

CAMP HILL
RUGBY CLUB LIMITED



Annual Report
Season
2021/2022

Officers and Committees for 2021/2022

Directors

President*	Russell Bowen
Chairman*	Martyn Powis
Vice Chairman*	Nick Freeman
Secretary*	Karen Gibbons
Head of Finance	Iain McConnell

Committee - in addition to those marked*

Head of Playing Affairs	Russ Baker; Stephen Halbert
Minis and Juniors Representative	Simon Fellows
Head of Facilities	Neil Coy
Rugby Safe Coordinator	Julie Nicholas
Club Safeguarding Officer	Katie Lynch; Kelly Pearce; Neill Marshall
Board Members	Stuart Ruff

Officers and Committees for 2021/2022

Senior Teams

	Captain
1st XV	Mitch Lee
2nd XV	Joe Finnan
3rd XV	Phill Damms
Veterans XV	N/A
Ladies XV	N/A
Ladies Touch Team	Emma Thompson-O'Dowd
Mixed Touch Team	Russ Baker
Colts XV	Ben Eades

Senior Coaching and Management Team (contact)

Chairman of Playing Affairs	Russ Baker; Stephen Halbert
1st XV Head Coach	Stephen Halbert
1st XV Manager	Paul Moore
2nd XV Manager	Chris Trivett
3rd XV Manager	Jack Fleming
Men's Fixture Secretary	Team Managers
Ladies Coaches	Richard Bragg; Liam Morrissy
Ladies Team Manager	Sarah Watkins
Ladies Fixture Secretary	N/A
Press Officer	Steve Terrace

Touch Rugby Team Coaching and Management Teams

Ladies Touch Rugby

Ladies Touch Head Coach	Alex Thompson
Ladies Touch Assistant Coaches	Darren Court; John Robins
Ladies Touch Managers	Emma Thomson-O'Dowd
Referee	John Robins

Mixed Touch Rugby

Mixed Touch Head Coach

Russ Baker

Mixed Touch Manager

Alex Cook

Mixed Touch Juniors Head Coach; Assitant Coach

Russ Baker: Vikki Alder

Mini and Junior Committee

Chairman

Simon Fellows

Secretary

Charlotte Poole

Safeguarding Officers

Katie Lynch; Kelly Pearce; Neill Marshall

RugbySafe

Julie Nicholas

Committee Member

Steve Pensom

Committee Member

Russell Beale-Burchell

Committee Member

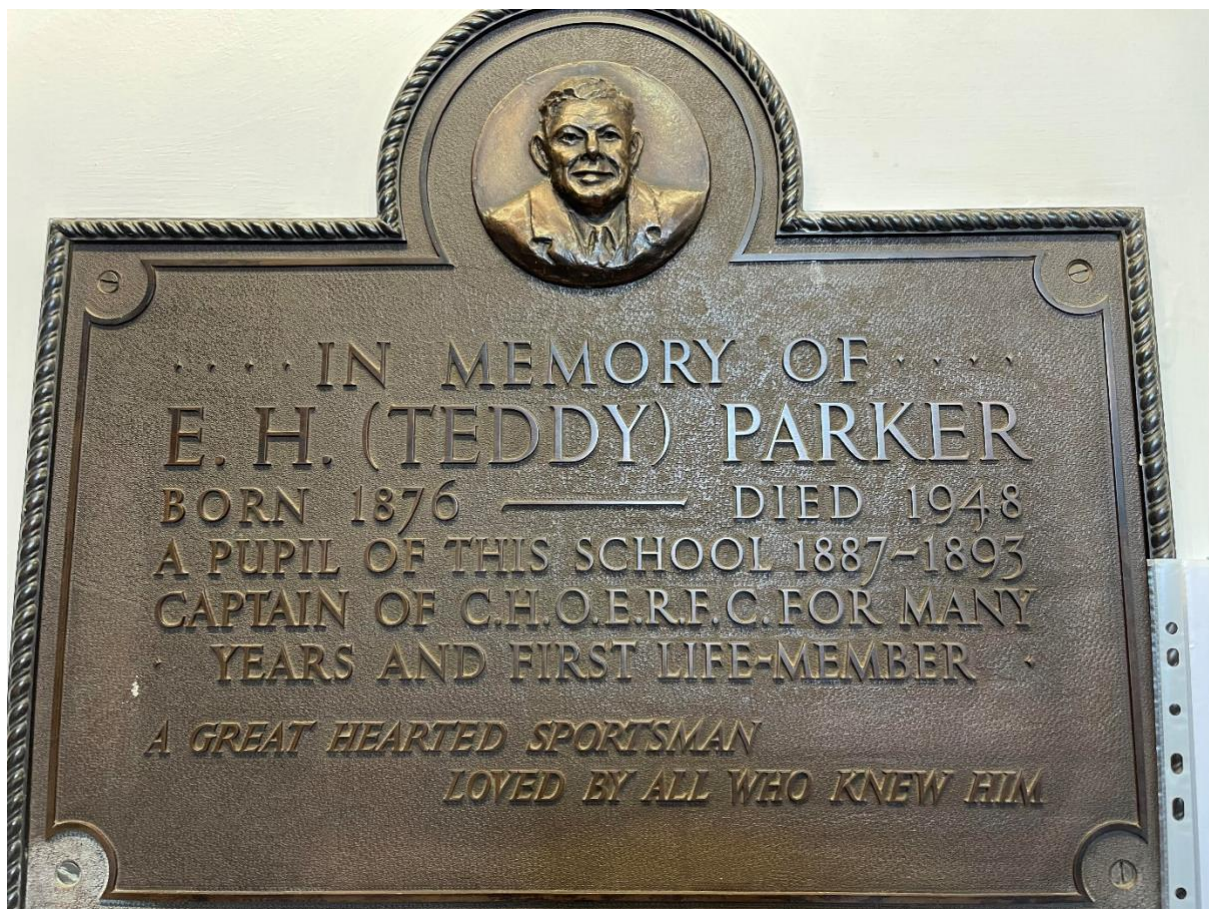
Vikki Alder

President's Foreward

I write to you just a few days after the school's rugby club dinner and I'm delighted to be writing this foreword for the Camp Hill RCL Annual Report 2021-2022.

I'm delighted for several reasons. Firstly, I would like to say what an honour it is, as the new Headmaster of Camp Hill Boys, to be asked to be invited to be the Honorary President of Camp Hill Rugby Club – a Club which has long tradition and association with the school and a Club which seems very much on the ascendancy today. There are few clubs that seem to have that special magical feeling about them, but CHRFC is one. At every visit to the Club, I have very much enjoyed meeting the people involved and I feel the strong sense of camaraderie amongst the members and the warm welcome to all guests, but most of all I feel the strong passion for promoting and enjoying the sport of rugby.

At the recent school rugby dinner, we were honoured to receive our guest speaker, Martin Crutchley, who reminded us of the distinguished history of Camp Hill Old Edwardians Rugby Football Club which was founded in 1893 by a group of school alumni, led by Teddy Parker. By all accounts Teddy was a real character and through his drive, energy and vision he established a spirit in the club which endures to this day. If you haven't been to the school recently, then please consider yourself warmly invited to have a look round and share some reminiscing. In the school hall you can see the plaque which honours Teddy's memory, celebrating him for the "great hearted sportsman, loved by all who knew him" that he was.



This brings me to the second reason that I feel so honoured to be writing this foreword; I am delighted to be able to continue the tradition of Camp Hill School Headmasters adopting the position of Honorary President. I'm told that I am the 12th Headmaster (in 139 years) and because the tradition has remained steadfast, I am also the 12th President. I am delighted that the close connection between school and Club continues to flourish and we were delighted to be invited to hold our staff Christmas Party at Haslucks Green Road.

The close association is no more exemplified than in this season's two sets of fixtures. In the Autumn we saw hearty performances from school and Club sides; so nearly culminating in a draw between the senior school team and the Club Colts. History will show that the school pulled away to victory in the dying seconds, but what is most notable was the deep love for the game shown through the exemplary conduct on the field and the large number of spectators cheering on each and every game. In the Spring Term, some of the school teams who suffered defeats in the Autumn came back stronger again showing real determination and heart and leading to some more nail biting finishes.

Which brings me to my third reason for being so delighted to be writing this foreword. Finally, after two gruelling years, we are seeing the green shoots of recovery from the pandemic, and although we are not out of the woods yet, we have certainly managed to play a respectable season of rugby both at the school and the club. A special mention should go to Simon Edwards (aka Barney), a former School captain playing in his 400th Club 1st XV game in a comprehensive 62-10 win v Stafford. A fitting tribute to a fine Club career.

Sport is a vital part of society – through rugby we learn about respect, resilience, teamwork, support, empowerment, responsibility and improvement. It is no coincidence that these values are a core part of the school's vision for our students and staff. Sport touches all corners of humanity, developing social connections and supporting health and fitness. Never have we needed sport so much, when at the same time it was taken away from us.

I hope that now we can look forward to season after season of successful rugby at school and club level and all the benefits that this will bring to our shared community.

Russell Bowen
President 2021-22

Chairman's Report

After 18 months of lockdowns and restrictions it is good that I can write an annual report about a more normal rugby year.

The Senior Men finished sixth in M2(W) which was a little disappointing especially for the outgoing captain Mitch Lee who had always wanted to achieve promotion. I said in a previous report that we should avoid getting into the habit of not fielding three sides on Saturdays. Despite the best efforts of Playing Affairs, and Jack Fleming in particular, there were too many occasions when we only fielded two. This has consequences; primarily it could reduce our international ticket allocation; and did result in no Saturday home games at times with the associated loss of bar revenue. It ultimately led to not having a competitive side available for a cup semi-final and giving the opposition a walkover. Playing Affairs will be doubling down on this next year to field three sides most weeks and it needs all senior players to get behind that aim.

Elsewhere there is good news. Ladies Touch, Mixed Touch and M&J sections have all seen higher participation numbers; Neil Chambers being selected to represent England Touch v Wales; the club is supporting Solihull Vixens, a joint collaboration with Woodrush, Old Yardleians and Edwardians to provide U12 – U18 Girls rugby; and the Ladies Contact team has re-formed with a view to be playing competitive league rugby in season 23-24.

The M&J Tournament in May was a great success once again and is tribute to the organisers and volunteers for showcasing Camp Hill in such a positive manner. Just as pleasing was the end of season U16 mini-tournament for invited clubs. U16 are at the end of their junior rugby journey and embark on Colts rugby next year. Having an event dedicated to them is special and is something we are looking to repeat.

We welcomed the new Camp Hill School Head, Russell Bowen, as our twelfth president (a tradition that goes back to the founding of the club in 1893) and hosted him and The School boys and staff for Club v School games on two occasions. Bragging rights going to the School but it does underline the continuing strong links between School and Club.

We have continued to invest in the Club facilities. The kitchen equipment has been replaced; the main electrical supply cable replaced; new ladies and gents toilets installed; a second-hand mower purchased; storm-damaged marquee roof and sides replaced. Whilst these were all necessary it does mean the monies to rebuild the facility are diminished. Our objective remains to refurbish the changing facility; enhance the social space, bar and kitchen; and create a community rugby club with a full complement of age-grade & Senior, Men & Women, Touch & Contact rugby teams.

Our Vision remains

**“GRASSROOTS RUGBY AT ITS BEST;
IN THE COMMUNITY, WITH THE COMMUNITY.”**

General ground and clubhouse maintenance activities are carried out by our Tuesday morning CHOGGS team. The team keep the grounds tidy and maintained, and any necessary facility repairs. This year they have focused on several areas including keeping the walkways clear, planting around the carpark perimeter to add some colour, improving lighting along the driveway, improving the layout of the bar area and painting of outside furniture. More of this is planned this summer including planting new trees as part of The Platinum Jubilee ‘Plant a Tree’ initiative.

Once again, we acknowledge our sponsors for their generous financial support; all those who volunteer their time in whatever capacity for this great Club; our kitchen, bar and cleaning staff; and those that serve on the various committees and sub-committees. Without your contribution we would not be able to function as a community amateur rugby club and none of the projects aimed at improving the facilities could have been achieved. I am especially grateful for the support given to me by my fellow directors, Karen Gibbons and Iain McConnell. Thank you all.

Clubman of the Year is awarded to Simon Fellows in recognition of his contribution as M&J head, Thursday night BBQ front-of-house, and the ‘can do’ spirit he brings to the Club. He is a one-off and we are lucky to have him. Well deserved Si.

Martyn Powis
Chairman 2021-22

Senior Men - Rugby Awards

Club Colours	Ian Briggs; Jordan Oliver
1st XV Player of the Year	Not awarded this season
1st XV Player's Player of the Year	Dan Toth
Pete Graham Memorial Award <i>Supporters 1st XV Player of the Year (SPY)</i>	Ian Briggs
2nd XV Players' of the Year	Not awarded this season
2nd XV Most Improved Player of the Year	Not awarded this season
TF Rogers Award <i>Most improved senior male player</i>	Aaron Masterson
3rd XV Player of the Year	Joe Measey
3rd XV Captain's Player of the Year	Not awarded this season
3rd XV Managers Player of the Year <i>The Perrigo Award</i>	Jed Marshall

Touch - Rugby Awards

Ladies Touch Player's Player	Not awarded this season
Ladies Touch Most Improved Player	Not awarded this season
Mixed Touch Player of the Season	Not awarded this season
Mixed Touch Most Improved Player	Not awarded this season
Mixed Touch Best Social Player - Female	Not awarded this season
Mixed Touch Best Social Player - Male	Not awarded this season
Mixed Touch Best Girl	Not awarded this season
Mixed Touch Best Boy	Not awarded this season
Mixed Touch Best Player - Female	Not awarded this season
Mixed Touch Best Player - Male	Not awarded this season
Mixed Touch Player's Player	Not awarded this season

Club Awards

Clubman of the Year	Simon Fellows
Camp Hill Heart - Minis and Juniors	Vikki Alder
Victor Saville Award <i>The individual who has done most to foster links between the Club and Camp Hill School</i>	Sam Satodia

Mini and Junior Rugby Awards

Dave Hawkins Memorial Award <i>Colts XV Player of the Year</i>	Jamie Lynch
Tom Ulliott Award <i>Under 17s players' player of the year</i>	Steve Latham
Colts XV Most Improved Player	Cian Quinn
Colts XV Clubman of the Year	Ashton Masterson
The Lindsay Brent Cup <i>Under 12s player of the year</i>	Reuben Beale-Burchell
The Wally Edwards Trophy <i>The Mini and Junior team that has made the most significant progress</i>	U11s

Representative Honours

Senior Men's Rugby

Hungary
Greater Birmingham

Dan Toth
Dan Toth; Steve Leach

Colts Rugby

Greater Birmingham (U17s)

Josh Pearson; Jobe Simpson; Nick Natress
Louis Fellows; Steve Latham Jnr (selected but unable to play due to injury)

Greater Birmingham (U18s)

Ben Smith; Cian King; Anupran Saha;
Paddy Crump; Jobe Simpson; Jamie Lynch
Oscar Bennett (selected but unable to play due to injury)

North Midlands

Josh Pearson; Jobe Simpson:

Touch Rugby

England U18s
England U18s Training Squad
England 45s
West Wildcats U18s
West Wildcats Women's 35s

Ben Smith; Ben McInness
Sophie Wadsworth
Niel Chambers
Sophie Wadsworth
Emma Thompson-O'Dowd; Maggs Rees-Smith

Playing Affairs Report

With coming out of covid restrictions, we knew this was going to be an exciting but challenging season ahead. Not knowing the number of players we were going to have for all aspects of rugby at the Club this year, it was always going to be a development year.

The senior playing sides were always going to be the toughest part, with senior men's players having other commitments, getting older and just moving away from the Club, this was also going to be a difficult season to retain players.

That said, we have on a number of occasions fielded three sides; on most weekends we have fielded two sides.

The 2nd team has probably been affected more than the first team and 3rd team this season, mainly due to player availability and the standard of league they were in; this is one of the areas of development that we are sorting out as we speak.

The first team came sixth in their league; the second team league was scrapped by the end of the season, due to teams pulling out of matches and the third team made it to the semi-final of their league's cup; the 3rd team had to play some opposition again and again, due to other teams not been able to field sides.

I think this season hasn't been as bad as everybody thinks. If you look around the area and at other clubs, we are still doing better than many, but we still look back on those days where we were able to field five teams and three teams on a regular basis. We will eventually get back to this, we've just got to work harder this coming season to increase numbers and availability; the new leadership structure will enable us to do this.

Touch has been doing well, keeping a good involvement for all who wants to play. Running a mixed, ladies and now an u15s boys and girls teams, we have all bases covered for who wants to join. With representation on regional teams from each group, plenty of things to be excited about with our touch teams.

In Mini and juniors, led brilliantly by Simon Fellows, we have fantastic numbers and that is down to all coaches who give their free time to bring the children through.

Stephen Halbert and Russ Baker
Playing Affairs 2021-22

Club Coach Report

With the new season upon us and Covid taking the past two seasons, we always knew that this could be a difficult year. Reply is getting older and life moving on due to Covid times.

This being said, the start of the season was a very productive start, over the Christmas period this discontinued and then tapered off at the end of the season.

The first team this season did not put out the same 18 once; there have been certain occasions where we have not taken a full 18 either.

Two players only missed one game, that was Myself and Will Wallwork. Dan Toth missed just two.

During this season, there were 12 players who made their debut for Camp Hill; seven of those were previous colts. Their integration into senior rugby came earlier than we wanted, but it was necessary due to numbers.

The team did win more games than we lost. Scoring wasn't an issue, although defence wasn't very good.

We eventually finished sixth in the league, which I believe this season is a fair reflection on where we were at.

We made it to the semi-final of the cup, which unfortunately fell on Easter weekend and we were unable to fulfil the fixture which was massively disappointing.

Plans are already starting to be made about how we will approach preseason and the new season, in light of the league restructure and to develop/grow rugby going forward at Camp Hill .

My thanks to Assistant Coach Ian Briggs and Team Manager Paul Moore for their support.

Stephen Halbert
Club Coach - 2021-22

1st XV Fixtures and Results

September 2021

H	Sat 4, 13:00	Evesham RFC	Friendly	6 – 4	W
A	Sat 18, 15:00	Edwardian FC	Cup	27 – 28	W
H	Sat 25, 15:00	Walsall	League	34 – 40	L

October 2021

H	Sat 2, 15:00	Crewe & Nantwich	League	18 – 13	W
A	Sat 16, 15:00	Leek	League	41 – 29	L
H	Sat 23, 15:00	Longton	League	62 – 7	W
A	Fri 29, 19:30	Moseley Oak	League	21 – 32	W

November 2021

H	Sat 6, 14:15	Newcastle (Staffs)	League	55 – 17	W
A	Sat 13, 14:15	Barkers Butts	Cup	40 – 12	L
A	Sat 20, 14:15	Old Saltleians	League	22 – 71	W
H	Sat 27, 14:15	Stourbridge Lions	League		P

December 2021

A	Sat 4, 14:15	Stafford	League	31 – 12	L
H	Sat 11, 14:15	Tamworth	League	29 – 25	W
A	Sat 18, 14:15	Uttoxeter	League	19 – 33	W

January 2022

A	Sat 8, 14:15	Crewe & Nantwich	League	54 – 7	L
H	Sat 15, 14:15	Leek	League	3 – 57	L
H	Sat 22, 14:15	Stourbridge Lions	League	38 – 14	W
A	Sat 29, 14:15	Longton	League	40 – 10	L

February 2022

H	Sat 12, 14:15	Moseley Oak	League	12 – 24	L
A	Sat 26, 14:15	Newcastle (Staffs)	League	17 – 31	W

March 2022

H	Sat 5, 15:00	Old Saltleians	League	39 – 28	W
A	Sat 12, 15:00	Stourbridge Lions	League	14 – 41	W
H	Sat 26, 15:00	Stafford	League	62 – 10	W

April 2022

A	Sat 2, 15:00	Tamworth	League	21 – 0	L
H	Sat 9, 15:00	Uttoxeter	League	29 – 24	W
A	Sat 23, 15:00	Walsall	League	55 – 10	L

Senior Men's 1st XV League Table

Midlands 2 West (North)

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts	Adj
1	Leek	22	19	0	3	896	338	558	19	2	98	
2	Walsall	22	19	0	3	978	328	650	16	2	94	
3	Moseley Oak	22	16	1	5	700	330	370	13	2	81	
4	Crewe & Nantwich	22	15	0	7	721	416	305	12	3	75	
5	Longton	22	14	0	8	519	520	-1	10	0	67	
6	Camp Hill	22	13	0	9	657	594	63	14	1	67	
7	Tamworth	22	12	1	9	527	483	44	10	3	63	
8	Stafford	22	11	0	11	647	552	95	11	4	59	
9	Newcastle (Staffs)	22	5	0	17	369	740	-371	7	2	29	
10	Uttoxeter	22	4	0	18	277	751	-474	2	4	19	-5
11	Old Saltleians	22	1	0	21	310	896	-586	4	3	1	-10
12	Stourbridge Lions	22	2	0	20	220	873	-653	1	1	0	-10

1st XV Report

Midlands 2 West (North)

P 22	W 13	L 9	D 0	F 657	A 483	Pts 67	BPs 15
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In the wake of covid, the season was always going to bring different challenges. However, I believe that the Club have reacted to this in a positive way.

The performances on the pitch had more positives than negatives and although we did not achieve what we wanted this season, we have achieved an awful lot in terms of bringing through our first crop of Colts; with over 5 of them playing first team rugby and the likes of Aaron Masterson, Tom Sandland and Joe Hunt being first team regulars and really stepping up to the plate.

Well done to Dan Toth and Steve Leach, for representing Camp Hill at Greater Birmingham.

Another well done to Dan Toth, for representing Hungary multiple times throughout the season.

A special mention to Simon (Barney) Edwards for an incredible 400 appearances for the Club. It has been great to play along side him and the competitive edge he gives the team, is second to none.

Congratulations to Jordan Oliver and Ian Briggs on the award of their Club Colours.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the players and the supporters through not only this season, but the seasons I have had the privilege to captain Camp Hill.

I have loved my time at Camp Hill and truly love the Club. It has been an absolute honour and I hope that the Club achieve their ambition, in becoming the best junior team in the Midlands.

Love you lots
Mitch

Mitch Lee
1st XV Captain 2021-22

Development (previously 2nd) XV Report

2021/22 season was difficult for many clubs with the aftereffects of the Pandemic, so is not a season for statistics.

Many clubs struggled to attract competitive rugby players, where the less competitive rugby appeared to be buoyant in many clubs.

At Camp Hill, the team started well being competitive against the merit league competition initially.

As the season wore on, other teams were unable to field teams which made fixtures inconsistent with weeks missing, which seemed to have a knock-on effect with Camp Hill. Meanwhile the First team squad also experienced drops in availabilities as well.

The great positive from the Development team this season, was the number of players that were able to step up in to the first team squad. With some starting to thrive in the squad, giving these players great experience for the future where now we hope they will be able to provide some leadership in the Development team and develop in to the First team squad over the next few seasons.

With the loss of the Merit League structure next season the First team and development squad are looking at what can be done in future seasons to attract and retain more players.

Next season the rugby teams and fixtures are going to look different and we hope to take advantage of this and build a squad where players will have a real chance to advance into Camp Hill's first fifteen.

Chris Trivett

2nd XV Manager 2021 - 22

3rd XV Report

P 20	W 9	L 11	F 371	A 598
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At a time when amateur rugby, with in particular social rugby, is still struggling to deal with the aftereffects of Covid and multiple national lockdowns, it is incredibly pleasing that Camp Hill's 3rd XV are flourishing and continuing to 'entertain' with their own brand of 'rugby'.

Having used 102 players across 20 fixtures, it is easy to see why some results may not have gone our way but, truly, the results are not really what 3rd team rugby is all about (even if a W does make the after-game refreshments taste that little bit sweeter). 3rd team rugby is about piling on to a pitch with your mates, whether this is the first time you've picked up a ball or you've been playing for longer than the internet has existed and playing with a smile of your face from the 1st minute to the 80th.

In my first (competitive) season as 3rd XV captain, I am pleased to say that, despite what the statistics imply, we have been quite successful. We finished 2nd in Group A of the Greater Birmingham Merit League, progressing to the knockout stages where we received a bye in the quarter final before playing away against Birmingham Bulls in the semi-final. In a blistering, end to end encounter that ended 62 – 43, we were knocked out of the competition in what was, for me, our best performance of the season. It's not often a team can score over 40 points and still lose.

I couldn't be prouder of the 100+ players that have pulled on a 3rd XV shirt in the 21/22 season. It has been an absolute pleasure to take the field as Captain and I cannot overlook the fact that this would not have been possible without the unrelenting support of 'Big' Jack Fleming and Russ Baker.

I look forward to (hopefully) having the privilege to do so again next season because let's face it... You could always be doing your shopping in Sainsbury's.

Phil Damms

3rd XV Captain 2021 - 22

Ladies XV Report

As I write, we have now had 20 training sessions which have seen a total of 31 ladies attend at least once. From those 31, 18 have remained, giving us a retention rate 58%, which is slightly above initial expectations.

Key now is continued recruitment, as I feel we need an active squad of 25 to sustain a full competitive season. Various activities have been planned, as we continue to target ladies new to the game at this stage.

That said, we do have a couple of players who have played contact regularly before. The anticipation is that once we start playing fixtures, ladies that have played some rugby before, will see us as a viable team that will give them regular game time.

In terms of training, we are progressing to plan. In most cases, the fundamentals are understood. We now have to develop individual technique and introduce an element of structure and game play.

For the summer and pre-season, we will continue to train Tuesdays and Sundays and expect to drop Sundays for Thursdays once we get into September.

We have now applied to join the Inner Warrior league in September. This is a development platform for new and inexperienced players. I expect this will provide us with 10 fixtures over the season, but I'm hoping to add some 'friendlies' that enable us to be playing twice a month.

In order to be able to enter the RFU leagues proper the season after, we have to show we can honour and safely compete in 6 fixtures. Hopefully this shouldn't prove to be too much of a challenge.

Sponsorship-wise, we have received support from Gallow Glass and the Shirley Round Table. This will allow us to purchase the majority of the kit, but we must continue to seek out further additional financial support if we are to have the resources and equipment, that will enable us to present ourselves as an attractive option for future players.

My thanks to assistant coach Liam Morrisy and manager Sarah Watkins, for their support in getting the Ladies team back up and running at Camp Hill.

Richard Bragg
Head Coach 2021-22

Colts XV Report

In terms of the North Midlands Colts League, 2021/2022 was definitely a season of two halves.

With the divisions arranged into regions for the first half of the season, the Colts had a pretty good start; finishing 3rd in the East Division, behind Lichfield and Silhillians. The team even managed to steal a win against Lichfield, the eventual league winners; 18-14 in their return home fixture.

However, the second half of the season was a hierarchical league based on position and results in the original division. This put the team in the much tougher Division Two South as a result of their success. Unfortunately, this meant that season came to a frustrating end with us languishing at the bottom of the league, despite the laudable efforts of the players. Old Halesonians dropped out of the league into Division Three which just shows how tough and competitive Division Two was.

Putting things into perspective, the Colts were predominantly a team made up of U17s. So overall a relatively young and inexperienced team, playing in an U18s league, but a team with a huge amount of potential.

The Colts managed to progress to the quarter finals of the Tom Walters plate, losing out to Bournville 31-19 who then went on to beat Droitwich in the final.

Seven players achieved representative honours this season for Greater Birmingham with two going on to play for North Midlands U17s which is a great achievement.

Although it has been a challenging year, we are looking forwards to next season with the current U16s both building and growing Colts rugby at the Club, whilst providing a route to senior rugby for Colts.

Jermain Bernard
Colts Coach 2021 - 22

Ladies Touch Rugby Report

(April 2021- March 2022)

Lead coach Alex Thompson, assistant coach and referee John Robins, assistant coach Darren Court.

Our season runs directly opposite to the contact season, and with COVID still very prevalent in March 2021, our league (March- October) was cancelled.

However, the team made the most of the touch rugby 'season'.

We supported the development of a bespoke girls touch rugby training session, in collaboration with mixed touch. The women's assistant coach John Robbins, and several of the women's team players, have supported Russ Baker and Vikki Alder with the girls' team coaching. Older girls will have the opportunity to progress and join the women's team in training and tournaments.

May 2021 saw us attend and win a local tournament at Fiveways, with Clare Freeman voted our Player of the Tournament.

July saw us host a women's tournament with 9 teams and it was a huge success! We were able to put out two strong teams and we ended up with a dramatic all Camp Hill final! In a competitive tournament it was an incredible achievement to have Camp Hill place first and second in the tournament.

The touch national competitions were able to go ahead, with Maggs Rees-Smith and Emma Thompson-O'Dowd playing representing the Wildcats over 35s women's regional team. Sophie Wadsworth played in the junior national championships for the Wildcats under 18 girls regional team. Following an excellent performance, Sophie was then selected for the England Under 18's training squad! Sophie started in our beginners' sessions in 2019, having never played rugby before. We are incredibly proud of her dedication and achievement, and it is a testament to the standard of coaching in the women's team.

With no league, the coaches coordinated a series of mini tournaments splitting our players into three teams – the tigers, the lions and the cheetahs. These were very competitive and high standard intra-club games. We had an incredible 28 Camp Hill women play in these.

We finished what would have been 2021's season with our team dinner, celebrating the commitment, resilience and hard work of the players and coaches this year.

As I write this, we are embarking on our 2022 season, with the league back this year from March 2022 – October 2022. It's great to be back and after the great performances in the tournaments in 2021 and the incredible standard in the intra-club games, we are excited for what the 2022 season will bring!

Emma Thompson-O'Dowd

Ladies Touch Rugby Captain and Manager - 2021-22

Mixed Touch Rugby Report

This season has seen our mixed touch section grow.

Our social side, is growing with the fun element of playing touch, playing in a couple of games and a round Robin tournament. Seeing us winning more then we lost, but everyone enjoying their rugby

Our competitive sides, did themselves proud playing in the Midlands Touch League (MTL) and coming away with a win and a couple of 2nd places.

Our Development Touch Series (DTS) teams struggled in the national competition, but had great exposure to where we would like to be.

We had strong representation in the Midland Wildcats teams both junior and adult, with the same again already happening this season.

We had 3 players that really manage to step up and to great success being elected for England Touch rugby; Niel Chambers, Ben Smith and Ben McInnes have all been selected to represent England at different age levels.

We have a lot of young players coming through and with their exciting development, the future is very bright for Camp Hill Touch rugby.

Russ Baker

Mixed Touch Captain 2021-22

School Report

Results from Club vs School fixtures 2021-2022.

October 2021

- 1st XV won 31- 24
- U15 lost 7-30
- U14 lost 5-70
- U13 lost 30-40
- U12 won 65-50

February 2022

- 1st XV won 41-35
- U15 lost 19-31
- U14 lost 20-40
- U13 won 30-20
- U12 won 40-20

Tom Burgess
Camp Hill School

Finance Report

I took over as Treasurer, with things in really good shape financially after the Club had managed to batten down the hatches cost wise and take full advantage of the available grants with the reduced bar revenue in the previous financial year.

Since the start of the financial year, the Club had re-opened with some restrictions as we tried to get back to some form of normality.

We have begun to spend where needed, to maintain and improve the Club's facilities. Whilst trying to make sure any expenditure is necessary or in line with our future proofing of the Club's planned rebuild; some of which are mentioned below.

The Club invested in a new lawn mower to replace the previous one and to keep the CHOGGS happy.

The car park drainage was a real issue, with the car park and driveway regularly flooding and not particularly pleasant for those arriving or leaving on foot.

The kitchen equipment had come to the end of its life and needed replacing as it was not adequate to deal with the increased volumes; including cooking 500 sausages on a Sunday morning for M&Js.

The Club's electricity supply had become increasingly unreliable and required significant repair for the Club to operate and caused issues with the floodlights. We as a Committee, decided to replace the cabling down the drive with higher capacity required to allow for the new floodlights and any increased capacity required for the future.

Several big storms had damaged the marquee beyond repair. We, therefore, invested in a new robust roof and bolstered the ends with wood cladding to try and prevent any potential damage.

Unfortunately, we were broken into twice. Although we were insured, we still had some additional costs and excesses to pay for damage they caused. We have since made some more robust security measures, to try and prevent this happening again.

Spin the Wheel is still receiving new entrants and nice to see the winning roll overs being spent over the bar.

The full financials will be presented and available at the AGM.

Many thanks

Iain McConnell

Treasurer 2021-22

Bar Report

Since re-opening was allowed under new rules and regulations, we took full advantage of our marquee and outside space; providing table service via the Round app up until August, to ensure bar revenues continued to be maintained.

Following on from this, culturally as a Club we have now become used to being served by bar staff and have not gone back to having volunteers serving behind the bar, the majority of the time.

We are still learning about having the right staffing levels at different times and we ask that the membership bear with us, as we do and appreciate, there will be times when we don't get it right.

On behalf of everyone, we'd like to offer massive THANKS to

- **Donna Moore** for arranging the Bar Team Rota and dealing with all the moaning
- **Stuart Ruff** for what he does running the bar
- **all the Bar Team Members** for their hard work
- **Lou** your Club cleaner
- **YOU ALL** for your constant support.

Iain McConnell

Treasurer 2021-22

Pritchard Dan

2nd July 1972- 26th June 2021

Survived by his daughters, Sam and Holly, Sister Harriet and nephews Archie and Sidney.

Dan, like our Dad, Graham, was a talented sportsman. He could turn his hand to most sports, but he was particularly keen on Rugby, Cricket and in his early years, football.

A force of nature on the Rugby pitch, earning his name as 'Bully' at Camp Hill, playing on the right wing.

His size and speed meant that he was quick and powerful, pushing through, many a try and any defence line. He had a fantastic right foot as well, taking most of the conversions for the team throughout his career.

Dan was an instrumental part of the win in the North Midlands Cup Final against Worcester, in the Centenary year 1993/94.

Dan was also blessed academically and a gifted artist and sculptor.

Dan was taken from us a few weeks before his 50th birthday, one that I had hoped to share with him.

He was taken too young, but his finest legacy is that of his two beautiful daughters and now a grandson too. I know he would have been a very proud Grandfather.

Harriet Pritchard

Sister

Redden, Anthony (Tony) Dennis

14th March 1968 – 26th March 2022

Known by most at Camp Hill as 'Red', Tony passed away suddenly at his home.

Tony grew up in Bournville and attended KE Camp Hill School from September 1969 until July 1977. The Eagle-eyed reader may spot that his time at Camp Hill totalled eight years, rather than the customary seven. The extra year was as a result of a tactical move by the Headmaster who ruled that Tony should repeat his Upper 6th year to break the Redden and Crutchley double act. This proved to be a beneficial move for Tony who, as a talented cricketer, achieved an extra year's School cricket colours.

Red played for CHRFC in the late 1970s and early 1980s and, while not a regular in the senior teams, he gained a reputation as a brilliant tourist and was regularly selected on long-distance away trips. Red was a hard running full-back or winger but his prowess under the high ball, without his specs, left a little to be desired.

Everyone that met Red can relate countless and always hilarious, stories. My personal highlights are indoor Winter Olympics in a Hastings tour hotel, Malta Party '79, getting a van stuck under the low railway bridge on Bournville Lane, watching Scud missiles from the roof of his Riyadh apartment during the Gulf War and the TISWAS cage.

Tony's career was primarily in technology and systems. His first job in this field was with Bass (the brewers) in West Bromwich where the weekly beer allowance was always welcomed. He worked extensively in international sales and lived in Africa and the Middle East. In recent times, Tony became a specialist in cyber security.

Tony met his first wife, Noeleen, in South Africa. They returned to settle in the UK and had a daughter, Jamie and a son, Zack who are now in their twenties. He met his second wife, Janette, in Saudi Arabia. They were married in Kenya, Janette's home country, and returned to settle in Bedfordshire.

Tony was an accomplished golfer and played throughout his adult life. Annual trips to Birmingham to take part in the 'Balti Bowl' helped to maintain contact with his Camp Hill friends, who were well represented at the funeral.

The condolences of all in the Camp Hill community that knew Red are sent to Janette, Jamie, and Zack and to his younger brother, Martin.

Red will live long in the memories of those of us fortunate enough to have known him and certainly for as long as we share old stories over a pint.

Martin Crutchley

Taylor Richard - DIMBO (aka "The BACON")

21st November 1963 to 5th August 2021

DIMBO attended Moseley Grammar School and was introduced to CHRFC in the mid-80s by his PE teacher Keith Scott along with Dennis 'Funky', Kirit Vadukul, Eddie Saunders, Lee Drakeley, Arthur Natta, Clenton Fraquharson, Andy 'BiG Reyno' Reynolds and John McElligot. Keith still has a lot to answer for.

He quickly integrated into the environment and embraced the culture of the Club; being a leading light in the après rugby activities.

One Saturday night he was given the name Dimbleby, in homage to his doppelganger who played the Copper in Spitting Image. The name suited him, and it stuck.

Prior to rugby, DIMBO was an avid Karate exponent; attaining Black Belt 3rd Dan status in Shotokan style, which he unforgettably described as, "Out-and-out attack nutter ba\$tard!".

His impressive physique, competitive nature and boundless energy was soon rewarded by Trevor 'Trooper' Law, who picked him for the First XV at second row – his best position – and he played regularly in the successful renaissance seasons of the late 80s and early 90s before he said; "Auf wiedersehen" and departed to Germany in 1991, armed with his trowel in pursuit of Jimmy Nail.

He returned to the UK in 1997 and immediately re-integrated to the rugby club, where he attempted to play in the back row for another 10+ years.

He was awarded his First XV Colours in season 2002/2003 by Sean 'Mozza' Morris; an honour he was extremely proud of.

When rugby became too much of a strain on the old limbs, DIMBO found golf or a form of golf. He joined his old rugby mates at Kings Norton Golf Club and many more happy and hilarious memories and friendships were forged with frequent fabulous golf/beer/sangria (his downfall) trips to Spain and Portugal and around the UK.

We will always be indebted to him for the truism; "Golf is the new rugby".

He was also an ardent and skilful angler, having once held the Birmingham Recreational Parks record for a pike, 27lb 12 oz caught in Lifford Reservoir. He loved nothing more than spending many hours on the riverbank with his old mate Paul 'Inners' Hinsley; which included a few excursions naked fishing on the River Ebro in northern Spain.

Those who knew DIMBO, know there is much more that could be said, but unfortunately those anecdotes are not really for this type of publication; that includes how he got his other nickname 'The BACON'. Safe to say he didn't bow to peer group pressure ... but was easily influenced by his mates.

Unique human being, great friend, life and soul personality, lunatic, hilarious. A one-off, incomparable character who is sorely missed by anyone who ever met him.

Survived by partner Tracey, son Jack and faithful "ratter" Fin.

Mark 'MAC' McWhirter

Twiby, Paul Anthony ("Oscar")

3rd April 1943 - 14th March 2022

Born Paul Twiby, but known universally by his nickname Oscar, was a Camp Hill man through and through.

He went to The School in 1954 and was there when it moved from the original site to Kings Heath. Towards the end of his school life, he indulged one of his other great passions, music, forming a band with, among others, another Camp Hill legend, Micky Parkes.

Oscar went on to be the singer and front man for the band Scot Free who made appearances all over the local area in the 70s.

Around that time Oscar was more involved in cricket and rugby, following Birmingham City home and away and playing for the Old Boys cricket team during the summer.

At the Cricket Club, Oscar became 2nd team vice-captain in 1970 and went on to be captain in the 1975 and 1976 seasons. He was also Hon.Team Sec in 1979 and 1980 and served on various Club committees.

He, like many other Old Boys of that era, was always a regular at the Rugby Club especially at the thriving social side and he gradually became more involved taking on the role of Publicity Officer in the 80s. From that time onwards he was an integral part of the Club producing the match day programmes and also match reports for the newspaper and, more recently for the website.

He was keen to be involved in all areas of the Club but was particularly supportive of the Ladies section when they became a big part of the Club.

He was elected a Life Member of The Club in 2012 and the home dugout is named in his honour.

Oscar struggled with ill health for a considerable portion of his life, and this started when he was a young man in his prime. Whatever ill-fortune hit him, however, he was always positive in his outlook, never bemoaned his fate and continued to do whatever he could for The Club and his family.

Oscar was one of a kind and is survived by much loved daughter Melanie.

Steve Terrace

