

PATRONS' CIRCLE INFORMATION PACK



INTRODUCTION

The World Rugby Museum Patrons' Circle is a private circle of individuals committed to the long-term preservation of rugby culture and heritage.

With the help of our patrons, we are able to collect and preserve the relics of our game and bring them to new audiences.



BACKGROUND

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) collection began with the minutes produced to document the first meeting of the RFU in 1871. Since then, it has grown to include some of the most recognisable and iconic artefacts in world sport.

The World Rugby Museum is a charitable organisation that celebrates and shares the unique history, culture and tradition of rugby union in all its forms, wherever and by whomsoever it is played.

Our patrons help us preserve the material already in our collection and collect material of importance to be kept in perpetuity for future generations of rugby fans.



ABOUT THE COLLECTION

The RFU has exhibited memorabilia inside the Home of England Rugby since 1979. A formal museum opened in 1996 and was renamed the World Rugby Museum in 2008 to reflect its growing collection and to create a focal point for the heritage and culture of rugby around the world.

Our permanent galleries in Allianz Stadium's South Stand feature a rotating selection of objects drawn from the over 41,000 objects, 16,500 pieces of archival material and 11,300 photographs in our care and supplement a regular programme of special exhibitions as well as formal and informal learning programmes.



STAR ITEMS

- Jersey worn by JH Clayton in the first ever rugby international in 1871, the only known to survive from that match
 - The Calcutta Cup, rugby's oldest and most beautiful international trophy
 - 1905 All Blacks jersey
 - First written laws of the game
 - Minutes from the formation of the Rugby Football Union
 - 'A Bigside at Rugby', the first known photograph of the sport
 - The first women's Rugby World Cup trophy, contested in 1991 and 1994
 - The Webb Ellis trophy, awarded to England in 2003
 - Minutes of the Women's Rugby Football Union and Rugby Football Union for Women
-





WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP

PURPOSE

The World Rugby Museum Patrons' Circle fund is ring-fenced for use by the museum for acquisitions for the collection, object conservation and exhibitions.

Donations are made to the Rugby Football Foundation, which is the charitable arm of the Rugby Football Union and oversees the governance of the World Rugby Museum.



CASE STUDY

'Battle of the Roses' (1895) by William Barnes Wollen

Between 1957 and 1970 the painting hung over the fireplace at Otley RFC. The location caused it to deteriorate so it was loaned to the RFU who arranged for it to be treated by professional conservators. It was restored by carefully and painstakingly lifting a layer of fire damaged paint from the surface of the canvas.

In so-doing, a 'ghost-player' was revealed, removed by the artist prior to the work's completion. The reason why is still the subject of speculation!

Today it hangs in the President's Suite at Allianz Stadium and is in the care of the World Rugby Museum.

Without the professional care afforded to this wonderful piece of art, it would have been lost forever and its mysteries forgotten.



EXHIBITIONS

As well as acquisitions and conservation projects, funding may also be directed towards our exhibition programme.

Recent exhibitions have included:

- The Rugby Football Union at 150
 - Brave Blossoms: The History of Rugby in Japan
 - In Her Own Words: The Women's Rugby World Cup
 - Allez Les Bleus: The History of Rugby in France
 - Enigma: The True Story of William Webb Ellis
 - The History of the British & Irish Lions
 - The Jimmy Peters Story
 - Pioneers: The First Women's Rugby World Cup
 - Ireland's Call: 150 Years of Irish Rugby
-





BECOME A PATRON

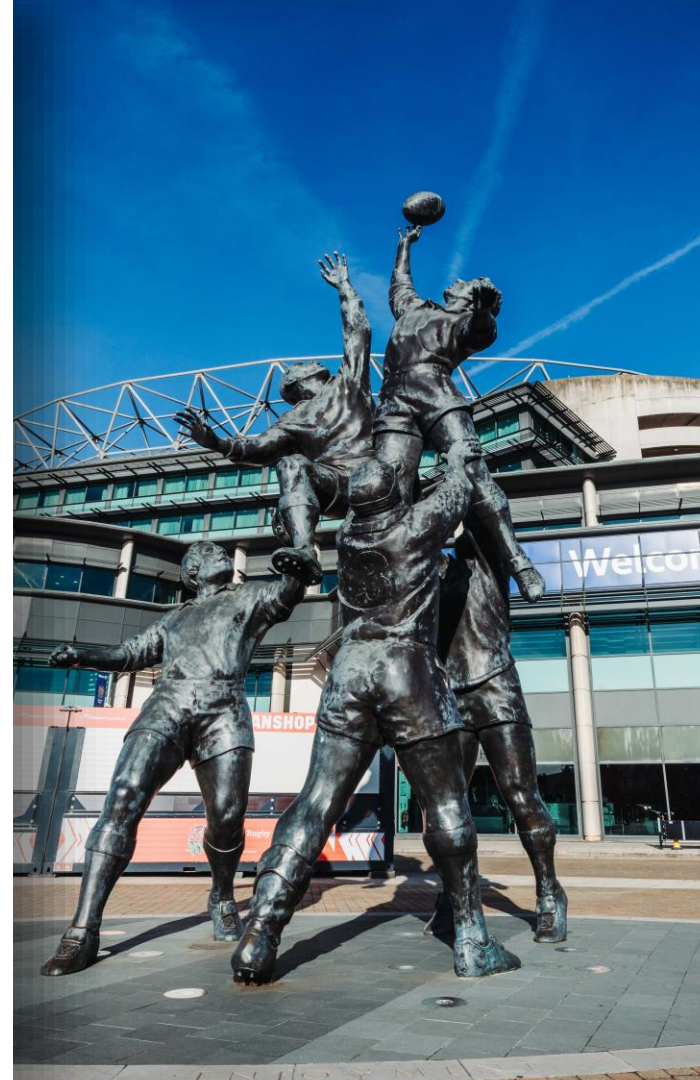
MUSEUM PATRONS' CIRCLE

Become a World Rugby Museum Patron for £1000 a year, or sign up for 10 years for £7,500.

As well as supporting the museum, you will receive the following benefits:

- Your name on the Patrons' Circle within the World Rugby Museum
- An invitation for you and a guest to the World Rugby Museum's Special Exhibition launch event
- Gift voucher for you and a guest to attend a Legends Tour of Allianz Stadium
- Free entry to the World Rugby Museum galleries, including special and mini exhibitions
- Use of the World Rugby Museum research centre

Contact museum@rfu.com to register your interest.





WORLD RUGBY MUSEUM.COM
MUSEUM@RFU.COM
020 8892 8877