



DORSET & WILTS RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

REPORTS

1. Area Representatives Updates:

Area leads for reference against your next meetings – I will be issuing salient points for next meetings plus of course area specific points you will want to raise.

I will be looking to set up my S Wilts meeting early September to kick the season off

Huddle Area – West Wilts	Date – 18/07/2023
Attendees / Clubs Alistair Morrison- Area Rep and Trowbridge. (AM) John Constable- D&W RFU Council Rep. (JC) Dave Wookey- D&W Cluster lead and GMS (DW) Gerald Burden- D&W Secretary (GB) Mark Simmons- Melksham (MS) Tony Greenslade-Melksham (TG) Apologise Ben Smith- RFU Club Developer (BS)	
Agenda Items: 1. Club Rugby Round-up- inc W&G. 2. GMS 3. Rugby Safe/Safeguarding 4. Women's Rugby 5. Age Grade 6. Non-Contact Rugby. 7. AOB	
Notes Brief summary of progress or problems. Feeling around the clubs. Comments on agenda items. This was the first meeting for some time of the West Wilts clubs, the aim is to make the cluster more active again under the lead of AM. DW & JC were there to help support and will happily do so for further meetings. Sadly only 1 club attended so the plan is to try to find out why the clubs did not attend. ACTION- JC/DW 1)- Melksham are, like everyone finding the club running costs are escalating. However, MS reported that with a recent change in some personnel, they have found as a club the younger players are getting more involved in the committee. The club has also found more interest in aspects of using social media- this has increased playing numbers and also sponsorship. The culture change is more around being less regimental and giving the players more of a free hand/rein to help in the running of the club. The club now has key officers being shadowed by younger members. The club has an issue with the council around the clubhouse/grounds due to issues over areas like falling plumbing, failing floodlights etc. where the Council didn't obtain any significant length of guarantee on works.	

MS asked about Cups and Leagues- JC advised the D&W Comp Committee is looking at running a Cup competition in season to help fill some of the extra spare dates due to clubs being in leagues based on 10 sides. News will be out in the next week or so. Regarding leagues, is a team has any concern its first point of contact should be the league secretary. MS & TG both expressed concern over 2nd XV being loaded when a club 1st XV doesn't play- this needs urgent discussion with the league secretary should it occur. Never easy to police. A suggestion was also made that rather than rearrange a postponed game then the points are shared. JC did say this couldn't really happen since it would have to be a formal agreement across the Country, but he did offer to raise at the next Adult competition meeting he attends. ACTION- JC

2)-GMS- DW reminded clubs that the ongoing data Cleanse is important- this helps everyone to see the true state of numbers within clubs. (Note International tickets are now allocated based on games played so no need to keep people linked to club if they are no longer around).

Post AGM's can clubs make sure they update postholders in key roles, especially in Golden Roles, since the RFU and D&W will use certain 'roles' when they send out communications. Also, clubs need to check their club profile on GMS is correct/up to date.

If any club wants help around GMS, then speak with DW. He can give the link to the RFU declaration of interest for a GMS training session, either face-to-face or virtual, to help with any issues the club may have.

JC also mentioned the need for clubs to update their Nominated league contact for the SW around leagues the NLC is the main point of contact around Men's leagues so its important the contact is up to date.

To change a NLC use this link <https://www.swrugby.co.uk/nlcchange>

To confirm the NLC is the same use this link <https://www.swrugby.co.uk/nlcconfirm>

Link to recent newsletter from SW around leagues is

<https://swrugby.co.uk/newsletters/Newsletter%20Jun%202023.pdf>

List of SW league secretaries is found here <https://www.swrugby.co.uk/sw-officials>

3)- Rugby Safe/Safeguarding- Reminder to clubs that the guidance around 1st aid is now Compulsory for season 23-24 for the whole game. More info can be found under Reg 9 which will be updated for 1st August but the current version can be found via <https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/rules-and-regulations/regulations>

Also, when doing DBS, the person involved needs to do the online course first and this needs to show on the persons record (can take up to a week to show) before the club can start the DBS process.

4)- Women's rugby- MS mentioned that 1 team has already pulled out of the Ladies league. This is leaving the Ladies a little short of games. No swift solution if excessive travel is to be avoided. Hopefully they can find some friendlies to help fill any gaps. Numbers are looking good, and they are looking to double up some of the games with Girls fixtures as well (like Oaks).

5)- Age Grade-U12's are struggling for numbers and have also merged with Warminster in another age group to keep everyone playing.

6)-Non-Contact Rugby- Walking Rugby is going well as is their Mixed Ability rugby. They do travel a bit together, since, at the moment, they are the only side in the area playing mixed ability. Melksham have only been active in Walking Rugby for a couple of months and already have participated with other D&W Clubs in matches and festivals.

7)- AOB-Tackle Height impact on Discipline- concern there may an increase in Red cards- whilst this will be monitored, JC did advise that the view from the RFU Discipline team is for their to be a more 'light touch' approach to this area with the focus on advising /supporting/ rather than hitting

players/clubs hard, certainly in the early months. GB mentioned that D&W will be looking to hold a discipline event ready for the start of the season.

Actions

- **JC/DW to try to find out why clubs didn't attend the Cluster meeting.**
- **JC to raise could games be 'awarded' instead of rearranged.**

Date of next meeting TBA- hopefully sometime in September.

Huddle Area – NE Wilts

Date – 27/06/2023

Attendees / Clubs

Darren Astley- Club Rep and SCOB. (DA)
John Constable- D&W RFU Council Rep. (JC)
Dave Wookey- D&W Cluster lead and GMS (DW)
Gerald Burden- D&W Secretary (GB)
Dave Berry- Swindon (DB)
Samantha Currie- Swindon (SC)
Peter McAllister- Minety (PM)
Chris Taylor- Supermarine (CT)
Apologise
Alan McAlonan- Calne (AM)
Chippenham RFC

Agenda Items:

- 8. Club Rugby Round-up- inc W&G.**
- 9. GMS**
- 10. Rugby Safe/Safeguarding**
- 11. Women's Rugby**
- 12. Age Grade**
- 13. Non-Contact Rugby.**
- 14. AOB**

Notes

Brief summary of progress or problems. Feeling around the clubs. Comments on agenda items.

This was the first meeting for some time of the NE wilts clubs, the aim is to make the cluster more active again under the lead of DA. DW & JC were there to help support and will happily do so for further meetings.

1)- Swindon- glad to see early release of fixtures. Running 2 Adult sides and at the moment the signs are ok for the coming season.

Supermarine- no U7 or U16 this coming season other than that looking ok- planning on holding a couple of recruitment events at the club. Doing touch rugby Monday nights. Ladies' numbers still ok and now have 2 girls age groups plus U18 girls playing as part of a combined side with 2 other local clubs in Gloucs joining to make up numbers.

Minety- still in 'off-season' playing touch rugby. Will see how things turn out pre-season. Oldest age grade team U15's.

SCOB- concern over numbers especially for 2nd XV- have had 8 players move to RWB. This is not helping overall team numbers and concern at larger clubs syphoning off players putting smaller club teams at risk. Fielding a colt's team this coming season but these players will take time to filter through to Adult rugby. Also, the club is looking to take over the lease for the Pavilion thus giving the club more security on tenure, enabling the club to look at applying for grants etc.

General point raised was that some teams are not balancing numbers to make sure a game takes place. JC mentioned that teams need to talk with their respective league secretary if this is happening so they can help support and guide teams. Also, club culture needs to change- if not, we face the real prospect that sides will fold and those 'larger teams will then have no one local to play.

NOTE TO ALL- DON'T FORGET 'GAME-ON' THIS CAN BE USED FOR ALL LEVELS OF GAME INCLUDING AGE GRADE.

2)-GMS- DW reminded clubs that the ongoing data Cleanse is important- this helps everyone to see the true state of numbers within clubs. (Note International tickets are now allocated based on games played so no need to keep people linked to club if they are no longer around).

Post AGM's can clubs make sure they update postholders in key roles, especially in Golden Roles, since the RFU and D&W will use certain 'roles' when they send out communications.

If any club wants help around GMS, then speak with DW. He can supply a form for the club to complete and then they can get a GMS session, either face to face or virtual, to help with any issues the club may have.

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Discussion about the need to increase awareness of head injury and prevention- suggested as many players as possible, coaches, managers and club officers do the online e-learning for Headcase. Also, the suggested period away from full contact following a head injury is now at least 21 days. JC will try to find the information around the note covering guidance for Community Sports. ACTION-JC

It was also mentioned about clubs looking at using the Proactive App- info on the Rugby Safe part of England rugby- <https://keepyourbootson.co.uk/rugbysafe/>

DBS checks- individuals now need to have done the online e-learning on Safeguarding before it will allow you to process a DBS application. Once the e-learning has been done it can take up to 7 days for the course to show and thus enable DBS to be progressed.

Electronic Match Cards- you can mark if a player has been concussed and this should trigger the player getting guidance info from the RFU on how to manage recovery.

4)- Women's rugby- DW mentioned it is hoped to hold a 10's tournament pre-season. Also, would be good to still look to run girls' clusters linked to the club clusters and then play each other- a topic to work on for the coming season.

5)- Age Grade- suggestion to group clubs together if they don't have enough singularly to field a team- this will help to keep the players in the game. Clubs are waiting on details of what is happening this coming season.

6)-Non-Contact Rugby- DW mentioned that a number of teams in Wiltshire are either already doing walking rugby or looking to start up soon. Money is available from WASP to help clubs with the start up. Also, good number of clubs still doing touch Rugby to keep players involved.
7)- AOB- Request to look into a possible Vets league or helping to get Vets games played. ACTION- JC to investigate further.
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate the document Concussion in Community Sports for clubs to read. • Investigate possible Vets league or matrix to set up fixtures.
Date of next meeting TBA- hopefully sometime in September.

Notes from West Dorset huddle.

We now have an active WhatsApp group set up and all 8 clubs have engaged on this. To summarise.

1. All clubs are reporting good numbers training
2. Many of the clubs are optimistic about expected numbers for Mini and Youth teams and there has been several good engagements with schools.
3. Some clubs have seen a small increase in girls' participation and women's rugby is active at a few clubs
4. All clubs are reporting that pitches are in good condition
5. All clubs have carried out renovation works over the summer
6. Many of the clubs have new coaching staff in place and this has had a positive impact

Issues reported by the clubs include

1. concern over fixture schedule- including lack of end of season fixtures and not enough matches for 2nd teams
2. Concern over how difficult it will be to referee the new tackle law and the impact this might have on referee numbers
3. Various specific club issues to be addressed directly with the clubs in question

Key Action - Set up visits with each club to support improvement in club engagement

2. Non-Area Representatives Updates:

- **Women's** **ES**
No Report Received
- **Referees.** **DN**
No Report Received
- **Governance.** **JH**

Diversity & Inclusion.

Sharing for info our Dorset & Wilts CSU ED & I Policy, which each CSU across England is required to produce.

We know that D & W CB policy is on the CB website & as CSU & CB policies need to cross over, we referred to that, England Rugby Schools EDI Policy, RFU Policy & also some schools EDI Policies in order to add a little more tailoring to the school's environment, along with the relevant Acts.

The policy has been approved by our CSU Committee members and has been sent to England Rugby Schools. Ahead of the start of term in September it will go out to our schools.

Our D & W CSU Lead/ Champion is CSU Committee Member - Tom Farmer (Malmesbury School, Wiltshire)

England Rugby Schools has tasked each CSU to produce an Action Plan, to work alongside the Policy. We understand that CBs are doing the same having been tasked with that by RFU. So in due course we will contact Jane Hart who we understand as D & W CB EDI Lead along with her role as Chair of Governance, so that we can work collaboratively, to dovetail our respective EDI Policies.

Dorset & Wiltshire CSU - Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Policy Statement.

The RFU is responsible for ensuring that all those who wish to participate in rugby union in England are treated fairly & that All participants should be given equal opportunity.

Through its' Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Policy, ERFSU as a CB of the RFU, supports the above.

Each CSU as a member of ERFSU CB has a Geographical area policy. The D&W CSU EDI Policy is below.

Dorset & Wilts CSU EDI Policy.

D&W CSU commits to working to ensure that everyone involved with schools rugby within its' Geographical area is aware of & committed to growing & promoting our shared responsibility for EDI. Through this Policy, will we work to continually reduce the possible occurring & risk of discrimination, marginalisation &/or reduced opportunities within our rugby provision.

In addition, we commit to take into consideration the EDI Policy when in communication with: Colleagues across D&W CSU Schools, Collaborating with other Stakeholders groups, such as ERFSU, RFU, Bath Academy, Rugby Clubs in D&W, CB, SGOs, Education Trusts) & the Wider Community.

This policy is underpinned by 'The Equality Act 2010' which created a Public Sector Equality Duty (applicable to schools).

The equality duty has three aims and D&W CSU is committed to working to deliver these aims:

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct.
- To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic* and those who do not.
- To foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

* The Protected Characteristics that apply to schools are: Age (concerning staff only), Disability (D&W CSU add to this both Visible & Unseen), Race, Ethnicity, Religion, Faith or Belief, Marriage and civil partnership (concerning staff only), Pregnancy, Maternity/Paternity, Sex, Sexual Orientation, Gender re-assignment.

D&W CSU in line with ERFSU, add to the above list, Socio-Economic Background. Recognising that this can in itself lead to marginalisation, discrimination & inequality being experienced by individuals/ groups within a CSU's Geographical area.

D&W CSU is committed to developing a culture where it is safe & acceptable for everyone involved in rugby union to raise concerns about any unacceptable practice, behaviour, wrongdoing or misconduct. .

Recognising that, through loyalty or fear of repercussion, people may be reluctant to voice their concerns/worries. We as a CSU commit to support the RFU Speak Up Policy.

The intended outcome of this policy is the continued growth & development of the game of rugby in schools & the schools' rugby community to reflect the diversity of society; improving equality & diversity in the facets of the game and in so doing create an inclusive environment for all, with equality for all, respect, teamwork, a sense of well-being & enjoyment at its core.

To ensure that there is continuity & progression in both our EDI Policy, we will monitor progress and adapt plans based on outcomes and updated insight.

Approved & Accepted by D & W CSU Committee - August 2023.

Rugbysafe

We have found a Rugbysafe lead, which is great news. All the forms were completed correctly in a timely fashion, and he was interviewed by the RSL from Hampshire. Robin Nathan from Cricklade RFC has got to work without delay and has already sent out his 1st email asking for details of all club RSL. He is going to be a great addition to Dorset & Wilts.

Safeguarding.

Quiet few weeks.

Dates to be set for club audits, play it safe courses and CSO calls will be booked from September and a schedule will be available from next week.

Safeguarding self-audit on GMS must be completed by club before any approvals for festivals, tours, or 17 yr old to play adult rugby. Process for all of these are the same as last year, forms are available on line and must be approved by Myself for the 17yr olds playing adult rugby.

Joe Walsh will be dealing with festivals and tours at present, but we do need someone to replace him as he is going to be working abroad and so will have reduced capacity to complete this work.

No safeguarding issues to report.

GMS, and Youth registration.

Reports directly to council.

D&W stats

- 1085 registrations so far
- Of those, 128 are female, from 22 clubs
- +28.9% increase on this time last year
- 30 clubs have registrations in the system so far

Discipline
Nothing to report

GB

GDPR
All policies to be updated.

NWW

Anti-Doping & Illicit Drugs

RE

I have spoken to the lead to ask for updated policies and some information on county lines. Awaiting progress.

GMS	DW
Age Grade Registration	DW
CB Polices	All
Data Management	DW
Safeguarding	JF

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No safeguarding issues to report.

Previous month's activity:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Off season so no urgent information to report back 2. Courses for play it safe starting to be booked for September onwards 3. Safeguarding self-audit on GMS must be completed by club before any approvals for festivals, tours, or 17 yr old to play adult rugby. Process for all of these are the same as last year, forms are available on line and must be approved by Myself for the 17yr olds playing adult rugby. Joe Walsh will be dealing with festivals and tours at present but we do need someone to replace him as he is going to be working abroad and so will have reduced capacity to complete this work. 4. A schedule for audits, cso calls and Play it safe courses is being worked on and will be ready next week.
Current Budget update:	Nothing
Proposed Activity (including estimated cost)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan schedule of zoom calls for CSO 2. Plan Full audits 3. Recruit replacement for Joe
Items not for publication.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No new safeguarding concerns

RugbySafe

We have found a Rugbysafe lead, which is great news. All the forms were completed correctly in a timely fashion, and he was interviewed by the RSL from Hampshire. Robin Nathan from Cricklade RFC has got to work without delay and has already sent out his 1st email asking for details of all club RSL. He is going to be a great addition to Dorset & Wilts.

3. County Membership

Direct Debit payments to start October 2023

❖ Schools

D&W CSU 'Mid - Season Report 2022– 23

Season 2022 – 23, has to date seen another great series of rugby playing opportunities for young people in schools across Dorset & Wilts. With this season, seeing a variety of inaugural events for Girls, with the focus being on developing opportunities for U12 Girls (Y7) in line with RFU drive, whilst at same time providing opportunities for U14 Girls (Y8 & 9). Additional developments have also been taking place for U16s & U18s too.

This first half of the season has seen great examples of stakeholder collaborative working, between D & W CSU, Bath Grassroots Dept & a number of Clubs across D & W area, which have created additional opportunities for young people in Rugby.

D & W CSU Rugby Activity provision during the first half of Season 22 - 23.**Boys Rugby in schools**

A number of new playing opportunities have taken place this season, in response to what teachers felt best worked for them & their players.

Inaugural Y7 Boys, Dorset State Schools 10s Festival organised by D & W CSU's Jan Edwards in November.- Venue Bryanston School. 10 squads Y7 boys from across Dorset took part, from Highcliffe & Twynham to the East, Woodroffe in the West & Gillingham in the North. And everything in between. It was a great afternoon of rugby which emphasis being on participation & enjoyment. Lots of praise for event from teachers & importantly boys really enjoyed their afternoon. Big Thanks to Scott Hobson - Bryanston & Lia Gingell - Bath Grassroots Dept for their collaboration with D & W CSU in this event

Inaugural Y8 Boys, Dorset State Schools 10s Festival - organised by D & W CSU's Jan Edwards also in November, which replicated the Y8 playing provision above.

Annual Eric Blackman Y9 U14s boys State schools' festival - organised by D & W CSUs Jan Edwards. The 'best performing school', go forward to be a Representation from Dorset State Schools in the Eric Blackman U14s Boys Non selective state schools South West Schools/ RFU Area 1 annual festival held in February & organised by Jan Edwards, Andy Marriott from D & W CSU & with assistance from colleagues from England Rugby Schools. Wiltshire Schools also have a representation of the schools in the Wilts area taking part. Though planned for November, due to extenuating circumstances the Dorset festival is now taking place on Weds 25th Nov - venue Canford School. Again state schools from across Dorset have entered.

Inaugural U15s Boys D & W County Cup Competition, - Organised by D & W CSU Committee member Luke Cannon - Leweston School, schools from across D & W have taken part. Thanks to Luke for creating this opportunity. We know just how much work goes into these events organisationally

Inaugural U16s Eastern Dorset U16s Boys - Organised by D & W CSU Committee Member Dave Tomlinson - Bournemouth Collegiate School, which was open to both Indep & State Schools - thanks to Dave for providing this opportunity, which we are sure will grow year on year.

Inaugural U18s D & W Schools 10s League - Organised by Rich Thomas -Bournemouth School for Boys, This new event is providing the opportunity for schools who can normally field a full 15 in fixtures, but also for those schools who struggle to field a full 15 & also 10s means only One school minibus is needed to travel to games. - Thanks to Rich Thomas.

Annual Schools West Dorset Invitation Festival, for Y7s & Y8, being run by Sam Morris, Jordan Webber, & Pete Pring of Budmouth School Weymouth, (D&W CSU Committee), working closely with Weymouth RFC. This was an excellent well attended event, with the young people involved really enjoying their

afternoon. Thanks go to all involved. This was a great example of School & Club working together, & also involves some Club coaches going into school to help with the rugby.

Annual Thomas Hardy School, Dorchester's Geraint Hughes & his team have been running the Dorset Schools invitation 10s festivals for Y9, Y10, Y11 & Y12 @ Dorchester RFC. Each afternoon was extremely well organised & well attended. The Y12 Event, which had over 100 participants included a £1 per player entry fee, with the money raised going to a nominated charity.

In Wiltshire, the Mid/ North Wilts Annual Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, & Year 10 Schools, Festivals/ County Cup Competition.

Run by Ali Lund Vice Chair D & W CSU (Lavington School) & Scott Ferguson CSU (Kingsbury Green School) Thanks go to Ali, & PE staff in Wiltshire, SSCOs Both School & Club venues were used for these events. 100s of boys have enjoyed these annual opportunities. The 'best performing' state school goes forward to the Eric Blackman Non selective state schools South West Regional Festival.

South Wiltshire - Y7 - Y12/13 inaugural Schools festivals, - D & W CSU Committee's Rich Dermain-Griffiths - Bishop Wordsworth School & Jason Yarwood-Salisbury RFC & Co-opted Community member of D & W CSU Committee. Festivals for schools in South Wilts area have been developed this year, thanks to work of Jason , Rich & Mark Lepinier from Trafalgar School Downton.

Additionally Jason Yarwood, Teachers in South Wilts, Jan Edwards D & W CSU & Bath Grassroots department have collaborated to provide a series of sessions for Schools in South Wiltshire (for both boys & girls), headed up by Bath Grassroots dept, this is being followed in Feb by a Girls school rugby festival.

The National Schools Competition has once again seen a number of our D&W 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 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 skills Development afternoon . Schools from across Dorset brought girls to this event organised by Jan Edwards D & W CSU & Lia Gingell - Bath Grassroots Department, with the support of Bob Andrews Dorchester RFC. 150 girls took part. This is being followed by an East Dorset & a West Dorset girls school rugby festival at rugby club venues. Date tbc.

South Wilts Schools U12s - U18s skills development sessions & playing opportunities, have been run by Jason Yarwood D & W CSU Committee/ Salisbury RFC Youth Chair & Bath Grassroots Dept, & also Rich D- G. D & W CSU Committee & Bishop Wordsworth School Salisbury.

Mid & North Wilts Schools.

Jason Derby D & W CSU Committee - Corsham School & Tom Farmer D & W CSU Committee - Malmesbury School, are collaborating & running triangular festivals for groups of schools. Also Jason is working with Bath Grassroots dept to create skills dev sessions for girls in mid / north Wilts schools & a subsequent festival. Tom has also been linking up with Gloucester Community Dept to create playing & training Opps for girls at schools like Malmesbury etc who have students who travel from Tetbury etc which lie in Gloucestershire.

Bath DPP & PDG Rugby & D&W Girls & Women Super Clusters & D&W CB Rep Rugby at y12/13

We are delighted that so many of the young people in D&W Schools are taking part in these development & performance opportunities. Also that a number of the coaches involved in these areas are D&W teachers.

D&W CSU continue to work closely with our colleagues who are stakeholders in ensuring continuing opportunities for both young people in our schools & teachers happen in the next half of the season. These will be included in D & W CSU End of Season Report in the Summer Term

Thanks go to everyone involved in all these great opportunities for our young people.

On behalf of all at D&W CSU.

Jan Edwards.

Hon Sec D&W CSU,

England Rugby Schools Management Board

Bath Academy Education Advisor.

Bath RPPG

D & W SCHOOLS (CSU) ' End of Season ' 22 / 23 Report.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of Education Staff in D & W Schools the Spring term & into the start of the Summer Term has seen the further provision of a wide range of rugby activity for young people in our schools. In addition to activities within schools, whilst less in number in the spring & summer terms, due to School timetables, many Multi - School Activities have been taking place.

D & W Schools U18s Competition Final.

Rounds began in the Autumn Term, which was open to both State Schools & Independent Schools, & with the Final took place in Spring Term. This very successful competition organised, by Rich Thomas - D & W Schools Committee member/ Rugby & PE Teacher at Bournemouth School for Boys, the event provided stretch & challenge for the stronger teams, whilst at the same time providing a much-appreciated school competition playing opportunity for U18s School teams from across Dorset & Wilts region. Thanks to Rich for the tremendous amount of work which went into both the organising & running of this Competition.

Inaugural Bournemouth School for Boys U18s 7s.

Spring Term saw the inaugural Bournemouth School For Boys U18s 7s. Sometimes State schools in particular see a drop in numbers playing rugby, this event again planned & run by Rich Thomas, with the driving factor being to create further playing opportunities for schools who do maintain their numbers into 6th Form but also for those who may have seen numbers dwindle, often as a result of changes of schools etc. This event took place at BSB & all participants & teachers agreed it is definitely something they are looking forward to again in season 23/24.

(Report continues below.)

Inaugural U15s Wessex League - a competition for both State & Independents.

Luke Cannon - D & W Schools Committee member/ Leweston School Rugby & PE Teacher, organised & ran this excellent event for schools across Dorset & Wiltshire, early rounds started in the Autumn, with Finals day being in March. Wyvern St Edwards from Salisbury lifted the Trophy, Thanks to Luke & Schools are looking forward to the competition in season 23/24.

Dorset Schools Annual 7s Boys Series - 2023 was the 19th Annual Event.

Jan Edwards - D & W Schools Committee member, in collaboration with Rich Dermain - Griffiths - D & W Schools Committee member / Bishop Wordsworth School organised & the series of afternoons, during February & March. Year 7, Year 8, Years 12/13, Year 9 & Year 10, each had an afternoon event. Thanks go to Bob Andrews from Dorchester RFC & Kim Ward Lytchett RFC for the use of their facilities for these events. Teachers who brought teams along, & also brought Sports Leaders to assist, were tremendous in their help & willingness to all assist with Refereeing. Massive thanks goes to all the teachers & Sports Leaders. Over 600 boys took part across the series. There was lots of enjoyment & great sportsmanship on show.

The Eric Blackman RFU Area 1 (South West Schools) U14s State Schools Festival March 2023

Jan Edwards - D & W 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 Festival, held at Chippenham RFC, 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, took place at North Bristol RFC, Participating teams had previously taken part in tournaments/ festivals organised in their respective CSU areas.

Poole High School were the representation of the schools in Dorset & St Laurence School from Wiltshire. It was an enjoyable event, played in the true spirit of rugby, lots of enjoyment & positive feedback from players & teachers alike. We were delighted to welcome Bath Academy Manager Craig Lilley & Bristol Bears Academy Manager Gary Townsend. Lewis Moody presented trophies.

National Schools U15s & U18s Competition

Once again this season school teams from both Independent & State Schools have taken part in these National competitions, with a number of our schools progressing to the later stages of the Compt. Amongst those was Thomas Hardy School Dorchester who reached the Semis of the U15s compt. Great efforts from all the schools both players & teachers who once again took part in this National Competition.

Continuing growing Rugby Activity for Girls in Schools in Dorset & Wiltshire.

Collaborative working by members of D & W Schools Committee, along with colleagues across our schools, with Bath Grassroots Dept has continued in this second part of the season. Following the excellent collaboration which led to the Autumn term girls rugby opportunities for schools in South Wiltshire area, (which were reported on in D & W Schools (CSU) Mid Season Report. The baton has been picked up for Schools in Dorset.

20th April, saw 150 girls at U12s (Y7) & U14s (Y8 & Y9), take part in the inaugural Dorset Schools Girls Rugby Development Festival. Schools from across Dorset took part. The venue was Swanage & Wareham RFC, who we thank for the use of their excellent facilities. The festival was a result of collaboration between, Dorset Schools Games/ Active Dorset's Joey Wormington & his team of SGOs, Bath Grassroots dept.'s Lia Gingell & D & W Schools Jan Edwards, this fantastic event had coaches from Swans, North Dorset, Oakmedians, Wimborne, D & W Schools & PE Teachers & Bath Grassroots Dept delivering Rugby Skills development carousel & small sided games, its focus was enjoyment & participation, & the event definitely delivered on all fronts. The feedback was excellent & as a collaborative group we are looking to deliver further opportunities in season 23/24. Thanks to all involved & to RFU's Chris Sigsworth & Mark Saltmarsh for their support & encouragement.

Later this Summer Term a non contact Girls Rugby / Rugby Skills development event is being planned for schools in the North Wilts/ Mid Wilts Schools area, a collaboration between Bath Grassroots Dept & D & W Schools Committee colleagues - Justin Derby (Corsham School) & Tom Farmer (Malmesbury School)

Mixed Gender Y9, Schools Touch to Twickenham event - comes to Dorset on 11th MAY.

We are delighted to report that following a bid to RFU, we are One of only Twelve venues across England to be holding one of the RFU's Inaugural Y9 Mixed Gender, Schools Touch To Twickenham events. Thank you to Swanage & Wareham RFC for the use of their facilities for this event. At time of writing we are expecting 12 schools to be taking part. At any one time there must be 3 girls on the field of play. The progression from this event is that the best performing schools get the chance to ultimately play in an event at Twickenham in June. Which will be a tremendous opportunity for those young people.

All of these activities & all the fantastic work taking place in rugby development for both Boys & girls across our schools in Dorset & Wiltshire, are a testament to the dedication & passion to help create opportunities for young people of the colleagues who work in our schools, colleagues in Bath Grassroots Dept, Clubs members who help in a number of schools, Active Dorset/ Schools Games Organisers across D & W & it goes without saying the members of D & W Schools Committee, all of whom have full time jobs beyond their work as part of our group. Huge thank you to everyone for their teamwork & collaboration involved for making these fantastic opportunities happen.

Report written on behalf of D & W Schools (CSU), by Jan Edwards. Hon Sec D & W CSU.

D & W CSU - 23/24 - Girls school rugby anticipated events.

Dorset Area Schools - Jodie Jeffery (Gillingham School) & Jordan Webber (Budmouth School)

Jordan will be running a competitive area tournament for U14's and U16's with a U12's 'Introduction to contact festival' towards the end of the year. This will specifically target West Dorset Schools and most likely be held here at Budmouth initially, with scope to group and move to Weymouth Rugby Club.

Jodie- is looking at run triangulars, and a festival / skills dev session for Contact & Touch rugby in Dorset & also aiming to do a girls school event which will be a cross border event aka for Dorset Schools & Wiltshire Schools at a mid-point location.

Jan (Edwards) to work with Lia Gingell Bath Grassroots dept, & Active Dorset's Joey Wormington & his Dorset SGO team , also with colleagues from Dorset Rugby Clubs, to deliver in November a Girls Schools Rugby Skills 7 small sided conditioned games event, as teachers & girls were keen to have a repeat of the very successful event delivered in May.

South Wiltshire Area Schools - Rich Dermain- Griffiths (Bishop Wordsworth School) & Jason Yarwood (Salisbury RFC)

Rich is running - 2 girl's events for the Autumn Term, these are Week beginning Oct 2nd Y7 girls (U12s) & week beginning Oct 16th Y8/9 girls (U14s).

Mid Wiltshire/ North Wiltshire Schools - Tom Farmer (Malmesbury School) & Justin Derby (Corsham School).

Tom - potentially in Autumn/ Spring term, to run a Girls Super 12s Rugby Tournament. Which would involve U16s girls & would be full contact rugby, teams from schools in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire & Bristol have expressed interest as have Budmouth School In Dorset & Gillingham School in Dorset.

Justin would propose the following for 2023-24

- 3 extra-curricular hubs that are hosted at different schools within the area (Sept/Oct dates tbc)
- A waterfall festival (year 7 and 8) to run alongside the boys in Wiltshire (Currently in November/December) Teams from schools in the area to compete in a waterfall festival that runs on the same day as the boys in year 8.
- Bath community Hubs to continue at Corsham School (March/April 24) This then allows those taught rugby in lessons after Xmas to have an opportunity to engage.

Jodie, Jordan, Jan, Rich, Tom, Justin - will be in touch with you in the Autumn Term with further Details for the above events

D & W CSU Committee & our collaborative working partners * will be doing what we can to ensure that these events & others in the future, will be enjoyed by all taking part.

*Which includes Bath Grassroots Dept (formerly Bath Community Dept), Bath Player Pathway, Active Dorset/ SGOs in Dorset & also going forward we would like to work more closely with the fab SGOs etc in Wiltshire, along with Dorset & Wiltshire C B (Constituent Board Rugby) Colleagues, Nick Elbourne Chair of D & W Youth Playing Committee & CB Management Board Member, Ron Jones D & W CB Management Board Member & Gordon Harding D & W Girls ERDPP (England Rugby Player Pathway) Lead. Also Clubs across our geographical area, who we know are also working to increase opportunities for girls' rugby events for schools.

The CSU needs to be updated on CB members roles, (i.e. Nick Elbourne – Ron Jones).

A request to D & W CB Financial assistance for Festivals / Tournaments run by D & W CSU Committee for Schools Across Dorset & Wilts

Good morning, Gerald,

As you will know, our D & W CSU Officers (included in this email) on behalf of all the young people taking part in our Schools festivals/ competitions/ development opportunities have been in touch with John C & Ron J to ask for funding from D & W CB to help with the costs of the ongoing multi - schools opportunities for students from U12s through to U18s across D & W geographical area. (the vast majority of participants being State schools, with all the many challenges with cuts in School Budgets that they face year on year. The rationale supporting our request for this help with funding is outlined in the email below which we sent to John C.

Each CSU like yourselves in each CB, is tasked with delivering the Strategic Objectives set by the RFU. Financial assistance from D & W CB, will make a tremendous difference to what we are able to deliver & through collaborative working, in this way will we believe be mutually beneficial as it will help both CB & CSU & indeed Clubs that we use for events, work to deliver around the strategic objectives, set Age Grade Rugby (in relation to both Boys & Girls).

I have attached our D & W Schools section of AGPC season 23/24 relating to boys rugby & also an overview of development work we are aiming to deliver for girls in academic year/ rugby season 23/24.

At the Core of this request is the provision of Professional Pitchside Medical cover at as many multi school rugby events as we can.

The purpose of the attachments & the shared email below will give evidence of how funding from D & W CB of £2500, will significantly help D & W CSU provide school rugby opportunities for literally 100s of boys & girls.

We do hope that D & W CB will be willing to grant us this funding.

Regards,

Jan Edwards - Hon Sec D & W CSU, Andy Marriott - Chair/ President D & W CSU, Ali Lund Co- Vice Chair D & W CSU, Luke Cannon Co- Vice Chair D & W CSU

- ❖ Un 6 – 11's
- ❖ Un 12 – 18's Boys

GH

- a) The attached Matrix has been agreed by Dorset. They will play the Minis at home round 1 and Youth at home round 2 etc...etc...
- b) I've not heard from anyone in Wiltshire, so not a clue what's happening there!
- c) Under 18's (colts) structure will be in place this week, I've asked NE to deliver this, see draft below.
- d) I've not managed to get a volunteer to manage the D&W's Fixtures, so I suggest this role is advertised e.g. Dorset and Wilts Fixtures Secretary required, reporting to Hamish. I will ask NE to deliver a recorded handover for this role with the successful candidate.
- e) NE and Claire from Swans RFC have asked for meeting with Hamish.
- f) I've got a guy from Poole, who has shown an expression of interest in managing the D&W's Mini and Youth Cup Games and Competitions, he's back from holiday this week.

Plan for Dorset & Wilts Under 18 Boys Competition 2023/24

As part of the handover process, I have been asked by Gordon Harding (who will be in charge of D&W Age Grade Competitions) to do the set up for the Under 18 competition for this season based on a similar model to last season.

This is a competition for combined Under 17 and Under 18 boys' age grades.

It will be a two-stage competition. In the first stage there will be three divisions – Premier, North, South & Central. The Premier division will be stronger and the other two divisions of similar standard to each other with a geographical split. In all groups teams will play each other once. The second stage will be played off in three knock-outs – a Cup (with a Bowl for those knocked out in the first round), a Plate (with a Vase) and a Shield (with a Trophy). The play-offs will be seeded on the outcome of the first stage with most (but not all) of the Premier division progressing to the Cup along with the top teams from the other divisions. More precise details of the seeding process along with the Rules & Guidelines will be issued along with invoices for the entry fee (likely to be around £30 per team) before the first round.

The dates used will be those already circulated from the Age Grade Playing Calendar.

The draft divisions have been based on finishing positions at Under 16 and Under 18 in 2022/23, entries to the Under 18 National Cup and numbers showing under 'All Club Players' on GMS for the Under 17/18 teams this season. Teams that were uncertain whether they could enter or not have been included as it is easier to remove teams later than add them.

If Clubs think they have not been placed in the most appropriate division, please email nick.dwyouth@outlook.com by the end of Wednesday 9 August and we will see if adjustments can be made.

It is hoped to publish the fixtures on GMS and the D&W Under 18 Competition WhatsApp Group by the end of Friday 11 August.

Divisions

Premier

Bradford-on-Avon
Devizes
Dorchester
Marlborough
Salisbury
Royal Wootton Bassett 1
Wimborne

North

Amesbury
Frome
Melksham / Walcot
Oldfield
Supermarine
Trowbridge
Royal Wootton Bassett 2

South & Central

Bridport
Lytchett Minster
North Dorset
Oakmeadians
Sherborne
Swanage & Wareham
Yeovil

Nick Elbourne
6 August 2023

Email report from Nick Elbourne received on Tuesday 15th February.

This email follows on from the discussions I had in a meeting with Mike Moysey when the restructuring of the Age Grade Group in Dorset & Wilts was being proposed and the very brief mention in the agenda for tonight's Council meeting.

Based on my discussions with Mike I have put together a possible role description. I hope my perception of the role is reasonably close to yours as it is an area, based on my background in various aspects of Rugby and my training in and teaching of applied statistics, in which I would like to think I can make a useful contribution. I have now more or less retired from paid work and so have a bit more time to devote to it.

I would be very interested to hear your thoughts on this and look forward to meeting up with Hamish before too long.

Nothing relevant to report at present. I attended the Education & Age Grade Landscape Conference in Warwick and the beginning of June and found it both inspiring and useful. I will let Hamish have a brief report once my role has been clarified. Last week, at Gordon's request, I helped him set up an Under 18 Competition.

Dorset & Wilts Age Grade Rugby

DEVELOPMENT LEAD

Suggestion for Role Description

Aim

To promote Retention and Growth in the Age Grade Sections of Clubs and to support the Development of their Players.

Reporting To: DW Age Grade Rugby Lead

Other Connections:

Chair of Age Grade Clubs Advisory Group
Chair of Regional Player Pathway Group
RFU CB Relationship Manager South West
Bath Rugby Head of Academy
Bath Rugby Junior Academy Phase Lead (U14-U16) / DPP
Bath Rugby Grassroots Club Manager
DWRFSU Hon Secretary

Meetings etc

Age Grade Clubs Advisory Group (online)
Regional Player Pathway Group
DWRFSU
Club Huddles / Youth Forums (as required)
Education & Age Grade Landscape Conference

Tasks

- Extracting Data, conducting Surveys and analysing the results in order to provide evidence-based suggestions and advice on Retention, Development and Growth in the Age Grade Sector.
- To provide evidence to assist with the allocation of resources to support Clubs and to evaluate the outcomes from projects.
- To promote Club School Links and to help Clubs build relationships.
- To monitor and support the relationship between Clubs and the DPP / PDG.
- To monitor and support the relationship between Clubs and the Bath Rugby Grassroots Department.
- To liaise with the CB Relationship Manager and the Age Grade Lead on the most effective use of available data.
- To liaise via the AGCAG with other CBs to share relevant good practice.
- To look for other volunteers to help with the brief and provide a succession plan.
- To carry out what other tasks the Age Grade Lead may reasonably request.

Time

It is anticipated that the role will take an average of 12 hours per week.

❖ Un 12 – 18's Girls

CD

There will be an attempt to engage with local media to promote girls' rugby.

The Meetings for D&W Coaches and Managers will follow the RFU Roadmap.

Tackle height course

The course will be on:

Date: Tuesday 22nd of August
Location: Sherborne RFC
Time: 7pm - 9pm

This will be run as a County course rather than a club course as there will not be any more club courses set up. I will send the link to those that have shown interest, but it will not be up on general GMS courses.

I am also meeting with Gordon and Kate today to discuss the U18 County Girls. I have already suggested some coaches that be available to help coach as we need a larger number of Staff. The physios are getting back to me with availability once they have all the dates.

ERDPP Under 16's Girls

We have received the following applications

Walcats	22
Chippenham	12
Dorchester	6
Oaks	14
RWB	7
Salisbury	7
Sherborne	2
Supermarine	4
TRFC	11
Weymouth	2
Bridport	12
Swans	2

We will need to determine how many from Walcats are eligible for support, because this team is a combination of Somerset & Wiltshire clubs.

Please see the document below.

Dorset & Wilts Plan which gives an overview of the girls U12-U18 section.

Dorset & Wilts. Plan	What	Notes	Information/to do
November	Set up Spond Group for Managers & Coaches for D&W	35 members from: 15 Clubs County U18 - Staff D&W ERDPP U16 _Staff County Officers	
Dec-April	Create Clusters		
10 th June	Face to Face Forum Managers & Coaches	Next meeting will be virtual – End of September	
April onwards	Information gathering (Polls)	Women & Girls Injury Surveillance. How many clubs are carrying this out and what are they using?	CRISP -1 SHED -1 Other - 4 Nothing - 4
		Gender Specific. changing rooms	Yes -1 No – 6 Other – 4 Several set up changing rooms when needed.
		Tacklesafe Course	A number require this course
July for 2023/2024 Season	Cluster	Who will host and which month	Currently waiting for dates to come in.
2023/2024 Season	Huddles	To engage each huddle to set up Age band teams. The teams to then play each other in their age band	
	Huddles	To filter information to Huddle leads To create a Girls Huddle Group	
	Create a working group to help oversee some of the activities under the U12-U18 Girls Lead		Identify group members.
	U18	Meeting Gordon/Kate 09/08/23 Staff ratio Logistics	
	D&W ERDPP U16 Girls	Interviews for new Staff (South) Completion of necessary paperwork Collate Nominations	Dates Confirmed Collation completed
	Specific targeted U12 engagement	Supported by the RFU	
	Bra, gumshield fitting	September – Trowbridge RFC October –Dorchester RFC	Claire MacCarron organising All Booby doo staff have current DBS certificates
Budgets	Confirm	Liaise with County Treasurer to ensure smooth system for paying out for resources and expenses.	

5. RFU Council Representative

JC

Previous month's activity:	<p>Not a huge amount to report at the moment. Have circulated previously some observations from the Extra RFU Council meeting held in July where the Governance & Representation review was discussed. Council voted for the Chair to be either a Past President or Distinguished member whereas the board wanted an independent person they chose! The impact of the decision is still rumbling on.</p> <p>Also, at the meeting the review of the Tackle height process was fed back and as a result we should be getting pre-meeting notes now that can be shared with clubs and also post meeting notes. Time will tell as the old saying goes.</p>
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	<p>The main focus for everyone has been on getting ready for the new season. Whilst structures & fixtures might not suit everyone, you have to consider the game as a whole not just what suits an individual or club.</p> <p>Some hopefully useful info from recent meetings: -</p> <p>Tackle Safe Clinics and Champions- as of early August, D&W clubs had hosted 6 clinics and 168 people had attended. Please continue to look at the Tackle Height hub on England rugby.com where more updates are continually being added.</p> <p>Tackle Height - Match officials- 37 Ref societies and 5000 referees provided with access to training resources, content & guidelines.</p> <p>There is a Tackle Height Sanction framework- not sure what advice/guidance D&W Discipline have been given but do we need to share the framework with clubs?</p> <p>Community Game Future- this work continues. The current plan is to engage with the game between August & October - currently several engagement sessions are being run either virtually or face-to-face.</p> <p>Adult Male Recovery - target clubs have been identified and club developer are meeting clubs now to kick the work off. The aim is to get Adult Male teams to play at least 11 matches in the coming season.</p> <p>W&G - the aim is to maintain the number of Women's teams playing matches, tailoring playing opportunities for teams across CB's. Focus on helping out the U12 age group in particular.</p> <p>CRISP - Community Rugby Injury Surveillance & Prevention Project. Looking for more teams to sign up both male & female.</p> <p>The new RFU Regulations are on EnglandRugby.com now along with a link to an overview document on changes.</p>
Current Budget update:	n/a
Proposed Activity (including estimated cost)	<p>Continued attendance at meetings where possible.</p> <p>As the new season starts aiming to get out and about around our clubs, supporting the President.</p> <p>One question- with the aim of visiting clubs most weekends and, as we know, our CB being so spread out as such, the chances are that my budget of £750 will be swiftly exceeded. Will the travel expenses be covered?</p>

6. Executive Committee Update:

Accounts

Outstanding Invoices

AH

The RFU have now confirmed the D&W funding allocation for season 23/24.

Funding Stream	Amount
Core Funding	██████
Targeted Delivery Funding	██████
Age Grade Player Pathway U17U18 Boys	██████
Age Grade Player Pathway U18 Girls	██████
Girls U16 DPP	██████
Adult Rep Rugby	██████

Further information on each fund and when it will be released is outlined below.

Core Funding

Core Funding has been increased by 10% to a total of £770,000 to reflect rising overheads and should be spent on administrative costs and core activities (safeguarding, discipline, and competitions). The funding will be released in August.

Targeted Delivery Funding

A total fund of £225,000 allocated proportionally as per Core funding, is available for season 2023/24 for CBs who feel ready and able to deliver targeted activity locally. While the funding is not ringfenced for a particular activity, CBs are strongly encouraged to use the funding to contribute towards one of the four key priorities agreed by the CGB:

- Tackle height implementation
- Increasing the number of 16-21 year old male players
- Increasing the number of 12-18 year old female players
- Preserving the number of adult male and female teams at risk

The 23/24 funding will be released from August onwards following submission and sign off by the CBRM of a Targeted Delivery activity plan. Any unspent or committed funds remaining from season 2022/23 must be spent before any funding for 23/24 is released.

Reporting will be light touch and involve completion of a simple activity plan template outlining what the funding will be spent on and when and a headline report of at the end of season on spend, outcomes and impact of the activity.

CBRMs will be in contact shortly to discuss headline use of the Targeted Delivery plan and request a named contact who will co-ordinate the activity.

Age Grade Pathway Rugby

A total of £520,000 will be routed through CBs comprising £5,900 per CB for Boys U17/U18, £2,000 per CB for Girls U18 and a total of £300,000 for Girls DPP allocated proportionally. Funding will be released in August.

Adult Rep Rugby

Up to £6,000 per CB will be available to support active engagement in the Senior Men's & Women's and Men's U20 County Championships. The funding will be allocated and released once entries are confirmed.

Under 12s funding – A £2,500 grant will be available to geographic CBs and ERFSU, released on completion of an action plan for the year (closing date 31st July). This is part of the RWC Impact 25 programme. The funding is targeted at activities that grow U12 girls' rugby in clubs, schools and the community and building CB capacity to deliver them.

Merit League Funding

Details will be provided in a separate communication. *Passed to JC)*

Direct Club Funding

Needs-based funding will continue to be available directly for clubs to support travel and emergencies (typically weather related). The criteria for this year's Community Rugby Support Fund will also be agreed by the CGB and communicated to the game in October.

Whilst not specifically related to CB funding, the CGB have also committed to supporting travel funding for men's and women's clubs in RFU leagues and Cups. Clubs who are eligible for travel grants in RFU leagues will be informed directly within the next few weeks, with further information on Cup funding to follow prior to the start of the season.

Rugby Development Operational Plan

The Rugby Development Operational Plan for 2023/24 as agreed by the CGB is attached which provides a summary of all the planned activity and resources that are contained within the overall RFU business plan. If you require any further information or are interested in partnering on any of the specific elements, please let your CBRM know at the earliest opportunity.

CBRMs will be in contact soon regarding your Targeted Delivery activity plan and to discuss any other queries you may have. However, please don't hesitate to contact either of us should you wish to discuss anything further.

Club Support

AO

As part of the 2022-23 D&W grant schemes, the D&W are due to award a grant to a club, which now has been found to be in breach of Regulation 7 during the 2022-23 season.

Which means they will still be eligible for any grants or awards made during the 2022-23 season but will be ineligible for funding and some forms of support from the RFU during the 2023-24 season.

They are due to receive a 2022-23 RFU grant of [REDACTED] to upgrade their toilets facilities, our grant was for clubhouse improvements to the value of [REDACTED].

They will also be ineligible for funding from the D&W if the original funding was received from the RFU by the D&W during 2023-24.

GB asked the Council should the payment still be made or cancelled, GB is concerned that other clubs will not see the logic of making the payment relating to the previous year.

GB reported that some clubs are requesting grants from the D&W, to make up their 50% contribution towards RFU grants and support. GB asked If the Council is happy to support this practice.

7. Community Rugby

SM

Previous month's activity:	<p><u>Dorset and Wilts Cup Competitions</u></p> <p>The Competitions Committee is meeting on 21st August where initial draws will be made for this season's cups.</p> <p><u>Dorset and Wilts Leagues</u></p> <p>The league season begins for teams at Counties 1 and above on 2nd September, followed by those at Counties 3 on 9th and Counties 2 on 16th.</p> <p><u>Merit Tables</u></p>
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The Dorset Friendly Matrix has once again been set up by John Constable and is ready for the season.

Tribute

Tribute will continue their sponsorship of the leagues across the Southwest. This will continue the Tribute TOTM award, and also, they are providing each competing club with some balls (most probably 1 x match ball and 1 x training ball).

Bournemouth, Marlborough, Salisbury, and Wimborne 1st teams will be exempt from any TOTM award as they are now competing in the London Division.

League Secretaries 23/24

Regional 2 Severn (R2S)

B. Flanders

Home: 01747 841175

Email: r2s@swrugby.co.uk

Counties 1 Southern South (C1SS)

S. Macey

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Counties 3 Dorset & Wilts South (C3DWS)

S. Macey

Home: 01249 712901

Mobile: 07711 019422
Email: c3dws@swrugby.co.uk

London & South East Division: Marlborough, Salisbury, Wimborne

Regional 1 South Central

[Simon Embleton](#)

07733 266765

8. Representative Rugby

MB

Nothing to report from the Seniors and Under 20's Men

Under 17-18's

This 22/23 season we had 7 x U18 players selected to the South West Division Squad. With 3 x selected to play in the 23player squad for Divisional matches.

This was a great result and a great effort from the boys concerned, assisted by the hard work from the coaching team.

With the U17 we had a very successful Development Day held at Canford School. We had 75 boys turn out and lots of great feedback, even though we were a little short of coaches on the day. From this squad of 75 players, we had the below 3 x fixtures that were all really good and all players in the squad that trained were given game time and represented the CB.

D&W U17 County Fixtures and Events were :

U17 – 7th May 2023 – Development Day – 9.45am start to 3.30pm finish @ Venue Canford School (BH21 3AD).

U17 – 10th May 2023 – 6.45pm Weds night training venue North Dorset RFC.

U17 – 14th May 2023 – D&W (Home) vs Devon @ Chippenham RFC AGP - 2pm meet - 15.30 KO

U17 – 17th May 2023 – 6.45pm Weds night training venue North Dorset RFC.

U17 – 21st May 2023 – D&W (Away) vs Berkshire (Home) @ Maidenhead RFC AGP KO 10.30am meet. 12 KO 2 x teams.

U17 – 24th May – 6.45pm Weds night training venue Chippenham RFC AGP

U17 – 28th May 2023 – D&W (Away) vs Cornwall @ Bodmin RFC (PL30 4AW) – 13.30 KO + 15.00 KO - 2 x teams/games.

The fixtures are set / structured by the RFU and are for development purposes but are meaningful fixtures.

We will now look to have a very strong U18 squad of about 30-35 players selected out from the development day and have some great games lined up. We will play against Berkshire in a warm up game and then 3 x South West Trial matches with a squad of 23-25 player's selected, competition for these places will be very high, with some great game opportunities.

I have attached the program details for the U18 block and the 2024 - U17 block, still a few bits TBA venues etc.

Kevin Dobie
Dorset & Wilts U17/18 Lead Coach

9. AOB: Outstanding Vacancies

- ❖ Volunteer Co-ordinator – Dorset & Wiltshire
- ❖ Area Representative
- ❖ County Rugby Sponsorship Manager
- ❖ Age Grade Competition Support members
- ❖ Senior Competition Support members
- ❖ Deputy CB Safeguarding Manager
- ❖ Diversity & Inclusion Lead

For JD please [Click here](#)
East Dorset

For JD please [Click here](#)
For JD please [Click here](#)

Upcoming Dates

Council

19th September 2023 – 31st October 2023 – 12th December 2023 – 16th January 2024 – 27th February 2024 – 9th April 2024 – 21st May 2024 – 2nd July 2024 (Subject to change)

Gerald Burden - Gen Sec