

## Football at RAL

The Football Club provides facilities and equipment for lunchtime and evening games and supports RAL teams participating in the Harwell 6-a-side League.

Football at RAL is very popular with opportunities for men and women to play at lunchtimes and evenings on a regular basis.

There are games on the RAL sports field Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes. With the change in working patterns after COVID (more people working from home) and with touch rugby being moved to Thursdays, we have seen a low turnout this year for the lunchtime kick abouts. With the Harwell League coming to the end of the season the sessions are picking up, particularly on Tuesdays and we have tried to push for these sessions to take place. The sessions are now scheduled by Teamer and there are currently 63 members. This allows players an easy method of accepting sessions as it can be done via email or app, keeping it up to date with modern technology. This app is also used by other football teams on site.

The RAL pitch is also used for the occasional 11-a-side matches between various RAL Departments or Divisions teams. Also friendly games and testimonials for players are held. Last summer the RAL pitch hosted a friendly 11-a-side game consisting of players from the teams that compete in the Harwell league.

As well as informal lunchtime and evening games there were six different RAL and Diamond based teams that competed in the Harwell 6-a-side Football League. During the 2022-23 season 10 teams from across the Campus have participated in the two tier League competition which finishes soon. RAL teams Petawatt Dogs won League 1 with Unmentionables 2nd in the 2021/22 season which hosted 5 RAL based teams.

There are also Monday and Wednesday kick abouts on the Harwell Campus, currently moved from the ESA pitch due to building work and is now played on the rugby pitch behind the HLRA Pavilion. There is an organised evening 6-a-side session on the astro-turf pitch at Harwell Primary School on a Tuesday evenings, run by Diamond.

The pitch has also been used for local football clubs in order to provide a facility for weekend football, examples being Harwell & Hendred Ladies team and Harwell & Hendred Youth Football teams. The managers of the teams have joined the RecSoc as Associate Members and are very grateful to be able to hire and use our excellent facilities and sports field, which is considerably better than most local recreational grounds and pitches.

Anyone interested in signing up for the RAL kick about you can do so here with the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/2fahkawq>

We would like to thank Estates and the grounds team for maintaining the sports field and regularly marking out the 11-a-side and 6-a-side pitches at short notice when requested. Also, thanks to the RecSoc Committee for their continued support of the football club and the RAL teams.

For more details about opportunities to play please email June (June.McCorquodale@stfc.ac.uk) or Sarah (sarah.needham@stfc.ac.uk)

## RAL Golf Society annual report 2022-2023

2022 was another great year for the RAL Golf Society. Following the previous year the society was again headed by the committee of Darren Ballard (Chairman), Paul Benson (Secretary) and Len Pearce. The Golf Society Captain for the year was Len Pearce.

This year we managed 7 meetings of the society between March and October. With the format being the same as the past season, 5 results from the 7 rounds were to count towards the overall league.

Rounds were played at mostly the same venues as the 2021-22 season, however due to having some members who have memberships at other golf courses we were able to negotiate better deals to play higher quality courses than previously – examples being The Springs GC, Ogbourne Downs GC and Kirtlington GC. Though these courses propose a sterner test of golf, their better quality greens and set up mean that were enjoyed by all who attended.

This year we didn't host the Inter-Establishment, but we are hoping to start it again this year?

Finals day was again played at West Berkshire GC. The overall title (The Gordon Walker Cup) was won by Roy Grant with 42 points, securing the overall title by 5 points, with Andrew Malandain in second place and Simon Alcock in third place.

3 other trophies that were won through the year were the RAL Trophy played at Drayton Park GC won by Richard Sealey, Cotswold Cup played at the Ogbourne Downs GC won by Duncan Francis and the Charity Shield played at West Berks GC was won by Mike Phillips

The 2023 season has already started with golf played at Hadden Hill GC. Membership numbers have levelled out to around 30 with 15 playing in the first game. The society continues to grow and would like to thank Paul Sedwards, Joe Moxon, Ronnie Brumfitt and the Rec-Soc committee for their continued support in what we believe to be one of the best and well supported clubs within the Recreational Association. We look forward to some better weather and hotly contested competitions through the remainder of the 2023 season.

At present there is ~£206 in the society account (we can supply an accurate figure to anyone who would request it). Members of the society who are CSSC members are charged £5 a year membership, non-members pay £10. We do however encourage members to take out CSSC membership when they express an interest in joining the society.

2023 Committee.

Chairman – Darren Ballard

Secretary – Paul Benson

Len Pearce

# RAL Music Club Annual Report 2022/2023

**Chairman:** Dr Tristan Youngs (x1250)

**Secretary:** Mr Ronnie Brumfitt (x5048) / Mrs Samantha Fedorenko (x5329)

**Treasurer:** Mr Dan Beckett (x6634)

## Chairman's Statement

*"After delays good (refurbishment of the R58 building) and delays bad (some sort of pandemic-y thing) the RAL Music Club is delighted to be back in business! The club looks a little different since, while the membership is still healthy, a number of bands suffered during the gap in operations – people have moved on, or found jobs elsewhere, and so the number of active groups has taken a bit of a hit. Nevertheless, the demand is still there (Subatomaton is still alive, to name but one!) and other new ventures between members have begun. Following logistical challenges within the building during the R58 refurbishment and instigation of the new Fitness Centre, the Music Club now finds itself sharing the brick annexe with the Snooker Club. This is obviously a massive help to the club in terms of space and sound isolation (brick being much better at shielding noise than asbestos-filled plasterboard, unsurprisingly) and coexistence with our Snooker Club compadres is working well to date.*

*And now, a brief history lesson. The Music Club was instigated in essentially the form you see today by two like-minded gentlemen on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2008, meaning that this year we celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The two who catalysed that formation were Alex Robinson and Ronnie Brumfitt, with the latter being who many of you know as the Music Club Secretary. Until now. Ronnie decided to make the difficult decision (well, at least I assume it was difficult... 😊) to step down as secretary for the club at this year's AGM, and I would like to formally thank him for being the heart of the club for the past 14+ years – we greatly appreciate all you've done, and wouldn't be here without you! As the saying goes, however, every liquid droplet aerosol has a heavy metal interior, and we are delighted to welcome our new secretary Samantha Fedorenko to the club. Hi Samantha!*

*Finally, we will endeavour to get regular events up and running again this year. To begin with these will most likely be focussed on lunchtimes since the landscape of evening attendance has changed somewhat over the past two years. We hope to see you at one of them at some point in the future!"*

## Club Matters

### AGM

The Music Club held an AGM on Tuesday the 31st of January at 12:00 pm in the R58 Lounge, and which was well attended by the membership.

Tristan Youngs was nominated to continue as Chairman, and Dan Beckett as Treasurer. Ronnie Brumfitt stepped down as Secretary, and Samantha Fedorenko volunteered to take on the role. All nominations were approved at the meeting.

### Link with ESA Music Club

The club is looking in to creating a formal link with the ESA Music Club just up the road from RAL. Discussions were had on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> March with club representatives from both sides, and a tentative plan has been discussed. Having the two clubs linked in some way gives us a nice cross-campus collaboration, and the potential for additional venues for events.

## Membership / Activity

Membership remains at £1 / month, payable in advance for the calendar year, renewing every January. Membership registration is now completely online, and room bookings are now made by via the RecSoc's Skedda booking system – the existing Outlook Calendar is redundant.

- 93 registered members, 33 of whom are paid up for the 2023 calendar year
- Typically between 30 and 40 bookings are made per calendar month.

## Accounts

The club opened a Lloyd's bank business account in March 2020.

RAL Music Club - Income and Expenses for 2020-2023					
Date	Description	Category	Income	Expense	Balance
14/8/20	Cash transfer to bank account	Memberships & donations	£181.39		£181.39
(2020)	Membership fees	Memberships & donations	£230.16		£411.55
(2022)	Membership fees	Memberships & donations	£64.00		£475.55
23/9/22	Room lights and piano lamp	Equipment		£100.59	£374.96
(2023)	Membership fees	Memberships & donations	£342.00		£716.96
31/1/23	Drink for members at AGM	Miscellaneous		£20.50	
2/3/23	Portable recorder	Equipment		£195.57	
2020-2023 Summary					
Opening Balance			£181.39		
Income Money IN			£504.16		
Expense Money OUT				£316.66	
End of Year Balance					£500.89

## Equipment Purchase

The new Snooker / Music Room shared space is a little “sterile” in terms of lighting, so the club purchased several uplighters for the room, as well as a decent piano light.

The club also purchased a handheld recorder (a Tascam DR-40X) for use in the room by bands wanting a better recording than just dumping your phone high up on a shelf.

## Lessons

On-site piano lessons with Becky Watts have resumed and are as popular as ever with ten regular students taking lessons weekly on Tuesdays. Lessons cover Classical, Jazz and Pop and include improvisation, composition and duets. Standards vary from complete beginner to Grade 6. Our guitar teacher Hugh Turner also returned to the fray and currently has three regular students and is looking for more! They take lessons on Thursdays or Friday.

## Events Calendar


### 2022

#### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December – RAL Music Club Meet & Greet

Just a single event to note since resumption of activities, and one designed to ease the live music avenue back into existence. The club decided to hold a Meet & Greet event in the R58 Lounge between 12:00 and 13:30, where members new and old could come along, have a little lunch and a drink, meet like-minded individuals, and listen to a bit of live music. Subatomaton kicked off affairs with a short acoustic set, throwing out a cover of Audioslave's Like a Stone before segueing into two pieces of their own composition. John McLeod then took to the piano to offer up a couple of pieces ahead of some forthcoming exams – a very useful experience, and he got through it well! Our resident guitar teacher Hugh Turner then set ablaze the fretboard with some marvellous solo jazz guitar, followed by Pawala Ariyathilaka and Dan Wakeling duetting some lovely bluesy material. Our future secretary (not that she knew it at the time!) Samantha Fedorenko then took us back to the piano with beautiful renditions of Clair de Lune and Christopher Norton's "Country Song", and the whole event was rounded off by Scott Bamforth with a nice solo piano and vocal performance.

## And Finally...

During the forthcoming year we hope to:

- 1) *Continue building up our events to a level where we sat in 2019. While hybrid working and less people wanting to be around after work, the structure of these will probably remain as lunchtime gigs for now, but in the summer months a beer garden and an evening do sounds like a good idea!*  
 *Provide better labelling of equipment ownership in the room so that it is clear who owns what, which items are for general use, and which items may be used with the permission of the owner.*



## RAL Photography Club report for Rec Soc AGM

18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Chairman: David Hooper

Treasurer: Tim Folkes

The RAL Photography Club meets once a month to show and to discuss photographs taken by its members. A different theme is chosen for each of the meetings. All aspects of photography are considered, including techniques, equipment, and aesthetics.

The group only started to meet again in January 2023 after an almost 3 year hiatus. The club currently has 8 members and £198 in its funds.

Anyone may attend the meetings, but only members may show their photos.

Although we continue to meet in person in one of the RAL Conference Rooms, we now also offer the option of joining the meetings via Zoom.

The club is open to requests from other RAL Rec Soc clubs for photographs to be taken of their activities.

### January 2023

There was no set theme for this meeting to give members a chance to give an overview of what they had been doing photographically over the past 3 years.

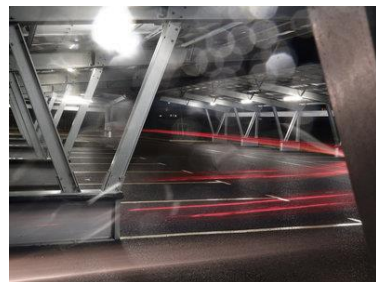
### February 2023

The theme was “Texture”.



### March 2023

The theme was “Liquid/Fluid”.



*continued overleaf*

April 2023

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April with a theme of “*Spring/New*”. Contact David Hooper for further details.

Photographs courtesy of Tim Folkes, Isabel Gomes, David Hooper, David Keymer, and Alex Pertica.

## **RAL Table Tennis Club report to Rec. Soc. AGM 2023**

This year has been a year that, following Covid and the closure of R58 for refurbishment, has seen activity for the RAL Table Tennis Club starting to be re-established.

### **Lunchtime Play**

Lunchtime play in the table tennis room has gradually started up again, encouraging social exchange between players of a similar standard and with all standards being catered for, from beginners to experienced players.

### **Evening League**

The teams were glad to be back to playing in R58 after our exile to the RAL Visitor Centre (thanks to Sophy Palmer for facilitating this). In competitions the club has had a reasonable year although we have dropped the number of teams competing following Covid.

This year, we were able to enter two teams in the Didcot League (DDTTA), and two teams in the Oxford League (ODTTA). The league positions for RAL teams are as follows:

#### **In the Oxford League:**

RAL A finished near the bottom in Division 1 but the difference between themselves and 3<sup>rd</sup> was only 6 points.

RAL B finished safely mid table in Division 2.

#### **In the Didcot League:**

RAL Avengers finished safely mid-table in Division 1.

RAL Crusaders finished near the bottom in Division 2 but the difference between themselves and 3<sup>rd</sup> was only 5 points.

RAL got to the semi-finals of the club Handicap Cup.

RAL Crusaders got out of the group stages but lost in round 2 of the team Handicap Shield.

### **AGM**

The Club AGM will be held in June (date to be determined).

### **FINANCE**

Oxford League fees, Didcot League fees and RecSoc Associate membership fees have been collected and paid to the respective bodies.

The Club is financial solvent and the balance as of end March 2023 is £469.14.

### **Misc**

Please see [Table Tennis \(ralrecsoc.com\)](http://ralrecsoc.com) for further information about the club.

## **AGM 2023 – Tennis Club**

The Tennis club had a change of management last summer. Lorna Sinclair and Pawala Ariyathilaka are now the Club contacts.

The new committee ran 2 session per week until the winter with one after work 'coaching' session and a lunch time social tennis session.

Currently there are 55 members signed up to the club. During the coaching sessions we had approximately around 5 people turning up for the beginner sessions. The tennis courts are being booked throughout the year by members.

This year we are planning to restart the same sessions as well as try the tennis tournament.

From the financial side, the items the tennis club bought last year: a new banner (£45.34), 72 new tennis balls (£112.85), a set of cones (£19.98), and a net weight (£32.98); £211.15 in total.

Unlikely we'll need to buy much this year other than possibly restock some more balls which we will do in a few months if needed.

Pawala Ariyathilaka