



DORSET & WILTS RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

A meeting of the Dorset & Wilts. RFU Council will be held on Tuesday, 9th August 2022, from 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

MINUTES – AGENDA

[working assumption: papers sent with or referred to in this agenda will be taken as having been read]

No	Item	Lead/Action
1.		

2. Attendance, Inc. apologies: co-options and any introductions MM/GB

Mike Moysey [MM]	Atte	Stuart Murrow [SM]	Apol	Gerald Burden [GB]	Atte
Alison Hunter [AH]	Atte	Jane Hart [JH]	Atte	Alistair Morrison [AM]	Atte
John Constable [JC]	Atte			Keturah Watts [KW]	Atte
Denis Nolan [DN]	Atte	Ed Taylor [ET]	Atte	David Wookey [DW]	Atte
Julie Fisher [JF]	Atte	Chris Burton [CB]	Atte	Sean Macey [SM]	Atte
		Nick Elbourne [NE]	Atte	Nicola McCombe [NMc]	Atte

Red represents Non-voting members

3. Minutes:

To note the of the Council meeting held on the 12th of July 2022

Copies available on the D&WRFU website, please [Click here](#)

Noted

4. Matter arising:

5. Area Representatives Updates:

Under 18's Girls update All

Club Walking Rugby All
So far only three clubs have expressed an interest.

Dorchester RFC
Weymouth & Portland RFC
Amesbury RFC

MM asked if this could be part of the Pitch up and play weekend. It was agreed that it could be.

DW expressed his concerns about Devizes RFC, who currently do not have the followings roles listed on GMS.

Chair
Secretary
Data Officer

ET updated the meeting on the West Dorset Huddle which was held on Monday 11th August 2022 (Report to follow at the next Council meeting).

6. Non-Area Representatives Updates:

Women's & Girls

CB reported at the W&G forum, it appears that there was a lack of knowledge regarding Under 18's Girl's programme.

AM reported that he was not directly involved in the Under 18's Girl's programme for West Wiltshire, but it was going to be managed by Emma Santer and Pete Jacobs.

CB reported that the W&G forum was very positive with lots of interaction between clubs and RFU Staff.

CB reported that the Girls Under 16's ERDPP is due to start soon.

CB reported that the Under 18's Girls Representative Rugby programme starts in October.

CB updated the meeting relating to the School's Union, meeting still to be arranged with Bath.

Referees.

DN asked if clubs are planning Pre-season friendly, please contact Damian Dix ASAP.

DW asked DN regarding Referee DBS checks.

Diversity and Inclusion

RFU Council to vote on Gender Participation Policy for Rugby Union in England. To view please [Click here](#)

KW reported that the RFU had issued a new Trans-Women's guidelines/policy, but did not think it would have an impact on the D&W.

Safeguarding

GB asked JF if she could email him a copy of her verbal report, GB received a copy of the previous Council meeting's report later that week.

I attended the safeguarding CBSM conference at the end of last month

1. We discussed the new code of conduct posters and we need to encourage clubs to use them.
2. Play it safe course is to be revamped, I have asked to go on the group who will be looking at changes we can make.
3. We talked about empowering young people and our work with the Young leaders was celebrated
4. We talked about Bystander Behaviour. We all have a responsibility to change attitudes and norms. I am in the process of putting this together to present at the next CSO call.
5. Best practice in managing conduct both on and off pitch. Clubs are to be encouraged to use the new posters at pitchside in order to support good pitchside behaviour, would be really good if we could encourage them to have them printed on the plastic boards in order to preserve them.

6. We discussed the results of the online safeguarding audit from each club and I am currently working my way through each club to discuss any issues.
 - a. coaches and volunteers with expired or no DBS check
 - b. Clubs not using the RFU Volunteer form as previously agreed across D&W
 - c. CSO not attending In Touch within 6 months of appointment, this has now been reduced to 3 months of appointment, I am working through the new ones to ensure they have booked onto the relevant courses
 - d. Clubs are not following the DBS approval guidance, Documents are being sent by email and not seen originals, this is being addressed
 - e. Clubs not requiring coaches and volunteers to complete the Play it safe course, This is likely to become mandatory soon
 - f. Clubs not encouraging Senior committee to attend play it safe so they are not aware of their responsibilities about safeguarding, this is being addressed
 - g. Job descriptions are not issued to new volunteers.
 - h. New volunteers are not being told to complete the online safeguarding course before DBS check is started, this is an audit requirement.
7. I am putting together a programme of Full audits for the clubs so that we have the programme in place by the end of July giving clubs plenty of time for planning and to ensure compliance. Reminding clubs that this is not a fault finding mission but to support them. The online self audit is also remaining as a mandatory requirement each year and for this year will need to be completed by December. It takes a lot of chasing to get these done so please encourage your huddle clubs to read and complete fully, several responses last year were clearly not correct and had not been completed by the CSO.
8. Play it safe courses are also being planned and booked ready for the new season, clubs who have had issues are being targeted first in order to make sure that they are in a better place at the start of the season.
9. There are several outstanding Safeguarding issues in the hands of the RFU, I will update as and when I have more information. [REDACTED]
10. I would like to run a face to face CSO conference, possibly in conjunction with neighbouring CB but I need to know if there is a budget that I can use. Talking to all other CBSM's, they all have a decent budget despite the RFU reductions in Grants etc and are 100% supported by the council and management structure. I would like to discuss the needs for a specified safeguarding budget please
11. Ripples suicide prevention app. This has been developed to be able to download onto computers so that when someone does an online search for suicide etc it will pop up with places where they can get support, this has been successful in preventing suicides and so can we get this info out to clubs via the social media stuff. I will find the relevant link but as I say I am waiting on what is happening at the hospital at present.
12. I need somewhere that myself and the safeguarding team can save secure documents in order to be able to share them. I have had no response from the person who gave me access to the RFU sharepoint so can someone advise if we have a secure area to store things> Its vital so that if anything happens to me the info is all in one place.
13. GMS for each club needs to be updated with current coach lists as several clubs have coaches on the system who are no longer coaching so when I do a DBS check they are showing as non compliant, this then triggers me to contact the club to see what is happening
14. I have made contact with David Binding and Richard Smallbone in order to discuss needs across the areas that they live in and how they can support me. Both are very experienced and I feel would be good as part of the safeguarding team.

JF reported that she has not received the approval for Joe Walsh (now more than 12 months) to deliver RFU Training Courses. NMc asked JF to forward her the request information. **JF**

Meeting between JF and Donovan Lynaghan to be rearranged due to DL being on holiday.

County Membership

No update

Age Grade

Age Grade Playing Calendar

Nothing to report

Representative Rugby and DPP etc

DPP Assessment Days for Under 15 and Under 16 to be held on 25 August 2022

Bath Rugby is holding a Launch Event for this season's Affiliate Programme at the Rec on 19 September 2022 between 1830 and 2030. Currently they have 45 Clubs in the programme mainly from Dorset & Wilts and Bath & East Somerset.

Age Grade Competitions

Entries are complete with a total of 135 teams (up from 131) from 32 clubs (up from 31 with Amesbury and Swindon coming in and Wells not entering). It is encouraging that the Under 18 Colts has remained steady at 22 teams,

The invoices for entry fees have gone out this week and the Age Grade Competitions are budgeted to break even.

Some minor changes to the Rules and Guidance have been proposed. A copy is attached.

Schools Links

NE and CB will be meeting to discuss how the various different stakeholders – the CB, the CSU, other Schools Organisations (such as remaining Sports Partnerships, SGOs etc), Bath Rugby Academy, Bath Rugby Community Department and Third Party Providers work with Clubs and Schools. The aim will be to arrive and how the Age Grade Landscape is and should be operating.

The proposed survey on School Links will be send out to Clubs soon after the beginning of the season.

Youth Forums

These have not met since the last Council meeting but will probably do so in October. Some Age Grade representatives from Club attend huddle meetings.

The WhatsApp Groups from Under 13 upwards have representatives from almost all Clubs and those for Under 7 to Under 12 are building up. These are a useful means of communication with those actually running the teams.

Volunteers

As ever we are looking for more volunteers.

We have a particular need for a Chair for the Dorset Youth Forum and a Secretary for the Wiltshire Youth Forum to help us reinvigorate these bodies.

At the moment some of our Competition Managers are running more than one Age Grade and so extra help would be valuable.

More help would also allow us to move forward more quickly on our work with Club School Links and with supporting the Mini Age Grades.

Dorset & Wilts RFU Ltd

Working Together to Grow Rugby Union in Dorset and Wiltshire

Age Grade Competitions 2022/23

Draft Rules, Guidance and Match Card *(Changes subject to approval by D&WRFU Council)*

Introduction and Principles

Age Grade Competitions in Dorset & Wilts are organised by the Age Grade Department. They are player focussed with the aim being to support the development and retention of players.

There is an assumption that Coaches & Managers can be trusted to show common sense and approach these competitions in a fair and reasonable manner with clubs working collaboratively and flexibly within the spirit and letter of the cut down rules and guidance we are now providing.

It is expected that Clubs will be determined to get games played and in doing this will be as flexible and creative as possible with a willingness to overcome difficulties. Cancellation should only ever be the very last resort. This is particularly important as many Clubs **continue to** build back from the pandemic and so flexible thinking by all is essential. **The Age Grade Playing Calendar is designed to avoid clashes with DPP and as far as possible PDG activities. If clashes do occur this should not be a reason for postponement unless a team has five or more players away for this reason.**

There are some rules which have to be followed, mainly those that stem from RFU Regulations, and when referring to these we will use the word 'must'. If these are ignored then a sanction is likely to be imposed by the Competition Organiser or the matter referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

We will sometimes use the word 'expected'. In these situations Clubs should normally follow the rule or guidance but if there are extenuating circumstances these can be discussed with the Competition Organiser. If the Competition Organiser discovers that such a rule is not being followed they will normally initiate the conversation with the Club and only if the breach continues will a sanction be applied.

We will sometimes use the word 'encourage' when we would like Clubs to follow something we regard as good practice and which may become a requirement in future seasons.

Player Eligibility

To play in any of these competitions' players must be affiliated to the club they are representing (or one of the clubs involved if it is a combined team) accept that players may be borrowed from the opposing team for a particular game to allow that game to go ahead.

Players must only play in their own Age Grade unless all the necessary procedure described in RFU Regulation 15 have been followed. Please note that combining Under 16 teams on block with Under 18s is not allowed but playing up or down in accordance with Regulation 15 is still permitted as long as the necessary conditions are met. This is done for individual players and is the exception rather than the norm. It must not be used to combine teams 'by the back door'.

Where Clubs enter more than one team in an age grade movement of players between teams should only take place due to the development of the player. Clubs should assign one third of their player to their higher team only, one third to both teams and the final third to the lower team only and aim to work within these parameters when selecting teams. If teams need to move a player they should consult the manager of that competition ahead of the game.

Fixtures

Other than Knock Out Finals and the Under 12 Tournaments all fixture dates are PLAY BY DATES and other dates can be used by agreement between Clubs. If agreement cannot be reached the default is the given date. The kick of time is determined by the home Club.

If a game is rescheduled for a date before the play by date the Competition Manager must be informed. If Clubs wish to arrange a date later than the play by date then the agreement of the Competition Manager must be obtained in advance.

If a game has to be postponed due to bad weather or ground conditions the default date becomes the next available Sunday where there is not a clash with County training or matches. **If Clubs wish to play on a later date they require the permission of the Competition Organiser.**

If conditions are doubtful the home team are expected to arrange an inspection early enough to avoid the away team travelling unnecessarily.

Referees

The Referee's Society is notified automatically through GMS and WhostheRef of Competition Fixtures and asked to appoint referees to as many games from Colts down to Under 14 as possible. Society Referees are not normally appointed to Under 12 and Under 13 games.

All Clubs have one or more Referee Contacts registered with the Society who receive notification of all appointments. They can also log onto WhostheRef to check whether a referee has been appointed. Competition Managers do not have access to information about referee appointments.

For all Under 12 and Under 13 games and for other games where a Society Referee is not appointed it is the responsibility of the home club to appoint the most appropriate referee they can.

1. Ideally the referee appointed will be qualified but they must at a minimum have the competence and experience to referee the game safely and fairly.
2. Ideally the referee appointed should be neutral – ie not from either club.
3. If this is not possible than the next best option is to use a home club referee who normally works with a different group.
4. If it is necessary to have a referee from within the group playing, then the home club is expected to invite the away club to referee half the game if they wish and have a suitable referee present.
5. If the home club is unable to find a suitable referee the away club should be asked to do so.

Results

To avoid any confusion the Lead Coaches or Managers of both teams are encouraged to ask the referee to confirm the result at the end of the game. The referee's decision is final.

All our competitions now use Electronic Match Cards. Separate instructions are available.

If for any reason it has been agreed with the Competition Manager that an EMC cannot be used, an emergency paper Match Card (see below) should be used **but only** as a fall back.

Duration of Matches

The duration of matches will normally be the maximum time laid down for the Age Grade in Regulation 15. Colts & Under 16s – 35 minutes each way, Under 15s – 30 minutes each way, Under 14s & Under 13s – 25 minutes each way, Under 12s – 20 minutes each way (shorter games will be played in Tournaments with a maximum total of 70 minutes).

No additional time can be played other than time added on for injury stoppages.

From Colts down to Under 14 a game shall finish when the points difference reaches or passes 50 points

For Under 12s and Under 13s a game shall finish when the try difference reaches 6 tries

Those shall be deemed the finals scores for competition purposes and play can only continue if substantial adjustments (swapping players etc) are made in order to make it more balanced.

Expected & Minimum Numbers of Players

The expected numbers to play at each Age Grade and the minimum numbers required for a game to start or continue as part of the competition are given below.

If at least one team is unable to field sufficient players, the side with the greater number of players must either lend players or reduce their numbers so both sides have the same. Teams are encouraged to lend and accept the loan of players but are not obliged to do so. The numbers on each side do not have to be equalised following a yellow or red card.

If the numbers available at the start or at any point during the game drop below the minimum teams are encouraged to play some form of friendly rather than cancel a game. If a friendly is played for competition scoring purposes the game will be awarded with maximum points and score difference to the side that has the necessary number of players but the other side will still receive their point as if they had lost a competition game. **If no game of any sort takes place this should be reported to the Competition Manager who will determine how the result will be recorded. A walkover will only be awarded if the side that is able to play has made every effort to help the game to take place. Otherwise the game may be declared null with no points awarded to either side or a 0-0 draw recorded depending on the circumstances. Clubs may not claim or concede walkovers without the agreement of the Competition Manager,**

Colts through to Under 14 – 15 per side expected with 10 per side minimum for competition purposes.

Under 13 – 13 per side expected with 9 per side minimum for competition purposes.

Under 12 – 12 per side expected with 8 per side minimum for competition purposes.

Front Row

From Colts to Under 13, whenever possible teams are expected to include a trained and experienced front row and replacement(s). If this is not possible games may start or continue with uncontested scrums and the result will still count for competition purposes.

Under 12 scrums are formed of the nearest five players and only the strike is contested so specialist front rows are not required.

Match Day Squads

Unless agreed between the two Clubs or with the Competition **Manager** the maximum size of Match Day Squad will be:

Colts through to Under 14 – 22; Under 13 – 19; Under 12 – 18.

Separate rules will be issued for the Under 12 and Under 13 Tournaments where generally more players are allowed.

'Rolling substitutions' are permitted in all our Age Grade competitions and there is no restriction on the number of 'rotations'.

Use of All Registered Players

The aim is to encourage participation. While it is still viewed as good practice to share competition experience widely across the players in large squads there is now no requirement that each player plays in a specific number of games. This method of sharing game time has been replaced by the Half Game Rule.

Half Game Rule

Teams in all levels of Age Grade Rugby are required by the RFU to implement the Half Game Rule (see RFU Reg 15.12). Using the premise that we trust coaches unless and until they prove otherwise this will initially be self-policed. If justified concerns are raised that this trust is being abused Competition Organisers would have to impose a more onerous logging system on the team involved. Deliberate abuse of this rule would be regarded as a serious breach of discipline.

Scoring in Groups and Leagues

In Pools and Leagues the scoring system will be:

Youth (including Colts)	Win	5pts
	Draw	3pts
	Lose	1pt (as long as game is played as a competition game)
	Try Bonus	1pt (four or more tries scored)
	Lose Bonus	1pt (lose by seven or less points)
	Walkover	6pts and score of 20-0 (4 tries to nil)

The default score for a walkover is 20-0 (4 tries to nil) for Colts and Youth although Competition Managers may adjust this result depending whether or not both sides have made every reasonable effort to keep the game on.

Midi	Win	5pts
	Draw	3pts
	Lose	1pt (as long as game is played as competition game)
	Bonuses	None awarded
	Walkover	4pts and score of 20-0 (4 tries to nil)

The default score for a walkover is 4 tries to nil although Competition Managers may adjust this result depending whether or not both sides have made every reasonable effort to keep the game on.

Splitting Ties in Groups or Leagues

If teams are finish level in a table the order will be decided by:

1. The team with greater overall difference between points scored and points conceded in all games.
2. The team scoring the higher total number of points in all games.
3. The team scoring the higher total number of tries in all games.
4. The result (or aggregate result in leagues which play home and away) between the tied teams.

Drawn games in Knock Out Competitions

No extra time (other than time added on for injury stoppages) is played.

1. The winner is the team scoring the more tries
2. The winner is the team scoring the more penalty kicks
3. The winner is the team that scored the first try
4. The winner is the team that scored first
5. If there is no score the away team shall be declared the winner

Matters not covered, disputes and appeals

Matters not fully covered by these rules will be decided by the overall Competitions Organiser where necessary in conjunction with the Forum Chairs. Unless changed in these rules decisions will normally be based on previous rules and practice.

Disputes will be resolved initially by the Managers of individual competitions who may refer them to the overall Competitions Organiser.

Any disciplinary issues will be passed on to the Youth & Schools Discipline Officer.

Any appeals against decisions of the Competitions Organiser will be considered by a sub-group set up for that purpose.

Version 22/1.1 dated 27 June 2002

This proposed draft document was approved by the meeting.

There is a RPPG meeting planned for the 18th of August 2022.

RFU Council Representative

Date:	1 st August 2022
Reportee:	John Constable
Previous month's activity:	<p>Have circulated the Middlesex notes from the RFU council meeting in June.</p> <p>I have also tried to attend Club Cluster meetings where possible in recent weeks.</p> <p>I am still part of the Adult Competition Management sub-committee – we are due to meet on Tuesday 2nd to discuss concerns over the state of pitches due to drought and impact it might have on pre-season games/ starting the season.</p> <p>I have also tried to sit in on other RFU Sub-committee meetings (as an observer but often asked for any views) during the past year and hope to continue doing so in the new season. This helps to build a picture of what is going on around the game.</p> <p>The Task & Finish group that I was part of looking at Volunteer workload has concluded. The information put together is being considered by the Community game board. Main problem is that most of the 'tasks' we do within the clubs needs to be done to make sure that, if anything goes wrong, the club is not left exposed to potential claims. To try to help it has been suggested that, for example, with regulations there is a short narrative to explain why this is needed (for example Risk assessment/Rugby Safe etc.)</p> <p>There was an extra RFU council meeting held last Friday (29th July) where the proposed new Transgender policy was to be debated and agreed. In the lead up to this we had a Council drop-in session in the early part of the week where we were provided with the scientific report the change was being based on. Subsequent to this further reports and views to be put forward. The actual debate, scheduled for an hour took over two and half hours so I hope you will see this matter was not taken lightly. In actual fact it was encouraging to have the debate where all sides of the argument were put forward before the vote was held.</p> <p>The vote was 33 in favour, 26 against with 2 abstentions.</p> <p>Some additional points to note are that the recommendation from World Rugby was to ban Transgender Women from playing in the</p>

	<p>CONTACT game, they can still play non-contact and be involved in coaching, refereeing etc. The new policy takes a precautionary approach by putting the safety of players as the priority. The RFU alongside World Rugby and UK Sports Councils are committed to working together to ensure further research is conducted and to review the policy on a regular basis. Currently there are only 7 players that this ban will stop from playing (these are the ones who have already been signed off to play Ladies Rugby).</p> <p>The one thing I would say is that having this matter raised it has helped I think many Council members to have a much better understanding of the issues around Transgender sport- the amount of information provided, and discussion has been very detailed to say the least.</p> <p>The other area touched on at the meeting was an update around the legal action and head injuries. As of the meeting whilst the RFU have been told by the Solicitors that papers have been filled at court, nothing has been served so this is very much in limbo.</p> <p>The last topic we had was to debate the Core Values- this has been held over to another time since so much time was taken up with the debate on the Transgender policy. However, if anyone has any thoughts around Core Values, do they still hold up, should they be re-issued, should they be amended etc. then please do let me know, I can then bring this up at the discussion when held.</p> <p>Sorry the report is probably lengthy, but it is important I feel to explain the issue over the policy discussion since I know for some, they were upset at the outcome (mainly players).</p>
Current Budget update:	n/a
Proposed Activity (including estimated cost)	Continued attendance at meetings where possible. With these being more face-to face- will I be able to claim expenses to attend, outside of those for visiting clubs at weekends etc.
Other items for discussion (please attach paper with estimated discussion time allocation)	<p>Please see above: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the CB be covering expenses to travel to meetings when they are slowly being held more face-to-face. • I assume the Council will be advised of the various elements of the funding stream for the coming year. Would it be possible for this to be shown as a table with a 3rd Column to show the current spend, at each D&W Council meeting, so this can be compared to the amount given?

7. Executive Committee Update:

a) Accounts

Minor adjustments need to be made to the accounts prior to the AGM.

AH

Age Grade invoices have been completed.

AH reported that an invoice has been received which should have been included in the 2018-19 accounts.

The invoice was for the filming of Representative Rugby training (Age Grade) and was commissioned by Richard Bourne.

It was agreed to pay the invoice with a covering letter asking for the details of where this invoice has been.

AH

JC asked if the clubs had received their deposit refunds, AH confirmed that they had not.

Funding

GB presented the Draft Budget for the coming season, which was approved by the meeting.

Highlights only

I. Representative Rugby

Senior Mens-Senior Women's-Under 20's Mens-Under 18's Girls-Under 17-18's Boys £29,884.59

II. Club Support

Volunteering – Leadership Academy £300.00

Rugby Focus Weekend £7,000.00

Three x £1,000.00 and Eight x £500.00 grants.

Work to be carried out during the weekend of 18/19th of June 2023.

Facilities upgrades – Small ticket items that the club membership can carry out. (Like painting, general repairs or site clearance).

Club Infrastructure Improvements £25,000.00

Aimed to improve the standard of facilities on offer to both Women and Girls and Match Officials.

But if the project can demonstrate a need which will improve the overall standard within the club this would also be considered.

Closing Date for applications to be 31st of December 2022

Project completion date to be the 31st of December 2023

Applicant will have to submit the following to be considered

- Club Business Plan
- Accounts
- Up to date GMS records
- Costing
- Timetable (Start and Completion dates)
- Details of who will be carrying out the project
- Submit a detailed report on completion

Club Development Grants

Twelve x £500.00 grants for emergency support or a specific need. Not to be used for New Development or Refurbishment projects.

Coaching £4,150.00

To engage a CB Coach Development/Trainer on a Self-employed arrangement, to replace the CRC. There may be additional funding available from any underspend from other sections to increase this resource.

Referees £4,000.00

Towards the cost of supplying the Referees with Body Cams, to reduce Match Official Abuse.

III. Governance

Discipline	£2,300.00
GDPR	£40.00
Anti-Doping	£100.00
GMS	£100.00
Diversity & Inclusion	£100.00
Safeguarding	£350.00

Excluding Safeguarding Conference – Detailed costings wanted

RugbySafe	£12,050.00
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Eight x £400.00 Risk Assessment Bursary

Training Grants – 150 x £30.00 First Aid grants – Maximum six places per club on a first come/first served basis

Mental Health Awareness – £850.00 x 5 Huddle Training Meetings

IV. **Community Rugby**

<i>Community Age Grade Rugby</i>	£21,900.00
<i>Senior Community Rugby</i>	£450.00

V. **Administration** £21,750.00

The meeting approved the proposed budget.

b) Outstanding Invoices

Details to be updated **AH**

c) Discipline

No Report

d) Club Support

Facilities

GB and AO met with RFU South-West Facilities Team and Wimborne RFC regarding Re-location update.

GB met with RFU South-West Facilities Team and Amesbury RFC regarding possible Re-location to land owned by the Stonehenge School.

Volunteering

GB met with JM; he wishes only to step down from the Volunteering role within D&W. No Report filed. JM Wishes to continue with the Leadership Academy programme, and to be a member of the Club Support Committee. Currently researching the possibilities of producing a short Promo video to increase the number of Leadership Academy candidates.

e) Community Rugby

Date:	6 th August 2022
Reportee:	Sean Macey
Previous month's activity:	<p><u>Dorset and Wilts Cup Competitions</u></p> <p>There is a meeting of the Competitions Committee planned for August 24th where the discussions will include the possible format of the Cup competitions for the upcoming season. NB. A definitive arrangement maybe deferred until the time when it is known how many 1st XV's are entering the RFU National Cups.</p> <p><u>Dorset and Wilts Leagues</u></p> <p>Christchurch RFC took the decision to move away from the D&W leagues and have joined the Hampshire Merit tables. This has left Counties 3DWS with just 6 teams in. Having canvassed the remaining clubs about the possibility of playing each other 4 times instead of the proposed 3 the unanimous choice was to continue with the original plan.</p> <p>There has been an expression of concern from some of the teams in the Counties 3 leagues regarding the possible composition of their opposition in the first 2 weeks of the season. The Counties 3 leagues begin on September 3rd whilst Counties 2 start on 17th September. This could result in stronger than would be expected teams being fielded in the lower league for 2 weeks where the 1st XV play in Counties 2. The league secretaries can only monitor and encourage the games to be played within the spirit expected.</p> <p>Following the removal of the 100 player ceiling on player registrations it is now expected that all players are registered with their clubs. This has been written into the D&W deregulations and once approved via SWROC will be distributed to the clubs along with the complete set of deregulations for 22/23.</p> <p><u>Tribute TOTM Award</u></p> <p>Tribute will continue their sponsorship of leagues and once again provide a slab of Tribute PA for the monthly winners. RWB and Bournemouth 1st XV's will not be part of the process due to their league being part of London & SE ROC and therefore not sponsored by Tribute.</p> <p><u>Merit Tables</u></p> <p>John Constable has once again organised and provided the Dorset clubs who have expressed an interest in the friendly matrix a fixture list. In Wiltshire there has been less interest in this type of arrangement with most lower XV's committing to the ECC. However, Bath Combination are holding a special meeting on 17th August at Stothert & Pitt RFC to discuss the options available to the clubs within the Combination who wish to operate outside of</p>

	formal leagues. This primarily involves Somerset RFU clubs although there is a number of D&W clubs who will have an interest in the outcome of the proposal.
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JC updated the meeting regarding the appointment of outstanding South-West Rugby League Secretaries.

MM updated the meeting regarding ongoing pitch conditions.

f) Representative Rugby

No change from my last report reference representative rugby as there is nothing happening apart from some U17 training days.

Babcock have been given an updated cost of the kit we requested sponsorship for. Nothing signed off yet, but fingers crossed.

JC asked if we are going to entry the County Championships. MM updated the meeting on the current plans for the coming season, including a planned meeting with the Representative Rugby Chair.

g) RugbySafe

Green Gazelles have submitted an accident report to the RFU for one of their players: Jacob Kneeshaw, who was injured playing at Jack Fishwick 7s Tournament, Wimbledon RFC on 30th of July 2022. His recovery is being filmed and will be on Channel 4.

Date:	9th August 2022
Reportee:	Jacque Streener
Previous month's activity:	N/A
Current Budget update:	N/A
Proposed Activity (including estimated cost)	Work with Clubs to undertake Risk assessments and Emergency Action plan. Working with HonSec re: Mental Health Awareness training. Arranging initial D&W Rugbysafe online meeting date tbc early September

JF suggested that we contact Rich Berry (CBSM for GRFU) regarding the planned Mental Health Awareness programme.

DW asked about the RugbySafe Lead and being a member of the D&W Council. MM suggested that we review the structure of members of the Governance Committee. **MM**

h) Risk Assessment Bursary

So far only four clubs have applied for funding. Four places remaining.

Area Reps

i) GDPR

GB reported that the information available on the D&W website has been updated by NWW

