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Guest Editor – Robbie Broadhurst



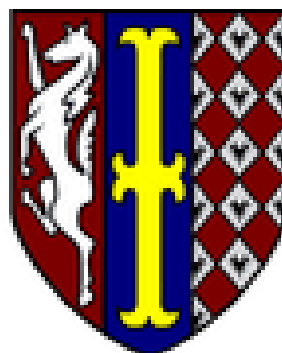
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Beccehamian News



Kent honour for President

A well-attended lunch on 2nd October saw club President Clive Putner presented with a prestigious award by Kent President, Doug Hursey. The award was for years of dedicated service to rugby in the county by managing the merit tables. This is a role that calls for patience, tact and diplomacy – none of which Clive has and which made him perfect for the role. Walk into any club in the county and someone will know Clive and will be grateful for his hard work in arranging fixtures for so many players at every level of the game. Clive is not as sprightly these days but that will never stop him coming down to support the club. We should treasure him.

Solid start to the season. . .

After a frustrating start, in which they played well but lost narrowly to Gravesend, Beckenham and Charlton Park, the 1st XV got the season back on track with big wins against Folkestone (40-12) and Ashford (36-5). Under coaches Dave Sia and Dave Watkins, Beccs play fast, attractive rugby which is good to watch, even if they do sometimes over-egg the little back-flips when straight forward passes would suffice. Good to see Pat Reffel return from injury and the positive impact of returning young players like Jed Sexton, Nick Brown, Tolu Ogunyomade and Sonny Baxendine. We also welcome to the club Isaac Keighley who made an immediate impact with his strong ball carrying and a debut try.

Good times too for the 2nd XV with big wins away to Bromley and Croydon 1st/2^{nds}. Having narrowly lost in the cup to Old Dunstonians, this was a much-needed turn in fortunes. There is certainly a lot of talent in the squad with a lot of players pressing for 1st team recognition. The 3rd XV and the Vets have also seen action in the early part of the season, as have

BOB WILSON

Many of you will know Bob Wilson; not the former Arsenal goalkeeper, but a true stalwart of the club. Bob has been fighting cancer for many years. In early October he was told he had two weeks to live. He made his peace with the world and prepared for the worst. Then a chance meeting with his old surgeon got him onto a trial of a new drug. He was at the club last week, enjoying a beer with old friends and telling tall tales of matches past. We lost a good friend in Chris Leaton recently, let's hope Bob hangs on for many a day. If you have his number, give him a call and tell him you love him.

the Ladies who started with a great win against Blackheath but were unable to sustain that form two weeks later against Cranbrook.

... but we need our players back

That might seem like a strange request when we had three senior teams out on Saturday but it has been a hard slog for the captains and managers. Only three weeks ago, we struggled to get out a 2nd XV despite having enough players on our books to field four teams each week. Injuries counted for quite a few but there are still a lot of players who are not putting themselves up to play – both in the men and the ladies. It seems a lot of people have changed their Saturday routines and rugby doesn't have the same attraction it once had. Hopefully this will change and more players will come back to the club – if you are one of those missing players, or if you know one of them, we need you back.

The club is in a good place and looking to build for the future but we cannot get complacent. We have emerged from Covid stronger than many of our local rivals. Elthamians have gone to the wall and have no senior sides; HSBC have folded; Haywards Heath lost their entire 1st XV and were demoted five leagues from London 1 to Sussex 2; Folkestone couldn't field a front row last Saturday and gave Crowborough a home walk over; many clubs are struggling to field even a second team.

It is always sad to see great clubs like these struggling and it should serve us a warning to us all. We are doing well at the moment thanks to all our members but let us not get complacent. Keep supporting your club.



**Ladies 1st XV after a glorious win over Blackheath
With their new shirts, courtesy of Wickham Diggers.**

JACK PETCHEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

To win a Jack Petchey Achievement Award is quite an event because they are voted for by the players. We have two awards to give out before Christmas. Danny Kemp will nominate two age groups for October and November, whose payers will nominate a team mate for the award. They each get a certificate and a medal as well as £250 to spend on their squad;

Introducing the Beccehamian Alumni

One of the reasons we are doing so well at the moment is that we are a friendly, family-oriented club with a long history. We play attractive rugby at a reasonably high level, in both the men's and women's game, but we don't take ourselves too seriously; friendship and playing with your mates is important. Over 80% of our 1st XV squad came through our minis and juniors as did many of the 2nd and 3rd teams – even some of the Vets as well!!

The club has been going for almost 90 years and the cost of running it has gone up dramatically. Subscriptions in 1933 were five shillings (25p) a year!! This year we have set them at £200 which is still one of the lowest fees in the area. Back in the day, players used to do bar duty and wash up after games, clean up on Sunday mornings and wash their own shirts; wives/ girlfriends cooked the meals; the 1st XV captain was the club coach. Now we pay bar staff, cleaners, caterers, coaches and a physio. We have a mini-bus to take players to away games, shirts for every squad and age group from U12 up to the Vets. Running costs and meeting regulations are too many to mention here. On top of this, we are planning to build an extension to ensure we have the facilities to take us into the future where rugby is a game played in equal numbers by women and men, girls and boys.

The burden of paying for all of this at any given time falls on the membership of the day and today's members are paying more than ever. To help ease the pain, we are introducing the Beccehamian Alumni, bringing together as many of our former players, parents and social members as possible to form a virtual network in support of the club. There are thousands of former Beccehamians throughout the UK and across the world. If you bump into them, they will always ask about the club but live too far away to visit and have even less reason to take out a social membership. We are hoping they will pay £25 a year (50p a week) to join the Alumni and support the club. More importantly, we hope they will be tempted to visit and meet up with old friends.

Most of you reading this will know of many former members. Get in touch and tell them about the Alumni and encourage them to sign up. Help us reconnect and grow the Beccs family. Full details on the website.

MORE NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to Mark Boyle and Hannah on the arrival of their beautiful daughter Marnie.

Embarrassed by the fact Hannah was better than him, Mark tried to curtail her rugby career by knocking her off her bike; that didn't work so he obviously went to Plan B. That will not work either as Hannah can leave Marnie in the Beccs Ladies creche with Mary and Ophelia while she plays!!

Proud grand-parents, Sandra and Alan are in their element although Alan is a bit miffed that his Stella fridge has been taken over with formula milk!!

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.

Extension updates and fundraising

The extension project is at the Invitation to Tender stage (ITT) and five companies are preparing bids to design and build the extension. These bids will all be in by the end of October when the building control committee will meet to evaluate the proposals. They will make proposals to the Executive committee who will make the final decision on which, if any, of the bids to pursue.

We have a working assumption that the work will cost in the region of £450k-£600k and is more likely to be at the higher end with costs rising dramatically post-covid. We hope to raise a third of this through loans and have already secured a £150k interest free loan; a third through grants and a third through fundraising. That means we as a club need to raise £150k-£200k in a relatively short space of time. This is certainly achievable but only if the whole club pulls together and joins in the effort. We also need to try and raise funds outside the club otherwise we keep hitting the same people, and we also need to ensure we don't take funds away from current activity or future events like the minis tour.

We have prepared the following guide for captains and coaches to encourage their players and parents to get involved. You can help by doing one or more of the things on the list;

- Buy a brick
- Encourage your boss/ company to buy a brick
- Pay your membership fees
- Encourage former members to join the Alumni scheme
- Sell the rugby scratch cards after every fixture/ training session (cards behind the bar)
- Make a donation and "Gift Aid" it to add 25%
- Hold fundraising events within your squad
- Encourage individuals / groups to hold fund raising events – cake sales, car washing, bag packing, race/casino/comedy nights etc – please liaise & coordinate with fundraising committee before arranging, to ensure no overlaps / duplication of efforts.
- Engage corporate / company contacts with any fundraising scheme possibilities e.g. match funding, grants, partnering community clubs
- Engage your school, workmates, friends and family
- Post your fundraising events on social media
- Stay in clubhouse for at least 30 minutes after every game/ training session
- Support club social events – buy a ticket even if you cannot make it
- Book or recommend the clubhouse for social events/hall hire – all bookings through Paul Thirkettle
- Minis / Juniors – come and watch senior games on Saturday
- Seniors – come and watch mini/junior games on Sunday mornings
- All – stay and watch the ladies home games

WARSAW WHERE?

Geography is clearly not a strength for the younger Hughsie. Having signed up for the senior tour to Warsaw, Joe went home and asked Pater what part of Russia it was in!

EXPLODING DOUGHNUTS

Doughnuts at the mini's festival were supplied by the Sponge Kitchen. This caused Brian Sweeting to drift back to the time he worked there with older brother Dave and they filled a doughnut with ten times the normal amount of jam – then watched in horror as an old lady bought it and began to eat it in the shop. By the time she had been cleaned up from exploding raspberry, the Sweetings were looking for new employment!

Every penny counts. All monies should be paid into the fund raising account (BRFC Fundraising Account - Sort: 60-23-22, Acc: 85260045) or given to Nigel Putner, Paul Thirkettle, or Robbie Broadhurst, clearly stating which squad and or individual raised it, so they can be thanked and acknowledged.

Player Profile Evie Lipka

- Name/Nickname: = Evie Lipka (Lippy) U15s
- Age: 14
- Position/Shirt Number := Fly Half / 10
- When did you start playing rugby= Year 5
- When did you join Beccs= Year 6
- What is your favourite moment playing for Beccs= Winning 3 out of 4 Games at Friday Night Lights @ Beckenham RFC

Teammates

- Who is the most vocal in training/leadership= Sasha Spain
- Who is the toughest team mate= Sasha Spain
- Who is the most improved player= Lexi Goddard



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!!

beccmembership@gmail.com

Minis Development Festival 24 October



U10s parents discussing whether to have another burger or a few doughnuts – before the bar opens

The sun was shining, the pitches were dry and firm and marquees and banners were set up all across Sparrows Den - **the festivals are back**. This one was for the younger age groups to give their development players a chance to shine. It was great to see hundreds of young players and their

Still 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.

parents having such a fantastic time, both on and off the field; the rugby was great but the doughnuts and burgers seemed equally popular. Huge thanks to Phil and Cheryl Reid for driving this and the U9s parents who made it happen,



As well as all the club members who volunteered their services on the day – but who allowed this guy to go round taking money off of people??!!





Beccs prepare to take on the French – Bordeaux 1979

Who do you recognize?

