



Dorset Youth Forum Meeting Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Attendees	Apologies
Rob Whitham - Chairman	Simon Humphrey – Wimborne RFC
Nick Elbourne - WRFC	Barrie Ross – Poole RFC
Aaron Day – Poole RFC	Greg Pike – Bournemouth RFC
Melanie Moriarty – Swanage and Wareham RFC	Joe Williams – Oakmedians RFC
Paul Senior – Bournemouth RFC	Damien Orton – Sherborne RFC
John Lambourn – Dorchester RFC	Dan McKrill – Bournemouth RFC
John Constable – Swanage & Wareham RFC	Janet Edwards – D & W Schools Coordinator
Caroline Dustan – Dorset & Wilts u15s/ Sherborne RFC	Theresa Draycott Lovell – Dorchester RFC
Chris Burton - RFU	

#### 1- Competitions

Now run by D & W Player Development Group

Focus is on player retention

Competitions need to be used as a development tool.

Needs to be in line with player driven, competition supported ethos

Discussion points:

- A More flexibility needed
- Most clubs fitted in
- Some fixtures taking place Fri night
- Some Games brought Forward
- Games to be played by date – gives flexibility
- Some teams unable to field full teams

Some questions relating to how the draws are done because there are a number of clubs who have disheartened players from mismatched games at the start of the season leading to low morale and poor retention.

Younger groups have used finishing positions from previous years to determine the initial groups

The feeling was that the first half of competitions were less balanced overall

But 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the years draw was much better, but needed a lot more travelling to achieve balance in the higher standard games.

A number of suggestions were raised:



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- JC – Possibly use the matrix in future for friendlies and competition
- MM – Group clubs in balance with others at the beginning of the year
- MM – Vast majority of players want to play in a cup
- CB – Other counties do self-selection into Pools monitored by the committee
- There does seem to be enough structured competition
- NE – the group thanked Nick for his input who then suggested that we look at a structure of three tiers :
  - Tier 1 – Dorset and Wilts
  - Tier 2 – Wilts 2 & a Dorset 2
  - Tier 3 – Wilts 3 and a Dorset 3

The group were asked to submit feedback to Nick Elbourne on this and Nick said he would try to do a survey monkey to gain better feedback.

### 2 Recruitment & Retention

Julie Boddington – now helping Dave Wookey

Non Playing members need to be cleared of club registers.

Registration data is thought to be inaccurate

Electronic registration has been a struggle for some clubs

Melanie to give feedback to GMS Helpdesk on specific issues.

We would like to seek clarification from the RFU whether a photo permission needs to be done every year or whether the initial registration should suffice.

The amount of registered players does not affect RFU ticket allocations anymore (this was a motivator for keeping non playing members on the registers)

### 3 Schools

Weymouth have taken part in an all schools programme

This is a 3 year programme with potential to grow to 6 years

A budget of £11k has been granted to support the programme

So far there has been a 3% conversion from School players to Club players

The programme is supported by Staff and Parents and has been well received

There has been a focus on girls rugby with activity in half term

### 4 RFU Notes Chris Burton

Discipline – red cards from junior sections now affect the whole club and sanctions affect all games and all competitions.



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There have been 2 clubs in Dorset involved in disciplinary sanction from red cards last year.

### Pitch side behavior

There have already been incidences this year of poor pitch side behavior by parents and coaches at youth games and there have been instances of the referees being abused from the sidelines

A discussion ensued and concluded that coach problems are normally isolated and each club needs to identify the perpetrators and deal with them correctly. This may mean removing the coach from duty.

New guidelines for pitch infrastructure on cup games requiring a rope 5m back from the pitch and marked technical areas should be rolled out for all games where possible.

It was noted that there is a heavy demand on society referees and there is feedback that they prefer school games over club games because of discipline issues.

### 5 Safeguarding

AD asked whether HEJA are aware of any GDPR complaints and it was thought that they are.

### 6 Refereeing issues

General agreement that coaches to agree the age grade rules with the referee and each coach to have a copy to hand to help the referee.

### 7 DPP

14 & 15 selection to take place in autumn half term

Nominations have been sought from all clubs and schools

County u16 nominations already sought and trials have been set up

CB noted that nominations for trials can cause problems and that other CB's have taken a different approach such as Cornwall whose trials are open to all registered players

RW to discuss merits with Richard Bourne and provide feedback to the forum

### 8 Girls Rugby

The programme has gone very well with County games arranged for after Xmas

Superclusters across D & W have been arranged are open to u11s, u13s, u15s, and u18s. 109 girls attended the first one.

Dorset's first County Cluster to held this weekend at North Dorset open to all female players

2 more superclusters are planned before April 19



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Girls will also have a focus on 7's game to widen the appeal

9 AOB

Wet weather suggestions were welcomed with AD suggesting that the assumption should be that Sunday's arrangements stay in place and if there is foul weather then the group can still meet to play assorted games such as:

- Indoor games
- Rugby top trumps
- Colouring rugby balls
- Mat games etc

All of which are good for player retention and comradery

Swans youth festival was very successful

Meeting dates – it was agreed that are next meeting be scheduled in February – RW to avoid half term dates – this meeting to include fixtures secretary as we should have the bones of the matrix in place.

April's meeting to be held jointly with Wiltshire Youth Forum