



OPRFC CLUB STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 2025

The OPRFC Limited company was established in 2020 following advice given to the club by the WRU and Sport Wales. The club committees and membership duly agreed that this was a necessity to protect the officials and decision makers from potential liabilities. OPRFC Limited was formed to replace the former organisation known as the Old Penarthians RFC. The trustees at the time transferred authority for the association to the directors of the limited company. At the same time, the club's principal asset, the clubhouse lease from the Vale of Glamorgan Council, was also transferred from the trustees into the limited company's name.

Since its establishment, the Limited company's board made the unanimous decision to leave the operational management of the club in the hands of the rugby and social committees, with the principal Board role being to ensure that all legal conditions were met, and with its primary focus upon strategic thinking and planning for the future.

In recent years, discussions have taken place on the Board, the Rugby and Social committees, amongst officials and the general membership, and several concerns have been expressed about the current sustainability of the club's operating procedures. This was not due to any sense of feeling that individuals concerned in club activities were not performing their duties correctly, but more about the changing nature and availability of existing volunteers and the willingness of fresh volunteers to take on an ever-increasing workload in the operation and management of a club such as the Old Penarthians RFC.

All club activities, except for the management of bar staff, are conducted by volunteers, and although there is protection for these individuals from litigation through the limited company, it is still an extremely onerous and responsible role to take on. The willingness of volunteers to become involved since COVID has diminished. This has a direct impact on the limited company and adds additional responsibilities, such as legal, health and safety, and finance, which need to be prioritised and effectively managed.

Also of concern is the age of the current senior officials and the uncertainty as to how much longer they can be expected to be willing and able to continue in their roles.

Soon, the Board will be consolidating the existing bank accounts into the Limited Company name, with a Financial Sub Committee having been formed to manage the entirety of OPRFC Limited's financial position. The Sub Committee will create budgets and compile monthly reports on income, expenditure and bank balances for provision to the Board and Management Committee. The Sub Committee will also ensure that all HMRC legal requirements are complied with. Current director Neil Pugh will oversee this process, and our Auditor, Steve Jones, will expand his role in the compilation, recording and reporting aspect of this Financial Sub Committee.

It is noticeable that bar sales are decreasing, while costs are increasing. Therefore, the focus must be turned to the financial stability of the club, which must run in parallel with the capability of volunteers to manage the club and sustain its financial viability.

In addition, consideration of potentially increased expenditure is required, primarily in respect of maintenance of the two pitches and the training paddock. The Vale Council currently owns the land; however, lengthy discussions have taken place with a view to an asset transfer from the Vale to allow us to operate the pitches and training paddock on long leases. This will provide long-term security in providing pitches for the continued playing of rugby, but will result in increased expenditure. Urgent consideration needs to be given to improving the state of the two pitches even before the asset transfer takes place.

Other expenses will likely be incurred over the next 24 months, but it is challenging to determine a budget when the potential income from sponsorship, membership, grants, and funding remains uncertain.

Bearing all these factors in mind, general agreement has been reached that a new structure needs to be established to ensure the continued successful management of the club. This is the Board's current work in



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progress. As soon as these discussions have taken place, a presentation will be made to all members for discussion, and there will be an opportunity for feedback, followed by an EGM towards the end of January 2026, in which the following matters will feature:

- (i) Re-structuring of club management processes
- (ii) Membership and voting rights
- (iii) Terms of reference/operating principles and standard financial instructions

Accounts for the first six months of our trading year will also be produced.

Please follow the link to the club's website, where you will find the 'house' (formerly Social Club) financial accounts, which were not produced at the AGM in August:

(Link to website)

For the sake of completeness, and following the AGM in August, these are now the officers and members of the club management committee:

Chair -	Jeff Norman
Treasurer -	Nigel Williams
Secretary -	Rob Crimp
Committee members:	Steve Clarke, Alun Haines, David G James, Mel Jones, Clare Reeve, Rhiannon Seaford-Jones, Neil Warren, Emma White & James Williams

The current members of the Board are:

Chair -	Martyn Ryan
Finance Director -	Neil Pugh
Club Secretary -	Ali Farrar (shortly stepping down to be replaced by Neil Pugh)
Other Directors:	
Anthony Crimp –	(Assets & Estates)
Alun Haines –	(Director of Rugby)
Emma white –	(Marketing, Communications and Memberships)
Mel Jones –	(House – including other sports and gym). Former Chair of Social Club
Stephen Clarke -	(House) Former RFC Club Chair

Soon to be added to the Board - Jeff Norman as current Club Chair.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Jeff Norman – jeffm1166@hotmail.com