

Aspatria look to crowd-funding to help get through Covid

Contributed by John Walsh
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With rugby union clubs side-lined and with no prospect of playing seriously again before August it's a battle for the vast majority to simply survive.

Across Cumbria the clubs, who haven't played for ten months, and whose natural income resources have been denied them, are trying various ways to compensate.

At Bower Park the committee have decided to go the direct route through crowd-funding and have issued an appeal for support.

A message on the club's website says: "To all local supporters, exiled Black Reds, current and ex-players or maybe just a rugby person who has a soft spot for our sport and Bower Park. We know there are a lot of Black Reds out there and it is important that we get this appeal to them as soon as possible

"Now the important bit...the club is crowd-funding to raise enough cash to see a safe return to rugby and face head on the financial challenges that are with us now and lie ahead.

"We know that life will be very different both on and off the pitch when rugby returns in September. We need to be prepared and this is an opportunity for you to help us on the journey.

For full details of what we want to achieve and why please click on the link below to give, if you feel able to do so.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/aspatriarufckickcovid>

Come the end of the present lockdown Aspatria RUFC will have lost 99% of their expected annual income.

The current situation, although not ideal, has allowed the club to take stock of their facilities to see what health and safety and maintenance works are required at Bower Park, to ensure the club returns to rugby, safely and that confidence in using the facilities is installed within the wider community.

Bower Park, of course, had been used by a number of community organisations including NHS Blood Donors, Pensioners Christmas Party, Aspatria Musical Festival, Aspatria Charity Shop, Aspatria Young Farmers, Aspatria Park Run, Aspatria Carol Service, Aspatria FC training, Aspatria Hornets and Cockermouth Titans rugby league teams and Beacon Hill secondary school.

So Aspatria say any money raised will be allocated as follows -

Help us be ready to operate both on and off the pitch once allowed following whatever restrictions may be put upon us. Additional safety measures required post Covid 19 to ensure the safe participation of visitors, supporters and players alike.

Continued maintenance and improvement of clubhouse and grounds to make it inviting for all visitors and users.

Replace all existing ventilation throughout changing areas to ensure a safe environment for home and visiting players.

Renewal of current medical room to offer high quality treatment to users.

Ensuring the future of Aspatria RUFC and Bower Park.