

THE MIKE GOOLEY
TRAILFINDERS CHARITY
FOUNDED 1995

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ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

To members and supporters

The remaining £297,945, owed by Ealing 1871 Football Club to cover Trailfinders rescue package in 2010, was expunged in March 2019 to complete the now very healthy relationship between the Amateurs and Professional sides of Ealing Trailfinders Rugby Football Club. A most significant landmark cementing the one Club ethos.

I thought Ben Ward turning out to play a game for the Evergreens said it all and drew a line under the long running difficulties we have all had to bear. I might add that 3 others, Steve Neville, Paddy Gill and Owen Bruynseels, who first played for the Amateurs, are also now employed by the Professional side. Both parts of the Club are now in excellent and rational shape.

Trailfinders Ltd will continue to sponsor the Amateurs in return for the embodiment of the Trailfinders logo in and on all their livery and stationery, as they realise their admirable ambitions in returning to the RFU Leagues.

The **TRAILFINDERS**  **RUGBY ACADEMY** has been formed under the management of the Professionals and is well underway. It will soon be recognised as the foremost Rugby development organisation in the land. There are opportunities for players at U16 and U18 level, as well as an Academy at Brunel University, which allows for players to continue their studies as well as pursue a sporting career in rugby. It has got off to a flying start, backed by my Charity. Watch this space.

The Amateur academy section is to be known as *Ealing Trailfinders Performance Programme* (ETPP) to avoid confusion, and The Mike Gooley Trailfinders Charity intend raising the present support from £20,000 p.a. up to £40,000, to further strengthen this part of the Amateurs operation.

The Professionals had their most successful season ever coming 2nd in the Championship by some way, 8 points clear of 3rd placed Cornish Pirates. They finally defeated a Premiership side, after some near misses, to take The Championship Cup against a full strength London Irish team, which boasted 123 International Caps in their scrum alone. This feat affirmed the superb Management enjoyed by the Professionals.

Trailfinders Sports Club Ltd goes from strength to strength, hiring the facilities and acting as impresarios to all manner of events. They now no longer require the huge financial subsidy they needed from Trailfinders Ltd over the 22 years it has taken to break even. Hosting the London Broncos has been a crucial factor and we must wish them success in retaining their Premiership status.


The now strong and charming TFSC Management team must be thanked for their tireless and professional delivery, which generates many 5 star Google reviews and much praise. We also enjoy having a tireless and outstanding Head Groundsman in Paul Barry.

We will all miss Michael Schaefer's commentary, which he developed into an art form. Thank you Michael, you will be a hard act to follow.

Ealing Trailfinders Cricket Club has made steady if slow progress and we should all encourage them, not least their 5-8 year old coaching initiative. You will have seen them running free children coaching clinics on Ealing Trailfinders Rugby match-days and they are increasingly getting out and about more in local schools. They do however need as much support as possible from the thriving rugby minis/juniors to grow their numbers, so please spread the word and encourage our rugby membership to get involved. Ealing Trailfinders Cricket Club will be working increasingly more and pooling resources with ETPRM Community Department, to help them with their visibility in the areas and access into schools.

Regaining the Freehold of the Paddock after over 22 years of lobbying the Council has been another landmark, which allows The Mike Gooley Trailfinders Charity to develop this extra pitch facility for general use. The already superb facilities at the venue will continue to improve.

The Championship home gate continues to grow, although more slowly than we would wish, and is the one area where we do not compete as well as we should, when compared with less successful Championship opponents. We need more of the 'Green Army' and the 'Dirty Dozen'. Perhaps someone will found 'The Old EES' and reserve the Bartop as their HQ.

I would like to thank everyone who have used Trailfinders for their travel arrangements (and encouraged others) so enjoying the service recently accredited by **Which?** as Travel Brand of the Year 2019, as well as being rated top in all of the 11 categories published by  **Trustpilot**. Without Trailfinders success after all, Vallis Way might well have remained the wasteland it was in 1997.

I wish all members, players, supporters and merry makers great times and continuing success at the Club.

Onwards and upwards.

no *better* venue

Mike Gooley CBE

CHAIRMAN & FOUNDER – Trailfinders Ltd

MANAGING DIRECTOR – Trailfinders Sports Club Ltd

FOUNDER TRUSTEE – The Mike Gooley Trailfinders Charity



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TRAVEL BRAND OF THE YEAR

VOTED FOR BY THE PUBLIC

BEST TOUR OPERATOR

Readers of The Times, The Sunday Times & The Sunday Times Travel Magazine for **6 consecutive years**

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

Readers of National Geographic Traveller

MOST TRUSTED TRAVEL BRAND

Readers of The Guardian & Observer

TOUR OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

Readers of Food & Travel Magazine