



# **DORSET & WILTS. RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**DIGITAL VERSION V1 – 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2023**  
**DIGITAL VERSION V2 – 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2023**  
**DIGITAL VERSION V3 – 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 (Final Version)**  
**DIGITAL VERSION V4 – 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 (The Vote Results Included)**

**Teamwork | Respect | Enjoyment | Discipline | Sportsmanship**

**Working Together to Grow Rugby in Dorset and Wiltshire**

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**The Running Order for 2022 – 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Dorset & Wilts RFU is as follows:**

1. President declares the meeting open (MM)
2. **Registered Attendance, Inc. apologies**

**Registered Attendance, Inc. apologies**

**Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role</b>
Mike Moysey	Wimborne RFC & D&WRFU	President
Gerald Burden	D&W RFU	General Secretary
Dave Wookey	Amesbury RFC & D&W RFU	Area Representative Lead
John Constable	D&W RFU	RFU Council Representative
Ian Archer	North Dorset RFC	Secretary
Zac Pearce	North Dorset RFC	Director of Rugby
Sean Macey	Corsham RFC & D&W RFU	President Elect
Stuart Murrow	Chippenham RFC & D&W RFU	President
Richard Larcombe	Salisbury RFC	President
Steve Poulton	Marlborough RFC	Secretary
Nigel Mattravers	D&W RFU	Vice President
Andrew Gassor	Royal Wootton Bassett RFC	President
Dave Thompson	Royal Wootton Bassett RFC	Discipline Secretary
Simon Carkett	Bournemouth RFC	Chair
Nicola Wallace-Walton	Oakmeadians RFC & D&W RFU	Secretary
Denis Nolan	D&W Referees	Chair
Alison Hunter	Weymouth & Portland RFC & D&W	Treasurer
Joyce Bowden		
Alistair Morrison	Trowbridge RFC & D&W RFU	Area Representative

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role</b>
Ed Taylor	Dorchester RFC & D&W RFU	Area Representative
Tim Rose	North Dorset RFC	Chair
Philip Morris		
Nicholas Panton		
Peter Rattue		
Russell Jugg	Salisbury RFC	Chair
Dennis Fry	Wimborne RFC	Chair
Keith Biggs	Westbury RFC	Hon Secretary
Morgan Leadbitter	East Dorset Dockers RFC	Chair
Jane Hart	Oakmeadians RFC & D&W RFU	Club Chair & Chair of Governance
Alan Ottaway	D&W RFU	Chair of Club Support
Graham Reeves	Wimborne RFC	
Ron Jones	Trowbridge RFC & D&W RFU	Hon Life President
Steve Whitehead	Chippenham RFC	Company Secretary
Simon Hussey	Bridport RFC	Secretary
Chris Burton	D&W RFU	Chair

Julian Hussey  
Peter Brook  
Tom Richings

Bridport RFC  
Bridport RFC  
Blandford RFC

Chair  
President  
Chair

3. Pause for a moment to remember those of the rugby family that we have loss this year.

4. **President's Welcome**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the 2023 Annual General Meeting of Dorset & Wilts RFU .

You will see from the attached agenda and associated reports that in terms of reporting all the essential business and following a disrupted couple of years we were as far as possible able to complete a full season of rugby and associated activities during the 2022/23 season.

At this time we would also normally be taking the opportunity to celebrate the successes and exploits of our clubs and representative sides over the previous season, and it is with great pleasure of course that following a full season of leagues and cup competitions from seniors right through to Age Grade we are this year able to do so and you will find results and accomplishments of our clubs elsewhere within the reports.

These continue to be very challenging times right across the board for rugby , for our clubs, Dorset & Wilts RFU and indeed our governing body the RFU and the support and tremendous amount of work in challenging circumstances put in by volunteers within the clubs to ensure that, as far as possible all are continuing to meet the challenges and remain viable in providing the rugby offer required to meet players and club members needs never ceases to amaze. Very many thanks to all our volunteers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the many volunteers who have carried out a variety of roles for D&W over the past year. Without their considerable contribution the Union would not be able to function and continue to support our clubs in managing and growing the game.

As always, we look forward to the coming year with the usual optimism as we continue to look at ways to modernise and improve the effectiveness of the Union for the benefit of all member clubs and the wider membership. To achieve this we are always looking for additional volunteers in a variety of roles to support the day to day and new initiatives that come forward.

I was very honoured to become President of Dorset & Wilts RFU back in 2020 although during that first pandemic dominated year, I am not sure any of us was too sure where it was all going! That said I have very much enjoyed the ensuing two seasons as we have seen rugby get back on its feet and in welcoming Sean Macey in as our new President, I am confident we can continue to develop the game in the two counties accordingly.

Finally I am sure you will join me in looking forward to a successful and enjoyable 2023 / 24 year ahead.

**Michael Moysey President**

5. **Foreword**

Welcome to the 2022-23 Annual General Meeting of the Dorset & Wilts RFU, and now back to normality with the opportunity to meet and greet each other.

It's nice to see so many old familiar faces, but also to be able to meet and welcome our new friends for the first time.

During the last season, the rugby family has had to endure numerous changes and losses, but hopefully this is all behind us now and we can look forward to new opportunities.

But with rising costs and reduced income, it is not going to be easy but with closer cooperation between clubs and the willingness to support each other things will improve.

Both the RFU and D&WRFU will endeavour to support clubs where possible, this may be advice based to make the most of any resources available.

There will be some funding available, but this will be limited.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have worked so hard to make D&WRFU a success again in this very trying year.

The Annual General Meeting is not just for the election of officers and county representatives for the next season but is also when we report formally to our membership about the activities that Dorset & Wilts. RFU Ltd has undertaken, as the local governing body of the game and as a Constituent Body ("CB") of the RFU, during the past season. Most of those activities are carried out by various committees and sub-committees, which have produced great achievements yet again this season. I will let their reports speak for themselves.

The management team of the D&WRFU will be planning to visit as many clubs as possible during the 2022-23 season.

Finally, can I ask for your support.

Could you all make sure that your personal details are up to date on GMS.

Additionally, can you please make sure that your clubs contact details are also correct.

We estimate that about 15% of all D&WRFU GMS records are incorrect that's about 6,000 people.

**Remember to share a problem – it will not make the problem go away – but it will help**

**Gerald Burden**

6. To declare the results of the following votes, which was held prior **(GB)**

Number of Eligible Voting Clubs **37**

One Club was unable to complete the survey, for the following reason.

*"I can neither approve or reject the minutes of the meeting because I didn't attend the last AGM and so don't know if they are a faithful record.*

*That's why I haven't completed the survey."*

a) To approve the minutes of the previous AGM circulated via electronic means prior to the AGM, for consideration and approval (with or without amendments)

**Result of the vote****Yes – 36****No – 0**

- b) To approve the reports from the General Secretary and on behalf of the D&W Committee about the affairs of the Constituent Body since the previous AGM, Circulated via electronic means prior to the AGM

**Result of the vote****Yes – 34****No – 2**

- c) To approve the Treasurer's Draft Report circulated via electronic means, prior to the AGM

**Result of the vote****Yes – 36****No – 0****Proposed by****Seconded by**

- d) To elect the Officers for the coming year, including:

➤ President	Sean Macey	Corsham RFC
➤ Immediate Past President	Michael Moysey	Wimborne RFC
➤ General Secretary	Gerald Burden	
➤ Treasurer	Alison Hunter	Weymouth & Portland RFC

**Result of the vote****Yes – 35****No – 1**

- e) To elect Members of the Committee for the ensuing year, being the Five Area Representatives from the two counties

➤ Dave Wookey	Amesbury RFC
➤ Darren Astley	Swindon College Old Boys RFC
➤ Ed Taylor	Dorchester RFC
➤ East Dorset	TBA
➤ Alistair Morrison	Trowbridge RFC

**Result of the vote****Yes – 36****No – 0**

- f) To elect Members of the Committee for the ensuing year, being the Three Non-Area Representatives from the two counties

➤ Woman & Girls	Emma Santer	Trowbridge RFC
➤ Age Grade	Hamish Morton	Salisbury RFC
➤ Governance	Jane Hart	Oakmeadians RFC

**Result of the vote****Yes – 36****No – 0**

To elect the Deputy President for the ensuring year, being

- TBC

**Result of the vote****Yes – 34****No – 2**

Plus, to confirm the appointment of following Sub-committee Chairs

- Joint Chairs of Club Support      Alan Ottaway

- |                           |                |                  |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| ➤ Community Rugby         | TBA            |                  |
| ➤ Chair of Representative | Michael Bamsey | North Dorset RFC |

**Result of the vote**

**Yes – 36**

**No – 0**

- g) The following Members of the Committee will be Co-opted on to the Committee at the next Committee meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 – **(Date to be Confirmed)**

- |                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| ➤ Referee's Representative | Denis Nolan  |
| ➤ Executive Chair          | Chris Burton |

7. To admit any new Members and/or elect any new Vice-Presidents or Life Members.

Honorary Life Vice Presidents Of The Dorset & Wilts RFU

Nick Dark – Devizes RFC

8. To consider a resolution disapplying the provisions of Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act, 2014, relating to the obligation to appoint Auditors

**Result of the vote**

**Yes – 35**

**No – 0**

9. To consider any other motion or business that has been submitted in writing to County Secretary by Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023, duly proposed by one Member and seconded by another Member.

**None**

10. To hear any other relevant matter for the consideration of the Committee during the ensuing year (details of which must have been submitted in writing to County Secretary not less than 48 hours before the time for which the AGM has been convened) but on which no voting shall be allowed.

**None**

11. Announcement of annual and other awards.

**The Bob Stock Trophy**

**The Referee Society**

This year's recipient is RFC

**The DJAW Walking Rugby Award**

**Dave Wookey**

This year's recipient is RFC

**The Bowden/Wildash Trophy**

**Joyce Bowden**

This year's recipient is from RFC



## **DORSET & WILTS. RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LTD**

### **FIRST CALLING NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Dorset & Wilts. RFU Ltd will be held by Salisbury RFC Castle Rd Salisbury SP1 3SA at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

### **PROPOSED AGENDA**

1. To note attendance and any apologies
2. To consider and approve (with or without amendments) the minutes of the previous AGM
4. To receive and approve reports from the General Secretary and on behalf of the D&W Committee about the affairs of the Constituent Body since the previous AGM
5. To receive the Treasurer's Report and approve a financial statement for the preceding financial year.
6. To elect the other Officers for the coming year, including:
  - President.
  - Immediate Past President.
  - General Secretary.
  - Treasurer.

*Voting to be carried out by electronic means prior to the AGM.  
The results of this vote will be declared during the AGM.*

7. To elect Members of the Committee for the ensuing year, being:

Five Area Representatives from the two counties

- Huddles

Three Non-Area Representatives

- Woman & Girls Portfolio Manager.
- Age Grade Portfolio Manager.
- Governance

*Voting to be carried out by electronic means prior to the AGM.  
The results of this vote will be declared during the AGM.*

To elect the Deputy President for the ensuring year, being



*Voting to be carried out by electronic means prior to the AGM.  
The results of this vote will be declared during the AGM.*

Plus, the following Members of the Committee will be Co-opted for the ensuing year at the next Full Committee meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023, being – (Date to be Confirmed)

- Chair of the Referees Society.
- Chair of the Management Board.

Plus, to elect the following Sub-committee Chairs

- Chair of Club Support
- Representative Rugby
- Community Rugby

*Voting to be carried out by electronic means prior to the AGM.  
The results of this vote will be declared during the AGM.*

8. To admit any new Members and/or elect any new Vice-Presidents or Life Members.
9. To consider a resolution disapplying the provisions of Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act, 2014, relating to the obligation to appoint Auditors

*Voting to be carried out by electronic means prior to the AGM.  
The results of this vote will be declared during the AGM.*

10. To consider any other motion or business that has been submitted in writing to County Secretary by duly proposed by one Member and seconded by another Member.
11. To hear any other relevant matter for the consideration of the Committee during the ensuing year (details of which must have been submitted in writing to County Secretary not less than 48 hours before the time for which the AGM has been convened) but on which no voting shall be allowed.
12. Announcement of annual and other awards.

Dated: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

[Please see the Notes herewith]

**Gerald Burden General Secretary**

## **NOTES TO CALLING NOTICE AND PROPOSED AGENDA**

1. Following incorporation of Dorset & Wilts. RFU Ltd as a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act, 2014, the AGM has to be conducted in accordance with the Constitution, which means that

- (a) Nominations for the election of Officers and other Committee members (which must have the consent of the nominee) have to be sent in writing so as to reach County Secretary by 30 April;
- (b) Proposals for additions or alterations to the Constitution (which must be proposed by one Member<sup>1</sup> and seconded by another Member) have to be sent in writing so as to reach County Secretary by 30 April;

(c) Under the Regulations duly passed since the 2007 AGM, details of any other relevant matter for the consideration of the Committee during the ensuing year must be submitted in writing to County Secretary beforehand and not less than 48 hours before the time for which the AGM has been convened.

2. The provisions of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act, 2014 would oblige us to appoint qualified auditors (which would represent an inordinate expense for us) each year; but the Act also allows for this requirement to be dispensed with in the following circumstances: -

- (a) Where the assets and turnover of the organisation are below certain levels<sup>2</sup>;
- (b) Where the Constitution so allows (which ours does) and;
- (c) Where the appropriate Resolution is passed at the AGM (provided that less than 20% of votes at the AGM are cast against the resolution and that less than 10% of the membership votes against the resolution).

*Please contact me if you should have any queries.*

Gerald Burden - General Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> Being: a duly elected Officer or Committee member; the RFU Representative; each affiliated Club

<sup>2</sup> Currently set at: assets of less than £2.8m; and turnover of less than £5.6m for the year

## Nominations for Election at AGM 2023

<b>The Officers</b> <i>who, by reason of their office, are automatically on every committee or sub-committee</i>	<i><u>Explanatory Note</u> – Under Rule 12.1 of D&amp;W's Constitution the Officers of the Constituent Body shall be: -</i>				
<b>President</b> <b>Secretary</b> <b>Treasurer</b> <b>Immediate Past President</b>	<b>Sean Macey</b> [Corsham] <b>Gerald Burden</b> [Independent] <b>Alison Hunter</b> [Weymouth & Portland] <b>Michael Moysey</b> [Wimborne]				
<b>and the Committee</b> <i>which is known as the D&amp;W Council</i>	<i><u>Explanatory Note</u> – Under Rule 13 the Committee (i.e. the D&amp;W Council) shall consist of The Officers - so, the above - plus 7 (or more, but not exceeding 20) other elected members; and D&amp;W has previously resolved that these should include: -</i>				
<b>Five Area Representatives</b>	<b>East Dorset – TBA</b> <b>Ed Taylor</b> [Dorchester] <b>Alistair Morrison</b> [Trowbridge] <b>Dave Wookey</b> [Amesbury] <b>Darren Astley</b> [Swindon College Old Boys]				
<b>Three Non-Area Representatives</b> <b>Woman &amp; Girls</b> <b>Age Grade</b> <b>Governance</b>	<b>Emma Santer</b> [Trowbridge] <b>Hamish Morton</b> [Salisbury] <b>Jane Hart</b> [Oakmeadians]				
<i>* <u>Explanatory Note</u> – The D&amp;W Committee has the power to co-opt, so those candidates who are not elected under Rule 13 may still be co-opted, subject to Rule 11.2</i>					
<p>h) <b>plus, the following:</b> - Who be co-opted on to Committee at the next Committee meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023  <span style="color: red;">(Date to be Confirmed)</span></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>RFU Representative</b> [elected separately last year for a three-year term of office]  <b>Deputy President</b>  <b>Executive Committee Chair</b>  <b>Executive Committee Member</b>  <b>Referee's Representative</b> </td><td style="width: 60%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>John Constable</b> [Swanage &amp; Wareham]    <b>TBA</b>  <b>Chris Burton</b>    <b>TBA</b>  <b>Denis Nolan</b> </td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>To confirm the appointment of following Sub-committee Chairs</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>Chair of Club Support</b>  <b>Committee Rugby</b>  <b>Representative Rugby</b>  <b>Safeguarding Representative</b> </td><td style="width: 60%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>Alan Ottaway</b> [Independent]    <b>TBA</b>  <b>Michael Bamsey</b> [North Dorset]  <b>Julie Fisher</b> [Bournemouth]         </td></tr> </table>		<b>RFU Representative</b> [elected separately last year for a three-year term of office] <b>Deputy President</b> <b>Executive Committee Chair</b> <b>Executive Committee Member</b> <b>Referee's Representative</b>	<b>John Constable</b> [Swanage & Wareham]  <b>TBA</b> <b>Chris Burton</b>  <b>TBA</b> <b>Denis Nolan</b>	<b>Chair of Club Support</b> <b>Committee Rugby</b> <b>Representative Rugby</b> <b>Safeguarding Representative</b>	<b>Alan Ottaway</b> [Independent]  <b>TBA</b> <b>Michael Bamsey</b> [North Dorset] <b>Julie Fisher</b> [Bournemouth]
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## **REPORTS**

### **RFU Council Member**

Firstly, an apology if this report is a little lengthy but please do take the time to read through it, there are a couple of points that I think are crucial to act on going forward if we are to still have our game in 5-10 years' time.

This season has been a very busy one, in any role if you are going to give it your best shot you have to put the time in attending meetings, listening to views and so on. Also, it is important to get out and about around our clubs and give support where possible, including our Representative sides. This can result in hours of driving since, as we know our Twin counties does not always have the best of roads! Can I thank all the clubs visited for their warm welcome and hospitality- it is always a pleasure to visit our clubs within the Twin Counties.

I have watched games from level 5 to level 9 in experience. Each level has its own challenges, but it is so pleasing to see players out running around on either a Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. The skill levels vary but the one thing in common no matter what level of rugby is being played is seeing the players enjoy themselves. We have also been lucky to have had success with our Senior Men's team winning the Tier 2 County Championship this season after games v Gloucestershire, Devon, Berkshire, and East Midlands finally overcoming Durham in the final. The Ladies team had the experience of playing alongside the Men v Devon at Royal Wootton Bassett and whilst they came up against a very strong Devon side, this experience set them up well for the away game v Middlesex when the side playing some great rugby, came away winners. I am sure this experience will benefit all the Ladies next season. The U20's had a great campaign as well and just lost out in the last 5 minutes in their semi-final game v Hampshire. For all players who pull on a County shirt the experience is something that will live with them for ever. Well done one and all.

As well as attending RFU Council meetings, I am on the Adult Competition Management sub-committee. The season started dealing with the impact of the exceptional dry summer of 2022 and the impact it had on the state of pitches in the South of the Country, resulting in the start of the season being put back for many teams. (The weather then played us up with rain and frost!).

We also had to oversee the Papa John Cup which, I know did not go as well as many had hoped. Feedback has been obtained from clubs, Regional organising Committees and also members of ACMSC and hopefully next season we will see a better run competition (note the competition is run by the RFU staff). Going back to the leagues, this season was the first after the reorganisation under FCS (Future Competition Structure) and whilst it took a little getting used to, I think for next season we are starting to see the benefits of the changes. Under FCS it was always envisaged a 3 yearly review, and this is likely to kick off later next season.

I have also attended numerous online meetings and particularly enjoy being part of our clusters- this gives me the ideal opportunity to hear what issues clubs may have and see if any common themes crop up that can be fed back up the line to the RFU. Just one thought on this please, whatever is done has to be for the benefit of the game as a whole not just one club - never an easy task to balance.

The biggest talking point in the season was around Tackle Height. Firstly, can I make it quite clear that as RFU Council we were asked, based on the evidence supplied to vote on lowering the tackle height. (In the Community game) It is quite clear something had to be done. The problem arose more to do with the terrible way this was communicated to the game and the communication team at the RFU adding into the press release the words 'to the waist'. This was never discussed.

Following on from the decision, all the other home unions are now doing the same, as have other unions around the world. The RFU undertook a large consultation process with the game and has been working on all the material to help support the game for the coming season. (See [englandrugby.com/participation/playing/tackle-height](http://englandrugby.com/participation/playing/tackle-height).) I appreciate for some the thought of change causes worry but all that has happened is the game has gone back 10 years or so, on where the tackles should be made. From a risk assessment side of things, once you (the game) are aware of a risk if you do nothing to address it then you leave yourself open to the repercussions.

I am sure the early part of the season will be a steep learning curve for everyone but please let's all work together for the good of the game going forward.

I did mention earlier in the report the need for us all to look at wider issues and maybe change the way we look at rugby. As we all have to adapt to the societal changes that we have all seen in recent years, probably accelerated by the pandemic. We need to really work on how we can get a game of rugby played, rather than worrying about getting 5 league points. We all need to be more flexible in lending/borrowing players, merging sides and working together to enable a game to take place be it Friday night, Saturday afternoon or on a Sunday. 'Game-On' has been introduced to try to help teams agree on how to balance numbers. Let's get back to the focus being on getting a game played. If we don't then I fear that teams will fold and then everyone ends up having to travel even further to get enough games in a season. I am not trying to stifle ambition but what is the point of one team having 22 players and the other only 10! Age grade squads of 30 plus when you only field a side with others locally unable to field a team. We should all look at making sure we have teams playing since if we don't, then clubhouse use will decline, just as we need it to be increasing to help cover the rising costs, we all face in our lives.

In the past we were lucky to have what was referred to as the 'Middlesex notes' which could be used to communicate discussions from the RFU Council. Sadly, the author is no longer a Council member so myself and a couple of my fellow Council members have started trying to pull together our own notes- I will continue to do this and circulate to the clubs as and when I can. In the meantime, I am always at the end of the phone or e-mail so if there are any issues or you need any advice, or to discuss anything then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**John Constable**  
**D&W RFU Council Member.**

### **Management Board**

We are pleased to announce that Denzil Brockhurst from Corsham RFC has agreed to become the D&W RFU Membership Secretary.

**Please note that from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 the D&W RFU County Membership will be paid via Direct Debit not Standing Order. Full details to follow.**

### **Community Rugby**

After the uncertainty that belied the 21/22 season, with COVID still raising its tortuous head, particularly during the winter months, I am sure that everyone was looking forward to a "straight forward" campaign in 22/23. Reality didn't follow this path. As early as the first playing weekend in September we saw games being postponed due to the dry, hard, and therefore dangerous pitches. It seemed that the pressure was on to complete the season within its new shortened format, to allow for the inaugural Papa John Cups, before things had even got going! Despite this stuttering start and nature making further interventions to the playing calendar, with early snow fall and frozen pitches, rugby ploughed its way through to a league conclusion, more or less on time.

During this period the Dorset & Wilts Competitions Committee were meeting on a regular basis, keeping an eye on the leagues through our League Secretaries as well as looking to plan meaningful local cup competitions at the end of the season for those clubs (1<sup>st</sup> XV's) who decided not to participate in the national alternative. Its pleasing to note that we were able to offer 3 cups for clubs/teams at Counties 1, 2 and 3, all of which produced a great finals day at the end of April.

As mentioned, the season had its challenges, but they were overcome. Below is an overview of leagues and how they look in the 23/24 season, followed by a summary of this season's leagues/cups

## **Leagues**

**Levels 5 – 7 (Regional 1 & 2, Counties 1):** Dorset & Wilts have 2 teams competing at Regional 1 next season, Bournemouth, and Marlborough, both of whom will play under the guidance of the London & South East ROC in Regional 1 South Central. Also moving across to the London ROC are Wimborne and Salisbury, I am sure that one of the highlights of their season in R2 will be a trip to play in Jersey. The remaining 5 clubs that will play at R2, Chippenham, Devizes, Swindon, Trowbridge and RWB will all play in R2 Severn. Plenty of local rivalry there!

C1SS holds all our L7 clubs, with D&W occupying 7 of the 12 places in the league. Coming down from R2 are Frome and Sherborne with Corsham and Weymouth & Portland moving up from Counties 2. Despite the ceiling for 2<sup>nd</sup> XV's being raised to this level last season, only RWB have a 2<sup>nd</sup> XV in the league following the relegation of Frome II and Trowbridge II last season.

**Levels 8 – 9 (Counties 2 & 3):** The move to split our level 8 and 9 leagues into 3 divisions last season to reduce the travelling burden was a success, and we are continuing with this format this year. In C2DWN we welcome back SCOB into the D&W leagues after playing in C1SN, a BBO centric league last year.

The 3 Counties 2 leagues will remain at 9 teams, giving a playing season of 16 games. In Counties 3 the North and Central leagues continue as previously with 7 teams playing each other 3 times i.e. 18 games. However, C3DWS has increased to 9 teams and will feature 16 games as per Counties 2. Fairford, who have previously played in D&W leagues rejoin us in C3DWN from their native Gloucestershire.

The league season will start on 2<sup>nd</sup> September for R1, R2 & C1. C3DWN/C will start on 9<sup>th</sup> September and C2 and C3DWS on 16<sup>th</sup> September, with a league season end date of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024, thereafter the cup will commence.

## **League Winners 2022-23:**

R2SC saw **Marlborough** complete an unbeaten season, a feat that is an achievement at any level, but particularly noteworthy at L6. C1SS, and another unbeaten season saw **Wimborne** promoted to the R2 levels.

The Counties 2 D&W leagues produced 3 champions,

C2DWN **Chippenham II**,

C2DWC **Corsham**

and C2DWS **Weymouth & Portland**.

From these 3 leagues only 2 could be promoted and a play-off between Chippenham II and Weymouth & Portland saw the seashiders win an epic encounter at Allington Field to join Corsham in Counties 1 Southern South next year.

In Counties 3 **Supermarine** won C3DWN,

**Corsham II** completed a club double by winning C3DWC,

and **Ellingham & Ringwood II** were victorious in C3DWS.

The league winners were recognised and awarded their shields at a St Austell Brewery; Tribute sponsored evening on 9<sup>th</sup> June at North Dorset RFC.

### **Cup Competitions**

As previously mentioned, the Competitions Committee worked hard to create D&W Cups this year, particularly when considering the difficulties in providing this against the backdrop of the Papa John cup and its stunted draw process. In the end we managed to provide Cup rugby to 22 teams at the end of the published league season. Thanks to both Chris Jones and Mike Moysey as competition administrators for all their perseverance in successfully delivering this season's competitions.

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Runners Up</b>	<b>Final Date/Venue</b>
Upper Counties Cup	RWB II	Corsham	RWB RFC - 29th April
Lower Counties Cup	Sherborne II	RWB III	RWB RFC – 29th April
Plate	Chippenham II	Amesbury	Pewsey Vale RFC - 29th April

With the knowledge gained from this year's revised timings the Competitions Committee are looking to meet in August to format and make initial draws (where practical) for 23/24, thus giving clubs as much notice as possible, and the opportunity to work the schedule into their calendars

### **Friendly Matrix**

John Constable has once again steered the Dorset friendly matrix through the season, ensuring that as many players as possible get the opportunity to play rugby for those teams sitting outside of the league structure. John is keen for this initiative to continue in 2023/24. At present there doesn't appear to be the same requirement for Wiltshire.

### **Tribute TOTM Awards**

Tribute (St Austell Brewery) will continue their sponsorship of the leagues in the South West next season, and I encourage all clubs to include the Tribute logo or name in their social media posts as a means of acknowledging their support.

Part of the sponsorship package involves D&W selecting a Team of The Month (TOTM). It is once again pleasing to note that D&W are held as an exemplar in South West in our speed of delivery and social media promotion of these awards. Thanks to Gerald Burden for his work on our social media platforms.

The winners in 2022/23 were as follows:

September: Marlborough RFC  
October: Corsham RFC  
November: Bradford On Avon RFC  
December: Supermarine RFC  
January: Wimborne RFC  
February: Cricklade RFC  
March: Weymouth & Portland RFC

**Sean Macey – Community Rugby Lead**

**Age Grade – No report filed**

Age Grade Registration

For the coming 2023-24 season all Age Grade players will have to be registered on GMS, to aid this process the RFU have produced a Webinar to view [Click here](#).

**Representative Rugby**

### **DWRFU Representative season back brief**

This note is being prepared as an overview of the Dorset and Wiltshire RFC representative rugby season for 2022/23.

### **U17/U18 Team Manager TBC – Head Coach Kevin Dobie**

- A development day was held October 2022 with a view to feed the trials in November and the Southwest trials in December at Hartpury.
- Development day October 2023, followed by a game November 5<sup>th</sup> D&W away v Berkshire.

### **U20 Team Manager Ian Moore – Head Coach Martyn Peel**

- Away against Oxfordshire – Won 0-82
- Home against Berkshire – Won 57-12
- Home against Buckinghamshire – Cancelled by Bucks
- Away against Gloucestershire – Won 15-47
- Div Finals - Home against Cornwall – Won 27-23
- Semi-Finals – Away against Hampshire – Lost 27-29

### **Senior Men Team Manager Dan Draper – Head Coach Don Parsons**

- Away against Gloucestershire – Won 15-47
- Home against Devon – Won 66-0
- Away against Berkshire – Won 19-50
- Home against East Mids – Won 47-24
- Final against Durham – Won 37-15 Championship Winners!

### **Senior Women Team Manager Emma Santer – Head Coach Ben Pocock**



- Home against Devon – Lost 15-60
- Away against Middlesex – Won 14-35

Current Budget update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ U17/ U18 – TBC</li> <li>➤ U20 – TBC</li> <li>➤ Men's XV - TBC</li> <li>➤ Women's XV - TBC</li> </ul>
Proposed Activity attached	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ U17/ U18 – U17 Complete, U18 planning commenced.</li> <li>➤ U20 – Complete, season review ongoing</li> <li>➤ Women's XV – Complete, season review ongoing</li> <li>➤ Men's XV – Complete, season review ongoing</li> </ul>
Detail	<p><b><u>U18 Male</u></b>  Programme up and running</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Team manager</li> <li>➤ Lead – Kevin Dobie</li> <li>➤ Forwards – Jake Krige</li> <li>➤ Backs – Marc Ewart</li> </ul> <p><b><u>U20 Male</u></b>  Season Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Team Manager – Lord Ian Moore</li> <li>➤ Lead Coach – Martyn Peel</li> <li>➤ Forwards Coach – Mark Ado</li> <li>➤ Backs Coach – Martin Oxland</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Senior Women XV</u></b>  Season Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Team Manager – Emma Santer</li> <li>➤ Lead Coach – Ben Pocock</li> <li>➤ Forwards Coach – TBC</li> <li>➤ Backs Coach – Aimi Dallyn</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Senior Men XV</u></b>  Season Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Team Manager – Dan Draper</li> <li>➤ Lead Coach – Don Parsons</li> <li>➤ Forwards Coach – Alan Low</li> <li>➤ Backs Coach – Terry Gilmore</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Remarks/ Points for discussion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have tasked each of the <b>Team Managers</b> with succession planning, I do not want a void every three years when the tenures expire of the entire management team.</li> <li>• To that end I will remind everyone of the three-year tenure at every opportunity and ask the committee to do the same, but <b><u>it must</u></b> include overlap. For example, if a Head Coach and Team Manager both quit at the end of a season the management team of that age group would be rudderless.</li> <li>• Ideally an assistant coach will step up to be Head Coach, an incoming Team Manager will shadow</li> </ul>

	<p>the existing team manager for a season, so we continually to build capacity and not just react to a volunteer calling it a day.</p> <p>➤ Interview Tue 3/7/23 for a <b>Team Manager</b> for the U17/U18.</p>
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We are pleased to announce that Julie Sheppard from Trowbridge RFC and Bath Rugby has agreed to become the D&W RFU Under 17-18's Team Manager.

## **Women & Girls**

Emma Santer to become Senior Women's Lead with Aimi Dallyn becoming the Deputy Senior Women's Lead.

Caroline Durston to become Un12's – Un 18's Girls Lead.

## **Governance – No report filed**

Since stepping into this role last November I have concentrated on policies, procedures and discussing updating the D&W website. Some ground has been made with all of the above.

I have been in contact with Diversity & inclusion and policies have been updated.

GDPR are being updated as we speak.

Safeguarding has made some great changes and now has a dedicated button at the top of the website.

Anti-doping and illicit drugs is being updated with an important push on county lines, more emphasis should be put on local drug related issues and how people can seek help and advice locally.

Disciplinary has not been discussed.

Age grade registration has not been discussed

GMS has not been discussed.

I have sat in on a safeguarding audit to help understand the role and I have also held a rugby safe meeting for all D&W club leads which was very interesting. The Hampshire rugby safe lead took a lead role in the meeting as we do not have a D&W rugby safe lead, she was very helpful and all on the zoom call found the discussion very informative. From this we have possibly enlisted a rugby safe lead for the county.

Lots more work to do in the coming year.

**Jane Hart Chair**

## **Disciplinary Panel**

Firstly, I would like to thank all the panel members and the clubs involved in this year's hearings for their support, without you all working together this would been an impossible task to manage.

The end of the season also marks the retirement of Nick Dark, one of the panels most distinguished panel chairs.

For next season we will have five new panel members joining us, but we need a more diverse selection of panel members especially from the Women's Section.

The Disciplinary Panel received a total of 81 cases this year. Full details attached below.

- 62 Proven
- 1 Overturned
- 7 Not Proven
- 6 Passed to RFU or other CBs
- 5 Other Sanctions

**For Case List Breakdown see attached at to this report.**

**Gerald Burden**

### **AREA REPRESENTATIVES**

The purpose of the Area Representatives is to provide a link between the CB and clubs. The CB is split into 5 areas, North, Mid and South Wiltshire, East, and West Dorset. The representatives hold meetings regularly during the year with the 6 to 8 clubs in their area, act as a conduit for questions, answers, information etc between the clubs, CB (all committees) and RFU staff. All representatives sit on Council and at each meeting a consolidated report is provided covering all points from all 5 areas précisising the meeting notes plus any additional points raised. This acts as a requirement for work for the CB to help clubs prosper.

This year has ended with requirement from East Dorset requiring replacement leads, Jane Hart (ED) having taken on the Hd Governance role. We would welcome interest for this role. We have had a new NW representative join us this year (Darren Astley) Myself and Ed Taylor remain working with our clubs.

During the year meetings were held with clubs regularly, although regretfully we were unable to engage with the Mid Wilts clubs fully. During these meetings subject areas of RFU feedback, Facilities, GMS, Playing in Womens, Age Grade, Men's rugby, Walking Rugby, coaching and other courses, refereeing and other regulatory and social issues were al discussed. Most meetings were held over Zoom platform which saved travelling time and expense and had higher levels of attendance, some Face-to-Face meetings were held which were also welcomed as it gave the opportunity to network between the clubs socially. Most meetings are also attended by the local RFU staff who are there to help and provide support through the area reps to the clubs

Additionally, we were able to ensure clubs met their responsibilities in regulatory matters on time by issuing reminders, help and advice in completing these tasks. Clubs were given the opportunity to share their activities within the groups which were of help both to them and their peer clubs.

It's important to mention that attendance at meetings is deliberately open to those in the clubs with an interest in any topic and not limited to Chairs and Secretaries as had previously been the case.

In conclusion the work of the area representatives is important in the structure of the CB and is a very important link between clubs and CB/RFU management. It is possible that in the future subject specific groups may be set up, such as Age Grade, Girls, Rugby etc which the Area Representatives will be fundamental in helping the specialist leads organise and run.

## **CLUB SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

### **Facilities**

Currently there are limited opportunities available for external funding, but with the aid of the RFU South-West Facilities Team, we are only too willing to discuss your clubs' requirements.

### **Rugby Focus Weekend**

Following the cancelation of the NatWest weekend, the D&W introduced a series of Grants called the Rugby Focus Weekend.

In total there was 11 grants available (Three x £1,000.00 and Eight x £500.00), we did not receive any applications for these grants.

This funding will be carried forward until next year Rugby Focus Weekend. Subject to the approval of the D&W RFU Council additional funding will be made available.

### **Club Development Grants**

This year the D&W RFU had Ten Club Development Grants available of £500.00 each. We received three applications for this Grants, and the following awards was agreed.

Oakmeadians RFC  
Travel (Women's Travel)  
Monthly (Drop-in Sessions)

RWB RFC (Schools programme)

Guys Marsh Barbarians (Kit)

### **Club Support Grants**

The following grants were approved

Oakmeadians RFC (Changing rooms)

RWB RFC (Lighting)

Amesbury RFC (Colts)

Swanage & Wareham RFC (Changing Rooms/Club House)

Marlborough RFC (Ladies Toilets)

Weymouth and Portland RFC (Changing Rooms/Shower)

### **RFU Sanitary Packages**

The clubs listed below have received an offer of support

Chippenham RFC  
Corsham RFC  
Dorchester RFC  
Marlborough RFC  
Oakmeadians RFC  
Sherborne RFC  
Sherborne RFC  
Swanage & Wareham RFC  
Trowbridge RFC  
Weymouth & Portland RFC  
Wimborne RFC

### **RFU Toilet Upgrades**

The clubs listed below have received an offer of support

Chippenham RFC  
Corsham RFC  
Dorchester RFC  
East Dorset Dockers RFC  
Marlborough RFC  
Oakmeadians RFC  
Poole RFC  
Sherborne RFC  
Swanage & Wareham RFC  
Weymouth & Portland RFC

The total value of these awards to D&W Clubs is £53.250.00

### **First Aid Courses**

This year the D&W agreed to part fund First Aid Courses in readiness for next seasons requirement, the take up of this funding was poor with many clubs registering an interest but failing to follow up their request for support.

The remaining funding will be carried forward until next year for more First Aid Courses.

For more details on all these schemes please contact your Area Representative or any member of the D&W RFU Management.

The D&W also offered small grants for the purchase of the Pro-active App, which will be carried over to next year.

All funding carried over until next year is subject to the approval of the D&W RFU Council.

### **Volunteer Report**

The Volunteering Awards Evening was held at North Dorset RFC on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June and was attended by 79 people.

There were 20 names nominated which are listed below

Paul Chidley  
Roy Whitford and Peter King  
James Adams  
Greg Pike  
Paul Goddard  
Marcus Flor-Vickers  
Jon Lewis  
Jamie Barrett  
Aimi Dallyn  
Damian Dix  
Kevin Dobie  
Katie Buchanan  
Emma Santer  
Martin Hill  
Georgina Plant  
Louis Brencher  
Dan Buckland and Matt Perkins  
Bob Strickland

Sherborne RFC  
Amesbury RFC  
Chippenham RFC  
Bournemouth RFC  
Bradford on Avon RFC  
Oakmeadians RFC  
Poole RFC  
Swindon College Old Boys RFC  
Women's & Girls Rugby  
Referees  
Under 17-18's Boys Rugby  
Bournemouth RFC  
Trowbridge RFC  
Swanage & Wareham RFC  
Royal Wootton Bassett RFC  
Christchurch RFC  
Oakmeadians RFC  
Bournemouth RFC

The Volunteer of the Year 2023 was

Emma Santer from Trowbridge RFC

Honda Volunteer Recognition

Dorset & Wilts RFU have returned our nominations for consideration in the National Awards later in the year. We wish them luck in the National awards.

### **Alan Ottaway – Chair of Club Support**

#### **Referees**

Once again, a challenging season for the Society, with some of our members deciding it was time to call it a day with the whistle and others not being available so regularly as in the past.

However, Damian with mutual help from our close neighbours in Somerset & Hampshire, appointed to 847 games,

604 Adult

176 Junior

67 School

Not appointed to were 211,

28 Adult

176 Junior

38 School

As you can see the junior sections are the most difficult to get referees to, mainly due to the fact they are Sunday fixtures which many members are unable to commit to.

The majority of the school games are in midweek and again, the availability of members midweek is becoming more and more difficult.

Pleasingly, I have just had through the dates for 3 ERRA Courses within the Counties,

Day One 26<sup>th</sup> Oct , Day 2 30<sup>th</sup> May @ Salisbury

Day One 29<sup>th</sup> Oct , Day 2 5<sup>th</sup> May @ Milton Abbey

Day One 12<sup>th</sup> Nov , Day 2 2<sup>nd</sup> June @ Marlborough College

These courses are on the 'Keep your Boots on site' and I remind all, that should they take and pass The course, complete 5 games for the society we will re imbuse the course fees.

I am also pleased to be able to inform you all, due to good financial management from our treasurer, some sponsorship from Kingwood Canvas & Datec Communications plus a donation from Action Funder who work with grass root sports projects, we will have no need to increase fees to the Clubs for this season. This is particularly encouraging in these difficult times, and we realise we must work together to keep the costs for clubs as manageable as possible.

Finally this seasons Bob Stock Trophy award goes to - - - - -

It was very close between a number of clubs this season for the Trophy, and I thank Ross Lakey for revitalising the method of feeding back from the referees which led to a more accurate set of figures.

**Denis Nolan Chair**

## **CALLING NOTICE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2023 – 2024 Annual General Meeting of Dorset & Wilts. RFU Limited will be held at the Salisbury Rugby Football Club on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024, at 7:30 p.m.**



**Working Together to Grow Rugby in Dorset and Wiltshire**

[www.dwrugby.co.uk](http://www.dwrugby.co.uk)