

BECTIVE RANGERS FC

Yearbook 2025/2026



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BECTIVE RANGERS FC

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JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT	Paul Hatton
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HON. TREASURER	Andrea Mathews
CLUB DIRECTOR	Declan Lawler
DIRECTOR OF ORGANISATION	Jim Dwyer & Conor Murphy
RUGBY COUNCIL	Fergus Flanagan, Ben Kealy, Declan Lawler, Ben Manion & Steve McGettigan
CLUB CAPTAIN	Matthew Gilsenan
HON. FIXTURE SECRETARY	Cian Flanagan
REP TO LEINSTER BRANCH IRFU	Fergus Flanagan

NEARY'S

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BECTIVE PRESIDENT'S

Jimmy White
Club President 2025/ 2026

It is truly a great honour for me to represent Bective Rangers F.C. as your President for the season 2025/26.

As we approach our 150th anniversary in 2031, it is fair to say that Bective is currently 'flying' and doing our great history and tradition in Irish Rugby proud. The 2024/25 season just gone was hugely successful and a true milestone in the club's recent history. Leinster League Division 1A Champions, All-Ireland Junior League and Cup Champions, Spencer Cup Champions and AIL Play-Off Final Winners sees the club return to the Energia All-Ireland League for the first time since 2017/2018. This success allied to O'Connor Cup and Under 14's Metro Cup wins underline the strength of rugby at all levels within the club. Congratulations and huge thanks to our outgoing, pennant and cup-laden President John Bolger, to Ben Kealy and his fellow Rugby Council members and all involved for providing a great rugby season for everyone in the club while also giving us all a tough act to follow!

Returning to the AIL and achieving one of the 5 core principles from our Strategic Plan is testament to the ability, dedication and hard work of our coaching team of Head Coach Ben Mannion, Forwards Coach Peter O'Donnell, Backs Coach Rory O'Loughlin and Captain Tiarnan McCloskey. Thank you to your backroom team and indeed your players for giving us such a roller coaster experience over the past season. We may miss our highly competitive but ever friendly local derbies and rivalry with Seapoint, Suttonians, Tullow and others in the Leinster League, but we now look forward to 'hitting the road' eager to renew old friendships and on field tussles with Monkstown, Malahide, Belfast Harlequins, Ballyclare, Clonmel, Midleton, Dolphin, Thomond and Bruff. Ben and his team set the bar high last season, delivered great success and now set their sights on winning Division 2C this season.....hopefully, we will get to hear Ben belt out another (out of tune) victory song this year!

Ben's right hand man in the club and on the pitch for the coming year is our new Club Captain Matthew Gilsenan.

Hearty congratulations to Mattie on what is a great honour for both him and his family. I know he will be a great leader and ambassador for the club both on and off the pitch. I hope he really enjoys his year, keeps up the winning ways and above all keeps his number one fan Nana Phil as proud as ever!

Rugby ambition is led in Bective by our 1st team in this light, but we are very proud to embrace a 'One Club' policy whereby participation and success for the club spans across skillsets and generations equally important and universally valued. In this light, we are very proud of our Minis and Youths section which holds its own in Leinster in terms of participation, structures and standards in coaching and enjoyment. Sunday mornings in Donnybrook truly herald the bright future of Bective. Our Under 20's with Head Coach Dave McAllister and our valued relationship with Technological University Dublin are another key component of our rugby development and Strategic Plan. This team played some fantastic rugby last year and it was terrific to see them enjoying the camaraderie and fun that epitomises rugby both on and off the pitch. Our 2nds, who have enjoyed unrivaled success in recent years as quadruple Leinster League 1A J2 champions, had a tough year last year and now face the challenge that is 'Sunday rugby'. Hopefully, they will rearrange their social lives, embrace 'The Tommy Tiernan Show' and return to winning ways in the coming season. Our Junior section, which has always been the heart and soul of the club, have gone from strength to strength in recent years. Their tough, never say die O'Connor Cup Final and the celebrations afterwards showcased Junior rugby in Bective, and fingers crossed a 3rd Junior team may even be on the horizon. Our Vets team round out the picture and stand unique in being both for retiring players and fresh but not too young blood looking for both rugby and fun! I wish all our teams continued enjoyment and success for the coming season. May you wear the Bective jersey with pride and stay safe and well on the pitch.

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Bective needs volunteers! They are the essence and the lifeblood of our club and act as the custodians of tradition, the key drivers of progress and the upholders of standards. As a club, we understand that to be both successful and sustainable into the future, it is important to acknowledge the voluntary work and commitment that our members give and to ensure that they contribute to the club in a role that they enjoy and only for as long as they enjoy that role! As President, I would like to thank most sincerely our pitch side volunteers: the coaches, managers, kit teams, physios, players, subs, and referees who turn up every week, whatever the weather, or the circumstances. Off the pitch, we are also extremely lucky to have a highly competent and dedicated backroom team from our Trustees, Executive Committee and Management Team to our Project Teams, Working Groups and individual volunteers, not forgetting our brilliant professional staff of Mark, Valerie, Andrea and Louis supported by Sharon and the team. Thank you all for your continued spirit, effort, and dedication.

Managing and sustaining our financial resources is always a struggle and a balancing act and for the coming year we must recognise and plan for the additional and unavoidable cost of participating in the AIL. Against this background, we are delighted to acknowledge the welcome and continued support of Snow Technology as our main sponsor for the coming season. Indeed, a big thanks is also due to all our Corporate Sponsors, supporters of our Yearbook, our "Your Club, Your Country Draw", our golf day and the attendees at our Corporate and match day lunches, our members and their guests. Your continued support is key to our ongoing success and your importance to the club is greatly appreciated and never underestimated. Thank you all!

On behalf of the club I would like to give a special thanks to the outgoing members of your Executive committee Mick Shalloe as ex Officio President and Shane Comer as Honorary Memberships Secretary. A special mention is also due to our former President and expert on all things legal Mark McParland who is retiring. Thank you Mark for all your hard work for Bective over the years. Our thanks are also due to Richie Maybury and his wife Aoife for their Trojan work with our Minis and Youths over the last number of years, which stands testament to their vision, passion and commitment to the development of rugby in Bective. Richie moves on to the position of Senior Vice President, while I hope Aoife enjoys a well-earned rest!

I would also like to offer hearty congratulations to Bective's Lions team 'connections' who made history this summer in Australia namely Dan Sheehan, Ronan

Kelleher, Hugo Keenan, Jamie Osborne and Johnny Sexton. You and your families must be so proud of your great achievements.

On a personal level, I would also like to acknowledge the support, help and guidance that I have received from our Immediate Past President John Bolger, our Club Chair Steve McGettigan and all our hard-working Executive. Keeping me on the straight and narrow is never straightforward, but I am looking forward to both the banter and slagging from my soul mates, the Dollies and the quiet council from my newest best friends, the Past Presidents. With everyone's help, I hope to be a worthy President of Bective Rangers in its 145th year, a president for everyone in the club, a suitable ambassador at all our matches and functions over the coming year and above all, to lead by example.

As we begin a new season let us not forget our members and friends who passed away over the past season. May we never forget them and may they always be with us in spirit, Ar Dheis De go raibh a n-anamacha.

In Bective, we pride ourselves on our welcome and that 'our gate is always open, and our fire is always lit'. It is against that background that on behalf of the club, I would like to wish our Donnybrook family: Bective Tennis Club, Old Wesley Rugby Club and the Leinster Branch continued success and to extend a heartfelt welcome to all our new members and visitors to Donnybrook over the coming year. Whether renewing old friendships or making new ones, I hope you enjoy a great time, have fond memories and always leave smiling.

To our visiting teams and supporters, I hope you enjoy your visit to Bective. Let's hope the rugby is good and played in the right spirit. Let's respect the referee and their assistant referees and above all, let's hope the players play safe and leave safe.

Bective is on a roll, with the club full of positivity and vitality. Let's enjoy the coming season. Come out to our home games or if you are feeling more energetic, make a trip to one of our away games. Come to a function, dinner or match day lunch or just join us for a drink and a catch up in the bar. You would be more than welcome to our Men's Shed, who meet in our recently refurbished clubhouse every Thursday at lunchtime or if you prefer, join us for golf, a cycle or even just a ramble. Support means everything to the coaches, the teams and the club. And you will always enjoy a day in Bective catching up with friends!

Yours in Rugby,
Jimmy White
President Bective Rangers F.C. 2025-2026





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IRFU RUGBY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. John O'Driscoll
President, IRFU

It gives me great pleasure to write to you for the first time in the capacity of President of the Irish Rugby Football Union for the upcoming season, 2025/26.

Following on from the hugely successful celebratory 150th year, I hope our 151st season will be equally memorable. I am greatly looking forward to representing Irish Rugby at home and abroad over the coming 12 months. I would like to extend my sincere thanks and best wishes to the outgoing President, Declan Madden, who had a great year.

Our 150th year certainly did not disappoint. It was a season filled with many memorable moments, both on and off the field. None of this would have been possible without the tireless dedication of volunteers across every Club and school in the country. To all who give their time and energy to our game, please accept my heartfelt thanks. The role that these volunteers play at every level in Ireland is unique. The strength of the direct link they provide from the clubs through the provinces and to national level is what sets us apart from other countries and must be maintained.

I am pleased to see that the strategy for Rugby in Ireland, published last year, continues to guide the Union's priorities. A recent review of the All-Ireland League has helped ensure that our flagship amateur competition remains vibrant and competitive.

Accelerating the growth of the Women's game remains one of our central strategic objectives. The season is now beginning with the Women's World Cup in England which is generating great excitement. We have a very talented and well prepared team and we all wish them every success in this adventure.

We are also indebted to the wide family of Irish Rugby sponsors whose continued commitment enables us to support Clubs, competitions, and representative teams. Their backing ensures that Irish Rugby remains strong at grassroots level while competing proudly on the world stage.

A new season always brings new challenges, new opportunities, and renewed energy. I am greatly looking forward to visiting Clubs and engaging with players, volunteers, and supporters across the country in the year ahead.

As we embark on this season together, I would encourage all involved in the game to uphold the Spirit of Rugby values— Respect, Integrity, Inclusivity, Excellence & Fun. This respect must be for teammates, opponents, coaches, match officials, and all who make our sport possible. By living these values, both on and off the pitch, we ensure that rugby remains a game for all

With every good wish for a rewarding and enjoyable season.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John O'Driscoll

President IRFU 2025/26



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LEINSTER RUGBY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Moira Flahive

As President of Leinster Rugby, I am honoured to be afforded this opportunity to wish the Members, Supporters and Friends of Bective Rangers FC all the very best that our game of rugby has to offer for the 2025/2026 season.

I would like to begin by congratulating your President Jimmy White, on his appointment. I would like to wish him, along with your Club Chairman Steve McGettigan, your Club Captain Matthew Gilsean, and everyone associated with Bective Rangers FC every success for the year ahead.

The presence and participation of every constituent member is the lifeblood of a rugby club. Whether you are a player, manager, coach, club official, social member, or club follower I would encourage you to support your club in every way possible this season. Bective Rangers FC heads into the 2025/2026 season on the back of some marvellous successes last year, which saw your club crowned Spencer Cup Champions, Leinster League Division 1A Champions, All-Ireland Junior Cup Champions, All-Ireland Provincial League Champions, winners of the O'Connor Cup and not forgetting, of course, the win by BLR Rugby in the Leinster Metro Invitational Boys U-14 Cup!

All of the victories and development cannot take place without player numbers and the fostering of player development. Sustainability is a common tag word in the world today and it applies equally to rugby. The more our player numbers increase, the sharper into focus comes the retention of those players up through the club ranks. Endeavouring to retain the players who have taken up and play the game of rugby is the surest way to foster continuing and sustainable growth from the ground up.

There are countless ways to stay involved in rugby. Primarily, rugby is a players' game. If you are finishing up at U20s, don't stop playing, integrate into the rest of your club by playing at another level. If you are nearing the end of your playing career, look for

another way to keep the boots on. By fostering a sense of player continuity and retention, all ships in your club will rise.

If you are nearing the end of your playing days or if you never played at all, look for other ways to get involved, and stay involved, in your club. No club will ever say that they have too many volunteers!

One way to stay involved and, indeed, give back to the game is to pick up the whistle. With numbers playing the game in Leinster at an all-time high and continuing to grow, more match officials are required to facilitate the playing of more matches. The ARLB, under President Brendan Conroy, will be delighted to provide you with training and mentoring throughout your refereeing journey.

It goes without saying that respect is a core value of Rugby and one which differentiates it from other sports. We cannot take this for granted. It behoves us all to preserve this core value of our game and I would ask all players, coaches and supporters to respect our match officials, your opposition and yourselves throughout the season. I would ask that you do all that you can to maintain the good reputation of your club as a welcoming club for all.

We look forward with excitement and anticipation to the season ahead. Whether it be volunteering with your minis programme, cheering on your first XV or the Leinster Men and Women, we will be out in numbers, in clubs and schools across the province, in Energia Park, in the Aviva Stadium, in Croke Park, supporting rugby in Leinster at every level.

In conclusion, may I wish you a successful, enjoyable, fun-filled, action-packed season and I look forward to meeting many of you along the way.

Yours in Rugby

Moira Flahive
President, Leinster Rugby 2025/2026



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FIXTURES

First XV - All Ireland League Division 2C

Ballyclare	Bective Rangers	Belfast Harlequins	Bruff	Clonmel
Dolphin	Malahide	Midleton	Monkstown	

2025

Date	Time	Home	v	Away
Sat 27 th Sept	14:30	Thomond	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 4 th Oct	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Midleton
Sat 11 th Oct	14:30	Bruff	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 25 th Oct	15:00	Bective Rangers	v	Monkstown
Sat 1 st Nov	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Ballyclare
Sat 15 th Nov	14:30	Dolphin	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 29 th Nov	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Malahide
Sat 6 th Dec	14:30	Belfast Harlequins	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 13 th Dec	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Clonmel

2026

Date	Time	Home	v	Away
Sat 10 th Jan	14:30	Clonmel	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 24 th Jan	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Belfast Harlequins
Sat 31 st Jan	PP	Malahide	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 7 th Feb	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Dolphin
Sat 21 st Feb	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Malahide
Sat 28 th Feb	14:30	Ballyclare	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 7 th March	14:30	Monkstown	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 21 st March	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Bruff
Sat 28 th March	14:30	Midleton	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 4 th April	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Thomond

2nd XV - Leinster Metro League - Premier 2

Bective Rangers	Enniscorthy	Greystones	Naas
Navan	Malahide	Skerries	Wanderers

2025

Date	Time	Home	v	Away
Sun 28 th Sept	15:00	Naas	v	Bective Rangers
Sun 12 th Oct	15:00	Bective Rangers	v	Greystones
Sat 18 th Oct	14:30	Enniscorthy	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 25 th Oct	13:00	Bective Rangers	v	Monkstown
Sun 2 nd Nov	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Navan
Sun 9 th Nov	14:30	Skerries	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 29 th Nov	13:00	Bective Rangers	v	Malahide
Sun 7 th Dec	14:30	Wanderers	v	Bective Rangers

2026

Date	Time	Home	v	Away
Fri 9 th Jan	20:00	Bective Rangers	v	Wanderers
Sun 18 th Jan	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Naas
Sun 1 st Feb	15:00	Greystones	v	Bective Rangers
Sun 8 th Feb	15:00	Skerries	v	Bective Rangers

3rd XV - Metro League - Divs 8 & 9 - Phase 1 - Group C

Bective Rangers	De La Salle Palmerston	Dublin Dogos	Lansdowne
Monkstown	Portlaoise	RCSI	

2025

Date	Time	Home	v	Away
Sat 27 th Sept	15:00	Bective Rangers	v	Lansdowne
Sat 11 th Oct	15:00	RCSI	v	Bective Rangers
Fri 17 th Oct	20:00	Bective Rangers	v	De La Salle Palmerstown
Sat 1 st Nov	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Monkstown
Sat 8 th Nov	14:30	Portlaoise	v	Bective Rangers
Sun 11 th Jan	14:30	Dublin Dogos	v	Bective Rangers

2026				
Date	Time	Home	v	Away
Fri 9 th Jan	20:00	Bective Rangers	v	Wanderers
Sun 18 th Jan	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Naas
Sun 1 st Feb	15:00	Greystones	v	Bective Rangers
Sun 8 th Feb	15:00	Skerries	v	Bective Rangers

4th XV - Metro League - Div 10

Bective Rangers	Clontarf	Dublin University	Midland Warriors
MU Barnhall	Portarlington	Railway Union	UCD

2025

Date	Time	Home	v	Away
Sat 27 th Sept	15:00	Portarlington	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 11 th Oct	15:00	Bective Rangers	v	Clontarf
Sat 18 th Oct	13:00	MU Barnhall	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 1 st Nov	14:30	UCD	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 15 th Nov	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	Railway Union
Sat 22 nd Nov	14:30	Midland Warriors	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 6 th Dec	14:00	Bective Rangers	v	Dublin University
Sun 13 th Dec	14:00	Bective Rangers	v	Portarlington

2026

Date	Time	Home	v	Away
Sat 10 th Jan	14:30	Clontarf	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 17 th Jan	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	MU Barnhall
Sat 24 th Jan	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	UCD
Sat 7 th Feb	15:00	Railway Union	v	Bective Rangers
Sat 28 th Feb	15:00	Bective Rangers	v	Midland Warriors
Sat 7 th Mar	15:00	Dublin University	v	Bective Rangers

U20 - JP Fanagan (U20) - Premier 3

Bective Rangers	Clontarf	MU Barnhall	Sharks
St Marys College 2	University of Galway	Wicklow	Vikings

2025

Date	Time	Home	v	Away
Sun 12 th Oct	15:00	St Marys College 2	v	Bective Rangers
Fri 17 th Oct	20:00	Bective Rangers	v	Clontarf
Sun 2 nd Nov	14:30	University of Galway	v	Bective Rangers
Sun 9 th Nov	14:30	UCD	v	Bective Rangers
Sun 23 rd Nov	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	MU Barnhall
Sun 30 th Nov	14:30	Vikings	v	Bective Rangers
Sun 7 th Dec	14:00	Bective Rangers	v	Sharks

2026

Date	Time	Home	v	Away
Sun 18 th Jan	14:30	Bective Rangers	v	St Marys College 2
Sun 25 th Jan	14:30	Clontarf	v	Bective Rangers
Sun 1 st Feb	15:00	Bective Rangers	v	University of Galway
Sun 15 th Feb	15:00	Bective Rangers	v	Wicklow
Sun 22 nd Feb	15:00	MU Barnhall	v	Bective Rangers
Sun 1 st Mar	15:00	Bective Rangers	v	Vikings
Sun 8 th Mar	15:00	Sharks	v	Bective Rangers



CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

Matthew Gilsenan

Dear Bective Rangers Members and Supporters, it truly is a great honour to be Captain of Bective for the upcoming 25/26 season.

It would be remiss of me not to firstly reflect on last season, in what was the most successful season in the history of the club and the club returning to where it belongs with senior status. A season that promised so much, and a season that we had all been waiting for, finally came to fruition. It was truly special to be part of and it would not have happened without the support and tireless work of so many people. From the supporters, coaches, management and the team, I think we can all agree we will look back on last season with extreme fondness and memories for a lifetime. Let's hope the 25/26 season adds another chapter to the book.

When I rejoined Bective in 2022, the very first thing that I noticed was the unwavering support from everyone involved in the club, and in particular our supporters. Win, lose or draw, the supporters were there, creating a tunnel to cheer the team off the pitch - this certainly does not go unnoticed by the players, and it is very much appreciated. I am sure the supporters would agree, there has been many a headache and heartache over the last few seasons, but the support has been unwavering and, if anything, it has become stronger as the years went by. Let's hope we can give you more to cheer about this coming season!

They say great people make great teams and Bective is a perfect example of this. I would like to firstly acknowledge my teammates who consistently show up and give their all. Over the years we have become a close group and it is great to see so many lads back for the coming season. I would also like to welcome all new players and we hope to make your Bective experience as good as ours has been.

What you see on the pitch is only half of the operation. From the coaching team, Ben, Rory, Pete, Titapu and Ben, we have 5 exceptional coaches that have really slotted in seamlessly to the set-up. If we are lucky, we

might even see Rory toggling out for a game in the business end of the season (watch this space!). I would also like to thank our incredibly committed management team, Rats, Manuel, Eamon, as well as Sean and our Strength & Conditioning team. Ben Kealy pulls the strings behind the scenes and the jury is out on whether the man actually sleeps. A special thanks also goes to the Executive as well for all of their continued support and I would like to wish Jimmy White all the best for the coming season.

The club is in a very good place and it is great to see so many teams lining out. Our J1 team is consistently successful and under the new stewardship of David (Lost Mary) Kealy, I have no doubt silverware is forthcoming. Our thirds and fourths are also thriving and definitely have the most craic in the club. We also now have an U20s team for the second consecutive year, which is a huge step forward. I wish them all the success in the coming season.

It takes a whole club humming to win trophies and we certainly have that here in Bective.

On a personal note, I joined Bective as a Mini over 20 years ago. To be asked to be Captain and represent the team is a massive honour. Bective is in my family and the club's biggest supporter is my one and only Nana (Phil MacMahon (Hardy))- for those of you that don't know her, she is 90 years young and has not missed a match in 4 years and she is the one that won't stop shouting on the sideline!

The team can't wait to get stuck into the season and we are all looking forward to what's ahead. The club is thriving, and we are keen to double down on the success. Win, lose or draw, I hope to see you in the bar at some stage during the season where the ever efficient and smiling Mark and Sharon will be waiting with open arms!

Best wishes,
Matthew Gilsenan

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HEAD COACH'S MESSAGE

Ben Manion

As we excitedly look ahead to Bective's long awaited return to the All-Ireland League for the 25/26 season, it's important to take a moment to reflect on what an incredible journey we've had together. Last season was nothing short of remarkable, filled with hard fought victories, unforgettable moments, and a bond that strengthened with every game.

The dedication, hard work and passion for the game of the players, coaches, management and supporters alike, have been the driving force behind our success. Together we faced challenges head-on, learned from every experience and grew stronger as a club. To win every trophy available to the senior team is a milestone that will long be remembered.

As we prepare for the upcoming season, let's carry forward the lessons learned and the camaraderie that defines Bective Rangers FC. We must set our sights higher, push our limits, and continue to strive for excellence as we now aim again for promotion and ascending the AIL ladder.

To David McAlister (U20's) and Shane Comer & Stephen Fox (Juniors), congratulations on your outstanding work in 24/25 and I look forward to working closely with you all again this season to build upon the strong foundations that have been embedded.

Peter O'Donnell, Rory O'Loughlin and I are incredibly proud to lead such a talented and committed group of coaches and players. Each one contributing uniquely to our success, and I have no doubt that together we will do everything in our power to write another chapter of triumph in the history of Bective Rangers.

Here's to a season filled with new opposition to overcome, victories to celebrate, and memories to cherish. Our collective challenge is to make this upcoming season better than the last.

Yours in Rugby,
Ben Manion



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We would like to wish all the players at Bective Rangers FC best wishes for this season and the future.



DAVID O'DONNELL
Partner, Corporate
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VETS (OVER 35'S) RUGBY AT BECTIVE RANGERS FC



A proud legacy of rugby excellence, camaraderie, and a continued commitment to the sport we love. The Bective Rangers FC Veterans (the over-35's rugby team of the Bective Rangers Rugby Football Club - the "Vets") have persisted in our mission to continue playing rugby, whilst fostering lifelong friendships, and promoting the values of rugby – respect, integrity, and fun. As always with age comes not only wisdom but also a strong sense of community that the Vets bring to the club by gathering former and current players over the age of 35 for competitive yet friendly matches, social events, and a shared love for the game. The 2024/25 Season: Once again the Vets had another busy

season running alongside the main activities of Bective, highlights included: October 2024 – The Vets played against the veterans from local rivals Old Wesley December 2024 – Pre-Christmas Vets match against St Mary's Vets April 2025 – The Fox Cup where the Vets were joined by veteran teams from Old Wesley, St. Mary's, Lansdowne, and the eventual winners Clontarf. The highlight of the day for most was the chance of playing against former Ireland and Leinster second row Devin Toner. Devin was a true gentleman and took the time to join many players and their supporters in photographs May 2025 – The Vets played the French touring side from Rugby Club Paris Join the Bective Veterans:

A proud legacy of rugby excellence, camaraderie, and a continued commitment to the sport we love. The Bective Rangers FC Veterans (the over-35's rugby team of the Bective Rangers Rugby Football Club - the "Vets") have persisted in our mission to continue playing rugby, whilst fostering lifelong friendships, and promoting the

values of rugby – respect, integrity, and fun. As always with age comes not only wisdom but also a strong sense of community that the Vets bring to the club by gathering former and current players over the age of 35 for competitive yet friendly matches, social events, and a shared love for the game. The 2024/25 Season:



WINNERS 1XV

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INAUGURAL PAUL “SQUIRREL” REGAN TROPHY

At the Seapoint Pre-Match Lunch on 15th February 2025, the family of our esteemed past Honorary Treasurer, the late Paul (Squirrel) Regan presented a beautiful silver trophy to the club which is to be presented every season to the Bective 3XV 'Junior Player of the Year'.

Paul's sister Helen spoke fondly about her dear late brother and how Bective was such a big part of his life. Vice President Jimmy White thanked both Helen and sister Ann for their kind gesture and he confirmed how much Squirrel is still very sadly missed by everyone here in Bective.

It was therefore fitting that on the 26th April 2025, the day the 3XV won the O'Connor Cup, beating Lansdown in the final, that Helen and Ann were at the club to present the inaugural "Paul (Squirrel) Regan Trophy" to the Junior Player of the Year, Kevin Maher.

Congratulations to Kevin on a great season!



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O P E L

MINI'S RUGBY REVIEW

Mini Rugby Season 2024/2025

The 2024/25 Mini rugby season was one to remember, packed with action, growth, camaraderie, and a healthy dose of silverware. From the youngest U6s taking their first steps on the pitch to our U18.5s continuing to lead by example, every age group contributed to a brilliant season that truly showcased the spirit and strength of our rugby community.

Throughout the year, players across all age grades developed their skills and deepened their love of the game. The U6 to U8 groups showed boundless enthusiasm at training and home blitzes, laying solid foundations for the years ahead. Our U9s had a fantastic trip to Ballyclare, enjoying their first taste of rugby on the road. The U10s continued the touring tradition, heading to Wicklow and enjoying a fun-filled day at Clara Lara, combining rugby and adventure in equal measure.

The U11s took things international, traveling to Valencia for their season tour — a highlight filled with sun, culture, and competitive rugby. Not to be outdone, the U12s visited Toulouse, where they experienced top-level rugby culture in the heart of France. The U13s enjoyed a memorable tour to Biarritz, further deepening their bond as a squad and gaining valuable match experience abroad. A particular highlight of the season was the outstanding performance by our U14s (Bective/Lansdowne) rugby team. They clinched the Youth Cup in a thrilling campaign, demonstrating their grit and skill throughout the tournament. Although they narrowly missed out on the league title in

the final, their resilience and teamwork were inspirational. Their efforts brought home well-earned silverware and set a high standard for the younger age groups. Our U6/U7s also brought home silverware at the Kieran Burke Festival in DLSP — this was an absolutely brilliant achievement. The U14s capped off their stellar season with a tour to Portugal, where they represented the club brilliantly both on and off the field. Meanwhile, our older Youth teams continued to train and support the younger Minis. A special moment came late in the season when the U17s regrouped for the end of season friendlies. Some of our former Mini's had been part of the victorious St. Michael's Junior Cup team — Herbie Boyle, Oliver Maybury, and Harry McCafferty. It was a proud reminder of how far our players can go. Our End of Season Day, held a little later than usual this year, brought everyone together to celebrate a truly successful campaign. Mini players were delighted to receive their medals from members of the club's First XV, who also posed for photos with the children and our hard-earned trophies. The presence of Leinster and Ireland star Jack Boyle added to the excitement, making the day even more special for all involved.

As always, none of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of our coaches and volunteers. Their dedication, energy, and passion continue to drive our Mini rugby section forward year after year. All in all, 2024/25 has been a season of progress, fun, and pride and we can't wait to do it all again next year!



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BECTIVE RANGERS FC

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2028

Our Mission, Values, Vision

Our clearly stated Mission for Bective is:

‘To build a vibrant and ambitious rugby club at the heart of our community which honours our unique history.’

This should be built around our core values of:

‘Respect, Integrity, Inclusivity, Enjoyment, Competitiveness and Sustainability’.

This in turn provides a clear Vision for Bective’s future:

‘To be the club of choice within our region, welcoming and supportive for anyone regardless of age, ability, experience or background, fostering a bond that lasts a lifetime’.

Bective Rangers - A Club for All

The 5 Key Themes which consistently emerged from our Seeding and Harvesting Events, focus groups, qualitative interviews, and general discussions are as follows:

1. The importance for Bective to remain an open, friendly, and welcoming club.
2. That as a club we must safeguard the sustainable management of our Physical, Financial and Human Resources.
3. That as a rugby club we embrace and ensure a one club policy enabling clear progression for coaches and players from Minis to Youths to Under 20’s, Junior, Senior, Vets or indeed any other position within the club.
4. That we acknowledge the Under 20’s as a key component and enabler of our club structure.
5. That as a rugby club regaining A.I.L status is a core rugby goal.

These themes provide the key building blocks for Bective’s future. They are built on our Vision, Mission, and Values and can rely on our robust management structure to deliver them and our overall Strategic Plan.

Our Management Structure

1. **Executive Committee**
The key decision-making committee within the club is responsible for setting club strategy and overseeing club policy.
2. **Trustees and Past Presidents**
Their experiential knowledge operates in an informal but valued manner.
3. **Management Team**
Delegated with the ‘Day to Day’ running of the club. These are the effective officers of the club and report into the Executive.
4. **Working Groups**
Formed organically within the club and remain fundamental to our plan: Communications, Memberships, Minis & Youths, Junior Rugby and Under 20’s.
5. **Project Teams**
Formed from our Seeding events to assist in the areas of Rugby Ambition, Clubhouse, Branding, Community, Finance & Sponsorship and Governance. Each with an independent chair and reporting to a dedicated member of the Executive Committee.
6. **Professional Staff**
Professional Staff both on and off the field

The Future

June 5th 2024 saw the launch of our plan and tributes paid to all who have been involved along the way.

However, it should not take credit for the vibrancy, innovation and general excitement that now exists within the club as that is down to our incredibly talented and engaged volunteers, players, and professional staff.

Neither is it intended to be a one stop shop to solve all Bective’s current and future problems.

Rather it should be a focussed living document, subject to constant change to provide Bective and Bective members with clear goals, and clear roles within a clear structure.



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AS MEMBERS OF BECTIVE:

We recognise the importance of remaining an open, friendly, and welcoming club

We commit to safeguarding the sustainable management of our Physical, Financial and Human Resources

We embrace a one-club policy enabling clear progression for coaches and players from Minis to Youths to Under 20's, Junior, Senior, Vets or indeed any other position within the club

We acknowledge the importance of our Under 20's as a key component and enabler of our club structure

We are steadfast that as a rugby club regaining ALL status is our core rugby goal

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BECTIVE RANGERS STRATEGIC PLAN OUR MISSION, VALUES AND VISION

Our Mission

To build a vibrant and ambitious rugby club at the heart of our community which honours our unique history

Our Values

Respect, Integrity, Inclusivity, Enjoyment, Competitiveness and Sustainability

Our Vision

To be the club of choice within our region, welcoming and supportive for anyone regardless of age, ability, experience or background, fostering a bond that lasts a lifetime



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IN REMEMBRANCE

Gerry Quinn

Man down, man down, an honourable man was lost to us on 9 Mar 2025. An officer and a gentleman. And a Ranger. A Bective Ranger. Honorary Life member Gerry Quinn. Past President Gerry Quinn. Executive Committee member Gerry Quinn. Bective Rangers member for 62 years Gerry Quinn. The epitome of a Bective Ranger. There's one in every club? Gerry Quinn was our one. And some.

Quiet(ish), unassuming, beaverng away selflessly in the background nearly unnoticed, but NOT unnoticed. We saw you Gerry – we all saw you. Running discos, furiously fundraising, painting the walls, sanding the floors, fixing numerous leaks in the roof, hand making the wooden frames for all the pennants adorning the clubhouse walls. Single handedly raising the funds to purchase our additional grounds in Glenamuck. Respect, Gerry. Volunteerism at its finest

There isn't a Ranger nor indeed a rugby aficionado that has passed through the doors of Bective Rangers that doesn't know and have fond memories of Gerry Quinn. The huge Donnybrook Garda, "Officer Quinn" with the red hair, the Roscommon accent and the trademark Sheepskin coat. The meekest bouncer/doorman in Dublin 4. He was like a mentor, a Dad and an Uncle all rolled up into one for every young buck who ventured through the clubhouse doors.

Passing through the door of the Bective discos of the '80's and 90's was like a select Garda/Army Rangers recruitment drive. Gerry was head recruiter. The young bucks up from the country in the big smoke, the UCD and Veterinary College students, the civil servants. His thick country accent a soothing safe salve for all us culchies. Reassuring. We were amongst our people, our tribe. Gerry turned on his unique gruff charm. If you were a big lump and anyway athletic looking then Gerry was on it. You were going to be a Ranger - a Bective Ranger. End of. You may have passed in for free. You may have received free pints. Offer and acceptance. Ask not what your club can do for you - ask what you can do for your club? That was Gerry Quinn to a tee.

As a serving member of An Garda Síochána stationed across the road in Donnybrook, Gerry carried the authority, experience and local knowledge which were of enormous help in the running of the club. His reassuring presence, in or out of uniform, was a comfort during the occasions the clubhouse was full to overflowing with well-oiled players and supporters. His voice was heard at every AGM, with both positive and negative contributions as his commitment and passion meant he was familiar with every detail of the club and even though members may not have always agreed with him, he could not be ignored.

In a recently published episode of Chuck's Chats fireside interviews on BRTV the great Dr. Tim O Flanagan paid Gerry a wonderful tribute. Dr. Tim is 55 years in Bective Rangers and the one member who epitomises Bective to him was.... Gerry Quinn. Prescient?

Gerry was a much-admired figure in Bective and will rank among the greats of the club long into the future. A great tree has fallen.

Simon "Chuck" Byrne

When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down
in tall grasses,
and even elephants
lumber after safety.
When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.....
And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Noel McQuilken



Article - Noel McQuilken – In Remembrance
In the year 1992 the Bective Rangers Executive made a very positive and forward looking decision to begin the process of appointing a New Zealand coach.

As Director of Rugby, I was tasked with setting the process in motion in the hope we would have a suitable candidate appointed for the 1992/93 season. I was conscious that a number of overseas coaches had arrived in Ireland in the previous seasons, and not all of them had been successful.

During the 1991/92 season Bective had played Northampton who were coached by a New Zealander Glenn Ross. Glenn would later coach Connacht. He was very well respected in NZ and Northampton, and so with the help of Jon Raphael (former Bective and Northampton hooker), I contacted Glenn to get his advice on suitable candidates.

Glenn immediately mentioned Noel. He reckoned he would be ideal for Bective. I also contacted the New Zealand Rugby Union and they confirmed that Noel was a highly respected coach of King Country. With Noel as coach, King Country had been promoted to Division 1 of the NPC, which in itself was considered a remarkable achievement. Noel coached King Country through the seasons 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 2000.

I contacted Noel in March 1992 and invited him to come to Dublin later that month for a few days, so that he could see our set-up and make a decision. Noel duly arrived on a Saturday and the first match he saw was the 2nd team winning a Metro Cup match on the back pitch. He was impressed with the performance. On the Sunday I brought Noel to see the 1st team play

Greystones in Greystones and Noel saw at first hand that his coaching skills were badly needed. Noel and his lovely wife Josie arrived in Ireland in September 1992 and so began four years with Noel as Head Coach at Bective. Kurt arrived later on that season and it was clear to all that Kurt was an exceptional player, going on to play for Leinster and Ireland. Kurt is also a very good coach and has been involved with Leinster and the IRFU in various coaching roles. Kurt is now Director of Rugby in Greystones RFC. Noel immediately set to the task of putting in place the structures that would be needed to improve the performances of the Senior teams. His sessions were always well structured and everything was done at pace. His sessions were generally no more than 1 hour long with no breaks. Noel contended that if you wanted to play at pace you needed to train at pace. Noel coached for four seasons in Bective, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 and in the season 1993/94 the 1st team won Division 3 of the AIL and the team was promoted to Division 2. Many members will remember the epic promotion weekends in Sligo!!

Roly Meates, former Leinster and Ireland coach, considered Noel to be a coach of the highest order and admired the evident progress of the 1st team with Noel as coach. That in itself was praise indeed.

Noel was a lovely man and a man I admired very much. He was very good company. It was a brave decision to come to Ireland, uprooting from Te Kuiti for five years.

Noel died on June 3rd. May he rest in peace and may we all remember him with great fondness.

Louis Magee Snr.



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IN REMEMBRANCE



We also sadly lost the following people during the past year:

Tony de Lacy
Joe Doyle
Conor Heffernan
James Lawler
Luke Nestor
Gerry Neville
Marcus Sweeney
Peter Cleary
Billy Alwell
Peter Guy
Bjorn Lofterod
David McCluskey
Jerry Culleton

May they rest in peace.

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RANGERS WALKING FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT 2025



At 4.15am on 10th May, the Bective Ramblers met in Donnybrook to take part in their 3rd Annual 'Darkness Into Light' Walk with all donations going to Pieta. A call out was made beforehand to wear the Bective club colours and Bective attire, and the Ramblers didn't disappoint as they dug out their Bective jerseys.

This walk was in remembrance of loved ones and the impact they have on our lives. The Ramblers kicked off by lighting candles in memory of those who left us too soon but continue to live on in our hearts and memories. The group departed at 4.30am along the Dodder to Sandymount Strand for the sunrise, and then returned to Donnybrook.

Pieta offers free professional one-to-one, in-person, phone or video therapeutic counselling and 24-hour phone and text services. These services are open to all, meaning they are not limited to any specific age range.

Children and Young People under the age of 18, as well as adults over the age of 18, are welcome to engage with Pieta Services if they are experiencing suicidal ideation, engaging in or considering self-harm, or are experiencing bereavement due to suicide.

Regardless of one's age, Pieta has one common goal where no-one should feel so alone or so afraid that suicidal ideation or self-harming becomes an option they choose.

You can contact Pieta for support by calling their 24-hour Helpline on 1800 247 247 or by texting the word HELP to 51444. Additional information on Pieta can be found on their website: <https://www.pieta.ie/>

Please come along next year and join the Bective Ramblers as the Rangers walk from Darkness Into Light.



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WALK ON THE WILD MOUNTAIN SIDE 2025

The rescheduled 14th Annual Memorial Walk took place on bank holiday Monday, 3rd February 2025.

Departing from Johnny Fox's Pub at 9am, the 14 hardy walkers arrived back at Donnybrook all in one piece for their well-earned brunch 1pm.





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MINI'S BLACK-TIE BALL 2025

The Mini's Ball 2025 was nothing short of spectacular, as over 160 parents, coaches, and supporters gathered in the clubhouse for what has become the highlight of the social calendar. This year's event was made even more special — and unforgettable — as it coincided with our First XV winning the coveted All-Ireland Trophy. The celebrations were electric, with the atmosphere in the clubhouse reaching new heights as the entire club basked in the shared pride of such an incredible achievement.

As always, the event was a complete sell-out, a testament to the strength and camaraderie of our Mini rugby community. From the moment guests arrived, they were greeted by a beautifully decorated clubhouse, thanks once again to Dave O'Loughlin and *Prop Me Up*. Dave's creativity and attention to detail never fail to impress, and this year's set-up was no different — transforming the venue into a space worthy of the occasion.

The evening began with a sit-down meal, where laughter and stories were shared over delicious food. The formalities quickly gave way to fun as *Spring Break* took to the stage, bringing the dance floor to life with their high-energy 90s set. With glow sticks, sunglasses, and inflatable props in hand, the room erupted into a full-on party. The nostalgia of the 90s hit just the right note, and the dance floor stayed full until the early hours.

At the heart of the night, however, was a hugely successful fundraising effort. Thanks to the generosity and support of everyone who attended, we raised approximately €10,000 — a remarkable sum that will go a long way towards supporting our Mini's tours, both at home and

abroad. These tours are such an important part of our rugby culture, giving our young players the chance to experience the game in new places and forge lifelong memories.

A massive thank you must go to Mark and Sharon behind the bar, whose professionalism and good humour keep things running smoothly year after year. Special thanks also to Neil and Ali Pickard for running the ever-popular *Heads or Tails* game — a fun addition that always gets the crowd going.

We're also incredibly grateful to Jason Cox and Dave Popplewell for securing some brilliant auction prizes, and to former Ireland and Leinster prop Mike Ross, who organised an amazing training session with current and past players — which will be an unforgettable experience for the lucky kids involved.

Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to all the parents who donated raffle prizes, supported the auction, and most importantly, showed up to make the night a success. It's the strength of this community — the coaches, volunteers, and families — that keeps our Mini's section thriving.

Here's to the memories of 2025, and to making 2026 even bigger and better!

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ANNUAL DINNER 2025

This year the Annual Dinner was held on Friday 28th February and 150 members and guests enjoyed a fantastic evening in the clubhouse.

The MC for the evening was Paul Hatton, who ensured that the event ran smoothly and on time.

President John Bolger delivered a memorable speech in which he paid tribute to all the club members and officials for their support during a great season, which saw the following wins: Leinster Senior League, All-Ireland Junior Cup, All-Ireland Junior League, Spencer Cup, O'Connor Cup and Under 14's Metro Cup and a return to the Energia All-Ireland League (AIL) for the first time since 2017.

Past President Barbara Culleton said grace and then Jimmy White, Senior Vice President proposed a toast to the IRFU. IRFU President

Declan Madden, who attended with his wife Ger, replied to this toast and spoke eloquently and in depth about Bective and the clubs contribution to Irish rugby.

Our Junior Vice President, Richie Maybury proposed a toast to our guests and Paul replied. The dinner was rounded off by Paul entertaining the crowd with Bective stories. The evening was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

The event continued late into the night with the diehards of the club putting in a long shift.

The Annual Dinner 2026 is taking place on Friday 27th February 2026, so put this date in your diary now as it's not to be missed!





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LADIES LUNCH



The Annual Ladies Lunch took place in the clubhouse on Saturday 29 March 2025 with 140 fabulous ladies in attendance. It was a fantastic day that was enjoyed by all.

This year our lunch was in aid of “Women’s Aid” and the sum raised for this truly deserving cause was an incredible €6,103.

The event kicked off with our Prosecco reception which went down a treat and was very kindly sponsored by this year’s President John Bolger and his wife Jenny Clarke. Our MC for the afternoon was Past President Barbara Culleton, who did a great job. Barbara welcomed all our guests before Jenny introduced our guest speaker Caoimhe O’Connor, who gave an inspiring speech regarding the great work which is done by the charity.

The delicious lunch was from Vinny Hanlon Catering and his great waiting staff. Mark O’Brien together with Sharon and the rest of the bar staff did a superb job as usual ensuring everyone was looked after all day/night in relation to drinks.

A bumper raffle was held on the day with amazing prizes from an array of Bective supporters including an O’Brien’s hamper, earrings from Rocks Jewellers, a voucher from



Roly’s Bistro, a pair of tickets from the Leinster Branch, gig tickets from Heineken, to name but a few of the fabulous prizes. We also had a very generous donation of clothing from Mick Ryan. A huge “thank you” to all of these Bective supporters.

The lunch was followed by a DJ who did a great job of keeping the floor busy all night.

We had a fantastic mix of members and friends, including a table of players’ mothers, Barbara Culleton tables by 2 and a very lively table of Sheridan’s - all helping us to raise vital funds for a very worthwhile charity, while having a most enjoyable day in the clubhouse. A heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who came along on the day and supported this event.

Finally, thanks to the organising committee of Jenny Clarke, Maria Shalloe, Audrey Flood, Julie Lawler, Jenny White, Sharon Byrne, Mark O’Brien and Valerie Stein.

Roll on next year....

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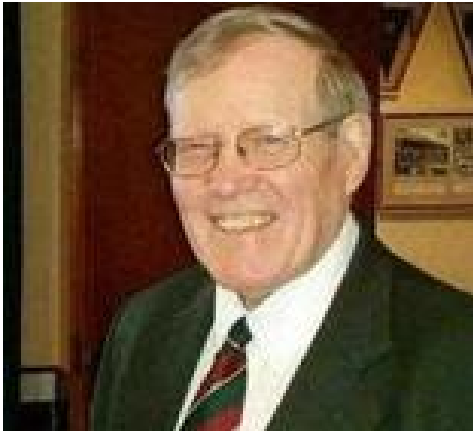
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IN REMEMBRANCE

Jerry Culleton



On Wed 4 March 2026 the club lost one of its longest-serving and valued members.

Jerry Culleton joined Bective from Railway Union in 1971, recruited by the great Joe Nolan. While at Railway, he captained the team that won the inaugural Spencer Cup and would have enjoyed the delicious irony of Bective winning the same trophy last season while on their way back to the AIL.

As a player, Jerry was on the teams that won the Minor League (3XV) in seasons 1973/74 and 1974/75. An early indication of his talent for administration was his election to the Executive Committee in 1975 when he retired from the field of play.

During his 55 years as a member of Bective, it can be said without fear of contradiction that he was foremost in serving the club and striving to ensure its progression. Generations of members will recall him in the role of Honorary Secretary, an appointment he held with distinction from 1979 to 1996.

As well as being Secretary, Jerry was responsible for the allocation of International tickets for some 20 years along with Seán Parker, and represented the club in meetings with the Leinster Branch where they no doubt experienced his persistent and insistent approach whenever the welfare of Bective was discussed.

His long years of dedication were acknowledged with his election as Club President in 1998/99.

Jerry was ever-present on match days, an enthusiastic and passionate supporter and in turn was supported by his family, particularly his wife Barbara who herself was President in 2018/19 and his daughter Aoife who also held a number of positions in support the club.

A true and loyal Ranger, Jerry will long be remembered by his many friends and colleagues in Bective.

May he rest in peace.













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