



# Uckfield Rugby Club Newsletter

**August 2025**

**[www.uckfieldrugby.uk](http://www.uckfieldrugby.uk)**

## **Welcome to the New Season at Uckfield Rugby Club!**

As we kick off a brand-new season here at Uckfield Rugby Club, we extend a warm welcome to all our players, supporters, volunteers, and newcomers!



Whether you're returning after a summer break or joining us for the first time, we're thrilled to have you as part of the Uckfield RFC family.

This season promises to be full of energy, passion, and community spirit—everything Uckfield Rugby Club stands for. From our Minis and Juniors to the Senior teams and Vets, we offer rugby opportunities for all ages and abilities. If you're looking to play, coach, volunteer, or simply support from the sidelines, there's a place for you here.

Our club prides itself on being welcoming, inclusive, and community focussed. Alongside competitive rugby, we offer structured training, excellent coaching, social events, and a fantastic clubhouse atmosphere. It's not just about what happens on the pitch—our off-field activities and community connections make Uckfield Rugby Club a hub for friendship, fitness, and fun.

If you've been thinking about getting involved—whether dusting off your boots, trying rugby for the first time, or just being part of our vibrant club culture—there's no better time than now.

Keep an eye on our website and social channels for fixture updates, training schedules, and club news.

Here's to a successful, safe, and enjoyable season. We look forward to seeing you down at the club this year!

**Uckfield RFC – Rugby for Everyone.**

Gordon Buckland – Chairman of URFC





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## Dates for the diary

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> August	Club Clean Up – 10am–4pm See details below
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> August	Car Boot Sale contact <b><a href="mailto:dale.timson@hotmail.com">dale.timson@hotmail.com</a></b> for more information
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	Summer Camp – see details below
Saturday 6th September	Uckfield Carnival
	1st XV – Away v Weybridge Vandals
Sunday 7th September	Return to minis and juniors training at URFC
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	1 <sup>st</sup> XV – Home V London Cornish
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Acorns Rugby Session – 1–2pm at URFC
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Uckfield Women XV – Away V Pulborough Women





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## Coach Intro

URFC has welcomed Sandy Robertson as our new Head Coach who brings decades of experience, a deep love of the game, and a proven track record of building winning teams.



Sandy's rugby journey began in Leek, Staffordshire, where his talent quickly shone through, earning him county caps and a reputation as a fierce competitor. Over 30 years ago, Sandy relocated to the South Coast, settling in Hove, where he seamlessly transitioned from player to coach—and never looked back.

At Hove RFC, Sandy led the club through numerous promotions and nurtured a culture of hard work, respect, and resilience. His passion for player development and team unity became his hallmark, and he carried that spirit with him when he joined East Grinstead RFC five years ago.

There, Sandy worked closely with the late Matt Ratana, helping guide East Grinstead to new heights, both on and off the pitch.

Now, Sandy brings that same energy, knowledge, and passion to Uckfield Rugby Club. With his eyes firmly set on developing talent, growing the club, and climbing the leagues, the future looks bright under his watch.

**Welcome to Uckfield, Sandy!**





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## **Exciting Developments at the Club – Our Clubhouse Extension is Underway!**

We're thrilled to announce that Uckfield Rugby Club has officially begun Phase 1 of our long-awaited and ambitious clubhouse extension project!

Several years ago, the Board of Directors took the bold step of commissioning architect Georgina McLeod of McLeod35 to reimagine our clubhouse for the future.

The vision? A modern facility with four changing rooms, a larger, more inclusive social space, and full disability access throughout.



Thanks to the incredible support of Georgina, Terry Sullivan of Andersonbourne, and tireless fundraiser Bob Lake, we've broken ground on Phase 1: a brand-new main entrance and stairwell—complete with a fully DDA-compliant lift. This will finally provide easy access for everyone to our first-floor facilities.

DA Clark Groundworks are currently on site, working hard to get us to roof level and weatherproof before the winter sets in. It's a huge step forward—but we still have a way to go.

To bring our full vision to life, we need to raise over £600,000. We're in active discussions with Uckfield and Wealden Councils, Sussex RFU, and the RFU nationally, but we'll also be turning to you, our members, supporters, and friends, to help us get across the line through fundraising events and initiatives.

Our goal is to complete the project by the start of the 2027 season—it's ambitious, but achievable with your support.

Want to get involved? Email us at **[chairmanurfc@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanurfc@gmail.com)** – every offer of help counts!





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## Who is URFC?

*Introducing key members of our club...*

### **Amy Clark – Safeguarding Officer**



I am the Safeguarding Officer for URFC. My role is to support our coaches in creating a safe and enjoyable environment for all children during their rugby sessions. This includes overseeing DBS checks and ensuring appropriate safeguarding training is in place. Together with Assistant Safeguarding Officer Vicky Doe, we launched Acorns Rugby in June 2023 – a dedicated training session designed for children with disabilities or additional needs who might find it challenging to take part in standard age-grade rugby. These monthly sessions are led by some of our fantastic coaches, and offer a welcoming space where every child can take part at their own pace.

We're incredibly proud of our club and the excellent standard of coaching we provide. At URFC, every child is given the opportunity to play, learn, and discover a true love for the game.

## Acorns

Acorns Rugby has been running at URFC for two seasons. We welcome players who would be unable to access Sunday morning session and our skilled coaches support players with ball skills and further rugby skills. Children aged 5 and above are welcome. Our next session will be held on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September** at the club. If you know a child who would benefit from these sessions, please email [hello@uckfield.rugby](mailto:hello@uckfield.rugby) for more information

## URFC Social Media

We will be sharing lots of information on our social media accounts! Click the icon to make sure you are following us:







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## **Seniors Update – Men**

### **First XV Captain, Jordi Southgate**



As we head into the new season, I couldn't be prouder to lead Uckfield Rugby Club into Level 7. Getting promoted last year was a massive achievement for us, and while we know this step up will be a big challenge, it's one the whole squad is ready for. We've been putting in the work, and there's a real sense of excitement around the club.

Being named captain is a huge honour for me. I've been playing for Uckfield since I was a kid—it's my home, and this club means everything to me. To now lead the team I grew up with is something really special.

Our main goal this season is to give 100% every time we step on the pitch. Of course, we'd love to get some good results and hopefully finish mid-table, but what matters most is the effort and pride we show in representing the badge.

Pre-season has been excellent so far. The arrival of our new head coach Sandy and assistant coach Kieran has really lifted the squad. Their energy, structure, and fresh ideas—especially with Kieran's rugby league background—have helped us sharpen our game and learn new skills.

What makes Uckfield special is our young, ambitious squad and the tight-knit community around us. There's a great social side to the club, and everyone's genuinely happy to be here.

I'm looking forward to what lies ahead. We're ready to give it everything.





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## Seniors Update - Ladies

It's official, pre-season has begun!

This month preparations began for our ladies team as we get ready for another year competing within NC2. Last year saw a lot of firsts for our team; our first time lifting a trophy as we won the NC3 league, our first ever time competing in NC2 after promotion in 2024, and even more excitingly our first ever team tour!

Now as preseason begins and our anticipation for games to start in September starts to grow, we are focusing on everything we learnt over the last ten months. We have extra sessions to focus on the basics as well as blocking out time to concentrate on our fitness and strength, because in the words of Ilona Maher, 'Y'all tried being strong? I feel good. I feel well fed. I feel ready to take on anybody,'.

As we congratulate the Lionesses on their spectacular win in the Euros this week, the Uckfield camp is buzzing with excitement preparing for the Women's Rugby World Cup, which starts at the end of August! We cannot wait to watch our Red Roses and the other 15 teams from round the globe compete on our home soil. We also want to wish luck to those of our team who will be volunteering at the games held in Brighton!

In the spirit of congratulations, please join us in celebrating two of our very own sporting superstars, Bella May and Chloe Cranfield, who just last month joined 90 other maniacs to break the Guinness World Record for the longest game of rugby played with a record of 26 hours and 33 minutes; raising an incredible £116,000 in support of three amazing charities: Wooden Spoon, LooseHeadz, and The Lions Trust, which will help save lives and support children through the power of rugby.

If you fancy joining a new sport, meeting new people or just looking for something to fill your Tuesday evenings and are aged 17-50+, come join the Uckfield Ladies, we would love to have you - whether brand new to the sport or returning after some time away. For those wanting a casual way to keep fit and meet some new people, we also hold lots of socials throughout the year, as well as our team tour to Guernsey.

The season begins on **Sunday 21st September** in Pulborough, we will see you there!







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## Mini and Juniors Update

Mini and Junior Sunday Rugby returns on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September** at the club. We look forward to welcoming you back for the new season. New players are always welcome, please spread the word about our brilliant minis and juniors training and coaching.

Please ensure you have registered your child to play, even if they have played in previous seasons – new registration each season is required by the RFU.

Head Coaches for each year group this season are:

### **Minis:**

U5/6 – Andrea Funnell  
U7 – Darren Clark  
U8 – Matt Dobson  
U9 – Dan Marchant  
U10 – Ben Rayner  
U11 – Simon Lewis

### **Juniors:**

U12 Boys – Gary Beacham  
U12 Girls – Charlotte Brazier  
U14 Girls – Paul Ford  
U15 Boys – Alex Newman  
U16 Boys – Harry Smith  
U18 Girls – Robin Timson

**[Click here to register your  
child for the 2025/26  
season](#)**

Don't forget to get any new kit needed from the club shop:  
**[www.oneills.com](http://www.oneills.com)**





# Summer Rugby



# Camp

Come and join the fun at Uckfield Rugby Club's summer camp 2025 for children aged 5-12.

No experience required

Family discount  
25% off  
additional  
children

**1 Day = £35**

**2 Days = £67**

**3 Days = £95**

for 3 fun-packed days  
of rugby and games!.



26th, 27th & 28th  
August 2025

9.30am-3.30pm



Players will need a packed lunch and water bottle. Boots are useful but not required.

Register at  
[uckfield.rugby.uk/club/summer-camp-2025](http://uckfield.rugby.uk/club/summer-camp-2025)





**For Kids  
5-18**

# ACORNS

## UCKFIELD RUGBY CLUB'S INCLUSIVE RUGBY GROUP

Rugby, specifically for children of all ages with any additional needs or vulnerabilities in a safe, supportive and encouraging environment.

Non-contact, fun activities which teach children basic ball skills, teamwork and foundations of rugby.

**One Sunday each month from 1-2pm**

- DBS-checked, qualified coaches
- Held outside at the club or inside at Uckfield College in winter months
- Demand-free, no pressure to participate
- Gentle exercise, adaptable activities, supported interaction and lots of smiles

**Free of charge**

**[Register Here!](#)**



[hello@uckfieldrugby.uk](mailto:hello@uckfieldrugby.uk)



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# CLUB CLEAN UP

**VOLUNTEERS**

**NEEDED**

Come and help us get the club ready for the new season.

Volunteers will be rewarded with....



**BOUNCY  
CASTLE**



**BBQ**



**BEER**

*1 free drink from  
the bar*



***Saturday 9th August 2025***

***10am-4pm***



★  
★ Uckfield Rugby Club,  
Hempsted Playing Fields , Nevill Rd, TN22 1LX

# CAR BOOT SALE

£10 PER CAR  
/ TABLE  
£2 ENTRY  
FOR PUBLIC

SUNDAY,  
24 AUGUST 2025  
SELLERS FROM  
8AM  
BUYERS FROM  
10AM



To book a selling spot, please email  
[dale.timson@hotmail.com](mailto:dale.timson@hotmail.com)