



September Newsletter



Welcome to the September edition of the Club Newsletter!



In this month's issue:

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- News
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- Volunteering Opportunities
- September Committee Minutes



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



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In memoriam

Stephen 'Topper' Wardle



It is with extreme sadness that we relay the news of the passing of Steve 'Topper' Wardle. For those that aren't lucky enough to have met or known Topper he was one of our founding players, and a stalwart of the club as it has grown and developed, with both Steve and his son Alex representing club. Topper with help from his dad Derrick, as well as Alex, spent hours putting out post protectors before home games and would always be vocal on the sidelines.

Alex tragically passed away in 2016 leading to Topper, his wife Denise and daughter Gemma creating the Alex Wardle Foundation to promote aware of Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome and to fund defibrillators in the community. He leaves an incredible legacy along with countless fond memories that those across the club will hold dear.

The thoughts of everyone at the club are with Gemma and Denise at this incredibly difficult time.

If you'd like to support Topper and Alex's legacy please find more information about the Alex Wardle Foundation at:

www.thealexwardlefoundation.org

[Fundraiser by Gemma Wardle : In loving memory of Stephen Wardle](#)





U15's The Trailblazers



After a challenging start to last season, our U15s have come back from adversity and gone from strength to strength! This is down to the sheer grit and determination of our boys, coaches, team manager and parents who refused to give up. We now have a squad of 23 lads who are the first Pumas to compete in the Hampshire League and Cup.

Several of the U15s have been with the Pumas since they were 6/7 years old. We have seen the likes of Lewis, Harrison, Shea and Zachary grow with the Club over the last 8 years.

During the summer five of the U15s achieve another Puma first and milestone for the Club by trying out for the Bath Academy Programme. Huge congratulations to Harry Blake who has been selected for the first round of Academy training.

Well done and thank you to all our U15s lads for representing the Club so proudly. The biggest shout out to our dedicated U15 coaching team - David, Paul, Nick, Teddy and Neil, team manager – the amazing Julia and of course our fabulous parent support crew. Keep up the great work of pushing the Club forward. Once a Puma Always a Puma!!

We can't underplay how important our U15s are to the future of the Club, they will be the first Youth players to eventually feed the Senior team and will help create a more secure and sustainable future for the Club. - Gemma



The Under 15s are everything it means to be a Puma, their story is one of grit, resilience, and friendships. As a club we are immensely proud of how they have grown and developed not only as rugby players but as people and as a team. The culture of discipline and respect within the team and the standards they set are just some of the reasons they lead the way as our trailblazers! Keep up the amazing work! - Ben





News

HMS Collingwood

We have some great news for the older age groups who train mid-week (U12s and above)

We have formally revised our agreement to allow for use of Collingwood's floodlit rugby pitches on Tuesday evenings as well as longer hours on Thursdays. This means we are able to provide access to all those age groups as well as for a dedicated girls training session during the week.

The arrangement is initially in place until the end of this year (when our existing licence expires) at which point we can look to review and extend.

This will be the first time we have that many groups using the site so please bear with us as we get things up and running.

Match Coverage on Veo

The club have extended the subscription for our Veo Sports Camera for the upcoming season.

Historically it's been used to either livestream or record Senior matches via the Veo App. This season we will looking to extend that with U13, U14, U15 matches recorded or streamed throughout the season. We only have one camera currently so we won't be able to stream all matches every weekend and we'll look to rotate usage so that everyone gets the benefit of it.

We'll communicate via your team managers more details on how to access the secured streams or recordings as we start to make use of it.





News

Introducing some of our Club Sponsors

Welcome and thanks to new sponsors –

Storage On Site, The Hook, Abshot Country Club, Chipperfield Coffee, TurboCam and Solid Build Contractors

your support is appreciated hugely by us all!

A massive thank you to our Vice Chair Lee and his company **Solid Build Contractors Ltd** for laying the base for the new container at Hunts Pond Road!

Storage On Site for the new container that will soon be arriving at Hunts Pond Road

The Hook Warsash is being amazing, supporting our oldest age groups and providing after match food and a space to gather. The U15s enjoyed hosting Gosport and Fareham last week



Thank you to our returning and continuing sponsors –

Utili-Light for your ongoing support helping to ensure the club can provide safe spaces and equipment and kit for both our Youth and Senior teams!

Phillip Nuttall Kitchens for sponsoring the Senior's 2025-26 Most Improved Player's fees for the upcoming season, helping us to continue to develop the first team.

The Joseph Paxton for their ongoing support of the club including post-match space for the 1st XV and some of our other age groups who host away teams.

As we go into matches and festivals we'd like to call out the support from **Pressing Needs** who keep our players looking fresh in clean kit every weekend





Mental Health

Heads Up – Mental Health On and Off the Pitch

Rugby has always been about more than just the game. It's about mates looking out for each other, belonging to something bigger, and finding the confidence that comes with being part of a team. That sense of community can make a real difference to mental health - for both men and young people.

We know that mental health struggles are far more common than people realise. Recent NHS research shows that around one in five children and teenagers are likely to experience a mental health problem - that's the same as one or two kids in every rugby squad. And when it comes to men, the picture is just as worrying: men are three times more likely to die by suicide than women, yet they're also less likely to reach out for help. Too often, lads feel they need to "man up" and carry on, when really, a quick chat with a mate, a coach, or a teammate could make all the difference.

That's why initiatives like LooseHeadz, the rugby mental health charity, are so important. Their mission is simple: use the power of rugby to tackle the stigma and start conversations. Every time we train, play, or meet up, we've got the chance to do exactly that - to check in with each other, to listen, and to remind each other that nobody has to go through tough times alone.

Here at the club, we also have support in place. Our Mental Health First Aider, Kirsty Davies, is always here if you need a confidential chat. If you or someone close to you is having a mental health crisis, you can contact Kirsty on volunteering@locksheathpumas.com or on 07926341168

And if things ever feel overwhelming, you can also reach out to:

Samaritans - 116 123 (free, 24/7)
Mind Infoline - 0300 123 3393
Childline - 0800 1111
Shout - Text "Shout" 24/7 to 85258

So next time you're at training or pitch-side, remember: talking about mental health doesn't make you weaker, it makes our rugby family stronger. Pumas - One Team





Fixtures & Events

Fixtures

Date	Opposition		Kick Off	Location
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1st XV

4 th Oct	US Portsmouth 2 nd XV (H) (League)		15:00	University Play Fields, Wide Lane, Eastleigh
11 th Oct	Trojans 2 nd XV (A) (League)		14:30	Trojans RFC, Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh
18 th Oct	Chichester 3 rd XV (H) (League)		15:00	University Play Fields, Wide Lane, Eastleigh

U15s

5 th Oct	Gosport & Fareham		11:00	Hunts Pond Road Recreation Ground, Locks Heath
19 th Oct	Overton		11:00	Hunts Pond Road Recreation Ground, Locks Heath
26 th Oct	Gosport & Fareham		11:00	Hunts Pond Road Recreation Ground, Locks Heath

U14s

12 th Oct	Andover		TBC	Foxcotte Lane, Andover, SP11 0TA
26 th Oct	Petersfield		TBC	Penns Place, Petersfield, GU31 4EP

U13s

5 th Oct	Solent Barbarians		11:00	HMS Temeraire Sports Ground
12 th Oct	Ellingham & Ringwood		11:00	Hunts Pond Road Recreation Ground, Locks Heath

U10s – U12s

5 th Oct	New Milton U12 Festival		09:00	Normans Way, Ashley, New Milton, BH25 5FN
19 th Oct	Trojans U10, U11 & U12 Festival		09:30	Trojans RFC, Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh

U5s – U9s

12 th Oct	Overton U7 & U8 Festival		09:00	Freefolk, Whitchurch, RG28 7NU
17 th Oct	U9s Friday Night Under Lights - Eastleigh		11:00	The Hub, Bishopstoke Road, Eastleigh, SO50 6LA
26 th Oct	U9 Girls Pitch Up & Play		09:00	Hunts Pond Road Recreation Ground, Locks Heath

Events

8th October, Monthly Committee Meeting,
19:00, Sir Joseph Paxton, Hunts Pond Road





Results

1st XV

6th September 2025 – 1st XV vs Southsea Nomads 1st XVs

Southsea Nomads 12 – Pumas 38, (Tries, P Taylor x2, J Wassell, P Price, N Raturibi, Conv J Lynch x3)

Team: 1-P Taylor, 2-P Ellis, 3-P Price (VC), 4-J Hall, 5-C Payne, 6-C Smith, 7-S Davis, 8-J Wassell, 9-G Carson, 10-J Lynch (C), 11-M Williams, 12-N Raturibi, 13-S Nuttall, 14-M Randall 15-A King, 16-R Hylands, 17-B Stallard, 18-T O'Grady, 19-J Young, 20-G Mellor, 21-D Lynch, 22-C Davis*, Head Coach- J Lynch, Physio-S Davies

*denotes Debut

Man of the Match: Alex King

Summary:

Our second preseason saw the team travelling to Southsea to take on a Nomads team who'll be playing higher up the league structure so offering a strong marker for where the team are at. The first half was a cagey affair with both teams exchanging tries to go into half time at 12-12. The second half saw the Pumas pull away scoring 26 unanswered points in a dominant display.

13th Sept 2025 – 1st XV vs Bognor RFC 2nd XV

Pumas 36 – Bognor 2nd XV 19, (Tries, S Nuttall x2, A Hamlett x2, P Ellis, M Williams, Conv J Lynch, A Davies)

Team: 1-A Burnside Shonk, 2-P Ellis, 3-P Price, 4-J Wassell, 5-J Young, 6-C Smith, 7-A Davies (VC), 8-G Mellor, 9-G Carson, 10-H Graham (C), 11-M Williams, 12-N Raturibi, 13-S Nuttall, 14-D Lynch 15-A King, 16-R Hylands, 17-S Crowley, 18-S Davis, 19-M Davies, 20-A Clark, 21-L Ey, 22-A Hamlett, 23 & Head Coach- J Lynch, Physio-S Davies

Man of the Match: Michael Williams

Summary:

The Pumas welcomed Bognors 2XV to Wide Lane in a physical contest. The Pumas built an initial lead of 15-0 thanks to scores from Paul Ellis, Sean Nuttall and Mike Williams, despite Bognor getting on the scoreboard the victory was secured with another Sean Nuttall try and a late brace from Andy Hamlett. A great performance to close out pre-season.



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



Results

U15's

21st September 2025 – Petersfield U15s vs Locksheath Pumas U15s

Petersfield (29) – Pumas (21)

Team: 1-Lathan, 2-Frankie, 3-Kai H (C), 4-Theo, 5-Dexter, 6-Whytley, 7-Phillip, 8-Harrison 9-Shea, 10-Harry, 11-Zac, 12-Lewis, 13-Casper, 14-Dan, 15-Aiden, 16-Kai B, 17-Adam

28th September 2025 – Locksheath Pumas U15s vs Gosport & Fareham U15s

Pumas (26) – Gosport and Fareham (58)

Team: 1-Lathan, 2-Frankie, 3-Kai H (C), 4-Theo, 5-Kai B, 6-Whytley, 7-Phillip, 8-Harrison 9-Shea, 10-Casper, 11-Zac, 12-Lewis, 13-Dan, 14-Nazar, 15-Aiden, 16-Charlie, 17-Adam, 18-Isaac, 19-Henry, 20-Harry B

U14's

21st September 2025 – Locksheath Pumas U14s vs Gosport & Fareham U14s

Pumas (34) – Gosport and Fareham (22)

Team: 1-Faithfull, 2-Stewart-Ross, 3-Wheadon, 4-Wheadon, 5-Taylor-Goble, 6-Gardner, 7-House (C), Georgeson 9-Guard, 10-Robertson, 11-Hillier, 12-Hughes, 13-Moore, 14-Mitchell, 15-Elleston, 16-Hurst, 17-Wilson, 18-Dencher, 19-Austin, 20-Elvin, 21-Davies

28th September 2025 – Romsey U14s vs Locksheath Pumas U14s

Romsey (12) – Pumas (29)

Team: 1-Stewart-Ross, 2-Hurst, 3-Wheadon, 4-Wheadon, 5-Taylor-Goble, 6-Gardner, 7-House (C), Georgeson 9-Guard, 10-Robertson, 11-Hughes, 12-Window, 13-Moore, 14-Mitchell, 15-Elleston, 16-Faithfull, 17-Wilson, 18-Dencher, 19-Austin, 20-Elvin, 21-Davies, 22-Hillier



Results

U13's

Fixtures coming in October!

U12's

21st September 2025 –Locksheath Pumas U12s vs Romsey U12s

Pumas Win!

Team: 1-Archie S, 2-Dan H, 3-Fred L, 4-Henry W (C), 5-Jack W, 6-Jack H, 7-Joel A, 8-Leo B 9-Ralph H, 10-Seb D, 11-Theo HH, 12-Tom G, Caleb, Ethan, Grayson, Lelund, Riley



Chairs Updates



Club Chair's message

What a start to the season!

We're back underway across the club! Alongside the First Team the U15's, U14s and U12s have had their first games of the season (with the U13s coming soon)! The younger age groups have had some festivals already along with weekly training. The new site at the Lockwood Centre is already a big hit and the atmosphere so far has been amazing!

The senior team closed out their pre-season with 2 convincing wins, one against a team sitting in a higher league and the other a team we'll be meeting again later in the season, so a great benchmark leading into the first league game against United Services Portsmouth 2nd XV.

The togetherness I see within each of our teams, whether that's the 1st XV, the U15s or any other age group is amazing to see! It reflects who we are as a club and what we are. It's incredible to see the number of dedicated volunteers working behind the scenes to keep everything going. Thank you to each of you, your hard work doesn't go unnoticed.

Looking forward to an incredible month of Rugby! If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out. – Ben

chairman@locksheathpumas.com

07817 600247



Youth Chair's message

Hello Everyone,

What a tremendous first month back! Whether you are new to the volunteering or have been delivering rugby with us for years, thank you to everyone that's gone the extra mile to make it a success.

Some highlights from this month:

- The vibe that's been created by our youngest Pumas at Locks Wood. It's absolutely buzzing every Sunday.
- Our oldest Pumas competing within the Hampshire Cups and Leagues.
- Well done to our U15s, our trail blazing age group, being the first Pumas to be in a League. They have had a narrow loss to Petersfield and despite a determined performance a loss against Fareham and Gosport at home. Congratulations to our U14s for winning their first two friendlies of the season against Fareham and Gosport RFC at home and Romsey RFC away.
- Our Girls Teams celebrated the wonderful Women World Cup final by gathering to watch game and doing some arts and crafts provided by England Rugby. A big thanks to the Sarisbury Cricket Club for hosting us! We had a great time.
- Our U12s hosted their first home game against Romsey and won!
- And lastly - Paul from Terstan Services ran a Club first aid course and as a result we have ten new youth first aiders. A big thanks to Nick Hemmings for helping arrange the course.

As always, if you have any thoughts or feedback about the Club or want to get more involved, please do drop me an email

See you soon on the side lines

Gem x - youthchair@locksheathpumacubs.com





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.
Commercial Secretary	Support, develop and manage our relationships with commercial partners, both for sponsorship and merchandising
Coach (Girls, Thursday Session)	A contact confident coach to support the Thursday evening Girls session at HMS Collingwood

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



September Committee

Time & Venue

Wednesday 3rd September, 19:00, Sir Joseph Paxton Pub

Attendees:

Ben Stallard (BS), Gary Camfield (GC),, Jen Ellis (JE) Julia Rayner (JR), Kirsty Davies (KD), Gemma House (GH), Tom McIntyre (TM), Ian Haberfield (IH), Andy Watkis (AW), Hayley Selby (HS), Chris Botterill (CB)

Item	Lead(s)	Summary
Seniors Update	BS	• Pre-season has started good numbers are turning up to training and and active player review is underway. 32 regular players and 13 intermittent players, with 7 new players coming along to training. • Training will be back at Collingwood from this week • Harry Graham has been named as 1xv captain • Shorts for the season need to be ordered
Youth Update	GH	• Cubs are all set for the new season, lots of new sign ups • Collingwood will be used alongside the seniors for the older age groups • there will be no storage facilities at the new training area in Locksheath, alternatives are being looked at. • Post are back up at HRP and pitch has been marked, base for 3rd container needs putting in place. • Bath ticket allocation of 175 have been given to club with 90 being taken by cubs so far, remaining allocation will be offered to seniors in due course • Keiran and Alex from RFU/Hampshire were met with and a discussion around taking the club forwards has been had. • After match arrangements for the U13and14s will be held at the Paxton and the U15s will use Hook after matches
Financial Update	GC	• £34k in the bank, international tickets have ben paid, Hampshire have been paid • £5-6K predicted year on year profit • Sponsorship has been coming in, Abshott have paid as had Phil Nutall • VEO subscription has been paid, equipment has been purchased and festivals have been paid • Forecasting for next year needs to be done (aim for end of November) Gemma, Andy and Julia to give Gary info



Item	Lead(s)	Summary
Sponsorship	IH	- Sponsorship spreadsheet to be produced and conversations with sponsors to be had. - Sponsorship plan to be brought before the committee for end of the year
Ground Update	GH, GC	- Extra container has been approved - The council have been contacted about new developments in area and if space becomes available we would like the space. - Bigger posts should be looked at and a survey of the footing should be done to see if they can accommodate them
Volunteer Update	KD	- Volunteer Update – community first, we are receiving help from them. - Spreadsheet needs to be up to date so we can also look after our volunteers
AOB		- BS - Mini-Bus - Bus to be looked at and scrapped - GH - Does the AGM process need a review, we will look at the process closer to the time. - GC - Email Addresses to be reviewed so that correct person is using the email address (Ben to talk to Damo about them) - GH -Odd Balls kit do we want to do an order of items such as Towels and budgies etc (Tom to speak to Charlie about it)



Club Contacts

Executive Committee

President – Paul Greenwood – president@locksheathpumas.com

Club Chair – Ben Stallard – chairman@locksheathpumas.com

Vice Chair – Lee Ridout - vicechair@locksheathpumas.com

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 - Vacancy 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



Club Shop

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



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Rugby**



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

