

# FARNBOROUGH RUFC

HAMPSHIRE'S FRIENDLIEST CLUB



September 2021

**W**elcome to the Farnborough RUFC Club newsletter "Boro Focus".

In the newsletter will you find articles about the club and its management from key Executive Committee members .

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

Stay Safe & Enjoy the issue

ED

## NEWS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Robin Moses

Dear Members,

I hope that all of you and your families and friends are continuing to keep safe and well, and that you have had the two vaccinations, or at least one – and if you have not that you will very soon. Although Covid-19 is still around, it has been good to see much activity going on in the clubhouse (including the bar) and on the playing and training areas.

Training has been taking place for some time now under the watchful eye of new Head Coach Andy James and his assistant coaches – to whom a warm welcome. It goes without saying that it is excellent that proper rugby matches have started (the raison d'être of our Club), with the 1st XV in Hampshire League 1. The complete fixtures list is on the Club website.

The AGM was held at the Club on 12th August 2021, and your Board of Directors/Executive Committee for 2021/2022, as elected at the AGM, is as follows: Chairman – Chris Collett, 1st Vice Chairman (President) - Robin Moses, Director of Rugby – David Thorley, Financial Director/Treasurer – Tom Moore, Health & Safety Manager – Jak Thomas, Grounds Manager (and Extension Project Manager) - Raymond Batey, Club Bar Manager (and Designated Premises Supervisor and Licence Holder) – Lauren Utton. Subsequent to the AGM, the 2nd Vice Chairman post was filled by Peter Hannan.

The Secretary post is still unfilled – please help your Club by strongly considering volunteering for this post. Please e-mail me at [robinmoses159@gmail.com](mailto:robinmoses159@gmail.com), or 'phone me on 07921-195600, for information on the tasks required of this post, which are not that time consuming.

I have to mention here the awards, and thus trophies, for significant contributions to the Club that were given out at the AGM:

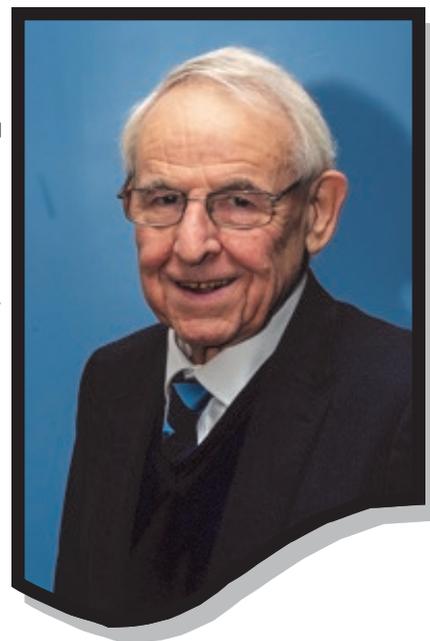
**For 2019/2020** - Club Person of the Year – Lauren Utton, and Volunteer Recognition Awards: Tracy Playfoot, Fiona Strudwick and Daryl Brown

**For 2020/2021** - Club Person of the Year - Daryl Brown, and Volunteer Recognition Awards: Vince Boyle, Kiera Johnson, Fiona Strudwick, Tracy Playfoot, Steve Gotting and Chris Collett

The Awards were presented with great applause. Very much deserved!!!

As reflected in the messages later in this newsletter from other members of the Club Board of Directors/Executive Committee, your Club is still progressing well on many fronts.

The real good work on the clubhouse has continued, for example the ladies' toilets, the players' toilets and the showers have all having been 'gutted' and the contents replaced with modern facilities. Other work in the clubhouse is described in the report from Tom (Moore) on page 9. Regarding the proposed clubhouse extension, please see the report from Raymond (Batey) on page 16.



I mentioned in the last newsletter that another project that the Club is involved in as part of its community work is the West Farnborough Man Shed (WFMS) project - which is in association with Rushmoor Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, and the National Association of Men in Sheds to which the Club is now affiliated. As mentioned previously, there will be a Council funded large Portacabin installed to the right side of the clubhouse (as you look at the clubhouse from the car park), fully equipped for instruction and socialising. Club members produced and updated the plan for the Man Shed and the fencing (with three lockable gates) that will be erected enclosing the Man Shed and the access to it – and the rest of the right side of the clubhouse, and all around the pitch-side of the clubhouse including the patio to the clubhouse left hand pitch side corner. Your Club is very disappointed that the plan submitted to the Council a good while ago (as well as documentation on other Club related requirements) is still with the Council. Originally, the up and running date was to be 1st September 2021, but as yet we do not know the new date. Another Council meeting took place on 19th September, with Tom (Moore) in attendance. We hope that there will now be ‘movement’ real soon! We will keep you posted.

With regard to weekday hires of the Club (bringing in much needed income), WW have continued Thursday evenings, and Slimming World on Monday evenings, and Tuesday afternoons through to the evenings. In addition, a contract (legally termed a licence) was signed on 29th July 2021 with Aldershot Town Football Club Ltd for its Academy (older age groups) to be based at our Club in the daytime Monday through Friday, outside for training and matches (once per week), and inside for changing and showering, plus use of the gym, and for sports related education – leading to diplomas – in the main club room.

Overall, we have moved from no regular daytime/early evening hires in the week until the back end of 2018, to all regular daytime/early evening slots in the week now taken bar the main club room from 2 to 5.30 pm on Thursdays. Since October 2018, even with much Club closure over the period of the pandemic, we have taken in some £21,000 – and over the 8 months left of the Club’s financial year we expect to take in some £12,000 – in weekday daytime/early evening hire fees. Singleton hires (birthday parties, etc) are increasing in numbers every month - with more income to the Club - due to the good work of Lauren Utton.

Now we are coming out from a really difficult pandemic period for everyone, I would like to record my thanks for the superb efforts put in over many months by Chris Collett, Tom Moore, Maria Carbone, David Thorley, Jak Thomas, Lauren Utton, Raymond Batey, Lee Kirkham, Tony Thorley, Daryl Brown, Fiona Strudwick, Tracy Playfoot, Ian Smith, Steve Gotting and others – all working ‘behind the scenes’ to help keep your Club going.

Finally, I cannot finish without referring to the Rushmoor Community Lottery. I know that it has been mentioned to you all many times by newsletter and general e-mails that this Lottery is a steady and easy source of much needed income for the Club. We have had some small increase in the number of Club related people buying tickets since end 2019, but we need more of you/your family members and friends buying tickets in support of your Club. If you join the Lottery through the Club’s link and buy one or more weekly tickets (one ticket only costs £1) - then you are directly supporting your Club as half of the money comes back to the Club. Please see more on page 10 of this newsletter, including the link to click on to join the Lottery. Many thanks in advance for helping your Club.

Yours in Rugby

Robin

## MESSAGES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Chris Collett

Dear Members,

I would like to welcome all the new players, coaches, social members and existing members to another season.

This season I see as an exciting one with an influx of new players and new coaches in the Senior part of the Club, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them luck in the upcoming league campaign.

The Minis and Juniors continue to grow and grow, and it is great to see so many of them out on the pitches on a Sunday morning.

We are always on the lookout for some new faces to join the Executive and General Committees in the running of the Club, and if anyone would like to volunteer, please come and find me or drop me a line.

I hope to see lots of you around the Club in the coming weeks, and please keep an eye out for upcoming Club events.

Yours in Rugby

Chris



### 2021/22 Squad



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## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

David Thorley

Dear Members,

Our training has continued throughout the summer and the individual skills of players has improved. We are now training every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 7:00pm. We are still actively recruiting new players and have had several new starters remain with us. You will see a few familiar faces in your 1st XV, and a lot of new talent too.

We have now recruited a new coaching team who have been working tirelessly throughout July and August and beyond to improve the squad and individual players. It is their ethos that if the player improves, the team improves - and this is becoming evident in training. The new coaching team consists of:

Andy James (Head Coach)  
Andy Dickin (Backs Coach)  
Chris Watts (Forwards Coach)



James Huckle remains your 1st XV Captain this year, and we welcome Kank Osbourne in as Vice-Captain. They bring many years of experience and will lead our Club with plenty of support.

The Colts are looking for a new coach to assist on Thursday evenings. If you want to improve your coaching working alongside the senior coaching team, and are available on Thursday evenings, please get in contact with me to discuss.

Our season started on 18th September away vs Fareham Heathens, followed by our first home game since pre-Covid on the 25th September vs Overton. We look forward to seeing you all back at Tile Barn Close to cheer on your 1st XV.

Yours in Rugby

David



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## MESSAGES FROM YOUR FINANCIAL

### Director/Treasurer, Tom Moore

Dear Members,

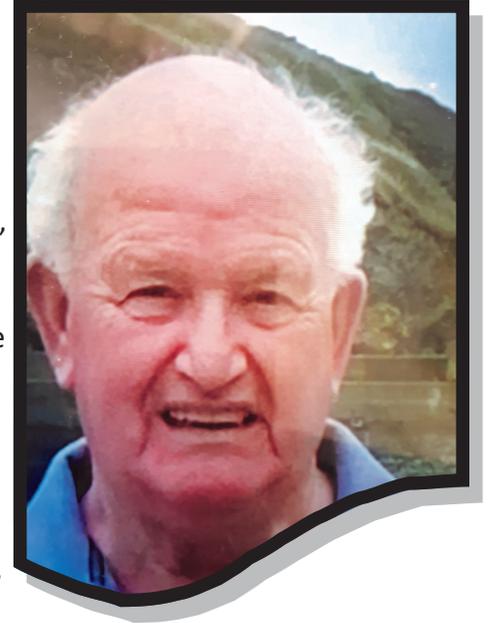
Since the last Club newsletter, we have so far had a clearer view of the way forward financially. This is thanks in the main to the RFU Grant, the Government Covid Grants administered by Rushmoor Borough Council, our continued success at hiring the clubhouse and grounds out during the day, and the Bar and social hiring of the club.

I look forward to your support in paying annual subscriptions and ensuring the financial stability of the club is maintained.

Some of the granted funds together with your contributions to our fundraising page appeal from last year has been used to refurbish the Club. The lounge bar and main clubroom and other areas has been refurbished, making them more attractive to hirers. The Ladies and Players toilets and the showers have been gutted sanitised and totally rebuilt to comply with the health and safety required standards, and the Bar and Cellar were rebuilt. You can be justly proud of the facility you have helped to create. Now we must concentrate on rebuilding our rugby sides after such a long absence from competitive rugby.

Yours in Rugby

Tom



**Andy James (Head Coach)**

## ANOTHER REMINDER TO .....

# Please Join the Rushmoor Community Lottery

Dear Members,

We recognise that the Rushmoor Community Lottery has been mentioned to you all many many times by newsletter and general e-mails, urging you to join that Lottery – but it is important to your Club that we remind you once again as the Lottery is a steady and easy source of much needed income for the Club. Your Club is registered as a local good cause with this Lottery, and if you join the Lottery through the Club's link and buy one or more weekly tickets (one ticket only costs £1) - then you are directly supporting your Club as half of the money comes back to the Club.



Do not forget that in addition to helping your Club, by being in the Lottery you have the chance of winning free additional tickets through to cash prizes from £25 up to £25,000. Indeed, there have been a number of winners since the turn of the year – with three supporters winning £250 each. The draw takes place every Saturday. So far since the Lottery started, there have been 358 winning numbers of Club 'supporters' – i.e., some 'supporters' have won several times!

There was a reasonable response to the general e-mails sent out this year, and the June Club Newsletter, urging members to join the Lottery - with a good number of new people now buying Rushmoor Community Lottery tickets each week. On the money front, £8456 has been raised by the Club ticket buyers to date.

On a somewhat negative point, your Executive Committee has again conducted some analysis of the list of Club members and others who are included on the Club administrator's Rushmoor Community Lottery 'page' as being 'supporters' of the Club. There are 108 (was 116 earlier this year) names on the list but only 56 (was 60) are actually buying 104 tickets each week, i.e. a number of you have stopped buying tickets this year !!! . Some of those not showing as paying each week have never bought tickets, and some have not bought tickets for a while, and after the upsurge from the January, February and March general e-mails a further number have stopped buying tickets.

Bearing in mind the number of members the Club has versus the number of members and non-members (friends and family) regularly buying Lottery tickets, roughly speaking only 13% are currently buying Lottery tickets!!

Thus:

- if you are one of those on the Club administrator's Rushmoor Community Lottery 'page' as being 'supporters' of the Club, but you are not showing as paying each week and have never bought tickets, or have not bought tickets for a while, it would be much appreciated if you could you update your 'status' to buying tickets each week as soon as possible,
- if you, and indeed by encouragement your family and friends, have not yet joined the Lottery at all through the Club's link we humbly ask that you and your family and friends do so as soon as possible to provide much needed income to the Club.

It is easy to set up your Lottery account through the Club's link on the Club's website (see below), and a direct debit is made on your bank account on a monthly basis.

Please help your Club by joining/re-joining the Rushmoor Community Lottery and buying tickets each week - and also encouraging your family and friends to do likewise, thereby increasing the money coming back to the Club providing much needed income.

**\*\*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\*\***

There is an additional prize that you could win in the 30th October 2021 Draw - £1000 in John Lewis vouchers!!!

Click below to buy tickets from the Club's Lottery Page:

[www.rushmoorlottery.co.uk/support/farnborough-rugby-club](http://www.rushmoorlottery.co.uk/support/farnborough-rugby-club)

Many thanks in advance for helping your Club.

The Club Executive Committee/Board of Directors

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etc. - ask me!

Call, email, or see me at a first team match.



## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE MINIS & JUNIORS

### Tracy Playfoot

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 21/22 season! Our season started with our 20/21 presentation and family fun day (a couple of photos from that day are below). It was lovely to have so many people back together, to see all the smiles and hear all the laughter, I hope that joy continues throughout the season.

We are welcoming back festivals and competitive games this season. From what I have heard, the children cannot wait for this. We have a number of fixtures in place, most importantly our Festival of Remembrance on the 7th November.

A number of new players have been in contact and are coming to training to see what Farnborough RUFC is all about. We always love welcoming new players and their families to the Club so please do encourage any children you know to come along and give it a go!



Yours in Rugby

Tracy



## Family Fun Day



# 100 Club

Farnborough RUFC 100 Club was founded in the 1970s and is a valuable revenue stream for the Club.

We are currently trying to increase the membership of the 100 Club from the current 80+ to over 120 members.

Many current members of the Club are currently not enrolled – so please see Lauren Utton (ask at the bar) and get the standing order form – it is just £5 per month, and you could win a big prize!

**Great Monthly Prizes**  
**£200.00, £100.00 and £50.00.**

Membership is not restricted to Club Members; family & friends can also join



Remember..... you have to be in it to win it !!

The 100 club is drawn every month.

## CLUB SHOP

### David Thorley & Maria Carbone , Shop Managers

Dear Members,

Since training re-started for the 2021-2022 season, the shop has been very busy - meaning that we are now a little low on many sizes of shirts, shorts and socks. We have placed a large order to replenish the stock, however you may see some shop closures on Sundays if we have got nothing to sell in the next few weeks. Don't worry, we will keep some gumshields aside for you in case anyone forgets/loses theirs!

Over this season we are looking to move the shop to mostly online, so if you have placed orders with us in the past you will not be able to any longer. All orders can be placed online via the online shop which can be accessed through these links:

<https://www.fitnessforsport.co.uk/online-sports-shop-plymouth/Farnborough-RFC-c36393160>

<https://www.fitnessforsport.co.uk/online-sports-shop-plymouth/Farnborough-RFC-Junior-KitShop-c44384143>

An item that has become increasingly popular and is a good idea for the start of the season or dare I say it, a Christmas present, is the personalised backpack. At only £23.75 the backpack is a neat way to keep all your kit together and with initials being added to the backpack (free of charge), there will not be any confusion.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact us or come and speak to us on Sunday mornings in the club-house between 10:00 am and 12 noon.

Yours in Rugby

Maria & David



### Manager, Jak Thomas

Dear Members,

#### ***Controlling Risk and Taking Reasonable Care***

So, we're back at last, to something like normal use of the clubhouse and grounds at FRUFC. Without people there's not been much 'material risk' about over the last year and a bit but now that normality is returning it's time for us to be thinking about 'risk control' and 'reasonable care'.

'Risk control' is mainly that which we do practically as a Club to meet legal obligations and safeguard users of the clubhouse and grounds – members, guests, staff and volunteers and the large numbers of people who now use the clubhouse as part of the various community organisations who hire the club for meetings and events.

As was mentioned in the last newsletter, lockdown has seen significant material improvements in the club including ladies and gents' toilet facilities and the completion of the upgrade to the shower room. Changing rooms have also been brought back into operation and given a 'spring clean'. All good for people's perceptions of the Club and their health and wellbeing. We have also recommenced periodic health and safety type inspections of the clubhouse, and monitoring of utilities and key equipment standards. We even check the base of rugby posts to make sure they are not rusting away and prone to falling down.

That's the 'risk control' bit but what about 'reasonable care', as also mentioned in the first paragraph.

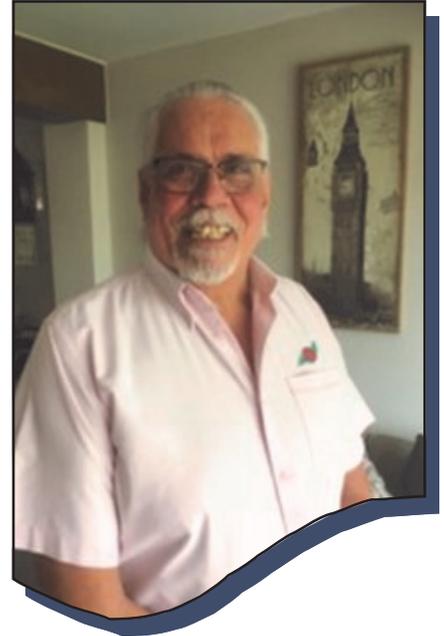
I'm dead keen on this because it's where we all pull together to take 'reasonable care' of ourselves and anybody else who might be affected by our actions – or inactions. It comes naturally to us in the domestic or family environment but sometimes needs a bit of thought and extra effort outside of the home.

What am I getting at here? It's about everyone thinking about the safety and wellbeing of others in and around the clubhouse. It's about our behaviour. We don't do anything likely to place others at risk and, perhaps more important, we make sure if we see something we think might cause harm or present risk of injury we shout up about it. You let someone know – staff member, committee member or volunteer organiser - so that we can acknowledge and record the problem and do something about it.

What we don't know about we can't fix, so please be alert and do your bit by taking 'reasonable care'.

Yours in Rugby

Jak



## NEWS FROM THE CLUB GROUNDS MANAGER,

### Raymond Batey

Dear Members,

Pitches are all marked out and ready for games, using my new toy – a spray white line marker, instead of the old wheel to wheel transfer system, which used to get stuck in the mud when the weather turned – bliss.

You'll no doubt notice that the second team pitch is also marked out as a football pitch, in a different colour – I went for red, but it turned out a nice shade of pink! This is to accommodate the Aldershot Town Football Club Academy, who are now using our facilities during weekdays for training and education for their 17 to 23 year olds.

I've also marked out some training grids for them, which can obviously be used for Rugby training as well.

The main football pitch has been passed by the league for the Rushmoor Sunday FC to play on again this season, which is a huge relief after all the work we did on it to bring it back up to spec.

I've had a demo of a ride on mower, which I used to cut the whole of the football pitch, so it looked in pristine condition when the league representatives came to watch a friendly and assess it.

Having had two quotes for the ride on mower, I applied to the Football Foundation for a grant, which will cover 75% of the cost, and the application was successful! The Club will be paying the remaining 25%.

I also applied for a grant to maintain the football pitch for the next 6 years and that application was successful as well.

It's great that rugby game time has now started, so that we can get some use out of the pitches at last.

Regarding the proposed clubhouse extension coming out from the clubhouse towards the car park, because of new quotes being much more expensive than envisaged we are now looking at going upwards instead - putting in a first floor above the flat roofing. We have had some broad cost estimates, and are in dialogue with the Council's Architect and the RFU. We are aiming to have an acceptable design ready pretty soon and then will get specific quotes. As soon as we have something more concrete, we will inform you all by the Club's general e-mail system.

That's all from me for now – looking forward to the upcoming games.

Yours in Rugby

Raymond





England  
Rugby

DON'T BE A

# HEADCASE

## STOP! CHECK FOR CONCUSSION

**RECOGNISE** know the symptoms and signs of concussion.

**REMOVE** any player you suspect has got a concussion IMMEDIATELY. Arrange for further assessment by a health care professional.

**RECOVER** give players time to recover fully as you would with any other injury.

**RETURN** all players must follow a step-wise Graduated Return to Play (GRTP) and must not go back to rugby/sport until they have been cleared to do so by a doctor.



**RECOGNISE, REMOVE AND IF IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT!** [RFU.COM/HEADCASE](http://RFU.COM/HEADCASE)

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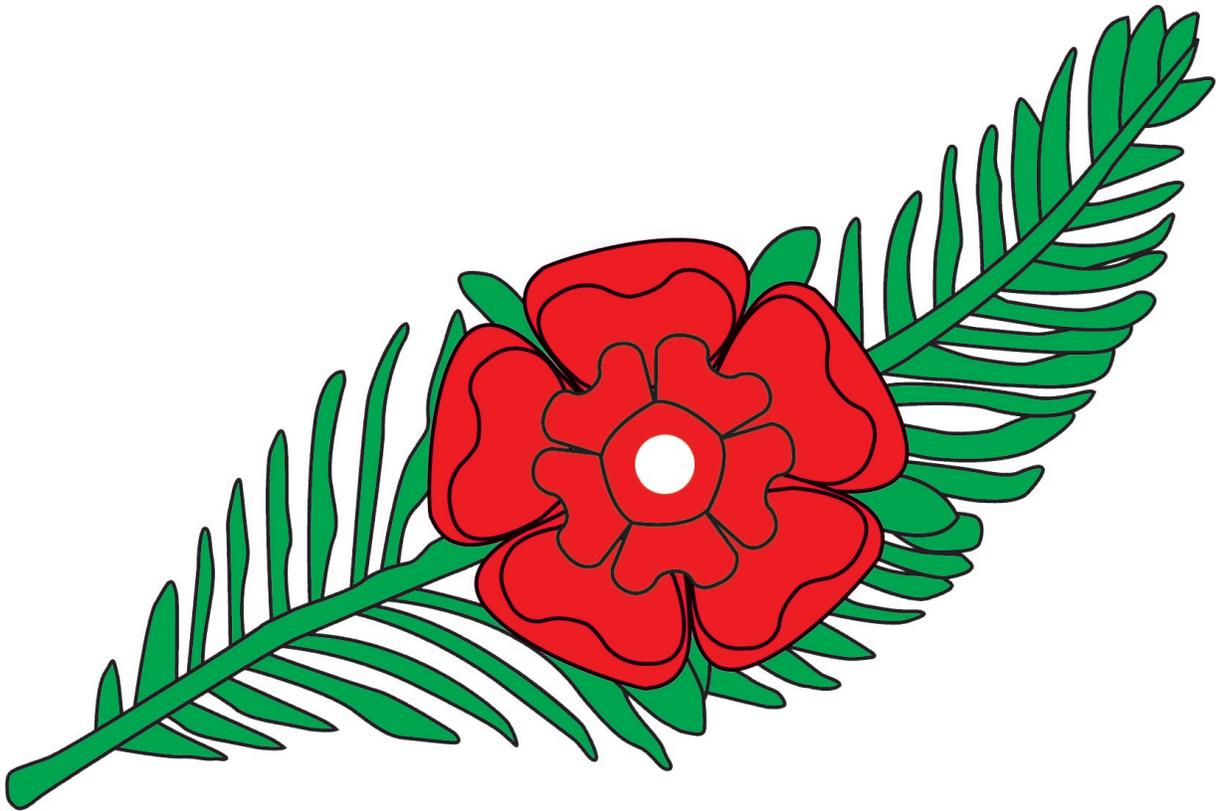
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Racism and any form of discrimination is not acceptable in rugby, in sport, or in the world we live in.

**Solidarity, integrity** and **respect** are the core values of our game.

Rugby united against racism.



“Boro Focus” is the club newsletter of Farnborough Rugby Union Football Club Limited  
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