

Newsletter



Welcome to the July 2025 Edition of the Bridgend Athletic RFC Newsletter

As everyone turns their eyes to 2025/2026, this newsletter is a celebration of the incredible efforts, achievements, and progress made across every corner of our club during the 2024/2025 season.

From the 1st XV's historic run to the Principality Stadium and a return to the WRU Championship, to the 2nd XV's successful debut in the National Leagues, to the continued development of our Mini & Junior sections and Ogwr Hawks teams – it's been a year defined by hard work, resilience and ambition.

Off the pitch, we've made major strides too – completing the Community Asset Transfer of the A48 pitch, installing solar panels at the clubhouse, and delivering initiatives like the Warm Hub to support our wider community.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our players, coaches, volunteers, committee members, sponsors and supporters. This newsletter captures just a snapshot of the energy and heart that drives Bridgend Athletic RFC forward.

We hope you enjoy reading it – and as ever, thank you for being part of the Green and Gold.

Newsletter



Chairmans Letter by Phil Rees

Senior Rugby Season Review

Senior Presentation Awards Night

Rugby Update - Ogwr Hawks

Rugby Update - Mini & Juniors - U7

Rugby Update - Mini & Juniors - U8

Rugby Update - Mini & Juniors - U9

Rugby Update - Mini & Juniors - U10

Rugby Update - Mini & Juniors - U11

Rugby Update - Mini & Juniors - U12

Rugby Update - Mini & Juniors - U13

Rugby Update - Mini & Juniors - U14

Rugby Update - Mini & Juniors - U15

Rugby Update - Mini & Juniors - U16

Rugby Update - Youth

Rugby Update - Bridgend Knights

Bridgend Athletic RFC Ladies Darts

Club House Update - Green Energy / Fire Exits / Warm Hub /
A48 Asset Transfer / Visit of MP Chris Elmore

Club Lottery

Membership Communication

Membership Application Form

Senior Mens Player Sponsorship
Opportunity

Thank You to Our Sponsors for
2024 / 2025

Sponsorship Opportunities
2025 / 2026

Newsletter



Chairmans Letter 2024-2025

Dear Members, Players, Supporters and Friends,

As I write this, I find myself reflecting on what has been a truly extraordinary season for Bridgend Athletic RFC. It also comes with a personal announcement: I will be stepping down as Chairman at the end of August. This isn't me saying good bye to the club, and I wouldn't preclude any further involvement with the committee, but having been through a busy couple of years it is time for a small rest!

Bridgend Athletic has been an enormous part of my life. As one of the founding members, I've had the privilege of seeing this club grow from the grassroots into a truly vibrant community, both on and off the pitch. I've served as Chairman more than once, and each time I've been humbled by the commitment, resilience, and camaraderie that defines the Ath.

This season has arguably been one of our finest. The 1st XV claimed the Division 1 West Central title with a seven-point lead and return proudly to WRU Championship status. We played - for the first time ever - at the Principality Stadium in the Division 1 Cup Final, narrowly edged out in a 29 - 30 thriller. We didn't leave empty-handed though, rounding off the year with a commanding win in the District Cup Final against Heol y Cyw.

Meanwhile, our 2nd XV made history by entering the National Leagues and completing all their fixtures - a huge step forward in our development. We even managed to field a 3rd XV on two occasions, the first time since 1994. Across our mini, junior and youth sections, the energy, pride and success stories have been nothing short of inspiring, with multiple cup wins, national representation, and vibrant community tours.



John Canon

Newsletter



Off the field, we've made huge progress too – completing the Community Asset Transfer of the A48 pitch, launching a successful Warm Hub, and continuing to grow our Ogwr Hawks and Bridgend Knights programmes. These initiatives are all steps towards our vision of being a future-ready, sustainable community hub.

With such momentum, I believe the time is right to pass the baton to the next generation of leaders. The club is in great shape, and the path ahead is full of promise. We need fresh ideas, renewed energy and, crucially, more hands to help carry the load.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to Adrian Burt, who is also stepping down as Club Secretary. Adrian has given years of service to the club – most recently playing a vital role in securing the A48 pitch transfer. His diligence, passion and loyalty have been instrumental in our success.

Adrian is just one example of the many dedicated individuals working tirelessly behind the scenes at Bridgend Athletic. From our players and coaches, to committee members—both Senior and Mini & Junior—and to the countless volunteers who give up their time to support teams across the club, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you. It's your passion, commitment and generosity that make this club what it is. Quite simply, we wouldn't be able to do it without you.

To all of you reading this – whether you're a long-time supporter or a former player wondering how you can reconnect – I urge you to consider getting involved. Join the committee, help out on match days, or simply sign up as a member. Every contribution counts and helps us build something stronger for future generations.

Bridgend Athletic has always been more than a rugby club – it's a family. It has been my honour to serve, and I look forward to supporting the club from the sidelines, pint in hand, cheering on the Green and Gold with pride.

Thank you for the memories, the friendship, and the journey.

With deepest gratitude,

Phil Rees

Chairman, Bridgend Athletic RFC

Newsletter



Senior Rugby Review Season 2024–2025

The 1st XV's season began with a new coaching setup: Head Coach Rhys Williams, Backs Coach Jonathan Phillips, and Forwards Coach Nathan Holman. Together, they set an ambitious goal – to win Division 1 West Central and make a strong run in the Division 1 Cup. Jonathan Phillips also served as playing captain, while Rhys Williams took to the field as well. Looking ahead to the 2025/26 season, Michael Powell will join the coaching team.

The team rose to the challenge, winning the league with a seven-point margin over Swansea Uplands, and will now compete in the Championship East next season. Fixtures have been published on the Ath Facebook page.

A historic moment came when the team became the first Ath senior side to play at the Principality Stadium, narrowly losing the Division 1 Cup Final 29–30 to Caernarfon RFC. They capped off the season with a commanding 37–15 District Cup Final victory over Heol y Cyw – an impressive bonus to a memorable campaign.

In the league their record was: P18 W14 L4 PF 517 PA 300 PD 217 TF 75 TA 25 Pts 71

The 217 Points Difference, 75 Trys For and only 35 Trys Against bettered any other team in the league.

The 2nd XV made history as the first Athletic second team to be admitted to the National Leagues, competing in Division 6 East Central. They were also the first team in their league to complete all fixtures this season, recording impressive wins over Penallta, St Peters and Tondy. Notably, they also secured a victory over Tondy in the Daryl Dyke Memorial Cup.

Newsletter



Rugby Update – Seniors

Unlike the previous season, where both senior teams occasionally struggled to field a full front row, this year saw a marked improvement in playing numbers. So much so, that on two occasions the club was able to field a 3rd XV (Development Team) – the first time this has happened since 1994.

Credit must go to coaches Aled Thomas and Liam Griffiths, who also served as Team Manager, for their leadership and commitment throughout the season. Thanks also to Rugby Secretary and Fixture Secretary Paul Hearne, whose work behind the scenes ensured compliance with WRU requirements to manage and administer two sides within the same National League structure.

After four outstanding seasons as captain, Aled Pilliner is stepping down. He passes the baton to Charlie Ashpole, who will lead the team into the 2025/26 season.

1st XV Personal Achievements:

During the season Wayne Fooks broke Stuart Morris 528 Apps record and now stands at 542, Jonathan Stoker became the 3rd Ath player to make 400 Apps, Aled Thomas reached 250 Apps and Lee Murphy over 150.

Most Apps Ben Owen 28 (all games), Lee Murphy, Cameron Thomas 26, Oliver Olds, Gabe Brown, Ben Cording 23, Jonathan Phillips, Kalafi Molitika, McKenzie Grey 22, Tom Morgan, Iestyn Merriman 21, Dan O'Sullivan, Mike Powell 20.

Most Tries: Jonathan Phillips 21, McKenzie Grey 19, Michael Powell 7, Jakob Williams 6, Gabe Brown, Rhys Williams, Dan O'Sullivan, Iestyn Merriman, Oliver Olds, Lee Murphy 5

Most Points: Rhys Williams 141, Jonathan Phillips 119, McKenzie Grey 102

Newsletter



Rugby Update – Seniors

2nd XV Personal Achievements:

During the season Wayne Fooks broke Stuart Morris 528 Apps record and now stands at 542, Jonathan Stoker became the 3rd Ath player to make 400 Apps, Aled Thomas reached 250 Apps and Lee Murphy over 150.

Most Apps Owen Thomas 20 (all games), Ethan Bevan, Luke Griffiths, Daniel Osarigie 18, Aled Pilliner 17, Brandyn Fooks 16, Harvey Tooze 15, Charlie Ashpole 14, Aled Thomas 13, Cam Hicks, Keegan Thomas 12.

Most Tries: Owen Thomas 9, Daniel Osarigie 4, Rhys Hockings 3, Matthew Hobby 2

Most Points: Owen Thomas 47, Aled Thomas 29, Daniel Osarigie 20



Newsletter



Senior Presentation Awards Night

Bridgend Athletic RFC following a very successful 2024/2025 season held its Senior Awards Ceremony at the Athletic clubhouse on Saturday June 7th.

Peter Woods Trophy Clubman of Year – John Canon – Athletic Club Photographer

1st XV Awards

- Jeff Jenkins Memorial Coaches Player of Year / Nathaniel Car Sales Players Player of Year / Posh Nosh Captain – All Jonathan Phillips
- Terry Coles Memorial 1sts Runners Up (Best Forward) Dan O'Sullivan
- Daryl Dyke Memorial Award – Ben Owen

2nd XV Awards

- Tony Griffiths Captains Award Aled Pilliner
- David Perry Coaches Player of Year – Daniel Osarigie
- Nathaniel Car Sales Players Player of Year Charlie Ashpole,
- Brian Lewis Memorial 2ND XV Runners Up (Best Back) Owen Thomas

400 Appearances Award (only 3rd recorded player to do so) – Jonathan Stoker

Life Membership following long term commitment and service to Bridgend Athletic RFC:

- John Apsee – A former player and very long-term head coach
- Paul Hearne – Former Youth Team coach and team manager – currently Rugby Secretary, Fixture Secretary and Committee Member

Athletic Captain Jonathan Phillips presented Club Stewardess Yvonne Blackburn with a Bouquet of Flowers as appreciation for her and her Bar Staff efforts during the year.

There were also several players that achieved non-athletic based achievements this season:

- Welsh Academicals – McKenzie Grey & Evan D'Adamo
- Welsh Crawshays – Jakob Williams
- Welsh Police – Tom Jenkins
- Welsh Fire Service – Ben Cording, Matthew Greenman, Matthew Norman & Geraint Roberts.

Newsletter



Senior Presentation Awards Night



The Jeff Jenkins Memorial Trophy
Is Awarded To 1st.XV Captain
Jonathan Phillips By Sponsor
Simon Apsee
J H Apsee & Sons.



2nd.XV Player Of The Season 2024/2025
Is Awarded To Dan Osarigie
Presented To Him By David & James
Perry (Sponsors) Of Church Village
Travel Agents.



Clubman Of The Season 2024/2025
Is Presented To Photographer
John Canon By 1st Team Captain
Jonathan Phillips And Sponsor
Gareth Edwards Of
Gareth L Edwards Estate Agents.

Newsletter



Rugby Update – Ogwr Hawks

The Ogwr Hawks Girls Rugby Hub has had an incredible journey this season. We started with just the U12 and U14 teams, but through dedicated recruitment efforts, we finished the season with teams in the U10, U12, and U14 categories. The upcoming season is even more exciting as we will be fielding teams in all age groups from U8s to U16s. Additionally, we are currently recruiting for U18s and senior women's teams.

The 2024/2025 season was particularly successful for our teams. The U12 team emerged as joint winners of the West Wales Cup, while the U14 team were runners-up in the West Wales Plate. Our U10 team had the honor of representing the club at the Admiral Rugby Festival at the Vale, being the only girls' team to participate.

The tremendous effort and skill shown by all players this season have been remarkable. I am extremely proud of how every young player has represented the hub. Their dedication and hard work have truly paid off, and I look forward to seeing even more success in the future.



Scan the QR Code to book a taster session

Newsletter



Contact Tracey
Ogwr HUB lead
on 07940-174449.

Senior Women's Contact Rugby

Now recruiting u17 & u18
welcome

Taster Sessions
Every Wednesday
6 P.M. to 7 P.M - Newbridge Fields A 48
Sign up for a taster session https://linktr.ee/ogwr_hawks

Newsletter



Rugby Update – Mini and Junior Sections

Under 7s

We kicked off in September, the games came thick and fast, but the boys got stuck in and took it all in their stride. Putting in some entertaining performances that they (and their parents) thoroughly enjoyed. There was also fun to be had off the pitch, with various social events. Our first being flag bearers for the Ospreys at the Brewery field!

Winter came, and the boys dug deep through some tough weather. Trying to grab wet and muddy tags in strong winds with freezing cold hands cannot be easy! So they all thoroughly deserved the respite of our second social, the Christmas party (made extra special by being our first get together at the Ath clubhouse).

Thankfully as we moved in to Spring, we were met with warmer weather and festival season! How fitting it was that the first festival the boys got to experience was our very own Bridgend Athletic minis and juniors festival. The boys didn't stop playing all day, they soaked in the atmosphere and lovely weather (only pausing briefly to refuel on fizzy drinks and sweets!).

We continued festival season with an outing to Pontyclun, and Cardiff Arms Park. The latter being a precursor to attending the judgement day games at the principality stadium. Once again the boys got to wave their flags and show their support for their region.

We wrapped up the rugby with the big social event of the year, our tour to Newquay. It was amazing to see how many families attended our first trip away, loads of folks got on board, and they all helped to make it a very special occasion. A good time was definitely had by all; a great blend of social activities and rugby!

Finally, after some fun training sessions down the fields and on the beach, we signed off the U7s with our presentation evening at the clubhouse. The boys were given their club ties, and really looked the part. With the help from some local boys (Ospreys and Welsh capped players) every player was presented with a trophy, and all thoroughly deserved.



Newsletter



Rugby Update – Mini and Junior Sections

Under 8s

It's been a busy and successful season for the u8s in their second season of tag rugby. Some highlights include competing at festivals in Pontyclun and our home festival at Bryntirion Comp. There was also a fun filled tour to New Quay along with Ath u7, u11 and u12 which included a fixture vs Lampeter u8s.

The team are now preparing to transition from tag into contact rugby next season and have been working hard in training to learn proper tackling technique ready to begin u9 rugby in September.

We would like to give a big thanks to our sponsors for their continued support next season;

- Watts & Morgan estate agents
- Screed Solutions South Wales
- Ventcon ventilation and air con specialists
- JPW Heating Services
- JH Apsee Removals & Storage
- U- Test Diagnostics
- Spring Design



Newsletter



Rugby Update – Mini and Junior Sections

Under 9s

Under 9s

The Bridgend Athletic Under 9s squad is a truly special group, made up of 25 talented young players who represent the heart and future of the club. Over the past season, they've made tremendous strides, successfully transitioning from tag rugby to full contact with determination, resilience, and no shortage of skill.

This team is packed with natural talent, and their progress over the last year has been nothing short of remarkable. Each player has embraced the physical side of the game while continuing to develop strong fundamentals, teamwork, and rugby intelligence far beyond their years.

With a fantastic attitude and an unwavering commitment to learning and improving, this group is on an exciting path. The future is incredibly bright for the Bridgend Athletic Under 9s – a squad full of potential, passion, and pride. One to watch in the seasons to come.



Newsletter



Rugby Update – Mini and Junior Sections

Under 10s

Our u10s have had another solid season of development, playing 35 games throughout the season, the transition from rugby league format to rucking has been a great success for all players involved. The squad of 24 have all been together since the age of 5, the pathway the club offers from a young age is great for all looking to get involved in rugby. The friendships built over the years has developed the squad into a tight group, who will always encourage and support their teammate's development.

Four players were selected to represent the schools district a year early, which was a great testament to the age group.

Bridgend – Lawson, also going on to be selected to play in the final of the DC Thomas Cup taking the trophy.

Vale – Parker, William & Harri all playing well for the district in their cup run.

Huge well done representing the district a year early.

We toured the West Country challenge festival which was a great day for minis rugby showing off their talent over the bridge. All feedback from English teams was positive crediting how great the squad is and hadn't seen such a strong group of 10 year olds with so much talent.

Huge thank you to our sponsors:

- Dale Maintenance LTD
- Terry Reffell LTD
- Kiwi Kitchens
- Cabo Roche



Newsletter



Rugby Update – Mini and Junior Sections

Under 11s

The U11 season started with an impressive cohort of seven U11 players being selected to represent Bridgend District Schools, which went on to win the DC Thomas cup at Rodney Parade. Huge congratulations to you all.

We started the season strong, great numbers and able to field both a very competitive and a development squad with both teams doing well at their respective levels. With one eye on next season we decided it was time to merge as one squad. In the latter part of the season we began to see real glimpses of what we hope to be our ethos going into U12s, strong, competitive and everyone enjoying their rugby!

We toured to West Wales along with 3 other age groups, it was amazing to see so many of the Ath Family together, socialising and playing some great rugby with a huge crowd there to support one another! We had a team bonding day down the beach with a bbq and some touch rugby followed with a paddle board session for the team, thankfully all survived with only one incident nearly losing a player as they drifted off to Ireland!

This season (not including festivals) we played an impressive 41 games, winning 25 and losing 16. We scored 292 Try's whilst only conceding 191 which pays tribute to how tight our defence was and how close the losses really were! We are incredibly proud of the mind set and resilience that is present in our squad, they really play for one another and are building friendships and memories that will last a lifetime, what grass roots rugby is all about!

Unfortunately as we end this season the time has come to say goodbye to our four Girls and some stalwarts of the squad. They have been a huge part of our team for four years, bringing the skills, fun and of course glamour to the team! It's not only a massive loss to the playing team but to wider squad as we also say goodbye to a wholesome bunch of family and friends that have contributed so much over the years! We would like to wish all our luck to our departing players and especially to our Girls as they continue to play for the Ogwr Hawks.



Newsletter



Rugby Update – Mini and Junior Sections

Under 12s

All our coaching team are extremely proud of all the players, parents and supporters who have made this such a successful season. All the squad stepped up and took the bull by the horns this year and it's been a real pleasure for our coaches to work with this fantastic group of boys. We came away winning all the cups that were available to the squad and they have really set such a tough benchmark to follow going into U13's rugby.

We had a fantastic tour to West Wales playing against Lampeter RFC and have travelled across the M4 Corridor to play some of the best teams in the Dragons, Scarlet's and Cardiff regions. This certainly has helped our boys develop to the standard that they are today.

It's great team work that makes these things happen and we would like to thank everyone involved with Bridgend Ath, within our team we understand this ethos there definitely aren't many selfish players at all and that's why they do so well, working hard for each other and towards one common goal!

We were delighted to become District Cup Champions and Ospreys Cup Champions.

We would also like to take this moment to highlight multiple players who were involved from our club with the below fantastic Trophy wins for Brynteg School.

Urdd 7s National Welsh Champions (8 Bridgend Athletic Players)
Bridgend District School 7s Champions (8 Bridgend Athletic Players)

An absolutely amazing season and they've certainly set a tough benchmark for next year and further years in Junior Rugby.



Bridgend Athletic RFC Under 12's
Post Game Photo After Defeating Brynteg
In The Osprey's Cup Final 22-19
At The Llandarcy Academy Of Sport
18/05/2023

John Canon

Newsletter



Rugby Update – Mini and Junior Sections

Under 13s

Our U13s have had a fantastic season and one they'll remember for sometime.

After winning the District Plate last season their aim was to go one better and win the District Cup. They did just that in some style scoring a last minute try to beat Tondy 22-15 at Tonmawr RFC.

That win secured them an Ospreys Cup Final vs Trebanos at Llandarcy Academy Of Sport, again the boys played superbly winning 24-7.

The U13s went on tour in April to Somerset & entered the West Country Challenge Tournament, going undefeated all weekend & being crowned champions.

Congratulations to our U13s captain Callum Brown on being selected to represent Wales Touch U15s and will compete at The Atlantic Youth Touch Rugby Championship in Ireland.

- Big thank you to our U13s sponsors:
- SJ Fuller Autobodies Ltd
- R&D Tune Ltd,
- Wild Cod
- Affordable Quality Windows
- Sarah Beynon Williams – Solicitor Property Law
- Ian & Nia O'Brien.



Newsletter



Rugby Update – Mini and Junior Sections

Under 14s

2024-25 has been an successful season for Bridgend Athletic U14s.

The Ath squad of 24 players, which includes 10 players who have been played since U7s, won 95% of all matches and won three cup competitions.

They were successful in the U14 District D Cup Final beating Maesteg Celtic 12-7, in the U14 Ospreys Cup Final beating Ystalfera 27-3 and in the U14 Dunvant Festival, beating the hosts, Dunvant 15-5.

The team had a great tour to West Wales, with two local matches, a sing song on the beach and a good night out in terrible shirts!

Many of the players represented Brynteg Year 9, whom reached the Welsh National Schools Cup Final, won the Ospreys Schools Cup Final and were in the top 8 teams at the Rosslyn Park School Sevens.

Other achievements included West Wales Rugby League caps for Jude Thomas, Ethan Richardson, Caden Templar, Ashton Davies, Harri Lloyd, Ioan Jones, Will Mordecai, Toby Williams.

The team would like to thank our sponsors for their support this year:

- IRB Contractors
- CGI
- TW Joninery
- Litchard Aggregates
- Greyfield Proprty Services and
- Talbot Road Dental Practice



Bridgend Athletic RFC Under 14's
Post Game Team Photo After Defeating
Ystalfera RFC 27-3 in The Osprey's Cup Final
Played At The Llandarcy Academy Of Sport
18/05/2025

John Canon

Newsletter



Rugby Update – Mini and Junior Sections

Under 15s

Our U15s won the District Cup a remarkable 4th year in a row beating Maesteg Celtic 44-29 at Tonmawr RFC. This secured an Ospreys Cup Final vs Mumbles at Llandarcy Academy Of Sport, a repeat of the previous years final in which the Ath won. This year wasn't to be though with Mumbles winning by a try.

Our U15s entered the Dunvant Festival and came runners up losing the final to a sudden death penalty try.

As with the U13s our U15s also travelled to Somerset on tour and entered the West Country Challenge Tournament, they also went undefeated all weekend and were crowned champions after beating Ayr from Scotland in the final.

Finally the U15s entered The Heart Of Wales Welsh 7s Series at Carmarthen RFC and were crowned Plate winners after beating Pontyclun in the final.

Congratulations to the following 14 players selected to represent Bridgend & District Schools in the Dewar Shield next season, Dylan Jones, Grayson Lewis Whelan, Dylan Hopkins, George Eyre, Theo Jones, Max Hearing, Finn Lewis, Mason Brown, Rudi Quinn, Coby Jervis, Ceirion Emmment Jones, Jack Parrot, Ethan Davies, Oliver Turvey with Charlie Noakes also selected to represent Aberavon Schools.

Congratulations to Mason Brown & Jack Parrot on being selected to represent Wales Touch Rugby at The Atlantic Youth Touch Championship in Ireland.

Congratulations to Ceirion Emmment Jones on being selected to represent Wales Rugby League at this seasons Four Nations Championship.

Big thank you to our U15s sponsor's:

- Drainforce,
- SJ Fuller Autobodies Ltd
- Horan Construction
- TSC Subsea



Newsletter



Rugby Update – Mini and Junior Sections

Under 16s

A great season to end M&J rugby.

7s plate winners at Sardis Road.

Some fantastic results against strong teams this season.

Congratulations to Bridgend & District Schools players Oliver Williams, Rhys Punter and Chaitu Gangineni, also Rhodri Hopkins coming in but unfortunately picking up a nasty knee injury and cutting his season short.

Also Ospreys East representative's Oliver Williams, Rhys Punter and Chaitu Gangieni with Oliver Williams also making the combined Ospreys squad.

U16s went on tour to Belfast with a fantastic win against a strong team with some youth players in their team!

Our U16s reached the District Plate Final narrowly losing to Pencoed. Big thank you to our U16s coaches for guiding our players throughout their M&J journey. Next up for these young men is Youth Rugby!



Newsletter



Rugby Update – Youth

The return of Youth Rugby is well underway for the 2025-2026.

The new coaching set up of Chris Davies – Head Coach, Mike Punter – Forwards Coach, Dean Brown – Team Manager, Rob Wilson – Assistant Coach, Kyle Hemming – Assistant Coach and Laura Hemming – Team Secretary, are delighted with numbers so far at training.

Training is currently taking place on Tuesday's (6pm) at Brynteg School (on the Upper School pitch) and new and old players are welcome.

Our newly formed Youth Team recently entered The Prince of Wales 7s at Gilfach Goch and came away as Plate winners – a great start to the season.



Newsletter



Rugby Update – Bridgend Knights

The Bridgend Knights Touch Rugby Team based out of Bridgend Athletic RFC great start to the spring / summer season continues!

They've had some amazing numbers at training and it's fantastic to see so many people getting involved from ages 12+ that includes women and men!

2 teams played at the recent 40+ East Wales Renaissance Cup and we came home as Plate and Bowl winners

Winners in the recent Spring South Wales FIT League

Winner of Gibraltar Touch Cup

Winner of Pill RFC WTA tournament

4 teams (U13's, U15's, Women's and Mens) played in the Welsh Touch Association Touchfest Social with the senior men's team coming Runners up

Bridgend Knights Tournament Bowl Winners

They have a number of tournaments and League games coming up for our Youth teams, Women's teams and also our Veterans Touch Teams over the summer, before we host the South Wales Cup Tournament in August! This tournament is open for younger touch players aged under 15 years of age!

However if you don't fancy the competitive side you are more than welcome to come down for a throw around and have some fun!!

We train every Monday at Newbridge fields, Bridgend Athletic Pitch:

Youth 12-15 yr olds – 6- 7pm

Womens – 14+ – 6:30-7:30pm

Seniors and Vets – 7 –8pm

For more info check our our Facebook page – Bridgend Knights or get in touch with Sean on 07891 402 326 – sean@forcesfitness.co.uk



Newsletter



Bridgend Athletic RFC Ladies Darts

Bridgend Athletic RFC – last season's Bridgend & District League Champions – enjoyed another successful season between September 2024 & June 2025 – but had to settle for Runners Up Spot this season.

Sheena Lewis had a bull checkout, while Annette Lynes & Estelle Ward are finalists in the Charity 4's and Captain Anne Jones and Estelle Ward have reached the finals of the Captains Cup.

New members welcome – any ability – to enjoy playing darts in a very sociable environment, when next season's league starts on September 16th.

Contact Anne Jones 07769291449.

Newsletter



Club House Update – Green Energy

The new solar power system installed on the clubhouse roof is now fully operational, providing a clean, renewable energy source that significantly reduces the club's reliance on fossil fuels. This development not only supports our commitment to environmental sustainability but is also expected to generate substantial cost savings by lowering electricity bills and enabling the club to sell surplus energy back to the national grid.

By harnessing solar energy, the club is actively reducing its carbon footprint and playing a part in creating a cleaner, greener future for the local community.

The installation was carried out by local company Evergreen Renewables, following a successful grant application to the National Lottery Community Fund – Sustainable Steps Wales: Egin programme. The club also completed the Egin mentoring programme, with Club Grant Coordinator Gareth Davies leading the process.

As part of a broader upgrade for the benefit of members and community users, the club has also installed fibre-optic WiFi, with boosters placed throughout the building to ensure strong, reliable connectivity. This enhanced system is integrated with the solar panel inverter, allowing real-time monitoring of energy consumption, battery storage levels, and excess power exported to the grid – all accessible remotely via a dedicated app.

This project represents an important step in the club's long-term vision to be a sustainable, future-ready community sports hub.

Newsletter



Club House Update – Fire Exit Stairs

As part of the continuing club maintenance policy the rear entrance fire escape at the clubhouse has recently been renewed after tenders were invited for the design, construction and installation.

The work was carried out by local company Coity Engineering.



Newsletter



Club House Update – Warm Hub

The club's Warm Hub, which ran for a ten-week period at the start of this year, proved to be a resounding success. Delivered in partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council and supported through grant funding administered by BAVO, the initiative created a welcoming, inclusive space for members of the local community.

Each session offered visitors a warm, safe environment, hot meals, and a variety of social activities – all of which contributed to a strong sense of community and connection during the colder months. The initiative attracted a group of regular attendees and received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

Here's what some of our participants had to say:

- “A warm and friendly atmosphere, brilliant venue – nothing is too much trouble.”
- “Good food, lovely people, relaxed, safe.”
- “It got me out of the house, met new people, made new friends, and I even learned new skills.”
- “It's important to have something to look forward to – very helpful, polite, and accommodating.”

Due to its popularity, the club intends to run the Warm Hub again next year, subject to the continuation of local authority support.

As part of our ongoing commitment as a Community Active Sports Club, we continue to explore new opportunities to support and engage with our local community. We welcome ideas and suggestions from members to help shape future initiatives.



Newsletter



Other Club News...

A48 Pitch & Asset Transfer Update

Following 2 years of negotiations with BCBC on Friday July 25th 2025, the club through Director Rhys Jones signed the CAT (Community Asset Transfer) lease enabling the club to take over the management of the A48 pitch implementing a project to improve the pitch and immediate surrounds for the benefit of all BARFC teams and our affiliated women's team, Ogwr Hawks.

Following their work with BCBC in renovating the South Pavilion a Newbridge Fields subcommittee of Secretary Adrian Burt and Club Patron & Grants Officer Gareth Davies were given the go ahead to consult with BCBC and Specialist Ground Consultant, Peter Jones of Oolong sports to research and instigate all the work necessary to complete the Community Asset Transfer.

With the lease stage now complete we will be embarking on an ambitious target of late April 2025 to level and widen the pitch to full size at a budgeted cost of £45K with Grant funding from BCBC and Be Active Sports Wales.

These necessary and arduous procedures have been completed without the club incurring any costs thanks to the local authority CAT scheme.

With the support of all the club playing and social membership we will then be looking to install pitch barriers along the touchlines, hard standing around 3 sides of pitch, extending back to the car park and storage containers and hopefully acquire portable floodlights. We are also seeking the lifting of covenants preventing any building work on the fields so that in the future changing rooms and a community hub social area can be considered.

Our thanks for assistance with the above project go to the Ath committee, former and current BCBC CAT Transfer Managers Guy Smith & Louise Connolly, John Howells WRU Business & Development Manager and former player Simon Thomas for legal assistance with the lease transaction.

Newsletter



Visit from Local MP Chris Elmore – Club Recognition and Future Support

Following the release of the club's March 2025 newsletter, local MP Chris Elmore expressed a keen interest in learning more about the club's outstanding achievements both on and off the field this season. He subsequently visited the clubhouse, where he was given a guided tour by club representatives.

During his visit, Mr Elmore showed particular interest in the club's memorabilia, especially the international jersey belonging to Dr Jack Matthews, which was presented to the club at the official opening of the clubhouse. He was intrigued to learn that Dr Jack Matthews was actually born in the building – then his family home – while attending the former Bridgend County Boys Grammar School.

The MP spent time admiring the impressive array of trophies won this year by the club's senior and junior teams, as well as those of the Ogwr Hawks ladies' rugby hub, Bridgend Knights Teams and the club's successful ladies' darts team.



Bridgend Athletic RFC Meeting With MP Chris Elmore
L-R Gareth Davies (Patron & Grants Officer), Jonathan Phillips (Club Captain & Backs Coach), Phil Rees (Chairman), Adrian Burt (Secretary), MP Chris Elmore, Tracey Balmer (Ogwr Hawks Hub John Cavanagh)

Newsletter



The club also took the opportunity to brief Mr Elmore on its status as a Community Active Sports Club, a designation which has enabled access to grant funding for solar panel installation and the operation of a Warm Hub facility supporting local residents during the early months of the year.

Looking ahead, the club outlined its ambitions to enhance playing facilities, including the development of new community changing rooms at the western end of Newbridge Fields. Mr Elmore was supportive and invited the club to engage in future discussions related to the regeneration of Bridgend town.

Club Lottery

Join the Bridgend Athletic RFC lottery and help us make a real difference in our community. We're committed to inspiring and empowering people of all backgrounds through sport. By taking part, you're not just backing grassroots rugby – you're investing in the future of our players and the wider community

Join via the QR Code below:



Newsletter



Membership Communication

Once a Green & Gold, Always a Green & Gold

As many of you know, we're delighted that the club has regained WRU Championship status – a major achievement for everyone involved. This success has been fuelled by the dedication of current players, coaches, volunteers, and social members.

But with success comes fresh challenges:

Higher standards on the field

Increased running costs

A greater need for support from our wider club family

That's why we're reaching out and inviting you to become a Member of Bridgend Athletic RFC. You can select a membership category that suits your circumstances.

Your membership will:

- Directly support the running and development of the club
- Help both senior and junior teams compete at the next level
- Reconnect you with old teammates and the club community
- Give you access to match day hospitality, exclusive events, and club news

It's a small gesture – but one that will have a lasting impact.

Join as a Member today by completing the attached form and returning it by email, post, or in person at the clubhouse. Alternatively, use the link on the PDF to set up your Direct Debit or go to the website by clicking on this link:

<https://bridgendathletic.rfc.wales/club-memberships/>

Let's continue this journey together.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the club soon – whether at a match, an event, or simply for a drink and a catch-up.

Yours in rugby,
Bridgend Athletic RFC

Bridgend Athletic RFC Ltd - Membership Application

Form 2025/2026 Season



Type of Membership

Type	Amount	Payment Type			Payment Link
Gold Membership	£250	Cash	Cheque	DD	https://buy.stripe.com/cNifZjarga9X3eWew8gA80r
Silver Membership	£125	Cash	Cheque	DD	https://buy.stripe.com/6oU9AVgPE81Pg1IbhWgA80t
Bronze Membership	£96	Cash	Cheque	DD	https://buy.stripe.com/6oU3cx56W95T7vcbhWgA80s
Full membership (Couple)	£96	Cash	Cheque	BACS	https://buy.stripe.com/9B628teHwci52a53PugA80u
Full membership (Single)	£72	Cash	Cheque	BACS	https://buy.stripe.com/28EbJ3czo3LzaHo85KgA80v
Senior Player membership	£24	Cash	Cheque	BACS	https://buy.stripe.com/bJecN7fLa9X4j0dq4gA80w
Youth Player membership	£10	Cash	Cheque	BACS	https://buy.stripe.com/aFa8wR1UKfuh8zgadSgA80p
Full OAP membership (Couple)	£48	Cash	Cheque	BACS	https://buy.stripe.com/fZu9AVdDsdm97vcadSgA80x
Full OAP membership (Single)	£36	Cash	Cheque	BACS	https://buy.stripe.com/4gMbJ30QGfuh7vc0DigA80y
M&Js Member	For Membership card and contact purposes only – this is supplementary to the M&J membership process				

Direct Debit and BACS payments made to: Account No 00975475 - Sort Code 30-91-18

Member Details

Applying Member or Parent Name

If Parent add children names

Address Line 1:

Address Line 2 Postcode:

Mobile Phone Number: Email

Date of Birth

CASC Participation – how do you assist or contribute to BARFC.

Gold Membership

- Guaranteed pair of tickets for every home international match to be purchased at face value.
- Free entry for two people to all BARFC home matches
- You and your company name in every home match programme
- You and your company name with link on BARFC website
- Invitation to two match sponsorship buffets during the season

Silver Membership

- Guaranteed single ticket for every home international match to be purchased at face value.
- Free single entry to all BARFC home matches
- Your name in every home match programme
- Invitation to a match sponsorship buffets during the season.

Bronze Membership

- Free single entry to all BARFC home matches

All Membership Levels

- Access to home and away international ticket allocation draw - Discounted access to club house conference and event facilities - Membership Card

Please Return completed details to: Membership Secretary, Bridgend Athletic RFC LTD, 12 Ewenny Road, Bridgend, CF31 3HP
or Email: barfcinfo@gmail.com

DataProtection StatementforBridgend Athletic Rugby Football Club MembershipForm

This statement can be amended and used by The Club on their membership form. It will show members whatthe club will do with the data that it holds about each member and will allow members to consent to this use.

In completing and submitting this membership form I understand that Bridgend Athletic RugbyFootball Club will use my personal data for the purposes of my involvement in club activities.

That I am consenting to receiving information about The Club, including my BARFC membership details and requirements by; post, email, MMS, online or phone unless stated otherwise by myself.
That my data will not be shared with any third party and the principles of the Data Protection Act 1988 will be adhered to.

Newsletter



Senior Mens Player Sponsorship...

Want to support local rugby and gain exposure for your business?

We're looking for player sponsors for the upcoming season at Bridgend Athletic RFC – a proud club with strong community roots and a history of developing top talent.

As a sponsor, you'll receive:

- Business promotion across our social media
- Logo featured in matchday programmes & website
- Opportunity to connect with our growing supporter base
- Association with grassroots sport in the heart of Bridgend

Whether you're a local business or just a passionate supporter, backing a player is a great way to show your support!

To sponsor a player or find out more, message or ring Rhys Jones on 07920 724323 or rljonsey@googlemail.com.

Newsletter



Thank You to Our Sponsors for Supporting us during the the 2024 / 2025 Season

4 Side Solutions | A1 Transport | Addix | AN Supplies | BARFC M&J | Bestie UK |
Bridgend Male Voice Choir | Bridgend Pro Tiling Services | C.F.Hills |
Cladco Profiles Ltd | CRD Precision | CVT Holiday inspirations | Discovery
Campers | Dyffryn Landscapes | Energy assessors | First sign LFT | Forces Fitness
| FP Hurley | Gareth L Edwards | GCI | Global Drone Surveys Ltd | GP Electrical |
Greyfield Property Services | HCHS | Headquarters Salon |
Heronstone Hotel & SPA | Hiddlestones | High Society | Hog Father Event Caterers
| Homely Decorators | Honey field property Services | J.H Apsee & Sons |
KK Solutions | Lake Gas Heating & Plumbing | LG Contractors |
LG Maintenance Ltd | Mc Civils (Bridgend Ltd) | MDM Services | MJ Wilson |
Molson Coors | Morganstone | Mowerman Garden Services | Nathaniels |
Peter Wood & Sons | Pitch Roofer | R&M Dyke | RD Therapy | Risk Monitor |
RM Trees Ltd | Rocket Science | RPM Shopfronts | RT Plumbing & Gas |
Spring Design | Stepping Stones | Steve Richmond | Tea on the Beach |
Tela technologies | The Parachute Regimental Association | The Tailored
Lighting Company | Tim Wood Photo Gallery | Travis Perkins | U-Test Diagnostics
| Ward Jones Groundworks | Ward Jones Self Storage

Sponsorship for 2025/2026...

Bridgend Athletic RFC is stepping up to the WRU Championship East — a fantastic opportunity to showcase your brand across the East side of Wales through a club known for its community spirit, talent development, and passionate following.

Get behind a club with ambition, reach, and a proud tradition — and grow your business while supporting local rugby.

Now's the time to get involved - to do so message or ring Rhys Jones on 07920 724323 or rljonsey@googlemail.com.