



TEDDINGTON RUGBY

OUR RUGBY PITCHES – A SORRY STORY

We now have a lovely clubhouse, which as you all know looks great and for which we get plenty of admiring feedback, unfortunately it is sadly let down by our two rugby pitches. I'll admit that the view beyond the pitches is breathtaking, but The Bartons cottage pitch especially is generally a total mess. It spends its year in one of two states; either masquerading as a paddy field or a dust bowl. Never green, never flat and more often than not unplayable. We can't operate as a rugby club unless we have rugby pitches we can use throughout the season. As most of you are I'm sure aware; week after week in the winter is either spent mud wrestling or we have to move, cancel or postpone matches or training, all because of the state of our pitches.



The Bartons Cottage 'paddy field'

Next season (2016/17) will be the 50th anniversary of the formation of Teddington RFC and it would be fantastic to mark this auspicious occasion with a brand new fit for purpose rugby pitch. The club has therefore made the pitches the most important item on our ongoing improvement agenda, but like so many other things in Bushy Park things get complicated when you try and update, alter or attempt to improve anything. Trying to get our rugby pitches to look and perform like rugby pitches is no different.

So without boring you with the complicated detail here is a very brief summary of where we are currently at, what the plans are and how you can help.

AN ALL NEW RUGBY PITCH

The worst of our two pitches the Bartons Cottage pitch sits slap bang in the middle of an 'acid grassland', which to you and me looks like a big bumpy field with the occasional clump of long grass. Well it is in fact an area classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This is one level down from the crown jewels in its degree of National importance and has a similar level of protection.

Anyway after various biological, ecological and topographical surveys, followed by core testing, water testing, soil analysis and feasibility reports we have been given the green light to improve it. What has so far been established is that the pitch has extremely poor drainage, which has a lot to do with it sitting at the lowest point in the park, it also has heavily compacted soil, which slows down the already sluggish natural drainage.

Thankfully the pitch itself is not the home of any protected flora or fauna. With permission of the RPA obtained, the pitch can now be turned into a green, flat, well drained rugby pitch, which we should be able to maintain in that condition throughout the year.

But this can only be achieved with the installation of an effective drainage system, a new leveled top surface and a new and maintained grass covering. After examining various methods of achieving the desired outcome we have identified the most appropriate method, which has also been importantly signed off by the Royal Parks Authority. It's called the EGRP method (Energy-Passive Groundwater Recharge Pump) and has been developed by Groundwater Dynamics Ltd. The installing contractor would be TGMS Ltd. This method effectively draws any surface water away from the pitch metres down under the ground where it disperses. Cleverly it works in reverse during hot dry periods.



www.groundwaterdynamics.co.uk

THE COSTS

The installation of this drainage system, together with a new level surface and grass top by our chosen contractor will cost in the region of **£57,000 +VAT** to install and would need to be started this April to allow us to use the new pitch come the new season in September 2016. We would then need to maintain it properly in order to keep it at its very best.

We have also consulted with Newland House Preparatory School in Teddington who use our pitches and facilities for their school sport, they have very kindly agreed to make a significant capital investment towards the new pitch, but even with their financial investment we still need further capital to reach our target. After the clubhouse rebuild we do not have any substantial reserves to make up the remaining funds required.

WWW.TEDDINGTONRFC.CO.UK

FUNDRAISING FOR OUR NEW RUGBY PITCH



THE TEDDINGTON RFC ANNIVERSARY INVESTMENT BOND

Next Season 2016/17 the club will be celebrating the following milestones:

- The Club will be 50 years old
- The Ladies section will be 30 years old
- The Youth section will be 20 years old

To commemorate the clubs various anniversaries we are once again going to offer Investment Bonds as our primary method of raising the funds for our new pitch and also for further developments to our Bushy Park facilities. Many of you will be aware of the Investment Bonds we successfully issued to raise funds for the new clubhouse. These bonds alone raised £130,000 in capital on their own and two of them have already been re-paid with interest. We are currently repaying one bond per year.

In light of their roaring success we are now offering for sale **30 investment bonds of £2,000 each**. Like the new clubhouse investment bonds these are virtually risk free, are backed by a legal framework and each bond will be repaid over time and with interest, so there is a financial and a club based incentive to buy one. They also mean that we can raise the funds more quickly. Further information about the Anniversary Investment Bonds can be found elsewhere on this noticeboard, or on the club website.

If you don't wish to invest in a bond but would like to make a donation, large or small then that would be equally generous and much appreciated.

If you are interested in purchasing a bond, or making a donation, or just want some more information on our plans then please get in touch with me or Rob ALLEN (details below) ASAP. We have already sold 8 Anniversary Investment bonds.

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Teddington RFC Ltd

Anniversary Investment Bond

Helpful Information

The TRFC Ltd Anniversary Investment bonds are being issued to mark the various upcoming anniversaries in the clubs history. The 2016/17 season will mark the 50th Anniversary of the rugby club itself and it will also be the 30th Anniversary of our Ladies Section and the 20th of our Youth Section. The funds raised from the issue of the Anniversary investment bonds will be used for the further development of the club, but specifically to help fund the installation of an effective state of the art drainage system and a new playing surface on The Bartons Cottage pitch, something we desperately need.

- TRFC Ltd is authorised to issue up to £60,000 worth of '2% fixed rate unsecured bonds' in multiples of £2,000 i.e. a total of 30 Investment Bonds
- The Investment Bond is a legally binding document between Teddington RFC Ltd and each Investment Bond Holder
- Investors can purchase one or more Investment Bonds. Priority will be given to TRFC members
- Up to 4 investors can purchase a single Investment Bond, making contributions to the overall £2,000 sum
- Bonds can be purchased on behalf of, or transferred to, beneficiaries (e.g. children)
- Each Investment Bond will accumulate an annual interest rate of 2%, payable on redemption
- One Investment Bond will be drawn at random and repaid with interest due each year until all outstanding Investment Bonds have been redeemed
- TRFC Ltd commercial plan guarantees that adequate funds will be generated from the activities of the Club in order to meet repayment obligations.
- I am delighted to tell you that a good number of our existing Investment Bond Holders have already confirmed that they will support our TRFC Anniversary Bond too. I very much hope that you will consider a further investment in your Club to help us achieve this important next stage in our development.
- If you wish to invest in our Anniversary Bond or wish to have more information please reply to me by email or call me on 07802 167 703.

Regards
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