

September 7, 2021

Hello Brown Rugger Community,

I hope you and your families have made it through the difficulties and craziness of the last couple of years and you have been able to enjoy this summer at home and hopefully on vacation! It has been great to reconnect with some of you over the last few months and I wanted to provide a high level update of where the Brown Rugby program stands and how you can engage or reengage, reconnect with your buddies and help going forward.

On the Field

The team (80+ strong) continues to excel in the Ivy League but we are now regularly finishing second behind Dartmouth. Coach Dave Laflamme continues to successfully grow the program, especially through his domestic and international recruiting prowess (about 30% of the team is from outside the US). Finally, the rugby experience and camaraderie that we all enjoyed, including going on international tours, continues to be a hallmark of the program.

Off the Field

The program is in good financial shape for its current needs, Jay Fluck '65 continues to be an ever present force and godfather of the program and we have a dedicated rugby field thanks to many of you. With that said, our relationship with the University has been challenging in the past few years (especially with our club sport designation). Jay wants and needs to have a broader support system to take the program forward and with the future funding needs to compete with Dartmouth and other programs and achieve excellence. Further, I know many of you would like to give back to a program that was impactful on each of our lives. With this in mind, Jay reached out to a cross section of alumni and parents, who have been active with the program, to enlist their help. This group formed the inaugural Brown Rugby Advisory Board in late February 2021 to assist Jay, Chairman of the Advisory Board, and Dave and we have been working diligently since then.

Committees and "Plan of Excellence"

We created four committees (thank you to those of you who are on them) who have been actively working on the key program needs: 1) **Alumni and Parent Engagement** (led by Sam Hodges '04), 2) **Club Operations and Events** (led by Scott Adams '90 and Andrew Alvarez '11), 3) **Finance and Governance** (led by Sam Casperson '95) and 4) **Legacy** (led by John LeClair '79 and Len Nelson '80) - focused on establishing and recounting Brown Rugby's history. We put together a comprehensive 34 page Rugby "Plan of Excellence" which benchmarked our program against 12 other Ivy + programs and presented this to key university folks including President Christina Paxson and Grace Calhoun, the new VP for Athletics and Recreation. The plan was enthusiastically received and we are in the process of working with the university to more specifically design and implement the plan and have received great support from Grace and a new Assistant Athletic Director, Jake Silverman. Jake was Grace's right hand man at UPenn and has already shown his ability to get results for us. All this to say we are happy with the progress we have seen so far and believe everything is tracking as well as we would have hoped.

Next Steps and Upcoming Events

With that as a backdrop, it would be great to have your participation. For those who want to reconnect with your ruggie buddies, we will be hosting events including having an alumni, family and friends get together on **Oct 16th in Providence to watch Brown Rugby beat Harvard**, and our 60th year Gala Reunion in Spring 2022 (more to come on both). For those in cities where Brown has away games ([schedule](#)) and want to host players or tailgate events, that would be great. For those wanting to watch Brown Rugby games, we are working on live streaming all home games. For those who have time, wisdom and experiences and want to share it, you will be able to work on the committees, join the Advisory Board and/or share these with the players through informational interviews, career panels and internship/career opportunities. And for those who would like to give financially, we are diligently working on developing a comprehensive fundraising program that will insure your investment will be used in its intended and optimal fashion.

In Follow-up, Please:

1. Join the [Brown Rugby LinkedIn](#) group so you can connect with fellow ruggers
2. Fill out [this quick survey](#) (<2 mins) to let us know your updated coordinates and also to let us know if there are any areas from above where you'd be excited to get involved (i.e. as a mentor, event organizer or advisory group member).

Thank you in advance for your involvement in whatever way works for you and really look forward to connecting with many of you in the coming months.

My Best,

Jamie Sabatier '87

Advisory Board Vice Chairman