

# Beccles Rugby Club Report to Members for 2020-21 season.



This is the annual review of the season of Beccles Rugby Club for the 2020-21 season. Normally this information would all be presented to those attending the AGM and then published in the form of an AGM report after the AGM.

While we hoped to have a face to face AGM this year the Covid restrictions will not be lifted in time for this to occur. Therefore we will hold the AGM via Zoom again this year. The AGM will take place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm.

Details on how the AGM will run will be sent to all members. For further information on anything in this report please contact Club Secretary Keith Johnstone ([kjohnstone1503@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kjohnstone1503@yahoo.co.uk)).

## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME



Tony Knights, Chairman

Welcome,

What a year we have faced. It has been an incredibly challenging year. But we have got through it and the club is looking to be in a good position. This is due to having a great Committee, Volunteers, Players, and Members. So, I want to say a big thank you to everyone for helping. Whether it was volunteering or paying some or all the years subs. Even though we have tried to get going and stopped. The club needs some income to keep it running. We have rent, utility bills, ground maintenance to pay for. Along with keeping coaching and volunteer's qualifications up to date. We have put on training when we have been allowed. Which does still have costs. Like lights and all the sanitizing and covid-19 compliance systems. The subs and any income we got has helped us do this and leave us in a position ready for the next season.

Over the last year we have had a lot of things going on with the club. Even though there has been limited games. We have completed a few projects, the hub has had a much-needed roof replacement and inside has had a makeover, to make it more appealing to be used more. The lights over the hub have been completed so this can be used more over the darker evenings. The 1st team pitch has had over 200 tons put on it last summer to try and level it up. Big thank you to Ley plant for the donation of the soil. We have moved the green container from Hub to 1st team pitch for an upcoming project. The kitchen has retained its 5-star rating.

So, a big thank you, goes out to some people who have worked hard and gave a lot of their time to complete these. David and Daniel Rix for digging out the trenches for lights. Bev and kitchen staff for all their hard work keeping the

kitchen open when they could and for working hard on the 5-star rating. Rich, Martin, Marty and Stuart for all their hard work on the projects.

There was not much opportunity for much Rugby over the past year, great to see so much support for the games that did go ahead. Looking forward to the next season (fingers crossed) it would be great to see more support for all the teams and the club. We always are looking for sponsors and volunteers. So please contact any committee member if you would like to be part of this great club.

Finally, I would like to take moment to remember all the family members, old players or supporters of the club, who are no longer here. Due to the impact of the last years epidemic. My and the club's thoughts go out to you.

Stay safe and well and I look forward to seeing you all next season for some great Rugby.

Tony

## **SECTION REPORTS**

### **Senior Section**

It has been a very quiet year for the Senior Section with this section being stopped due to Covid restrictions for the longest periods.

When we have been able to train numbers have been good, whatever the current restrictions on what we could do were. There has been core of players who have trained throughout the year, some who have dipped in and out and some who have taken the year off.

The first challenge as we start the new season will to bring all these players together as we aim for a more 'normal' season. Pre-season training will start the first week of July.

We have picked up a number of new players over the year, either joining from other clubs or players new to the game. This looks encouraging as we look to grow our numbers.

Thanks go to Leigh Gedney and Stuart Adams for running the training sessions throughout the season. They did well to keep things interesting whatever the restrictions we were currently playing under. Also, to Jack Baldry whose Monday night touch sessions were well run and popular with all.

While there was scope for us to play some contact rugby at the end of the season we opted against it. The general consensus within the squad was that by the time sufficient contact training had been done to play games there would not be enough time for many games to be played. We therefore opted to stick to non-contact rugby then start pre-season early to be ready for a good run at next season.

New shirts for both teams were purchased during the season. We were able to raise over £2000 through sponsorship. This was achieved through both selling space directly on the shirt and also through a draw. Thanks go to B&B Skips, Nibbleze and Bespoke Scaffolding for their support. Also to draw winners Delta Fitness and all the other companies who entered the draw. We look forward to being able to wear the new shirts next season!

### **Youth Section**

In what has been a very different season the youth section has managed to continue training where possible either on zoom during lockdown or on the pitch as restrictions eased. Unfortunately, at the beginning of the season the majority of the under 16s decided to move on, some however have stayed and are currently signed down to the under 15s.

There are currently about 57 players within the section, with the majority registered and have paid subs, with a high percentage paying full subs thanks to all the team managers for their hard work in achieving this, the section is fairly strong in numbers and are continuing to attract new players all the time and the outlook is positive for the coming season. The youth section have received sponsorship from Kevin Whiting and Simpsons Malt LTD which has allowed us to have a new set of shirts for the under 15s

We did start with a positive preseason with good numbers returning for restricted training working within RFU guidelines and continued to train all through the season either on the pitch or on zoom trying to keep the players engaged and occupied during difficult times.

All the sections finally managed to arrange some fixtures, some ready 4 rugby games were played prior to lockdown 2 and towards the end of the season, when we could return to some sort of normality, each section managed a few welcome fixtures of contact rugby. All scheduled matches went ok however, we did have a couple of issues with conduct from other clubs on how they approached things through the pandemic and how their players were coached. We continue to learn from this, but in the main it was a success with improvements being made on every level and some great rugby as a result.

We will aim to keep building numbers in each section and develop the players and their skills. We have a good team of coaches and managers throughout the youth section, who are all doing a great job in developing our players and a huge thanks must go out to all concerned as all their efforts are greatly appreciated by the players, parents and the club in the ever-growing section.

We would also like to thank the senior section for their continued support whether it was input at training, refereeing games or support from the sidelines. It is all a positive move towards club integration and is greatly appreciated.

Stuart Adams May 2021

### **Girls**

The girls section remained at similar numbers throughout the season averaging on about 20 girls per session.

Every week Head coach Ri and Assistant coach Ben held excellent training sessions, throughout summer for fitness and then adapted as the stages unfolded from RFU, and the girls have made good development and maintained their great team spirit and enthusiasm.

Guest coaches included Jaz, Charlotte and May (all former Beccles girls) when back from Uni, Rob from Southwold came over for one training session also.

As the season rounded off with some eagerly awaited friendly matches, the girls adapted well into Babar teams with our other local Norfolk clubs and played some fantastic rugby.

Numbers were impacted to be able to play games as the season was continued later, therefore fixtures clashed with exams and revision for the older girls, however the younger girls embraced every opportunity.

6 of the under 18's have moved through to Ladies rugby now and are looking to continue their rugby at universities or with Southwold ladies. We continue to work in cohesion with Southwold ladies to provide smooth transition and preparation for the girls, Southwold have invited the under 18 girls to their training sessions free of charge to help with this implementation also.

Predicted numbers for next season are 7 under 18's, 7 under 15's and 3 under 13's. Promotional material will be sent to schools and discussions are planned regarding hosting a school's day to hopefully recruit more players.

Beach Rugby 7's for the girls is being held on the 8th August at Lowestoft which we will be attending.

More coaching support will be needed for next season if numbers increase.

Fundraising, we are optimistic that we will be able to partake in our annual sponsored Mud run – restrictions allowing of course.

### **Minis**

Against the backdrop of covid the minis section enjoyed a broken but successful year. With rugby starting back in September we managed a few months of smiles on faces before the dreaded lockdown reappeared. As a section numbers have dropped overall, with many parents and children waiting to the 21/22 season before returning to rugby, we look forward to welcoming them back. Our Tiny Bulls section went from strength to strength this year with Ben, Harry, Charlie and Josh from the youth section leading the group and showing the Tiny Bulls what it means to be a club member – many thanks boys. To see the Tiny Bulls numbers grow in this season to the current levels is really encouraging and bodes well for the future of the club.

Overall we're sitting at nearly 70 players (not including the Tiny Bulls), normally we'd be expecting around the 80 – 90 mark based on previous years, this has meant that we have combined the U9's and U10's this year to provide all ages with meaningful training and games. Getting children back into rugby and boosting the numbers again for the next season has to be the goal for the minis and one that I'm sure the incoming minis director of rugby will embrace. The minis section mainly trained until just before November where a few games of touch were played, we restarted again in December for a couple of weeks culminating in a game against Crusaders, before rugby stopped again for lockdown #3. The season restarted again in March with training before a series of matches were played against L&Y and Southwold in May. In doing so, Beccles managed to host around 200 children in a covid safe and compliant three way match on a sunny morning in May. Looking across the pitches and seeing so many children enjoying themselves was my highlight of the year. I think that for the children managing to get these games in at the end of season helped to maintain the interest in rugby, after all no one wants to train for trainings sake!

As I sign off as minis director of rugby, I'd just like to take a moment and thank all the coaches who give up their time every weekend to coach the children in rugby's core values. Seeing the numbers of children that have progressed through the minis section and seeing them grow as young people is amazingly satisfying, not necessarily as rugby players but taking those core values with them is great to see. The club however, doesn't just get run by coaches, there's the committee members who again give up a significant amount of their own time to manage, run and maintain the club. Of course it would be remiss not to mention the Hub catering crew, although they've not had the end of season they would have wanted, knowing that there's a hub breakfast on the horizon in September makes me wish for a quick summer!

### **Safeguarding**

All DBS checks for coaches are up to date and preparation for a refresh of the information board is underway.



No reports, or issues made other than some age range discrepancies in Youth Section queried by our parents, which we subsequently addressed with the club in question.

Volunteer forms are ready for completion and a coaching/safeguarding peer group session is being discussed for the start of next season.

Play it Safe course is likely to be booked for next season also.

An assistant Safeguarding officer needs to be recruited for next season also to assist with any enquiries and contact.

Carrie Ward – Club Safeguarding Officer – 20/21

## Club Projects

### Hub Pitch Projects



- Look to remove seniors scrum machine and shed, Strim area and get level so we can use this area for youth scrum machine and practise.
- Put up rabbit fencing around 2 edges, to help keep pitch safe.
- Look to install tanks/bc's to collect rain water from hub roof. To use in dry conditions.
- Pitch maintenance, To keep pitch in good condition.
- Look to do a work party day, Paint the outside of Hub/ general upkeep.
- Look to buy a new storage container.
- Fundraising to buy more equipment to upkeep the pitches/land.
- Look to install some fencing for security.
- Hub Shelter seating
- Hub shelter floor level raising, barge boards and astro turf

### 1st Team Pitch Projects



- Convert green container to storage and tea hut...
- Look to use rest of field and do works to make it usable. This will be used for training rather than the pitches, Which cant take the amount of games and training on it!
- Finish off the fencing around pitch, to give more sponsorship space and to fix a rabbit proof fence to it.
- Pitch maintenance, To keep pitch in good condition.
- Look to do a work party day,
- Replace broken goal.
- Install Spare Goal on top part of pitch for training.
- 2nd Pitch Sponsor Board Fencing
- Look to install some fencing for security.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Financial Review

Our financial position at the end of the 2020-21 season.

| <b>Profit and Loss</b>                               |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Beccles Rugby Club</b>                            |                  |
| <b>For the year ended 30 June 2021</b>               |                  |
| <small>2021</small>                                  |                  |
| <b>Turnover</b>                                      |                  |
| Fundraising, general grants and donations            | 10,824.00        |
| Kit Sales  | 1,304.28         |
| Kitchen Sales  | 2,051.61         |
| Sponsorship  | 3,370.00         |
| Subscriptions - Girls Section                        | 810.00           |
| Subscriptions - Minis and youth section              | 4,686.70         |
| Subscriptions - Senior Section                       | 1,145.00         |
| Sundry income  | 25.65            |
| Winter Survival Grant (Maximum)                      | 22,242.87        |
| <b>Total Turnover</b>                                | <b>46,460.11</b> |
| <b>Cost of Sales</b>                                 |                  |
| Kit purchases adjusted for stock                     | 3,723.85         |
| Kitchen purchases                                    | 1,020.01         |
| Sponsorship Expenses                                 | 80.00            |
| Travel expenses                                      | 503.40           |
| <b>Total Cost of Sales</b>                           | <b>5,327.26</b>  |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>                                  | <b>41,132.85</b> |
| <b>Administrative Costs</b>                          |                  |
| Coaching, training and development expenses          | (290.00)         |
| General repairs and equipment costs                  | 1,806.40         |
| Insurance  | 647.69           |
| Light, Power, Heating                                | 1,893.85         |
| Rates  | 321.61           |
| Rent   | 2,913.74         |
| Sundry expenses - General club                       | 950.26           |
| Sundry expenses - Girls section                      | 226.09           |
| Sundry expenses - Minis and youth section            | 741.41           |
| Youth hub repairs and equipment                      | 12,759.68        |
| <b>Total Administrative Costs</b>                    | <b>21,970.73</b> |
| <b>Operating Profit</b>                              | <b>19,162.12</b> |
| <b>Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation</b> | <b>19,162.12</b> |
| <b>Profit after Taxation</b>                         | <b>19,162.12</b> |

## Setting Subscriptions

The current subscription levels are as follows:

Seniors £130

Youth £70

Girls £70

Minis £65

VP's £50 (suggested donation)

Social Members £25

Family membership £150

These are baseline amounts and if individual sections want to adjust slightly to include an item of clothing etc. in the price this can be done.

We propose that these subscription levels remain the same for next season.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Directors of the club are formally elected at the AGM. Most of the Directors who finished last season have all indicated their willingness to continue in their roles. The committee propose that these directors are all voted back into their roles.

The one exception to this is that Nick Ford is moving from Mini to Youth Rugby with his U12 team so the position of Director of Minis is open. Anyone interested in this role should contact a Committee member to make themselves known. Full support will be given to anyone taking on the role.

| <b>Directors</b>              |                 |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                               | 2020-21         | 2021-22         |
| <b>President</b>              | Martin Sisley   | Martin Sisley   |
| <b>Chairman</b>               | Tony Knights    | Tony Knights    |
| <b>Honorary Secretary</b>     | Keith Johnstone | Keith Johnstone |
| <b>Honorary Treasurer</b>     | Mat Waters      | Mat Waters      |
| <b>Vice Chairman</b>          | Martin Wones    | Martin Wones    |
| <b>Director (Seniors Rep)</b> | Keith Johnstone | Keith Johnstone |
| <b>Director (Youth Rep)</b>   | Stuart Adams    | Stuart Adams    |
| <b>Director (Minis Rep)</b>   | Nick Ford       | <b>Vacant</b>   |
| <b>Director (Ladies Rep)</b>  | Amy Wones       | Amy Wones       |

Whilst this is the group of directors that the committee are proposing other club members can be nominated to take on one of the roles. If you would like to nominate yourself or somebody else to be considered for one of these roles then we need to receive your nominations by Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Nominations can be sent via email to Keith Johnstone ([kjohnstone1503@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kjohnstone1503@yahoo.co.uk))

including person's name and position they are interested in. The position will then be voted on at the AGM.

There are a number of other roles within the committee. Again, most of the current committee are willing to carry on in their roles. If you are interested in any particular role or just getting involved with the committee please get in touch on the above email address or speak to one of the current committee. We are always looking for people to join the team.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

As it will be a virtual AGM this year then we want to keep the process as streamlined as possible. If there are any questions for AOB or regarding anything brought up in this report we would prefer to receive these by email prior to the AGM (by Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June). Please send to Keith Johnstone ([kjohnstone1503@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kjohnstone1503@yahoo.co.uk)) and they will be included in the meeting.