



HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT 2022/2023

Introduction

The season 2022/2023 witnessed continuous progress in terms of rugby, administration and planning. On the field of play, both the senior and junior teams won their respective League Divisions for the second successive year. This showed impressive consistency and although the first team failed to qualify for the AIL, huge progress has been made and confidence remains high that we can succeed next season. (Director of Rugby's Report will be presented at the AGM)

Progress has also been made in the area of club development with the Strategic Initiative coming to fruition. Plans are in place to follow through on the proposals of the six working groups, the most immediate being repair of the clubhouse roof, which will commence this summer and be completed in Aug. The Tennis Club has agreed to pay their portion of the costs that apply to the areas of the clubhouse used by them.

The office holders of the Executive Committee will remain in place with the exception of the Chairman Jack Mc Evoy who will be replaced by Stephen Mc Gettigan. Gavin Walsh will also step down as one of the six elected members. The vacant position of Honorary Fixtures Secretary was filled during the season by Cian Flanagan and Jimmy White was selected as the nomination for incoming Junior Vice President.

The club lost three of its longest-serving members during the season. Eddie Bryan passed away in Nov and Paul Regan in Feb. Eddie had been a member of Bective since 1950, had held many positions in the club including President (2000-2001) and continued volunteering to the end. Paul was an ever-present member who contributed hugely as Treasurer over many years. His expertise in this area was regularly drawn upon and willingly given. A life-long member of the Dollies and affectionately known as "Squirrel" both he and Eddie are sadly missed in the club. At the end of the season in May, long-time pavilion member Michael Broderick left us. Mick was a true gentleman and a dedicated club supporter as well as being a passionate Connacht man who played for the province in 1960 when they registered their first victory over Ulster in Ravenhill. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

The season was again notable for the "buzz" in the clubhouse on match days. All of the pre-match lunches were well attended, the most notable being the game against Monkstown on 3 Dec, memorably summarised in WhatsApp post by Simon "Chuck" Byrne who succinctly and passionately captured the atmosphere of a pulsating clubhouse following a thrilling contest in front of a large attendance, narrowly won by Monkstown.

The finances of the club remain stable and free of debt, a considerable achievement and in stark contrast to many clubs throughout the country. Good management and supervision by our Treasurer Marisa

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Guerrero have been the key elements of success as well as a notable increase in subscriptions driven by our Membership Manager Mark Jones. (Treasurer's Report will be presented at the AGM).

Glenamuck

The potential value of our grounds in Glenamuck was alluded to in last year's report. In order to explore the possibility of having Glenamuck rezoned, the club joined with a development company to engage with DLRCC. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful as the Council is satisfied that there is an adequate supply of zoned residential land in the area. The development company paid the costs of this process.

In a separate process DLRCC placed a Compulsory Purchase Order on the access to the grounds to facilitate a new road network. Part of the laneway was also sought by a construction company which is developing a site next to the ground. We appointed Tom Kirby of Avison Young to represent us in negotiations with the interested parties. He skilfully concluded separate agreements with DLRCC and the construction company to sell the entire laneway. A new wider and easily maintained entrance road will be provided in its place.

The agreements will be finalised when some access issues and legal requirements are completed. We are confident these will be concluded in the next few months. The club's Trustees have been kept informed throughout the process and are fully supportive

Glenamuck is currently rented to St Brigid's rugby club and is also being considered for use by our minis when pitch space in Donnybrook is not available at week-ends.

Strategic Review

This process, begun in Jan 2022 and outlined in last year's report has been completed. The Seeding Event on 10 Oct was attended by 120 club members. An introduction by Chairman, Jack Mc Evoy followed by a presentation by Barre Fitzpatrick. Each attendee was assigned to a group led by one of the trained facilitators. All were invited to offer their suggestions as to how the club should proceed with no point of view excluded. These were collected and quickly reviewed with the main themes presented to the gathering and comments and observations invited, a process that provided additional food for thought.

The purpose of the event was to get the views of club members and the level of engagement from the large attendance yielded a rich and varied return for the Steering Committee to consider. In addition to this, seventy members volunteered to become involved in the process.

The Steering Committee and the Facilitators extracted the key submissions of the members and arranged them in six groups - Rugby Ambition. Clubhouse and Facilities Development. Branding ID and Communications. Community. Sponsorship. Governance.

These were populated by between 8 and 14 member volunteers with skills appropriate to the subject matter of the group. These groups worked over the next number of months to devise plans and make recommendations for presentation to the members at the Harvest Event which was held on 24 Apr. This was again very well attended as all the presentations were enthusiastically received and proposals approved.

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Our President, Dave O' Donnell has been instrumental in the initiation and progression of this initiative. His skill and commitment have been central to its success and Dave has agreed to continue his involvement in the process, which will be of enormous benefit to the club.

With the impetus of a resounding endorsement from the members, the Working Groups met on 11 May to review progress and take the next step which is to produce a Business Plan. Notwithstanding the production of the plan, it was agreed by the Executive Committee that action would be taken on any proposals that can be implemented immediately and that the groups would continue to follow through on the what they have recommended. It is vital that the work done on this initiative be completed. The result will bring about a huge transformation in all the elements that constitute Bective Rangers FC.

Club Events and Activities

Sponsorship. An agreement was made with a club member, Gary Corcoran whose company Snow Technology will become our main sponsor for the coming year. Gary has generously offered this support with the agreement to be reviewed at the end of the season. This is very good news for the club, which has not had a main sponsor for a number of years.

Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU with Leinster has been re-negotiated and will continue to provide a welcome addition to our finances. The club's entitlement to four advertising signs located on the periphery of the main pitch will be confirmed in the agreement.

Main Gate Signage. The Tennis Club agreed to remove their banner from above the main entrance and it is intended to erect a large sign with a NEXT GAME announcement facility. The old flagpoles inside the gate have been replaced.

Back Pitch Lighting. A long-running difficulty over the bill for training lights in back pitch, historically paid by Bective alone has been resolved. A legacy bill has been shared between the tenant clubs and Leinster and it is planned to introduce a fob which will be used by all consumers to record their usage and allow each to be individually charged.

Yearbook. The yearbook was produced earlier this year than in previous years with a new design and layout. The income from advertisements was greatly increased. Great credit is due to our Administrator Valerie Stein and to former club member and player Fiachra Lennon.

Your Club Your Country Draw. A big effort by members resulted in sales of €7,600.00 a 16.5% increase on last year.

Club Lotto. This was introduced last season, but due to a poor response it was suspended and all who contributed were refunded.

Annual Dinner. The dinner, held on 3 Mar was a big success with an attendance of 155 guests including the IRFU President John Robinson and Michael Dawson, outgoing Leinster CEO, to whom President David O' Donnell made a presentation. The guest speaker was Jamie Heaslip.

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Ladies Lunch. 95 Bective ladies and guests enjoyed a very successful lunch on 25 Feb, which raised €5,211.00 for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

Mini's Ball. The inaugural Mini's Ball was held in the clubhouse on 25 Mar. The hall was decorated to resemble a High Society ballroom and evening dress was worn by all attendees who hailed it as a night to remember, which it is intended to repeat. Credit goes to Executive Member and Mini's representative Richie Maybury.

Streaming of Games. The club has now acquired the technology to stream matches, thereby making them available to the Bective community at home and abroad and operated by Rory O'Connor. Commentator Simon "Chuck" Byrne provides the impartial commentary.

Corporate and Pre-Match Lunches. The corporate lunches for the Autumn and Six Nations internationals were sold out without difficulty and produced a significant income. Declan Lawler, assisted by Valerie Stein did great work ensuring this success. The pre-match lunches, organised by Emmett Sheridan were all well attended, the result of a winning culture in the club also attracting large numbers to the games and the clubhouse bar.

Barniville Cup Golf. This was played on 5 May, organised by Michael Shalloe and won by Eoin Greene who will lead a Bective team to compete in the Lorcan Sherlock Cup on 23 June, a competition played amongst Leinster clubs. Bective won the inaugural event in 1934.

Gavin Walsh. Gavin will step down from the Executive Committee following more than ten years' service during which he made a significant contribution both on and off the pitch.

Under 18.5 Invitational Cup. This competition, which allows schoolboys to compete in club rugby was won on 7 May by a Bective team put together by Emmett Sheridan and Maelíosa "Weewaw" Power. While there is no guarantee, it is hoped that some of these players will return to the club in due course.

Jack Mc Evoy. Jack is stepping down as Chairman following three years of outstanding leadership and management. The position of Chairman has proven to be the key to the success of the current administration model, created to provide an overseer and coordinator to direct and supervise the Executive Committee. Jack was the first to fill the appointment, which he did with distinction and he will be the exemplar for all who follow.

Way Forward

The club has had another very successful year. The performances of the first and second teams were outstanding throughout the season and the support for the teams was stronger than it has been for some time. Recruitment of additional players will boost the senior team and the junior teams and we can be confident that next season we will reach our goal of a return to the AIL. Great credit is due to all the players and the coaching staff led by Bernard Jackman. Our captain of last season, Colin Jackson will not be with us next season as he is transferring abroad. We wish him well and thank him for a superb year as captain and as a player over a number of seasons in Bective.

The Strategic Initiative is the most exciting development in the club for many years. It has formed the template for addressing many of the neglected areas of administration and development. A boost to our

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finances will address the deficiencies in the clubhouse, beginning with the roof, floors and windows which will be addressed in the short term. Sponsorship through advertising is another key area that will be focused upon so that its full potential can be realised, as well as a multi-faceted review of how the club is branded and presented to the outside world.

It is important that club members give these and the other initiatives their full backing. Realisation of these goals will bring the club into a new era and restore it to its rightful place among the elite of Irish rugby.

J.J. O' Reilly
Honorary Secretary
19 May 2023