

Billericay Rugby Club

Summer Newsletter 2021



A big thanks from the committee to see so many coming back to training and getting involved as best we can through lockdown and so much has gone on at the club over the past few months and we are getting ready for a great season in 2021/22. The AGM has been set for 4th August with this being held virtually and at the club, we want as many to attend as possible as this season will see some many changes that are detailed below. Starting off with a word from our chairman.

New Faces at the Club



HEAD COACH
Lee Rayner

Lee has joined the club to lead the senior coaching at the club and is seeing numbers of over 40 players, Seniors pre-season has started and the great momentum is building.

Huge thanks to Dave Wicks, Scott Last and Mick Cook for holding the fort with a special mention for Sam Wicks who has been a legend in supporting the seniors at training.

Also great to see out 1st female coach in Stacey Grabowski who is now helping through the coaching group.



HEAD OF RUGBY
Dafydd Mugford

Not so much a new face but definitely a new role ! Dafydd has been appointed as part of the new structure we have details on the next page, "Daff" is an extremely well respected member of the Seniors section and has pledged to work across all aspects of Rugby at the club. A great appointment and one that will see the club develop.

Looking forward to getting a few youth members into key roles in the club.

PS: What is it with all these beards ?



Chairman's Update – July 21



I hope you are all staying safe and well. There have been loads of things happening at the club over the last few months. Some of them are obvious, such as the new cabin, so that's where I will start:

The Beehive

Firstly, thank you to those who took the time to do the parents survey. We got some really good feedback on your points and are making some changes accordingly. We are purchasing a new bottle fridge and mobile beer pump so we can provide more refreshments and will broaden the range of vegetarian and sweet options. I would also like to personally thank those people who donated money when we were nearing the end of the build. Those funds were most appreciated.

Thanks also to those people who helped with the build and refit. Whether it was getting down and dirty with digging the foundations or grabbing a paintbrush, all your efforts helped make the excellent venue we have today.

Grounds

As always, huge credit must go to those who have worked tirelessly on getting the pitches up to the high standard they are now. Additional drainage has been installed to update the drains that were put in around 30 years ago. You will have noticed this netting over the sand on the middle of the second pitch. This was to rectify flooding from a broken drain so thanks to Ian and Rew for sorting that problem out. The pitches are looking fantastic and not long before we can see some real action on them !

Summer Events

The club will be hosting some exciting summer events with a bit of a difference! On Friday 6th August, The Billericay Theatre Company will be putting on a performance from the decking on the cabin. Around 300 tickets have been sold and food and drink will be available. This event is being hosted alongside the cricket and tennis clubs so any profits made will go towards improving the car park.

As we have not been able to have Beefest for a couple of seasons, we will be hosting a 2022 Sign on Saturday 5th September, watch out for the event we will hold at the club.

Keep an eye out for mini Jarv in 2022 !



The Parents Survey and the Opening of the Beehive

(Thanks to Laurence for pulling this together)

Firstly, thank you to all parents and visitors for taking the time to complete our survey on The Beehive. Participants were asked to answer questions on the range, quality and pricing of hot food and beverages as well as the range of cold drinks and snacks on offer.

For the final four weeks of the 'challenging' 2020/21 season the new Beehive was opened for Sunday training from 08:30 to 13:30/14:00. The purpose of this was to gain an understanding of customer reaction to the Beehive initiative, gauge demand, assess range of products to offer and the staff.

Overview of outcomes

Question	% Excellent	% Very good	% Good	% Fair	% Poor
Quality of hot food on offer	36.6	22	34.1	7.3	0
Range of hot food on offer	31.7	39	26.8	2.5	0
Pricing of hot food on offer	42.5	30	25	2.5	0
Range of hot beverages on offer	50	28.6	19	2.5	0
Quality of hot beverages on offer	47	31	19	3	0
Pricing of hot beverages on offer	42.8	31	26.2	0	0
Range of cold drinks and snacks on offer	28.60	21.4	35.7	14.3	0

Summary of outcomes

- Between 58.6% and 78.6% of respondents rated the range, quality and pricing of hot food and beverages as excellent or very good with the range and pricing of hot food receiving 70% or above.
- The category respondents were least happy with was the range of cold drinks and snacks on offer, followed by the quality of hot food where the good or fair outcomes were 50% and 41.4% respectively.
- Not one category received a single 'poor' rating with six of the seven categories receiving between 1 and 6 'fair' responses with pricing of hot drinks again receiving none.

What you said about the Beehive

"Love the Beehive, added a special dimension of the Club. Food great, coffee perfect. People pretty amazing too".

"Friendly, good selection and good prices. it's a great club initiative. These types of things go a long way to making clubs stand out to people".

"The Beehive has been a great addition to the club. Service provided has been very good. Friendly staff...".

"Think your pricing for food is spot on, maybe a bit more choice ie cakes and pastries to complement the great coffee".

"Great addition. Have used it regularly. Bread rolls are a bit dodgy".

"Coffee was lovely, son liked the food".

"Lovely coffee & hot choc. Always cheery staff.

Your suggestions

"Please can you offer pastries, not everyone likes burgers etc, these would go down well with a coffee. It is difficult to see what soft drinks, snacks are on offer when ordering from the window. I didn't see if there was a sign outside with what's on offer. Soft drinks for the little ones would also be great".

"I haven't visited yet but will there be veggie options available please"?

"Need to think about the flow in and out. Think it will be better served from a hatch when it is really busy otherwise you can't make an obvious queue in and out".

"When it's cold and muddy, to save the floor it may be best to serve from the window"?

"Better quality food produce and put the prices up. As money goes back to the club, I don't think people will mind".

"I would prefer baguettes or crusty rolls".

"Coffee options should include "normal" coffee like Americano or filter for those that want milk but not latte or flat white".

"The kids love burgers and stuff like that, I'm only going to buy less greasy food, pastries, loaf cakes, stuff like that. Also, would prefer more vegetarian options".

"I'm thrilled it's here. It feels a little haphazard so far, everyone was falling over each other, which might just be getting everything bedded in but there is much to be said for getting organised so you can serve more people, and there's less chance of anyone getting injured or something getting spilt".

"Better quality of bacon/sausage - increased number of soft drinks available - Addition of soft drinks fridge".

"Definitely serve alcohol! Can we get a Guinness keg in? Or get guest ales from Billerica Brewery"?

"Maybe a bigger seating area"?

Actions

Over the summer the Club Committee will, amongst other areas, review:

- The range of cold drinks and snacks on offer.
- The quality of the food and particularly that of the bread products
- The presentation of the cold beverages and snacks
- Provision of vegetarian options
- The signage

Note, after the first week of the survey being open and in response to some initial comments, we did improve the quality of the burgers on offer.

A full copy of the survey is attached.

Nearly another visit for BRFC to visit the home of Rugby - Kids First Champions Award

You may recall way back in November 2019 the club were recognised as being a Kids First Champion club. Only 7 clubs across England received such recognition. This award was based on the Club's efforts to promote and deliver the Kids First philosophy across our age groups.

This philosophy puts the individual child's needs as the highest priority, then development of each child is driven from that need, finally competitions are there to support that development. It turns the outdated model of competition first, all about the win, on its head and we firmly believe as a club and a group of coaches that this is what we stand for.

The award would have seen a small group of players enjoy a training day at Twickenham and a run out on the pitch but sadly Covid put a stop to that. Equally selecting a few players would have been a very difficult process so in some way its taken a problem away.

As an alternative to the day at Twickenham the club has received a number of brand new Tackle Wedges and 20 balls - probably £400 of free training kit - a much better prize that benefits all the players.

The kit is obviously a good result but this shows how far the club has come since the senior visits over 20 years ago. A fantastic involvement by all involved and a huge thank you.

2021 Coffee and Cake Sale for the NHS !

Well done to all involved we raised £691 for the NHS and the cakes (in particular made by Shirley Fisher) were amazing ! Thanks for your support



The 2021 Presidents Award

We were delighted to present Lee Joyce at the Coaches Curry Night with the Presidents award for this year. This award goes to a club member as recognition for their outstanding contribution to the club. Lee has invested time and energy in developing his coaching practice, really thinks about the sessions he delivers and most importantly the players he coaches. In this most difficult of years trying to keep players connected to the club, the game and to each other has been really difficult but we saw an amazing creative and thoughtful act take place at the end of the season where each player was presented with personalised Billericay Bee chocolate bars and certificates all of which were home made. Sometimes the smallest things make the biggest difference. Lee will receive 2 tickets to an international of his choice paid for by the club as a mark of our appreciation.

Good enough for a thoroughbred !

Andy Collins has been working tirelessly to get the grounds looking better than ever. Obviously helped with a lack of action but training facilities have improved exponentially over the past few years due to the commitment and drainage that has been added. The last few weeks have been a very good test to see the water drain a lot quicker than ever. Well done all round



A NEW Structure to support our Growing Club

2021/22 Season will see a number of changes to our committee and club support structure. More than ever the club want to reach out to the youth sections of the club for volunteers to come forward to continue to transition the club as it continues to grow.

New ideas and skills are need to join the new group structure to enable the grow to continue, whilst BRFC has had a senior committee for many years the new structure will have a number of roles to be filled reaching deeper into the club, with specific focus areas, this is a massive opportunity for a wider group to help to mould the future of our club. Over the next page or two we have detailed the structure and this gives the detail of the support required.

PLEASE COME FORWARD and offer your support in 2021/22, the volunteers make our club very special. Further details are below with the new structure. The idea is to create specific sub groups to focus and drive the different elements of the club to greater success. It can only grow further with your support please reach out and we look forward to bringing you onto the team.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE TO BE RE-ELECTED OR TO BE REPLACED AT THE AGM.

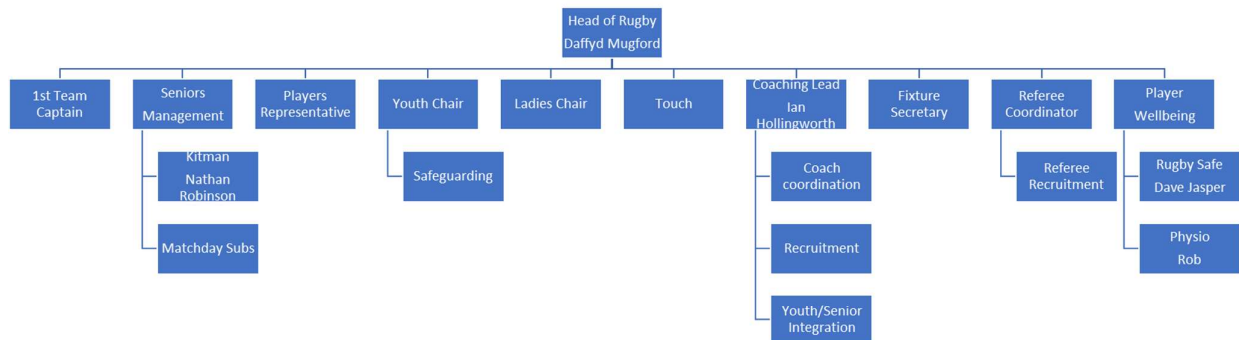
The New Structure

Formed of a number of sub groups this will give the correct roles and responsibilities to spread the workload, keeping it fun and not a burden to a few individuals. This is a massive step forward for our club and needs you to come forward to support the many roles available. We have attached the sub structures below and encourage all that can bring something to the team put their hand up. Playing numbers at training are now reaching 50 and with the Rugby Sub Group coming together it's a massive credit to the drive forward. The committee and sub group is formed of the following:

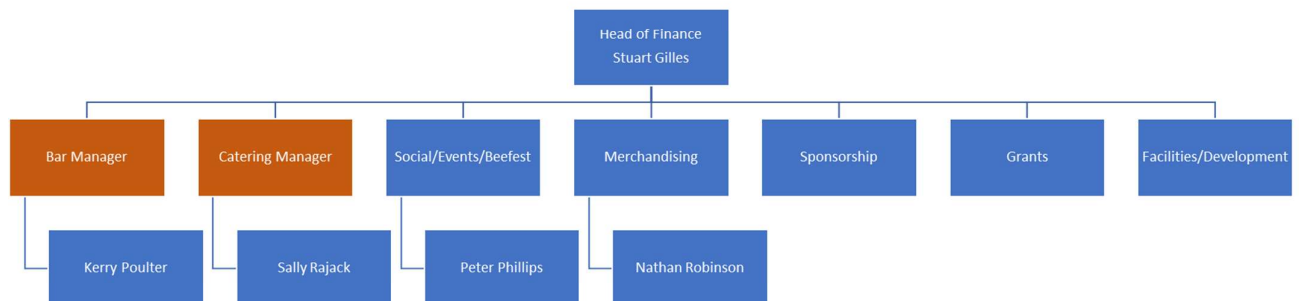
Overall Structure



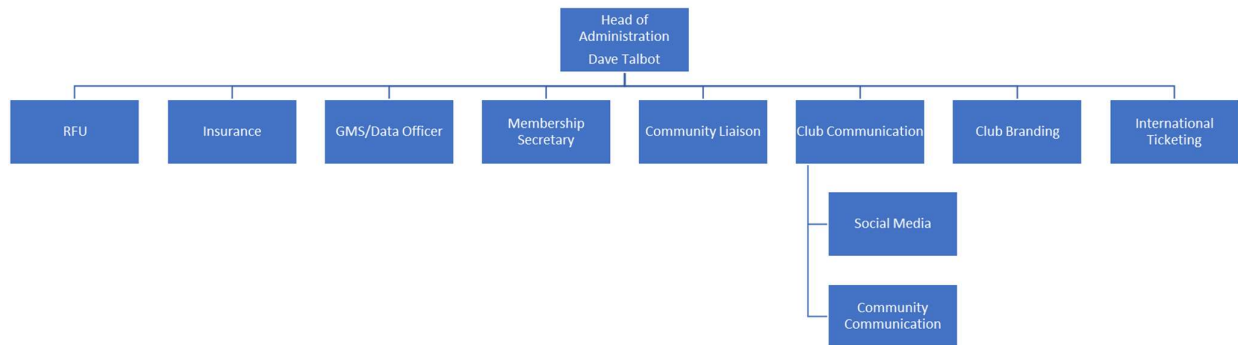
Rugby Sub Group



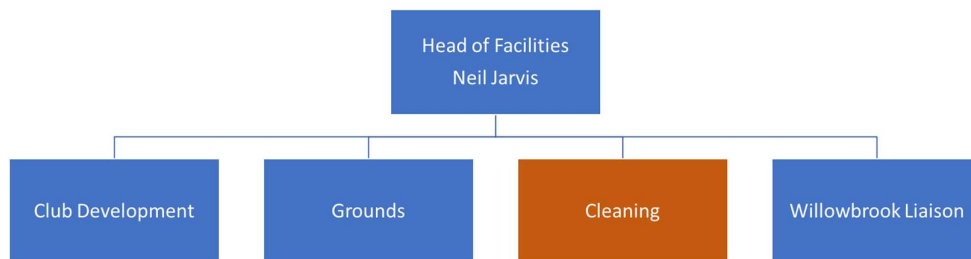
Finance Sub Group



Administration Sub Group



Facilities Sub Group



What part can you play

If you are a social media guru, a coach wanting to get involved, someone who could fundraise or even offer an hour of your time on a Sunday as part of a rota to serve food, man the car park etc, we all have a part to develop our club, there are so many talents that we are not tapping into and volunteers not coming forward as they are unsure where you can make the club better. With a combined committee structure to drive the common purpose through the club and to develop our youth as quickly and as focused as we do our seniors section, we can only see the club develop with more people involved.

The development of our children and the core values of rugby are something that gear our children to conduct themselves as positive, confident individuals. You can help to develop this further by reaching out to:

BRFC President – Scott Fisher
BRFC Chairman – Jarv
Head of Finance – Stuart Gilles
Head of Administration – Dave Talbot
Head of Rugby – Dafydd Mugford
Head Coach – Lee Rayner
Jane Hull – Volunteer Coordinator
Social Secretary – Peter Phillips

Make that approach and definitely put the date of the AGM 4th August at 7PM in your diary, this will be held over Zoom and in person outside at the club (weather permitting at the club)

We hope many of you see this as an opportunity to help grow the club and take a part in the future of our club.