



TEAMWORK : RESPECT : ENJOYMENT : DISCIPLINE : SPORTSMANSHIP

## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER – APRIL 2026 EDITION

Hello, and a warm “spring” welcome to our April edition of the newsletter as we head towards the end of the domestic rugby season.

As is usual, I hope you find the following information useful and would always welcome any enhancement suggestions or relevant announcements from our extensive membership.

### SENIOR PLAYING UPDATE

- Our 1<sup>st</sup> XV has experienced a year of consolidation in the first season playing in a different league. We are currently sat 6<sup>th</sup> in the Counties 2 BBO league with three remaining fixtures to play. It has been a strange season with some opposition teams unable to fulfil fixtures and the wet weather also affecting pitches home and away. This has led to the team going several weeks without matches and the understandable frustrations that this inevitably brings. However, the club hosts a home fixture this weekend (11<sup>th</sup>) v Abingdon RFC at Frank Jose Park who are currently sitting one below Tadley in the league table. This will follow a display of grassroots rugby from the Berkshire Brigands who are a local community team with players that suffer learning disabilities, autism etc. Please come along, support our boys and enjoy the day!
- Looking forward, and now that we have experience of this league and the clubs within, it should hold us in good stead for the next league campaign.
- Our 2<sup>nd</sup> XV has enjoyed an amazing season and I'm very proud to inform our membership that they have been victorious in winning the Counties 4 BBO league in true style with a hard-fought win over Bracknell RFC away from home. Congratulations to Steph Witkowski and Chris Wilkins who have successfully managed this mixed age team through some tough fixtures. Well done all to all involved. Thanks for making us proud!



- Or Social XV (Dads Army) have also graced the playing surface with some fun fixtures since Christmas. This has kept the blood pumping and limbs loose for the elder statesmen and provided some younger players with valuable game time. Apparently, the local pharmacies have reported a sharp incline in Ibruprofen sales! 🍊
- The recent game against The Reading Rhinos was also well-fought and finished in a win for our boys. Keep up the momentum guys!



# Tadley Mini & Junior Rugby

Well, well, well! Look who's still standing after a gruelling winter of rugby! I hope this newsletter finds you all a bit dryer and ready for some sunshine (or at least, less mud).

Firstly I just want to say a massive thank you to all the players, parents and coaches for being adaptable in the face of the extreme wet weather we have faced this year.

It's a tough decision to call any training or games off, but it's been an amazing effort to have trained so much over the winter.

Even on occasion with the help of a bit of extreme gardening.



Our teams have continued to have a competitive and exemplary season, I am always proud of the way that our youth players approach the game.

The mini section continues to develop their rugby skills. Each year new skills / laws are added in to make it that little bit tougher, and it can be a steep learning curve up until junior levels.

Under 7s to 11s, have been out and about competing in tournaments at Reading Abbey, Newbury, Alton.

Under 12, headed off to Havant to take part in the Hampshire festival, setting themselves up nicely for their step up to Junior rugby next season.



The junior rugby teams continue to go well in the Hampshire leagues and cups.

Our U13's and 14's in the waterfall cups, have done well in their respective competitions. While the Under15's after a tough league campaign, found themselves winning through to the Shield final, coming out on top against a Petersfield side.

The colts earned a place in league one this season, coming 5<sup>th</sup>, and running the best teams in Hampshire very close. They still have their cup competition to come in the final few weeks of the season.

With all that being said the End of Season Awards will soon be upon us, this year it's the 10<sup>th</sup> of May. A time to have a bit more fun and maybe a drink or two to celebrate the season, and the efforts of all the teams.

Our mission remains the same, to follow the rugby values of Teamwork, Respect, Discipline, but most importantly have fun and ensure that wherever our players end up, they just keep playing.

Enjoy Rugby,

Mark Chaimbault – Junior Chairman

**END OF SEASON AWARDS**  
**10<sup>th</sup> of May**



**CAR PARK SAFETY**

**Please don't stop and drop off on the way in to the carpark**

This is causing traffic on to the main road. Please drive all the way around to the exit before dropping off

## SOCIALS/EVENTS

- Many thanks to all our over 40 gentlemen who made the effort in February to attend our PSA Prostate Cancer UK checking event held in the clubhouse. In summary, we had 108 attendees of which 9 have been advised to seek further medical opinion. Together, we remain consistent in trying to battle against this cruel illness and will continue with this valued annual event 🙌. Thanks also to the club committee for volunteering to help on the day.



- The AGM has now been diarised and will be held at 19.00pm on Wednesday 20th May in the clubhouse. I encourage all members to attend and use your right to vote on various club roles.
- The Junior Awards day planning is going well and always a highlight to the season. It will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May and as usual, promises to be a fantastic day for our youth section. We have requested great weather and the BBQ 🍖 and bar 🍺 is expected to be busy.
- **Your club needs you!** 🛠 Our annual Working Party Day is also diarised for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July (Independence Day). This is an event where we welcome as many members as possible to come to the club with strimmer's, paint brushes and brooms and have a general "spruce up" to the clubhouse and grounds. Again, the BBQ will be on for the helpers, so come along and support your club please. It really is appreciated!!
- Finally, this is my last reminder to get your tickets for our premier event of the year. The Summer Ball, Senior Presentation night and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party will be held at the club on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May. This is a black tie/Formal dress evening with great food and a live band. Please buy tickets ASAP from Dennis Tucker or ask behind the bar. The cost is £50 per head and will be a fantastic evening.

To all members, players, sponsors and supporters far and wide, I'd like to thank you for continuing to support our community rugby club. It has been another enjoyable season and that is testament to our loyal membership.



Yours in rugby,

**Simon " Nobby" Lapham -Club Chairman – Tadley RFC**