

## WEST DORSET RUGBY CLUBS MEETING (10<sup>th</sup> January 2022)

### INVITEES

Name	Role	Apr 21	Aug 21	Oct 21	Jan 22
Ed Taylor (ET)	Coordinator				
To be appointed	Coordinator	Apologies			
Tom Davis-Richings (TDR)	Blandford RFC		Apologies & Report		Apologies & Report
Julian Hussey (JH)	Bridport RFC			Apologies	Apologies & Report
Tony Foot (TF)	Dorchester RFC				
Tim Rose (TR)	North Dorset RFC		Report provided		
Sam Bailey (SB)	Puddletown RFC			Apologies	Apologies & Report
Mike Trew (MT)	Sherborne RFC				
Martin Hill (MH)	Swanage & Wareham RFC				
Jon Monaghan (JM)	Weymouth & Portland RFC		Apologies		
John Constable (JC)	RFU Council Rep				
Gerald Burden (GB)	Dorset & Wilts				
Julie Boddington (JB)	Dorset & Wilts – Safeguarding				
Lizzie O Connor (LO)	RFU - Club Developer			Apologies & Report	

### PREVIOUS ACTIONS/NOTES

**Action 2.5** - All clubs to submit their accounts to Alison Hunter D&W treasurer – **Ongoing** – Alison to check if any West Dorset clubs outstanding. ET to check with Alison that this is complete for 19/20 accounts. To avoid delays all clubs to note that 20/21 accounts also required by 31<sup>st</sup> December, noting one club recently fined for not submitting accounts. **Note 5 currently outstanding – Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, North Dorset and Puddletown – please send to Alison ASAP**

**Action 5.1 – Puddletown & Bridport** – unable to attend. Could I ask that a few lines be E Mailed to me from the 2 clubs to include in these minutes. **JH & SB – Complete (thank you)**

**Action 5.2** – We have a vacancy for D&W Council Rep for West Dorset, if anyone is aware of anyone from your clubs who might be interested in applying please let me know – would be good to have a nominee with Ladies Rugby or/and Age Group background. **All - Continues**

**Action 5.3** – Details of a ‘nomadic club’ Wyvern in Somerset to be sent to others – **TDR - Continues**

**Action 5.4** – Will match card be changed to allow up to 5 subs to be entered – **JC – Closed - most clubs are getting by, if issue then please contact D&W secretary**

**Action 5.5** – provide Blandford committee member conveyancing solicitor contact details (if willing!) to MH – **TDR - Complete**

**Thanks to Lizzie, Swanage & Wareham have made positive progress with 2 lease experts from the RFU (Matt and Jason), in providing support to their lease issues. The dialogue continues with them and the town council.**

**Note** - Clubs should ensure First Aid Training is current – there are strict guidelines next season which need to be met.

Date of Next Meeting – ***ET to set this up – aiming for early March 22 and avoiding 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in month to allow Bridport to attend.***

### **FEEDBACK FROM CLUBS**

**Puddletown** – All going well within Puddletown, training progressing well with good numbers and game time going well. New players seem to be appearing which is positive, some returning to rugby after a number of years and some coming from various places around our county! Now have a covered area for supporters in miserable conditions which the grants has helped to achieve which is good and have many other plans for future projects.

**Sherborne** – 1<sup>st</sup> team performing well, 2<sup>nd</sup> team struggling for numbers and have had to pull out of league. Club are continuing to play games (seniors and age group rugby) on Friday night where possible – this is a good option for Sherborne and they are seeing different demographics attending these matches. Juniors and Ladies teams going well, also receiving coaching from 1<sup>st</sup> team players. Reduced bar income.

**Bridport** – Still ongoing with the project to take over the running of The Clubhouse from the Leisure Centre. Player numbers on the whole are good but injuries and availability have proved challenging. The junior section is in a good position. The only downside is still no Colts but we are hopeful for next Season.

One moan from the Junior Section is GMS and getting information from it especially who has paid!! (see **Action 6.1 below**)

**Swanage & Wareham** – Been a bit of a stop/start season, with a number of matches being cancelled including recent league game against Corsham. Fielding 3 teams and results are encouraging. Training numbers not as good as pre Covid. Good numbers in the minis/youth sections and Ladies fielding a team, lost recently to Trojans. Lease discussions continue with local council with support from RFU (see actions above). MH also briefed on development plans for the club including improvements to roof – which is in planning permission stage. Progressing Winter Survival Funding Loan – now getting VAT advice.

**Dorchester** – Has been an enjoyable season, although some disruption with Covid issues, in Junior section where there are a lot of isolations. Running 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams and good results. Bar profits are down – believed to be because people are cautious about mixing in bars. Ladies (joint team with Weymouth) are enthusiastic and playing matches. Contracts relating to a previous disciplinary issue are progressing.

**North Dorset** - Running 2 senior men's teams plus a ladies team. Good numbers at training (30+) and 46 players. Good results. Training ground is getting a lot of usage, need to extend lights to allow more use of playing areas. Not suffered unduly with Covid issues. Have also hosted County Training. Age Group rugby going well, end of season tour going ahead. Had to call off social event over Xmas

**Blandford** – A really good first half of the season, player numbers are growing week on week. Hopeful that can keep a second team going with the increase in numbers and can fulfill fixtures for the rest of the season. Progress has been made with the redevelopment of the Larksmead site with concept drawings now being produced. Have been affected by COVID over this last week, 4 positive cases and 1 positive lateral flow after training on Thursday resulting in the postponement of game against East Dorset Dockers.

Mini's are growing slowly, but are having issues with getting coaches for age groups, U13's participated in a tournament being held at Milton Abbey school (with a little help from Wimborne) which was very successful giving them some meaningful game time. And U16's and U12's competing in the Cup fixtures that are now happening this side of Christmas. Not planning to take U16's to colts but instead they will be developed with the senior set up and brought into games once they reach 17. Aware that this will mean some players will not play next season but simply do not have the squad size to compete with other local clubs.

**Weymouth** – Running 2 senior sides, good results (2<sup>nd</sup> in league) and have seen several old players return to the club. Seen a drop off in volunteers in mini & youth and currently have no chair. Ladies team (with Dorchester) are playing matches. Club has managed some Covid issues. There have also been significant upgrades of the club, including upgrades to referee rooms and changing rooms.

### **RFU FEEDBACK / INPUTS**

**Action 6.1** – Investigate GMS webinars to provide support to clubs (LOC).....(see Post Meeting Note\* below from Lizzie)

\*(from L O'C) I've looked into the GMS sessions mentioned – these were advertised to clubs with a deadline to sign up on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. They are organised by Deloitte who are conducting the review into GMS and taking on feedback from the game. Therefore at the moment there aren't sessions that the clubs can join.

List of sessions pasted below for your information, I am happy to pick up informally with any club that's interested.

- Age grade to senior transition
- Analysing and developing membership offer
- Business planning
- Club Management
- Combining teams with different clubs
- Education to club links
- Grant funding
- Generating income
- Volunteer recruitment
- Sponsorship
- External partners

### **FCS (FUTURE COMPETITION STRUCTURE) / RFU / D&W Update**

No issues reported with respect to League & Cup competitions. Main current activity is to see how leagues will pan out next year, looking to reduce travel, but some CBs very protective of their areas (not D&W). Potential for Bournemouth 2s in at Level 7 was mentioned. **A number of clubs reiterated that they wanted to see the RFU move towards updating competition structure to**

**reduce the need for long distance travel. Noting moving East to West from Dorset is easier than travelling to Swindon from South Dorset.**

### **AOB**

**Action 6.2** - Although now closed there is still an opportunity to encourage candidates from your clubs to apply for Youth Leadership Academy (JM has details). The only clubs represented to date are Bournemouth, Dorchester and Oakmedians. **All**

**Action 6.3** - Rugby Focus weekend – 18/19 June – get your nominations in for grants. **All**

**Action 6.4** - Circulate posters on abuse of match officials and also touchline limits to crowds

**Action 6.5** - Volunteer recipients' scheme launched today on RFU website – please encourage nominations – **let's try and get a good number from West Dorset. All**

Swnaage & Wareham license refused for Caravan rallies – thought to be because of SSSIs locally – will impact club by £30K.

**Action 6.6** - Can Matt/Jason help ? Get together with JM at Weymouth to a) ensure Weymouth don't have similar issues and b) see what can be done jointly to address this. **MH/JM**

Covid related postponement process understood by all.

### **MEETING CLOSE**

ET closes meeting at 20:40 on a positive note and apologises yet again for his lack of IT skills and poor equipment !!.