



Buckinghamshire RFU DOR Report 2025/26

Boys Youth had a very prosperous season under the watchful eye of Chairman Mark Taylor ensuring a welfare-led, development-focused environment was delivered for all players. The county continued to support clubs, volunteers, and pathway programmes while maintaining strong compliance and governance standards.

The annual Cup and Plate competitions were again enjoyable, well run and successful events. Thank you to both our hosts Beaconsfield RFC (Plate finals) and Milton Keynes RFC (Cup finals) for an excellent experience at both sites.

County Bucks Cup Winners

- **U14** – Milton Keynes RFC
- **U15** – Milton Keynes RFC
- **U16** – Amersham & Chiltern RFC

County Bucks Plate Winners

- **U14** – Buckingham RFC
- **U15** – Aylesbury RFC
- **U16** – Beaconsfield RFC

Boys U17s and international fixture, building on last season's achievements the squad had a fantastic County U17 programme winning development fixtures against well organised squads from East Midlands and Oxfordshire.

The international fixture is on again this season (sadly a home fixture again!) and a bit later in the June, on Sunday 21st at Aylesbury RFC, against a Jamaican pathway squad and this season is boosted by a further two games played by the U17 Girls and U18 boys.

Boys U18s and South West squad, again the trend continues with strong squad performances through the season culminating in five players making the final trials for South West selection; one player going on to being selected for the main South West U18 squad and a further two players selected for the shadow squad, congratulations to all players and we wish you go on to achieve greater accolades through the coming seasons.

The senior ladies program completed its first season under a new three-year strategic plan, implementing a completely new county setup that now engages all clubs with senior women players. Club and player response has been highly positive. Our team entered the Gill Burns County Competition, playing a warm-up and two competitive matches; despite a very rewarding warm up game results for the competition games didn't go our way this year. However, we are confident given the foundations built, in addition the squad spirit and camaraderie that's been developed next season's outcomes will be very different.

Senior men had a challenging county competition; however, the ongoing success has been to retain support from clubs, a total of nine being represented. Division three of the competition was entered, but subsequently were placed in division two and drawn against Devon, Gloucestershire and Somerset. With the league season getting longer and with playoff games stretching into May, the main month competition games are played, player attraction for the first time in four years became a real challenge, to the point, based on our player welfare-led ethos, particularly front row capability, I had to withdraw the county from its first game at home against Devon, Gloucestershire pulled out of the competition in April which left one game to play, Somerset away at Taunton RFC. The game, in parts, was extremely competitive with Bucks showing our true capability in phases and finding strength through supporting each other, but Somerset's organisational capability and cohesiveness won them the day. Our players who represented their county on the day have every right, as I am of them, to be proud of their performance.

Our senior men's manager Ed Baildon has decided to step down this season, I would like to thank him for his hard work over the last three seasons developing a strong rapport with both clubs and players, our successes over recent seasons is very much credited to Ed's hard work and dedication, thank you Ed for your commitment it is very much appreciated.

Super vets being a new concept this year and a continuation of the Presidents select 15, last season it was the senior ladies trial squad, this year 'super vets' for the men. We played two games at home to Bedfordshire, hosted by and many thanks to High Wycombe RFC, the away game being against Hertfordshire. Both games were very competitive and thoroughly enjoyed by all that took part, great to see values such as old friendships getting back together, camaraderie and drawing motivation from a shared team spirit being in strong evidence at both fixtures.

It would not be correct or acceptable completing my annual report without a massive thank you to all our volunteers, managers and coaches, who without their hard work and dedication, our players wouldn't have the opportunity not only to play rugby at the next level but in such well organised, inspiring and welfare-led environments, thank you all.

Thankyou

Andrew Blake
Director of Rugby Bucks RFU Ltd



'Developing lifelong participation in rugby'