Pro-Biz

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VISIT TO TWICKENHAM STADIUM, THURSDAY 29th OCTOBER 2026



Hywel Thomas is a Stadium Tour Guide. He gathered us in the England Store (where you can buy almost anything emblazoned with the Red Rose) and led us to the Stadium's entrance gate, which is guarded by a gilded lion originally installed at the Lion Brewery on the South Bank. The entrance includes an array of statues of rugby players in active poses. The RFU's War Memorial is part of this entrance way.

From there, we entered the East Stand and went into the spartan changing rooms. Sadly, the days of the steaming communal post-match bath are long gone. It's now ice baths and sports science. We walked out pitchside, imaging the roar of a matchday crowd. Hywel explained the hugely expensive pitch relaying which has taken place this summer. The turf looked too good to be ripped up by snorting packs of studded boot forwards. We sat in the stand watching the pitch being tined relentlessly by the groundstaff.

Then into the hallowed portals of the Committee Rooms. Here, photos of all Past Presidents are displayed, filling the walls, and it would be difficult to tell one from another in an identity parade. The displays include the title deeds for the land purchased to create the Stadium, and no, it wasn't a "Cabbage Patch", it was originally an orchard market garden.

Hywel then led us into the World Rugby Museum. The staircase into the Museum has incisive quotes from illuminati such as Spike Milligan; "*Rugby is for Big Buggers*". The Museum itself is an inclusive collection of rugby ephemera from every land where rugby has been played by men and women. The foundation of rugby and its code of rules and the schism between amateurs and professionals is detailed in depth. The Calcutta Cup is on display, with information as to how it was financed by funds from the dissolution of the Calcutta rugby club. The Museum does not focus in any triumphalist way on victories by any international side, but more on the participation in the game world-wide.

Thanks to Hywel for arranging and leading our visit.







LUNCH TALK, "TREKKING IN SRI LANKA" by MARCIA SUMMERS, 20th OCTOBER 2026



Marcia has been on a mission to help Sri Lankan women suffering from gender-based violence.

Her first visit was a family holiday in 2013, when she became involved in helping to bring supplies to a children's charity.

This led to three fund-raising treks starting in 2022.

Marcia has travelled the length of Sri Lanka, from Galle in the south to the island's northern-most tip. She has trekked the Pekoe Trail, 323km across Sri Lanka's tea growing area.

Marcia has raised £30,000 for charity and written a book about her travels and travails in heat, humidity, mountainous terrain, and leech-infested rainforest, and her abiding affection for Sri Lanka's people and culture.

FUTURE EVENTS

FRIDAY 27th NOVEMBER: Lunch at the View, ***TO BE RESCEDULED TO EARLY NEXT YEAR***

TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER: **CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

TUESDAY 19th JANUARY: **CLUB GUEST LUNCH**

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