



DORSET & WILTS. RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Treasurer
Alison Hunter

County President
Michael Moysey

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

Date: 15 December 2021

Dear Club President / Club Chair,

As we move towards Christmas and the end of 2021 it's probably an appropriate time to reflect on this first half of the 2021/22 season and what it has meant for all our clubs, players, volunteers, and supporters in Dorset & Wiltshire.

We all knew that this season was going to be a tremendous challenge with all the fall out issues arising after some eighteen months without our normal diet of competitive rugby but with that said I think the overriding impression that is coming through is that clubs have buckled down and done a tremendous job with, as far as possible getting and keeping the show back on the road!

The greatest challenge arising out of the pandemic was always going to be to ensure there were enough players to keep teams within clubs and indeed clubs themselves functioning on a regular basis and by and large except for a small number of teams lost this has been achieved with no small amount of effort right across Dorset & Wiltshire.

You might well be aware of the RFU Game On initiative which is designed to get as much rugby as possible played by introducing greater flexibility in the numbers of players and various technical aspects of the game which I believe is to be encouraged wherever possible to keep as many players as possible out there on a Saturday or Sunday. It's possible this initiative will be adopted at Level 9 league matches as well as friendly matches in the new year.

We have also kicked off our own county cups again across six competitions at senior level which is being reasonably well supported together with all relevant competitions at both Age Grade for male and female and women's rugby. We await with interest to learn how the RFU intend to implement the proposed new national knock out competitions for the 2022/23 season along with details on the intended league restructures.

We have committed to entering the RFU National County competitions for this season for Senior Men, Women and Under 20's and Under 18's. The Representative Rugby Sub Committee has been working hard to put in place all the management and coaching structure and personnel to underpin all the different teams as and when the various competitions kick in mostly during the second half of the season. The Under 18's male programme has already kicked off with the Under

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20's male competition getting going in January. Senior Men and Women following in the usual end of season slots in May.

We are continuing with the ongoing review of how the CB is structured and organised to be as relevant as possible and to both support and advise the clubs but also to take soundings on what pressing issues there are out there! I am sure it will be a familiar tale within clubs as well, but we are always looking for additional volunteers, particularly Club Representatives to help ensure the views of the clubs are properly articulated and responded to. Vacancies are posted on the D&W web site on a regular basis.

In terms of immediate support, the most recent you might well have seen is the Rugby Focus weekend next June where some financial support can be applied for to undertake any works of improvement, upgrade or just a lick of paint to your club premises!

You should have also seen the recent invite for the second Youth Leadership Academy programme with a closing date of 3rd January. If you have any individuals in your club who might be appropriate to this programme, please encourage them to apply accordingly.

All the above in terms of ongoing rugby activities continues to some extent to be influenced by the position with Covid-19 which at the time of writing is again causing considerable concern. As we know things can change at short notice and we can only at any time take the advice and direction from the Government and the RFU.

That said it remains for me to wish yourselves, families, and clubs a safe and enjoyable Christmas and the very best wishes for the remainder of the season and 2022!

Michael Moysey

President, Dorset & Wilts RFU

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