

WEST DORSET RUGBY CLUBS MEETING (1st August 2022)

INVITEES

Name	Role	Feb 22	Apr 22	May 22	Aug 22
Ed Taylor (ET)	Coordinator				
Tom Davis-Richings (TDR)	Blandford RFC		Apologies		
Julian Hussey (JH)	Bridport RFC				Apologies
Tony Foot (TF)	Dorchester RFC				
Tony O Connell (TOC)	Dorchester (W&G)				
Tim Rose (TR)	North Dorset RFC		Apologies & Report		
Nick Matravers (NM)	North Dorset (W&G)				
Sam Bailey (SB)	Puddletown RFC				Apologies
Ray Stephens (RS)	Puddletown RFC				
Mike Trew (MT)	Sherborne RFC				
Caroline Durston	Sherborne (W&G)				
Martin Hill (MH)	Swanage & Wareham RFC				
Jon Monaghan (JM)	Weymouth & Portland RFC		Apologies	Apologies	
Alison Hunter (AH)	Dorset & Wilts				
John Constable (JC)	RFU Council Rep				
Gerald Burden (GB)	Dorset & Wilts				
Chris Burton (CB)	Dorset & Wilts		Apologies		
Lizzie O Connor (LOC)	RFU - Club Developer			Apologies	
Keturah Watts (KW)	Dorset & Wilts (D&I)			Apologies	

INTRODUCTION

ET welcomed all to the meeting and it was great to see increased numbers, particularly in support of W&G sections.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS/NOTES

Action 2.5 - All clubs to submit their accounts to Alison Hunter D&W treasurer – **Ongoing** – **Note 3 to check if outstanding for previous year – Sherborne, Bridport and Puddletown – please send to Alison ASAP. All to forward their latest accounts.**

Action 7.4 – Club Coaches (across this group) to consolidate the coaching course required (this was initially raised by AH for Level 1 coaching request). Our local coach contact is Smudge Smith **All – Ongoing** – **good information provided by Sherborne, Lizzie has sent Training Needs Analysis Reports to aid the process, others to complete.**

Action 7.5 – Build upon Player Recruitment Topic outputs. **ET – Ongoing** – **material supplied below**

Action 8.1 - We should have get together of interested parties from our clubs to agree actions to take this forward and encourage more Ladies & Girls participation. **ET / All - Complete** – **W&G forums attended and initiatives progressing e.g 1000 tournament for U18.**

Action 8.2 – Ensure Age Grade affiliations all completed – important for insurance purposes – **All – by mid August**

Action 9.1 – Weymouth, Blandford and Puddletown to send in short report to include in minutes – **Sam/Tom/Jon - Closed**

Action 9.2 – Set up Club visits to all 8 clubs during the season to include Ed, John and Lizzie – **Ed – ongoing – dates being agreed with clubs**

Action 9.3 – We should look at ensuring continuity between U18 / U20 / Seniors rugby – we should keep in contact with players. Investigate if this is done – **Chris B - Ongoing**

NEW ACTIONS/NOTES

Fixtures have led to some weeks when no clubs playing at home – reported by North Dorset and others. JC supporting this and we have been able to move some fixtures.

Action 10.1 – Clubs to promote U18 girls and to provide a contact name from club. **ET to set up a meeting with those contacts to plan way forward.**

Action 10.2 – provide details of ADHD, Autism, Wellbeing courses – **LOC**

Action 10.3 – provide details of Rugby Leaders Network Application – **LOC – PMN – Complete** provided by E Mail.

Action 10.4 - Pitch condition is a significant issue for all – will watch the situation and call a meeting if this is becoming a critical as season draws near. RFU link on pitch information to be provided – **JC**

Action 10.5 – provide Code of Conduct details – **JC – Complete – in E Mail**

Date of Next Meeting – **ET to set this up in approximately 6 weeks time**

Discussion Topics

W&G forum held last week, good attendance from local clubs and positive discussions held.

U18 Girls 1000 Tournament – all clubs to promote U18 rugby locally and provide contact name within clubs (so far Sherborne – Caroline, Dorchester – Tony OC, North Dorset – Nick, Weymouth – Fi/Kirsty, Chris Burton), ET to coordinate and call a meeting to progress. It was recognised that there is a shortage of U18 girls in the area, but noted also applies to U17s too. We need to promote in our local schools.

Director of Rugby Course – 1 person interested from S&W, it was noted this would be taking part during working week.

GMS – reminder to update Golden Roles, age group players move automatically but need to move the coaching staff etc manually

There is support for topics such as Autism, ADHD and Mental Health – LOC to provide details.

Club Reports

Puddletown – good numbers training, Puddlefest tournament successfully held, improvements being made to grounds/clubhouse, pitches suffering due to lack of rain

Sherborne – well advanced off field, 50 training, main issue is cost of travel – now understand how to claim back costs but missed opportunity to do this last season as didn't receive the information, drought causing issues to pitches (looking at innovative ways to store excess runoff water during winter), good promotion of W&G rugby in the area and in schools

Bridport – Completed on the takeover of the bar, good numbers training but slow take up with colts, little progress on W&G. Bridport 10s shortly.

Swanage & Wareham – Senior training started, good numbers at Ladies Inner Warrior course – 40/50 people, minis/youth promoting the rugby club on local carnival float, S&W Player Charter shared with other clubs post meeting.

Dorchester – good numbers training, strong financial performance last season, starting separate Ladies Team – will reach out to other local clubs to try and recruit required numbers (previously combined W&P and Dorchester team), main issue – need to resolve Catering for the season & pitches not being used.

North Dorset – successful 7s tournament held, upgrading club facilities, new training lights, training started, aiming to run 3 teams

Blandford – no report

Weymouth – clubhouse activities going well, caravans continue to be a success, good numbers attending training in seniors and Ladies numbers looking promising, colts numbers are low, progressing lease extension and associated planning permission

RFU FEEDBACK / D&W Update / Issues

1. Rugby Leaders Network Application details to be sent to all. Being run in Bristol and Loughborough plus videos/webinars- Action LOC (open until 10th Oct)
2. Adult Male Recovery Plan details provided to all and will keep everyone in the loop as this develops
3. Pitch condition is a significant issue for all – will watch the situation and call a meeting if this is becoming a critical issue as season draws near. RFU link on pitch information to be provided JC

AOB

Code of Conduct was discussed and details to be provided of RFU link (JC)

Remember to undertake GMS Data Cleanse and ensure Touring Requests are sent in good time.

MEETING CLOSE

ET closes meeting, again a lot of good discussion and excellent attendance – Thank you

PREVIOUS DISCUSSION TOPIC – Player recruitment

a) What Working Well (WWW) – Best Practice

Bridport - Mimicking previous “**Tag festival – road to Twickenham**” with 16 junior schools in the area (in March) – years 5 and 6, great way to get juniors involved and their parents to the club.

Non contact Women’s rugby sessions – good for social rugby and builds link with family members

Friday night rugby under floodlights including Age group rugby

Juniors support 1st XV matchday and publicised (PMN thought)

b) What can we DO BETTER (WDB)

Need to **upgrade club facilities** to make it an enjoyable experience when supporters do come along.

More volunteers needed – this is becoming more and more difficult, current incumbents finding it hard to commit the time, players stop playing at younger age and do not move into volunteer role, hard to find volunteers for Sunday morning. We need to be able to get more support from the parents. Senior club officials need to be engaging with parents on Sunday mornings.

Social media advertising needs to be much more professional and engaging, e.g. Instagram etc

We need to maintain **continuity of coaching** with the youngsters

Advertise our Successes but needs to be a concerted campaign