

I am writing about my time as part of the Rutlish family. I joined Rutlish School in 1959, t I got to know the Old Boys, by playing rugby for the 'C' XV whilst still at school. My first involvement with running the ORA was as Squash Club secretary. Since then I have been President twice (2000 & 2015), Chair of the Executive Committee twice, Rugby Chairman & Secretary. Over the years I have seen the club involve from very much a closed club, not allowing outsiders, to what it isnow, an open club but still with strong links to Rutlish School. I had always thought it was wrong that people who had not attended Rutlish should be treated as second class members, as they tended to be more committed.

The major change I instigated was bringing junior sport to the club in 1990. As I had been Team Secretary for our rugby section, I could see how playing numbers were falling and took the guidance of the RFU in creating a junior section This has grown to over 400, with the senior teams full of former youth players. The cricket section soon followed and now the football section has a thriving junior set up. We must not forget that this has now been followed by girls playing in their own teams in the rugby section.

The major make-over in 2015, when I was last President, has made the clubhouse a much more welcoming place.The Old Ruts has still a way to go.We are looking at becoming a charity which will make us more stable financially. We are exploring ways to promote the club locally, having new changing rooms (especially needed for juniors and women) and better disabled access.