

ORA Orbit

Newsletter

July 2021



Board of Trustees

Below are the current trustees of the Old Rutlishians' Association (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). On 1 April 2020 Old Rutlishians' Association launched its charitable status having previously been an Unincorporated Organisation. They are elected by members and must stand down every three years at which time they can stand for re-election if they wish.



Kevin Wilde - Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Bar Manager, Chair of the Finance & House Committee, Organisation & Development Committee member & Community Engagement Committee member

Sporting Interest: Football & Cricket

I attended Rutlish School between the years of 1978 and 1983 as a very proud student in Vikings House, I attained the heady title of Deputy House Captain and was awarded House Colours. I became a life member of the ORA in 1985, and have

supported the Club whilst living in the area over the past years to the present date.

I am a keen football supporter, and was very happy to have been chosen to play in the walking football friendly against AFC Wimbledon's teams in May. In 2017, I was co-opted to the executive committee and have served at this level until becoming Bar Manager last year after the Club's move to charitable status, and subsequently taking over the mantle of Chair earlier this year. I'm a keen supporter of the ORA Bar and enjoy playing an active role in all aspects of propelling the Club to new sporting horizons after the tumultuous COVID time. We have endured. Outside of the Club, I am Managing Director of Mitcham Belle Coaches, and Vice Chair of the UK Coach Operators Association - dealing with the issues that have faced the coach industry over the past 15 months.

Neil Caton - ORA Trustee Board Treasurer, Finance & House Committee member

Sporting Interest: Rugby

I am a qualified accountant with more than 30 years' of work experience. For the last 25 years, I have worked as an internal auditor in financial services. I have been an ORA member for the last seven years, through one of my sons playing junior rugby. During this period, I have spent time volunteering for club duties, including serving as an assistant referee and as an accompanying adult on three rugby tours. I became a qualified referee in March 2020.

David Doerr - ORA Trustee Board Secretary & Organisation & Development Committee member

Sporting Interest: Rugby & Cricket

I am currently the Secretary of the ORA Trustee Board, but in the past I have also served as ORA Treasurer (1976-80); ORA Chairman (1981-85); and ORA President (1986). I have been a life member of ORA since 1964, and I was elected to the ORA Executive in 1965. I have been connected to Rutlish since 1956.

Mike Stallard - House Manager, Finance & House Committee member & Local residents' Forum member

Sporting Interest: Rugby & Cricket

I have been a member of the ORA for about 15 years now and thoroughly enjoyed watching my three sons all play rugby and cricket for the Club over many years and particularly enjoyed my time running an age group in the cricket section. As Chair of the Rugby section, I helped develop Old Ruts from a small Club that punched above its weight to one which can more than hold its own across the whole of Surrey Rugby from our very young players to our three Senior teams and now to our girls' and women's teams. I have spent many years on the Exec at Old Ruts and until recently was the bar manager where I successfully grew

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The Club
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Football
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Board of Trustees

the turnover year on year and ensured that our licensing was fit for purpose. I have also chaired the local residents' forum, ensuring that we maintain as harmonious a relationship with our near neighbours as possible. Having recently switched to the role of volunteer House manager, I am already working on several important capital projects to ensure the Club is in great shape for the future. As a Rutlish School Governor (Chair of finance) and a trustee of the Rutlish Foundation I feel very strongly about the importance of the whole "Rutlish Family" in the local community and if re-elected will continue to work hard to promote all three parts of it!

Zak Dowdall - Grounds Manager & Grounds & Sport sub-committee chairman

Sporting Interest: Rugby

Lucy Trevelyan - Communications Secretary, Interim Membership Secretary, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee & Finance & House Committee member

Sporting interests: Cricket & Football

I have been a passionate supporter of the Old Ruts club (and living only a stone's throw away, a very regular social visitor) since my family moved into Merton Park 12 years ago. Both my sons play cricket for the club, with my youngest also a regular on the U11s Blues football team. From September, both will be students at Rutlish School. I have made so many wonderful friends at our club and wish only to ensure that our unique community hub continues to go from strength to strength. I am both a lawyer and a qualified journalist and use these skills to offer occasional legal advice to the Trustee board (after 20 years operating in the legal world, if I don't know the answer, I know someone who will) and handling the Club's communications. I Chair the Club's Community Engagement Committee, which is currently developing a number of exciting ideas designed to bring the sport and lasting friendships to even more local children that our club offers. Since July, I have also been served as the Club's interim Membership Secretary and have been instrumental in setting up a Club-wide membership card scheme which will be rolled out throughout the Club when lockdown ends.

Paul Cecil - Community Engagement Committee member, Grounds Committee member & Chair of Senior Rugby

Sporting interests: Rugby & football

I have been associated with Old Ruts for just over 10 years and have three active sons playing seniors rugby. I am currently Senior Rugby Chair and have held a number of voluntary positions within the Rugby Section and have coached rugby from juniors up to seniors. I am an RFU qualified rugby coach as well as being an FA qualified football coach and prior to joining Old Ruts spent many years coaching junior football teams. I love most team sports! I joined the Old Ruts Trustee team in March 2021 and have spent 30+ years in finance and banking coupled with nearly 20 years in sports coaching and in sports club leadership roles, which I hope will bring some benefits to the team of trustees whom I now work with.

Simon Payne - Community Engagement Committee member & Organisation & Development Committee member

Sporting Interest: Rugby

I have been a passionate member of Old Ruts for over 20 years, both as a rugby player, coach and now a referee. As a Level 1 qualified Coach, I took a team through the age groups from U11 up to U17, before briefing helping with Senior Rugby. Simultaneously I started refereeing, initially with the Club and subsequently for the SW London Referee Society. I now co-ordinate the Club Referees & referee junior matches on most weekends during the season. Outside Ruts, I have been a business consultant for the past 25 years, largely leading large Business Change Programmes for a my clients. I was elected as a Trustee in October last year, in an effort to lend my business experience to the running of the Club.

Stuart Mills - Organisation & Development Committee member

Sporting Interest: Rugby & Cricket

I have been in the Corporate Finance world for over 20 years, working in M&A and Leveraged Finance, advising and raising money for companies in the mid market. I am also an investor in several small companies and will

provide guidance to the boards where appropriate. I am involved in the club through both of my sons who play rugby and cricket where I coach and help manage. My main role as a Trustee is on the Organisational and Development committee and support the other committees and trustees where appropriate.

James "JMO" Oakes - Health & Safety Committee member, Organisation & Development Committee member & Ground Centenary Planning Sub-Committee member

Sporting Interest: Rugby

I am the fixture secretary to the three adult male teams and also provide admin assistance to Paul Cecil head of senior rugby. I sort and order kit and first aid consumables, represent the club at local, county and RFU level, provide mentorship for players and am a first aider and a mental health first aider. I am also the first and last man at the bar, and am always happy to buy a round or seven!

Around the club, I suggested, designed and secured the outdoor cover for the club at zero cost to the club for an entire year. I then organized the second cover at vastly preferential rate from a third party, with (again) no fiscal gain to myself or my company, and provided tables, stools and lighting at no cost to the club. I brought in suitable access towers to change light bulbs with in the squash courts and hall at no cost to the club, and have assisted with other building projects, gutter replacement, trellis building, designed and assisted the installation of sound padding and acoustic curtains for the hall, painting, watering etc etc. In my career I have had the pleasure in working in the private entertainment world, all over the globe for the best part of 35 years. I have recently changed occupation and started a new chapter in my life as the MD of Palmbrokers, a "greens" company, supplying natural set dressing, plants, trees, ground cover etc for the film, tv, commercials, still shoots, and all sorts of events.

Dropbox Archive

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0fegv4a3mx5uh4s/>

Board of Trustees

Sam El-Jouzi - Organisation & Development Committee member, Community Engagement Committee member & Grounds Committee member

Sporting Interest: Cricket & Football

My current role is the framework director for the High Speed 2 engineering delivery partner contract. The role involves engagement with multiple stakeholders across national government, local authorities and the private sector. As the senior director of our London office, I had to manage staff welfare, and our building and facility management operations. With my engineering knowledge I am also capable of undertaking structural inspections and manage aspects of building control and planning regulations. I have been a member of the Old Ruts for many years, and am currently a Surrey Level 1 qualified football coach, and manage the Old Ruts U14s yellows team. The team was established three seasons ago, and today 10 of the 15 team members all

go to Rutlish School. Whilst not officially qualified, I help and support the Old Ruts youth cricket team too, from setting up to scoring at matches. I am a Governor at Rutlish School and sit on the premises committee. Importantly I am a regular user of the Old Ruts clubhouse, I am a local resident, and see the club at the heart of our Merton Park community, and the place where my son and other boys can enjoy all sports on offer, and feel part of a place they will always want to come back to even after leaving the local schools.

Simon Hunt - Community Engagement Committee member, Organisation & Development Committee member & Grounds Committee member

Sporting Interest: Rugby & Cricket

I am a passionate supporter of the club and have worked heavily over the last six years across both the rugby and cricket sections. I have three children who all play cricket and rugby for the club & very (very)

occasionally steps onto the field myself. My core skill set is in project management but within that I have a wide array of experience across governance and controls, budgetary management, team building and leadership. I also offer strong support and guidance through my previous Treasurer role in the financial space as well as significant bar and hospitality experience. I also have a proven track record in fundraising and successful grant applications through my previous club. I believe my leadership qualities and ability to form strong teams of volunteers around me are well suited to a club like ours. I have plenty of energy and think that some fresh thinking will benefit the club moving forward to blend some of the great history with helping ensure a really sustainable future for the benefit of the community. I also feel that through my strong relationships across the cricket and rugby sections, I can assist in maintaining a healthy balance and respect across all aspects of the club.

Clubhouse update

With a building approaching 100 years old and with many additions over the years it is unsurprising the work needed to keep the fabric of our Clubhouse in good order is ongoing and never ending.

With that in mind, the last year has seen a mixture of works carried out, some which are obvious and enhance your experience every time you visit, some which are essential for reasons of health and safety and still others which you will never see, but ensure the building is safe and secure.

Below is a summary of the works done or in place to be done.

Hall and Bar area

The upstairs hall has been completely redecorated and the unsightly black curtain hanging from a scaffold pole was replaced with curtains on proper mountings. These are sound absorbent and backed up with two new large acoustic plugs which fit into the window recesses to prevent noise egress and help protect our near neighbours from being unduly disturbed.



All areas of the bar have been redecorated.

The long overdue and often requested upgrade to the Ladies toilets was also undertaken. Feedback has been very positive and we hope emphasises the fact that we are a family Club with a warm welcome to all members!

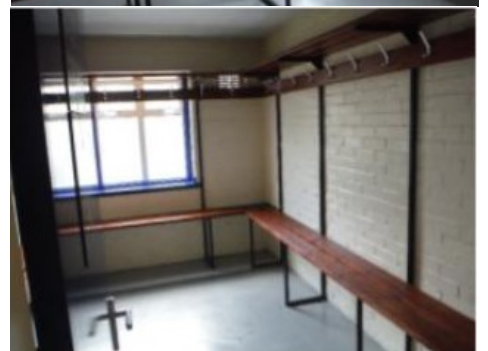
Changing Rooms

The upstairs and downstairs changing rooms have been completely deep cleaned and redecorated as for the full refurbishment six years ago.

The Home changing room upstairs will also have the lighting upgraded and new heaters installed before the new Winter Season.

The shower area has had new floor paint and tiles repaired.

The lower kitchen (which had had damp issues) and the upstairs refs room have been upgraded and even the oven and the hood have had a very good clean and look brand new!



Clubhouse update (continued)

Roofing

The whole of the flat roof of the building has been professionally refelted and is now waterproof.

Once the final work has been done all the brickwork and coping stones around the perimeter of the roof will be repointed. At the same time, a long standing leak into the hall from behind the clock has been repaired using fibreglass and the high gutters and downpipes on the squash courts are being upgraded or where missing replaced!

During the first lockdown the lower guttering to the squash courts and the soffits were all replaced and repainted, with thanks to Trustee James Oakes for his hard graft on that job.

Plumbing

A long list of small but essential plumbing upgrades have been undertaken in the last year, cutting down hugely on water wastage and ensuring toilets flush properly etc.

At the same time we installed a new boiler which now provides hot water for all the sinks in the building.

Boilers and Heating

A visit by a certified gas engineer led to both the boilers and one of the two hot water tanks in the boiler room being condemned and shut down.

After a lengthy negotiation we have now appointed a company approved by the RFU and recommended by two rugby clubs in the South East for whom they have done similar work, to strip out the old kit and install new boilers and tanks to heat the



Club and provide post match hot water for showers.

This significant investment is made possible by the RFU Winter Fund grant which we obtained. The work will be completed in time for the football and rugby Winter Season.

The above is a quick picture of some of the work done - only this week we finished repainting and varnishing all the window sills at the front of the Club and have removed the "leaning sign of Merton" at the entrance to get it repaired and new graphics installed.

We also have a professional company coming in to service all the trifold doors and roller shutters.

Upgrades to come

Like painting the Forth Road Bridge no sooner have we undertaken significant works than others start raising their heads. In the near future issues like the perimeter fencing and hedges, refurbishing the Memorial Lounge, installing new LED lighting in the hall and redesigning the entrance hall to be a more welcoming space are all projects which, if funding is available we will do.

Much of the above work has been completed by outside professionals

we hope to a very high standard. Much of the work has also been done by volunteers and in particular Bob Ford to whom the Club owes a huge Thank You for his never ending diligence, sage advice and hands on hard graft without which the Club would not be in the excellent state that it is now. If you can help out either because you are "handy" or simply because you can give time to helping just let me know!

Mike Stallard
House Manager

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Enhanced DBS Disclosure required.
Online safeguarding training provided

Deadline for completed applications together with CV and named referees -Monday 9 August.

Shortlisting by 16 August

Interviews will be arranged by mutual agreement.



EVOLUTION

CREATIONS

LOFTS. BATHROOMS. DESIGN. LANDSCAPING. BUILD.

Old Rust gets the Wooden Spoon

Early on 4 July, Old Rust left home just before 6.30 to meet up with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Richly Moustachioed Bloke and Shop Shifter. As ABC, RMB and SS were all waiting for him, Old Rust commented that they couldn't sleep either. 'It's the excitement,' explained SS, as he led us off along CS7 to Victoria Station via Vauxhall Bridge.

At the station we all had plenty of time to buy coffee and collect tickets as we awaited Leg Saver, who had saved his legs by taking his bike on the District Line. Shortly after LS' arrival, we set off on our train to Chatham.

When we reached Chatham, it was raining heavily. Fortunately LS's brother had arranged a van to collect us and take us up the hill to Lordswood RFC, the first and last of seven clubs we planned to visit that day on our 62 mile ride in aid of the RFU's Wooden Spoon charity. As we changed into our ride jerseys, LS asked whether we each had puncture patches as well as spare inner tubes. 'Yes' we all replied, 'patches, plus two tubes.' 'Oh' said LS 'Evans had run out when I went to get some yesterday. I've only got one tube'. The heavy rain meant we rushed the team photos as we were all keen to don our rain jackets. Suitably covered up and a bit cold, we set off up the testing Bluebell Hill, which at least warmed us up.

Descending from Bluebell Hill, LS discovered his bike was making worrying clicking noises when he braked. Old Rust considered how much he wanted to precede LS on the steep descents they would encounter on this challenging route.

At the bottom of Bluebell Hill was our first scheduled stop at Aylesford RFC, where we found a fond welcome, food, drink and the chance to pack away our rain jackets. A couple of miles on from Aylesford, LS acquired a puncture. As LS and SS set to work mending it, the rest of us tried to keep warm in the sun and encourage other passing riders.

With LS pneumatic again, we set off towards Birling and up to Vigo RFC, which LS had been saving his legs for. The climb to Vigo is tough, necessitating Old Rust to use bottom gear as he ground his way upwards. It is also so tough that the other riders from Lordswood took a different, longer but shallower route to the top.

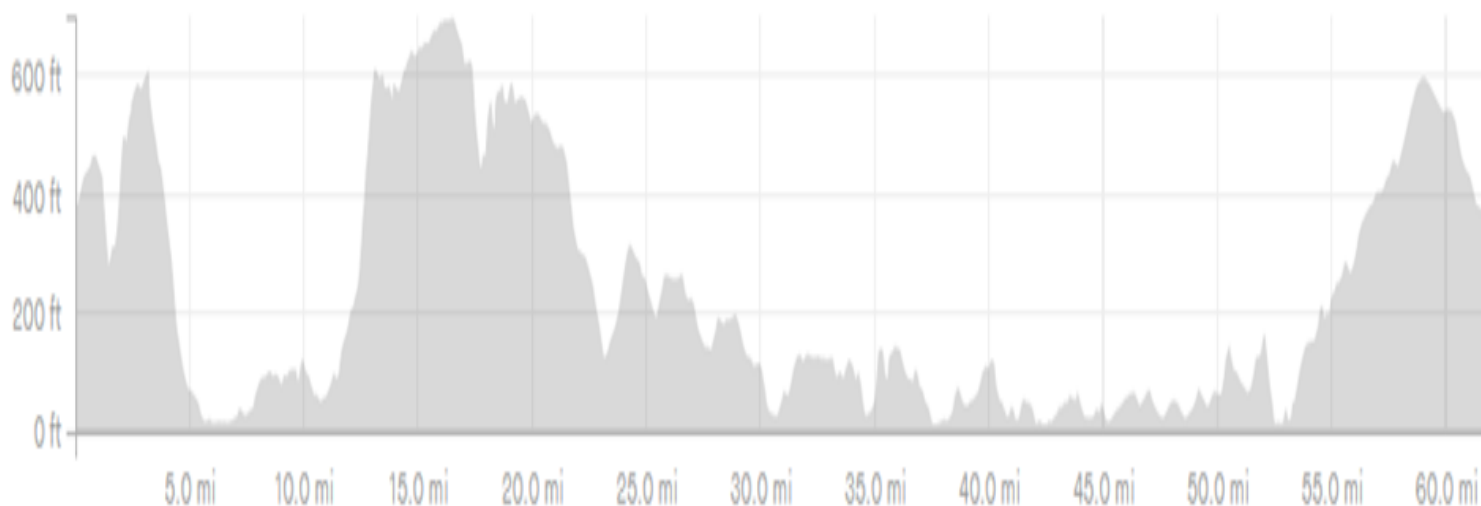
At Vigo, we again found a warm welcome, refuelling opportunities and sunshine to help dry our things. There was also a bike mechanic with tools and spares. LS took full advantage of this and left Vigo with a full set of new brake pads (the clicking was a signal that the old ones were worn out), properly inflated tyres and a new inner tube.

From Vigo, we encountered another heavy shower before the long descent to Swanley, which enabled us to up our average speeds along the A20 as our rain jackets flapped in the 40 mph breeze. At Swanley our greeters claimed lockdown had turned them into a team with 15 props. We also met up with three other riders (two locks and a wing by the look of them) and RMB kindly mended the wing's puncture (borrowed bike, no tools, no tube, no help from the locks) before we set off to Dartford RFC.

After finding Dartford's slightly out of town clubhouse with snazzy 3G pitch, we restocked and relieved again and set off for Gravesend. There we spotted a rugby club on the route and pulled up beside a group of blokes watching a cricket match. Noticing the absence of warm welcome, cakes, bananas and drink, we asked where the Wooden Spoon riders should go. 'Oh you'll want Gravesend Rugby Club, they're literally through that gate on the adjacent pitches. This is Old Gravesendians.' We did feel chumps.

Next we set off on a long flat ride to Cliffe Crusaders, where we attracted applause as well as half time oranges and plenty of friendly chatter, before turning round and following RMB into the wind to Rochester and the start of the climb back to Lordswood. On the way we made our last stop at Medway RFC for more food and drink and another team photo. We then set off across the park to resume the climb to Lordswood. The overall climb from Rochester to Lordswood lasts about 6 miles, but maintains a fairly steady, if fatiguing gradient. Old Rust, RMB, ABC and SS took the official route to complete the 62 mile ride in time for a couple of pints before getting the train home. LS, though had devised a different route to be kinder to his legs, came in a bit later and had to rush his beer - especially as ABC sang a little song to help him drain his glass.

You can learn more about and donate to the [Wooden Spoon](#) online.



Old Ruts Rugby— England vs USA & Canada



England Rugby

Our ever alert ticket guru Phil Rumbelow was able to secure 3 pairs of tickets for each of the recent England v USA and Canada matches at Twickenham even though only 10,000 fans were allowed in.

Rather than sell them on we decided to raffle them to reward our loyal members and over 100 families entered.

We bought adult and junior pairs of tickets and the 6 lucky families all had a fantastic day out with most making their first ever visit to Rugby HQ. Plenty of points were scored and future stars like Marcus Smith (swiftly promoted to the Lions) were on show....because of the fantastic range of rugby we provide across Kids First, Juniors, Girls and Seniors our ticket allocation to future Autumn and 6 Nation matches has been increased so look out for more chances to secure tickets once it is clear that Twickenham will be hosting more great games!





Football

New Players are Welcome to join Old Ruts for 2021/22

Pre-Season Training commences on Tuesday 27 July at King Georges Playing Field, Tudor Drive, Morden, SM4 4PN, 6.45pm for a prompt 7.00pm start.

We are looking to bolster the strength of our 4 x Saturday Men's XI's. If you are interested in joining us, please email oldrutsfootball@yahoo.co.uk for further details.

You can also find us on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/oldrutsfootball>

We look forward to hearing from you!

You might even get to feature in a [film](#) ...

Football Awards 2020/21

1st XI Joint Players of the Year -
Elliott Gibbs & Paul Whitthread

2nd XI Player of the Year -
Sam Leatherby

3rd XI Player of the Year -
Ross Trimmings

4th XI Player of the Year -
Andy Flanagan

Young Player of the Year -
Jude Kinsella

Clubman of the Year -
Jon Mapp
[right]

Club Milestones 2020 -2021

Appearances

Erol Yilmaz — 450
10 April 2021

Jamie Shawki — 250
10 April 2021

Kevin Foster — 200
17 April 2021

Alex Blenkinsop — 150
29 August 2020

Richard Edmonds — 150
1 May 2021

Paul Gough — 100
26 September 2020

Will Mortimer — 100
10 April 2021

Ryan Kennett — 100
8 May 2021

Goals

Paul Gough — 50
24 April 2021

