



August Newsletter

The season starts here!

Welcome to the August edition of the Club Newsletter!

In this month's issue:

- Messages from the Club and Youth Chairs
- News
 - Kit Update
 - Facilities Update
 - Youth Subs
 - New Commercial Secretary!
- September Fixtures and Events
- Results
- Volunteering Opportunities
- August Committee Minutes

Please let us know what you'd like to see included in future issues!



@locksheathpumas



LocksheathPumasRFC



@LocksheathPumas





Chairs Updates



Club Chair's message

I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer break! The season is upon us, the 1st XV played their first pre-season game on Saturday (more on that later in the newsletter), some of our older age groups have pre-season fixtures lined up for September (see Fixtures section), and Youth training will be kicking off shortly (See Gemma's notes below).

Seeing all the hard work that's been going on across the Club throughout the Summer I know this is going to be a great season for the whole club. I'd like to express my thanks to everyone who has worked and contributed over the summer to get the club, our players, our equipment, and our facilities ready for the new season. From running summer and pre-season sessions, painting pitches, putting up posts, sorting kit, supporting registrations, and any number of other activities, it all makes a massive difference so thank you!

One of the things I will be working on over the next few weeks and months is a long-term club strategy to document who we are, and want to be, as a club and what we'll be doing to get there. A key mantra in the club is that we are all stakeholders within the club and your engagement and input is critical so as it takes shape, I'll be setting up some sessions for people across the club to review, engage and provide their views. This means once completed this will be Our Strategy, so keep your eyes peeled.

If you'd like to get in touch regarding any element of the Club throughout the season please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or any other member of the committee! - Wishing you all a fantastic season! - Ben



Youth Chair's message

Hello Everyone,

I hope you've all had a great sun filled summer! But guess what, winter is coming!

Although I have no want to say goodbye to the glorious weather, before we know it, we will be loving life, ankle deep in mud, hiding under umbrellas on the side lines while our fabulous Pumas charge about on the pitch lobbing the egg-shaped ball around!

Our season starts on Sunday the 7th of September. Spond is up to date with training times and locations, so please do check if you're unsure.

I'm pleased to tell you that on the 21st September, Paul Holmes, our local MP is visiting the Club. Paul will visit Hunts Pond Road, meet some of the coaches and children, and hear about our fight for facilities and a long-term home.

Throughout the season we will continue to engage with Local Councillors and tell them our story to ensure our growth in numbers and need for more space is well recognised within the ward.

I look forward to seeing all our Pumas back playing. As ever, please do feel free to reach out if you would like to get more involved in the Club or have any feedback.

All the best

Gemma x





News

Youth Kit Update

A big thank you to Chloe Bowler for taking on the management of our existing new kit and pre-loved kit! Please do contact Chloe on Spond for all your kit needs, she can tell you what we have in stock and what needs to be ordered online.

Chloe will also be able to let you know if we have any preloved boots available in the sizes you need. We charge £5 for a set of preloved boots, or if your old ones are still serviceable you can just swap them. We have two big boxes full of sizes ranging from super small through to adults' size 7 currently.

If you have any pre-loved kit, please do let Chloe know and arrange a drop off or collection.

Facilities Update

Hunts Pond Road: We're pleased to inform you that the Club have been granted planning permission for a third container at Hunts Pond Road. Thanks to Gary for taking us through the planning process. This development will help solve our storage problems and further cements our home at Hunts Pond Road. Of course, we will continue to canvas for the council to grant us another pitch at Hunts Pond Road throughout this season. Anyone wishing to help further our progress on the ground development front please do reach out to us.

Locks Wood Playing Fields: The new U5-U9's home at the Locks Heath Centre has been witness to Ben, Chris, Ben and I mastering our pitch line marking skills! It seems you're never too old to learn new skills. Each age group has their own marked out space ready for the first session back on the 7th Sept. A big thank you to our friends at Sarisbury Cricket Club for lending us their line marking machine.





News

Youth Subs 2025/26

With the 2025/26 season start imminent (7th Sept) I'd like to remind everyone to set up their membership standing orders or make their one-off payments!

Standard membership is £120 for the season paid in eight £15 instalments on the 1st of every month. Or a one off £100 discounted payment for the season can be made.

For full payment details, discounts for second children, volunteer - and bank details please see our website - <https://www.locksheathpumas.com/youth-membership>

Just shout if any guidance is needed regarding payment.

If anyone is finding times hard financially at the moment please do reach out. We are a community Club and would never want financial challenges to be a barrier to playing rugby 🏉 🐾

New Commercial Secretary

We're pleased to announce that Ian Haberfield has agreed to take on the role of Commercial Secretary for the Club. Working with Gary and the Committee, Ian will be taking the lead on coordinating our relationships with club sponsors and managing our commercial relationships.

It's a critical role and one that is vital to keep the club moving forward, On behalf of the Club I'd like to thank Ian for stepping forward and I'm sure he'll make a real success of the role.

"Hello from your new Welsh supporting Commercial secretary!

I've played rugby since I was at school, moving on to playing for Southampton and a few Army rugby teams. Now a part of the U12's coaching team.

Wanting to move Locksheath pumas forward as a focal point for sponsorship"





Fixtures & Events

Fixtures

Date	Opposition		Kick Off	Location
------	------------	---	----------	----------

1st XV

6 th Sept	Southsea Nomads (A) (Friendly)		15:00	Dunn Close, Southsea
13 th Sept	Bognor 2 nd XV (H) (Friendly)		14:00	University Play Fields, Wide Lane, Eastleigh
20 th Sept	Fawley (H)(Friendly)		14:00	University Play Fields, Wide Lane, Eastleigh

U15s

U14s

21 st Sept	Gosport & Fareham		10:00	Dolphin Crescent, Gosport, PO12 2HE
28 th Sept	Romsey		TBC	Ganger Farm Way, Romsey, SO51 0EE

U13s

28 th Sept	Solent Barbarians		TBC	TBC
-----------------------	-------------------	--	-----	-----

U10s - U12s

U5s - U9s

Events

3rd September, Monthly Committee Meeting,

19:30, Sir Joseph Paxton, Hunts Pond Road

7th September, First Sunday training session for Youth Teams

(refer to the Website or Spond for times and locations)

20th September, First Aid Course

09:00 – 14:30, Abshot Community Centre

21st September, Paul Holmes MP, visit to Hunts Pond Road

10:00 – 11:00





Results

Pre-season Opener

30th August 2025 – 1st XV vs Southampton 1st & 2nd XVs

Southampton 17 – Pumas 14, (Tries, A King, S White, Conv L Ridoutt x2)

Team: 1-A Burnside Shonk, 2-P Ellis, 3-S White, 4-J Wassell, 5-C Payne*, 6-A Davies (VC), 7-J Young, 8-A Scott, 9-L Ridoutt, 10-H Graham (C), 11-M Williams, 12-N Raturibi*, 13-S Nuttall, 14-M Randall* 15-A King, 16-P Price, 17-P Taylor*, 18-J Hall, 19-R Hylands, 20-C Smith*, 21-S Davis, 22-P Noonan*, 23-A Hamlett, 24-S Crowley*, 25-T O'Grady, Head Coach- J Lynch, Physio-S Davies

*denotes Debut

Puma's Man of the Match: Charlie Smith

Match Report:

The 1st XV started their pre-season under new Head Coach JP with an away trip to Southampton. In a game dominated by the conditions they narrowly lost out to a team comprising of Southampton's 1st and 2nd XVs .

There were a lot of positives to be taken from the game, a new combination in the centres looked strong and contributed to the opening try from Alex King, 6 players making their first appearance in a match day squad (including a Man of the Match display from Charlie Smith off the bench), some powerful carries (Jake and Steve in particular for our 2nd Try), strong leadership from new captain Harry Graham, amazing support from the touchline with a great turnout in the rain, and most importantly a great spirit and culture running through the team.

As with all good pre-season games it showed the team some areas to work on and whilst not the result the team deserved it was a strong first step as we build toward the season



*A big thank you to Murray Palmer for the match day photography



Get Involved

Current Opportunities

We have a wide range of roles that we are looking for support with and we are always keen to hear from people looking to get more involved to any capacity.

We also have a number of specific roles we are actively looking to fill:

Role	Deliverables
Rugby Safe Lead	Responsible for improving player safety standards and promoting awareness of player welfare initiatives within a rugby club.
Equipment Lead	Monitor club equipment ensuring we have the right equipment, well maintained, stored appropriately and replaced when needed.
Communications Officer	Develop and embed an internal and external communications strategy working with the committee and social media teams.

Time is precious so any time you may be able to give is gratefully received!

We couldn't run this club without volunteers. If you would like a volunteer to have a special mention in this newsletter please email Kirsty!

If you would like to chat through any of those roles, or other ways of getting involved please reach out to Kirsty – volunteering@locksheathpumas.com





August Committee

Time & Venue

Wednesday 6th August, 19:00, Sir Joseph Paxton Pub

Attendees:

Ben Stallard (BS), Gary Camfield (GC), Jen Ellis (JE) Julia Rayner (JR), Kirsty Davies (KD)

Item	Lead(s)	Summary
Seniors Update	BS, GC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Seasons Fixtures and Wide Lane had been booked Ongoing contact with Wide Lane regarding use of the bar Scrum Machine to be moved
Youth Update	BS (For GH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch Policy – Andy Watkis is drafting an initial proposal. Kit – online shop now ready. Schools Liaison – Julia and Caz having discussions with local schools Social Media – GH has met with social media team and they have a strategy in place for next season, review has been requested as to whether Senior and Youth Instagram should be separated into two different accounts U13/14/15 – Team Managers met to discuss diary clashes Membership subs 2026/27 discussed, GH requested proposals for change. BS – before changes investigated a forecast needs to be produced for the clubs 2026/2027 finances, with split between older and younger age groups, GC to produce financial forecast for 2026/27.
Financial Update	GC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of Year Accounts adopted by committee and members. To be sent to Companies House As of 26/27 an accountant needs to sign of End of Year Accounts





Item	Lead(s)	Summary
<p>Chairmans Remarks</p>	<p>BS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment Update, Commercial Sec – BS, KD, GC to meet with Ian H to discuss further. Director of Rugby discussions ongoing. Key open roles; Comms Officer, KD to advertise role externally. Rugby Safe Lead, Equipment and Facilities Lead, All mentioned in the July newsletter and will continue to push. Policy Reviews –BS requested relevant people to review Club policies for Volunteering – KD, Safeguarding – JE, Financial – GC ,RFU and Sport England Regulations – BS Club Strategy and Risk Register, BS Not aware of an existing Risk Register or current Club Strategy of business plan, BS to look for any existing docs and either update or draft. Kit Update, VX3 up and running, confirmed the nature and commercials of our VX3 relationship credit New Player Offer, need to review our club offering across Senior and Youth Sections, DoR to lead review Website Changes - Additional committee profiles added including JE and JR, additional coaches added (and photos edited), Governance Section to be added for club policies and meeting minutes, Added KLS Foundation link to our community page. Walking Rugby – Look to support and promote Comms Officer to lead once in place.
<p>Ground Update</p>	<p>BS (for GH)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hook Multi Sports Complex – The proposal is a multi-sport complex within the local area, seems to have financial backing, the group are trying to gain permission for the Hook Rec. The group seem confident that it will and that by 2027 (pre - devolution) they will have a firm agreement in place. Proposal includes LH Football, LH Cricket, Netball, Gymnastics and Handball. Potential for the Pumas to take on the LH Football/ Cricket group should it be vacated as a result of the new development. Containers, thanks to Gary for putting planning in for the third container. (GC) No side access allowed for the new container will need to be end access per current containers





Club Contacts

Executive Committee

President – Paul Greenwood – president@locksheathpumas.com

Club Chair – Ben Stallard – chairman@locksheathpumas.com

Vice Chair – Lee Ridout

Youth Chair – Gemma House youthchair@locksheathpumacubs.com

Club Treasurer – Gary Camfield treasurer@locksheathpumas.com

Club Secretary – Tom McIntyre secretary@locksheathpumas.com

Club Officers

Girls/Womens Lead & Youth Fixtures Secretary – Chris Botterill – fixtures@locksheathpumacubs.com

Club Administrator & Interim Rugby Safe Lead – Hayley Selby – info@locksheathpumacubs.com

Volunteer Coordinator & Neuro Diversity Lead Kirsty Davies – volunteering@locksheathpumas.com

Safeguarding Lead – Jen Ellis – safeguardingofficer@locksheathpumacubs.com

Safeguarding Officer – Angela Murphy – safeguardingofficer@locksheathpumacubs.com

Coaching Coordinator and Youth Head Coach – Andrew Watkis headcoach@locksheathpumacubs.com

Commercial Secretary - Ian Haberfield commercialsec@locksheathpumas.com

Senior Head Coach – Jon Lynch – headcoach@locksheathpumas.com

Senior Fixtures Secretary – Angus Clark – fixtures@locksheathpumas.com

Club Captain – Paul Ellis

Seniors Social Secretary – Gareth Mellor

School Liaisons – Julia & Caz

Discipline Secretary – John Dodds

Webmaster – George Winch

VX3 Club Shop

www.vx-3.com/collections/locksheath-pumas-rugby-club





Our Sponsors

On behalf of the club, I'd also like to recognise and thank our amazing sponsors and partners. The support they provide allows us to continue to thrive and provide rugby to the community. Every contribution makes a massive impact!



www.thealexwardlefoundation.org

www.bemorekirsty.org

