



DORSET & WILTS RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

A meeting of the Dorset & Wilts. RFU Council was held on Tuesday, 16th May 2023, 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
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1.

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

Mike Moysey [MM]	Atte	Stuart Murrow [SM]	Atte	Gerald Burden [GB]	Atte
Alison Hunter [AH]	Atte	Jane Hart [JH]	Atte		
John Constable [JC]	Atte	Darren Astley [DA]		Nicola McCombe [NMc]	
Denis Nolan [DN]		Ed Taylor [ET]	Atte	David Wookey [DW]	Atte
Nick Elbourne [NE]	Atte	Chris Burton [CB]	Atte	Sean Macey [SM]	Apol

Red represents Non-voting members

3. Minutes:

To note the of the Council meeting held on the 4th of April 2022

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

Noted

4. Matter arising:

Play-it-Safe courses in each huddle area.

Update the content of the D&W website for referees <https://dwrugby.co.uk/referees/>

Update the content of the D&W website for safeguarding <https://dwrugby.co.uk/safeguarding/>

Update the content of the D&W website for D&I <https://dwrugby.co.uk/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/>

5. Area Representatives Updates:

Nothing to report.

DW to hold a joint Huddle with DA, details to follow.

6. Non-Area Representatives Updates:

Women's & Girls

No Report submitted.

Referees.

No Report Submitted.

Governance.

Now the rugby season is over I am going to catch up with all the section leads under governance.

I have not had a Safeguarding report but feel some county coaches and ancillary staff have still not got correct DBS etc, I know Julie has been in contact with them.

I took part in a meeting with Chris Burton, and the chairman of Blandford RFC to discuss the movement of large numbers of u15s players from local teams moving to Blandford.

➤ Discipline

To view case list Please [Click here](#)

Dorset & Wilts - Discipline Audit 22/23

Regulations and Policies status	100% (Green)
Best Practice Status	86% (Amber)

The CB Discipline Panel reflects the diversity of the Game?

All experienced but there are a lot of Referees on Panels currently. Only one female panel member but very limited number of women's cases.

Have reduced the overall age of the panel in the last few years. Like to have one Referee on the Panel for each hearing. Former RDO for area keen to join the Panel. Would say amber-ish to green.

➤ GDPR

No report submitted.

➤ I&D

Nothing to report.

➤ Rugbysafe

JH reported that the WhatsApp group contains misleading information, JH received an offer of support from the Hampshire Lead, which was accepted.

JH is planning to hold a Zoom meeting for D&W RugbySafe leads. Date to be confirmed.

Concerns were raised about who is receiving the information circulated by Twickenham.

➤ Safeguarding

Previous month's activity:	1. DBS checks and qualifications for U17 Representative coaches forwarded by KD. DBS checks were not RFU ones, so advised that they need RFU ones. Volunteer forms have been completed and sent to me for checking this week. Play it safe course to be organized for all the coaches if not attended within 3 years, advised to check for local courses first and we can add one if needed.
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Sherborne Play it safe to be rebooked. This may be suitable for the U17 coaches to attend. 3. Festival approvals for 2024 are being sent in already. 4. Touring guidelines to be clarified and updated as we have had several clubs where we had to organise last-minute approval for Welsh teams to attend, including on a social basis. JF to work with JH to check the current documents and ensure up to date 5. No response yet to deputy CB SM, we will also need someone to assist with audits and Festival approvals as JW will be stepping down at the end of the season due to work commitments.
Current Budget update:	None spent
Proposed Activity (including estimated cost)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan with JH for the Program of audits from September to April. 2. Plan Play it safe for clubs, especially clubs who have not held one this season.

County Membership

No report submitted.

Age Grade

Introduction

The 2022/23 Age Grade Rugby season has now ended and it has been a positive experience for most.

The weather and ground conditions as well as injuries and other non-availability of players, allied to the fact that quite a few Clubs have some squads that are on the margins of viable numbers, have caused some games to be postponed or cancelled but because of good communication between clubs – the WhatsApp groups for each age grade have proved very helpful – and flexibility around Game On principles have ensured the vast majority of games were played. While there were still a few disturbing incidents of on and off pitch ill-discipline, the majority of games were played in a good spirit and this was reflected in some very complimentary comments about other Clubs' sportsmanship and hospitality that appeared on the WhatsApp Groups.

Numbers and Sustainability of Age Grade Sections

A small number of teams stopped functioning during the season and others were operating around the margins of viability but the majority managed to fulfil their programmes of training, friendlies and where relevant competitions. The regular updates on numbers affiliated by Club and Age Grade provided by Nicola McCombe are very informative and the subjective impression is that they now better reflect reality on the ground. We still need to work on ways to analyse and make better use of these data to focus our limited resources where they would be most effective in supporting Recruitment & Retention.

Age Grade Playing Calendar

With all stakeholders for male Rugby – Bath Rugby Academy / DPP, DW Age Grade Competitions, Schools and Bath Rugby Grassroots contributing – there were few potential clashes and the co-ordinated version has been completed by the RPPG and submitted.

Representative Rugby and DPP etc

The Under 17 and Under 18 Representative Rugby is managed separately and is not part of this report beyond the fact that we continue to work through the RPPG and directly with the Bath Rugby ERDPP to ensure that there is a smooth transition.

Liaison with the DPP, mainly via the RPPG, has continued to be effective and their programme of development training and their playing opportunities (some still to come) have been going well. Matt Lishman has been very helpful in addressing potential clashes over availability of players between Clubs and Beechen Cliff as an ACE College.

Bath Rugby Grassroots Department

The Bath Rugby Grassroots Department has become an increasingly important stakeholder continuing the work they did directly with players (Workshops, Camps etc) and adding activities such as Affiliate Tournaments for Clubs and assisting with Coach Development. They have become part of the RPPG.

A model has been talked about where Bath Rugby might provide a recruitment based support package in Schools funded by Clubs. Given the fact that the Clubs most in need of this are often those that can least afford it some financial support from either D&W or the RFU for such a programme would be welcome.

Third Party Providers

Mark Saltmarsh confirmed at the Age Grade Clubs Advisory Group that the RFU has no direct control over independent Third Party Providers.

If some sort of voluntary Accreditation Scheme could be offered for Third Party Providers this might give scope to use those who took part to extend the scheme being looked at with Bath Rugby Grassroots for Clubs to pay for the delivery of recruitment orientated support packages in Schools.

Age Grade Competitions

All the Competitions were completed before the end of the season. The Under 12 and Under 13 Tournaments were particularly well received. In the Under 18 Finals (five levels) all the games were decided by a single score.

By making use of the Game On principles and good communication and flexibility by the Clubs involved the vast majority of games were played although there were a small number of walkovers. These are discouraged by insisting that the club who is likely to be awarded the walkover does not receive the points unless they have made maximum effort to enable the game to be played. A number of squads were working close to the margins of viability and four dropped out in total during the season.

Considerable thanks are due to Julian Phelps and Jacquie Streener (assisted by Jared Budnarowski) for their substantial work on the Age Grade Competitions Programme.

Questions have been raised surrounding our interpretation of a Waterfall Competition and this is being discussed with the RFU. If necessary the precise format of our Under 12 to Under 14 events may be adjusted for 2023/24.

Schools Links

The Schools Union have continued to be pro-active in organizing events for schools and liaising through the RPPG. They have supported an increased number of local Schools festivals which can allow Clubs the opportunity for promotion of the Club Game.

Youth Forums and Huddles

Plans are progressing slowly with moving from County based Youth Forums to Age Grade meetings based on the Clubs in the existing Club Huddles. It is hoped to launch this from 2023/24.

Volunteers

We are still looking for more volunteers.

More organisers for each individual Age Grade Waterfall or Competition to spread the workload.

A lead for each Age Grade Huddle.

Possibly somebody to co-ordinate the work done across the Age Grade Landscape bringing more closely together the work done by the Age Grade Lead (predominantly with Clubs matters), Representative Lead (with Under 17 and Under 18) and the Chair of Women & Girls (with the Girls programme). The degree of separation of these areas in Dorset & Wilts is not typical of other CBs in the South West and is sometimes unhelpful – e.g. the Girls section of the AGPC is not populated in our version beyond the basic RFU template.

Meetings etc

NE attended an RPPG meeting on 2 May 2023

NOTES:

A brief summary of last night's meet which was somewhat of a wash up as the season moves towards the end.

Welcome to Tom Page Grassroots Manager and Coach Educator at Bath who joined the group for the first time.

DPP:

ticking along nicely. Good positive feedback from Parents and a great feel of positivity all across the board. U14s up and running with 25 players at each of the 5 centres. U16s completed their programme with very little negativity around. 55 of them have moved to U17 and will do a pre season before a further cull. Those who don't make it will have the opportunity of two open trial games so chance for a number of reentry points.

U15s had a Festival in Feb HT and group selected pre Academy.

U14s and 15s have end of season Festivals and the latter games with Midlands Central.

Change this year was to give the U15s more of a team feel, skills in contact, set piece, backs moves etc. Identifying with the site or centre worked well and something DPP Manager hopes to build on.

Issues are still staffing. Trying to fill coaching gaps particularly in Dorset. Travel time for players and facilities at some of matches.

D. and W. ACL.

Lots more positives than negatives in clubs and greater awareness about whole DPP programme and beyond. Lots of good examples of sportsmanship etc amongst players commented on.

Issues retention of players remains a major issue and led to withdrawals from some cups etc. Challenge to keep rugby attractive to many youngsters with conflicting demands.

Grassroots Manager and Coach Educator.

Restructuring of department has led to developing relationships with clubs and schools. 772 active members with 46 clubs on board. Affiliate meetings initially held at Farleigh House or Rec but now taking place locally as result of feedback from potential participants. Again lots of positivity and very useful feedback from coaches who are encouraged to voice concerns and requirements. Regional Festivals and 29 schools now part of Partnership Programme. Some clubs using programme to increase playing

numbers. Many coaches asking for change in Affiliate nights so less classroom and more hands on. Many expressing disappointment and mistrust in RFU!!

Felt change of perception as to what Bath rugby trying to do. Filling a void left by RFU cutbacks and funding.

Issues are imbalance in pop. Between D. and W. and the demands therein. Lack of CPD which trying to fill. Need to merge some clubs at U15 because of low numbers.

D. and W. Schools:

Lots and lots of activity and again positivity abounds. Lots of 10s, 7s and 15s. Dorset and Wilts trying to offer similar Festivals, Leagues and Comps in both parts of counties. A great of collaboration is taking place between schools, clubs and Bath Grassroots. 600 took part in the various Dorset Schools sevens. 250 Girls attended a Girls Dev. Day which also saw Active Dorset involved, yet another stakeholder. Mention of forthcoming Touch to Twickenham which sees Swanage and Wareham host one competition with winners appearing at HQ.

Issues are lack of rugby specialists in some schools, lack of rugby programme and limited funds.

Academy Manager:

Completion of U18 prog and 8 offered full contracts. 2-3 others might join as scholars. Those exiting to BUCS univs or Brunel with Trailfinders link. U17s block April/May. Keeping numbers higher due to demands of Prem Cup etc. More coaches joining Senior Academy and new Bath Univ. agreement signed to allow players to access another programme. New Head of Rugby Programme at Beechen Cliff to be appointed.

Last thoughts.

Need for more coaches to involve them selves in programme and lines of communication to remain open. Looking to build on positivity and collaboration.

Thanks to all those involved season 2022-3.

Andy Marriott

Chair Bath RPGG

NE attended an AGCAG (South West) meeting on 9 May 2023

Minutes of South West AGCAG – Tuesday 9th May 2023 – 7.00 PM by Teams

Agenda No.	Item	Action
1)	In Attendance : Joe Bedford (RFU) : Mark Saltmarsh (RFU) : Ross Cowie (RFU) : Nicola McCombe (RFU) : Tony Knightsbridge (Cornwall) : Shaun Partridge (Glos) : Graeme Gillard (Devon) Nick Elbourne (D & W) : Maria Jaffray (Berks) : Alison Bennett (Somerset) : Mike Logan (Bucks) : Apologies David Walkden (Oxfordshire) – written report	
2)	Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising - Summary to EAGSC (RC) RC reported that he had highlighted the following to EAGSC Pitch-side behaviour issues – with Age Grade Governance Referee frustration – with RFU Referee Dept Colts National Cup – with RFU Competitions	
3)	Girls game, the Summer Framework and Touring (MS) Girls game MS reported that there is now a real drive with initiatives being developed for the Girls game, in line with the delivery of the Red Rose Action Plan, with a target of 100,000 players by 2027. Sport England funding has been made available :-	

	<p>Grants available for female friendly clubhouses. Positive action to recruit & develop female coaches & match officials – 4 activators now working on this priority. U12 funding – 120 clubs & 23 CBs had benefitted. Universities – work taking place to upgrade the profile of W & G game for Retention & recruitment. U18 girls – there was now a focus and initiative to re-energise this age band, – there is now a program of summer non-contact festivals aimed at recruitment – possibility of grants. Previous Sport England funding had been made available in November; this season’s initiatives had been rushed, but from March, we are now able to join up all facets, working together for 2025. Summer Framework – now published with a guide (in line with the new tackle height protocols). The framework is now written into Reg 15, replacing former wording. Reg 15 – now ready for publication – earliest ever. Tours & overnight stays – There is a need to tidy the system - there are currently many different interpretations for approvals. RFU is working with the Sounding Board to review the process, with a view to producing a single system, with an online form. Also looking at 3rd party providers. The definition of a tour is a game outside England – currently there is no need for approvals for an internal tour. Looking at wordings & documentation – so that they are the same for all stakeholders, and in line with regulation. Future of Community Game – MS reported that this is work-in-progress, with some potential initiatives. The Community Oversight Group, plus Rugby in Schools Initiative are working to conclude recommendations by Christmas – MS asked all to be patient – plans for rugby for next 10 years.</p>	
4)	<p>POOAG, Playing Calendar & Regulation Matters (RC/MS) Berks (MJ) – concerns over number of U17 girls being authorised to play up to adult, leaving younger girls without a game – concern that adult sides were resolving player numbers at the expense of player development – MS / RC – this is a national issue, but the information is now available to interrogate. U11 Girls - large numbers signing up to U12s – permitted with CB approval – RFU content if it aids recruitment MJ pleaded that Combing regulation continued as it was really helping smaller clubs Cornwall (TK) requested whether there was a need to be stricter on a player playing up should remain with new age group. There was a feeling that clubs were not necessarily using the procedures for the purposes for which they were designed. Need to review data. DPP – players cannot be authorised to play up at DPP – agreed that clarity was needed D&W (NE) agreed that playing up should be for development purposes, and for specific games & Choosing the right opportunity, and not to make up numbers.</p>	<p>MS/RC</p> <p>MS/RC</p> <p>MS</p>
5)	<p>Each CB to give a brief 5 minute report on the season – great successes & issues that need to be raised for consideration / discussion (All) Somerset (AB) Issues - Lack of Volunteers : Schools / colleges withdrawing players from CB squads at the last minute. Devon (GG) Positives – good cup competition Issues – lack of understanding of Game-On – few issues with Half Game rule : Volunteer numbers Girls – U12 very proactive : U14 quiet : U16 great year : U18 issues with</p>	

	<p>colleges Request that entries & progress in Nat Cup to be reported to CBs</p> <p>Cornwall (TK) Positives – numbers are good : good growth with girls Issues – Half Game Rule – some larger clubs are “leaving players at home” : Discipline – parents / coaches / players – awful</p> <p>Berks (MJ) Positives – girls, good growth in numbers : boys – continuing growth Concerns – Discipline : issues with colleges preventing youngsters playing for clubs MJ has prepared a one-pager of opportunities & pitfalls on academies & colleges</p> <p>Bucks (ML) Positives : successful competitions : numbers holding Concerns – Schools : Half Game rule resolved with improved competition regs</p> <p>Glos (SP) Positives – U12 & U14 Girls Festivals : season of building relationships between BC & clubs, and identifying pros & cons Opportunity – Bristol state school program Issues - transition into adult rugby – huge numbers lost to the game.</p> <p>D & W (NE) WhatsApp groups encouraging good relationships / dialogue between clubs Relationship with Bath Community / Grass Roots Game-On used to resolved number shortages</p> <p>Oxford (DW by report) Issue – rep rugby - disconnect relationship with schools & colleges</p>	<p>RC discussion with Competitions</p> <p>RC to raise Discipline with AGG</p>
6)	<p>Tackle Height Proposal (MS) MS thanked those who had contributed to consultation process 21st April – new law had been published Law is about Foul Play – not tackle height Information is now available on Tackle Height Hub – which will be updated during the summer. Road map for roll-out now available 240 Coaching clinics, on-line resources, face-to-face consultations. MS asked all to direct queries to the hub, and to get volunteers etc to engage MS asked all to realise that referees too will also be getting to grips with new protocols – please support our referees - sanctions will not be straight red cards – but a learning process</p>	
7)	<p>CB / CSU – Club / School Alignment (All) Conference on 2/3 June – MS encouraged all to attend – he will check that invites have been sent to all age grade leads. This is an opportunity for all stakeholders (a broad mixture of backgrounds) to get together, look at good practice, with an aim to inject clarity & joined up thinking, and working together for the benefit of, and with, all individual players at the centre of the process.</p>	
8)	<p>A O B Bucks asked whether Head Case material could be launched in schools</p>	

NE will be attending the Education and Age Grade Landscape Conference on 2 – 3 June 2023 at Warwick University.

MOVING FORWARD

The following will be major considerations for 2023/24

- Implementing the Age Grade Huddles to replace County Youth Forums
- Looking at ways of analysing the data from Affiliation Numbers and from GMS to target better support for Recruiting and Retention
- Looking at models for using Bath Grassroots Department (and possibly Third Party Providers if an accreditation programme can be developed) to deliver packages in Schools linked to recruiting for Clubs
- Reviewing and if necessary adjusting Competition Formats

RFU Council Representative

Previous month's activity:	<p>Attended RFU Council meeting Friday 21st April- some notes from the meeting have been circulated to clubs and D&W Council.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting we were invited to attend the 'Bystander' training.</p> <p>This has been listed as something the CB would be interested in but has not, as far as I am aware, been run. I would certainly recommend looking at this for not only members of D&W Council but also maybe for clubs who might have discipline issues around behaviour from the touchline etc.</p> <p>At the RFU meeting it was agreed the law changes to look at lowering the tackle height to the bottom of the sternum. This detail has been sent to clubs via a CGU.</p> <p>There is also now a dedicated part of the England Rugby website with information around tackle height.</p> <p>https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/playing/tackle-height</p> <p>Attended the April CB national call- in this it was mentioned about the funding support for clubs with Female players, linked to the RWC2025 bid. As part of this clubs have been able to apply for grants for Sanitary Provision, Female Toilets, Female Friendly Social Space and Female friendly changing rooms. 363 Sanitary packages were awarded, 332 toilet upgrades, 15 social space and 3 future concept female changing rooms have been awarded. Phase 2 will focus on social spaces and clubhouse welcome packs- in the run up to RWC2025.</p> <p>Also mentioned was the fact that the Governance & Business Transformation Project that was open to sides at Regional level has now been expanded to teams playing Counties 3 and above.</p> <p>The Club and CB Development sub-committee were approaching CB's to work with clubs to identify 3 key areas for clubs as key objectives for the coming season. The survey had a very short timeline- DID D&W REPLY?</p> <p>Other News Rugby Safe- this area is constantly being updated to continue to focus on Player Welfare.</p> <p>Question- who is our Rugby Safe Lead now for D&W?</p> <p>Clubs need to think about Risk Assessments- this is mentioned in Rugby Safe. Also clubs are encouraged to use the PROACTIVE App- costs £50 per club and a great tool to use to make life a little easier for the volunteer.</p>
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	<p>New Concussion guidelines have come out- these have hopefully been circulated to clubs and clubs are taking notice of them- note it takes the mandatory time away from contact for a player back to at least 21 days.</p> <p>League Structures - details should be in the CGU on the 16th May. This will also include the structured season. Fixtures will hopefully be out end of May or early June. Last league weekend is after Easter- 6th April and after this it will be Cups again.</p> <p>Payment of Player Declaration - clubs need to do this- its on GMs under Organisation Profile- Questionnaires. Clubs have until 30th June to complete this.</p> <p>Papa John's Cup- we know there have been some teething issues with this being the first season, I have been asked to gather feedback across the Country which, as many will no doubt expect, has shown a number of key themes. However, those who did progress and managed to reach a final it seems to have really helped to gel the club and local support.</p> <p>Next season one of the main focus areas will still be Adult Male Recovery- driving demand, improving retention and enhancing supply of games. Local merit tables have been hit the hardest in relation to lower match competition. Last season a number of clubs received targeted help, it is planned to continue this into next season and potential clubs are being looked into at the moment.</p>
<p>Other items for discussion (please attach paper with estimated discussion time allocation)</p>	<p>Does the CGU get fully circulated not only around Council but also internally within clubs. I fear that not circulating this is leading to many a question being raised where details have been sent out but not shared to a wider audience.</p> <p>Is our CB facility plan up to date and can this be circulated around D&W Council.</p> <p>We need to elect a representative from D&W to be a voting member of the SWROC. Actively serving league secretaries will not be able to be voting members of the ROC. Full TOR can be supplied to any interested party - I would suggest this is maybe something for either Ed or Dave W to consider.</p>

7. Executive Committee Update:

a) Accounts

Outstanding Invoices – GB and AH to meet to confirm the latest budget status.

It was agreed that a P&L sheet would be circulated after the month's end.

Due to her increased workload due mainly to having to process small weekly expense claims, Council would like to record a vote of thanks to AH.

Section leaders are to be reminded that expense claims should be submitted in line with D&W Standing Orders.

CB

b) Club Support

Honda Volunteer of the Year 2023 Update

The awards evening will be held on Friday 9th June 2023 at North Dorset RFC, on the same date the League Awards will also take place.

Invitations to be sent out ASAP.

GB

Each nominee will receive a small token award, with an overall winner being selected.

GB

The following clubs from Dorset & Wilts have been successful with their application to the volunteer recruitment project:

- Amesbury RFC
- Bournemouth RFC
- Cricklade RFC
- Oakmeadians RFC
- Royal Wootton Bassett RFC
- Supermarine RFC
- Swanage & Wareham RFC
- Swindon College Old Boys RFC

Email Text

As part of the **Honda Volunteer Recognition Programme**, we are getting in touch to ask if Dorset & Wilts would like to nominate a volunteer (and reserve nominee) to watch an England Men's training session on the 4th of July at Pennyhill Park.

The day will provide an opportunity to watch the England Men's team train, a sit down lunch with the other volunteers in attendance and a gift to take away to remember the day. On this occasion we will also provide a contribution towards expenses & accommodation for the volunteer the night prior to the session if required.

With this in mind please could you submit your nominated club volunteer(& reserve) via the below link by Friday 2nd June:

1. [Honda VRP – Watch the Team Train Nomination](#)

Nominations to be based on 'Growing the Game'.

A club volunteer (with a focus on 'off-field' volunteers) who have over the last 12 months:

2. Shown innovation to introduce more people to Rugby
 1. Has put members enjoyment, welfare and well-being first to create positive experiences
 2. Helped the club to provide inclusive & accessible opportunities
 3. Has promoted the core values of the game

When selecting your nomination please consider:

1. If the volunteer is unable to attend the allocated session, unfortunately we will not be able to transfer this opportunity to another session & on this occasion will invite the reserve nomination
2. We want to recognise as many volunteers as possible through the programme so we would ask that they have not been recognised at a national level via our Volunteer Recognition programme in the last 3 years.

The RFU President's Value the Volunteer Outstanding Contribution Award

For some time, been the major honour of the RFU Volunteer Recognition programme.

We are delighted to confirm, that thanks to the support of Honda we are once again able to recognise volunteers at the England Men's International Home Fixtures, over the course of the 23/24 season at either the Summer Series or the Six Nations Championships.

Therefore, we are asking you to nominate a club volunteer to attend one of these matches, with the fixture allocation confirmed in June.

Your nomination should be for a club volunteer & based on some-one who has either:

- Made an exceptional contribution to rugby over a number of years, creating a lasting legacy;
- Made an outstanding impact on the development of their club to enable more people to participate in Rugby; or
- Embraced change & shown willingness to adapt to ensure the club is fit for the future; or
- Brought to life the core values of our sport (TREDS)

Please submit your nomination by filling in this [form](#).

When submitting your nomination please include why your volunteer deserves recognition and details of the impact that they have had (max 100 words). The information submitted will be used to help form the citations included as part of the match-day presentation, so it is important that this brings to life the individual's achievements.

Please note:

- If the volunteer is unable to attend the allocated match, unfortunately we will not be able to transfer this opportunity to another match.
- We want to recognise as many volunteers as possible through the programme so we would ask that they have not been recognised via our Volunteer Recognition programme in the last 3 years and have not been selected as a national finalist in this year's Honda Volunteer of the Year awards.

Please can you confirm your nomination by **Monday 5th June**.

We would ask that you keep the nomination confidential for now, and we will confirm as and when we have invited the volunteer.

This seasons volunteers and their guest will receive:

- A pre-match behind the scenes tour of Twickenham Stadium
- Two match tickets to an allocated fixture either the Summer Series or Six Nations Championship
- Two accreditation passes which includes access to Members' Lounge pre match and lunch in the Spirit of Rugby, West Stand
- Bed and breakfast accommodation for two
- Coach transfer between the accommodation and Twickenham Stadium

Once the fixtures have been allocated Council Services will invite CB Presidents to a pre-match lunch at the same match which your Value the Volunteer is invited to. The RFU will continue to provide the CB President with a lunch, and it remains the decision of the Council member and CB whether to provide the President with a match ticket from their allocation and a ticket and hospitality for their guest.

Working Group to be held to list the nominees for these awards.

MM

c) Community Rugby

Previous month's activity:	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Dorset and Wilts Cup Competitions</u></p> <p>We successfully held and concluded 3 Cup competitions; Upper Counties, Lower Counties and a Plate competition.</p> <p>The finals were held on 29th April</p>
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	<p>Upper Counties: RWB II 38 v Corsham 31 Lower Counties: RWB III 19 v Sherborne II 50 Plate: Amesbury 13 v Chippenham II 64</p> <p>11 of the 32 (34.375%) scheduled games were recorded as walkovers. 7 of the walkovers occurred in the first round of fixtures.</p> <p>The Competitions Committee will be working on next seasons format and its scheduling to hopefully reduce the number of WO's going forward.</p> <p><u>Dorset and Wilts Leagues</u></p> <p>The leagues for 23/24 season were ratified at the SWROC meeting on 23rd April. Counties 2 and 3 will again feature a North, Central and South format; 9 teams in each of the Counties 2 leagues and 7 each in Counties 3 North and Central, 9 in C3DWS. As per this season 7 team leagues will play each other 3 times.</p> <p>Depending on league size the season will start on 2nd or 16th September and conclude on 6th April, whereby the cups will begin.</p>
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Email text from Ben Smith

England Rugby is developing a nationwide network of Tackle Champions.

Tackle Champions will play a key role in developing a community of coaches able to inspire a culture of the highest quality tackle technique and decision making in players in the world. Is there someone in your club/school/college or university who could be your Tackle Champion?

Signing up to be a Tackle Champion will involve participating in a season-long programme of in person, virtual and digital support from England Rugby to develop technical/tactical knowledge and the ability to transfer this knowledge to the coaches in your organisation.

We'll ask the Tackle Champion to go back to their club, school, college or university and proactively support coaches to develop their tackle coaching practice.

More than 150 people have signed up so far! To be a part of this new community of Tackle Champions, share this with your nominee and ask them to add their information here, we'll be in touch with them soon about the next steps.

Note: you will need your RFU I.D. number, you can find this on your Game Management System profile:

It was suggested that Neil Bibby (CRC) would be the idea candidate for this role.

Representative Rugby

Current Budget update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ U17/ U18 – TBC ➤ U20 – TBC ➤ Men's XV - TBC ➤ Women's XV - TBC
Proposed Activity attached	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ U17/ U18 – See Attached ➤ U20 – See Attached ➤ Women's XV – See Attached ➤ Men's XV – See Attached
Detail	U18 Male

Fixtures list attached	<p>Programme up and running</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Team manager – Needs Recruitment ➤ Lead – Kevin Dobie ➤ Forwards – Jake Krige ➤ Backs – Marc Ewart <p><u>U20 Male</u></p> <p>Programme up and running</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Team Manager – Lord Ian Moore ➤ Lead Coach – Martyn Peel ➤ Forwards Coach – Mark Ado ➤ Back Coach – Martin Oxland <p><u>Senior Women XV</u></p> <p>Programme up and running</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Team Manager – Emma Santer ➤ Lead Coach – Ben Pocock ➤ Forwards Coach – TBC ➤ Back Coach – Aimi Dallyn <p><u>Senior Men XV</u></p> <p>No activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Team Manager – Dan Draper ➤ Lead Coach – Don Parsons ➤ Forwards Coach – Alan Low ➤ Back Coach – Terry Gilmore <p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of Blazers attending fixtures to me please.
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Male	Bill Beaumont Div2 Pool 2	Away against Berkshire	20-May-23	Reading RFC	1400	RG4 6ST
U17	Friendly	Away against Berkshire	21-May-23	Maidehead RFC	1400	SL6 1BN
Senior Women	Gill Burns D3 Pool 2	Away against Middlesex	21-May-23	Grasshoppers RFC	1400	TW7 5PN
U20	Jason Leonard U20 Semi Finals	Away against Hampshire	21-May-23	Havant RFC	1500	PO9 3EJ
Senior Men	Bill Beaumont Div2	Play Off	27-May-23	TBC	TBC	TBC
Senior Women	Gill Burns D3	Play Off	28-May-23	TBC	TBC	TBC
U17	Friendly	Away Cornwall	28-May-23	Perranporth RFC	1430	TR6 0DB
U20	Jason Leonard U20 Final	TBC	03-Jun-23	TBC	TBC	TBC

8. AOB:

Outstanding Vacancies

Community Rugby Co-ordinator
Area Representative

Two applications - to be interviewed.

Mid Wiltshire
East Dorset

County Rugby Sponsorship Manager
Age Grade Deputy Lead
Age Grade Competition Support members

Senior Competition Support members
 Deputy President
 RugbySafe Lead
 Deputy CB Safeguarding Manager
 Replacement for Joe Walsh
 Membership Secretary
 Under 17's Representative Team Manager
 Disciplinary Panel Members

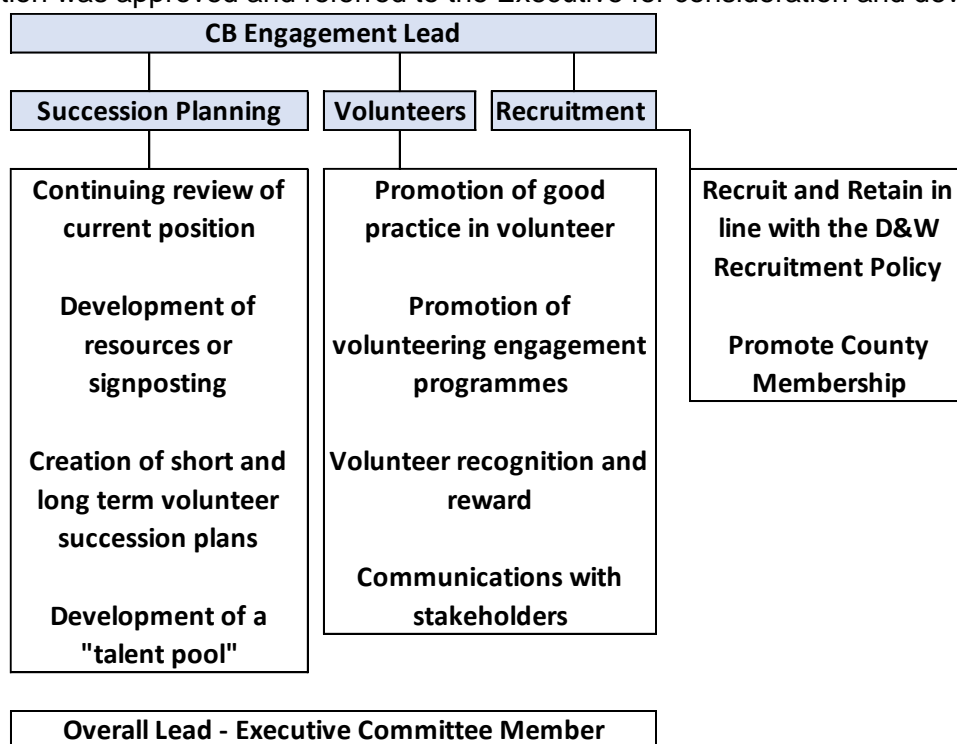
Candidate confirmed
 For JD please [Click here](#)
 For JD please [Click here](#)
 One expression of interest
 One expression of interest
 Three expressions of interest

Ads posted on Social Media – [Website](#)

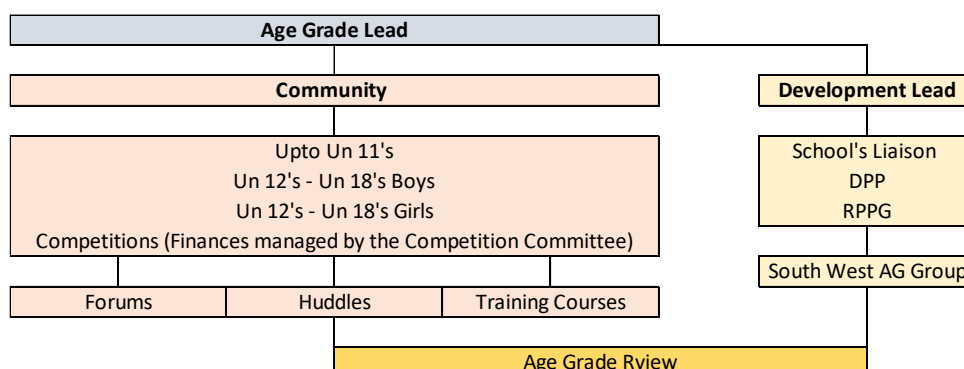
The Rugby Safe, Discipline Panel Members and Safeguarding roles have also been emailed via GMS to all D&W clubs role holders.

GB suggested that we revise the management team with the modification of two roles.

- a) Replace the Volunteer Co-ordinator – Dorset & Wiltshire role with a CB Engagement Lead. This suggestion was approved and referred to the Executive for consideration and development.



- b) Splitting the Age Grade into two programmes



This suggestion was approved and referred to the Executive for consideration and development.

Advertisement to be posted for the role of Age Grade Lead.

GB

GB asked the Council to approve a budget for Social Media management. GB suggested that the D&W reinstate the use of Hootsuite for Social Media posting as per pre pandemic.

The original subscription was cancelled due to the RFU funding cuts.

This was not approved, and it should be part of the CB Engagement Leads role, to determine if there is a need for this suggestion.

Follow the Council meeting please see details below.

The cost would be £249.00 per month for a suitable license. Without the free trial a 20% discount would apply giving and monthly cost of £159.36 + VAT.

The subscription can be cancelled at any time.

The suggested Teams license would allow the following.

- 3 users
- 20 Social Accounts on
 - Instagram
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - youtube
 - linkedin
 - pinterest
 - tictok
- Unlimited posts
- Access to messages in one inbox
- Roles and Permissions
- Assign posts to team members.

To learn more about Team – [Click here](#)

Other products are available like Loomly

Upcoming Dates

1. Council

20th of June

2. AGM

19th of July 2023

Training Course Update – Please [Click here](#) to view

CB Drop In – Wednesday 31st May 2023

	Topic	Descriptor
Breakout Room 1:	I&D review – 7pm Session ONLY	Update and sharing of the Club/ CB I&D toolkit that is in. We are keen to hear feedback to help us ensure the resource is as useful as possible for I&D Leads, their clubs, and CBs.
Breakout Room 2:	CB Training offer 23/24	Tackle Height Implementation to the CB Training Offer 23/24
Breakout Room 3:	County Champs review/discussion	A review session on the County Championships this season.
Breakout Room 4:	Discipline Audit review/discuss	Review and opportunity to give feedback on the new Discipline Audit process this season.

Gerald Burden - Gen Sec