CAMBUSLANG RUGBY CLUB JUNIOR SECTION AGM REPORT 2024

Introduction

Coming to the end of my 6th year as Junior Convenor & Director of Youth rugby, I continue to be very proud of all the junior section developments and achievements at the club and across the wider community. Standing at an incredible c350 players, supported by c50 volunteer coaches and an immensely hard-working committee, we have continued to create a wonderful environment for youth rugby to prosper and thrive within the local community of Cambuslang and beyond in 2023/2024.

I'm also very proud, through lots of hard work and dedication from the wider team we see the continued growth of women's rugby at our club. From a standing start three years ago, we now support the development of c50 girls between the age of 12 and 17 across our U14 and U16-18 girl's teams and a coaching team of six which is an incredible achievement.

We continue to be well respected in terms of our girl's rugby set up across Scottish Rugby, the district and beyond, as others look to us now for guidance and inspiration. A massive thanks to all the dedicated coaches whose hard work doesn't go unnoticed. As we move into next season our u16 team have been invited to join the National Conference league which will be the first time in our history Cambuslang RFC will be represented at this level of Girls rugby.

We have also been selected to be one of the Three Regional Hubs of Girls U18's rugby at Cambuslang next season which again is testament to the hard work and network of our Girls coaching team. We are currently looking to onboard more female coaches within the section and therefore if any of our club members wider network is interested in supporting, please reach out.

This year also sees our club represented very well at the u15 boys Scottish Rugby pathway selection development Hub with 12 Cambuslang players going through this process.
This is testament to the coaching teams dedication, hard work and wider support network assisting in the development of the game for our U15 cohort.

It's also been great to welcome Jamie Banks as a shared Development Officer along with Stonelaw High School. Jamie has been getting into the role over the past six month and building plans targeting our areas which require focus in terms of numbers and development. I look forward to seeing the delivery of this as we move into next season and beyond.

We continue to underpin our Junior Section direction through two main ambitions.

1. **To Be Recognised As A Community Club, With No Barriers To Entry**, where everyone feels welcome and part of the wider rugby community in turn where we can support our local community as a collective. I am delighted again after winning Community Club of the Year in 2022, shortlisted again by Scottish Rugby in 2023, we were recognised by Royal Bank Rugby force and Scottish Rugby as a Star Community Club for 2023/24, hosting Jim Hamilton and the Team back in August.
   This endorses our approach and all the initiatives which we support the local community on throughout the season which is very satisfying.

2. **To Create A Seamless Pathway Into Cambuslang Senior Rugby From The Junior Section**. We have been developing this for the past decade, aiming to create and have a team represented at each age group from P1 through to an U18 team.
   Next season sees us almost achieve this ambition with teams stood up at each age group, (only supported with a collaboration at U18 level with Cartha).
   This is a significant milestone in our journey, and we look forward to "feeding" talent into the senior section as we approach season 25/26. This will also allow the Club to enter the National Conference league across u15,u16,u18 teams, again something the club has not been able to do over the past 15 years or so since the inception of the National midi leagues.

Lastly an exciting development for our grounds. The 2XV Flood Lighting project is being project managed, financed, and delivered through the junior section and wider network. This project is six months ahead of schedule and we are in a fantastic position ahead of next season which will see our 2XV pitch having the functionality to be lit through the winter months helping our increased winter training demand and creating an incredible facility to be proud of. This marks a historical moment for the club giving us the ability to full sized games mid-week across the club in the dark evening should this be required.
Thank, should be noted to David Henderson for the lighting design and giving up his own time to power our columns along with Gillon Armstrong who enabled a significant amount of cabling ground and column work support which enabled us to get ahead of time with the project and Frank Mulligan who has been on the ground supporting all parts of the project.

My thanks go out to everyone who supports the development of the junior section from coaching support, catering support, grounds support, line painting, transportation and organising fixtures as fantastic collective effort creating what we can all be proud of today.

Micro & Mini Update

Overall it's been another busy season for the micro and mini section with healthy numbers from our Cubs up to Primary 7.

The only area for concern remains around our Primary 6 team who have low numbers and have struggled at times this season. This will be a focal area for our DO Jamie Banks.

Despite the poor winter weather which resulted in a number of cancelled matches and training sessions, the season has been bookended by a number of competitive matches and festivals.

Our Primary 2s have had the opportunity to play in their first matches recently and our Primary 3s are starting to be introduced to contact in preparation for next season.

The addition of the catering cabin has been a great addition for the section as it has enhanced the community feel of the club and allowed for more parents to be involved in supporting the teams.

Finally, we are looking forward to hosting our own festival on the 2nd June, which will be a first for the majority of the kids in the mini section and should be an excellent day for the whole club.

Midi section Update

Girls Section

- U14 Girls - strong performances across the season with good numbers moving up to U16 for next season
- U16 Girls - combined team with GHA & Dalziel has trained & played regularly despite fixture disorganisation, many of the players have been standouts at the regional development sessions in the 2nd half of the season.
- U18 Girls - difficult season for player numbers but next season Cambuslang will be one of 3 "hub" clubs bringing together players from across the region. Biggar, Oban, Cambuslang.
- Girls player numbers strong at U16 for next season with U14 and U18 numbers developing & combined teams being formed.

Boys Section

- U13 Boys - excellent performances with notable victories against GHA, Boroughmuir, Currie, Marr, Ayr, Stirling, GHK, West
- U14 Boys - excellent performances with notable victories against GHA, Boroughmuir, Ayr, Marr, Stirling
- U15 Boys - excellent performances across the season, **West League winners**
- U16 Boys - combined team with Cartha had an up & down season, **West League runners up**
- U18 Boys - combined team with Cartha gained great experience through their U17 year with performances improving through the season, **Runners up in the West Plate competition.**
- Good player numbers across all boys age groups heading into next season with a full U13 side moving up from P7

Strength and Conditioning

This season we introduced a weekly strength and conditioning session to support the development of both boys and girls from S2 and above. These sessions are running in conjunction with EK Fitness and supported with professional S&C coaches. The funding of these sessions come through the payers who pay £3 per session. We have been running 3 sessions per week in addition to rugby skills training sessions. 20-25 players attend each session. The S&C addition has been very well received, the players get enormous value from these sessions and will bode well as the players go through their rugby journeys, based on feedback we received from previous SRU pathway development programmes.

Community Update

Catering Cabin

The Junior Section invested in purchasing a repurposed container to offer tea's, coffees and snacks to visitors and guest across training and game days who prefer being outside watching the activities. The operating of the cabin has been carried out using parent volunteers on most home matches and operating well with a selection of hot and cold drinks and snacks. The ambition is to have this fully kitted out with a full 'catering specific' fit however we have a few weather proofing matters to resolve first. Once this next stage is complete, this provides the club an opportunity to utilise the cabin as an extension of the current club and bar operations which can be used on match days, offering guests and visitors a catering and drinks service through the season.

Charity lunch

This was held on 20th April to raise awareness and funds for Glasgow Children's hospital charity, and in alignment with Glasgow Warriors. £2800 raised on the day and a big success, operated and led on the day by volunteers and parents at the club. Great showcase of senior and junior sections coming together. Formal 'big cheque' photo opportunity currently being planned with Warriors.
Many of the raffle prizes came from local businesses which demonstrates their willingness to support Cambuslang Rugby if asked.

Tartan Touch

This has been awarded to Cambuslang again for 2024 with Friday nights starting end May/start June for 8-10 weeks. Much more under our control for 2024 so more able to schedule alongside family nights at the Club.

Fernhill School

The school will not be using the Club this term for their afternoon sports schedule or their sports day. They have partnered with a local tennis club this year for sports schedule and sports day clashes with Club grounds works.

Onside Performance

No onside performance sports camps this summer - appears they are concentrating their camps at GHA, West and St Aloysious Grounds this year. Gavin Blackburn has shared plans for a junior/midi rugby camp for week of 15th July under his new venture which aims to offer a paid coaching service.

Finance Update

The Junior Section remains in a healthy financial position and well controlled through Sandy Hutchison as Treasurer.

Our expenditure has been excessively high this season as we continue to invest in equipment across the junior section including with the purchase of a new VEO Cam to aid development, the Catering Cabin, and a significant investment into the Floodlighting project. These three areas resulted in a spend of c£30K this season which is seen a worthwhile investment for the future of the section and the club as a whole.

Fees will be reviewed in collaboration with the membership secretary as we move into next season, with a view that we increase monthly fees ensuring we cover the rising costs of operating the section.

Yours in Rugby

Stewart Barnett (Barney)