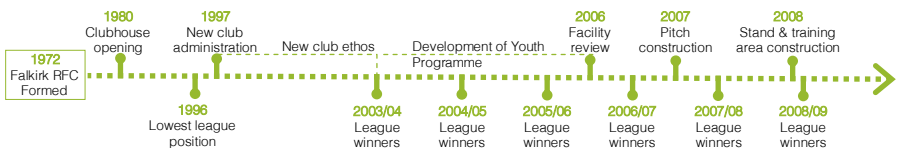




Main image: Aerial view of new rugby pitches, including clubhouse & spectators stand .

Inset from top: Previous facilities; existing blaes pitch & 5-a-side courts.

Pitch Perfect



Located at Sunnyside Park, Falkirk Rugby Football Club was established in 1972, following the disbanding of ICI Grangemouth RFC. Initially the club's development was slow and progress through the leagues proved difficult. However, the club has improved significantly since the early 1990s and enjoyed notable success in recent years, with the senior team winning five consecutive league titles since 2003, gaining promotion seven times in nine years.

Leading the way

A change to the club's leadership in 1997, when the club had fallen to its lowest ever league position, inspired a fresh desire and determination to adopt a more unified approach to the club's development, on and off the pitch. Led by a newly appointed committee and president, the club recognised that in order to succeed and grow, it had to challenge its priorities and overall approach to club management.

A fresh start

The first step in establishing this

ambitious new ethos was the appointment of new management and coaching staff to breathe new life into the club and implement the renewed approach. By establishing a firm foundation from which it could grow and develop at every level, the club's initial focus was the development of the senior team with the clear aim of playing competitive rugby at the highest level once again. With the enthusiasm of its members and their determination to establish this fresh approach, the club soon saw a string of positive results and by 2002 were catching the attention and support of the local community.

Success sparks interest

As support and enthusiasm for the club built momentum, Falkirk RFC recognised the importance of capitalising on it's new found popularity and began to focus it's attention of the improvement of its youth development schemes. In partnership with Falkirk Council, SRU and local schools, the club's youth program grew from strength to strength, with demand

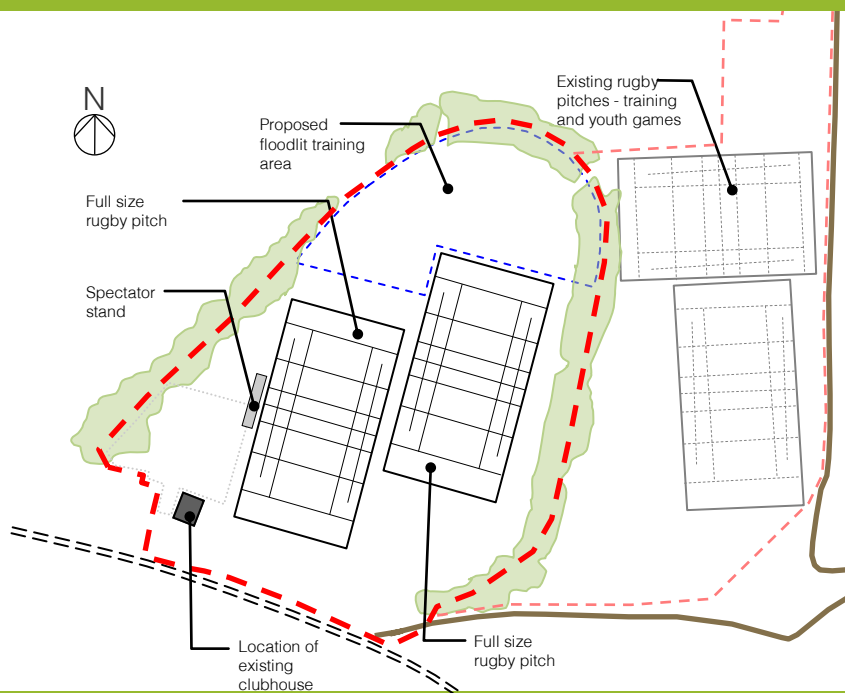
growing steadily year on year from 2003/2004. With the club firmly established on the pitch and progressing through the leagues, it's focus turned to re-evaluating its priorities again, more specifically the suitability of its facilities. By 2007, in order to continue the club's commitment to its youth development programmes and senior squad, it was felt that the area immediately adjacent to the clubhouse should be re-developed, creating a facility more befitting of the club's status and role in youth development. This plan included the reconstruction of an area of derelict blaes pitches into two top quality grass, complete with spectator stand and floodlit training area.

Key facts

- *Club:* Falkirk Rugby Football Club, Dorrator Road, Falkirk
- *Project:* Replacement of two blaes pitches with natural grass pitches
- *Project value:* £546,950
- *Principal funding partners:* sportscotland, Falkirk Council

Facility development

Natural grass pitch



Main image: Site layout showing extents of new facilities
Left image: Completed pitches and training area.

Design and construction

In order for the pitch to be properly constructed, the club appointed a specialist pitch design consultant to assist and advise them of a suitable specification to meet their usage requirements, maintenance and site conditions.

Taking advantage of the local schools redevelopment programmes, Falkirk RFC saw an opportunity that would enable them to re-develop the derelict blaes pitch and 5-a-side courts adjacent to their existing clubhouse. Securing the delivery of top soil from excavation work at a nearby school site, the club began the reconstruction of the blaes pitch and courts into two high quality natural grass pitches. More conveniently located close to the clubhouse, the pitches provide the opportunity to develop the site, creating a convenient, accessible and compact facility with the capacity to meet the current demand and continue to benefit the club, its members and the wider community.

Future development objectives

The club remain committed to continually improving and developing the club and strive to meet the growing demand for the sport. It has also

continued to develop the site after the construction of the grass pitches, with the new spectator stand now in place and future plans for a floodlit 3G training area. The club are well equipped to realise their full potential and have investigated the most effective management and scheduling strategies to allow it to best utilised the facilities, with the view to further increasing youth participation.

Key outcomes & lessons

- The value of evaluating the club and its functions, addressing key issues both on and off pitch.
- Identifying and taking advantage of possible opportunities in and around local area,
- Capitalising on the success of the team and using it as a marketing tool to attract new members.
- Working directly with schools to raise profile of club and the sport.
- Strong leadership with a clear and achievable vision for the future.

sportscotland support

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

Sports development : teams

Senior :	65 Senior Members 2-3 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

Schedule of Areas

<i>Gross site area</i>	5.5Ha
<i>Pitch area (total)</i>	20,000m ²

Accommodation

<i>Pitch dimensions</i>	70m x 130m 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>	March 2010
<i>Contract completion</i>	October 2010