36-0 in the Hampshire Cup quarter final, our 1st team now play Millbrook at home on Saturday 23rd December 1-45pm K.O in the semi final.. The winner of this game will host the final on Saturday 10th February against either Petersfield or Trojans.

## WOMENS RUGBY BY CAROLINE CALVERT-LEE

### History made at Rugby Camp.

Due to the success of the recruitment of new (and some not so new) players, for the first time ever Portsmouth Ladies fielded two teams at Rugby Camp last Sunday (5th November).

The 2s, henceforth known as the Amazons, hosted Winchester in a development game designed to get new players a taste of competitive rugby. The Amazons, ably led by Karen Honeygold (former Valkyries captain) ran out 19-5 winners. With a mix of experienced players returning to the club, current Valkyries and some brand new players, the game provided an opportunity to showcase the development of rugby at Portsmouth.

The Valkyries, have had a good run of victories and hosted Crowthorne full of confidence that this could be their fifth win on the bounce. Ladies rugby at Portsmouth is drawing increasingly larger crowds and the home support for this game was no exception. They were treated to a fascinating, topsy-turvy game of rugby with both teams running the ball, in a way William Webb Ellis would have been proud. The game itself was score and counter score with the Valkyries' forwards, led by Sandra Newsham, consistently attacking the gain line with strong carries. Like two boxers, both teams were out on their feet are giving everything to the game. The Valkyries were three tries up and there was only five minutes left to play.

The Valkyries' defence which had been strong all game started to tire and the Crowthorne back three who had been menacing started to run from deep. Two tries in quick succession with the Valkyries unable to keep possession resulted in an absorbing, and very tense, last two minutes. Inevitably it was the Crowthorne winger scoring the last try of the game. Eight tries to each team and a very entertaining 44-44 draw.

The Valkyries and Amazons would like to thank all the vociferous and vocal home support. The ladies hope to continue the momentum and have another Amazons fixture in the diary in the next couple of months.

AND FINALLY  
FROM ALL OF  
US AT PRFC

