



# ROYSTON RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

The Heath Sports Centre | Baldock Road | Royston | Herts | SG8 5BG

[www.roystonrugbyclub.co.uk](http://www.roystonrugbyclub.co.uk)

**Annual General Meeting – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – 19:30**

**Heath Sports Club**

## **Agenda**

1. Chairman Report
  - a. (inc Vice Chair/club development report)
2. Presidents Report
3. Treasurers Report
4. Mini and Juniors Report
5. Voting for Open Positions (
  - a. Chair,
  - b. Vice Chair,
  - c. Honorary Secretary,
  - d. Treasurer,
  - e. Club Captain,
  - f. Fixtures Secretary,
  - g. Mini and Youth Chair
- 6 Any other business

**President**

**Godfrey Everett**

[president@roystonrugbyclub.co.uk](mailto:president@roystonrugbyclub.co.uk)

**Secretary**

**Alexandra Cantelo**

[secretary@roystonrugbyclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@roystonrugbyclub.co.uk)

**Treasurer**

**Victoria Green**

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## COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

### List of Open Roles

Position	Incumbent	Nominated
President	Godfrey Everett	Godfrey Everett
Chair	Niall Tallis	Niall Tallis
Vice Chair	Mick Clarke	Mick Clarke
Hon. Secretary	Alexandra Cantelo	Alexandra Cantelo
Hon. Treasurer	Victoria Green	Victoria Green
Assistant Treasurer	David Vickerstaff	David Vickerstaff
Fixtures Secretary	Godfrey Everett	Godfrey Everett
Mini & Youth Chair	Bryan Turner	Bryan Turner
Coaching Coordinator	Jamie Green	Jamie Green
Volunteer Coordinator		Vacant
Discipline Secretary	Godfrey Everett	Godfrey Everett
Social Media & Communications		Vacant
Sponsorship Officer		Vacant
Adult Referee Coordinator	Godfrey Everett	Godfrey Everett
International Ticket Contact	David Miller	David Miller
1 <sup>st</sup> XV Captain - Men	Ben Ritsema	Ben Ritsema
1 <sup>st</sup> XV Captain - Women	Jaz Devereux	Vacant
2 <sup>nd</sup> XV Captain - Men	Mike Robertson	Mike Robertson
Club Captain	Tim Illsley-Wilkins	Tim Illsley-Wilkins
Vets Captain	Scott Easy	Scott Easy
Touch Coordinator	Hugh Murfitt	Hugh Murfitt
Safeguarding Officer	Lauren Brain	Lauren Brain
Mini & Youth Fixtures/Referee Sec.	Niall Tallis	Niall Tallis
Women & Girls Coordinator	Dafydd Hudd	Dafydd Hudd
First Aid Coordinator	Tammy Forbes-McNeil	Tammy Forbes-McNeil
COVID Officer	Doug Skinner	Doug Skinner
Webmaster	David Miller	David Miller
Kit Coordinator	Dave Wooley	Dave Wooley
Maintenance Coordinator		Vacant
Team Admin Coordinator		Vacant
Member Recruitment Coordinator		Vacant
Mini & Youth Tour Coordinator		Vacant

President

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## Appendix 1 Chairman's report

Dear Members,

It gives me great pleasure to present my report to Royston Rugby Club for the 2022-23 season. In common with many grass roots clubs, we have had a challenging year but I am pleased to report that the club has remained strong and united throughout.

As always, I want to express my admiration for the coaches, players, volunteers and supporters who have made this season a success. We have seen Royston players representing county and regional teams like never before, testament to the great coaching and team bonds forged on the heath.

The committee has met frequently throughout the season and continues to manage the affairs of the club effectively. The committee has formed a strong team and I thank all members for their support and efforts during the season. The committee wishes to continue it's development of the club but there are always opportunities for talented and passionate individuals to join us and contribute.

This season has seen some new developments for the club such as recruiting a club administrator who will shortly start in role and the acquisition of a minibus which has proved popular with the teams. We have also developed a mental health committee to support our members as a rugby family.

We also completed a project to switch over power supply for the floodlights from the tennis club to our own power. We thank the tennis club and conservators of the heath for their co-operation.

The committee has also dedicated a great deal of time to discussing our future facilities and developing a club infrastructure that reflects our ambitions. I would like to place on record my thanks to Mick Clarke for leading this aspect of our work and he reports the progress made in a separate report.

Our men's senior sides had a mixed season, often fielding young and inexperienced sides, with varying availability often stifling progress made. Despite the difficulties, some impressive results were still obtained. Including winning the Cambs intermediate county cup on an impressive day for the club as two first teams were fielded at the same time!

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The women's senior side joined together with Biggleswade due to the difficulties both clubs had in fielding a full side. We welcome the support of Biggy and hope that both teams can grow and be sustainable in their own right.

Our touch team continues to enjoy a strong membership, with players representing not only the club but also regional and national teams.

Unfortunately we lost our girls section which had flourished over the last 5 years. We plan to relaunch girls rugby with girls leaving the mini age groups this season. Volunteers to lead this section of the club are required.

Special mentions must go to our U16s who, together with Datchworth, won not only their HML league but also the Herts Shield. The Colts won the Herts shield and saw many players playing representative rugby for Herts, Cambs, Eastern Counties and Saracens.

Membership across the mini ages remains strong but some age groups require additional recruitment activity.

Off the pitch, the club enjoyed a great speaker's event with legendary referee Nigel Owens taking centre stage.

In the coming year the committee's priorities will be to;

1. Establish a club development committee to present options for club development to members.
2. Recruit more players for all sections of the club, focusing on the women's and men's senior teams.
3. Reestablish the girls section of the club.
4. Establish a sustainable volunteer base.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all members for their continued support and dedication to Royston Rugby Club. We have exciting ambition for our future development. I wish everyone a happy summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely,

Niall Tallis

Chairman

**President**

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## Appendix 2 Vice Chairs report

### Vice Chair/Club Development Chair Report

### Royston Rugby Club AGM

30 June 2023

#### Overview

For some time now there have been growing issues with the facilities the club has, and as a result the restrictions (and in some cases potential safeguarding issues) this presents.

This report details progress made over the last few months to clarify the key issues, examining how to address those issues and outlines suggested next steps to remedy these issues and achieve longer term security for the club.

#### Facilities Survey

A survey was carried out across the club membership. The results overwhelmingly highlighted the lack of adequate changing facilities and lack of hospitality space as the two main concerns. Whilst some raised pitch playing space, this seemed to be less pressing now given our fall (common across all grass roots rugby) in numbers playing.

#### RFU

I have had 3 meetings with Kieran Spencer (Facility Development Executive at the RFU) to discuss our situation. Kieran's role is essentially to look at how he can support possible development and (in addition to possible RFU funding) lever in other sources of funding and link us in with key statutory bodies (see below).

#### North Herts District Council

Kieran and I met with NHDC Planning department; to outline our situation and discuss possible funding from future developments. It became clear in that meeting that Royston (as an area) was not included in NHDC Strategic Pitch Facilities Strategy document; meaning that any future funding that came from a development (S106 funding) could not go to Royston Rugby Club.

The document had already been finalised, but after making the case that Royston has a large draw catchment area from other parts of North Herts, the Planning department agreed to revise their document and include Royston; meaning we would be eligible to apply for future development funding.

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We also discussed any current or future developments that would have enough space to accommodate our needs within that development; there are none.

I agreed that I would share with planning our proposals for development when they are finalised.

## **The Conservators**

I have had several meetings with the Conservators to discuss our situation. They would have no objection to the club moving but are also willing to explore the development of our own site or a potential land swap.

## **Options**

There seem to me to be 3 options available, and these are detailed below.

1. Relocate to alternative site.
2. Develop (within common land restrictions) current site.
3. Achieve land swap with other common land.

### **Relocate to alternative site**

Whilst in many ways appealing, my conclusion is that this would prove very difficult and would certainly take many years to achieve. In addition to finding land within our required geography (and that would be either gifted us, or sold very cheap), we then have the issue of achieving planning and highways permission. This before the considerable funding needed to build our facilities.

### **Develop (within common land restrictions) current site**

Whilst there is not the possibility (as we are on common land and the conservators have a lease with the Heath Sports Bar) to do a very large development, the Conservators are (in principle at least) open to looking at what we could do with our own existing envelope (changing rooms, 2 containers, etc) by either developing down (as was done with gym area) or one level up.

Whilst it would be difficult to in effect run a bar in competition with the Heath Sports Bar, I believe an arrangement could be made with them re supply for our own function bar/catering.

### **Achieve land swap with other common land.**

This would require finding a piece of land adjoining the Heath that could be used to swap for the area we play and then, with the Conservators and the Planning

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Inspectorate giving permission, swapping these; therefore, we no longer play on common land and have less restrictions.

If we found land, and the Conservators agreed (when discussing this with them they would have some concern that the area we currently use would not be able to allow others to use that space) the process of getting approval would take at least 3 years.

## **Suggested Way Forward/Next Steps**

I recommend moving forward with option 2 (engaging an architect to look at what is possible) and at the same time exploring option 3, in anticipation that a final option is approved within the next 3-months.

Once we have our final option agreed, I would like to establish a small development committee to begin the work of taking this forward.

## **Does the club support this approach?**

## **Action Now on Changing Room Issue**

I would also suggest we look at how the changing rooms we currently have can be made smaller to create an extra changing room; thereby assisting with safeguarding issues. I think this is urgent and could be done at fairly low cost.

## **Does the club support this approach?**

## **Other Areas**

Working closely with Niall, we secured the long-term viability of our floodlights by no longer needing to use the tennis club's power supply.

Mick Clarke

June 2023

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