



Growing Biggar



Located at Hartree Mill Biggar Rugby Football Club was established in 1975, following a drive by five men who believed the Biggar Community could easily support a rugby team. The Club started playing its games at Showfield in the town before relocating to 20acre area outside of the town at Hartree Mill.

Community Club

The Club prides itself as a community driven club with three adult teams, a girls team and youth teams representing all ages. With up to 12 matches each weekend of the season, at home and in various locations around Scotland, the Club relies of their dedicated group of volunteers, coaches and players to facilitate this schedule.

Development of Hartree Mill

With growing interest and active participation within the club, the committee realised that their base at Hartree Mill had to be adapted and upgraded to meet this demand. The Club set about ambitious plans to redevelop the entire area and in 2012 implemented the first phase of the project, which totally transformed their changing facilities into a fully inclusive 6 team facility with multiple officials changing. This meant the Club

could equitably host a large number of both male and female teams to meet the growing demands.

In conjunction with the clubhouse improvements, a major drainage and floodlighting scheme was undertaken. Supported by sportscotland and the SRU through the Cashback for Rugby Fund, this had an immediate impact turning what were often regarded as boggy and waterlogged pitches into high quality sport pitches.

Success Sparks Interest

The improved facilities allowed Biggar RFC to realise their ambitions of growing the club and in particular the youth sections. In partnership with South Lanarkshire Council, SRU and local schools, the Club's youth program grew from strength to strength, with demand growing steadily year on year.

With the Club firmly established on the pitch and progressing through the leagues, it's focus turned to re-evaluating priorities again, more specifically the suitability of the facilities. By 2014, in order to continue their commitment to youth development programmes and senior squad, it was felt that the

remaining pitch area and the wetlands area adjacent should be developed to facilitate the significant growth of the Club.

The second phase of development would include the construction of a further three natural grass pitches which would include floodlighting all five pitches to meet the growing coaching needs, especially during the winter months. The project began on site in May 2015 with the 16 month construction programme split into two distinct stages, with a period in between to allow for the pitches to become fully established.

Key Facts

- **Club:** Biggar Rugby Football Club
- **Project:** Redevelopment of natural grass pitch area to include five fully drained and floodlit grass pitches.
- **Project Value:** £440,000
- **Principal Funding Partners:** sportscotland, SLC, SRU

Case Study - Facility Development

Natural Grass

A major cut and fill exercise and grading of the ground level to accommodate the new pitch profiles was undertaken, followed by the establishment period to allow the new ground levels to settle and the grass to develop the essential root-zone required to grow.



Earthworks Stage

- Major movement of soils
- Removal of topsoil to expose topsoil
- Cutting and filling of the subsoils to required levels



- Removal of existing site debris
- Breaking out, crushing and re-use of rock



Surfacing Stage

- Spreading of topsoils
- Final levelling and grading
- De-stoning of the soils



- Installation of primary drainage
- Seeding of the grass
- Spreading fertilizer



Establishment

- Developing the grass plant (sward) with multiple cuts, fertilisation and aeration

Case Study - Facility Development

Natural Grass

Once established pitch drainage and floodlighting was installed, pitches lined and the new goalposts erected.



Drainage Stage

- Establish drainage outfall and connection
- Installation of primary and secondary filter drains (mostly carried out initial stage)



- Installation of sand-slits to the surface



Lighting Stage

- Construct Floodlighting column bases
- Installing lighting ducts
- Erect floodlighting columns



- Run cables through ducts
- Connect cables through lighting columns
- Connect lighting controls



Final Stage

- Erect Goalposts
- Pitch markings and linings
- Grass Cutting



Completion



A— Site Plan and Proposed Pitch Layout
B— Existing layout

Evolution of the Design

The final design didn't form any of the initial options for the site. The Club carried out feasibility work over a number of years and the members debated over the best solution. Even when the contract was awarded the design was still not finalised. The main objective of increasing the playing capacity for the rugby club while enabling other sports clubs in the area to operate from the facilities, namely athletics and football, never changed.

However following a robust site survey, it became clear that there was room to install three additional grass pitches for rugby and crucially there was still plenty of space to accommodate athletics too. The final layout was five floodlit and fully drained rugby pitches which could be used for matches and training all year round.

Community and Club Support

This development could not have been delivered without the dedication and commitment of the local community and club members, who recognised the value of the project for both the club and community. In addition to machinery and personnel provided by local farmers, the club utilised the professional expertise available within the club with site management, design, site construction, electrical and mechanical engineering services provided at no cost.

Key Outcomes & Lessons

- Identifying in-kind contributions from the members and locals
- Maximising the usage of the space available
- Use of materials onsite to reduce costs and environmental impact.
- Strong leadership with a clear and achievable vision.

sportscotland Support

- Expert design advice.
- Facilitating project development and viability.
- Funding advice and support.

Sports Development : Teams

Senior :	120 Senior Members 2 Senior teams
Youth :	162-180 Youth Members
<i>Mini Rugby</i>	4 teams across P2 to P7
<i>Youth Rugby</i>	2 teams at S1&S2 1 Under 15s team 1 Under 16s team 1 Under 18s team 3 girls teams + women's senior team in development

Schedule of Areas

<i>Gross Site Area</i>	8Ha
<i>Pitch Area (total)</i>	20,000m ²

Accommodation

<i>Individual Pitch dimensions</i>	70m x 120m including dead ball areas
<i>Pitch Type</i>	Natural grass including drainage
<i>Pitch Construction</i>	Natural Grass Fine layer of sand Sand & Gravel slits Top soil, Root zone, Existing sub-soil

Procurement

<i>Contract</i>	SBC Minor Works
<i>Contract Start</i>	May 2015
<i>Contract Completion</i>	November 2016