

The 2021/22 Season was a challenging season for all involved due to the continuing restrictions due to COVID 19, the change in the format of the tournaments and managing events around that. However, it was fantastic to get supporters back to games both home and away during the season. Whilst it was a very successful season it wasn't the dream end that we had all hoped for and that will have been hugely disappointing for all involved.

Presidents Report AGM 2022

2021/22 Events:

As already mentioned we were somewhat limited in what we wanted to do last season, yet we did successfully run great events with the help of Leinster Rugby, volunteers and our sponsors during the year.

1. Special Legend T-Shirt Presentation:

In order to remember our special friend and committee member Hazel who passed away in 2021 we launched a Legends t-shirt #sparkyhaze in her honor. The t-shirt was presented to her family and friends at the Christmas game in The AVIVA. This was a very moving and fitting event for a true legend, kindly arranged by the team in Leinster Rugby. We also made a presentation of the Legend T-shirt Board to Fergus McFadden at this game.

2. Seactain na Gaeilge Q&A in the Laighan Out:

In partnership with Energia and Leinster Rugby we ran the first 'in person' event for Seachtain na Gaeilge in the Laighin Out in February. Once again a big thanks to Sene Naoupu, Jack Dunne, and Marcus O'Buachalla who MC'd the event 'as Gaeilge'.

3. Coaches Evening:

It was great to have this popular event back. We held a great evening for 100 supporters in the UCD Club in March. Mick Dawson, Leo Cullen and Tania Rosser were on the panel MC'd by Alan Mooney from the OLSC.

4. Retiring Players Presentations:

We were delighted to present Rob Kearney with a gift of Crystal on behalf of all the supporters pre match at the Connacht Play Off Game at the Aviva in April. We also plan to acknowledge the other retiring players, Dan Leavy, Sean Cronin, Dev Toner and our CEO Mick Dawson at an event next season

5. Legends T-Shirt LAunch and Q&A with Rhys Ruddock.

Our Legend chosen for the season was Rhys Ruddock, a true Leinster rugby stalworth. Due to many different issues and challenges during the year we recorded and hosted this event in UCD with Eoin Kilkenny from the committee as MC. It was great to be able to interview players face to face once more and we hope to be able to do this in the RDS going forward.

Season Ticket Renewal Campaign

We reached out to our volunteer network to help Leinster Rugby with this exciting campaign. It was hugely successful, the photos looked fantastic and have generated that interest in season Tickets that was needed post COVID Lockdowns. We invited all the volunteers who helped with this to the Coaches Evening where we unveiled the images. A big thanks to those all involved.

Merchandise:

We were delighted to announce the arrival of Leo Junior, a new addition (soft Toy Lion) to our list of merchandise for sale in the shop at the Laighin Out and online. He was only a very recent addition but sold out on each occasion he was restocked. The shop both in the Laighin Out and online continues to be hugely successful for the OLSC.

Charitable Work:

The Irish Cancer Society was our chosen Charity for the year, one which is very close to our own and many supporter's hearts. We were thrilled to raise 4k Euro for them. We achieved this through an online raffle for a signed Jersey, and Leinster Rugby Hampers which raised 3k and a further 1k from the sale of the Rhys Ruddock Legend t-Shirt.

Sea of Blue:

We ran several successful SOB's both home and away during the year. Thousands of Flags, Santa Hats, Clappers and Blue Sunglasses were given out at these fantastic events which we are extremely grateful to our sponsors Bank of Ireland and Laya. The Sandymount Hotel once more became our base for The AVIVA games, and we are extremely thankful to their help with storage, hanging banners and flags and providing a space. It was down to the great engagement and help from our sponsors, volunteers and supporters to make this happen. Particular reference to the following away games, Bath (SOB and March to the ground with the Team), Leicester, and Marseille where we had huge support in creating that amazing SOB that contributed to a wonderful pre-match event.

Commercial Partners Engagement:

We worked closely with Bank of Ireland and Laya this year to expand the offering and support for our match day activations. We worked closely with Laya on their successful 'A Beat Ahead' campaign, they supported us with the clappers which complimented that particular campaign. Aircoach once again supported us in taking our supporters to Ulster, Connacht(x2) and Munster. In the run up to the ERPC final in Marseille, we worked with Novaerus on their 'Fan in a Van' campaign, we reached out to a volunteer who agreed to travel to Marseille with Novaerus in a campervan and document the road to Marseille. This was a hugely successful campaign which was run jointly over Social Media, and captured the attention of so many far and wide.

A BIG Thankyou

We'd like to give another mention to those who have helped us out through the 2021/22 season. A huge thank you to Bank of Ireland who sponsor our away guides each season and provide the flags and sunglasses for the Seas of Blue. Laya for providing Face Masks and Clappers. Aircoach for coaches to away matches. Novaerus At McGreals for providing a great fan experience through Fan in the Van. Michael Donnelly from Woolly Mammoth Design, another OLSC volunteer who looked after graphic/layout design for us for the away guides, publication and social Media graphics. We continued with virtual Q&A's up until restrictions eased in January, massive thankyou to all the players involved. Our Legend T-Shirt, big thank you to Rhys Ruddock for being our most recent legend. The Leinster Rugby Team that we deal with regularly on different items throughout the season, in particular, Kevin Quinn, Eamon de Burca, Marcus Ó Buachalla, Gary Nolan, and Claire Kilcline. All the volunteers who kindly give up their own time to help with all our endeavors, week in week out, without them we would not achieve any of this.

Our OLSC Blue Benefit providers over the last season:

- Base Woodfired Pizza • Best Menswear • Dublin Airport Parking • Energia • Henshaw Eyewear
- KDK • Lemon and Duke • Lifestyle sports • OSLO • Richies Bike Store • The Bath • The Bridge
- The Landmark • The Merrion Inn • The Sleep Shop

Signed

Bebhinn Dunne

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President 2021/22

