



DORSET & WILTS. RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Treasurer
Alison Hunter

County President
Michael Moysey

Secretary
Gerald Burden
1 Mede Close Bourton
Gillingham
Dorset SP8 5BL

Date: 6 April 2022

Dear Club President / Club Chairman,

As we move into the final month of the 2021/22 season, I thought it might be an appropriate time to catch up with you on some of the issues currently front and centre across Dorset & Wilts.

I think we were all very aware that the current season was going to be something of a challenge compounded by the unknown factors associated with the Coronavirus pandemic and the effect it might have on and within local rugby activities. That said I do believe that our clubs and the wider rugby community has coped really well in all the circumstances although as was always going to be the concern the common message we are receiving is the loss of senior players after the time out from regular rugby which has put a number of clubs under considerable pressure in being able to fulfil all its fixtures.

I think it is clear that rugby in general has to acknowledge these issues and react accordingly to endeavour to support clubs and more particularly all our players to maintain participation in rugby across all levels. In this respect Dorset & Wilts clubs at senior level have performed reasonably well in terms of teams lost and competitive matches conceded as opposed to similar statistics across both the South-West region and nationally. Nevertheless, a key requirement for all of us remains to ensure as far as we are able to provide the right environment to maintain playing levels

In support of this we are continuing the process of restructuring the Dorset & Wilts Council to be as open, responsive, and relevant as can be to support and administer rugby across the counties. In this respect you may well have seen recent advertisements and in some cases re advertisements for various voluntary roles within the structure, and in particular individuals to represent the clubs on Council and other supporting functions. I appreciate at this time of the year clubs too are beginning to look at their own volunteer pools and looking to fill those gaps that inevitably appear when volunteers step down etc. That said if there are any people within your clubs that might consider a new challenge the list of vacancies can be found on the D&W website!

You will also probably be aware of by now of the top-down review of the league competition's structure currently being developed by the RFU. We are advised that as soon as possible after the completion of the current season's fixtures an idea of how this will filter down to the levels at which D&W clubs compete will be provided. The D&W Competitions Group are already at work to consider all local implications of this and individual League Secretaries will I am sure keep club contacts posted as and where they can .

It has also been a challenging season in endeavouring to complete all our own county knock out competitions at both senior and Age Grade levels. With the senior knock outs, we are hopefully that all the remaining competitions can be completed during April and all competing clubs and those who have kindly offered to host finals are being separately contacted accordingly. One matter I must raise at this point is that there are several clubs, who despite being invoiced and reminded, have still not settled all their outstanding competition entry fees , and in some cases other fees and charges ,at the time of writing. This

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is somewhat disappointing as like all other aspects of daily life the cost of running competitions and hearings is only going in one direction right now! I would be very grateful therefore if you can ensure within your own clubs that any such outstanding payments are cleared ASAP. Any doubts about this please let me know and I will endeavour to point you in the right direction.

A further area that I believe we need the clubs to take a lead role is within discipline. Through the formal procedures there does appear to be some evidence of an increasing trend in verbal abuse cases which I know will be something that we would all see as being unacceptable within the values and codes that we all subscribe to. I would ask you to ensure that the message continues to get across that any such actions will always be totally unacceptable within the game.

Finally, as we move towards the end of the season there are several representative matches coming up within the RFU County Championship competitions in May both for senior men's and women's teams. The venues and times for these are gradually being confirmed and appearing on the D&W web site accordingly. I very much look forward to meeting up with as many of you who can attend any of these fixtures.

Thank you once again for all the hard work put in to administering all our clubs and here's to rugby in the future!

Very Best Regards

Michael Hoyle

President, Dorset & Wilts RFU

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