



Dear Parents

As you know, currently the **Blackbrook Royals** meet the costs of fielding teams through fundraising; however we have recently been approached by the committee from the **Blackbrook Recreation Club** who need us to assist in meeting the costs of maintaining the playing fields, floodlights, the use of changing rooms and showers. It is yet to be decided how this cost will be met, either through **Blackbrook Recreation Club** charging a fee *independently* of the **Royals** or by billing us directly. As a result this will adversely affect the **Royals** ability to fund raise / meet costs. I should point out that **Blackbrook Royals** and **Blackbrook Recreation Club** are run independently of each other.

As a result the **Royals** committee have decided to set a working group to look at:
1) How we continue generate income? 2) How we will meet any new costs? 3) How we will implement change or 4) whether the current funding ethos, i.e.: non discriminatory, every child can play for free irrespective of their background.

As such I would be grateful if you would take the time to complete the below questionnaire as this is your chance to have YOUR say.

1. What encouraged you to select Blackbrook Royals for your child to play rugby?
(please tick **any** of the options)
 - a. It is local to where we live ☐
 - b. I was attracted to the 'no fees' ethos ☐
 - c. The reputation of the club ☐
 - d. Recommendation Family/ Friend ☐
2. The Royals need to raise a *minimum* £15,000 a year to keep afloat. With that in mind which of the following options do you prefer? (Please tick)
 - a. Continue to support and engage in fundraising events ☐
 - b. Pay Monthly subscriptions ☐ (See FAQ 5 on the reverse)
3. If you have selected 2b, what do you consider to be a reasonable amount to pay per month? (please tick)
 - a. £10 ☐ £12 ☐ £15 ☐
4. If subscription were introduced, the Royals would still like to introduce quarterly fundraising events, focusing on enjoyment, community engagement and pride in your club. (Easter Egg, Bake off, Bonfire Night etc) Would you still be willing to participate in these?

Yes ☐ No ☐
5. I urge you to read the Frequently Asked Questions on the rear to get a sense of the importance of this issue. Please use the free space below to add your comments and views to assist the working party to map out the way forward for the Blackbrook Royals, ie What other options are there?

Area of Residence: e.g. Blackbrook, Haydock etc.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q1) Why don't we pay subscriptions?

A1) The Blackbrook Royals was founded over forty years ago; one of the founding principles was that no child would have to pay to play rugby at the club. The Royals committee strive to keep to this principle that said, the cost of running the club is around £15000 per year and we aim to meet this cost through fundraising. We are not a business and do not look to make a profit, we simply aim to meet the running costs, something we are falling short of at the moment.

Q2) So what is causing the current problem?

A2) This is two fold, the **Recreation Club** now require additional contributions as detailed in the introduction. This is estimated at a further £4000, therefore more fundraising would be required, however, it has been disappointing that over the past months less and less parents are willing to support our fundraising efforts. At the moment a small group of people are putting a lot of effort into the fundraising activities whilst others sit back and don't get involved at all. If there is no improvement in player / parent participation in fundraising then the likely consequences are that the committee will have to look at ways of saving money, ultimately this would lead to shrinkage in the number of teams that we currently field and revert to playing only one team per age group.

Q3) Other than generating revenue at these fundraising events what do we get out of it?

A3) Firstly, your child would not be able to play at one of the leading Junior / ARLFC clubs in the country because we would not exist. Secondly, there is a willingness to create a community spirit across all aspects of the Blackbrook Royals. These events allow players, coaches, parents & siblings to feel some pride of ownership, what better way is there to support their local rugby club in helping raise funds that benefits us all.

Q4) What issues do subscriptions bring?

A4) It may appear, because so many other clubs collect subscriptions that introducing them should be straightforward! We, the Royals don't own the Club or Pitches; therefore we have never had to implement it before. By doing so do would we lose even more of the community spirit that has helped keep the club afloat? Would there be a total lack of willingness to engage in other events? How do we legislate for those in a less fortunate financial position? How and who will administer it? Other issues are, what do the subscriptions cover? Playing Kit, Winter Training Venues? Rugby Equipment?

A detailed 'Policy' would have to be outlined covering what the introduction of subscription would entail.

Thank You Anthony Ford – Chair Blackbrook Royals