

Members Update July 26 2018

This is to update all members of Newbridge Rugby Football Club on developments to our new Dressing Rooms and the Renovation of the inside of our Clubhouse.

Our Vice President Dave Ashe was tasked with applying for funding from the Department of Tourism, Transport & Sport (Lotto Grant). We were awarded 51k at the end of November 2017. The Committee then appointed Dave to drive the project for the extension of the Clubhouse and its internal Renovation.

Sean McCann and Tom Treacy were brought on board and this Sub-Committee have been pursuing the matter with Dave Ashe since then. The professional expertise of an Engineer (Bryan Wallace) and a Chartered Fire Engineer (Eamon O'Boyle) were hired. Kevin Coughlan (Architect) has been a major contributor to the effort also. Several meetings were held throughout with various groups. Finance was considered critical, and an application went in to the IRFU for loan funding. Sean, Dave and our Treasurer Enda Bohan were interviewed by the IRFU Finance Committee in Dublin and we were awarded funding to be paid back at preferential rates over 10 years.

Other elements like Planning Permission had to be renewed, our Trustees had to be officially registered and tenders were sent out to six local builders. One builder was picked, after formal assessment, but he later withdrew from the project. This factor slowed down the process by 5 weeks.

We then went into discussion with the remaining builders. A new Waste Water and Effluent System was mentioned in the Planning Permission and when fully clarified it transpired to be a key factor as it proved to be very costly. The Environment Protection Agency is insistent on a new system going in even though our current one works well.

So as can be imagined there are several dimensions to the project. One of the key ones is the fact that our members do not need to be discommoded by the project. To this end we have hired the Green Road facility from the Department of Defence. It was part of the Curragh Rugby Club before amalgamation with Old Kilcullen from which Newbridge Rugby Club emerged. It has 2 pitches, dressing rooms and showers. Back at Rosetown when the building gets going the pitches, bar area, kitchen, toilets and a slightly reduced car park will all still be available to members. At the beginning of the building process the 2 Portacabins will be moved to the area immediately behind the clubhouse showers and can be used as Dressing Rooms for a few months.

So, our target date of a start on 01 June went by as did our next target date of 01 July due to the delays. On the 24th July the Club Executive Committee appointed John Nolan of Greenroad Building & Maintenance Ltd., Newbridge as the builder. They also decided to drive ahead now with the project. The builder will be on site shortly. We expect the work to be completed within 3 months. The project will cost more than 200k. This funding will come from funds we have saved of 50k, the Lotto Grant of 51K and an IRFU loan of 100K. It is therefore important that all members now support our Buy-A-Brick campaign which is currently under way in order to fund the excess payments.

The new development will have 2 new spacious dressing rooms with showers, a Disability Room and a Referees Room. In the Clubhouse we will have a gym and the current dressing rooms will be extended with a shower area. External to the Clubhouse will be the 2 Portacabins which will be used as Maintenance Stores.

The completion of this project will another positive step in the club's development.