

Beccles Rugby Club Report to Members for 2021-22 season.



The Beccles Rugby Club AGM will take place on Monday 6th of June at 19:00 at the Youth Hub. All are welcome to attend. The below is the playing section report for the club from this season. This along with further information on what has been going on at the club this year will form the basis of the AGM.

The Directors of the Club (President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasure and playing section directors) are voted in at the AGM. All current officers are willing to stand in their roles again. If there are any other candidates wishing to stand then please advise Keith Johnstone (kjohnstone1503@yahoo.co.uk) by the 4th of June.

We always welcome new volunteers and there are plenty of opportunities to help the club out, whatever your level of experience or amount of free time. Please come along to the AGM and put yourself forward or speak to any of the current committee if you can help us out.

Senior Section Report

The senior section has had a mixed season this year. Off the pitch great strides have been taken to put a structure in place that will allow the section to develop. On the pitch there have been some good performances mixed with some not so good ones.

Off the field we have been working on getting a structure in place that will enable the senior section to develop and improve. The first part of this was the appointment of new coach Aaron Swanborough a few games into the season. This has led to improvements in training sessions and the development of players and the team as the season went on. Aaron has been a great addition to the club.

We have also started to offer some physio sessions on a Thursday night. This will be further developed next season with pitch side support on a Saturday as well as the Thursday night session.

On the field the 1st team had a mixed time. We had some good wins early in the season but weren't consistent and lost some we should have won. We had chances of making the top two and the chance to play for promotion as the Christmas Break approached. Unfortunately, a run of near misses after Christmas meant we dropped down to fifth after the first league structure concluded.

Unfortunately, this left us with a limited fixture list for the second half of the season. We did manage to win the EC1 Salver league but the season really tailed off in the second half. This did allow us to play some of our youngsters and new players, giving them valuable 1st team experience.

The 2nd team again continued to be difficult. Despite decent numbers and recruitment this didn't translate into numbers on the pitch on a Saturday. The second team played four games during the season. They had numbers on another three or four occasions but lack of opposition or the weather meant that they didn't play the game. This is a widespread problem with 2nd team rugby at the minute.

Towards the end of the season, we ran some training sessions with the U16's which were well supported and enjoyed by all. This integration will be important next season as the young players begin to move into senior rugby. It will be important that we get this right as the numbers and talent at the club now runs right down to the mini section and gives us the chance to develop two strong senior teams in the coming years.

Aims for next season

- Continue to develop and add to the coaching and management team.
- Provide more consistency in numbers playing and performances on the pitch.
- Play more second team games and create an atmosphere within the team that will ease the transition of the youth players to senior rugby.
- Improve our fundraising efforts so we have more money to invest into the section.

Minis Report

After the previous covid stricken season, we started in late August with an open evening of fun and games and BBQ. Inviting old and new minis and parents to experience the ethos of rugby in relaxed and informal atmosphere. The event was well attended and heightened anticipation for the official start and the hope of a full season of rugby.

Players numbers have risen across the section, with the greatest influx at U12s. We are sitting at nearly 90 minis (not including Tiny Bulls). Most age groups have good numbers, however, with only four U10s it was decided to sign them down to the U9 group. Tiny Bulls numbers have continued to grow and go from strength to strength. Player recruitment continues to be a priority for 2022/2023 for the section

Our biggest concern at the start of the season was the number of coaches with some from previous years deciding not to return. This mainly effecting the U6s to U8s and Tiny Bulls. With a wider club appeal and parents volunteering, the section has gained 8 coaches and a Tinys Team Manager. They have done incredibly well in keeping the young bulls entertained and teaching them the core values of rugby. A special thank you to Paddy and Louise for their guidance and supporting the new coaches. Most weeks we have had a full complement of coaches and on the odd occasion when coaches have been unavailable Youth boys and girls have been taken sessions, showing great club spirit and unity. Tinys coaches have also been assisted by Pearl and Skye who are participating in The Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

This season has not disappointed and with children training and playing week on week up until Christmas when we had our seasonal two-week break. Covid threatened again but minis were back training on January 9th. We followed the fixture calendar of 2 weeks training then a match. All our matches were away for the first half of the season. Our first home game was due to be held at the start of February, however, mother nature was not kind and due to waterlogged pitches, we were unable to host and rescheduled for later in the month. Fortunately, this was the only occasion during the season when we had to cancel. The minis have displayed fantastic team spirit and values throughout, playing with great rugby skills and highlighting we are a competitive opposition.

The u12s hosted a touring side from Northants in April again playing competitive rugby against a well drilled team. Although the score line was not in our favour the u12s displayed great TREDs and gave our visitors the warm Beccles welcome. Later on in the season the team also had a road trip to Welford Road for a training session and to watch Tigers vs Clermont. Both great experiences for them all.

With the reintroduction of player mascots at senior games with a home lunch, we have had willing minis to run out with the First XV prior to kick off. A great club experience for the youngsters and again showing club integration between sections.

The hub ground and Beef Meadow are buzzing on a Sunday morning and so many people help make this happen. We are well supported by the wider club, and we hope to continue this integration in the coming season. Thank you to all the coaches for providing fun and

rewarding sessions and educating the minis in the core values. A special thank you to u12s coaches, Chris and Daniel, for their coaching time in the minis section. Best of luck to the outgoing minis, coaches, and parents as they progress to youth rugby next season. Massive thank yous go to - the Kitchen ladies who keep us all fed and watered on those chilly mornings; Steve and Jeanette for keeping us kitted out in the green and black colours; to the parents and children who have helped with cake sales, sweet stalls, car parking and cone patrol – you are all very valued.

Youth Section Report

This season we have had a positive return to rugby with all sections enjoying a full season of rugby

There are currently about 70 players within the youth section and we are continuing to attract new players all the time. The outlook is positive for the coming season. The youth section has received sponsorship from Kevin Whiting and Simpsons Malt LTD which has allowed us to have a new set of shirts for the under 16s. Next season we have sponsorship for 3, possibly 4, new sets of playing shirts for the under 13s, 14s, 15s and possibly Colts

We did start with a positive preseason, with good numbers returning across most of the age groups. The under 14s and 15s initially struggled with numbers. However, the 14s have joined with Southwold and the 15s with Lowestoft and Yarmouth, which has enabled them to field teams and fulfil fixtures. This has allowed each section to enjoy a full and successful season, with the 14s winning the Norfolk plate final, the 15s finishing as the third top team in the county and the 16s also reaching the Norfolk plate final. The under 13s continue to field a strong team with good numbers and continue to run a successful team who will enjoy their cup run next season in the under 14s.

The under 15s this year have had the opportunity to put players forward for the Leicester Tigers development programme and 3 players Thomas Supple, Seb Smith and Riley Hall have been successful and are now part of the programme.

Next season we welcome the under 12s as they move up into youth, they have good numbers and a strong and proactive coaching team which will be a great addition to the ever-growing youth section. With all the teams moving up this means that next season we will field a colt's team and therefore will have a full complement of youth teams for the first time in 10 years. This will in turn filter into the senior section. This is all because of a successful minis section that continues to feed the ever-growing youth section.

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. 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 side-lines. It is all a positive move towards club integration and is greatly appreciated.

Stuart Adams May 2022

Girls Section Report

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

Every week Ri and Ben have held excellent training sessions, throughout summer we may add in some joint fitness sessions with Wymondham and many of the girls will be attending Beccles club touch on Thursdays.

Our girls have made good development and maintained their great team spirit and enthusiasm this season. Regular club pitch up and play events have been attended with monthly ones being organised by EC with sometimes over 120 girls attending.

At these events we have been able to cluster with Wymondham, Norwich and North Walsham. Sometimes also with other teams like Sudbury. Never do our girls complain about having to put on a different team shirt, this is all part of the development plan and we all just want girls to play rugby. Many clubs do not have full teams so becoming part of Barbarian teams on the day is the norm in girls rugby.

Only one of our girls this season moves up to ladies and we hope to recruit more girls by encouraging current girls to bring friends along. We will be gaining two girls from the minis section.

We will be trying to re-establish school / club links and may look to host a schools festival at some point too. We will send out some promotional material.

We continue to work in cohesion with Southwold ladies to provide smooth transition and preparation for the girls. Southwold invited us over for a joint session a couple of months ago and our girls love to train over there. Their Head Coach Rob comes over to Beccles at times as a guest coach to do a session with Ri and Ben.

Predicted numbers for next season are going to be slightly different because the RFU age grad groups are changing. We will now have approx 2 x U12, 5 x U14, 6 x U16 and 7 x U18.

More coaching support will be needed for next season if numbers increase and with the extra age group too, however another positive point of pitch up and play events is that coaches from all clubs all help each other out to look after groups on the day.

Fundraising, we made a little bit of money from the trip to Leicester to watch England Red Roses v Ireland. We will be actively looking to do something else as a sponsored event to raise money for the club.