

IRFU Welcoming Clubs Programme



Old Belvedere Rugby Club Women's Section

Overview

During the last 8 years the Old Belvedere Women's programme has changed dramatically from a time when they contested well in AIL Division 1, with a major loss of players could only collect together 10 players to train, they chose to drop to the Leinster Development League to recruit new players, to their current situation of having over 60 players, three Internationals and plans are being developed for an u14, u16 and u18 team. This situation has been achieved through a combination of planning and hard work from the women involved. The club does have links to the main club through the use of facilities, some coaching, the provision of travel costs and kit, however, the Governance, recruitment and financial management is organised and delivered by the women.

Why do they believe that women play rugby?

The three main factors that encourage women to get involved in the game are a) the club ethos – they strive to create a social club which promotes good sportsmanship and team work b) fitness – there is an excellent gym at the club which is used by a majority of the players c) skills – they again strive to provide high quality coaching and get some coaching support from the main club.

How do they recruit players?

In the early days they used to run open days where there was a fun rugby session and a BBQ. In recent times they have targeted the Tag programme to attract new players, use social media (especially to attract individuals who move in Dublin from abroad) but above all they promote the social/fun aspect of the club around Dublin. (They have been into Dublin with T shirts promoting the club and distributing leaflets on weekends).

Fund Raising

The women mainly run fund raising events to raise money for their club which will go to pay for coaching, tape and the tour which is a major aspect of the club season. They are, however, being involved in more and more joint fund raising events (recently there was a White Collar Boxing event) which have been a great success.

The future

The women's section would like to become further integrated into the main club, have positions on the committees, receive coaching across their teams and play a full part in the development of the club. The progress they have made in the development of the game and the development of the International players benefits the main club as well as the women's section.

http://www.irishrugby.ie/club/welcomingclubs/welcoming_clubs_index.php

IRFU Welcoming Clubs Programme; An IRFU initiative which provides clubs with a road map and training for the "team off the field" to assist them in running their sports club as efficiently as possible.