



Wanderers and Titans Foundation Newsletter

July 2024

Background

As many of you are aware, we established the Wanderers and Titans Foundation at the end of 2019. The initiative was launched with a fundraising dinner in November of that year, which provided the initial funding and support.

Since then, the W&TF has operated with a clear structure and mission statement. The structure involves a Board, composed of two representatives from each club and two Directors, also nominated from the two clubs. Any initiatives must be proposed and agreed upon by the board members and then approved by both Directors. This process is overseen by the Chairman of the Board, whose role also includes ensuring that fund utilization aligns with the mission statement:

"The Wanderers and Titans (W&T) Foundation raises funds to provide financial support to deserving individuals and launches initiatives to increase participation in rugby within disadvantaged communities in Singapore and Southeast Asia."

The Impact of COVID

Following the launch of the Foundation, COVID-19 halted rugby for an extended period, delaying the Foundation's ability to distribute funds. However, rather than distribute funds arbitrarily, the Board remained committed to seeking opportunities that align with the Foundation's mission statement.



The First Distribution of Funds

Prior to Covid the Foundation did assist a number of local families with their children's Titans fees. Unfortunately, the pandemic nearly ended TitansRFC as children were unable to train or play and large numbers of expatriates moved from Singapore.

As rugby gradually resumed in 2021, the Foundation agreed to support the training fees and transportation costs of a Singaporean individual in the U17 squad at Titans. To respect this individual's privacy, no specific details about his circumstances were shared with the community but he was a very worthy candidate. Nonetheless, the Board made it clear that this financial support met the parameters set out in the Mission Statement. This individual gave back to the club in his time and effort often helping with younger age groups before his training and eventually moved to WanderersRFC playing grade rugby in the U19 and later open grade categories. In May of 2024 this individual made his first-grade debut for the WanderersRFC 7s team in the National 7's tournament and continues to play rugby for the club as he chases possible national honours.

The Foundation Post-COVID

While COVID-19 is behind us, its impact on team sports persists. In this new environment, the W&TF Board discussed how best to effectively distribute the raised funds. After patiently supporting the training and playing costs of one deserving individual during the pandemic, the question arose: how can the Foundation consistently use donations in the most significant and positive way moving forward?

This question was thoroughly debated, and two clear strategies, for both clubs respectively, have been agreed upon and implemented.



HI 2024 Foundation Support for Titans: U14+ Free Rugby Programme

Overview:

Titans wants to grow a strong Snr Boys Rugby Eco system to supplement our small group of playing expatriate kids to be able to eventually field full 7's, 10's & 15's teams across 3 age groups (U14 / U16 / U18)

Titans also wants to grow a strong Snr Boys Rugby Eco system to feed into Wanderers U19 Program and through them into the National League and potential National honors.

Titans struggles to attract local Rugby Boys in the senior age groups due to the following reasons:

- (i) Local Parents not interested in kids sport
- (ii) Local Rugby boys already in elite school rugby programs (ie Saints , ACS , Raffles)
- (iii) Local Rugby Boys with rugby interest NOT in elite school having financial difficulties
- (iv) Local Non Rugby Boys not given exposure to the sport

To over-come this Titans looked at the most time & cost-effective method to grow the Senior Boys Rugby numbers quickly

1. FREE Training as One Training Group, Sundays 11am-12:30pm for U14+
2. No Subs required
3. Players only required to Buy kit \$80pp (payable in instalments if required)
4. No kit = no training (Keep it Simple and having uniform fosters esprit de corps)



5. Players unable to afford kit will be provided Free but must give back to the club in volunteer coaching of younger age groups.

Synergies with W&T Foundation Mission

We believe this initiative meets the goals and mission of the W&T Foundation

Foundation provides payment for local coaches (Wanderers or ex-Titans) – giving back to the rugby community and engaging suitable locals in rugby employment

Foundation supporting growth of Snr Boys Rugby Eco system to feed into Wanderers and the National League – giving back to the Wanderers & Singapore Rugby community.

Foundation supporting growth of Snr Boys Rugby with Leadership potential – giving back to the Titans, Wanderers & Singapore Rugby community.

Foundation Financial Support: \$3,000

To be spent on a young local paid Wanderers Coach who will work with the Titans Volunteer coaches and be the bridge between Wanderers & Titans and a visible role model to the young Titans players and contact point for young Titans players training and transitioning to the Wanderers U19 Players.

Outcome

From September 2023 to June 2024 (10 months) Titans RFC has grown the U14+ group from an existing 6 Boys to nearly 60 Boys.

We managed to enter teams in various club tournaments and as a result of this growth we managed to get our U14 & U16 Boys playing in the 2024 JRCS League



Our older U17/18 boys have continued at and helped at training playing as opposition to our u16 boys and they have also started attending Wanderers RFC trainings on Tuesday & Thursday evenings and are now actively training for the Wanderers u19 Team to enter the Singapore National U19 League. This has been helped by the Wanderers U19 head Coach and Assistant coach also coaching at Titans U14+ thus giving the boys an natural & familiar pathway into adult rugby.

H1 2024 Foundation Support for Wanderers RFC

A key focus for Wanderers RFC post-COVID was a renewed focus on developing youth rugby and recruiting from local schools. At the same time, it was also beneficial to develop a long-term base of coaches for the club moving forward. Wanderers had also this year, after much planning, finally launched their Women's team to great success. Another longer term focus was on

The Foundation was approached to supplement the coaching fees for the Assistant Coach in charge of the Gents team (Development Squad). The appointment of Saiful, a former National and Wanderers Premiership player, aligns with the club's objectives, and he has the necessary experience and familiarity with the Wanderers Head Coach.

Saiful was entrusted with training, managing, and improving the Development team. A key task for him was assisting with session plans by working with the Head Coach. He was also tasked to continue the development of a positive, inclusive culture within the club.

He will moving forward act as liaison for Titans RFC young players aged 15-17.



On the back of the program Saiful ran for the Gents team, he was appointed the Women's Rugby Head Coach. In their first tournament, the Women's team won the Daimler Chrysler Development 7s (without any of their national players) which was testament of the good work being done, having toppled traditional favourites Bedok Skyllas and B.A.C.

This initiative aligns with the Foundation's goals of increasing rugby participation and supporting deserving individuals. It also supports the long-term development of Wanderers players into coaches.

Foundation Financial Support: \$1,250

Fundraising 2024

To continue supporting these initiatives, we are planning a fundraising dinner later in the year. Please look out for this event, along with opportunities to support the Foundation at separate Wanderers and Titans events.

Finally, we thank the community of both clubs for their continued support, which enables us to make a difference.