



Birmingham Bulls RFC

Annual General Meeting 2023 Manifesto Pack

Role	Candidate(s)
Club Chair	David Cumpston
Club Secretary	Tim Marshall
Club Treasurer	Alistair Burford
	Eudmar Marcolino
	Jay Patel
Club Captain	Scott Davie
	Nick Tate
Members' Officer	Andrew Kane
Social Secretary	Ben Camplin
Fixtures Secretary	Liam Barrjones
Sponsorship and Funding Officer	Samuel Hampton
	Artur Szczybylo
Media and Engagement Officer	Alan Whittington
Non-portfolio	Rob Major



Manifesto for Chair

David "Fifi" Cumpston

Who is She?: Most of you will know me as your current Chairman. I was one of those intrepid 4 at the first meeting of the club, and I have held various positions on the committee of our fantastic club having carried out the roles of Secretary and Fixture Sec previously.

Why am I running and why me? This club means the world to me. You might have noticed I'm a bit of a cry-baby, and that is simply because I'm so proud of our achievements over the years. We are fulfilling the vision that the founders had for the club over 12 years ago: That was for a rugby club, based in Birmingham's LGBTQ+ community, that competes locally, nationally and internationally with every other type of rugby club. I have been integral to this, and wish to move us forward. I was an integral part of the Union Cup 23 organising committee, and I hope you all agree that was fairly successful.

My plans:

- Continue to work with other committee members to expand the club through recruitment across the West Midlands
- Build on the UC23 success and ensure the Bulls are known around the West mids
- Work closely with the rest of the committee to ensure our club is well run
- Ensure we get the right mix of local and IGR games. We have already applied for membership of the RFU league structure.
- Work with the new Sponsorship officer to ensure all opportunities are investigated so we can make sure the club is on a sound financial footing, and making the club as accessible and inclusive as possible
- Work with other members of the committee, and our local RFU reps to ensure the coaching of players is improving our standards, in the best facilities we can.
- Continue to liaise with Yardley and District re the new ground for playing and training.
- Development of a Touch Rugby section with the Bulls to further increase participation and as a gateway to contact rugby.

So Remember to vote *David 'Fifi' Cumpston* on 1st of July!

Tim Marshall - running for re-election as Club Secretary

Having joined Birmingham Bulls in early 2018, in 2022 I was elected to the role of Club Secretary. I have organised meetings, taken minutes and ensured that members are registered in our systems and on the RFU's systems, all critical to the role of Secretary, but I like to think I have also made a positive contribution to the committee and the life of the club over the course of the past year. Amongst my skills are strong written and verbal communication and an ability to analyse potential decisions for their risks and benefits - I believe it's important to be prudent whilst making sure we take positive actions to move the club forward.

In 2023-24, I am keen to continue making that contribution whilst being able to build on what I have learnt as Secretary over the past year. I feel that there is an opportunity for the work of the committee to be more transparent and would like to use our existing systems (website, members' social media group) to help keep members up to date more frequently with new developments. I also believe that we need to dedicate time as a committee to ensure that our constitution and policies continue to be fit for purpose and I seek to lead this discussion.

I have very much enjoyed being able to contribute more to the club over the past year - appreciating the fact that my minutes are rather better than my tackles - and hope to be able to continue this in 2023-24.



Club Treasurer

Alistair Burford



I am looking to run for Club Treasurer.

I have been a member of the Bulls for over 11 years and this club gives me life!

Why me?

- I have just spent the last 6 years of my life working towards delivering Union Cup 2023 with an amazing committee. As part of my role as Tournament Director, I had to oversee every aspect of the tournament, including the financial side of the tournament. Not only did I assist in balancing the books for Union Cup 2023 but the tournament generated profit that is being ploughed back into the club.
- As my playing ability diminishes due to be a fat old cow, I want to continue to contribute to the club in more than a playing capacity.
- I am an approachable and visible member of the club.

My Plans:

- Work with whoever is nominated in the Sponsorship Committee role to enter into further sponsorship agreements for the club.
- Engage with the contacts I made during the planning and delivery of the Union Cup to develop further income streams for the club.
- Look into ways to ensure that the club is able to assist in subsidising members to attend Bingham Cup 2024

A vote for Burford is a vote for a proven safe pair of hands (maybe not necessarily with a rugby ball though) !!!

Hello all, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about why I should be your treasurer for the upcoming year. I will start by discussing what makes a good treasurer and then talk about my experiences and commitment to the team.

There are three key skills a good club treasurer must have. They are: be capable of handling figures, have good communication skills and have good attention to detail. I have a great affinity with numbers and mathematical models, experience acquired in my years as a researcher at the University of Bristol, University of Nottingham and University of Birmingham. I applied statistical and mathematical models daily as a Post-doctoral fellow. Additionally, I managed grant money and budgeting for the research projects I worked on, being familiar with standard procurement procedures and financial reporting for the funding bodies. These skills can be transferred to managing the finances of a rugby team.

As a scientist, I have been prone to have attention to details throughout my career. When designing and conducting experiments, paying attention to all the small details is crucial to avoid errors and waste of resources.

In my current work position, I am a Training Manager for an NHS trust. In my job, I manage the training budget for my department. I forecast yearly expenses, write fund release requests, control annual expenses and produce quarterly expenditure reports. I also have to communicate complex data that I analyse to stakeholders through reports and presentations to guide decision-making. This part of my job gave me essential experience that can be applied when reporting the yearly financial summary to the club members and the next AGM.

Finally, to work in a dynamic environment such as science and healthcare, I need to learn new applications, programs and processes quickly, so if the system used by the club is not one that I am familiar with, I am sure I will be able to learn it quickly.

Above all that, I have been with the team for a while and always showed eagerness to help as much as possible. I volunteered to help with social media posts, volunteered to staff stalls on Pride for two years, and participated in team events as much as my job and life permitted. When I heard about this position opening, I saw an excellent opportunity to contribute with something more within my set of skills.

I hope you consider me for the position, and thank you for your time.

Eudmar Marcolino

JAY THE DENTIST

TREASURER MANIFESTO



2023-2024



The Vision?

For the Bulls to continue their glorious success for many more years to come. To have funds readily available for Tournaments, Equipment, Birds Custard inspired kit, Espresso Martinis and anything else the team need.

Why Treasurer?

No idea, I'm dyslexic and shit with numbers. That said just like rugby, practice makes perfect - hopefully one day I'll be able to throw a ball and I'm sure I'll get the hang of the numbers somewhere along the way.

Somehow, I have managed to keep several businesses alive and profitable through Covid19, Brexit and the current cost of living. Meticulous financial planning (and working 7 days a week) has seen my businesses soar where others have suffered. It's not easy, but Pennies DO make the pounds.

The Bulls have given me a family I didn't know I wanted. This is my time to give back to the team using my Business Degree (useless might I add) and experience. If elected, I promise to work closely with the committee to ensure funds are allocated accordingly in the interest of improving the team.

**FREE DENTAL
WORK FOR ALL.
OPEN WIDE, BAB.**

Joining the Bulls has been one of the best decisions of my life, I've had the pleasure of training with most of you for almost two years and have loved every second of it - except for the mud, rain, cold weather and being tackled...

Scott Davie – Club Captain

Who is she?

- Current Scrum-half, vice-captain, and rent-a-gob on the pitch.
- Played at the club for 7 years.
- Currently assisting within the coaching team for the touch season and as backs coach for the contact season.
- Looks cracking in a size 12 pink dress and 4-inch heels.



Why am I running and why me?

- This club has offered so much to me over the years, from getting me through hard times, to building up my confidence and helping shape the person I am today. The Bulls are my family and I want to be able to give something back as one of the (slightly) older and more experienced members of the team.
- Having played rugby for over 25 years (I know, I don't look a day over 21...), and played for a number of different clubs at a range of levels, I feel I have the experience and knowledge necessary to lead and help the club grow, using the success of Union Cup as a platform to build on.
- Having assisted with coaching and on-field captain responsibilities, I would be looking to continue to develop these into the role of club captain.

My plans:

- Continue the excellent work that others have put in over the years to ensure that we stay as one to the best and most successful IGR teams in Europe, with progression to playing top tier rugby at Bingham Cup in Rome 2024.
- Initiate a formal development pathway for new and inexperienced players, linking in with other IGR teams, as a development squad with a graded progression into the league playing squad.
- Continue to improve both the strength and depth of all members with a specific and experienced coaching team.
- Engage with IGR opportunities including Hadrian's Cup.
- Build upon our foundation with the new club house, to incorporate rugby traditions and aid team bonding.
- Engage with other inclusive sports teams in and around Birmingham.
- To support players and fellow committee members.
- To act as a friendly face and someone that you can approach and talk to.



Manifesto for Club Captain

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Introduction – Hiya Bab, I’m Nick or Choo Choo whichever you may prefer. I’ve been a playing member of the Birmingham Bulls for over 4 years and I’m excited to now be introducing my intention and drive to be your Club Captain. I bring my best self to every game, take stock of what I have learned, where our strengths lie, and always try to lead by example.

Why me? – This club has my heart and I value all that it stands for. I’d love the opportunity to carry the team forwards using my interpersonal skills of athlete management, physical conditioning, and group organisation. These are all skills that I use in my current job alongside my passion for rugby and the club. I have worked tirelessly to improve my own rugby skills and game with the knowledge and services provided by the club and would love the opportunity to pass this onto other members. I truly believe I have the qualities and the minerals to carry the Birmingham Bulls RFC forwards on the back of the success of Birmingham Union Cup 2023



My Plans/Proposals –

- To progress and develop new and novice players to game day standard.
- Implement separate forwards and backs coaching for the upcoming season that would ensure that certain position skills are developed at a productive rate.
- Team rebuild for key positions working towards Rome 2024 Bingham Cup.
- Maintain retention of new members to carry them over to contact season, potentially enabling the club to have a development squad for the IGR league.
- Potential of providing Strength and Conditioning plans to players if needed to minimise injury risk during the rebuild.
- Develop and maintain a good relationship with Yardley and District RFC and the people that are involved to run the grounds.
- Help and support other committee members, including social to help with team bonding and making new members feel welcome.

CHOO
CHOO X

About me

I am an Employment Law specialist paralegal with more than 15 years experience. Specialising in litigation, I have supported clients in Employment Tribunal proceedings, up to and including representing them in hearings. I have also advised clients on HR/ER issues and supported on GDPR matters, such as Data Subject Access Requests.

I am employed as a Paralegal Manager in a leading international law firm. I have been with my current employer for more than 9 years. In my role, I am responsible for leading a team of around 50 paralegals, with 7 direct reports. I am responsible for all aspects of the employee lifecycle including hiring, induction and general training, career development, pastoral care and any Employee Relations issues.

I am a former member of my firm's shadow/junior board, which I sat on for 2 years, including throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

I am the Birmingham office rep and a member of the Global Steering Committee for my firm's LGBT+ Employee Network and I sit on the Steering Committee of the Midlands Alliance LGBT+ employee network.

I am a sports coach - I coach Offensive Line for the Birmingham Bulls American Football Club. I played the sport for a number of years before transitioning to coaching.

I play the saxophone and I am currently First Alto with the Birmingham Concert Band, a community band that supports local fundraising events.

What am I looking for

I'm looking for an opportunity to give back through volunteering.

I am passionate about LGBT+ causes. I am an active member of my firm's LGBT+ network (described as a "person of influence" in our Stonewall WEI submission in 2020) and have been part of the Midlands Alliance since its inception. I am also a long-standing supporter of AKT in a personal capacity.

I am level-headed, unflappable and pragmatic. Despite being a legal professional, I don't allow myself to get bogged down in needless bureaucracy. I advocate a real-life, risk-based approach to decision making.

Social Secretary Manifesto

I promise to arrange a varied social calendar for the 23/24 season!

This will be my 4th time sitting for Social Secretary, you may as well let me carry on!

So why me?

I have with the help of our sponsor managed to get your 10% discounts on your phones!

I was tour mom for Union Cup and everyone had a lovely time. I'll happily do the same for Bingham.

I am planning on launching a Bulls Quiz once a month! More info to come if elected 😊

Just vote for me please 😊





Liam Barrjones

MANIFESTO – FIXTURE SECRETARY
23/24

OBJECTIVE

To continue being the Birmingham Bulls Fixtures Secretary



WHO AM I?

THE IRISH ONE WEARING HEADPHONES

I've been with Birmingham Bulls for 8 years and known for my bowling ball antics or listening to music before games. I have finished my second year as Birmingham Bulls Fixture Secretary. Birmingham Bulls was the first ever club I've truly felt supported and given pointers to improve my ability as a rugby player and I want to give something back to the club. I would like to continue to be Birmingham Bulls Fixtures Secretary

22/23 SEASON PERFORMANCE

- Arranged IGR Friendly with Coventry Corsairs & Conwy Dragons
- 80% fixture schedule
- 100% referee allocation
- 100% attendance to games
- Secured post game food at the Safe Harbour post rugby games at Moor Lane

23/24 SEASON COMMITMENT

- Continue 100% fixtures scheduling
- Secure friendly preseason games before merit league begins
- Source food arrangements at new grounds at Yardley & District RFC
- Support Club Captain on arranging IGR friendlies to improve our connections to IGR clubs and our preparation to Bingham 2024 in Rome
- Support the wider club committee on recruitment and other activities we have planned for this season

Sam Hampton

Sponsorship and Funding

As Sponsorship and Funding Officer, I aim to fulfil the crucial role of sourcing funding, grants, and sponsorships, while actively maintaining strong relationships with partners. My vision is to contribute to the growth and success of our club by securing necessary resources and building strategic partnerships.

Having worked on the sponsorship and marketing aspects of the Union Cup over the last five years I worked closely with the Finance and Bid Directors on securing sponsorship, and was responsible for ensuring elements of the sponsorship deals around marketing were upheld and implemented.

Sourcing Funding and Sponsorship Opportunities:

I understand the significance of funding to the success of the club. To secure funding and sponsorships, I will:

- a. Conduct comprehensive research: Thoroughly explore available funding sources, grants, and sponsorship opportunities to identify the most suitable options for our club's needs and aspirations.
- b. Craft compelling proposals: Develop persuasive sponsorship proposals, highlighting the unique benefits and opportunities our club offers to potential sponsors, aligning their objectives with our mission.
- c. Create a sponsorship document which can be sent to businesses to show what the Birmingham Bulls have to offer

Delivering Sponsorship Pledges:

Securing sponsorships is just the first step; it is equally important to deliver on our sponsorship promises. To ensure successful execution, I will:

- a. Coordinate with relevant stakeholders: Collaborate closely with the Chair, Treasurer, and other team members to align sponsorship deliverables with Club objectives and ensure seamless execution.
- b. Leverage digital platforms: Utilize our website, social media channels, and branding opportunities to prominently showcase our sponsors, effectively increasing their exposure and brand recognition, and therefore draw in more sponsorship as a result.

Dear Bulls,

My name Artur Szczybyło, thank you for the opportunity to apply for the position of the Sponsorship and Funding Officer .

I would like to apply for the role as I would like to give back to the club after supporting me over the past 12+ months. I feel this is the next step for me within the bulls to help develop it to the new level.

I managed a volleyball team for 2 years. Which included; Managing tournaments, bringing in sponsors and organising venues. This included organising a volleyball tournament for 20+ teams, marketing the event, collecting monies, liaison with sponsor and all of the tournament participants.

In my professional career as an IT consultant I've been involved dealing with multiple stakeholders and dealing with complex problems. This experience would be beneficial for the role.

I have communicated with the council and commonwealth games committee to bring a beach volleyball Court to the west midlands which is now going ahead! I feel like these actions show the quality and skills required for this role in the committee.

I want to see the Bulls thrive and go to the next level and I am willing to put the effort in to get there! Taking all the above into account I can definitely fulfill the position exceptionally well considering my previous experience and drive for this team!

Best Regards,

Artur

Best Regards

Artur Szczybyło

I am writing to submit my candidacy for the role of Media and Engagement Officer. I have been involved in the team either as a player or photographer since 2015.

Since taking on the role of club photographer I have done what I can to raise the profile of the Bulls by way of sharing images on social media and sharing folders with the committee for use online or for any printed materials. During the run up to Union Cup I began to form a relationship with media partners and have maintained ties with them and other IGR teams since. I have also made contact with the RFU resulting in Bulls being featured prominently on their website and match-day programmes.

As your Media and Engagement Officer I will continue these efforts and work hard to open avenues to promote to Bulls and the work we do for inclusive rugby in local and national media. I will work closely with the rest of the committee to make sure that our media and social media output properly reflect our team values, and contribute positively to the development of inclusive rugby with the overriding message that our game is for all.

I will make sure that high quality images are shared regularly and I will use our social media accounts to:

- Ensure important updates are communicated with the team in a timely way
- Promote and grow the club
- Introduce club members to the wider community/those that are interested in joining by working with members to create profiles that tell your stories with the club

I will also make it a priority to ensure that every active club member has a high quality profile photo for use on Pitchero/club posts.

I believe that we are in a great position post-Union to capitalise on the amazing work done during the tournament. We need to make sure that media outlets are used to keep our team visible as we go into the new season and prepare for Rome.

Kind regards

Alan

Robert Major

For position of Member(s) without portfolio



I have been with the Club for 10 wonderful years as a Player. I have previously been on the committee as fixtures secretary and I'm looking to contribute more again.

I'm Looking to take on the role above to support the Committee members where necessary and help out at Pride/ TMB/ other events where needed.

I see the role as helping specific individuals where needed and taking the lead at events like Pride Recruitment and at our other events to ensure smooth running. My Experience with being Fixtures can assist the fixtures secretary where he needs it

I've had some years of experience at manning the Stand during Pride and being involved in setup and running of events including TMB and Union Cup. Hopefully will be able to continue to support the club in whatever capacity is required.

