



DORSET & WILTS. RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 29th July 2026

DIGITAL VERSION V1 – 21st of July 2026

DIGITAL VERSION V2 – 22nd of July 2026

DIGITAL VERSION V3 – 29TH OF July 2026

Teamwork | Respect | Enjoyment | Discipline | Sportsmanship

Working Together to Grow Rugby in Dorset and Wiltshire

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The Running Order for 2025 – 2026 Annual General Meeting of the Dorset & Wilts RFU is as follows:

1. President declares the meeting open **Sean Macey**
2. **Registered Attendance, Inc. apologies**

Attendance

Name	Organisation	Role
Sean Macey	D&W RFU	President
Dave Wookey	D&W RFU	Lead Area Representative
John Constable	D&W RFU	RFU Council Representative
Alison Hunter	D&W RFU	Treasurer
Nigel Mattravers	D&W RFU	Deputy President
Jane Hart	D&W RFU	Chair of Governance
Gerald Burden	D&W RFU	General Secretary
Micheal Bamsey	D&W RFU	Director of Rugby
Duncan Souster	D&W RFU	Area Representative
Ed Taylor	D&W RFU	Area Representative

Apologies

Name	Organisation	Role
Chris Taylor	D&W RFU	Area Representative
Julian Hussey	Bridport	Chair
Matthew Cowland	Blandford RFC	President
Nicola Rawnsdon	Salisbury RFC	President

-
3. Pause for a moment to remember those of the rugby family that we have loss this year.

Presidents Welcome

4. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the 2026 Dorset & Wilts RFU Annual General Meeting. Once again, thank you to Salisbury RFC for hosting us tonight.

You will see from the attached agenda and reports that we have as far as possible been able to deliver a full season of rugby and associated activities during 25/26.

I know that both the Council and Management Committee have worked hard in looking after all the clubs within Dorset & Wilts to ensure that they are able to sustain, develop and grow rugby for all within them and also support all of those who willingly give their time as volunteers in the running of their respective clubs. I would like to particularly thank John Constable for his continued dedication to the role of RFU Council Representative for the CB, Gerald Burden who is the central hub for everything within the Union and also ensures that any discipline cases are dealt with in a prompt and efficient manner. Nigel Mattravers

commands special mention for stepping into the Chair of the CB when personal work commitments prevented me from doing so.

In early June we once again held our annual awards evening, recognising those who had been recognised by their peers through the Volunteers scheme and celebrating the on-field achievements of the Dorset & Wilts clubs who had won their respective leagues and our own Dorset & Wilts cup competitions. It is very pleasing to see that this joint event has grown in each of its 4 years since it was first held and I am sure that is now fully embedded both within the D&W calendar and that of our clubs. A huge thank you to all of the volunteers in each and every club across the CB.

Despite our representative sides not making a trip to the Allianz Stadium after Dorset & Wilts being represented there for the previous 2 years, all our teams showed on the pitch that rugby in Dorset & Wilts is thriving across all sectors, and the future is very much bright. Thank you to all of the coaching and management staff for their hard work in developing our players.

I was very proud to become President of Dorset and Wilts back in 2023 and now is the time to pass the accolade over to Nigel Mattravers. As previously mentioned, Nigel kindly and diligently stepped into the day to day running of the Union over the last 12 months and I am sure that he will continue to innovate and drive us forward in the coming years.

I am sure you will join me in looking forward to a successful and enjoyable 2026/27 year ahead.

Sean Macey – President

Foreword

5. Welcome to the 2025-26 Annual General Meeting of the Dorset & Wilts RFU.

It is always a pleasure to see so many familiar faces and, equally, to meet and welcome new friends for the first time.

Both the RFU and the Dorset & Wilts RFU will continue to support clubs wherever possible.

This support may take the form of advice and guidance to help clubs make the most of the resources available. However, with rising costs and reduced income, life is not going to be easy for either us or our rugby clubs. By working more closely together and maintaining a willingness to support one another, we can continue to improve and strengthen our rugby community.

There is some funding available for clubs, although it is limited.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have worked so hard to help make Dorset & Wilts RFU a success once again during what has been another challenging year.

The Annual General Meeting is not only an opportunity to elect Officers and County Representatives for the coming season, but also a time for us to formally report to our membership on the activities undertaken by Dorset & Wilts RFU Ltd, both as the local

governing body of the game and as a Constituent Body (CB) of the RFU during the past season. Most of these activities are carried out by our committees and sub-committees, which have once again achieved a great deal this season. I will let their reports speak for themselves.

The management team of the Dorset & Wilts RFU plans to visit as many clubs as possible during the 2026–27 season.

May I also remind you that the closing date for the submission of any club invoices or Dorset & Wilts RFU expense claims is the last Saturday of each month, with payments being made by the end of that month.

Finally, I would like to ask for your support.

Please ensure that your personal details are up to date on GMS. This is now more important than ever, as the funding received by the Dorset & Wilts RFU from the RFU is based on GMS data.

In addition, please make sure that your club's contact details are accurate and up to date.

We estimate that approximately 15% of all Dorset & Wilts RFU GMS records are incorrect that equates to around 6,000 people. By taking a few moments to check and update your information, you will help ensure that both your club and the Dorset & Wilts RFU receive the support and funding to which they are entitled.

Thank you for your continued support, commitment and dedication to rugby across Dorset and Wiltshire.

Remember to share a problem – it will not make the problem go away – but it will help

Gerald Burden



DORSET & WILTS. RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LTD

SECOND CALLING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Dorset & Wilts. RFU Ltd will be held by Salisbury RFC Castle Rd Salisbury SP1 3SA at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday 29rd July 2026.

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. To note attendance and any apologies
2. To consider and approve (with or without amendments) the minutes of the previous AGM
4. To receive and approve reports from the General Secretary and on behalf of the D&W Committee about the affairs of the Constituent Body since the previous AGM
5. To receive the Treasurer's Report and approve a financial statement for the preceding financial year.
6. To elect the other Officers for the coming year, including:
 - President.
 - Immediate Past President.
 - General Secretary.
 - Treasurer.

*Voting to be carried out by electronic means prior to the AGM.
The results of this vote will be declared during the AGM.*

7. To elect Members of the Committee for the ensuing year, being:
 - Area Representative Lead.
 - Four Area Representatives from the two counties.
(East Dorset – West Dorset – South Wiltshire – North Wiltshire)

Three Non-Area Representatives

- Club Support.
- Director of Rugby.
- Governance.

*Voting to be carried out by electronic means prior to the AGM.
The results of this vote will be declared during the AGM.*

8. To elect the Deputy President for the ensuing year.

*Voting to be carried out by electronic means prior to the AGM.
The results of this vote will be declared during the AGM.*

Plus, the following Member of the Committee will be Co-opted for the ensuing year at the next Full Committee meeting – **(Date to be Confirmed)**

- RFU Council Representative.

8. To admit any new Members and/or elect any new Vice-Presidents or Life Members.
9. To consider a resolution disapplying the provisions of Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act, 2014, relating to the obligation to appoint Auditors

*Voting to be carried out by electronic means prior to the AGM.
The results of this vote will be declared during the AGM.*

10. To consider any other motion or business that has been submitted in writing to County Secretary by Wednesday 30th April 2026 duly proposed by one Member and seconded by another Member.
11. To hear any other relevant matter for the consideration of the Committee during the ensuing year (details of which must have been submitted in writing to County Secretary not less than 48 hours before the time for which the AGM has been convened) but on which no voting shall be allowed.
12. Announcement of annual and other awards.

Dated: Monday 8th June 2026

[Please see the Notes herewith]

Gerald Burden General Secretary

NOTES TO CALLING NOTICE AND PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Following the incorporation of the Dorset & Wilts RFU Ltd as a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, the AGM has to be conducted in accordance with the Constitution, which means that
 - (a) Nominations for the election of Officers and other Committee members (which must have the consent of the nominee) have to be sent in writing so as to reach the County Secretary by the 30th of April.
 - (b) Proposals for additions or alterations to the Constitution (which must be proposed by one member and seconded by another) have to be sent in writing so as to reach the County Secretary by the 30th of April.

- Please contact me if you should have any queries.*

1. Being a duly elected Officer or Committee member, the RFU Council Representative; each affiliated Club.
2. Currently set at assets of less than £2.8m; and turnover of less than £5.6m for the year.

- Result of the vote** **Yes – 44** **No – 0**

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| ➤ Immediate Past President | Sean Macey | Corsham RFC |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------|

Result of the vote	Yes – 44	No – 0
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- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| ➤ General Secretary | Gerald Burden |
|---------------------|---------------|

Result of the vote	Yes – 44	No – 0
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- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| ➤ Treasurer | Alison Hunter | Weymouth & Portland RFC |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|

Result of the vote	Yes – 44	No – 0
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d) To elect Members of the Committee for the ensuing year, being the Five Area Representatives from the two counties

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| ➤ Lead | Dave Wookey | Amesbury RFC |
| ➤ West Dorset | Ed Taylor | Dorchester RFC |
| ➤ East Dorset | Elena Notarbartolo | East Dorset Dockers RFC |
| ➤ South Wiltshire | Duncan Souster | Amesbury RFC |
| ➤ North Wiltshire | Chris Taylor | Supermarine RFC |

Result of the vote	Yes – 44	No – 0
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e) To elect Members of the Committee for the ensuing year, being the Three Non-Area Representatives from the two counties

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| ➤ Governance | Jane Hart | Oakmeadians RFC |
| ➤ Director of Rugby | Michael Bamsey | |
| ➤ Chair of Club Support | Alan Ottaway | |

Result of the vote	Yes – 44	No – 0
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f) To elect the Deputy President for the ensuing year, being

- | |
|-------------------|
| ➤ To be nominated |
|-------------------|

Result of the vote	Yes – 32	No – 4	Abstentions – 8
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Plus, to confirm the appointment of following Sub-committee Chairs

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| ➤ Community Rugby | Chris Jones | Devizes RFC |
| ➤ Woman & Girls | Caroline Durston | Sherborne RFC |
| ➤ Age Grade | Gordon Harding | Dorchester RFC |

Result of the vote	Yes – 43	No – 1
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g) To Co-opted the RFU Council Member – John Constable on to the Committee at the next Committee meeting on Tuesday 4th August 2026 – (Date to be Confirmed)

h) The following will be Invited Attendees on the Committee at the next Committee meeting on Tuesday 17th August 2026 – **(Date to be Confirmed)**

- Referee's Representative Marcus Monier-Williams
- RFU – CBRM Nicola Vaughan
- England Rugby Schools Andy Marriott or Jason Yarwood

i) To admit any new Members and/or elect any new Vice-Presidents or Life Members.

Honorary Life Vice Presidents Of The Dorset & Wilts RFU

j) To consider a resolution disapplying the provisions of Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act, 2014, relating to the obligation to appoint Auditors

Result of the vote

Yes – 44

No – 0

k) To consider any other motion or business that has been submitted in writing to County Secretary by Thursday 30th April 2026, duly proposed by one Member and seconded by another Member.

None

l) To hear any other relevant matter for the consideration of the Committee during the ensuing year (details of which must have been submitted in writing to County Secretary not less than 48 hours before the time for which the AGM has been convened) but on which no voting shall be allowed.

Question from Nicola Wallace-Walton (Honorary Secretary at Oakmeadians RFC)

Please can we understand the International Ticket sales figures. I am interpreting that numbers as follows:-

<i>Purchase of tickets</i>	<i>£32,333.33</i>
<i>Ticket sales</i>	<i>£25,256.67</i>
<i>Balance</i>	<i>£7,076.66</i>

Please can we understand the deficit? Were tickets returned or donated to Members or Sponsors?

Reply from Alison Hunter (D&W RFU Treasurer)

2 tickets are given as a "gift" to the president to attend a match on behalf of D&W in each series .These are normally medium-priced tickets.

The remainder is a timing issue where I have purchased tickets for the Autumn games but have not yet released them for sale.

m) Announcement of annual and other awards.

The Bob Stock Trophy

The Referee Society

This year's recipient is Lytchett Minster RFC

The Bowden/Wildash Trophy

Willie Wildash

This year's recipient is Peter and Susan Brownlie from Calne RFC

The DJAW Walking Rugby Award

Dave Wookey

This year's recipient is Trowbridge RFC

D&W RFU Contacts

Administration

Management – Gerald Burden

honsec@dwrugby.co.uk

Finance – Alison Hunter

alisonhunter19@googlemail.com

CB Engagement Team

President – Nigel Mattravers

nigelmattravers@yahoo.co.uk

Immediate Past President – Sean Macey

seanmacey@btinternet.com

Deputy President – TBN

VP Membership – Denzil Brockhurst

DENZIL.BROCKHURST@GMAIL.COM

Referees – Marcus Monier-Williams

chair@dorsetandwiltsrefs.org.uk

Volunteer Coordinator – Nigel Mattravers

nigelmattravers@yahoo.co.uk

Area Representatives Lead – Dave Wookey

rugbyadmin@djawltd.com

East Dorset – Elena Notarbartolo

elena.not84@yahoo.com

Clubs

East Dorset Dockers RFC - Christchurch RFC – Wimborne RFC – Oakmeadians RFC
Lytchett Minster RFC – Poole RFC – Bournemouth RFC

West Dorset – Ed Taylor

eht3262@gmail.com

Clubs

Blandford RFC – Puddletown RFC – North Dorset RFC – Dorchester RFC – Swanage &
Wareham RFC – Weymouth & Portland RFC – Bridport RFC – Sherborne RFC

North Wiltshire – Chris Taylor

cajtaylor77@gmail.com

Clubs

Chippenham RFC – Swindon Collage Old Boys RFC – Sutton Benger RFC – Cricklade RFC
Royal Wootton Bassett RFC – Swindon RFC – Minety RFC – Supermarine RFC– Colerne
RFC – Bradford-on-Avon RFC – Corsham RFC – Melksham RFC

South Wiltshire – Duncan Souster

southwiltshuddle@gmail.com

Clubs

Calne RFC – Pewsey Vale RFC – Wheatsheaf Cabin Crew RFC – Amesbury RFC
Marlborough RFC – Salisbury RFC – Trowbridge RFC – Westbury RFC Warminster RFC
Devizes RFC

Governance – Jane Hart

governance@dwrugby.co.uk

Safeguarding – Julie Fisher

safeguarding@dwrugby.co.uk

GPDR – Nicola Wallace-Walton

honsecretary@oakmeadians-rfc.com

Discipline – Gerald Burden

honsec@dwrugby.co.uk

Anti-Doping & Illicit Drugs – Rich Elliott
Inclusion & Diversity – Louise Graham
RugbySafe – Megan Wetherick

rich7elliott@gmail.com
louise01418@outlook.com

GMS – Dave Wookey

rugbyadmin@djawltd.com

Registration – Dave Wookey
Festivals – Joe Walsh

rugbyadmin@djawltd.com
joe.j.walsh1@gmail.com

Club Support – Alan Ottaway

alanottaway68@gmail.com

Director of Rugby – Micheal Bamsey

taffbamz@yahoo.co.uk

Representative Rugby
Male – Ian Moore
Women’s – Chris Burton
Community Rugby – Chris Jones
Walking Rugby – Emily James
Women’s Rugby – Caroline Durston
Age Grade – Gordon Harding
PDGFP – Gordon Harding
Under 18’s Girls – Caroline Durston

idmoore0210@outlook.com
burtonchris1310@gmail.com
chris.d.jones@outlook.com
ejames404@outlook.com
altland@hotmail.co.uk
blindsidegord@gmail.com
blindsidegord@gmail.com
altland@hotmail.co.uk

RFU Council Member – John Constable

j.constable4swansrugby@btinternet.com

Invited Attendees

Referees – Marcus Monier-Williams
CBRM – Nicola Vaughan
Schools – Andy Marriott

chair@dorsetandwiltsrefs.org.uk
NicolaVaughan@RFU.com
andyjamesmarriott@gmail.com

Treasurer Notes for the accounts for the year to 30th June 2026

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 June 2026.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies’ regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Director

The notes form part of these financial statements

Dorset and Wilts Rugby Football Union Ltd

Financial Activities
July 2025 – June 2026

Total

Income	
Rugby Football Union	
CB Funding - RFU	£64,655.00
Total for Rugby Football Union	£64,655.00
Self-Generating	£3,000.00
Club Affiliation Fees	£675.00
County Members Subscriptions	£1,590.39
Disciplinary Fees	£1,334.17
Total for Self-Generating	£6,599.56
Twickenham Ticket Sales	£25,256.67
Total for Income	£96,511.23
Cost of Sales	
Twickenham Ticket Purchase	£32,333.33
Total for Cost of Sales	£32,333.33
Total	£64,177.90
Expenditures	
Bank charges	£141.75
Community CRC	£5,580.00
Competitions and playing	
Age Grade Pathway Under 18's Girls	£1,264.00
Girls CB DPP	£11,677.48
Total for Competitions and playing	£12,941.48
Core Activities	£553.75
Competitions - Junior	-£3,686.50
Competitions - Senior	£442.53
Meetings / AGM	£148.42
RFU Representative Expenses	£498.60
Travel	£622.44
Working Practices	£17,255.80
Total for Core Activities	£15,835.04
Facilities	
Grants to clubs	£940.00
Total for Facilities	£940.00

Governance	
Disciplinary Costs	£104.17
Total for Governance	£104.17

Meetings / AGM	£594.27
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Dorset and Wilts Rugby Football Union Ltd

Financial Activities

July 2025 – June 2026

Total

Representative Rugby

RR1 Senior XV	
RR1 Equipment	£3,250.51
RR1 Facilities	£1,084.16
RR1 Medical	£1,248.02
RR1 Referee Costs	£240.00
RR1 Travel	£812.76
Total for RR1 Senior XV	£6,635.45

RR2 U20s	£133.76
RR2 Equipment	£3,212.81
RR2 Facilities	£375.00
RR2 Medical	£731.24
RR2 Referee Costs	£35.00
RR2 Travel	£225.13
Total for RR2 U20s	£4,712.94

RR3 U17 & U18 Boys	
RR3 Equipment	£187.14
RR3 Facilities	£1,329.80
RR3 Medical	£1,039.28
RR3 Referee Costs	£328.00
RR3 Travel	£1,322.60
Total for RR3 U17 & U18 Boys	£4,206.82

RR5 U18 County Girls	£1,402.00
RR6 U15 County Girls	£144.00
RR7 Ladies County XV	£8,668.28
Total for Representative Rugby	£25,769.49

Volunteers	£3,337.04
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Total for Expenditures	£65,243.24
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Net Operating Income	- £1,065.34
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Net Income/(Expenditure)	- £1,065.34
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I'd like to mention the varied amounts club charge for hire and food across the twin counties ranging from £75.00 pitch hire to £360.00.

Cost of food supplied by clubs varies from £3.50 to £8.50.

It does feel like some of the clubs see us a money-making scheme and I think we should look at this and come up with a reasonable charge sheet.

Same issue as last year with invoices being sent in late for payment. One club invoice was dated March 2025 and was received on the 5th of July 2026.

Alison Hunter – Treasurer

Area Representatives

1- Area Leads – Council Members (Elected)

This season has seen us continue to run the 4 groups for clubs as notified on the website link below The Area Representatives are: East Dorset – Elena Notarbartolo (EDD), West Dorset - Ed Taylor (Dorchester), North Wiltshire – Chris Taylor (Supermarine) and South Wiltshire – Duncan Souster (Amesbury). <https://dwrugby.co.uk/area-representatives/>

S Wilts and East Dorset have had regular meetings throughout the season, but lack of buy in from clubs in N Wilts has not allowed meetings to go ahead. S Wilts clubs have not been as forthcoming during this season. W Dorset has primarily relied on a WhatsApp group to communicate, but the requirement is for regular meetings to happen, even in on-line (D&W now has 2 Zoom licences so confliction can be avoided. Both Dorset groups have active WhatsApp groups which helps with questions and answers from clubs into the CB. The intention is to set up similar arrangements for the Wiltshire groups at the start of new season. We encourage all clubs to participate in these meetings which are rarely longer than 60 minutes and give chance for RFU and CB officers to impart information useful to clubs and for clubs to feedback to CB and RFU on items of interest to them, also to share best practice with other clubs. We strongly encourage all clubs to keep in contact with your Area Rep, lack of engagement can only harm your clubs access to support.

All 4 Area Reps and I will be standing for re-election at this AGM.

West Dorset rep (Ed) provided extra information for this Report as below:

The West Dorset teams have seen many successes. 3 of the clubs Sherborne, Dorchester and Blandford were promoted from their respective leagues. North Dorset although relegated from a tough league had an excellent playing season along with strong performances from Bridport, Puddletown Weymouth and Swans which saw these teams end in good league positions. Women and Girls rugby is growing. The women's game is especially strong in Weymouth, North Dorset and Sherborne. Girls' rugby is growing in clubs' youth sections.

Youth sections are growing across the board and there has been good engagement with local schools.

There have been lots of examples of clubs engaging with their local communities and running important local events.

We also saw the Women's World Cup on display in Sherborne.

Clubs are investing in their clubhouses and grounds, and this bodes well for the upcoming season and for retention of players.

There have been several 7s and other rugby tournaments this summer.

The season ahead looks encouraging, with growth expected in girls' rugby and some clubs are also looking to play more Friday night senior men's games if possible.

There are concerns around cost of travel to away games. So any support here gratefully accepted.

Dave Wookey – Area Representative Lead

Governance

Discipline

To view the Case List – Please Click [here](#)

75 cases in total this season

Number of cases about 40% down on last year.

12 cases passed to other CBs

6 cases – not proven

3 – Citing

11 – Age Grade including two complaints

1 – Spectator

5 – Match Abandonments which were withdrawn

(Reasons)

Weather – Injured Players – Referees (standard of reporting or not being available or willing to turn up for hearing) not D&W referees

County Match Senior Men – Red Card (Two Yellows) – the sanction will be Sending off Sufficient.

Discipline Secretaries/Referees (Match Official Abuse) targeted programme/meeting for next season.

Following a pilot project in Cheshire and Lancashire last year (called Behaviour Issues on the Sidelines in Rugby), all CB Discipline Secretaries have agreed to review the possibilities of introducing this programme across all CBs in September 2026.

This project will need to be funded by the D&W.

Gerald Burden

No Reports received for the following

Safeguarding

GPDR

Rugby Safe

Anti-Doping & Illicit Drugs

Festivals Tours and Age Grade Approvals

Festivals

Festivals & Camps

Club/Organisation Festival Date

Tours

Age Grade Approvals

Inclusion & Diversity

Game Management System (GMS)

As Data Officer for Dorset & Wilts I carry an oversight of clubs GMS within the. To that end I find that despite previous calls to club Data Officers to cleanse club people list of no longer active members/players/volunteers it is disappointing to see clubs carrying people records which are in this category or with incomplete information such as DoB, E-Mail address etc and some that still carrying parental duplicated email addresses when the players have had many seasons as seniors. Accurate data is important as it gives a true vision of the start of Rugby in the CB – which affects funding from RFU, also if a player does not have a single verified email address, they will not receive the invite to renew registration (this must be done by the player and not by the club's registrar or data officer. Obviously incorrect data and registration information may affect the ability to receive RFU or CB grant funding. Clubs should be aware that the Clubhouse part of GMS which was made available last season start is being added to, therefore is as it enables players to have visibility of their playing statistics, it is important that EMC events are completed so the players have sight of their playing time and scoring. If clubs require more training on any aspect of GMS, please fill in the expression

of interest form on the GMS help page, One of the 7 trainers (I am 1) will be allocated to lead a session for your club.

Player Registration

Player registration at Senior and Age Grade will continue to be an annual requirement. After the changeover it should be simpler to remove players who have not renewed their registration, Senior player will show renewal required for a period of 3-4 month after start of season then will be deregistered completely, Age Grade simply show as people in clubs' system. GMS changes over seasons on 1 July and all players or players parents for under 18s will have received an email with a link to re-register from 7 July. For single team clubs that were relegated to level 9 (M) or Level 5(W) the renewal will make the players Club Registered, the reverse should also apply but please check you registration is correct for the level being played and uplift those club registered or new players to RFU level for Level 8 (M) and above or Level 4 or above (W). It is no longer required to renew with your old club if player has transferred before being active with the old club – a win!

If clubs need help or advice, please contact me or request a GMS training session via the expression of interest form on the GMS help page.

Dave Wookey – Data Officer

Club Support

Facilities

Club Development Grants

This year the D&W RFU approved grants to the following

Sherborne RFC	School Programme
Pewsey Vale RFC	Posts or First Aid
Christchurch RFC	Posts
Puddletown RFC	Posts
Dorchester RFC	Kit for new Girl's team
England Schools Rugby	Schools Programme

Twenty-Eight D&W RFU clubs have engaged with the STIGA mower programme.

Nine clubs have received their STIGA mowers

Eleven clubs are still awaiting delivery of their STIGA mowers

The remainder have submitted an Expression of Interest

If you feel the offer may be appropriate and of interest to your club, please complete this link
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6a7a68c9fecb4687874d92c5706f8a20>

RFU Facility Needs Capture – The Headlines (9th July 2026)

Did Not Complete the Facility Need Capture

Amesbury RFC

Blandford RFC
Bournemouth RFC
Calne RFC
Chippenham RFC
Colerne RFC
Corsham RFC
Devizes RFC
Dorchester RFC
East Dorset Dockers RFC
Melksham RFC
Minety RFC
Oakmedians RFC
Sutton Benger RFC
Swindon College Old Boys RFC
Westbury RFC
Wheatsheaf Cabin Crew RFC

Permanent Lighting on an unlit pitch

Bradford-on-Avon RFC
Bridport RFC
Christchurch RFC
Marlborough RFC
Puddletown RFC
Royal Wotton Bassett RFC
Sherborne RFC
Supermarine RFC
Swindon RFC
Trowbridge RFC
Weymouth & Portland RFC

Upgrade provision on an existing pitch

Lytchett Minster RFC
Poole RFC
Salisbury RFC

New mobile lights

None

Pitch maintenance need HAVE engaged with GMA

Cricklade RFC
Pewsey Vale RFC
Swanage and Wareham RFC
Warminster RFC
Wimborne RFC

Changing Rooms

North Dorset RFC

Poole RFC
Weymouth & Portland RFC

Social Space

Bradford-on-Avon RFC
Bridport RFC
Cricklade RFC
Warminster RFC

Toilet Development

Puddletown RFC

Entrance – Lobby area

Lytchett Minster RFC
Pewsey Vale RFC

Green Energy Solution

Supermarine RFC
Trowbridge RFC

First Aid Provision

Christchurch RFC
Marlborough RFC

Volunteer Report

The Volunteering Awards Evening was held at The Udder Farm Shop, East Stour on the Friday 12th June and was attended by 125 people. Thanks go to the small team lead who organised the event, to give well-earned awards to a host of deserving people. There were Sixty-one nominations, which are listed below by category:

UNSUNG HERO

Duncan Souster	Amesbury RFC
Katrina Peters	Amesbury RFC
Jacob Packer	Bournemouth RFC
Greg Reid	Bournemouth RFC
Joseph Burns	Bournemouth RFC
Sian Reid	Bournemouth RFC
Bert Appleton	Bradford-on-Avon RFC
James Hobbs	Bradford-on-Avon RFC
Huw Solly	Chippenham RFC
Matt Craig	Corsham RFC
Andy Cornell	Corsham RFC
Chris Lennon	Cricklade RFC
David Panes	Devizes RFC

Tom Wood	Dorchester RFC
Sharon Dix	Dorset & Wilts Referees Society
Sue Hill	Lytchett Minster RFC
Mick Newell	Lytchett Minster RFC
Conor Bradley	Lytchett Minster RFC
Kim Ward	Lytchett Minster RFC
Conor Brady	Lytchett Minster RFC
Josh Powles	Lytchett Minster RFC
Piers Ward	Minety RFC
Martin Stewart	North Dorset RFC
Peter Davidson	North Dorset RFC
Camilla Raynes	North Dorset RFC
Nicholas Mattravers	North Dorset RFC
Laura Martin	Oakmeadians RFC
Tina Baker	Pewsey Vale RFC
Mark Lerpiniere	Salisbury RFC
Jason Bolger	Salisbury RFC
Gary Lonsdale	Sherborne RFC
Nikki Whittaker	Sherborne RFC
Sam Briggs	Supermarine RFC
Chris Champion	Supermarine RFC
Mike Redout	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Shauna Smith	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Andy Smith	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Ray Graves	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Anna Daniels	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Nik Taylor	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Les Eaton	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Claire Carlton	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Andrew Smith	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Mike Redout	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Sean O'Rourke	Swindon College Old Boys RFC
Lisa White	Swindon RFC
Joe Walsh	Swindon RFC
Richard Kewell	Swindon RFC
Dai Kalyinka	Swindon RFC
Bob Groves	Swindon RFC
Ian Davies	Swindon RFC
Dean Perry	Trowbridge RFC
Scott Williams	Trowbridge RFC
Chris Coombs	Trowbridge RFC
Lee Kemmery	Trowbridge RFC
Naquita Lloyd-Edwards	Weymouth & Portland RFC
Alan Burns	Weymouth & Portland RFC
Neil Hannaford	Wimborne RFC

GAME FOR ALL

Huw Solly	Chippenham RFC
Jan Edwards	Dorset & Wilts RFU (CB)

Scott Simmons	Melksham RFC
Dave Fielding	Melksham RFC
Andy Evans	Melksham RFC
Joe Mcann	Melksham RFC
Mitch Burton	Melksham RFC
Will Willoughby	North Dorset RFC
Mark Lerpiniere	Salisbury RFC
Caroline Durstan	Sherborne RFC
James Sealey	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Barry Ashdown	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Callum Dodds	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Keith Tomes	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Sarah Saxby	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Rich Huntley	Swindon RFC
Richard White	Swindon RFC
Victoria Barrett	Westbury RFC

KEEPING PLAYERS IN THE GAME

Ryan Hunt	Sherborne RFC
John Tozer	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Jason Davies	Swanage & Wareham RFC
Paul Metcalfe	Trowbridge RFC

SPECIAL AWARDS

Game for All

David Panes

Unsung Hero

Duncan Souster

Katrina Peters

Sean O'Rourke

Sam Beckett

Keeping Players in the Game

Ryan Hunt

OVERALL:

Ryan Hunt – Sherborne RFC

Volunteer Recognition

Dorset & Wilts RFU have returned our nominations for consideration in the National Awards later in the year. We wish them luck in the National awards.

Congratulations go to all the nominated volunteers who remain the operating lifeblood of our rugby clubs

Alan Ottaway – Chair

Representative Rugby Overview

The 2025/26 season has provided a solid platform for continued growth across the Dorset & Wiltshire County Men's pathway. Whilst results and representative selections did not always reflect the quality of performances on the field; there are clear signs that all three programmes are moving in a positive direction.

U18 Men

The U18s completed a competitive campaign, playing three representative fixtures during the season. Across all matches, the squad demonstrated strong commitment, resilience and a high level of skill, producing a number of encouraging performances against quality opposition.

The players represented Dorset & Wiltshire with pride and professionalism, and the coaching team should be commended for the standards set throughout the programme. Despite the positive performances, only a limited number of players were selected for the South West programme. This was disappointing considering the quality displayed by several individuals throughout the county campaign.

U20 Men

This season saw the introduction of a new coaching team for the U20s programme. While results did not fall in our favour, there were many positives to take from the campaign.

The side played two competitive fixtures, narrowly losing both matches. In each game, the margins were extremely small, and performances demonstrated significant progress in both individual and collective development. The commitment of players and staff throughout the programme has been excellent, and the foundations are being put in place for future success.

Only three players were selected for the South West programme. Once again, there was considerable disappointment regarding the lack of transparency surrounding the South West selection process. Greater clarity around selection criteria and feedback would be beneficial for players, coaches and counties alike, ensuring that development pathways remain clear and accessible.

The new coaching team has established a positive culture and is clearly moving the programme in the right direction. Continued support and stability will be important as the group looks to build on this season's progress.

Senior Men

The Senior Men's programme enjoyed a positive season, winning one match and narrowly losing the other. More importantly, the performances demonstrated the potential within the squad and the effectiveness of the newly appointed Head Coach and coaching team.

The coaching team has created a strong environment and a clear vision for future development.

The programme is well positioned to continue progressing, with a solid foundation now established for future seasons

Club Engagement

Whilst progress has been made across all age groups, increased club engagement remains a key priority, particularly within the U20 and Senior Men's programmes.

Strengthening relationships with clubs, improving communication and encouraging greater involvement in county rugby will be essential to ensuring player availability, identifying emerging talent and building stronger representative squads. The continued support of clubs across Dorset and Wiltshire is greatly appreciated and remains fundamental to the success of the county pathway.

Fixtures and Hosting

The successful home fixture hosted at Royal Wootton Bassett RFC. The venue provided an excellent setting for county rugby, with strong support and a welcoming atmosphere that reflected positively on Dorset & Wiltshire Rugby.

Our thanks go to Royal Wootton Bassett RFC.

Conclusion

Overall, the season has been encouraging across the Dorset & Wiltshire Men's pathway. The U18s and U20s demonstrated considerable potential, whilst the Senior Men delivered strong performances under new leadership. Although regional player selection outcomes were disappointing and concerns remain regarding the transparency of the South West selection process, the county continues to develop talented players and coaches capable of competing at the highest levels.

With strong coaching teams now in place, improved pathways and increased club engagement, Dorset & Wiltshire Men's rugby is moving in a positive direction and is well placed to build upon this season's achievements in the years ahead.

Women's & Girls

Gill Burns competition 2026

At the end of the 25/26 season Dorset & Wilts Ladies participated in the Gill Burns competition at level 3.

The eligibility ceiling for level 3 is Championship 2 and it should be noted that, as yet, D&W have no teams playing at that level.

The programme saw two County fixtures (Somerset away 5 – 41 and Gloucestershire home 0 – 41). The results negated any further progression in the competition.

This season's County programme was, internally, a great success with all training and management processes applying lessons learnt from previous years.

A total of 90 players trialled for selection and the 35 selected came from 16 different clubs. This final squad was also comprised of 30% new players with the one 17-year-old becoming one of the star players. The numbers reflect the interest in County rugby amongst our clubs and this impact on women's rugby in DW is constantly considered by the squad management and coaches.

The programme remained within budget and this year the Squad secured sponsorship of £3000 which provided a completely new playing strip and sundry training tops.

The squad intend to provide a team to play in a charity match at Dorchester RFC in August. This will provide an opportunity to further raise the profile of DW women's rugby as well as giving a playing opportunity to the less often selected members of the squad.

Age Grade

Age Grade Cup Competitions and U13 Waterfalls

Competition fixtures are in place for clubs in Dorset & Wiltshire for all age groups from Under 13 upwards. After a review process with clubs after last season's competitions, we have taken into account that feedback and used it this season. Under 13s are playing a multi-day waterfall after we obtained agreement from the RFU competitions team. Under 14s continue in a cup format with a highly successful finals day in Sherborne. Under 15s and Under 16s competitions have been extended after a request for more fixtures and Under 18s will play home and away. The finals for all three age groups have been moved to Warminster RFC. All clubs have been sent invoices for their team entries with an expectation to pay before the season commences.

We have worked with both Somerset RFU and with Hampshire RFU to align on policies on teams entering multiple competitions and it has been good to see some teams return to our competitions. Entry numbers are broadly in line year on year which is encouraging as we are seeing a number of teams cluster with neighbouring clubs due to player numbers. Next steps for the 2026-27 season will be to work on an exhaustive list of contacts for clubs and to support the use of GMS match cards as the season starts.

Gordon Harding

Dorset & Wilts RFU PDGFP U16 Girls

An independent review of the 2025/26 PDGFP Girls U16's programme was commissioned by the RFU, the review as was undertaken by Neil Tunncliffe Consultancy during June (08th and 22nd) no coaches attended the south centre review on the 08th of June as both had stepped down, so the south centre manager and programme lead attended. Both south centre coaching roles for the 2026/27 season have been advertised and interviews are planned for early July.

The north centre PDGFP independent review by Neil Tunncliffe Consultancy was attended by the programme lead, and the north centre manager on the 22nd of June. The coaches did not attend which was very disappointing as they had been given three months' notice of the online programme review!

A draft report will be issued by Neil Tunncliffe Consultancy to the PDGFP programme lead and both centre managers before being submitted to the RFU.

There were plans to hold a taster session in June, for the girls who will be eligible to register for the assessment days, but this did not happen. Nominations for the 2026/27 PDGFP Girls U16's assessments will be issued to Clubs and Schools within D&Ws in June/July. All completed nomination forms will go to the appropriate PDGFP Centre Manager.

Dorset & Wilts RFU PDGFP U16 Girls (South)

Review Element	Self-Evaluation	Review Finding
Leadership & Management		
There is a project plan and budget for the PDG programme in line with guidance provided in the RACI, agreed by the appropriate committee within the CB, and shared with the RFU in the RACI.	Good	- The PDG is overseen by Gordon Harding, and the South centre is managed by Dorset & Wiltshire's Women's and Girls' Lead, Caz Durston. The programme sits under the Women's and Girls' section of the CB, and Harding reports directly to the Council – while also having responsibility for project and budget management. - D&WRFU submitted a RACI to the RFU as required, detailing a PDG schedule and budget which is reported to have been formally reviewed and approved by the CB. This was further reviewed and updated during the 2025-26 season.
Nomination, Assessment and Selection		
Nominations for the PDG programme have been invited from all junior clubs and schools, and from other relevant organisations within the county.	Very Good	- The review meeting heard that there are around 18 clubs in total in Dorset and Wiltshire who have women's and girls' sections and provide players to the PDG. Of these, half are in the north of the region, and half in the south. Steps are being taken jointly with Somerset to establish leagues at U16 and U18 level, which it is hoped will boost participation in all three counties. - An open nomination system is utilised, which is promoted to all club secretaries and coached, and via the D&WRFU schools committee to those secondary schools who play rugby in different areas of the region. The system allows players to state whether they are based in the north or south of the territory. The review meeting heard that around 70 nominations have been received for initial assessment in each year of the programme's history, a majority of whom were from the club game.
Clear, written criteria are in place, and have been published/circulated, which govern the nomination, assessment and selection of players, i.e., through outlining their desired characteristics and capabilities.	Good	D&WRFU's self-evaluation states information is sent out together with the invitation to nominate which outlines the level of competency which will be required within the PDG. An innovation for 2026-27 will be to introduce a taster day by way of introduction to the programme, one which allows players to "try before they buy" – to experience the standards and environment prior to committing to assessment.

		The assessment sessions themselves are reported to have engaged players in a carousel of activity designed by the women's county coach which sought to draw out their capabilities in the basic skills of rugby, their decision-making and fitness levels, finishing with a game-based scenario. This activity is delivered by programme coaches, while assessment is conducted by independent assessors. Selection is then completed through consensus.
Nominated players have been afforded multiple opportunities for assessment prior to selection.	Very Good	- The nomination process offered players the opportunity to attend two assessment sessions in September. D&WRFU's practice is also to require players entering their second year in the programme to undertake assessment – but without jeopardising their place in the programme: this allows for benchmarking new players and fair comparison between year groups. - D&WRFU made an initial selection of 30 players into each centre, North and South, following the second assessment. This meant that between 10 and 15 players were not selected – but these and others who missed the initial opportunity were subsequently invited to attend a further assessment session in mid-season. This produced a modest increase in the number of players in each centre to 33-35.
Individualised feedback has been provided to players who were and were not successful in the assessment process.	Good	- Those players who were not successful in the assessment phase were notified of the decision and offered individualised feedback on request. Informal, verbal feedback was also provided to club coaches in the event that this was requested through casual contact. - Players who were successful in the assessments were issued with a participation agreement which sets out expectations and standards and provides practical information such as training dates. See below, under Curriculum, for the individualised support provided during the programme to these players.
Environment and Facilities		
The facilities in which the PDG programme is delivered are fit for purpose (i.e., playing/training pitches, floodlights where needed, athletic development and medical spaces, meeting spaces,	Good	The South centre began training this season at Dorchester RFC but relocated in mid-season to Puddletown RFC due to adverse weather and the quest for drier pitches. Neither club has an AGP or gym but, instead, offer floodlit grass pitches, adequate changing facilities and meeting spaces.

etc.), risk-assessed and inclusive (i.e., supportive of, and appropriately equipped for use by, female players).		Both venues are centrally located in Dorset, and within 60 minutes' drive-time of all parts of the county. They are therefore fully accessible to all players allocated to the South centre, including those who live on or around the county boundaries.
Any playing and training kit provided to players is appropriate for the use of female players.	Good	PDG players are issued with a hoodie, and there is a playing kit which is considered to be appropriate for the use of U16 girls – but in need of refreshment after several years' use. Players are allowed to wear club socks and instructed to wear black shorts – either their own or, preferably, county-branded ones.
There are sufficient balls, bibs, cones, contact and other equipment to allow for the delivery of planned activity.	Good	Balls, bibs and cones are all purchased through the PDG budget, and additional equipment borrowed from training venues as and when required. There were no issues reported with the availability of training kit and equipment.
Curriculum		
Planning is aligned with the national rugby skills curriculum and structured around phased blocks of training.	Good	- The PDG trains roughly twice per month between October and April, with the exception of the Christmas period. There was a total of ten sessions of two hours each during the 2025-26 season, giving a total of 20 contact hours, not including the four playing opportunities. - A curriculum is reported to be in place for the programme, broken down into phased blocks and individual session plans. This curriculum is further reported to be built around the national rugby skills curriculum, and to have stayed close to this as the season progressed.
Athletic development and injury prevention programmes are both integrated into sessions, with players guided and signposted to the national athletic & physical development curriculum.	Good	- Sports therapist James Lovell provides athletic development programming for players in the South centre. Lovell is qualified as a practitioner via the University of Chichester and has experience inter alia working with Ospreys in Wales. - Lovell has delivered this programming for the last two years, the focus of which is reported to be injury prevention through dedicated, 20-minute conditioning sessions at the beginning of each training evening, incorporating Activate warm-up activity. - The review meeting heard that, when the national athletic & physical development curriculum was published, players were signposted towards it. They have also been alerted to the additional resources posted on the RFU website and

		required to undertake the Headcase educational module – and to evidence its completion.
Players are challenged effectively and appropriately, and their progressions are monitored against the priorities of the programme in ways that support and enable effective assessment and feedback.	Good	- D&WRFU consider that training sessions were well balanced between different activities (see below) and provided progressive challenge against the prescribed focus areas of the programme, i.e., athletic development, and skills for in and out of possession. - Players were not issued with IDPs due to the infrequency of sessions, the comparatively low contact time, and the availability of coaches to support these. This is an area which D&WRFU will investigate ahead of the 2026-27 season, depending on coach capacity. In their place, informal feedback loops were in place, especially for those players whose progression fell below their or their coaches' expectations.
Coaching		
There is a coaching workforce in place which is appropriately qualified and available to deliver rugby skills coaching and athletic / physical development. It is desirable for the lead coach to be minimum Advanced/L3 qualified and all others to hold a coaching qualification.	Good	- Josh Ovey served as Head Coach for the PDG during the 2025-26 season – but has since stepped down due to relocation away from Dorset for work purposes. Ovey was supported by Dan Kinsey, who has also now stepped down; and by a club coach who was recruited to assist with training during the season. Team Manager Caz Durston also holds a coaching award – and see above, on James Lovell's dual role as sports therapist and conditioning coach. - Ovey holds the RFU ERACA/Level 3 award, while all other coaches within the programme are qualified to RFU Level 2. Ovey and Kinsey also had the benefit of being qualified teachers, which is considered to have equipped them well to deliver their roles. Recruitment was under way at the time of the review meeting to identify replacements for them ahead of the 2026-27 season.
There are sufficient coaches available to provide for appropriate player: coach ratios at each session. Suggested coach/player ratio is 1:10.	Good	With three coaches and a sports therapist/conditioning coach in attendance at training, working with a cohort of around 30 players, the coach/player ratio approximated 1:9-10. However, following the increase of the cohort to 33-35 players, the suggested coach: player ratio of 1:10 was challenged as the season progressed.
Programme coaches are subject to continuous professional development and have taken up the opportunities provided.	Good	D&WRFU's self-evaluation stated that "there is the offer of coaching conversations and central CPD through the pathway team", but the review meeting heard that the coaches were not

		monitored for their fulfilment of CPD opportunities, including and especially those offered by the RFU for pathway coaches.
Coaching sessions have an appropriate balance of activity to support learning and player development through progressive increases in challenge and intensity and have a positive influence on player behaviours.	Good	- As stated above, there is a year-long curriculum for the programme which shows block plans which are broken down into individual session plans. The curriculum is built around the national rugby skills curriculum, and session plans were constructed by Josh Ovey in discussion with colleagues. - Training sessions last for two hours and begin with registration and check-ins with Team Manager Caz Durston: see below for the importance of these to player welfare. The on-pitch element begins with 20 minutes' warm-up activity and a conditioning block; whereafter there is skills development work conducted on a carousel basis, before finishing with a game to reinforce learnings. This approach is considered to have been successful and produced positive outcomes.
Player Support & Welfare		
Safeguarding systems are in place to ensure that players' safety, welfare and wellbeing (including mental health) is protected within the PDG programme.	Good	Team Manager Caz Durston serves as safeguarding lead, and holds the status of RFU Safeguarding Officer. All coaches have DBS clearance, and the PDG operates in line with CB policies and falls within the overall remit of the County Safeguarding Officer; any matters arising will be referred either to them or to the safeguarding lead within the club of the player concerned.
Medical provision is in place which is adequate and appropriate to fulfil the requirements of RFU Regulation 9 - Player Safety. Training requirements = min 1 x First Aider per team/training squad of 23 players Games requirement = 1 x Level 2 Immediate Care Practitioner (ICP) per match, best practice is 1 x ICP per team.	Good	James Lovell fulfils the requirement of RFU Regulation 9 that a minimum of one Level 2 Immediate Care Practitioner is in attendance at each playing opportunity – while he also attends training sessions (see above) and is available in between times to support the rehabilitation of injuries. Team Manager Caz Durston is also trained as a pitch-side first-aider.
Education is provided which helps players to understand the benefits of effective	Good	Classroom sessions were staged during the 2025-26 programme covering women's health (both breast health and the menstrual cycle), and team building (see below). An intention to conduct

conditioning, nutrition and hydration.		a session on refereeing was frustrated by adverse weather – while the review meeting heard that there has been no formal education with regard to nutrition and hydration, other than the general encouragement of good habits during training. D&WRFU acknowledges that this is an important area to address, and it is an action for 2026-27 to implement a more structured approach in this regard.
Players are supported to develop and maintain a healthy balance between their school and rugby commitments and the remainder of their lives.	Good	• The review meeting heard that the initial registration and check-in period at the start of training provides an opportunity for Team Manager Caz Durston to assess players' readiness to train, and to stage individual conversations which help to identify any pressures that they may be under. Similar conversations are also conducted regularly and informally by sports therapist James Lovell. • Persistent absences are followed up, where necessary with parents and schools – while players are also given permission to withdraw from training during exam periods without sacrificing their place in the programme. See above, on the coaches within the programme also being teachers, and the advantage this confers around the understanding of players' workload.
A positive and supportive team culture is engendered within the programme which encourages camaraderie, mutual respect and open communication.	Good	• A positive and supportive team culture is engendered through a range of initiatives, including a structured team-building session at the beginning of the programme; and an intolerance of cliques, which are discouraged through the mixing of players in training groups. The conversations staged at the start of training (see above) also serve as a medium through which to identify any issues arising which may impact adversely on team culture. • The PDG does not stage additional social events to bring players together outside of rugby, on the grounds that (a) it is impractical to do so, given the wide geographical distribution of the cohort, and (b) the clubs for whom they play are actively involved in providing these experiences. Examples were given where the PDG supported club social events, e.g., through linking into Exeter Chiefs.

Dorset & Wilts RFU PDGFP U16 Girls (North)

Review Element	Self-Evaluation	Review Finding
Leadership & Management		
There is a project plan and budget for the PDG programme in line with guidance provided in the RACI, agreed by the appropriate committee within the CB, and shared with the RFU in the RACI.	Good	- The PDG is overseen by Gordon Harding, and the North centre is managed by Graeme Morrison. The programme sits under the Women's and Girls' section of the CB, and Harding reports directly to the Council – while also having responsibility for project and budget management. - D&WRFU submitted a RACI to the RFU as required, detailing a PDG schedule and budget which is reported to have been formally reviewed and approved by the CB. This was further reviewed and updated during the 2025-26 season.
Nomination, Assessment and Selection		
Nominations for the PDG programme have been invited from all junior clubs and schools, and from other relevant organisations within the county.	Very Good	- The review meeting heard that there are around 18 clubs in total in Dorset and Wiltshire who have women's and girls' sections and provide players to the PDG. Of these, half are in the north of the region, and half in the south. Steps are being taken jointly with Somerset to establish leagues at U16 and U18 level, which it is hoped will boost participation in all three counties. - An open nomination system is utilised, which is promoted to all club secretaries and coached, and via the D&WRFU schools committee to those secondary schools who play rugby in different areas of the region. The system allows players to state whether they are based in the north or south of the territory. The review meeting heard that 53 nominations were received for initial assessment in the north of the territory, a majority of whom were from the club game.
Clear, written criteria are in place, and have been published/circulated, which govern the nomination, assessment and selection of players, i.e., through outlining their desired characteristics and capabilities.	Good	- D&WRFU's self-evaluation states information is sent out together with the invitation to nominate which outlines the level of competency which will be required within the PDG. An innovation for 2026-27 will be to introduce a taster day by way of introduction to the programme, one which allows players to "try before they buy" – to experience the standards and environment prior to committing to assessment. - The assessment sessions themselves are reported to have engaged players in a carousel of activity designed by the women's county coach

		which sought to draw out their capabilities in the basic skills of rugby, their decision-making and fitness levels, finishing with a game-based scenario. The assessments are conducted by the four regular PDG coaches, supported by two members of the senior women's squad, and selection is completed through consensus.
Nominated players have been afforded multiple opportunities for assessment prior to selection.	Very Good	• The nomination process offered players the opportunity to attend two assessment sessions in September. D&WRFU's practice is also to require players entering their second year in the programme to undertake assessment – but without jeopardising their place in the programme: this allows for benchmarking new players and fair comparison between year groups. • D&WRFU made an initial selection of 23 players into the North centre, and then called back a number of players to a third assessment session. This produced a final cohort of 32 for the programme, and meant around 20 players in total were not selected.
Individualised feedback has been provided to players who were and were not successful in the assessment process.	Good	• Those players who were not successful in the assessment phase were notified of the decision and offered individualised feedback on request. Informal, verbal feedback was also provided to club coaches in the event that this was requested through casual contact. • Players who were successful in the assessments were issued with a participation agreement which sets out expectations and standards, and provides practical information such as training dates. See below, under Curriculum, for the individualised support provided during the programme to these players.
Environment and Facilities		
The facilities in which the PDG programme is delivered are fit for purpose (i.e., playing/training pitches, floodlights where needed, athletic development and medical spaces, meeting spaces, etc.), risk-assessed and inclusive (i.e., supportive of, and appropriately equipped for use by, female players).	Good	• The North centre moved its training venue this season from Melksham to Warminster RFC primarily on the grounds of cost. Warminster has neither an AGP nor a gym, and the self-evaluation noted that the floodlighting is below par, but the review meeting heard that other, better options were scant – including the AGP at Chippenham being booked up well in advance, • Warminster is towards the west/south-west of Wiltshire, and within 60 minutes' drive-time of most parts of the county – with the exception of the northern boundaries, from where the travel

		time is around 75 minutes. However, see the previous paragraph for the difficulty in securing a more central and accessible venue.
Any playing and training kit provided to players is appropriate for the use of female players.	Good	• PDG players are issued with a hoodie, and there are two playing kits which, while considered to be appropriate for the use of U16 girls, are incomplete and in need of refreshment after several years' use. Players are allowed to wear club socks, and instructed to wear black shorts – either their own or, preferably, county-branded ones.
There are sufficient balls, bibs, cones, contact and other equipment to allow for the delivery of planned activity.	Good	• Balls, bibs and cones are all purchased through the PDG budget, and there was reported to be no need for additional equipment as the majority of training was non-contact. There were no issues reported with the availability of training kit and equipment.
Curriculum		
Planning is aligned with the national rugby skills curriculum and structured around phased blocks of training.	Good	• There were nine PDG training sessions scheduled to take place between October and April – and while a number required rescheduling due to weather, all were fulfilled. Training took place on Monday evening for two hours, which gave a total of 18 contact hours, not including the four playing opportunities. • A curriculum is reported to be in place for the programme, broken down into phased blocks and individual session plans. This curriculum is further reported to be built around the national rugby skills curriculum, and to have stayed close to this as the season progressed.
Athletic development and injury prevention programmes are both integrated into sessions, with players guided and signposted to the national athletic & physical development curriculum.	Good	• Athletic development programming comprised the delivery of warm-up activity which included Activate and strength & conditioning exercises during the first 15-20 minutes of each session. The North centre did not have access to a strength & conditioning coach, primarily for budgetary reasons, although the review meeting heard that it would be possible to engage a practitioner if required. • The review meeting was unable to identify whether the resources published in support of the national athletic & physical development curriculum were shared with players and their parents – but none the less felt that provision in this area was adequate and proportionate given the amount of contact time available, and the fact that training took place the day after club matches were played.

Players are challenged effectively and appropriately, and their progressions are monitored against the priorities of the programme in ways that support and enable effective assessment and feedback.	Good	- D&WRFU consider that training sessions were well balanced between different activities (see below), and provided progressive challenge against the prescribed focus areas of the programme, i.e., athletic development, and skills for in and out of possession. - Players were not issued with IDPs due to the infrequency of sessions, the comparatively low contact time, and the availability of coaches to support these. This is an area which D&WRFU will investigate ahead of the 2026-27 season, depending on coach capacity. - In their place, players were provided with in-session feedback on a one-to-one basis with coaches, via short conversations on the sidelines during or between activities. Players were also welcome and encouraged to seek additional and more detailed feedback should they feel they need it.
Coaching		
There is a coaching workforce in place which is appropriately qualified and available to deliver rugby skills coaching and athletic / physical development. It is desirable for the lead coach to be minimum Advanced/L3 qualified and all others to hold a coaching qualification.	Good	Gareth Wheatley served as Head Coach for the North centre during the 2025-26 season, as well as coaching the senior county women's team. Wheatley holds the RFU ERACA/Level 3 award, and was supported by three additional coaches, all of whom have recommitted for 2026-27. Of these, one also holds the RFU ERACA/Level 3 award, while the remaining two are qualified to RFU ERCA/Level 2 – as is Team Manager Graeme Morrison.
There are sufficient coaches available to provide for appropriate player: coach ratios at each session. Suggested coach/player ratio is 1:10.	Good	The review meeting heard that all four coaches were rarely able to attend a session together – and that, more frequently, Wheatley coached with the support of one or two others. With three coaches and a cohort of 32 players, the coach/player ratio approximated 1:10 – but will have fallen below this level on evenings when only two coaches were in attendance.
Programme coaches are subject to continuous professional development and have taken up the opportunities provided.	Good	D&WRFU's self-evaluation stated that "All coaches are encouraged to take further coaching awards should they wish to and are always aware of other opportunities within the RFU structure", but the review meeting was unable to identify what opportunities had been taken up – including and especially those offered by the RFU for pathway coaches.
Coaching sessions have an appropriate balance of activity to support learning	Good	As stated above, there is a year-long curriculum for the programme which shows block plans

and player development through progressive increases in challenge and intensity and have a positive influence on player behaviours.		which are broken down into individual session plans. The curriculum is built around the national rugby skills curriculum, and session plans were constructed by Gareth Wheatley. • Training sessions last for two hours, and begin with registration and check-ins with Team Manager Graeme Morrison: see below for the importance of these to player welfare. The on-pitch element begins with 20 minutes' warm-up activity and conditioning work; whereafter there is skills development work conducted on a carousel basis, before finishing with a game to reinforce learnings. This approach is considered to have been successful and produced positive outcomes.
Player Support & Welfare		
Safeguarding systems are in place to ensure that players' safety, welfare and wellbeing (including mental health) is protected within the PDG programme.	Good	• All coaches have DBS clearance, and the PDG operates in line with CB policies and falls within the overall remit of the County Safeguarding Officer; any matters arising will be referred either to them or to the safeguarding lead within the club of the player concerned.
Medical provision is in place which is adequate and appropriate to fulfil the requirements of RFU Regulation 9 - Player Safety. Training requirements = min 1 x First Aider per team/training squad of 23 players Games requirement = 1 x Level 2 Immediate Care Practitioner (ICP) per match, best practice is 1 x ICP per team.	Good	• A minimum of one Level 2 Immediate Care Practitioner is in attendance at each playing opportunity, in observation of RFU Regulation 9 – while training sessions are covered by the coaches who are also qualified as first-aiders. Previous practice was for the ICP also to attend training, but the move away from Melksham rendered this impractical: the review meeting acknowledged that current provision falls short of best practice, and measures are under investigation to improve this for 2026-27.
Education is provided which helps players to understand the benefits of effective conditioning, nutrition and hydration.	Good	• A classroom session was staged during the 2025-26 programme covering women's health (both breast health and the menstrual cycle), while an intention to conduct a session on refereeing was frustrated by adverse weather. The review meeting heard that there has been no formal education with regard to nutrition and hydration, other than the general encouragement of good habits during training. D&WRFU acknowledges that this is an important area to address, and it is an action for 2026-27 to implement a more structured approach in this regard.

Players are supported to develop and maintain a healthy balance between their school and rugby commitments and the remainder of their lives.	Good	• The review meeting heard that the initial registration and check-in period at the start of training provides an opportunity for Team Manager Graeme Morrison to assess players' readiness to train, and to stage individual conversations which help to identify any pressures that they may be under. • Persistent absences are followed up, where necessary with parents and schools – while players are also given permission to withdraw from training during exam periods without sacrificing their place in the programme.
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Dorset & Wilts RFU U18 Girls – 2025/26 County Season Report

We are currently working with Somerset & the RFU to create U16 & U18 leagues jointly to create improved playing opportunities. This will also include an U14 fixture list.

The U16 PDG FP U16 girl's nominations are currently being received with 75 nominations being received so far.

The PDG FP South are currently interviewing for a new head coach and an assistant coach. This is due to coaches stepping down for personal reasons.

Walking Rugby

Dorset and Wilts RFU Walking Rugby festival was held on Sat 30th May, hosted by Devizes RFC boasting over 80 players across 8 teams! They were competing for the coveted Fair Play trophy, as well as the most unique walker and best team try! Teams from Salisbury, Devizes, Melksham, Trowbridge, Royal Wootton Bassett, Amesbury, Wheatsheaf and Chippenham played full of good humour, with high positive spirits creating lots of great, attacking rugby.

Special thanks go to the players and staff at Devizes RFC who provided first class pitches, food, commentators and weather!

The Fair Play award came down to a play-off between 2 teams, Trowbridge and Amesbury. The best team try went to Melksham, and the most unique walker went to Chippenham!

Now an established annual event, our non-competitive festival encouraged everyone to play for fun, inclusivity and the love of the game.



Emily James – Walking Rugby Lead

League Winners

NC3 South West (South)	Chippenham RFC
Regional 2 South Central	Bournemouth RFC
Regional 2 Severn	Trowbridge RFC
Counties 1 Tribute Southern South	Sherborne RFC
Counites 2 Tribute Dorset & Wilts North	Combe Down RFC
Counites 2 Tribute Dorset & Wilts South	Dorchester RFC
Counites 3 Tribute Dorset & Wilts North	Swindon Collage Old Boys RFC
Counties 3 Tribute Dorset & Wilts South	Blandford RFC

The Clive Drake County Competitions

Clive Drake Counties 2 Cup	Wimborne RFC 2 nd
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Runners up	Bradford on Avon RFC
Clive Drake Counties 2 Plate	No competition
Clive Drake Counties 3 Cup	North Dorset RFC 2 nd
Runners up	Colerne RFC
Clive Drake Counties 3 Plate	Blandford RFC
Runners up	Sherborne RFC 2 nd

Mike Moysey

D&W RFU Membership

Hon Life Vice President

Nicholas Dark	Ronald Jones
Richard Wildash	John Palmer
David Dove	Gordon Horsley

Vice President

Cassie Barry	George Batten
James Bennett	Denzil Brockhurst
Gerald Burden	Terence Cady
Daniel Cole	John Constable
Joanna Cremin	Christopher Davis
Roger Dawson	Jeremy Day
Malcolm Fairclough	Timothy George
Peter Hammond	Richard Hills
Grenville Hodge	Christopher Jones
Andrew Kennedy	Douglas Lamont
Daniel Leighfield	Michael Leighfield
Richard Llewellyn	Richard Lloyd
George McElroy	Mike McKay
Philip Morris	Alistair Morrison

Alan Ottaway	Kevin Owers
Cleeves Palmer	Nicholas Panton
Nicholas Parker	Martin Poulter
Peter Reid	Brian Sharpe
William Shaw	Thomas Sirett
Peter Sirett	Brenda Traylen
Russell Trotman	Nicola Wallace-Walton
John Walsh	Andrew Walton
John Wilding	Graeme Willard
Derek Woods	David Wookey
Julie Wookey	Adam Wookey

Vice President Manual Bank Payments (Standing Orders)

Please can you cancel your standing order and pay via the RFU Game Management System.

Denzil Brockhurst

Referees Society – No Report Filed

RFU Council Member.

We have seen another very busy season for everyone involved in Rugby, be it as a player, coach, manager, volunteer or general club helper. A heart felt thank you for all that you have done to enable rugby to be played and enjoyed in the Twin counties.

From my point of view as your RFU Council Rep, it has equally been a hectic time as we try our best to enable our game to be played in a safe and friendly environment. It is always a pleasure to get out and about around our member clubs, listening to views from everyone. Meeting the supporters and club volunteers is one of the pleasures I have in being involved in our wonderful game. I am always welcomed with open arms, that is the beauty of our game and shows the values are key to us all.

As we look forward it is important that we all work together to keep as many players as possible, male or female, involved in the game. That may mean sharing players to ensure a game takes place or combining sides- especially in Age grade to ensure players and/or parents are not travelling miles & miles for a game of rugby. Also, there is no need to stick with playing on the regular Saturday afternoon/Sunday morning/afternoon slots- just speak with your opponents and agree when to play over the weekend. So, I would also like to thank

all the players, coaches, team managers and volunteers in our game for their efforts in the last 12 months, all working hard to ensure this wonderful game continues to thrive.

We must not forget about the referees- they are a vital part of our game and, in simple terms, no referee- potentially no game. The need for referees is forever increasing, with more league games (Male & Female) to cover plus Age grade games we all need to encourage people to take up refereeing. For those already in place, please work with them, respect their decisions and make sure they enjoy the game as much as the players do. After all they are volunteers just like everyone else, giving up their time to enable others to play. We hear far too often of issues with touchline discipline, and it is important that we ALL look to address this and when you hear someone over-stepping the mark and complaining about the referee, just have a quiet word with them and point out that without a referee there is no game.

I would then like to thank everyone involved around our Representative teams- Managers, Coaches & players. The results this year have been mixed but the desire to play for the Twin Counties is still strong and the performance of the teams has to be noted.

As Council Rep I spend a lot of time attending meetings, either online or face-to-face. I feel it is important to help understand the whole landscape of the game but try to help in areas of knowledge, like Competitions. So, I currently sit on the Adult Competitions Management sub-committee and also, this season, the CB & Club Development sub-committee. Under the former we have seen this season the introduction of play-offs at Regional rugby level (level 5& 6 in old money) but sadly at Counties level the RFU National Cup continued to have poor club engagement and for the coming season will not take place.

It was a huge pleasure to be able to attend the RWC2025 final and see the Red Roses lift the trophy. I know everyone involved in the game enjoyed the tournament and for those in the stadium on finals day, what an experience. The England men's team has some work to do after a difficult 6 Nations campaign. The u20's are always good games to watch the up-and-coming players stepping out of the comfort of the club environment to represent the Nation. I am sure, it is a huge honour for them.

In the coming season I hope to continue to get out and about around our clubs so look forward to catching up with many of you in the coming months. I hope you find the notes I send around post Council meetings of benefit, if there is anything you want adding then please let me know.

Finally, I just wanted to end by saying it's been a pleasure representing Dorset & Wilts clubs again this season. I will continue to do this to the best of my ability. As ever, I am at the end of the phone or e-mail should you ever need to raise any issues or have any questions.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you during the coming season.

John Constable

Dorset & Wilts Rugby Schools - Academic Year 25 -26

This report comprises the 'Mid School Year / Mid-season report & the 'End of School Rugby Year/ End of season reports.

Dorset & Wilts Rugby Schools 'Mid School Year / - Season Report 2025 – 26

School Year / Season 2025 -26 has seen another great series of rugby playing opportunities for young people in schools across Dorset & Wilts. Plus a Rugby Teacher Professional Development day & Ready2Ref course for a group of students.

Multi - Schools Event - Schools Rugby Activity to date

Boys Rugby in schools

A variety of playing opportunities have taken place

Dorset & South Wilts State Schools Invitational 10s Boys Rugby Festival series.

This Autumn Term's series has seen over 900 state schools' lads taking part .

Led by Jan Edwards of Dorset & Wilts Rugby Schools, with help from a tremendous team of teachers from across the area. And Claire Carlton from Swanage & Wareham RFC, (Claire is a key member of our multi schools Events Team & our Site Liaison & Manager), also Sonny BurrIDGE (Bournemouth University) who with his team provide additional Pro pitchside medic cover.

Events for each year group most with 10+ schools entering. Each Festival emphasis is on participation, opportunities & enjoyment, rather than winning, Each event is an afternoon event & involves Pool games with round robins as the format, in Phase 1, followed by Phase 2, Pool games with round robins, based on placings in Phase 1 pools, that way all schools are involved until close of play.

Year 7 Boys - venue Swans

Year 8 Boys - venue Swans.

Year 9 Boys - venue Swans - The 2 best performing state schools - will be taking part on 12th March 2026 in the South West Region Eric Blackman U14s state schools rugby festival, for State Schools, organised by England Rugby Schools' - Keith Gee, Jan Edwards, Mike Foale, Andy Marriott. This year the 2 Schools from the Dorset & South Wilts event are Leaf Academy, Bournemouth & Woodroffe School Lyme Regis.

Year 10 Boys - Venue Swans, but unfortunately this year was cancelled due to ground conditions & Amber weather warnings for heavy rain with flooding of roads.

Year 11 Boys - venue Swans

Year 12/13 - venue Swans

Annual Schools West Dorset Invitation Festival, for Y7s & Y8,
Led by D & W Rugby Schools' group member, Rory Legg - 6 schools took part, venue Weymouth RFC.

Annual Thomas Hardy School - West Dorset Schools invitation 10s
Led by Geraint Hughes & Sean Bradley .festivals for Y9, Y10, Y11 & Y12 /13 (the latter cancelled due to flooded pitches & heavy rain) . Venue Dorchester RFC .

Wiltshire, the Mid/ North Wilts area

Multi Schools participation events are led by Scott Ferguson of Dorset & Wilts Rugby Schools Group.

Year 7 Boys - venue Devizes School.

Year 8 Boys - venue Hardenhuish School.

Year 9 Boys - venue Kingsbury Green School. - This event leads into the South West Region Eric Blackman Schools festival - on 12th March 2026, Hardenhuish School & Sheldon School will be the 2 Wiltshire schools taking part.

Year 10 Boys - Venue Chippenham RFC.

Year 11 Boys - venue Chippenham RFC

South Wiltshire Schools Area

Boys Invitational Y10, Y11 & Y12/13 Super 12s Schools festivals,
Led by Rich Dermain- Griffiths - D & W Rugby Schools Group (Bishop Wordsworth School Salisbury

South Wiltshire Invitational Schools Boys Y7, Y8, Y9 Triangular/ Quadrangular vents.
Led by D & W Rugby Schools Group (Trafalgar School) Mark Lerpiniere.

The Continental Tyres Schools Competition has once again seen a number of our D&W Schools taking part, in the various levels of the competition, students enjoying the chance to take part in this National competition. Thank you to the staff involved from all our schools

who took part as some distances travelled by teams in the competition were not 'just down the road'.

Girls Rugby in D&W Schools.

Dorset Schools U12s & U14s T1 Girls Rugby Festival

Led by Jan Edwards , D & W Rugby Schools Group, in collaboration with PBC based SRM Nick Allso. 8 schools from across Dorset took part

South Wilts Schools Girls U18s Festivals

Led by Rich Dermain - Griffiths, D & W Rugby Schools Group & Dauntseys School's Marcus Olsen.

South Wilts Schools - Girl's invitational, , U12s, U14s & 16s triangular & fixtures.

Led by Mark Lerpiniere , D & W Rugby Schools Group (Trafalgar School Downton).

Teacher Professional Development.

Organised by D & W Rugby Schools Group, Jan Edwards & Alex Priest (Q E School Wimborne) in partnership with RFU's South West Region Training Manager - Tim Pickard & RFUs Schools & Colleges, Mike Hart -14 teachers from across Dorset & South Wilts, took part in the RFU Accredited Ready2Ref course in November.

Big Thank you to all the Teachers from across Dorset & Wilts area & to colleagues mentioned in this report for all the tremendous amount of work they are doing to make rugby opportunities happen for young people in our schools.

D & W Rugby Schools Group - End of Schools Rugby Season 2025-26 Report.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of Education Staff in D & W Schools the Spring term has seen the further provision of a wide range of rugby activity for Boys & Girls from schools across D & W . Activities have included -

Dorset & South Wilts State Schools - Boys 7s - 2026

Organised by D & W Schools, Jan Edwards in collaboration with teachers from schools across D & S Wilts.

The series which took place between February & March, consisted of 5 events, one for each year group apart from Y11, as SMTs don't tend to give permission for schools to take Y11 out of school as much in Spring Term.

Year 7, had 10 schools, = approx. 120 boys

Year 8, had 12 schools = approx. 140 boys

Year 9 had 12 schools. = approx. 140 boys

Year 10, had 10 schools = approx. 120 boys

Years 12/13 had 6 schools. = approx. 60 boys

The feedback reflected the enjoyment of Boys & Teachers alike. Massive thank you to all the teachers who brought teams along & also helped to referee.

Thank you to Claire Carlton from S & W RFC for the venue & being part of our event team.

The Eric Blackman RFU South West Schools Region U14s State Schools Festival March 2026 (postponed from February due to adverse weather

Jan Edwards - D & W Rugby Schools/ England Schools Committee, in collaboration with colleagues from England Rugby Schools - Andy Marriott, (D & W) Keith Gee (Gloucestershire Schools/ RFU Council Member for Gloucestershire) & Mike Foale (Bristol Schools)

This 6th Annual Festival, held at Millfield School, with Refs from D & W Refs Soc & Somerset Refs Soc, had representation from State schools in each of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Gloucester, Bristol , Dorset & Wiltshire.

Participating teams had previously taken part in tournaments/ festivals organised in their respective County Rugby Schools areas.

Schools from Dorset were - Leaf Academy & Woodroffe School.

Schools from Wiltshire were - Hardenhuish School, Sheldon School & Stonehenge School.

It was an enjoyable event, played in the true spirit of rugby, lots of enjoyment & positive feedback from players & teachers alike.

Girls School Rugby Activity - Spring term 25/26

This second half of Schools rugby season 25/26 has seen further growth in the number of girls taking part in rugby at their schools & also fixtures between schools.

Highcliffe School, Trafalgar School, Colfox, Bishop Wordsworth, Dauntseys, Marlborough, Malmesbury are just a few examples.

Malmesbury School, Bishop Wordsworth, Marlborough, also entered Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s. With excellent performances across the age groups.

Refereeing - helping grow the number of Young Match Officials in D & W .

D & W Rugby Schools was chosen to be One of just Four areas across England to be part of an England Rugby Referees pilot project to help encourage & grow the number of YMO, linked to work being done by Simon Wyndham RFU Council member on behalf of RFU/ England Rugby Refs.

The project involved funding (£40 per participant) for a group of students from Y10 - Y13 in schools/ FE colleges, being offered by John Pearson England Rugby Referees Union.

The funding was for 15 places for students to take part in the RFU accredited Ready2Ref course. Which involves 1 day in classroom/ out on the pitch & a series e- learning units.

Rich Dermain-Griffiths (D & W Rugby Schools Group/ Bishop Wordsworth School) was project manager & course led by D & W Referee Educator Ed Bell, took place at Salisbury RFC on 4th March. Lots of learnings & enjoyment throughout the day. Thanks go to Rich D - G, Ed Bell & Salisbury RFC for the venue.

17th March Dorset based Y9 Schools Mixed Gender T1 rugby festival, RFU driven, SRM Nick Allso led local scale event, for schools less experienced in rugby 6 schools from across Dorset took part. A school from this event & one from a Wiltshire based event led by SRM based at Wootton Bassett RFC, Rhys Floyd will go on to play at an RFU led South West Region Y9 Schools T1 mixed gender festival at Sandy Park in June.

Jan Edwards – England Rugby Schools



DORSET & WILTS. RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LTD

FIRST CALLING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Dorset & Wilts. RFU Ltd will be held by Salisbury RFC Castle Rd Salisbury SP1 3SA at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 21st July 2027.

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. To note attendance and any apologies
2. To consider and approve (with or without amendments) the minutes of the previous AGM
4. To receive and approve reports from the General Secretary and on behalf of the D&W Committee about the affairs of the Constituent Body since the previous AGM
5. To receive the Treasurer's Report and approve a financial statement for the preceding financial year.
6. To elect the other Officers for the coming year, including:
 - President.
 - Immediate Past President.
 - General Secretary.
 - Treasurer.
7. To elect Members of the Committee for the ensuing year, being:
 - Area Representative Lead.
 - Four Area Representatives from the two counties.
(*East Dorset – West Dorset – South Wiltshire – North Wiltshire*)

Three Non-Area Representatives

 - Club Support.
 - Director of Rugby.
 - Governance.
8. To elect the Deputy President for the ensuing year.

Plus, the following Members of the Committee will be Co-opted for the ensuing year at the next Full Committee meeting – (Date to be Confirmed)

➤ RFU Council Representative.

8. To admit any new Members and/or elect any new Vice-Presidents or Life Members.
9. To consider a resolution disapplying the provisions of Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act, 2014, relating to the obligation to appoint Auditors
10. To consider any other motion or business that has been submitted in writing to County Secretary by Wednesday 28th April 2027 duly proposed by one Member and seconded by another Member.
11. To hear any other relevant matter for the consideration of the Committee during the ensuing year (details of which must have been submitted in writing to County Secretary not less than 48 hours before the time for which the AGM has been convened) but on which no voting shall be allowed.
12. Announcement of annual and other awards.

Dated: Monday 24th July 2026

[Please see the Notes herewith]

Gerald Burden General Secretary

NOTES TO CALLING NOTICE AND PROPOSED AGENDA

3. Following the incorporation of the Dorset & Wilts RFU Ltd as a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, the AGM has to be conducted in accordance with the Constitution, which means that
 - (d) Nominations for the election of Officers and other Committee members (which must have the consent of the nominee) have to be sent in writing so as to reach the County Secretary by the 30th of April.
 - (e) Proposals for additions or alterations to the Constitution (which must be proposed by one member and seconded by another) have to be sent in writing so as to reach the County Secretary by the 30th of April.
 - (f) Under the Regulations duly passed since the 2007 AGM, details of any other relevant matter for the consideration of the committee during the ensuing year must be submitted to the County Secretary beforehand and not less than 48 hours before the time for which the AGM has been convened.
4. The provisions of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 would oblige us to appoint qualified auditors (which would represent an inordinate expense for us) each year; but the Act also allows for this requirement to be dispensed with in the following circumstances:-
 - (d) Where the assets and turnover of the organisation are below certain levels (2);
 - (e) Where the appropriate Constitution so allows (which it does) and;

- (f) Where appropriate Resolution is passed at the AGM (provided that less than 20% of the votes at the AGM are cast against the resolution and less than 10% of the Membership votes the resolution).

Please contact me if you should have any queries.

Gerald Burden – General Secretary

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3. Being a duly elected Officer or Committee member, the RFU Council Representative; each affiliated Club.
4. Currently set at assets of less than £2.8m; and turnover of less than £5.6m for the year.
-

The D&W RFU would like to thank WBL Services Limited for their support for the D&W RFU Senior Women's Representative Rugby team during the 2025-26 season.

WBL SERVICES LIMITED

