



## **"How can we raise valuable funds to help those affected by cancer? ....Rugby!"**

After a lightbulb moment from our Founder Aaron Beesley, Rugby Against Cancer was born in May 2018

On 11th November 2020 we became officially registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales #1192284

The rugby family is a tribe. A bond that cannot be broken between people who genuinely love, trust, care about and look out for each other. Rugby Against Cancer is here to support that family.

Cancer does not discriminate and can affect anybody, so we want to be there for those that need it. As a charity we harness the power of the rugby community to raise funds and awareness to enhance the lives of those living with cancer.

Over £30,000 has been donated by Rugby Against Cancer to help the lives of those affected by cancer in the UK

### **The Team**

The charity is run by a team of volunteers who have a passion for rugby and have all been personally affected by cancer in their own lives or friends, family & teammates. Each individual offers their time to help grow, manage and coordinate the charity so we can run events and give back to the community.

Alongside our dedicated committee, we have an extended family of professional ambassadors that play or coach rugby in the UK, each of whom support our vision and values. We also have a range of ways that clubs and grassroots players can be involved, and have a club partner and local ambassador scheme which is currently in its early stages.

**"Rugby is a game about teamwork and support. To go forwards, you must go backwards"**

Our social media followers are an extension of our team, we are active on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, and regularly post updates about the charity especially during event build-ups and to highlight the work we are doing. Our website has undergone a recent revamp and is filled with necessary information to allow our audiences to connect with the charity, keep updated and request support.



@CancerRugby



@RugbyAgainstCancer

Throughout the year we host a range of rugby match events, fundraising challenges and seasonal opportunities for the rugby community to get involved in raising funds for the charity and helping spread awareness across the UK (and more recently abroad!)



## The Rugby

Our rugby team plays in a range of matches including 15s, sevens and social 10s, both men and women. We also aim to allow new players to represent the charity at each event and individuals can reach out to be added to our database for future fixtures.

This year as a charity, we will be hosting our final decider match against a Sid Street XV, the original match was held as our first ever event and this will be the third match of its kind, the standings currently 1-1. Plus, after a successful match against Pacific Islanders RFC last year at Petersfield Rugby Club, we are rebooting the event for a second time - a double header and entertainment throughout the day - it's a real family occasion where we often have our professional ambassadors present!

External events for 2022 include facing London Welsh in a 15s rugby union match which includes 17 debutants to the team and has two players who have faced their own cancer battles, including the captain. We will have a high quality sevens side in the Floodlit 7s Rosslyn Park which will be made up of semi-professional & professional players.

This year we will be aiming to enter several sevens tournaments over the summer with both male and female teams representing in our pink and blue which we aim to win and spread awareness of the charity whilst doing so..

**Over £135,000 has been raised at Rugby Against Cancer events since we launched in 2018**

## The Fundraising

Each year we set a physically and mentally demanding challenge as a charity for our rugby family to get involved and raise vital funds to be used for grants and support kit bags.

Our 'trek' events have been a core part of our fundraising efforts and have become very popular. In 2019, our first-ever, started with twelve intrepid walkers who took on 67 miles in 27 hours from Portsmouth to Twickenham stadium for the Army v Navy fixture and raised £9,700 for Prostate Cancer UK.

The second version in 2020 faced an additional challenge of organising a charity event during a pandemic. Thanks to a fantastic effort from our eighteen walkers and team of volunteers we raised over £19,000 walking from Twickenham back home to Southsea in Hampshire.

Last year, we went big! 63 walkers faced an eighty mile challenge from central London to Portsmouth Rugby Club. A mammoth £77,000 was raised over the weekend. A vital boost to the charity which meant we were able to launch our grants and support kit bags.

Seasonally, we run online-only fundraisers, most notably our Easter Egg Drop in which our professional ambassadors volunteer their time to deliver treats to nominated oncology wards around the UK. This is possible thanks to the generous donations from our online followers to bring a smile to those going through treatment and the wonderful staff that take care of them. .



Alongside our events, we value having individuals who partake in their own personal challenges to raise money for the charity. Rugby clubs are invited to host rugby matches on our behalf, most recently MaulOver Podcast hosted a match against St Austell Rugby in Cornwall, they raised £1,600 from their players and a limited edition shirt auction. We have had a myriad of people raise money for us, setting their own physical challenges, or using Facebook fundraisers for birthdays and occasions.

## Because Cancer Socks...

This year we launched our first-ever 'Sock Day', the original idea was just one club to wear our pink and blue rugby socks for a weekend of fixtures. Once announced, we had a number of clubs in the south wanting to get involved including referees. Over 1,000 socks were worn across Hampshire, Sussex and Cornwall for the one weekend, and our socials absolutely rocketed!

After the success of our inaugural event we are already planning on making Rugby Against Cancer Sock Day a recurring event, with registration open for interested clubs for Sock Day 2023.

## Giving Back

Our Support Kit Bags are designed to help adults or children who are undergoing cancer treatment. Each kit bag contains exclusive items from our charity range including a notebook and pen to note down those important appointment dates or to jot down their thoughts. Plus, colouring books, EarPods and a subscription to keep them entertained during treatment. We hope our Support Kit Bags provide a pick-me-up for their recipients, and they are absolutely free thanks to the generous donations of our charity supporters.

Cancer affects life in many ways, and we know that spending time with family, friends and loved ones is very important during cancer treatment. Taking time out for self care, or spending time together with loved ones can give a cancer patient a break away from treatments. They can help make things seem a little more normal in this challenging time and give them an opportunity to rebuild their confidence. We know that cancer can put money stress on an individual, we take that worry away by offering money towards making those memories.

Our grants are small, one-off payments to help with the extra costs that cancer can cause. How much an individual can receive depends on their situation and needs, and will act as an extra bit of help not a replacement for other support. The grant could be used for personal additional costs, or money towards expensive treatment not available on the NHS.