

Chairmans Report

Annual General Meeting

Year 2020/2021

Tewkesbury RFC

The Moats
Gander Lane
Tewkesbury
Gloucestershire

Management Committee

David Randall (Chairman)
Adrian Bishop
David Bull (Honorary Treasurer)
Rich Johns
Gill Mould
Mark Woodham (Interim Hon Sec)
Martin Thomas
Jason King
James Arnold
Dan Harnett
Zoe Lawfull
Gina Lamb
Teri Watkins
Georgina Coleman
Pete Healey
Will Rendall



TEWKESBURY RFC

Welcome to all our members for our Annual General Meeting for the period March 31st 2020 to March 31st 2021.

It hasn't been that long since we last met, but it is starting to feel that some normality has returned so that we can hold our AGM at the right time.

It has certainly been a very challenging time for the club, not only have we had to endure Covid-19 but we were also hit with several floods in quick succession.

As a Management Committee we felt the time had come when we simply couldn't continue with the cellar and made the decision to convert our committee room into the new cellar. We are all extremely pleased with the result and it certainly means that the bar is now "flood proof".

Although the clubhouse has been closed for an extraordinarily long time we have still been working hard behind the scenes to put in place new systems and processes to manage the club more efficiently. We have appointed Martin Thomas as our new Director of Rugby who will be responsible for working with Billy and the other coaches to develop the game at all levels. We are also pleased to have ex player and finance expert James Arnold join us who will be working with Dave Bull on the finances. It is certainly great to see a strong and engaged committee all dedicated to the success of the club and bringing their own areas of expertise.

We would like to thank everyone for your support, as I said it's been a tough year but we are all in a positive frame of mind and with normality starting to return we hope we can count on your continued support.

David Randall (Chairman)



Rugby Update

Martin Thomas
Director of Rugby



The start of the 2020/2021 season never started and saw us under RFU Covid regulations which restricted what we could do at Training even. We did however manage to achieve some training sessions and improve the players fitness during a period when it was important to stay healthy. Training saw the introduction of balls being washed between drills and the use of sanitiser before during and after the session. Then lockdown two arrived and rugby was stopped again.

Post lockdown two it was important to focus on the 21/22 season and ensure we were fully prepared. In September we will see our 1st XV back in Gloucester 2 North due to a restructuring that allows some 2nd XV teams coming into the main leagues.

We have retained the services of Billy McGinty to ensure the coaching of players is kept to a high standard.

The club has undertaken a new approach to gaining sponsorship and this coming season we have maintained BMW as our main shirt sponsors with Barnwood, Porsche, Roberts Limbrick, Smiths Gloucester, Bowers Carpentry all supporting on Sleeves and the back of the senior men's shirts.

A new strategy has been written to support the lessons learnt from the previous season, so for 21/22 we focus on:-

Retention and Recruitment - Following the Covid pandemic minimise the dropout rates across all age groups, men and women and provide a sound introduction to the sport at junior level with an emphasis on fun as well as skills development. Work towards our senior sides (men & women) having at least 50% of players following the junior pathway transition into Seniors. Ensure Tewkesbury RFC is a serious contender when people are looking for a place to come and play rugby

Transition - Provide a year-on-year Transition pathway from juniors to seniors (Men & Women). Work is already underway to establish a U17/18 team from the existing U17 and U16 squads and to enter the team in the local development league. To transition the U17/18 team into seniors by overlapping training on a Tues/Thu night with seniors and introducing coaches and players.

To transition the older lads from 21/22 into a 2nd Team / Development Squad in readiness for 2022/23 season. Keep the group together so they play with their friends.

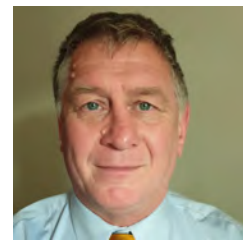
Player Development Pathway - To develop a coherent player development pathway, the "Tewkesbury Way" to be used throughout the junior club and based on excellent coaching practice with the main context at Tewkesbury RFC being Enjoyment.

Schools Programme - Create a school's programme by working with the local primary schools and secondary school to attract new players into the game. Provide coaching in Primary and Secondary schools and hold local tournaments to be able to spot talent at an early age and invite them to train on a Sunday. Build relationships with the University of Gloucester and Hartpury to attract young player who are in the area for a couple of years giving the somewhere to play outside of college.

We look forward to the season ahead and hope you can all come along and support all our teams.

Junior "Tigers"

We certainly had an interesting 2020/2021 season with a lot of stopping and starting, so for us it was incredible to see over 200 boys and girls register for the season. We know that everyone missed being able to take part in competitions and matches, but we have been able to keep the skills up whilst complying with, at times, strict new guidelines and regulations on the field of play from the RFU and UK Government. It was certainly heartening to see so many players and their families turn up week after week to take part.



2020/2021 also saw the full roll-out of the RFU Game Management System for all age-grade players. This effectively has taken the management of personal data out of the hands of the club and handed the responsibility to the parents/guardian/carer. Memberships were also paid through GMS, and overall despite some technical challenges it was an overall success. Another great example of us harnessing technology as this system improves financial reporting.

Adrian Bishop
Tigers Chairman

Women & Girls Rugby

Women The same as all rugby clubs, this season has been rough on us as we have not been able to play or train for so long. That being said, our recruitment drive this season was amazing and our women's team has become bigger and stronger! The women have not played as a new squad in a competitive game yet, but we have been training hard and the enthusiasm and skills being shown, we are very excited for the 21/22 season!

Girls 20/21 was a challenging season but our small squad trained with enthusiasm when we were able. Their season finished with them taking part in County Cup at U18 and U15's. The girls were paired up with Hucclecote to make up a team and they trained and played together. The girls from both teams gelled together and have created new friendships over the four weekends of the waterfall cups. Their season will start with an Inner warrior camp to welcome new players on the 25th.

Walking Rugby

As with other forms of Rugby we've been suspended for most of the year. During the summer of 2020 a small number continued to train and with the restart this spring the numbers have returned and a few new arrivals. We are currently getting about a dozen players a week and have just finished a five week training session with the community arm of Gloucester Rugby.

Colts Development Programme

Aimed at players aged 17 and 18 this is a great development programme for the club to help our young players to broaden their experience and skills and begin



to prepare them for the senior game. Part of the Colts experience will be joining the Gloucestershire RFU development league that will provide a real step change in playing

against other Colt teams across the county.

We have also secured a grant from Tewkesbury Borough Council and Arnold Clark Community Fund to purchase a range of strengthening and conditioning equipment which will be a great addition to our training regime.

Sponsorship

We have agreed sponsorship packages with both Cotswold BMW (seniors) and BPS (juniors), both have been long time supporters and we thank them for their continued support.

Martin Thomas has also taken up the mantle to build other sponsorship opportunities and has been successful in securing new local companies to support the club through pitch side boards.

CGT Estate Agents in Tewkesbury have also signed up to sponsor the new Colts team shirts and we are currently working on a package for the Ladies team.

We always need more sponsors so if you are interested in sponsoring us please contact Martin Thomas for further details. All our sponsor logos will feature on our website.

Match Shirts for Seniors

This coming season the senior mens teams will be sporting newly designed match shirts for both home and away matches. The shirts will feature the BMW logo as well as a number of new shirt logos including Porsche, Roberts Limbrick, Smiths, Barnwoods and Bowers Carpentry.



International Tickets

We are currently working on a new process that will allow our members to take advantage of the special discounts available via the RFU ticket website.

We will have a bit of work to do and as soon as we are able to share what we are able to do and how you can apply we will let you know, but we certainly hope to be able to offer some tickets for the upcoming Tonga and Australia games in the Autumn.



Grounds

Over the last season as well as keeping up with the basic maintenance work, we were able to keep on top of spraying and aeration due to help from GRFU and maintenance from previous contracts.

Two major projects started during this season firstly we have employed a local tree surgeon to take the tops out of selected Lombardi trees this will continue until all the Lombardi's surrounding the pitches have been done over the coming years.

The second project works took place in early March this year to drain the training pitch with lateral and carrier drains which pick up the drain to the soak away in the car park. The 80 tonnes of spoil from the drains was lost around the perimeter of the ground and has been seeded to make maintaining these areas easier. Geoff Sallis secured the £33k for this project from S106 monies which could only be used for ground improvements with our bid one of many so competition was fierce. We kept the works within the budget so there is on going maintenance work paid for through the contract. So Ecosolve will be back to top up and feed the area. Follow on from working on our project Ecosolve under took works on Swindon Town and the Stoop (Harlequins) so we are in good company.



Officers of the Club

In line with our commitment to appoint the Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary positions on a rolling basis every 3 years the Honorary Secretary role is due for appointment.

Mark Woodham

Mark Woodham has been proposed as Honorary Secretary and seconded by Adrian Bishop.

Mark has been involved with the club for a number of years and is currently coaching our Colts team. Mark has a wealth of business management experience and has been key in developing our forward plan for the club.



Clubhouse

As everyone is now aware the Management committee took the decision in 2021 to relocate the cellar. Several severe floods really made our minds up that the time had come to relocate so we could protect the bar for the future.

A number of options were discussed but we finally came to the conclusion that the simplest and cheapest solution would be to convert the Committee Room into a cellar/stock room/office.

In line with relocating the cellar, we also decided to move to a new supplier in Heineken. This contract has given us all sorts of benefits that is not detrimental on costs. Whilst it took a lot longer than we had hoped, with all sorts of red tape within Heineken, holding up the progress, we finally got there and we hope that you all agree the bar looks amazing and offers a great selection of beverages.



In the coming months we will also be looking at a refurbishment plan. We have a long list but before any work is carried out we will make sure that it is full costed and that the club has the funds to pay for work that in some areas is long overdue. We'll be telling you more about what we will be doing in the coming weeks and months.

We are also embracing new technology, having recently upgraded our till system so that we can have an effective stock management system. Being able to easily see what products sell will help in our stock rotation and will provide greater detail for accounting.



Communications

Communication is an important part of the club's future. Our growth is highly dependent on players, supporters, sponsors, and volunteers to choose Tewkesbury RFC. Therefore, our website and social media are more than just an overview of the club, content should inform and engage audiences which ultimately affects their perception of the club e.g. "this is a club I want to play for" or "this is a club I want to support through sponsorship".

It was also important that people's perception was that we are "one" club where juniors can progress to the senior game. Combining the senior website and junior website into a "one club" website was a big step forward to achieving this.



Our social media audiences have grown over the last year in what we hope you will agree are informative and interesting posts about the club. We encourage members to follow the official club page so they can keep up to date with what's happening.

We are also planning to introduce a new system which will be run through one of the TV's that will give visitors to the clubhouse the latest news including fixtures, events etc.

Communication is important to us and we continue to look at ways we can improve and keep our members up to date with what we are doing as a Club.

Mobile Food Units

Some of you may have noticed that we are now hosting several mobile food units Woody's Woodfired Pizzas, PudPuds and Openside Pizza who are usually parked up in the car park on Friday or Saturday. Great to have this available to members but also a good draw to the club to create awareness, but also a small and steady income stream for the club.



Membership

Following the influence of Covid impacting what we could offer our members over the past year, the cost of 20/21 membership was reduced with the hope that we could offer some elements of pre-Covid normality.

But with the Government enforced lockdown and the various additional requirements for opening the club our membership last year was unusually low.

We hope you all understand that we hope to re-establish our membership numbers for the club, as this allows TRFC and the RFU to understand the influence that Covid has had to our club and to Rugby.

This coming year 21/22 it has been decided that the cost of our membership will return to the 2019/2020 prices (excluding our skittles teams):-

- Social member £15
- Adult female player £40
- Adult male player £50
- Patron £50

We have been working with our various sponsors for a discount if you are shopping with them and those all important membership bar prices, as being a perk for all our members. Anyone who has been down to visit the clubhouse for a drink since the end of lockdown will have experienced our membership bar pricing.

Membership for the coming year is due at the end of August and we will be giving everyone a grace period of 3 weeks to purchase their membership. During this time you will receive your member discount, but after the 20 September our bar staff will be instructed to ask you to show your valid card. We have several new faces behind the bar who do not know everyone so please do not be offended if you are asked to produce your card. But moving forward if you do not show your card you will be required to pay full bar prices, so please support the club and sign up. Membership forms will be available after the AGM or forms can be downloaded on our website from the Membership page.

Community Development

The clubhouse and grounds is one of our biggest assets and as we look to the future we are looking at ways where we can engage with and become a bigger part of the local community.

We have already seen Young Gloucestershire and Gloucester Rugby using our grounds for community activities and both are keen to expand our working relationship to the benefit of the club and the community.

Coupled with enquiries for community based activities during the week days when the club is not in use, not only lends our club to being part of, but promotes awareness of where we are and who we are.