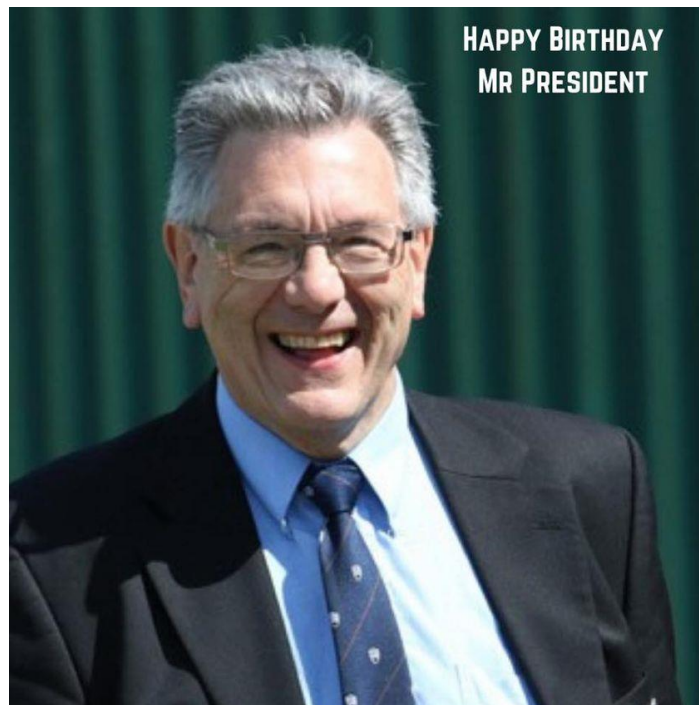




## Memories of Grasshoppers by Peter Baveystock



Happy Birthday, Peter Baveystock, who celebrates a big birthday on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July. Bavey has very kindly answered some not so probing questions.

Name? Peter Baveystock

Title? Grasshoppers Rugby President & Middlesex Rugby President

Nickname/s? Obviously Bavey, but not sure how others refer to me?

Year joined Grasshoppers? 1968

Playing Position & for how many seasons? Mainly tight head prop but also loose head and occasional second row. From 1968 until October 1982 (early retirement)

How many tries did you score? A memorable 1 try, I think.

Roles you held at Grasshoppers? Social Sec for 9 years, Club Captain for 2 and Chairman for 15 years until 2009.

Your proudest moment at Grasshoppers? The two Middlesex cup finals against Ruislip, the two promotions and the start of our minis in 2003, leading to us parading the Rugby World Cup at the club in May 2004. If I had to pick one, it would be having the RWC trophy on show at Grasshoppers.

Any funny stories? When Hoppers moved to MacFarlane Lane in 1987 & the new rugby posts arrived at my house in Bracknell (Neighbours were not best pleased). Refereeing once I blew up at a ruck saying it's not coming out of there only to see it in the stand-offs hands! The most embarrassing being trying to recruit a South African Player only to discover it was Springbok Captain Bobby Skinstad (I only ever saw him in his scrum cap). I was also introduced to a Welshman at a work meeting and told him I played for Grasshoppers and glibly asked if he'd ever played to which he replied yes, Swansea, Wales and the British & Irish Lions – it turned out he was stand-off Malcom Dacey

What is your favourite rugby memory? Seeing the World Cup arriving at Grasshoppers in the helicopter in 2004.

What is your all-time favourite rugby tradition? Respecting the ref and clapping the opposition off – long may they continue!!!

Who are your all-time three favourite Grasshoppers players? Ian Whittaker, Bob Orishaguna and Charlie Smith.

If you could have dinner with any - alive or deceased – rugby person, who would it be and why? Will Carling – I'd ask him if he was really better than Charlie Smith.

What advice would you give a young athlete looking to start playing rugby? Play as much as you can as you're a long time retired!!!!

As Middlesex Rugby President, what are you most looking forward to doing? Visiting as many of our Clubs as possible.

What concerns if any do you have about the community game in the County and in the UK? Players watching rugby rather than playing and the concentration of good players at single Clubs.

**Peter Baveystock, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021**

*'Fortis in Animo'*