

Issue 6
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Tigers Tribune is the official newsletter of the Cheltenham Rugby Club



Tigers Tribune

Dad's Army gets stuck in to complete Dug Outs

'State of the art' Dug Outs have now been constructed on the Legacy Field thanks to Dad's Army (Newlands platoon), volunteers and with assistance from Club Sponsor Barry Hewer.

It is rumoured that gloves and a cashmere rug will be provided for players, when it gets a bit nippy.



'Skittle Alley no more' welcome to the *Sports Bar*



Incorporating an area known as *Burto's Bar*. The work included the removal of one of the redundant skittle alleys, renovating the remaining alley, new flooring and decoration throughout, modification to the electrics, adding a pool table (with two further windows to be added later this month) The walls of the new *Sports Bar* have been lavishly adorned with the Club's history, including the 125th Anniversary display, together with team photos, stretching back to 1889. Nearly 120 team photographs are on display.



New look to viewing gallery



Yet another project completed during the summer, thanks to Dave Townsend and volunteers. The gallery has been made safe, by a number of improvements, including coping stones replaced and painted in club colours. A magnificent panoramic vista of the Legacy Field and other pitches can now be enjoyed from the gallery.

Neil Loader, Rugby Development Manager said 'he could get a magnificent view of the gallery from the A435 and that he hadn't noticed it before'.

Grateful thanks...

to Towner, Woody, Adrian Heaford, Dave Giles, Dan Townsend, Phil Liebrandt, Tom Bell, Roger Whitfield, Graham Morris, Lesley Jackson, the Men's squad, last years under 13's, the Ladies team ably led by Bee Mocellin and all those that assisted and worked hard for the Club selflessly over the summer months.

Home Fires, Land Girls, Young Archie Lait (who kept us on our toes), the 'silent few', who requested not to be named and especially our sponsors, Barry Hewer, Richard Street, Matt Larnar, Steve New and Ralph Davies.

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Rugby Review from the DOR – Tom James

Pre-Season kicked off at the end of June with big numbers for both the ladies and the men's squads. A strong coaching team was now in place and ready to make the next step in the Tigers future. A new attacking structure was introduced with a focus on developing core skills and a ruthless defence making up the heart of the team.

Mixed emotions were felt at the news of Billy Meakes leaving us, the squad were excited for him, but sad to see such an important member of the tiger family go. We wish him the best and a call up to the Aussie training squad shows he is grasping all his chances with both hands.

Three preseason friendlies and an epic team building Cheltopoly day have given us the foundation to start our season with a bang. Winning two and drawing against a very strong Worcester Wanderers team gave the lads the confidence to win at Stroud. In horrible conditions the boys played a sensible brand of rugby that was perhaps missing last year.

So to the future.....! We have an exciting squad with a strong second team that are pushing the 1st XV, creating competition for places and a headache for selection. Cheltenham Tigers is an exciting place to be and we aim to entertain with a creative brand of football that will



Tom James – Director of Rugby

stretch the opposition. James Hillier leads the team supported by some new additions that strengthen the team. Matt Taylor adds pedigree to the back row and Mike Dodge adds flair to the back line.

Gareth Taylor former captain of Moseley and Head of PE at Bournside School strengthens our coaching team with his extensive attacking knowledge. He has already made a difference in our attack and we encourage you to make him and his family feel a part of the club.

Outside of senior rugby the Minis and Juniors look very healthy under the care of James and his team. We are continuing to support this essential part of the club by investing in coach education and development. These young scholars of the game are the heart of the club and producing technically skilled, physically competent, and morally sound players should form the basis of our philosophy. We have offered up several coaching workshops and there are more in the pipeline, along with the opportunity to complete formal RFU qualifications.

All the above shows the big steps Cheltenham RFC are making as a club both in the community and on the pitch. These are exciting times and urge you to continue with us on this Journey.

Safeguarding at Cheltenham Rugby Club and Newlands Park

Cheltenham Tigers Rugby Club.

The club and I are fully committed to providing the players with a safe environment to play Rugby.

Having attended all the required RFU accredited and certified courses to accomplish this role, I am currently, one of two fully qualified safeguarding officers in role at the club. In addition to the necessary courses run by the RFU, I support my role having in the past served as a Police Officer for many years and have extensive knowledge of the fields of Safeguarding and Child Protection.

The welfare of young people under the age of 18 playing rugby is paramount therefore, like the game of rugby, we like to take safeguarding seriously within the club, we are constantly working hard towards generating an environment for the players to feel safe and of course always have fun.

At all times we are always looking into ways of improving our Best Practice and this includes Safeguarding. Therefore, raising awareness to players, club members and the supporting Community is fundamental to achieving this. We have a duty to ensure that safeguarding children is prioritised and that each child's rugby experience is as good as we can possibly make it.

The Club has its own Safeguarding Policy, Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults

Policy and we follow guidance and procedures adopted from the Rugby Football Union. I carry out the application process for the DBS checks, as all our coaches and parent volunteers are required to have this in compliance with the club's code of conduct. All volunteers are expected to follow the guidelines as set by the club's Safeguarding Policy and the RFU Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.

The great facilities we have at Newlands Park enables the Club to offer its home to the RFU to host Rugby courses and training. Safeguarding, In touch and Rugby Ready courses attract many Coaches, Safeguarding Officers/Assistants and parent volunteers from numerous clubs in the county and neighbouring counties to Newlands Park which in turn provides a great opportunity for our sponsors.

I am committed to supporting the club in the Safeguarding role and look forward to the challenge and the start of the rugby season.

Deb Tierney
Safeguarding Officer
Cheltenham RFC
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Deb Tierney

Off Season

In the closed season, when we all have our feet up Sporting activities continue at Newlands, including a well-attended Monday evening O2 Touch rugby programme, weekly rounders tournaments on Tuesdays, and summer camps for youngsters organised by Peter Buxton.

Additionally a successful **RovinFest Music Festival** in its second year provided rock music and family entertainment in mid July.

Late August we provided free of charge our grounds for the annual **Midcounties Co-operative Gloucestershire Fun Day**. This event raised a staggering **£37,000** for local charities and was attended by over 13,000 people. Record charitable donations being passed onto Cotswold Riding for the Disabled, Longfield Hospice and Forest of Dean Opportunity Centre. Cheltenham Rugby Club continues to be in the vanguard of charitable fundraising for the good of the community.

Otherwise the Club was hired out on most Saturday nights for private functions and is available for weddings, parties, wakes, etc etc. All profits from these events are wisely re-invested back into the facilities for the enjoyment of the community and over 20 diverse organisations.

AGM – a necessary annual event, this year was well attended. Detailed reports from the club officers and presentation of the annual accounts were all surpassed by the attendance of representatives from the GRFU who presented the Club with three accreditations (Mens, Ladies, Mini and Youth) all representing the Clubs outstanding contributions to the game. Many thanks are extended to our entire Management Committee team with special praise going to David Evans, club/administrator and James Critchley, M&Y Chair.



RovinFest Music Festival



Further Support from Grundon Waste Management

Phase 1 of the Changing Rooms project

Thanks to a grant and further support from Grundon, through the Landfill Communities Fund, we were able to install water upgrade work to the showers (hope you now find them hot enough). Their funding also covered all the plumbing and electrical work.

We are most grateful for their generosity.



In Addition

Any comments, suggestions, copy for the next edition or anyone wanting to advertise in the Tigers Tribune please contact David Evans, Cheltenham Rugby Club, Club Administrator
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Tigers Tribune artwork and layout, Danielle Clarke.
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Long standing supporter of the Club through the Landfill Communities Fund

