

2024-04-16 Council Reports

President – Sean Macey

Will chair the meeting.

Management – Chris Burton

Dorset CRC – Neil Bibby

Purpose	Activity
For Action	<p>At the previous Council it was decided NOT to hold a Club Conference in 2024. The Exec believe that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) In the interest of CB unity, club consistency of operation and club consistency of governance there is a need for a club conference2) In the interest of imparting knowledge of CB operation and governance responsibilities there is a need for a club conference3) In the interest of consulting on the 2024/2025 operational plan there is a need for a club conference4) In the pursuit of recruitment to CB offices there is a need for a club conference. <p>The Exec therefore request that Council reconsider their decision and agree to hold a Club Conference in 2024 and direct The Executive to organise the same. It is proposed at this point that this would consist of separate Dorset and Wiltshire Conferences held on consecutive weekends in August. The proposed cost to be a total of £2K.</p>

Finance – Alison Hunter

Area Representatives – Dave Wookey

Area Representatives project - Dave Wookey & Chris Burton – Initial Report

Objective:

To examine current arrangements, look at options for better involvement of clubs and to enhance the Council members roles

Background:

The area representatives are the elected members of Council and act as the main conduit between CB and clubs, they sit as Council members to hold the Executive to account along with certain nominated heads of section. Recently it has been difficult to retain active area representatives prepared to involve themselves in more than just a meeting with their nominated clubs 4 times a year. To that end it was a task placed upon the Exec Chair and lead Area Representative to look at the current situation and put forward options for change and ways to encourage new interest in the CB operation from clubs

Options:

We looked at 3 options:

1 – retain Status Quo- do nothing option

2 – reduce to 4 areas plus a lead

3 – reduce to 3 areas (North, Central and South plus lead

It had been mooted that we should consider both of these options without the lead, but this was discounted as it diluted the Elected Council members too far and would not have a consolidated approach to interaction with clubs, which it was felt should be required.

Option 1 – Status Quo, 5 areas with 1 area rep being the lead

This was discounted as it really isn't working at present as we are unable to recruit sufficient interest from clubs to co-opt then confirm by election at AGM

Option 2 – 4 areas plus a lead oversight

While this is the preferred option, there are cons as well, as it retains a split in Dorset and a split in Wiltshire (nominally) geographically, while Dorset is 2 centres, Bournemouth and Dorchester, Wiltshire really has an M4 to A4 corridor and a A4 to Dorset Border. Salisbury Plain sits in the middle Alternatively we have the Swindon conurbation and rest of Wiltshire which stretches Salisbury to Chippenham/Bradford on Avon which really does not work well.

This would require some restructuring of the groups to accommodate the reduction but would allow oversight by a lead to ensure all groups cover the same work, but more locally organised.

Option 3 – 3 Areas plus a lead

This means a complete reorganisation of the club groups into either North, Central and South or East, Central and West. Either way this is difficult geographically. The larger numbers of clubs would not be hard. This also throughs up a spare slot on Council which must be considered – there are a couple of areas not represented which has left us slightly concerned at present as we felt some areas are not represented in the decision-making process. This change to Council make up is a Pro to this option, plus needing 1 less volunteer required, however the work will be harder and face to face meetings more difficult

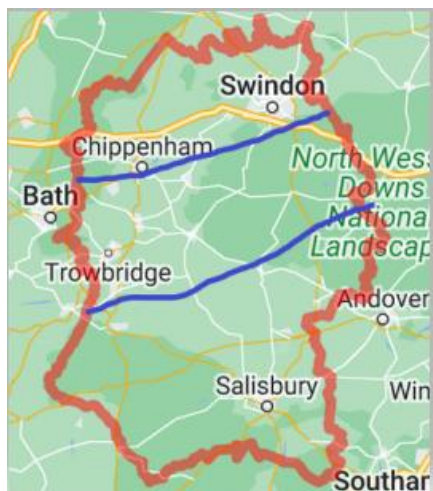
Volunteer requirements

In order to fulfil our mandate to ensure clubs are represented to Council and CB views and offerings of support to clubs this work is essential and at the moment it is felt the CB are not supporting the clubs anywhere near well enough, especially in certain geographical areas.

We therefore should – once agreed on which option to take which is a council decision to be voted on – we must go to the clubs via all possible means to encourage volunteers for the roles, this requires a clear bullet pointed layout of what is required, and a short statement of Why. It is proposed that we should look for representatives to come from a club member or from CB members not associated with a club operationally residing in that area. To be a lead officer in a club is deemed not so desirable.

Below are options graphically:

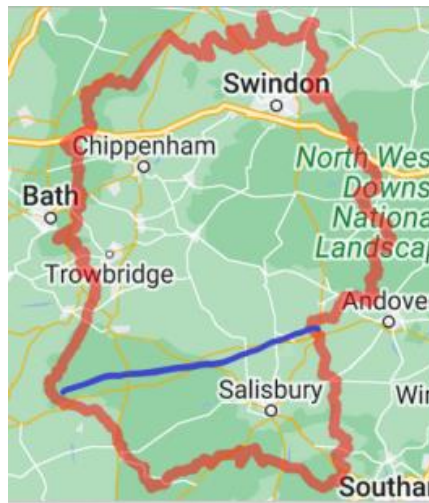
Current splits – approximately



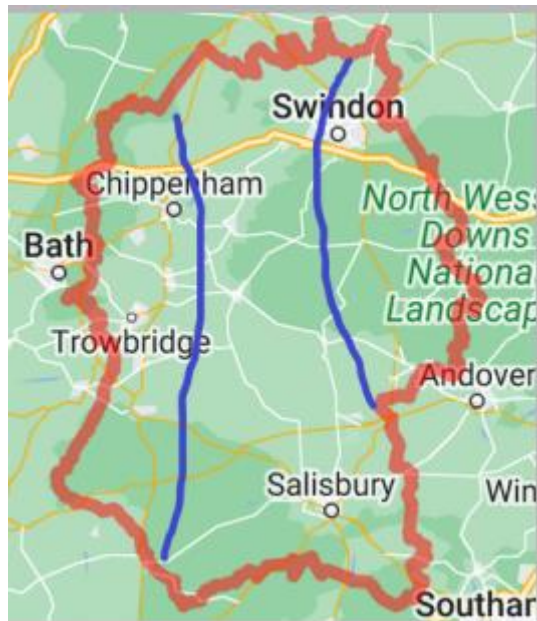
Suggested 4 area slit – Dorset to remain as is



3 way split would mean a line across along the A303/A30 so having all clubs along those routes in 1 group, above A303 (Pewsey/Devizes, Warminster, joining the A4/M4 group and below A30 (between Blandford, Sherborne and the Sea in another.



Alternatively to split East/West



This would in our opinion divide the “old” arrangements of keeping the two counties separate we should not be afraid of change, but perhaps the distance from the coast to M4 plus would have to large a range of differing issues to work efficiently.

Council make up

It had been mooted that having three areas and inviting on a circulation basis a rep from each club filling the Council slots would work. It is our feeling that would not be constitutionally correct as those incumbents would not be elected. It would therefore be a better case to consider that the council make up should include the Hd or Community Rugby – after all that is what the CB should be supporting. That would ensure that all aspect of the game on the pitch are represented at Council – AG, Womens, Mens and Other Forms. Perhaps that Head should be elected rather than nominated? This of course a matter for further work, however it is important that Council, has members who undertake to call the CB to account for executive decisions and

correctly vote on matters such as Budget, tasks on nominated groups – Representative, Community, Competitions, Facilities etc that we, as a CB are charged with providing by RFU to clubs in our area. – remembering that it is we, the CB who dictate how that is done not the RFU – who we turn to for advice and regulatory opinion, but the decisions are ours.

Conclusion

While there is more work to be done, we need to move this work through Council to engage and steer so we can conclude in time for Change in next season post AGM, Meanwhile we seek to recruit new representatives to fulfil the current posts and ensure that clubs are adequately represented.

D Wookey

C Burton

19 March 2024

This is an abbreviated report as little has happened in last 6 weeks

1 Area Leads – Council Members (Elected)

We still require some Wiltshire support north of the Plain to cover the 2/3 of clubs located up there. At the moment I am covering that but for personal reasons have not been able to set a meeting date as yet

Together with the CB Chair I have started a project to review the operation of the Area Representatives work and positions on Council as elected members together with work they undertake and the role of Council in holding the Exec to account. It is Councils rile to approve or reject plans and budgets and as the only elected members it falls to the 5 area representatives to be diligent in this duty. – see interim report

2 Huddle Meetings

South Wilts held a meeting – see separate report, No meetings in Dorset in the period. It is now requested that the two representatives arrange a meeting as soon as possible to involve clubs in CB aspects.

3 – RFU SW staff involvement

It was unfortunate that due to the change in dates no RFU staff were available to join the S Wilts meeting. I hope they will be encouraged to join future ones to provide RFU input to the clubs, particularly on Training of volunteers.

4 - Adult Registration 2024 onwards

As per last report, this will very important and one reason why Clubs need to be involved in interaction with the CB representatives. Club AGMs will be starting soon so its vital that the correct message gets across. RFU are running webinars so no reason for clubs to panic.

South Wiltshire – Dave Wookey

East Dorset – Danny Jones

West Dorset – Ed Taylor

West Wiltshire – TBA

Swindon and North Wiltshire – TBA

Governance – Jane Hart

I have nothing else to report for this meeting.

Safeguarding – Julie Fisher

23/24 Activity	1. 14 Play It safe courses delivered across the region. This is less than last year but this is because we had a massive effort to get as many people
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	<p>through the courses post covid. Clubs check GMS and then request a course, if the attendees are less than 10 the RFU will cancel, and we need to reschedule so we aim to run courses in areas where several clubs can send attendees. Minimum numbers are 10 attendees, but the course is more successful when we have 20 attendees to discuss and clarify the details within the course. David Burns has not yet been signed off to deliver on his own and will require a minimum of 3 more supervised sessions. Chris Burton has not yet booked to complete this. Julie Fisher has been externally assessed twice in the last 12 months and has been approved to continue to deliver the course.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. 106 17-year-olds have been assessed by coaches with forms submitted for them to play adult rugby. These are now submitted electronically allowing me to be able to check the details and approve or reject within a matter of days with the RFU holding a central document on our behalf. This is cross checked against any 17-year-old that has been registered in an adult game, we have not noticed any 17 yr. olds playing without approval so the process is working well. 3. Late applications for Out of Country tours or incoming teams are continuing to be received. These are sent onto Gerald as the CB need to apply to the external Governing body for permission, so this is managed by the Secretary. 4. Festival applications are continuing to come in, these are assessed by Joe Walsh and approved as needed. 5. Tour notification are again coming in and are approved by Joe. I am looking to see if the RFU will enable this to be done using the sharepoint portal for next year. 6. Playing up or down applications are managed by Joe Walsh, again these are now submitted electronically allowing us to maintain a sharepoint log of these. 7. 5 Audits have been completed this year with follow ups from several clubs who had audits last year. The plan for 24/25 Audits is being drawn up now. 8. We have not managed to hold a CSO conference this year, when discussing with CSO there appears to be an issue with when the majority could attend. This is to be prioritised for later in the year. 9. CSO calls are now being held on teams, these are still not attended by all clubs, often we have 20+ say they will attend but on the day, it is the same people who log in. 10. Calls and emails are continuing to be received for advice and referrals to the RFU. These are managed and passed upwards for RFU to look at and assess further needs for the family involved. 11. Coaches who have applied for DBS and have information needing explanation are continuing to fail to provide this in time so are excluded from rugby until such time as they resubmit and provide the evidence needed for the DMG to assess risk. 12. The RFU CB Audit was held and the results were sent over.
Current Budget update:	Nothing spent.
Proposed Activity (including estimated cost)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am still not receiving any notification when a Red card is given to an U18 player so I would appreciate this being looked at so that I am aware from the start of the process rather than having to check each week on the D&W website or being copied in much later in the process. This was raised by the RFU safeguarding audit discussion. 2. Set date for CSO update/ Conference possibly need 2 one for Dorset and 1 for Wilts due to locality being so vast and not being easily accessible in evenings, CSO reluctant to commit to full weekend day due to other responsibilities. 3. CBSM Conference in June

	4. CBSM attending the Leadership update in June, this follows on from the Leadership in Rugby Union course last year.
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GPDR – Nicola WW

Discipline

Anti-Doping & Illicit Drugs – Rich Elliott
Inclusion & Diversity – Ben Shuker
RugbySafe – Robin Natham

Other items

1. GMS issues

Its going to be more imperative that clubs get moving with sorting GMS. Any non-active players should be deregistered. This is across all aspects of the game. Under GDPR clubs should not retain personal details when a person is no longer associated with the club.

We have clubs still showing Hundreds if not Thousands of people associated which we know is wrong. Also merging duplicate accounts must be done – especially where they are players. I would again recommend that we undertake a campaign across our clubs to try to get D&W compliant before next season

2. Data Officer:

It is becoming imperative that we, the CB, need to tidy our own records. We still have VPs with incorrect, missing, dummy details. This is being worked on by our new membership Secretary, however we may be missing officers appointed without my knowledge or retaining details on the CB GMS for people no longer in post or as CB players (and parents) This must be rectified. I stand ready to work on this project but in needs input from many parts of the Council and wider CB officers.

Club Support – Alan Ottaway

Facilities – Joint D&W and RFU meeting on Wednesday 17th April 2024

The only items we have to report relate to the club contacts with:

Wimborne RFC – relocation to new site – progress updates from the developer and DC

Oakmedians RFC – progress over discussions with BCP about pitches and future control by the club

EDD RFC – initial proposals by the club for their future occupation of Iford Playing Fields and revamp of changing/ club facilities.

Bournemouth RFC – about finances, cash flow and particularly loss of sponsorship for the coming season

Site meetings and discussions about two/three of these with Jan Hill (BCP) on 17th April.

Volunteering

D&W End of Season Volunteers Awards and Presentation Evening 2024

Notes of discussions at online meeting 2 April .

Sean Macey Nigel Matravers John Constable Michael Moysey

Additional information added to notes as subsequently provided by Gerald Burden

Questions/issues to resolve in red

All subject to approval by D&W Council

DATE

Friday 14 June provisionally booked by GB/CB

VENUE

Udder Farm Shop Manor Farm Front Street East Stour SP8 5LQ

01747 838899

Contact is Ash info@theudderfarmshop.co.uk

TIMINGS

Rooms available from 5.00 PM

6.45 PM to 10.00PM

although agreed that this finish time might be extended as there was no known issue with staying at the premises beyond this time.

NUMBERS

49 nominations from clubs for Volunteers awards If coming with a guest 100 or thereabouts

Senior Mens League winners 8 X 5 per team total of 40

Senior Womens League winners 2 X 5 per team total of 10

Plus D&W management & reps etc say 20

Other guests:

RFU Nicola McCombe + two club developers

Tribute Brewery reps (two) oliviasugg@staustellbrewery.co.uk

Maximum in order of 175 max allowing for declines /unable to attends say 20%

130/140 in total

INVITATIONS

To whom and when to send out

To all volunteer nominees (49)

Is there a comprehensive list of all the nominations? Who has it

Some discussion about the relationship between the nominations which have been made to the various categories and other awards emanating out of RFU??

JC to follow up on this

8 mens league winners

2 womens league winners

League winners not all known until early April so send out all then?

To all league winning clubs

(should be known post 6 April and can be directed towards appropriate league contacts within the respective clubs))

When and how to send out?

Agreed should be sent out approx. 6 weeks in advance of the event therefore about 3 May

Send out electronically to all

Check with GB what format they were sent in last year

DRESS CODE

Smart Casual

FORMAT

Relaxed and informal with the opportunity for live entertainment (stand up comedy)

PIE Entertainment : Steven PIE_entertainment@hotmail.com

Some concerns in the group as to whether there will be sufficient time to include this given the number of awards and potential time frame to achieve

Also considerable costs involved ?

ORDER & TIMINGS FOR THE EVENING

Arrive 6.45/7.00 PM

General meet & greet etc etc

From 7.15 PM

MC Chris Burton

Presentation Party led by Sean Macey with support from JC NM MM

Introductions (to include the opportunity to give a brief outline of the work of D&W and its own requirements to introduce new volunteers etc (15 mins)

League Awards (45 mins)

Refreshments (60 mins)

Volunteers awards (60 mins)

Wrap up (5 mins)

That would result in a finish time approx. 10.00/10.15 PM

AWARDS

League winning awards fairly straight forward Plaques provided by RFU

SM has checked with Tribute who will provide a keg of beer which is to be made available free of charge and not at a cost as was the case at NDRFC last year.

SM also to look in to provision of league winners stats back drop/ Tribute banner etc

Individual Volunteers Awards

What are the categories for the awards?

Understood to be:

Game for ALL

Game Changer

Unsung Hero

Community Contact

Are the awards the certificates with Honda crest etc and where do they initially come from?

Check with Nicola McCombe

Agreed that the booklet as produced last year was a good addition and momento for all volunteer recipients?)

Need to resolve therefore:

Printing of the booklet

Coordination of recital as with 49 recipients agreed this would have to be condensed to get at least a short commendation on all volunteers. Have these been initially provided with nomination process??

How do we determine the "Volunteer of the Year" award? (last year Emma Santer)

Any other awards : Long Service suggestion

COSTS & BUDGET

As provided by GB

Cost Subject to the approval of the D&W Council

Food	£25.00 per head		£3,750.00
Entertainment	Three comedians		£1,000.00
Awards – Printing – Sundries			<u>£1,500.00</u>
			£6,250.00
Less RFU			
Funding		£1,000.00	(estimate)
Gross cost			£5,250.00
Less reclaimed VAT		£ 875.00	
Nett cost to the D&W			£4.375.00
Cost per head to the D&W			£ 29.17

Email from CB

When working on the sustaining and development of clubs the sports development mantra is "make the club a place where people want to be"

At present D&W have a very low profile and I often hear the question "What do they do" and the criticism that we are " a bunch of old farts out of touch with what clubs want".

The Volunteer Award evening is the only DW interface with our grassroots customers" and this is an opportunity to celebrate our volunteers, expose grassroots members to D&W and to break the "old boys club" perception.

The traditional presentation and handshake of certificates is, I would suggest, an anachronism that is time consuming and boring (especially with the fantastic numbers involved). The reality is that 98% of nominees

will go away disappointed that they didn't "win" Vol of the Year (and we know this from previous years' feedback) so we should aim to alleviate that disappointment by making the evening something to remember. Maybe then they will attend other DW events, and we may even attract a volunteer or two!

I understand that there is some opposition to having some entertainment during the evening, but we should be looking to "entertain" and I can't see any of D&W achieving anywhere near that definition.

I nominate that we think outside the box for this event, do the presentations differently, put on some entertainment and make it an evening that will be talked about and that we can be proud to put all over social media.

This should be put to the vote.

Email from JH

Good afternoon, Gerald,

I must make my apologies; I can't make the meeting this evening. Chris tells me there may be a discussion around the volunteer's event. I think it'd a great idea to have entertainment.

Jane

Representative Rugby – Taff Bamsey

Previous month's activity:	N/A
Current Budget update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ U17/ U18 – TBC ➤ U20 – TBC ➤ Men's XV - TBC ➤ Women's XV - TBC
Proposed Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ U17/ U18 – Nil ➤ U20 – Training ➤ Women's XV – Trials/ Training ➤ Men's XV – Trials/ Training
Detail Fixtures list attached	<p><u>U18 Male</u></p> <p>Programme complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Team manager – Julie Sheppard ➤ Lead – Kevin Dobie ➤ Forwards – Jake Krige ➤ Backs – Marc Ewart <p><u>U20 Male</u></p> <p>Programme Running</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Team Manager – Lord Ian Moore ➤ Lead Coach – Martyn Peel ➤ Forwards Coach – Mark Ado ➤ Back Coach – Martin Oxland <p><u>Senior Women XV</u></p> <p>Programme Running</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Team Manager – Emma Santer ➤ Lead Coach – Lauren Leatherland ➤ Forwards Coach – Kev Moggridge

	<p>➤ Back Coach – Aimi Dallyn</p> <p><u>Senior Men XV</u></p> <p>Programme Planning (Trg starts 17 Apr 24 at NDRFC)</p> <p>➤ Team Manager – Dan Draper/ Richard Elliott</p> <p>➤ Lead Coach – Don Parsons</p> <p>➤ Forwards Coach – TBC</p> <p>➤ Back Coach – TBC</p> <p>Points for discussion/ remarks</p> <p>1. Representative Pathway Manager (Ian Moore) has been agreed. The job description is to be confirmed by the Board once written.</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>2. Representative kit store remains at Trowbridge, £400 quote received to move it to NDRFC.</p> <p>3. Can the representative budget be confirmed please.</p>
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Team	Competition	Fixture	Date	Venue	KO	Comments
U20	Jason Leonard U20 Pool E	Home against Oxfordshire	10-Mar-24	Dorchester RFC	1400	Won 79-12
U20	Jason Leonard U20 Pool E	Away against Berkshire	05-May-24	RAMS RFC	TBC	CANCELLED AWO
Senior Men	Bill Beaumont Div3 Pool 3	Home against Berkshire	11-May-24	Swanage & Wareham RFC	TBC	
Senior Men	Bill Beaumont Div3 Pool 3	Away against Devon	18-May-24	TBC	TBC	
Senior Women	Gill Burns D3 Pool 2	Home against Sussex	19-May-24	Dorchester RFC	TBC	
U20	Jason Leonard U20 Div Finals	Winner Pool E v Winner Pool F	19-May-24	TBC	TBC	
Senior Women	Gill Burns D3 Pool 2	Away against Devon	26-May-24	TBC	TBC	
Senior Men	Bill Beaumont Div3 Semi-Finals	TBC	01-Jun-24	TBC	TBC	
Senior Women	Gill Burns D3 Pool 2	Home against Middlesex	02-Jun-24	Melksham RFC	TBC	
Finals	All	TBC	15-Jun-24	Twickenham	Various	15/16th All WE

<u>D3 Pool 2</u>		<u>2023/24</u>			
Devon	19-May-24	Middlesex	Devon	Dorset & Wilts	Sussex
Dorset & Wilts	26-May-24	Devon	Dorset & Wilts	Sussex	Middlesex
Middlesex	02-Jun-24	Dorset & Wilts	Middlesex	Devon	Sussex
Sussex					

D3 Pool 3**2023/24**

Berkshire	11-May-24	Dorset & Wilts	Berkshire
Devon	18-May-24	Devon	Dorset & Wilts
Dorset & Wilts	25-May-24	Berkshire	Devon

Community Rugby – Sean Macey

Previous month's activity:

Dorset and Wilts Cup Competitions

As of todays date the following D&W Cup games remained to be played. All competitions should be concluded by 27th April.

D&W CUP COMPETITIONS 2023/24**FROM 13 APRIL ONWARDS****COUNTIES 2 CUP**

20 April

LYTCHETT MINSTER V MARLBOROUGH 2 FINAL**COUNTIES 2 PLATE**

20 April

WIMBORNE 2 v SALISBURY 2**BLANDFORD V OAKMEADIANS****27 APRIL FINAL****COUNTIES 3 CUP****(NORTH&CENTRAL SECTION)**

13 April ROUND 2

BRADFORD ON AVON V MELKSHAM 2**CHIPPENHAM 3 V COLERNE**

20 April

BOA/MELKSHAM 2 v CHIPPENHAM 3/COLERNE**27 APRIL****FINAL NORTH/CENTRAL SECTION WINNER V SWANAGE & WAREHAM 2****COUNTIES 3 PLATE****SOUTH**

13 APRIL

N.DORSET 3 v BOURNEMOUTH 3**20 APRIL FINAL V NORTH & CENTRAL WINNER (SOUTH SECTION WINNERS AT HOME)****27 APRIL****NORTH & CENTRAL****APRIL 13****CRICKLADE v SWINDON2****APRIL 20 FINAL V SOUTH WINNERS (SOUTH SECTION WINNERS AT HOME)****APRIL 27**Dorset and Wilts Leagues

The leagues have now all concluded, Counties 2 play off final aside.

The winners are as follows:

C2DWN – Chippenham II

C2DWC – Melksham

	<p>C2DWS – Lytchett Minster C3DWN – Fairford C3DWC – Bradford On Avon C3DWS – Swanage & Wareham II</p> <p>The play off final for the 2nd promotion place to Counties 1 is being played on 13th April between Chippenham II and Lytchett Minster.</p> <p>At Counties 1 level North Dorset are promoted to Regional 2, with Salisbury and Devizes moving the other way. Dropping into our Counties 2 leagues are Avonvale, Weymouth & Portland and Yeovil (subject to confirmation).</p> <p>Congratulations to Royal Wootton Bassett who return to Regional 1.</p> <p>Notice is being given to clubs via our deregulations for 24/25 that we are potentially moving to a 2 league system at Counties 2 in 25/26.</p> <p><u>Merit Tables</u></p> <p>No issues to report</p> <p><u>Tribute</u></p> <p>The D&W Tribute Team of the Month:</p> <p>September: Melksham October: Sutton Benger November: Swanage & Wareham II December: Lytchett Minster January: Swindon II February: Cricklade March: Royal Wootton Bassett</p> <p>Can we please ensure that presentation photos are put onto our social media outlets promptly.</p> <p>Have D&W claimed the £2k Tribute money from SW Rugby?</p>
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Cup Competitions

The two senior knock out cup finals taking place on Saturday 20th April. Is anyone available/able to attend ?

LYTCHETT MINSTER V MARLBOROUGH 2
BOURNEMOUTH 3 V SWINDON 2

Both due to kick off at 2.00 PM

Merit Tables etc
Other items

Club – Devizes	Date – 5 April 2024
Reason / rationale for visit Planned visit at request of Club to help start Walking Rugby	
Ongoing PFR projects to report on Devizes have been looking to start Walking Rugby but needed some expertise to help on first evening	
Any Identified problems prior to the visit Devizes were nervous at starting without guidance from experienced players and a referee and also how WR will work with the CB and wider	
Notes	

Together with 4 players from Amesbury I was able to run through the basics of game play with some 20 Devizes people. Explanation of the game guidelines, pitch layout, how other clubs operate and how to enter Festivals and undertake matches with other clubs.

Altogether a huge response from the club to the first session, intention to mark a pitch on their training patch and invite clubs to play them

They have been given the starter kit from WASSP and they have requested the WASSP funding from the Treasurer to help them publicise and encourage others to play

Club Feedback

Please provide feedback on the visit so that we can carry on developing the CB. Please circle your view on the scale provided.

How useful have you found the visit and support given?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

How likely are you to make use of the day's content?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

How likely are you to make contact with Dorset & Wilts RFU in the future?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Please make comment on your experience, what went well, what didn't go well, what needs to be worked on and how can the CB be improved.

DRFC comments:

For a first session it could have been taken a bit slower and in smaller groups. Use of Do then review would help people to understand some of the rules. Sometimes getting everyone to "stop" can help explain why things are incorrect.

The following week we broke it down in to smaller groups 6 a side that then enable us to coach as we went along.

Action plan

Devizes to run weekly sessions and invite clubs (including Amesbury) for matches and Festivals. As the CB festival is too close the players felt they would not be ready so would not enter, although perhaps a few may come along as part of the Barbarian side making up the 10 teams.

Further comments

DW will continue to support Devizes along with all other clubs to have a good Walking Rugby Section and participating in matches and festivals

Women's Rugby – Emma Santer

Age Grade – Hamish Morton

Under 18's Girls – Caroline Durston

This season has seen several girls come forward to play for County with 33 being selected. However, there was some confusion as rules regarding Centre of Excellence players were changed. They played Oxon and Berks. Unfortunately the Bucks game was cancelled due to the weather. The expenditure is currently being finalised.

Hiring of facilities	£160.00
Travel expenses	£583.05
Medical	£528.55 (incl. mileage)
County badges	£208.95
Total	<u>£1480.55</u>
Budget	£2000.00

The U18 Centres of excellence will now be reduced to 9 from 12 and will not be based in premiership clubs. They will be based within groups of Counties run by the RFU (Hampshire – Oxon – Bucks - Berks D&W). There will be 23 touch points including 3 playing opportunities the emphasis being on the player and where they see themselves in the future playing, coaching etc.,

ERDPP U16 Girls

This has been very successful with over 70 girls taking part over the 2 Centres. They played a North v South game and Devon. Unfortunately the games against Somerset were cancelled due to water logged pitches. There has been some disparity between the groups standard of playing and we will be discussing at our washup meeting the best way to move forward in the future.

Next season the name will be changed to Foundation as this a pathway and not an elite programme as some parents seem to think.

Girls

There have been several clubs that have taken up the U12 grant from the RFU to help them recruit and retain players.

As a County we have seen several players including U10's at Clusters. There are also a large number of U16 players who will be moving up to the U18 age group.

The latest project from the RFU is the Love rugby which will link to the 'Impact 25' and the Womens World Cup.

The aim being to fill Twickenham for a Womens game and have 100,000 women & girls playing rugby. We will be having a whole County Girls meeting shortly in conjunction with the RFU to discuss how we are going to move forward with Clusters, hubs and age groups.

Current Honours board

Delaney Burns	Dorset & Wilts County Squads England U18 Bristol Bears (Current) England Red Roses (Current)
Maisy Allen	Dorset & Wilts County Squads England 7's Exeter Chiefs (Current) England Red Roses (Current)
Sophie Bridger	Dorset County Squads Saracens (Current) England Red Roses (Current)
Hayley Jones	Dorset & Wilts U15 Captain Dorset & Wilts ERDPP U16 England U18 Vice-Captain (Current)

Schools – Jan Edwards – Andy Marriott

Thanks to the continuing efforts of Education Staff in D & W Schools the Spring term & into the start of the Summer Term has seen the further provision of a wide range of rugby activity for young people in our schools. Activities have included -

D & W Schools , 'Wessex' U15s Competition Final.

Rounds began in the Autumn Term, which was open to both State Schools & Independent Schools, & with the Final took place in Spring Term. This very successful competition, organised by Luke Cannon - Vice Chair D & W Schools Committee/ Rugby & PE Teacher Leweston School Dorset, provided stretch & challenge for stronger teams, whilst at same time providing a competition playing opportunity for U15s School teams from across Dorset & Wilts region. Trafalgar School, Downton near Salisbury won this years Compt.

Thanks to Luke for the tremendous amount of work which went into both the organising & running of this Competition.

Bournemouth School for Boys U18s 7s.

Organised in February by Rich Thomas, D & W CSU Committee Member/ Bournemouth School for Boys Sport teacher. This event is now in its second year with the driving factor being to create further playing opportunities for schools who do maintain their numbers into 6th Form but also for those who may have seen numbers dwindle, often as a result of changes of schools etc.

Building from the success of last years' event. This year 12 Schools from across Dorset, Wiltshire & from Hampshire took part, An addition this year has included invitation to FE colleges to take part, as part of building playing links between Schools & Colleges.

Dorset & South Wilts State Schools - Boys 7s - 2024 - 20th Anniversary Event.

Organised by D & W Schools Committee member, Jan Edwards in collaboration with teachers from schools across D & S Wilts.

The series which took place between February & March, consisted of 5 events, one for each of Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, & Years 12/13.

Across the series (which included at times 20 schools taking part on one afternoon alone), 950 + Boys took part.

The feedback reflected the enjoyment of Boys & Teachers alike. Massive thank you to all the teachers who brought teams along & also helped to referee.

Thank you also to Lia Gingell from Bath Grassroots Dept for her support & a Big Thank you to Claire Carlton from S & W RFC for the venue & being part of our event team.

- The Eric Blackman RFU Area 1 (South West Schools) U14s State Schools Festival February 2024

Jan Edwards - D & W Schools Committee/ England Schools Committee, in collaboration with colleagues from England Rugby Schools - Andy Marriott, (D & W) Keith Gee (Gloucestershire Schools/ RFU Council Member for Gloucestershire) & Mike Foale (Bristol Schools)

This 4th Annual Festival, held at Millfield School, with Refs from D & W Refs Soc & Somerset Refs Soc, had representation from State schools in each of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Gloucester, Bristol, Dorset & Wiltshire.

Participating teams had previously taken part in tournaments/ festivals organised in their respective CSU areas.

St Peter's School, Bournemouth along with their teacher Pat Lucas were representation of the schools in Dorset & Trafalgar School, Downton along with their teacher Mark Lerpiniere were representation of the schools in Wiltshire. It was an enjoyable event, played in the true spirit of rugby, lots of enjoyment & positive feedback from players & teachers alike.

We were delighted to welcome Academy reps, from Bath, (Chris Lilley, Talent ID), Bristol Bears Junior Academy Manager Gary Townsend & Gloucester Academy Manager Gareth Delve, who spent time with the Boys & their teachers.

Girls School Rugby Activity - Spring term 23/24 continuing growth .

This second half of Schools rugby season 23/24 has seen further growth in the number of rugby events for girls in schools across D & W.

West Dorset schools invitational girls rugby festivals

Jordan Webber - D & W CSU Committee member/ PE teacher at Budmouth School, in March ran the West Dorset Schools Invitational Y7 (U12s) rugby festival, 80 girls from state schools took part.

Jordan followed this with an U14s girls event also in March.

Unfortunately weather affected the planned U16s girls event just before Easter School Holidays, so this had to be cancelled.

Y7 Girls Schools Rugby Showcase at Twickenham during National Schools Finals.

Linked to the excellent developmental work in girls rugby being done in a number of schools in Dorset & Wilts.

Plus the Autumn Term, Dorset state schools Rugby Skills/ Small sided games event back in November for Y7 (U12s) & Y8/ Y9 (U14s) girls, (a collaborative working event between Joey Wormington Active Dorset & his SGOs, Jan Edwards, Jodie Jeffery, Jordan Webber from D & W Schools & Lia Gingell from Bath Grassroots dept.

3 schools, were nominated to take part in the Y7 Girls School Rugby Showcase at Twickenham. Just 30 schools from across England took part, the girls enjoying some rugby skills development & small sided games at Richmond RFC, before heading across to Twickenham Stadium for the main event. Budmouth School/ Gillingham School Dorset & Trafalgar School, Downton Wiltshire, took part. Also Glenmoor & Winton Academy as nominee of United Learning one of the local Multi Academy Trusts who are working in partnership with RFU. The girls & there teachers had a great day.

Schools Rugby Events Coming up before the 1st May.

25th April Inaugural Wiltshire Schools Girls Y7 (U12s)/ Y8 & Y9 (U14s) Rugby Festival venue Melksham rfc. Being organised by D & W CSU committee's Justin Derby, Tom Frammer, Jan Edwards & a teachers group from across Wiltshire, plus Wiltshire SGO Phil Smith. Currently 12 schools have signed up. aka approx 150 girls will be taking part.

30th April Y9 Schools Mixed Gender Touch To Twickenham (T2T) event. - Venue Malmesbury School, this is one of RFU's T2T series & this Wiltshire Event is being run by D & W CSU Committee/ E. D & I Lead Tom Farmer, PE teacher at Malmesbury school.

1st May Y9 Schools Mixed Gender Touch To Twickenham (T2T) event.-

This is also one of RFU's T2T series & this Dorset Event is a collaboration between United Learning (Doret) & D & W CSU. Venue Swanage & Wareham RFC .

*This 'End of Rugby season 23/24' is Report compiled & submitted on behalf of D & W Schools Committee.
9th April 2024*

RFU Council Member – John Constable

<p>Previous month's activity:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended various RFU Sub-committee meetings, National Calls, CB Drop-ins plus work on several task & finish groups. • The T&F groups include the FCS (Future Competitions Review) where the key focus will be on whether to raise the glass ceiling to allow lower X's into the structure in coming seasons. • Also part of the group that has been looking at the restructure of Reg 19-Discipline. • Also still involved in the Adult Registration group. • On Adult Registration RFU Council on Friday 19th will be asked to agree the new Reg 13 & 14. Reg 13 is aimed more at the community game whilst Reg 14 is for the higher level where players are paid/on contract etc. • Adult Competition Sub Committee, - Papa John Oversight group- the final layout of the Competition has gone to clubs. First round is Sat 13th April, next round 20th April. Sadly a number of our teams have pulled out including Regional 1- Bournemouth. Regional 2 south Shield-Devizes. Counties 1 Championship- North Dorset. In the South Plate Dorchester Counties 2 Championship- Lytchett and Warminster. Counties 3 Championship- Puddletown, south Plate Christchurch. Finals weekend is 11th/12 May. • The Age Grade Summer guidance has been issued and can be found on England rugby.
<p>Current Budget update:</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Proposed Activity (including estimated cost)</p>	<p>Continued attendance at meetings where possible.</p> <p>Continued club visits- if anyone wants to suggest clubs to visit let me know.</p> <p>RFU Council Friday 19th April and Competition Organisers network meeting on Sat 20th April.</p> <p>RFU Council Meeting Friday 19th April we are being asked to vote on Reg 13 & 14- Adult Player Registration. Also Reg 15- Age Grade regulations.</p> <p>The Presidential team for the coming season will be approved and details sent with the AGM notice that should be issued early May. The AGM will be a virtual meeting and is scheduled for Monday 17th June from 6pm.</p> <p>We will also be getting an update on the RWC25 Legacy programme, Community Game Future.</p> <p>Will be looking to send around notes post meeting.</p>

Referees – Denis Nolan

One comment from our guys who were at the Blandford v Chippenham U16 Cup Final on Sunday, apparently no cup, no medals and no one from CB to present. On WTR it wasn't shown as a final, if I'd known I could have put a tie on and popped along, but is there really no Cup for these games ?