



## Old Grovian Association AGM 2021 – OGRUFC Report

Dear Old Grovian colleagues and friends

I'm pleased to be writing to you now that we have recommenced the rugby season following a year of fallow due to covid restrictions. It's been an incredibly tough 18 months for the whole rugby community; several players have left the game and it's been sad to see a number of clubs struggling to field sides on a Saturday. Old Grovians has not been immune to this either, but I'm pleased to say thanks to the hard work of the coaches, players, school and the flourishing partnership with Otley, we've been able to field a full side in every league game so far.

The 21/22 Season is a real opportunity for Old Grovians to consolidate, bring in some younger players before trying to push on through the leagues next season.

For regular readers of this column, you will know that the clubs primary aim over the past few years has been to improve our off-field facilities to improve the experience for our players and supporters. We've now played 2 games at Cross Green, Otley - and it's been fantastic. Otley have been so welcoming, and we really do feel that it's one club with two brands. This means the players are now training on a Tuesday on Yarnbury's 4G pitch and playing home games at the brilliant Cross Green with the intent that we jointly relocate with Otley when their new ground is completed.

As the partnership progresses, we are confident that we will have a unique proposition for rugby players in Yorkshire. Old Grovians will be aspiring to play at the highest amateur level they can, whilst providing a pathway to players who want to further their career and commitment by taking on the challenge of National League rugby. Equally, we know that not everyone talented enough to play at that level can provide that commitment, but with Grovians there is still an opportunity to play a great standard of competitive 1<sup>st</sup> Team rugby.

Kyle Dench, Otley Head coach says: "We see this as new age pathway allowing all players to find their best route into age grade rugby. We are excited to see the partnership develop over the coming months and years and look forward to seeing more Ex-Woodhouse Grove players playing for Old Grovians and Otley 1sts"

The club continue to seek out new volunteers and will welcome people who want to help us make a success of Old Grovians RUFC.

If any Old Grovians would like to assist the club in anyway; through the week, on match days or through sponsorship, their support is always gratefully received.

Please contact

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The continued support and help from the school is greatly valued and special thanks must go again to Simon Wood (Ground) for keeping Elm Tree Farm in tip top condition. In addition to this, Dan King, Joe Bedford and Nathan Barr continue to be huge supporters of the club and we can't thank them enough.

Once more the club wishes to send a hearty thanks to all OGA members for their generosity and support. Without this support the club would not exist - in return it pledges to uphold the true spirit, good sportsmanship and the tradition and good name of the school.

John Hinchliffe (83-94) Founder of OGRUFC

