



BUCCANEERS RFC

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The Grass is Greener...

The lockdown continues to frustrate, with businesses, schools, social facilities and of course sports clubs remaining shuttered. It's difficult, but it's the price we all pay in the context of everything that is happening during the pandemic. Of course our first concern is for everyone directly affected by Covid 19, especially those that have experienced bereavement or serious illness. Then there are those affected through the loss of work and income; we are particularly mindful of club members and especially the staff of the club and the Bounty. As a sports club the greater part of our members are active healthy young people and we don't underestimate the effect that confinement and social isolation has on you. It may take some time, perhaps even a long time before we get back to a semblance of normal life, but Buccaneers RFC is ready to be part of your return to normality. Hence this newsletter, as a way to stay in touch and keep you informed of what's happening in and around your club. Your input is always welcome too. Email rugby@dubarrypark.com with 'Newsletter' in the subject line. Stay Safe.

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President's Message



“MAY YOU LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES”

An old Chinese proverb that I wish was not visited on my year as President. I hope all are keeping well and safe during this pandemic.

The rugby season was a mixed bag with some notable games, especially the away game at UL Bohs and some close encounters that really should have been put away in a more clinical fashion.

The Covid Restrictions have meant drastic changes to the club and to The Bounty.

Now more than ever, club members will be asked to get behind the club and all the teams when activities resume, hopefully in August / September.

I am really excited by the way Kolo and the new coaching team have gone about Retention and Recruitment and I believe next season can be a defining one in the club's history.

We need to redouble our efforts to maintain all the adult teams including the Womens Teams for the coming season.

Mini's and Youth's are, obviously, our lifeblood, and they need to be fostered in an ongoing way.

The Buccs Rugby Family is aware of the difficulties some members are undergoing in this strange new world, we will need to support each other, on and off the field, over the coming season.

I look forward to seeing you all again at the start of the 2020/21 season.

Patrick O'Meara.

AGM

Arrangements are proceeding to hold the AGM as an online meeting on **June 30, 2020**. All club members are encouraged to attend and participate. Detailed instructions as to how you can participate will be made available closer to the date. Please note that **only fully paid up club members will be invited to participate**, and all members wishing to participate **will be required to provide a valid email address**. If you wish to participate please email Geraldine at rugby@dubarrypark.com with AGM in the subject line

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New Head Coach

After an extensive international search and interview process **Kolo Kiripati** has been appointed head coach of the ALL Men's Senior Team. Kolo is from Samoa and grew up in New Zealand. He arrived in Ireland in 2006, joining Buccs two seasons later. During his time as a Buccs



player he won 4 Connacht Senior Leagues and 3 Senior Cups, captaining the club in the 2012/2013 season. He was Senior Player of the Year in 2011/2012 and with his wife Mele shared the Club Person of the Year in 2016. Since ending his playing career Kolo has coached at North Kildare and most recently at Longford RFC. During this time he has continued coaching boys and girls at underage level at Buccaneers.

He will be assisted by **Henry Bryce**, a fellow Samoan as backs coach and club stalwart **David Henshaw** as scrum coach.

Everyone at the club is looking forward to a successful return to rugby and wish all the best to Kolo, Henry and David in the upcoming season.



Womens Rugby

Buccaneers R.F.C are looking to fill the position of **Women's Head Coach** for the coming season 2020/2021. Formed in 2011, Buccaneers Women are previous winners of both the Connacht League and Connacht Cup.

Quite a few of our players have gone on to represent Province and Country. Our women's team is an integral part of the club that we want to continue to grow in numbers and success.



We are seeking a coach with previous coaching experience, who can bring together U18 girls progressing to senior level, with our current experienced senior team. This is a great opportunity for someone to build a coaching profile and successful team in a competitive and fun environment.

For more information on the role please contact Sandra Feary, Team Manager on 086-1670349 or email sandrafeary@gmail.com

Return to Play Update



The IRFU has commenced the process for a staged return to play, heeding government advice and following all public health measures. As part of this process, each individual team in the club is required to appoint a Compliance Officer who will report to the Club Safety Officer and ensure that the appropriate precautionary measures advised to and by the club are being followed at all times. Teams must send the name of their Compliance Officer to Michael Cleary, Hon Sec., by FRI JUN 12. Future Newsletters will have updates on Return to Play as the club receives them.

Full details from the IRFU are available:

<https://www.irishrugby.ie/return-to-rugby/>

Youth News

Much to everyone's disappointment, the season ended abruptly and without completion of many competitions, particularly the cup competitions. On the positive side the U14 Black squad won the U14 Division 1 title with room to spare. Congratulations lads!

Also making the club proud are our Connacht representative players who appeared in the Connacht Rugby Youths Skills videos. Colm Reilly did scrum half skills, and Shane Jennings did evasion skills. Great to see these talented players sharing their tips and getting recognition around the province.



The U14 Division 1 Winners 2019/2020



PITCHES OUT OF BOUNDS

Club members are reminded that in line with the Government lockdown and IRFU directive, no rugby activity including training may take place on the club's pitches at present due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Stay home and keep safe.



Youth News continued...

Some activity has continued (safely) during the shutdown. A full jersey inventory has been completed and will be used to make sensible decisions about kit requirements for the upcoming season - hopefully we won't need hazmat suits!

Geraldine has kept the U15 Cash for Clobber running and one dressing room is filled to the rafters. Its still ongoing so if you have stuff you want to drop off contact Geraldine on TUE or THU, 09:30 - 13:30 on 086 1732711 to arrange drop off.



Minis News

We hope you are missing rugby as much as rugby is missing you! Some squads have managed to keep activities going and have been circulating videos and skills challenges among themselves. Others have been following along the IRFU Aviva Minis Skills Series which you can get at <https://www.irishrugby.ie/2020/05/12/irish-rugby-launches-video-series-of-family-friendly-games/> . A little birdie tells us Airt on the U10 squad saw a special rugby VIP visitor (socially distanced) on his birthday. And Gemma from U10/U12 Girls got to interview Johnny Sexton as part of the Laya SuperTroopers programme. Ever the club loyalists Gemma and her Dad were wearing Buccs gear and making us all proud. You can see the video here - <https://www.facebook.com/LayaHealthcare/posts/3141530002575461>

Over the coming weeks we are expecting a gradual return to some degree of permitted activity. Keep an eye on the club website for up-to-date information on Minis activities taking place at the club. We can't wait!



Tag and Touch

You are probably aware that the current date for resumption of full contact rugby is August 10. Other codes have provisionally been cleared to commence from July 20. The IRFU is currently seeking advice as to whether Tag and Touch rugby can resume at the same time as other codes, or whether these will also have to wait until August. We will commence Tag and Touch at the earliest possible opportunity, commensurate with government guidelines and good public health practices. Tag and Touch are minimal contact rugby codes that are played socially and competitively by adults and young people alike. It's a great way to engage in a team sport and build fitness. How about putting together a team from your workplace? Check the website and social channels for updates closer to the time, but it is never too early to arrange your team and start getting fit! For more information on **Tag** contact Yvonne on 086 048-8090, and for **Touch** contact Denis on 085 774-2751.



The new large capacity laundry bay at the club is up and running and available for use to the public 24/7



BREE MEAGHER

An Appreciation

There was a massive outpouring of grief and shock at the untimely passing of BREE MEAGHER, wife of recent past President of the club Dr. Tom Meagher. Bree was an energetic, willing and capable member of the club's ladies committee for numerous years. Her sons Justin and Stuart played for many seasons on various Buccs teams and she took immense pride in their on-field exploits. However, Bree was especially proud during Tom's season as President in 2017/18 when she was a tower of support to him.

Bree was also a keen golfer who had been ladies captain at Glasson Golf Club and was a valued trustee of Athlone Golf Club. She was also highly proficient at bridge which she played several times weekly.

An engaging conversationalist and a person who acknowledged the volunteerism by members of Buccaneers RFC, Bree will be greatly missed. It was fitting that there was a large turnout, socially distancing, providing a line of honour as her funeral cortege passed Dubarry Park.

Her loss will be greatest, of course, to her family, and the Executive Committee and members of Buccaneers RFC extend our heartfelt sympathy to Tom, sons Justin and Stuart, daughter Benita, their spouses and children and to their wider family and friends. May the Lord grant her eternal rest.