

TSSSC Report April 2025-March 2026

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Welcome to the 10th AGM of the TSSSC. This report covers the period since our last AGM in May 2025 although the Financial Report is in accordance with our financial year which runs from 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025.

The TSSSC committee represents the four constituent clubs: The Cricket Club, The Hockey Club, The Mitre Players and The Rugby Club all of whom use the clubhouse and grounds.

Over the past period, the club has continued to thrive socially and operationally, with several developments worth highlighting.

One of the standout successes has been **Colin's Choir** which focuses on musical theatre, held every alternate Wednesday at the clubhouse. The choir has quickly become a much-loved fixture on our calendar. Its inclusive approach — welcoming everyone, regardless of singing ability — has encouraged a wide range of members to take part. The atmosphere has been warm, lively, and great fun. As a result, we have seen a noticeable increase in new social memberships, as well as a significant uptick in bar sales on choir evenings. This initiative has clearly strengthened our community spirit and enhanced mid-week engagement at the club. If you wish to know more about Colin's Choir please contact Liz: colinschoir@gmail.com

Steve and Jackie have now retired from their cleaning roles, and we thank them sincerely for their many years of dedication and care. Their contribution has been deeply appreciated.

Our new gardener, Matt, has taken on his role with enthusiasm and skill, and the grounds are looking lovely under his care. In addition, the wider playing surfaces and outdoor areas continue to be expertly maintained by Southern Sports Ground Services, whose professionalism and consistency remain invaluable to the club.

Trevor Stotten continues his sterling work in raising funds for us through the 400. Generous prizes are awarded monthly with a top prize of £500 to be won at the end of the year. If you wish to join the 400 club, please contact Trevor: 400club@thetrinityclub.co.uk

The **Wednesday Lunch Club** occurs on the first Wednesday of every month and the excellent lunch buffet is organised by Bruce Jupp. The Lunch Club is for all members and their families/friends so you can enjoy lunch in a friendly atmosphere with convivial surroundings. Reunion groups are welcome, but they need to book in advance. For further information please contact Bruce at: lunchclub@thetrinityclub.co.uk

Finally, a heartfelt thank-you goes to all members of the committee for their ongoing hard work, time, and commitment. The smooth running of the club depends on your efforts, and they do not go unnoticed. We also extend our gratitude to the many volunteers who contribute behind the scenes — from helping at events to supporting maintenance and social activities. Your involvement is essential to the welcoming, community-focused environment we are proud to uphold.

TMWCC (MAY 2025-APRIL 2026)

The 2025 season was different on many levels, but nevertheless very successful.

The new Surrey Cricket Championship (SCC) brought white ball cricket to Lime Meadow (at a cost), with the 1st XI playing in coloured clothing using black sightscreens, an open pyramid league system, and a more regionalised fixture programme that was certainly appreciated in the lower tiers. Whether the biggest league structure in the country, in terms of divisions (39) and teams (383), will ultimately address “challenges with governance and financial stability” as advertised, is far from inevitable.

Timed cricket disappeared below Division 1, and the 2nd & 3rd XIs played fewer overs than would otherwise have been expected, although this disappointment has now been redressed following further promotions.

Promoted to Division 3, the 1st XI were playing at the level where 2nd XI Premier sides had been introduced, in the first split regionalised Divisions (East and West). Under the leadership of new Club Captain Sam Williams, the 1st XI had a very successful season finishing 3rd. The first half of the season produced a little bit of everything: dominant wins; close losses; a rained off match when very much in the box seat; and, perhaps most memorably, a feisty encounter against a youthful Banstead 2nd XI in which we scored more runs than our opponents and somehow still managed to lose due to the award of penalty runs! Fortunes changed in the second half of the season, winning every single game played. The drier weather produced faster wickets, and it was the turn of the batters to dominate. Sam Williams produced a record breaking performance scoring 4 centuries, three in just 4 innings.

With the league restructure coming off the back of two promotions, a tough season was expected for the 2nd XI. After 8 weeks the 2s were top of the league having won 7 games in a row! Despite a couple of setbacks, form returned completing the double against the eventual champions, meaning a win at Team Mitcham in the last game would secure promotion. However, no pitch was available at Tolworth Court, so an abandoned game was agreed (with SCC Executive permission) securing 10 points and a third consecutive promotion.

The 3rd XI won back-to-back titles for the first time in the club’s history. After winning just two of the first 5 games and just one in the first 3 weeks of July, the critical and turning point came with exceptional performances to beat Croydon Lions, and Croydon CC on consecutive weekends, moving the 3s to the top of the table. All 5 remaining matches were won to secure the title.

Fine performances with both bat and ball in the season’s opener provided the 4th XI with good reason for an optimistic outlook for the campaign ahead. Notwithstanding several early close encounters, a barren 6 match run without a win followed, but completing the double over our nearest neighbours began a more productive second half of the season, registering 5 more victories. The 2025 season was certainly a mixed bag but a respectable one.

Availability was not as good as in 2024 and a 5th XI was only fielded on five Saturdays (12 last year) from the end of June to the end of August. More thought needs to be given as to reasons for the downturn in player availability, and how better to accommodate those players not selected for league games.

The Sunday season could be described as varied. The leafy surrounds of Windsor Castle provided the backdrop in late April to play the Royal Household, an opportunity realised from our relationship with connections at Marlow CC.

The Tier 2 Trust League side were on course for the play-offs once more, having won their first 4 matches. However, close defeats by 5 runs and 1 run scuppered this intention. Losing 14 juniors in the U14 and U16 age groups, and not having an U15 squad, could be seen as having an influence in a disappointing year for the Tier 3 side. Contrary to the Tier 2 side, the first 4 matches were lost, and although results picked up, two cancelled walk-overs did not help.

The Friendly XI had another good season with 9 victories, affording more juniors their first experience of adult cricket.

107 players (7 fewer than in 2024) played for the senior club of which 21 were U18s (36 in 2024). 15 players made their debuts of which 7 were teenagers (14 in 2024).

The U19s once again reached the Tier 2 final at Normandy in August against Malden Wanderers, this time, however, losing a very tight game by 2 wickets with just one ball remaining.

Junior membership rose slightly to 159 (+ 38 All Stars). The plan to advertise again in local schools appeared to reap reward as age group numbers increased from U5 to U9, the latter almost doubling in squad size. Issues with the older age ranges are being addressed.

The Junior Section comprised 12 age groups utilising 29 coaches and assistants. 11 teams participated in the Surrey Junior Cricket Championship from U8s to U17s, playing a mixture of pairs and conventional cricket. Managers, volunteers, parents, and the team of coaches and assistants, all deserve special thanks.

An excellent social atmosphere continued around the Club and in the bar, with President's Day and the Race Night raising profits of £1k and £1.9k respectively, the latter a record thanks to a superb Auction for the final race, driven by compere Aidan Barton.

A successful 4th trip to picturesque Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire attracted increased numbers in early August, with a new group of younger players discovering the joys of touring. Phil Mander's first-class organisational skills were again to the fore and all 4 matches were won.

The Accounts took a significant hit for the first time since 2017, with loss of £6.8k against a budgeted deficit of £1.5k. There were a variety of reasons for this, with many components coming in either under or over budget. However, the 2 major expenditure items that came in above budget were, the costs necessary to facilitate white ball cricket (c. £3k), and the replacement of the 2 batting ends for the static nets, which was about £2k more expensive than anticipated. More fundraising and sponsorship will need to be prioritised for 2026 and beyond, as greater investment is required to fund further planned ground and facility improvements.

In addition to the replacement net surfaces – the £5k charged by Notts Sport was less than half that quoted by 2 other companies – new covers' sheeting was also purchased.

A new quote obtained for 2 extra net lanes (c. £64k – approximately £20k more than similar quotes in 2017!) is perhaps too expensive to currently consider outright. This has prompted alternative thinking and investigation into hybrid pitches, for which quotes have also been sought and received.

The Club thanks all Committee members, the groundsmen, umpires and scorers, and all other volunteers for their input and invaluable support throughout the season.

CROYDON TRINITY WHITGIFTIAN HOCKEY CLUB (Season 25/26)

This is the second year since our merger - where we had a brilliant first season, both on and off the pitch. It was always going to be difficult to match the success of our first season and we found this to be true. As the second season progressed, we were forced to look at how we operate and make some difficult choices.

I would characterise this as a season of learning, a season where we were reminded to stay grounded and not over stretch ourselves. The success of the first season led us to falsely conclude that we had completed 'the hard yards'.

As with many clubs, in many sports, we struggled with availability and hence consistency on the pitch.

Our Women's section was bolstered by a number of Juniors stepping up to play senior Hockey. They play in the development division of the league which is a very good way of introducing younger players to the senior game. The team were offered the opportunity to be promoted but after due

consideration have decided it would be of greater benefit to remain as a Development team for another season.

For the Mens' section we decided to run two teams at the same senior level – one in the London League and one in the South-East League. This meant splitting our top players over two teams and we soon learnt that this was a big mistake with both teams struggling!

Going forward we will focus on the South East League and withdraw from the London league. We were very pleased to welcome a number of students from Trinity and Whitgift, bringing some much needed youth to the teams and significantly lowering the average age! Our particular thanks go to the 'Twins' who played for the entire season.

A number of players retired from the game and several moved away or started their university careers. This just compounded our challenges and impacted all our teams. In short a tough season for the Men's section.

The Juniors had a good season that was enjoyed by everyone. Going forward we continue to focus on increasing numbers but importantly on providing a fun environment for juniors to learn and develop their hockey skills.

The Mixed team entered the National Cup and were drawn against a number of National League clubs. Despite the strength of the opposition, they performed well and only narrowly lost over three rounds – highlighting the strength of this team.

Once again, we continued with the hugely popular annual easter tour to the English Riviera. The tour was a huge success and enjoyed by all. There was strong involvement from former, current and new players.

Looking forward our goals include:

Focus on continuing with building and integrating the club

Growing our Junior section

Expanding our Women's section to have two league teams

Getting our own Astroturf pitch – hopefully at Lime Meadow Avenue.

By only playing one senior team next season, we should be well placed for a successful season.

RUGBY CLUB

Following an impressive 2024/25 season which saw the 1st XV finishing 5th in Surrey and Sussex League 1 and the 2nd XV win their merit league and being moved up two leagues, expectations were high for the 2025/26 season!

Off the pitch there were a number of changes in personnel with Matt Higgins taking over from the departing Andy Edwards as Director of Rugby whilst also retaining his coaching position. With Matt looking after all matters on the playing side a new position of Operations Director was added to the committee structure to oversee and manage all matters off of the pitch with Mark Dean retuning to the committee to take up this role.

With player welfare at the forefront of their planning Matt and Mark were quick to expand the clubs medical team. This saw Boris Pineles join the club to head up the team as our strength and conditioning coach. With former physio Jas Mills moving on and RFU regulations requiring a pitch side medic at all matches Fay Noei and Tereza Lachoutova were both appointed as the club physios. We were also lucky to have former Trinity head girl Kayla Victor working as a volunteer with the team during a large part of pre-season whilst home from University. There was also significant investment in medical equipment to help bring the physio room at Lime Meadow Avenue up to standard.

To help fund some this significant investment in our medical team Mark Dean organised a very successful rugby lunch in the city. In addition to this Mark also reinvigorated the commercial side of the club, bringing in new sponsors such as Paye, Harfield Consultants and Terraverde as well as

expanding on previous sponsorships from the likes of Meaningful Financial Planning. The club is very grateful for all of their support and looks forward to developing our partnerships with them over the coming season.

Thanks to our sponsors we were also able to invest in new playing kit. The club was pleased to welcome Vaquita as our new kit partners who not only produced our new playing kit but also produced an extensive range of training and off field merchandise!

Another significant, long overdue, investment was the purchase of a new scrum machine as our previous machine was unfortunately no longer safe to use and beyond the point of repair. We have named the new machine "The Fridge" in memory of former player Keith Long! This investment cost the club just over £3,000 but has been part funded through donations from our membership which we are very grateful for. We are still looking to raise a further £1,476.89 to fully pay this off.

Before the first match of the season could start we also needed to invest £4,710 in a new set of rugby post for the 1st XV pitch as the posts at one end of the pitch had eroded and collapsed towards the end of the previous season!

Pre-season training sessions began in July with Matt Higgins, George Kimmins and George Daniels running sessions on both Mondays and Wednesdays. We also had the benefit of former England 7s, Kenya 7s and USA 7s coach, Mike Friday as a guest coach to put the players through their paces. Our coaching team expanded through the course of the season with the addition of Naani Osmond and Mark Mantle. As well as assisting on the training field and on match days they also helped to develop the statistical analysis of our matches and of individual player performance. Most Wednesday training sessions started with an in-depth review of the previous weeks game via the VEO technology we have invested in. This has helped the players develop both individually and as a team and is now a key tool for us. Another guest coach that joined us during the season was former Bath, England and British and Irish Lion, Lee Mears, passing on some his wealth of experience on to our players and coaches.

Pre-season also saw the annual Andy Hillburn T20 Cup match between the Rugby Club and the Cricket Club with the Cricket Club winning back the trophy from the Rugby Club as well as a cricket match between the Rugby Club and Trinity School Staff. There were also a number of socials arranged including drinks up in town and a family rounders day.

After a number of seasons without any 7s it was also a welcome return to field a side in the 2025 Harpenden 7s. Despite the sweltering conditions and coming up against a number of established regular 7s sides we did remarkably well and are looking forward to becoming a regular name of the 7s circuit over the coming season.

On the brink of the first game of the season the club was shocked to hear of the sudden passing of John Crate. John had played a huge role in the club for decades, from playing to serving on the committee. His presence has been missed all season and will continue to be. Not just by those at our club but across Surrey and the RFU where John was a serving member of council up until his passing.

With Lime Meadow Avenue still in cricket season our pre-season fixture, as per the previous season, against Dartfordians was played at Trinity School. A 36-24 win to atone for last year's defeat against the same opposition set up the perfect platform for the season ahead!

The club returned to Trinity School the following week for the school's day of rugby to help celebrate the centenary year of rugby being played at the school. This included a combined 2nd XV and recent

leavers XV against the current school 1st XV as well as our opening 1st XV league game of the season against Haywards Heath where we entertained the large crowd with a 48-7 victory!

Further wins followed for the 1st XV against KSC Old Boys, Beccehamains (in the national cup), Old Wimbledonians and Eastbourne before losing away to London Cornish 8-41 to a try with the last play of the game. The team bounced back with back-to-back wins against Old Rutlishians, first in the national cup and then in the league before travelling away to Hove for another hard-fought victory. A tough December saw the 1st XV lose consecutive games to Cobham and Weybridge Vandals, both of whom would go on to gain promotion at the end of the season, Cobham with an unbeaten record! The last game of the calendar year saw an entertaining home victory against local rivals Old Caterhamians. The new year started with wins against KCS Old Boys and Old Wimbledonians before travelling away to an unbeaten Cheshunt team from Hertfordshire 1 in the national cup. Despite a number of injuries picked up during the game we put in an outstanding performance losing at the death 28-5 to a converted try! Cheshunt would go on to have an unbeaten league season and to make it through to the national cup final losing narrowly to Novocastrians 31-14. An injury ravaged side on an international weekend was then forced to travel to Eastbourne for a rearranged league game following them postponing the game two weeks prior due to a waterlogged pitch which their 2nd XV still played on that day! The result did not go our way but credit to the players who made themselves available that day with many playing through injury! Revenge for the defeat to London Cornish earlier in the season was then achieved before Old Rutlishians got revenge on us for our two earlier victories in the season against them. The penultimate home game of the season saw us secure the double over Hove. We then faced the two top sides in our league again, Cobham and Weybridge Vandal, both games were lost but to pick up a 4 try bonus point against Cobham in a very entertaining game was well deserved and not something many teams have done! Talking of entertainment next up was a away trip to Old Caterhamians where the game finished 59 points to 59! A young side then travelled away to Haywards Heath on the last day of the season which ended with a loss but would have been a valuable experience for a number of the players! This left us 3rd in the league which continues the year on year improvements we are making and will now most likely put a favourites tag on us as we move towards the new season!

The 2nd XV started their competitive season with a cup game against Sutton and Epsom coming out 60-28 winners. Playing in the Surrey Alliance League after being promoted not one but two leagues after the huge success of the previous season was a big step up. Despite strong performances the first four league results ended in defeat to Cobham, Old Wimbledonians, Teddington and KCS Old Boys. All four games were close with the Old Wimbledonians and Teddington games being lost by a converted try or less. The league duck was broken with a home fixture to Old Caterhamians. The second half of the season was hampered by a number of games being called off at the last minute with opposition dropping out with on most occasions not enough time to find replacement opposition. We were however through the likes of Jason Hoffmann and Tim Cochrane often able to find games for players elsewhere. We ended the season 7th in the table which was respectable after making the jump up and is a good realistic target to aim to improve on next season. The spirit in the 2nd XV was brilliant throughout the season and even when games were being cancelled it was appreciated that the players continued to put in the commitment and effort week after week. It was also encouraging to see the development of the youngsters come through the 2nd XV and into the 1st XV with the like of Seb Robertson, Luke Thorne and Jack Boshier all making their 1st XV debuts during the season!

The Vets season was in part effected by the weather and trying to find weekends to fit games in when the 1st and 2nd XV were not playing. We managed to play two fixtures, a 57-19 defeat of Warlingham and a 12-43 defeat to Old Reigatians.

In total we played 38 senior fixtures as a club using 125 different players, 54 of which made at least one appearance for the 1st XV. Out of these 125 players there were 43 debutants including 7 current Trinity schoolboys as well as 3 from Riddlesdown. The playing awards for the season went to Luke Thorne (2ndXV Player of the Season), Henry Cotton (2nd XV Most Improved Player), Farooq Agbalaya (Players Player), Archie McMillan (1st XV Player of the Season), Josh Joubert (Young Player of the Season), and David Hoffmann (1st XV Most Improved Player of the Season).

Lime Meadow Avenue continues to be a great place to play rugby and the opposition often comment on how great the pitch and facilities are, but every opposition's favourite thing seems to be the after-match meals thanks to our inhouse chef, Dom Conroy! It is not only the players that get to benefit from this, Dom has laid on a number of pre match meals for supporters and former players throughout the season adding to their match day experience!

The club continues to invest and maintain strong relationships with local schools in particular Trinity School and Riddlesdown Collegiate. As part of this we hosted a Riddlesdown 1st XV match and also laid on a curry for Trinity School who had their end of season awards dinner at Lime Meadow Avenue. Both the 1st XV and 2nd XV have benefitted from these strong links with pupils from both schools, as well as recent leavers, turning out for the club throughout the season.

The club remains grateful to the Starling Fund which helps us to support the links with local schools to get these young players turning out for the club as well as being able to bring back players from their universities as and when required.

It was unfortunately that this season we were unable to field an U22s side during the university Christmas break. Mark Macaskill had put in a lot of work to organise a strong squad only for the game to be called off with the weather during the festive period putting a stop to almost all outdoors sport taking place with not only our own ground but all local pitches being unplayable! We look forward to this returning to the playing calendar next season.

The mini and junior section of the club continues to be a key area of development for us and once again this season this has continued to grow with over 100 registered boys and girls from the age of 4 up to 16.

The season started with a special training session at Lime Meadow delivered by for England U18s and U20s coach Russell Earnshaw for all of our junior coaches to help with their development and to give them plenty to take away and to pass on to the players in their respective age group!

A charity dinner was also held at the Gurkha Kitchen in Oxted to raise money for our junior and minis section. The event was hosted by Mark Dean with for Saracens, Leicester, England and Trinity RFC player George Chuter as the special guest!

Our oldest age group in the juniors was the U16s with is a barbarian side with half the players from Trinity RFC and the other half from Warlingham RFC. The side is managed and coached by Dan Crouch with Steve Tsakistra assisting him. The players have really stepped-up a level this season and they did not look out of place when joining the senior sides for their training session with Lea Meats! They have had some outstanding results throughout the season especially toward the back end of it beating the like of Beccehamians, Rosslyn Park and London Irish along the way and were very unlucky to lose their waterfall cup final against Battersea Ironsides! They actually drew the final but with everything equal lost on the basis that Battersea Ironsides had scored the first try of the match! The work Dan has done keeping these players in the game when without the amalgamation with Warlingham it is likely a number of these players would have stopped playing rugby has not gone unnoticed and he has been put forward by Surrey RFU for a volunteer of the year award. The club is looking forward to seeing these players move into our colt section that we are setting up for next season!

Our other junior age group is our U12s, who have enjoyed their first season of waterfall cup fixtures! With Chris Shiels moving to Peru half-way through the season Mark Handley has stepped up to assist Alan Hayes and Paul Guy with the coaching. Another strong season with plenty of fixtures, when the weather allowed, ended up with a 4-3 Waterfall Cup final victory against Wimbledon.

At minis level we have taken part of lots of joint training sessions both home and away and have developed lots of good relationships with the other local clubs in the area. This has led to an U10 local league being set up by David Hayes with the highlight of this being the floodlit Friday Night Lights Festival being held at Lime Meadow Avenue which we are looking to expand to other age groups for next season! The U9s also linked up with Croydon and Old Whits to boost numbers for all three clubs. We have also sent teams from U5s up to U10 off to various festivals throughout the season where the hard work put in by the coaching team of David Hayes, David Stanton, Claire Jones, Tim Jupp, Guy Garnham, Stuart Furzer, Doug Sheard, Will Abbot, Issy Hayes has clearly paid off as the boys and girls played some great rugby. With such a good season for the mini's and junior's it was therefore fitting that David Hayes way awarded with this year President's Tankard, the award we give out for achievements off of the pitch.

It is not just on the pitch that make the club, the activities that go on off of the pitch are just as important! Ben Vaillant and Molly McLean have arranged a wide range of events throughout the season including a Halloween party, a quiz night, a London Underground themed fancy dress pub crawl, hunt the chicken and a record-breaking race night raising much needed funds for the club!

The season ended with the annual end of season dinner and awards night and the club were delighted to welcome back former player, Paddy Garvey to chair the event with food being provided by the Gurkha Kitchen in Oxted. It was also great to have two tables of students from Trinity School join us for the event, a significant number of who have already turned out for the club, with Max Anderson stealing the show with undoubtedly the best speech of the night as he reflected on the season the school XV have had.

We look forward to next season being another action-packed season especially with all the celebrations we will have to mark the club's centenary year!