

The Beehive

Season
2020/21
Issue 1

We are Back!



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**The Balbriggan RFC
Newsletter**





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Executive Committee

President - Caroline McFadden

Vice-Pres - Leigh O'Toole

Hon Secretary - David McFadden

Hon Treasurer - Robert Cashell

Grounds & Facilities Manager - Noel Hickey

Committee Member - Eamon Darcy

Committee Member & Director of Rugby

– Ivan McFadden

Youth Rugby Co-Ordinator - Kevin Colman

Mini Rugby Co-Ordinator – Lisa Kelly

Girls Rugby Co-Ordinator - Emma O'Kennedy

Captain – 1st XV - Conor Caldwell

Captain – Women's XV– Stephanie Campbell

Communications Team –

Caroline McFadden

Vikki McNamara & Andrew Byrne




**EEC
Homevalue**




The Beehive Newsletter



Editors Note: Any errors, omissions, mis-spellings or photos of you when you're blinking are the fault of the monkey. Don't blame me.

 @BalbrigganRFC

 info@balbrigganRFC.com

Editor's Note:

Every effort is made to ensure the information going in the newsletter is accurate but sometimes events are rescheduled so please check out our Facebook, Twitter & Instagram feeds for the most up to date information.

There's a team of dedicated club members working to make sure everyone is informed of what's happening at the club through our social media accounts. Please subscribe or follow the club online and like, comment and share our content so it is spread to as wide a group of people as possible.

If you want to submit something for inclusion in any social media posts or the newsletter sent it in to Info@BalbrigganRFC.com. Feel free to send this newsletter on to anyone who might be interested, relatives, friends or prospective new members.



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GOWAN
MOTORS



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mj flood
technology



The Presidents' Message

Dear Members & Friends,

We begin this season, just as we finished the last, in uncertain and challenging times. However, we still a lot to be positive about. All of our teams have returned to training, from our U6's and 7's in our mini's section, through to our youths, Stingers and adult teams. Our Return to Rugby would not have been possible without the support of everyone involved at every level of the club. Lisa Kelly, our Covid Safety Officer and Club Welfare Officer led a Committee that put in place our Covid Health & Safety Plan. All of our teams have a Covid Compliance Officer in place to ensure that all teams are adhering to Covid Health & Safety guidelines at all times. This has enabled us to get all our teams back training at the club again.

Before the new season began, it was a great moment in our Club's history that we were able to have our AGM for the first time inside our own Clubhouse. It was a very long journey to get to this point but I am sure you will all agree, that we finally have a home that we can all be very proud of. I wish to acknowledge the very hard work done by a number of people in getting the project over the line. In particular I wish to acknowledge and thank John Cumisky who led the clubhouse development committee, Victor King for his technical and professional expertise overseeing the Mech & Elec aspect of the clubhouse build, Robert Cashell for the difficult task of managing the finances of the development and Leigh O'Toole, Ed McAuley and Kevin Colman for their assistance too.

I want to thank all the volunteers in the club, the coaches and grounds volunteers, who are the heartbeat of the club. The coaches are there week in, week out, rain or shine, and without their work there would be no club. Also the grounds volunteers, and in particular Noel and Tom who give so many hours each week cutting and marking the pitches and maintaining machinery. The grounds are a credit to them and I want to sincerely thank them for all their hard work. The club has grown phenomenally over the last number of years. We are always looking for new volunteers



I want to take this opportunity to welcome Brian Collins and Peter O'Donnell to the men's coaching set up. Both Brian and Peter bring a wealth of coaching experience to the men's team. For the women's team, it's great to have Mick McKiernan and Jeff Neville remain at the helm. I also want to acknowledge the great work done by David Fitzgerald on Strength & Conditioning at the club, and Mal Malone and Sharon Keogh, the men's and women's team managers. It's also great to have one of our own senior players Adam O'Connor take on the role of Club and Community Rugby Officer. Adam will be working with the mini and youth teams throughout the season, and also our local schools.

I also want to thank our sponsors. The year just gone was always going to be a tough year with the building of our clubhouse. Juggling payments to builders and meeting other club expenses was never going to be easy, but we did it! This would not have been possible without our sponsors, our main club sponsors – MJ Flood, Gowan Motors, DMG, Progressive Credit Union, Moriarty Group, EEC Homevalue and Egallite alongside all our pitchside signage sponsors and jersey and team sponsors. I would ask you to please support our club sponsors in any way you can in these challenging times.



The Presidents' Message

I also want to thank all those who supported our fundraisers in the club. In particular, we saw huge support for the Race Night which was held just before last season ended prematurely. The Race Night was a resounding success raising €9,000 to help kit out our new clubhouse. Just as important, was the great social night that this fundraiser was, which saw lots of parents from our minis and youths teams in particular, along with our senior and committee members come out to enjoy a great club night in the Bracken Court Hotel. Thanks to Mal and all who helped organise this very important fundraiser for the club.

Thanks to the Executive Committee – Leigh, Dave, Robert, Noel, Eamon and Ivan for all their work throughout the year. Suzie Hesnan stepped down during the season and has been replaced by Ivan McFadden. Thanks to Suzie for all her work and congratulations to her and our Men's team Captain Conor Caldwell on the birth of their son. We look forward to seeing Suzie back involved with the club in the near future. Thanks to Leigh O'Toole for all his assistance this season. The step up from supporting roles in the club, to President is a big one. I could not have done that without the help and support that Leigh gave throughout the past year.

This season will be unlike any other. With Covid still very much a part of our lives, there will be a lot of uncertainty. At Balbriggan RFC, we have taken every precaution possible to ensure the safety of our members. Despite the current Covid restrictions, we have been heartened to see new players joining the club at every level. Best wishes to all of our teams for the season ahead.



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Youths Rugby



Balbriggan's Youths teams were prepped and ready to make a start to the competitive season when Covid restrictions postponed their matches.

The teams had some pre-season friendlies to get themselves primed for their leagues, so it was a great disappointment when the news landed about Level 3 restrictions.

While it was not the news they wanted to hear, there was a realisation that the same teamwork they display on the field is now exactly the same thing needed in everyday life as we all work together to help reduce the spread of Covid19.

It has been said that sport is a metaphor for life, and the truth of it is that the lessons our young players learn on the pitch about working together towards a common purpose have never been more important. When fixtures resume we will have match reports and much fewer abstract musings on the lessons we learn playing sport, the sooner the better for all of us.



New Club CCRO

The club was delighted with the recent appointment of Adam O'Connor as our new Cub Community Rugby Officer (CCRO). Adam has a deep family connection with Balbriggan RFC and is a well known face at the club. He will be working to develop rugby programmes and foster a rugby playing culture in schools in the area and work in partnership with these primary and secondary schools to develop all aspects of the game, whilst promoting rugby in a positive, safe and healthy manner.

The CCRO plays an important role in fostering a positive environment for youngsters to get involved in the sport.

Adam will also be working with coaches at the club to assist them in improving their skills, helping raise standards at all levels across the club.



Club Sponsorship

New Sponsors on board

We were delighted to announce new club sponsors over the last few months. You will have noticed new signs, jerseys and post pads springing up around the club. New jerseys for the Men's, Women's & Under 16's teams are just the start as the club enters an exciting new phase of development for our facilities. We ask our members to support our sponsors, these local businesses play a huge role in keeping the club going, so choose them if you can when opening your wallet.



MORIARTY'S OF BALBRIGGAN
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Keeping our club running would not be possible without these businesses who choose to support Balbriggan RFC. If your business would like to become involved in sponsorship just get in touch with the club at info@balbrigganRFC.com



The Men's Team



Balbriggan's men's team had their first match of the 2020/21 season when they played Boyne at home in the North East McGowan (J1) Cup on Saturday 12th September.

This was the first opportunity for new Head Coach Brian Collins and forwards technical director, Peter O'Donnell to see their charges in action. They will have been very pleased with what they saw. The game was an exciting encounter and was only decided at the death when the visitors scored a try in injury time. Final score was 10 v 15. Balbriggan had a raft of new players on the field. These included scrum-half Finn Howley, second row Chuka Uba, winger Taiwo Tibetan and hooker Stephen Dowling. It was also a first outing for Head Coach Brian Collins, who played at out-half. We also saw the welcome return of Sean Keogh whilst Conor Caldwell led the team out at the start of his fourth year in a row as captain.

The match also doubled as the annual Kettle Cup encounter which was originally played between Balbriggan and Delvin. The Kettle Cup, presented at the end of the match is played in honour of a Delvin and Balbriggan stalwart, the late Tom Kettle.



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The Barber Room

— EST. 2005 —

Unfortunately, with Dublin placed at Level 3 due to Covid restrictions, the game set the following week away to Dundalk was postponed.

Clarification later came from the IRFU that Balbriggan could play its games in the Leinster League. The first match in the league was to be played on Sunday, 4th October. However, that match was also postponed, this time at the request of Wexford. This has meant that as we face into the second weekend of October, Balbriggan's men's team has only played one match. This is hardly ideal preparation for the season but the men continue to train and new players continue to join the team. These include TJ, Oladh, Daniel and Elijah who have joined the team in recent weeks.

Best of luck to the men in their match next week at home to Coolmine. Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions, no supporters are allowed attend. Balbriggan have had a tough, but on the whole successful introduction to Leinster Div 2A.



Stingers Section



The Stingers have returned to training on Balbriggans' Astro pitch. It was a long lockdown for the guys and there were big smiles when they got back together to play some rugby. The spirit you see when the stingers play is exactly what the sport of rugby is about. The team are hoping to take part in some blitzes during the season.

Our thanks to **Egallité** for kindly sponsoring the team kit. We're always looking for volunteers to help us out - we meet every second Sunday morning for an hour. If you're interested, get in touch.

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CLUBHOUSE UPDATE



The day arrived, and we now have our very own place called home. The club would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the construction phase.

Now we can see the finished product I'm sure everyone will agree that it was well worth the wait. While we are not able to make full use of the clubhouse at the moment due to Covid19 we are all set for when things return to normal.

Now that we will have a wonderful clubhouse facility at our club, we are looking for volunteers to help out with events and activities around the club.



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We are asking if you would be willing to #BePartofIt and give some time to the club.

You might have skills which could be invaluable to the club or you might just want to put on a hi-viz and help with the car park on a busy day.

Feel free to get in touch with us by emailing [**info@balbrigganrfc.com**](mailto:info@balbrigganrfc.com)

Our club is for everyone and you are more than welcome to get involved.



Under 12 Girls Team



MORIARTY'S OF BALBRIGGAN
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We are always looking for new players for the girls teams, please contact Emma on 086-3600303 for information.

U12s - Born 2009/2010

U14s - Born 2007/2008

U16s - Born 2005/2006

U18s - Born 2003/2004



The Under 12 Girls had their first training sessions of the season with new players joining following August's Give it a Try. Exciting events will be coming up soon for the girls as they work on their skills with an eye on up-coming blitzes.

If you have a girl who is interested in joining the team for a session get in touch and bring them down to join a session. Fun is guaranteed and there's no better way to make friends than playing rugby.

Girls Youth Teams



We would like to congratulate Hannah Barton one of our U18s Youth Girls on being included in the Leinster U18 girls squad.

On 12th August the club was delighted to host the Leinster U18 Girls squad for one of their training sessions. It was great to see Hannah lining out to train with the Leinster squad at her home club. Hannah is one of 7 girls from the North East training with the team. It's great to see one of our girls representing the club at such a high level, Hannah is inspiring many young Balbriggan girls who see her exploits and realise what can be achieved.



The Youth Girls section has started back training on Wednesday nights with Ashbourne as AB rugby. New players are always welcome.



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If you are a business owner and would like to sponsor the club just get in touch and our sponsorship team will take you through the range of options available.
Contact: Info@balbrigganRFC.com

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Mini Rugby



Mini Rugby is Back!!

We're delighted to announce that Balbriggan's Mini's teams began their new season last week, with our U10's, 11's and 12's returning to training on Thursday nights.

Our younger minis, U6's, U7's, U8's and U9's returned to training on Sunday mornings. How great it was to welcome back all of our mini players and their families, and we were delighted to see plenty of new faces too. New players are always welcome to come along and give rugby a try.

Covid 19 Volunteers

The IRFU return to play procedures post Covid19 have introduced safety measures to ensure we can all play rugby with as little risk as possible.

A huge thank you goes to our new Covid Committee and our team of Compliance Officers. It has been great to see so many people eager to help. Every rugby club is powered by its people and it has been heart-warming to see so many people step forward to fill these roles, without them there would be no rugby played.



The Women's Team



Balbriggan Ladies 2019/20 season was brought to an abrupt halt in March with the nationwide shutdown as a result of the Covid pandemic. At that stage we were preparing for a promotion/relegation play-off against Edenderry which would determine our league status for the 2020/21 season.

Over the intervening months there was a lot of speculation as to what Leinster Rugby would do to get a season started and get ladies back playing rugby. They confirmed in August that our league would start in October and we would remain in Div 2 for the forthcoming season.

The ladies commenced training in August and whilst numbers were low due to a number of ladies playing Gaelic it was very encouraging to see some new faces, from the U18 squad Hannah and Kelly joined us as well as the return of more experienced players like Michelle and Irene. Unfortunately we also lost a few players during the lockdown for a number of reasons and I would like to thank them for all they contributed to Balbriggan ladies rugby over the years and I hope they enjoyed the experience of playing rugby.

Whilst our league was due to start on October 4th it unfortunately has again been brought to an abrupt halt with Dublin been placed in lockdown and at this stage we await further guidance as to when we can start back playing.



One lady has returned to the playing fields and that is Eadaoin Cannon. Suttonians RFC who play in the AIL have signed Eadaoin as a dual status player for the forthcoming season and she made her debut on Saturday 2nd October against an international filled Railway Union side. This is huge recognition not only for Balbriggan Ladies Rugby but also for Eadaoin and all the hard work she puts in both on and off the field in developing and improving her game. We wish her well for the season ahead.

We will continue to train each Tuesday and Thursday night and would welcome any lady who would like to give rugby a try.

Keep safe everyone and mind yourselves.



FUNDRAISING

One of the big challenges facing all sports clubs now is fundraising as traditional avenues are not open to us in the Covid era. So we need to find new ways of keeping our club going. If you would like to get involved by organising an event or helping please get in touch. A great night was had by all at our last fundraiser, the **Balbriggan RFC Race Night** in the Bracken Court Hotel. It was great to see the big crowd from all sections of the club there to enjoy the night and support our club. Thanks to all who supported this club fundraiser, which will help with the kit-out of the new clubhouse. Many local businesses gave support to the event by sponsoring races and we would ask you to support them whenever possible. There was great craic to be had on the night and apparently the horse I bet on is still running today.



PS PLATINUM SECURITY



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Your Club Your Country

The IRFU Grand Prize Draw 'Your Club, Your Country' is back for the new season with more great prizes and a safe way for our club to raise much needed funds in a very challenging year.

For the first time, this year's draw will be hosted online expanding the ability of clubs to reach their members and the wider community as well as providing a safe way to sell their tickets.

This is the 10th year of the draw which has raised over €5.7 Million for the club game. Last year, with the support of IRFU sponsors, clubs raised just over €673,000.

Every year the suite of prizes get even better so please support your club with 100% of funds raised going directly back to our club. With Covid making it hard for clubs to fundraise this is the perfect opportunity to support your club and you could win some pretty amazing prizes.

Tickets on sale now [HERE](#)



Also a reminder that you can now pay your annual club membership using our new online subscription service [HERE](#). No more paper forms to be filled in, just a few clicks and you are a fully paid up member.

A big thank you to everyone for all your support. We hope you all stay safe and look forward to seeing you all down at the club as soon as it's safe to do so.



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