

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTH AND WEST WILTSHIRE CLUSTER OF THE DORSET AND WILTS RFU HELD VIRTUALLY ON MONDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2021

Present

Gerald Burden (CB), John Constable (CB), Ron Jones, Chris Lamb, Alistair Morrison. David Stirling, Gareth Vaughan, Vince Hayward

Apologies

Ian Bamber, Sean Macey (CB), Tony Greenslade, Glenn Marden, Gareth Wheatley,

The notes of the last meeting held virtually on 26th April 2021 were agreed.

Vince Hayward, Club Steward briefed the meeting on purchasing opportunities at Salisbury RFC and the prospect of gaining benefits in running a bar and catering at his club. The intention was to allow other clubs to be able to participate in gaining similar benefits such as discounts and bulk purchasing. Other s questioned and commented and it was thought that this subject be pursued through cooperation and at future meetings. VH happy to take questions from clubs, including those not able to attend this meeting.

Costings, Staffing, leadership skills, Use of Breweries, Bookers, Freehouses considered.

Discussion proceeded.

Matters arising and club reports since last meeting.

Colerne – League side running weekly, Juniors numbers increasing. Still waiting on a RFU loan

Trowbridge – Encouraging start to season for seniors, U16 attendance good but worrying at U18 where some players drifting away during covid. It was noted Sherborne 2s were not fielding side every week. Some concerns about South West Rugby overruling County Competitions – not considered in the interests of playing rugby. Two clubs drawn in 2 cups against each other but not able to economise on costs by playing both matches on the same date.

Westbury – All OK with playing in higher league. The Good the Bad and the Rugby was a very successful initiative in the community, with James Haskell, Mike Tindall and Jason Robinson attending. Club have dilemma with not enough players to start 2nd team

Discussion about League reorganisation but awaiting proposals as season progress

Concern about cancellation of ladies league games at Trowbridge Westbury and Melksham last weekend. Only one game played and no cooperation between clubs to combine teams to get more matches played.

Discipline has not been good this season possibly affecting referee availability/commitment.

Some concern about Electronic Match Cards where penalties threatened despite system submission being unpredictable – e.g. cancellations to SW Rugby by 3.30pm and score by 5.30pm. where system failure is the reason.

GB, JC & RJ – nothing significant to report.

Next virtual meeting Monday 21st February 2022