

# Oxford Quins RFC

Business Showcase 2024

Oxford Quins is Oxford's premier and largest rugby club. Our three men's XV's compete in the RFU England Rugby Championship in the following leagues: National 3 (1st XV), Counties 1 (2nd XV) and Counties 2 (3rd XV). Our two women's teams compete at Level 4 nationally in the RFU National Challenge 1 and National Challenge 2 leagues. We have Oxfordshire's largest youth rugby section offering boys and girls rugby for children aged from 6 to 16, and an Under 18 Boys Academy staffed by semi-professional coaches.

Our site at Horspath Road is a hub for community sport where in addition to rugby we host year round sport with clubs such as Oxfordshire Softball, Eire

Og Gaelic Football, Hurling, La Crosse and organisations such as Oxford Brookes University and City of Oxford College, along with numerous schools, also hosting activities and events at Horspath Road. Annually we host the Oxford 7s, a nationally acclaimed rugby 7s festival, music and food events and the Lord Mayor of Oxford's Festival of Rugby.

Our support base includes many Oxford and South Oxfordshire residents who are senior citizens, many with mobility issues. They expressed the desire to attend fixtures and events at Horspath Road but were sometimes deterred by the inclement weather that occurs from Sept to April and by the lack of pitchside seating.



*We therefore embarked on a Spectator Experience Project to improve the experience for non-active participants, to encourage all members of the community to engage in community sport, and to benefit from the social and mental health benefits that engagement can afford.*



## OxLEP's support allowed us to complete phase 1 of our spectator experience project

OxLEP's support allowed us to complete phase 1 of our spectator experience project, the creation of a 70-seat pitchside seating area with wheelchair ramp and wheelchair parking. The covered seating area was installed in August 2023 following the award of the OxLEP grant earlier in the year. We have started a new Supporters Club, targeting those members of the community who may experience social isolation, due to age, or mobility issues and have arranged transport to and from the club. This is a very encouraging development and indicative of the impact that the new covered seating area will have in encouraging people to visit the area to attend sporting events.