

VERSION 8

June 2021

Guest Editor – Robbie
Broadhurst

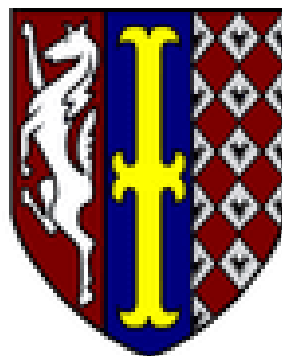
In this edition:

Clubhouse update;
Buy a brick scheme is launched;
Sponsored Treasure Hunt;
Welcome Ophelia;
Gridiron at the Den;
Paul Hewitt wins award;
RIP – Richard Piper;
Forever young.

In brief:

Jack Petchey Awards;
A-Z of new arrivals;
Guest editors wanted;
250 club awards new prize;
Tell us your news;
First-aid coordinator needed;
New captain for the ladies;
New sponsor for the ladies.

Beccehamian News



Nearly There!

Despite being limited by all sorts of regulations, the club finally got back to playing rugby, albeit without scrums or mauls, and we had the joyous sight of dozens of young players running around our pitches again. Most junior teams managed to get a couple of fixtures in before the end of May and the physicality and commitment seemed as great as ever. Thanks to all the coaches for their hard work in keeping their squads together.

Off the pitch, the clubhouse has been the centre of attention as you will see below, and our Treasurer has been relentless in pursuing every available source of funds to pay for the work. Hopefully the 19th of July will see all restrictions lifted and we will be able to start pre-season as normal and the start of a new season in September. Thank you all for your patience and your continued support.

JACK PETCHEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

To win a Jack Petchey Achievement Award is quite an event because they are voted for by the players. The first four winners this year are;

Jan – Giorgio Di Clemente (U14)

Feb – Josh McGrath (Academy)

Mar – Ethan Smith (U13)

Apr – TBA (U12)

They each get a certificate and a medal as well as £250 to spend on their squad; they have all opted for an activity day.

Congratulations to all our winners – enjoy your day out. The U12 winner will be revealed at their presentation evening in July

Let the fund raising begin

Phases 1 and 2 of our project to have a clubhouse for the 21st Century are now complete. The hall has had a makeover and looks fresher and more modern, and we have new lighting and electrics, a fire-alarm system, air-conditioning and heating. In phase 2, we replaced the roof, which had been so patched up over the years it leaked more than a government department, and lacked any form of insulation; result, a drier, warmer club!

Thanks largely to some prudent financial management by Treasurer Nigel Putner, we have paid for all this with a combination of loans and our own reserves; a total close to £150k which shows what we can do when we pull together. We now move on to Phase 3, the detailed drawings and plans, before building starts next year. At the end of this phase, we will have a clearer idea of how much this will cost but are anticipating something in the region of £450k. Our plan is to finance this in three chunks; a third from grants; a third from loans and the remainder from fund raising.

We are currently renegotiating our lease with London Borough of Bromley, to run for 50 years and to give us some protection should LBB change the use of land at Sparrows Den. No point having a fantastic clubhouse if we cannot play rugby! We are also negotiating a pitch license that should again benefit us and give us more protection. As part of this, we are looking to extend the times we can use the floodlights, so that mini and junior squads can train mid-week if needed, and to help us cater for the growth of girls and ladies rugby.

We have lost a year to Covid so we need to get cracking and raise some money. The fund-raising committee, chaired by Rhiannon Davies, is planning a series of exciting events throughout the year and is launching two of them now;

[Buy a Brick scheme](#)

[Sponsored Treasure Hunt](#)

The A-Z of new arrivals

Two more additions to the Beccs family as we welcome Archer and Zenya to the club.

Archer is the new born son of Lewis Sturdy and his wife Marcie and Zenya is the beautiful daughter of Jamie Hughes and partner Zaya.

Congratulations to you all, we wish you every happiness. It means though, that Sturdy and Hughsie are now grandfathers – where did the time go!! And how can Shelley and Ali possibly be grandmothers; surely they are both far too young.

Be our guest

The newsletter is an important part of the club and a way for us to keep in touch, especially with those members who live far, far away.

We are keen to have guest editors who can add a different view of the club. It is not too difficult or time consuming but great fun.

If you are interested please contact Nick Brooks.

Buy a Brick

This will be our main fund raiser and will run until we have sufficient funds, so you have plenty of time to save. We are offering three sizes of brick small, medium and large, each in one of three colours, maroon, black and white (ish). Minimum purchase values are indicated below, and we'll readily welcome greater contributions for that sized brick.

Small – up to two lines of text - £100

Medium – up to four lines of text - £200

Large – up to six lines of text - £300

The bricks will be used to face the new internal walls in the entrance and corridors and gives you and your family and friends the chance to have your support for the club recognized for ever and a day. We will also be offering a corporate price for businesses which can include company logos. Full details are on the website. Thanks to Paul Broadhurst who has set this up and will manage it on behalf of the committee.



Sponsored Treasure Hunt – 31st July

Building on the successful run/walk challenge set by Kempy earlier in lockdown, we will be holding a sponsored treasure hunt on Saturday 31st July. Grab your family and friends and walk one of the three routes on offer, finishing back at the club in time to watch the Lions smash the Boks in the second test!! Jeremy and Simon are organizing this and have managed to fit at least one pub into each route. Again, full details are on the website.

250 club gives even more

The 250 club pays out £700 in prize money every month and has two annual prizes of £5000 and £2500, drawn just before Christmas. With membership higher than ever at 244 the Exec. Committee have decided to add a summer prize of £1000!

There are six numbers left at £150 each.

Contact Angela Broadhurst if you want to join the fun.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

This is your newsletter and we want to hear from you. There are Beccehamians all over the UK, in fact all over the world. As we go into 2021 and start working on our plans for the extension, we need to harness the combined power of our extended family.

We want to know where you and what you are up to. That way we can use the newsletter to keep you up to date with progress and connect you with old friends.

Get in touch using the email address below. You can also use this to pay your subs!!

A new recruit for the ladies



Congratulations to Ebba Wiberg and partner Anthony on the arrival of baby Ophelia. Clearly a Beccs Ladies' captain of the future! We wish you both every happiness – and remind Ebba she has to carry on playing for the next 19 years so she can play in the same side as Ophelia.

beccsmembership@gmail.com

Wanted – First aid coordinator

Player safety has always been important to Beccehamian RFC and the Mini and Junior chairs and their coaches have done a sterling job for many years in ensuring first aid is available.

Following recent high profile cases, the RFU has increased the responsibility on clubs to ensure an emergency first aider (EFA) is present at every training session and fixture THROUGHOUT THE CLUB!

This will be too much for the coaches to manage so we are looking for someone to coordinate this activity. No medical experience is necessary and full information and support is available.

If you are interested please contact Danny Kemp or Angela Broadhurst.

Gridiron at the Den

Fancy something different this summer? Then why not come down to the club and watch American Football. Kent Exiles normally play at the Beaverbrook Club in Sidcup, but renovations there have left them temporarily homeless. They put out a plea for somewhere to play and Beccs came to the rescue.

We will be hosting them on 11 July, 25 July and 22 August with their U19 squad playing on the 8 August; games kick off at 2pm, often with a junior game at midday. The bar will be open and burgers and hot-dogs on sale to recreate the famous tail-gate parties in the States. Come down and have some fun

EXILES VS BLITZ
BLITZ VS EXILES
WARRIORS VS EXILES
EXILES VS WARRIORS
OLYMPIANS VS EXILES
EXILES VS OLYMPIANS

June 27 | @London Blitz

July 11 |
@Beccehamian RFC

July 25 |
@Beccehamian RFC

August 8 | @London Warriors

August 22 |
@Beccehamian RFC

September 19 |
@London Olympians

Jack Petchey Leader Award 2021

Paul Hewitt

New captain for the Ladies

The ladies will have co-captains this season as Rhi Davies steps down. Zoe MacConnell and Amy Barrie have stepped up to share the burden and will be supported by former Harlequin Becky Smith as vice-captain.

Thanks to Rhiannon for keeping the squad together during a difficult year.

New sponsor for the Ladies

New captains need new shirts!

The ladies will be sponsored by WICKHAM DIGGERS next season as Simon Gardner has generously stepped in to buy them a new set of shirts.

Thanks Simon.

The word legend is used far too freely but in the case of Paul Hewitt is fully justified – a true club legend. Not only is he one of the swiftest players to wear the club colours, he managed to retain his speed much later than is normally considered possible. Despite his place in the pantheon of great Beccehamians, Paul has been recognised with the Jack Petchey Leader award for his massive contribution to coaching young players.

He started coaching with Paul Davies and me in 2000 when Josh was six and we had a squad of 16 who couldn't beat an egg. That squad went on to win eight county titles and Josh looked set to be a 1st team prop for many years. That squad wound up in 2012 after Paul had given up over 400 Sundays to run around in all weathers and suffer the excitement and pain of coaching boys. Most coaches breathe a sigh of relief at that stage and gratefully put their boots back in the shed. Not Paul, he was just starting. Kingsley was six by now so Paul started all over again - a total of 21 years. Absolutely outstanding. Here is Paul's career in his own, modest words:

Made Blackheath debut at 18 away to Coventry, Although the rugby was good the club was not at all sociable or welcoming, Joined Beccs from Blackheath around 1980 (?) and found quality competitive rugby and a super friendly supportive club.

Points of interest:

- Jubilee season going unbeaten for the whole season, including beating Blackheath.
- Qualifying for the Middlesex sevens, beating Blackheath in the qualifiers, and playing at Twickenham.
- Gracing the field with some wonderful players, including the privilege of being part of a Beccs back three with David and Jofty Adkins.
- Having a decent run of playing rugby where truly competitive rugby ended when 42 (or 41), still a 1st team winger, when my knee ruptured. With the ACL repaired I carried on until 51 when unfortunately it ruptured again. Since then played irregularly with ridiculous strapping.
- Massive pleasure of coaching with Robbie for many years (my eldest son) and then going round again with my youngest son and fellow coaches Danny Kemp and John Milburn. Coaching something I am passionate about gave immeasurable pleasure and was so rewarding. It was gratifying to play senior rugby with a number of players I had coached over the years.

Hopefully at the ripe old age of 60 I can drag the old body onto the pitch on a few more occasions before finally hitting my dotage.

A true Beccs legend. Thanks Paul and congratulations on your award.

Richard Piper – RIP

Sad news just in from former club captain Bill Byers;

I have recently received news of Richard Piper's death in Australia. Richard or "Pip" was the Team Secretary in 1969-71 when I was 1st XV Captain. He was also a regular Extra-A player.

He was good company, well-liked and helpful (especially with cars) as well as being an effective Team Secretary.

He was a Heating and Ventilation Engineer and worked for many years in the Middle-East before marrying Rosalind and settling in Western Australia.

Those of his age who are still around will remember him well.

I owe him a great debt-he suggested I give this young lady a ring who came, and I briefly met, at a Beccehamian Rugby Club disco in the early seventies; we have been married for 48 years- Barbara Jones, sister of Jenny.

Pip and I last met when he returned many years ago to the UK, but sadly our contact petered out.

Without people like Richard there would not be a Beccehamian RFC.
Farewell Richard and thanks.

Forever young

A flashback to 2000. Some of these athletes are still around. Who do you recognise?



