

Huddle Area – South Wilts	Date – 25 Sept 2023 Zoom
Attendees / Clubs Marlborough, Wheatsheaf, Pewsey Vale D&W: Dave Wookey (chair), RFU: John Constable, Apologies Scott Sturdy, Ben Smith (on a W&G meeting), Devizes, Amesbury, Warminster (illness) Salisbury	
<u>Actions from Last meeting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bids for support – all – None forthcoming • Womens competition bids – All Womens Team leads – Nothing heard so assume all went to Emma Santer • Payment of Players – All clubs - all completed • Interest in Womens 10's – Nothing heard • Volunteers needed to help run Dorset & Wilts. https://dwrugby.co.uk/vacancies/ - More will be added to this page. – still more needed, including possibly role of Area rep for S Wilts at next season or one after 	
<u>Agenda</u> <p>1 GMS status – cleanse of non-members etc, ensure data is updated – especially players Clubs must ensure that data is cleansed from non returners during first half of the season – we say by Christmas. Be careful NOT to remove relationships when removing from club!! With the prospective of adult player re-registration/self registration its important that players can access their records. If you find duplicates or issues let me know and I can easily show you how to clear the issue or if cant be done locally how to get the RFU to clear them. Comment that GMS is unworkable for registrations requiring V12 and full GMS to be used for registration, well V12 will go out of use once the self registration comes in. just like it has for Age Grade, so all club registrars will have to do is approve and then assign to team. RFU rep reported that this is awaiting some work by FSI (the GMS developers) before it can be brought in for next season. He and some clubs worry that players wont comply as all they want to do is play rugby, a considerable debate followed on whether registration should be required below L7, however all agreed that there was concern about nomadic players. [Additional Comment from Mike Banfield: I'm for adult player registrations being online even though I know it will be difficult with some who try to do on phones or don't have lap tops. I get that maybe at level 10 there may be a need for the previous NER type players. Paper forms and paper match cards have to be a thing of the past !]</p> <p>2 AG registration (Sorry Wheats, I know this isn't you) Marlborough struggling with U16, have new Girls sides, overall about 70% reregistration done Pewsey started this week so not started yet Amesbury at week 2, over 30 attending at U6 to U12, about 50% re-registered</p> <p>3 AG comps temporary suspension – hope to reconvene with new formats as soon as possible – maybe in new year- see Hamish Mortons video</p> <p>4 Pitch condition Wheatsheaf still no ground usable. May have ability to have ground transferred to a sports organisation which allows them to play – discussions ongoing, hopefully be able to play at home in new year and hopefully in a position to apply for grants etc. Others not having issues at moment – its rained on the hard ground</p>	

[Additional note from Mike Banfield: At Marlborough, we're slowly working towards a 3rd training area although the next stage of level with top soil is proving difficult (mainly H&S issues of fencing off common for lorries delivering the soil !!)]

5 Senior mens leagues and cups

Game On rather than W/O, talk to League Secs before cancellation.

Can now only bring fixtures forward not move back – even by mutual consent. (Have to wonder how this encourages games to be played – after all this is lower level rugby)

Flexibility? Especially when clubs want to observe Remembrance. Possibility of Abuse is likely reason.

6 Senior Womens leagues and potential cup

Walk over situation worse as less games

Cup starts this week, cup/plate. No input on that at the meeting

7 RugbySafe and Safeguarding reports - There is a RugbySafe

questionnaire on GMS to be completed by clubs (like the safeguarding one, this will be an annual submission)

robinnathan2@gmail.com email of CB RS lead, please contact for any queries

all teams must have a first aider home and away this season.

If clubs have first aid qualified people encourage to put qualification on self service and give First Aider role on GMS and in team

8 RFU staff input – courses available for Coaching

Course Name	Start Date	URLs
England Rugby Coaching Award- Marlborough College	8 Oct	
England Rugby Coaching Award- Milton Abbey	22 Oct	https://bit.ly/46pH5Vl
England Rugby Coaching Award- Salisbury RFC	23 Oct	https://bit.ly/46pH5Vl
England Rugby Referee Award- Salisbury RFC	26 Oct	https://bit.ly/3NEMWhc
England Rugby Referee Award- Milton Abbey School	29 Oct	https://bit.ly/3Xy7Kf9
England Rugby Referee Award- Marlborough College	12 Nov	https://bit.ly/43gHozr
England Rugby Coaching Award- Warminster School	19 Nov	https://bit.ly/3NZn4Oy

RFU Rep will follow up with other comments to be added later which will be shared

9 Refereeing – I can ask someone from Society to join

Coverage for games, look after the ref as there are a rarity!! DWRFURS try to cover everything but referee abuse will end up with no ref.

Comment from Chair Refs on DLV and discipline on abuse:

“so far no noticeable increase in red cards and no trend toward the DLV. Games I’ve seen, a few Y/C but again not a worrying amount. Quite a few of the clubs invited refs to pre season training events, which I think worked well”

10 AOB

Only AOB I had was the reminder about 17 year olds playing Senior Rugby, to make sure forms submitted in a timely manner and if its same person on a second season both forms must be completed (Reg is not clear on this part)

[Additional note from MikeBanfield: On the 17 year olds playing senior rugby, the process needs clarification as it now seems to be just an online request but it is not clear who sees the approval. I've done 3 as the coach now but not had the approval ? Who is it supposed to go to ? Seems like only parent gets it which seems wrong to me and should be all on the online form.] – *This does need sorting, the smartsheet system is derived at RFU so D&W approvers have no control over who receives the response.*

Actions

- GMS cleanse and player logons
- Clubs to monitor DLV

Date of next meeting: I would like next meeting to be early Dec by which time the RFU Cup Comps will be planned fully and DW ones have started all except 1 area. **I am suggesting 11 Dec at 7 PM via Zoom**

Hopefully that I haven't missed anything or misquoted anyone

Governance

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION.

We have successfully found a volunteer for the diversity and inclusion lead. Ben Shuker from Chippenham rfc has had all the volunteer paperwork approved and I have interviewed him by phone. He will need an email address and to be added to the Dorset & Wilts website. Ben has requested any information from D&W and RFU and would be willing to undertake training but would need help with any cost attached to that.

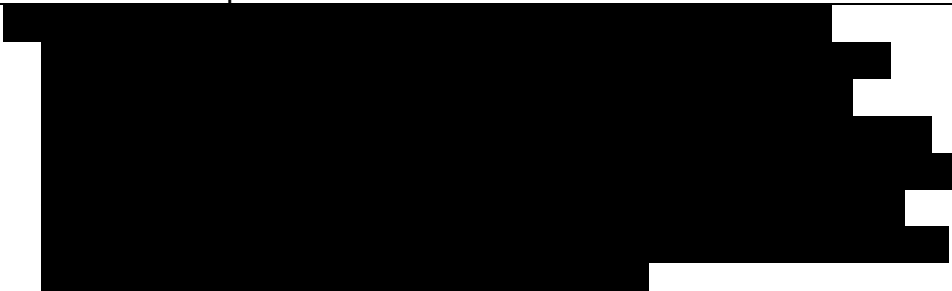
SAFEGUARDING.

I have been in contact with a perspective volunteer who has completed the volunteer forms but now does not want to take part in an interview. I have sent out forms to another candidate and am waiting for them to get back to me.

Previous month's activity:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Play it safe courses booked for the following dates and places.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Blandford 16/10/23b) Corsham 18/10/23c) Dorchester 25/8/23d) Bridport 6/11/23e) Devizes 8/11/23 ? Nicola McCombe to deliver?f) Chippenham waiting on dateg) Bournemouth waiting on dateh) Other courses as clubs request and as per needs using GMS records to see where needs are higher. Unsure where the RED RAG rating on the agenda/ minutes? has come from as courses are booked by the clubs depending on needs, venues as available, most clubs are able to fill 75% of a course by themselves so being led by the clubs not by region.i) Sherborne course was rebooked but again had to be postponed due to lack of numbers booked on. Minimum if 10
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attendees needed, 5 days before course date or the RFU cancel them. 6 week lead time for new bookings: This is highly frustrating and I fail to see the need for 6 weeks. It takes less than 15 mins to add a new course to the diary and I have asked Tim on multiple occasions to book a course at 5 weeks notice but have been refused.

- j) Clubs are able to contact a tutor using the tutor map, but cannot book a course. JF books the course as soon as dates identified and details sent by club.
- 2) New Safeguarding tutor being trained based at Marlborough, may be able to deliver after Christmas but sadly the process appears to be exceedingly slow from expression of interest to being able to be deployed.
- 3) **CSO calls** have been pre-planned but JF is unable to access the Zoom call without Gerald. Sadly Gerald did not attend the first one which was planned and no communication with Gerald or Chris was possible. This was a vital first call for all newly recruited CSO/CSA. JF is calling each of them individually to chat about any issues arising from the first few weeks of the season. JF will hold a meeting for all new CSO next week on Teams. If this continues to be an issue then JF will look at alternatives as many CSO had given up valuable time to attend as well as CBSM time.
- 4) JF Waiting on information to be able to deliver the **Bystander training**, Chased Scott Sturdy again, he is OOO until 2nd Oct.
- 5) Emailed Gerald to ask him to book a venue for the **CSO training/Conference** -No Response. Can this be looked at please? Venue previously suggested was Pewsey Vale?
- 6) **Approvals for 17-year-olds.** Using the RFU Smartsheet approval online, it has been advised this week that the RFU portal one is only updated once every 2/3 weeks. Luckily, I have been keeping a live document of my own for all D&W Approvals, club approvals, festival approvals, age grade combining, playing up and down. I am clearing the 17yr ones after checking details and often discussions with the coaches whilst Joe Walsh is still able to approve all of the other approvals as he is able to access online. He is unable to assist with face-to-face audits as he is out of the country.
- 7) No applications to note for Assistant CBSM. One enquiry but he didn't follow up. Need to recruit someone to help with audits as not sustainable for JF to do them all on her own. Needs to be someone with comprehensive safeguarding knowledge that will investigate the detail at clubs rather than the surface.
- 8) D&W website has many out-of-date links and a strange thing on the safeguarding page. Can we please have it updated with this year's info and can the button be a different colour to all the other buttons. Clubs are being asked to prioritise Safeguarding on their front pages and as a CB we should be no different. Where is the Policy that was put forward last year and the volunteer recruitment policy? This should be easily accessible on the page along with the Volunteer application form, festival form and the links for the playing 17 yr old as adults forms. I will provide the updated information. Is there any way that I can be given access to update my own pages? I currently update the Dorset Healthcare ones at work

	<p>9) Audits for last year are being reviewed to ensure clubs have completed set tasks, plan for this years audits has been drawn up and is being sent to clubs this week. We officially only need to do 10% but am aiming to have completed all clubs by the end of the season as the listed ones below were completed last year, this will give us a good base to assess where we need extra county-wide training or improvements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Dorset Dockers b) Lytchett c) Salisbury d) Bournemouth (DW Completed) e) Blandford f) Oakmeadians g) Poole h) Wimborne i) Trowbridge (Completed by DB but results never provided JF to revisit this year) j) Weymouth <p>10) Introduction to safeguarding is now a yearly requirement and a prerequisite to booking Play it safe or DBS application. Some delays within GMS for it to be recorded which is causing issues. Advised clubs to raise ticket.</p> <p>11) Safeguarding Self audit- Still have Colerne, Salisbury and Minety to submit. All have been spoken to and messaged to have this completed. East Dorset Dockers and Calne do not currently have this available in GMS but are waiting on RFU to add.</p> <p>12) First Aid risk assessment- I have been requested in previous years to withhold permission for festivals and tours unless this is up to date, not been advised this year, do I need to push this again?</p>
Current Budget update:	<p>None spent Can we look at a new laptop for JF as the one currently being used is now very slow?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conference planning once venue available. Need Attendee parcels.
Proposed Activity (including estimated cost)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Webpages need updating, JF providing details to be uploaded. 2. Checks for all D&W coaches to be carried out. Need this year's list as not been advised if last year's are continuing. All need to have DBS and attend play it safe. Updated list to be provided urgently please 3. Audits for Chippenham, Corsham and Bridport to be completed. Forms going out this week for clubs to start the process and ensure all in place ready for an onsite visit. 4. CSO Training session/ Conference to be booked and planned. RFU team to attend if possible waiting on date from Gerald. 5. Completion of Audit for Blandford following review next week of additional requirements needed.
Not for Publication	

	4.	[REDACTED]
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Paperwork received from Hayley Bell (Head of Service Trowbridge Town Council) who is interested in the safeguarding post

Certificate of Achievement from www.virtual-college.co.uk in the following

Keep them Safe – Protecting Children from Child Sexual Exploitation

Level 1 Safeguarding Adults

Gang Related Issues and County Lines

Female Genital Mutilation: recognising and Preventing FGM

Awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse Training

HMRC – Prevent Referrals Course

Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership – Safer Recruitment Course

ANTI DOPING & ILLICIT DRUGS

I have tried to contact Rich Elliot on many occasions. I have requested we meet to update his section of D&W website. No response.

DISCIPLINARY

Case table attached

GB & Ron Jones attended the Disciplinary Conference at Wyboston in September.

Planning a D&W Conference next month at Salisbury (Date to be confirmed)

GMS.

Reports independently.

GDPR.

All policies and Procedures need updating on website.

RUGBY SAFE.

I have contacted every club in the CB to introduce myself and confirm that they have an RSL in place.

I have contacted 40 clubs - thus far 8 have either not responded or do not have a named RSL in place. However, going through GMS it appears that not all of the remaining 32 clubs has updated GMS with the name of the RSL so it is tricky to be certain at this time.

I have been to see the RSL at Pewsey and to give him some advice on getting up to speed with requirements.

I have had countless phone calls and WhatsApp exchanges with many clubs fielding questions and offering advice - some of it not necessarily what the clubs wanted to hear but in reality what they needed to hear!

I am still not entirely convinced that I have a complete list of all the clubs of which I am meant to have oversight.

Dave W has been really helpful and showed me how to access reports via a Teams call, but i havent managed to replicate what he showed me! He did suggest that i look on the CB website as this will have a complete list of all the clubs within the CB, which I have done, but this differs ever so slightly to the lists that I have been given previously.

(Currently updating the club contact section of the website)

WEBSITE.

The website is missing crucial information. Safeguarding should have its own button and all the information should be easy to find. There is no mention of county lines, 1 of the biggest problems in the 12 to 18 age group. No information on mental wellbeing. Most deaths in the under 35s is suicide. There is information in areas that is not easily found and some in the wrong place. Is there a chance that I could get onto website to change the sections I am supposed to be dealing with.

Safeguarding has had a direct link on the home page to their page for a couple of years now. There are currently 22 buttons on the home page of the website with direct links to their own pages.

Regarding the website content, we have continuously requested all sections to update their pages, for example it is recorded in the Council minutes for the 19th of September 2022 that I asked Safeguarding to update their page. This request has been repeated at nearly every Council meeting since.

Without the correct content being supplied by each section, we cannot update the website.

Under 18's Girls

Dorset & Wilts. Plan

2022-2023

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 Completed	
Dec-April	Create Clusters	Complete

10th June Face to Face Forum

Managers & Coaches Complete 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
Discussed at forum – revisit next time
Gender Specific. changing rooms
Yes – 1 – No – 6 – Other – 4
Several set up changing rooms when needed.
Discussed at forum – revisit next Forum
Tacklesafe Course A number require this course
Course set up for 22nd of August – at Sherborne RFC. 7pm-9pm

July for 2023/2024 Season

Cluster Who will host and which month Currently waiting for dates to come in.
Ongoing

First Cluster: Dorchester RFC 17/09/23

Abandoned due to weather

There would have been approx. 60 girls attending with only three U12's.

Next Cluster North Dorset 15/10/23

I have drawn up a timetable for Clusters as the Age Bands have different timings under Rule 15.I hope to use time after train and play to for related activities.

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 Ongoing
 - To filter information to Huddle leads
 - To create a Girls Huddle Group Ongoing
- Create a working group to help oversee some of the activities under the U12-U18 Girls

Lead

- Identify group members. Ongoing

U18

- **Meeting Gordon/Kate 09/08/23**
- **Staff ratio**
- **Logistics**
- **Head Coach Gordon Horsley, Assistant Coaches Owen Richardson & Nick Matravers**
- **Manager: Kate Berry**
- **Physios have upcoming dates:**
- **Jenni Fleming**
- **James Lovell**
- **Budget £2,000 Completed 09/08/23**

Nomination form has been sent to clubs to be followed by schools.

Emphasis on Managers/Coaches and Teachers nominate. Only girls that fit the criteria should be put forward to the development/pre-assessment evening in October. There are two venues and then 40 players will be selected to go to County trials the following week.

D&W ERDPP U16 Girls

- **Interviews for new Staff (South)**
- **Completion of necessary paperwork**
- **Collate Nominations**
- **Dates Confirmed**
- **Staff appointed**
- **Collation completed**
- **As of 4th September:**

North:

- **12 Returning players**
- **24 new players**
- **6 on call back**

South:

- **7 returning players**
- **26 new players**
- **1 on call back in November** Ongoing

- Using RFU Proactive
- SHED with Bath University starting
- In October.
- All players completing Headcase
- Stash currently being arranged,
- Potentially with sponsors.

Parents leaflet

Player Questionnaire – information to be disseminated

Registration form for each attendance:

Includes ,when they last played and if they are carrying an injury.

Specific targeted U12 engagement

- Supported by the RFU

Ongoing:

Starting with first Cluster at Dorchester – Sunday 15th September

- Train/Game within time allotted
- Followed by Team building

Bra, gumshield fitting

September – Trowbridge RFC

October – a Dorchester RFC

- Claire MacCarron organising
- All Booby doo staff have current DBS certificates

First Event held at Trowbridge on Sunday 3rd September. This was attended by 40 participants (65 signed up) ideally we need 50.

Next event will be held on 1st October at Dorchester RFC.

Budgets

Confirm

- Liaise with County Treasurer to ensure smooth system for paying out for resources and expenses.

Ongoing

So far this has been going well.

Visit all Girls clubs during Season

September U12 Grant Clubs informed

The RFU are giving another 74 clubs in England grants as well as those that have already been given.

Liase with Olivia Jenkins from the RFU to promote girls, particularly the U12's.

September 25th Virtual D&W Managers & Coaches meeting

Items added to the agenda are, amount of time players play each week and Player eligibility for County.

Community Rugby

<p>Previous month's activity:</p>	<p><u>Dorset and Wilts Cup Competitions</u></p> <p>The Competitions Committee held a meeting on 21st August the minutes of which are attached in a separate document.</p> <p>The initial draws for the Counties 2 and Counties 3 South Cups were drawn and are available to view on the link below;</p>
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<https://www.englandrugby.com/fixtures-and-results/search-results?competition=85&season=2023-2024#fixtures>

Dorset and Wilts Leagues

The Dorset and Wilts leagues consisting of 3 x Counties 2 and 3 x Counties 3 have all now completed at least 2 match weekends. Of the scheduled 50 games 8 have not been completed due to walkovers. To witness a 16% fail rate in match completion at this stage of the season is one that raises some concerns and will need to be closely monitored by the league secretaries and huddle leads going forward. It is worth noting that Bridport are yet to play a game, having conceded a game and their opposition forfeiting on the other occasion.

Merit Tables

The Dorset Friendly Matrix has once again been set up by John Constable and is ready for the season.

Tribute

The September Tribute TOTM award will begin its nomination/voting process after the games due to be played on 30th September. At present we are still awaiting confirmation on the delivery of the slabs of Tribute from the brewery

NOTES OF MEETING (ON LINE)

DORSET & WILTS RFU COMPETITIONS MANAGEMENT GROUP

HELD ON 21 AUGUST 2023

PRESENT:

C.Jones J.Constable A.Morrison R.Jones S.Macey D.Wookey M.Moysey

1. 2023/24 LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

No known issues from teams as of yet but all League Secs ready to respond as season commences from 3 September.

Some concern over availability of referees in early weeks with allocating of referees still progressing for September matches.

2. RFU NATIONAL CUP COMPETITIONS 2023/24

JC updated proposed entry window for this seasons competitions will be much earlier and likely to be October/November with draws undertaken subsequently so clubs should have a much earlier indication of likely opposition/ venues etc

Also intended RFU webinars to explain the intended process for this season to be provided in September but yet to be confirmed.

3. DORSET & WILTS CUP COMPETITIONS 2023/24

Further to request to all clubs to provide their expression of interest in taking part in competitions during the season some form of response now received from all but two clubs (BOA, Supermarine)

Entries for Counties 2 Level : 22

Entries for Counties 3 Level (South) : 11

It was agreed CJ/DW/MM to meet on Thursday next to undertake the draws for these two competitions.

Entries for Counties 3 (North & Central) Due to the conflict between dates for league matches and those we have allocated in season for cup rounds it is not practical to commence any competition for these leagues until the second half of the season .

This allows more time to ensure all potential entrants are accounted for
Potential to hold a play off between South & North/Central winners at end of season.

Some interest also shown from Regional 2 & Counties 1 teams but any decision on D&W competitions to be pended until full implications of Papa John cups entry process known.

Confirmed cup weekend dates as:

October 14
November 18
February 24
April 13
April 20
April 27

MM to ask G.Burden / A.Hunter to invoice clubs based on current competition entry positions.

Based on the entries in the two competitions to be drawn this week this amounts to £1,570

4. COMPETITION REGULATIONS & D&W DE REGS

D&W de Regs submitted to SW Region.

RFU have issued a summary of any changes to regulations on a national basis.

D&W Cup Regs to be reviewed and circulated to all clubs

5. AGE GRADE COMPETITIONS

AG rugby management structure in process of being revised and Hamish Morton now in post as AG Lead.

Agreed to invite HM to attend meeting with this group to understand if there is any possible assistance that can be provided with AG competitions.

CJ to contact.

6. WOMENS & GIRLS COMPETITIONS

New lead for W&G Rugby is Emma Santer with Aimee Dallyn as deputy. In addition Caroline Durston will take a lead role for girls U12 to U18.

As with AG above continue to offer assistance to W&G on any competition related matters.

CJ to contact ES

Submission for CB Council meeting Sept 2023

These points were to be raised at the meeting on 26 September which was cancelled/postponed.

The suggested date on 10 October coincides with a holiday I have booked so will be unable to attend. I therefore submit these for discussion at Council. I don't like missing meetings and this will be the second I have missed this season, which is a very bad show on my behalf, but in this case (as was the last) family first.

1 System parity between Mens and Womens transfer procedures

Sean and John Constable are aware of this issue already.

I quote a comment made by a colleague in another CB following a concern we both had following an attempt to get a transfer through – I had to ask Bob for the contact at the other club for mine by the way as I had no way of obtaining it.

“Having been an Adult Registrar on GMS for many years, I am very familiar with the male player registration system on V12. Recently, I was asked to train a new volunteer as a Female Adult Registrar, which I did and she went ahead to try to register 2 new players who had been previously registered at another club.

In the adult mens administration, this is an easy task for volunteers to just click "yes please" to the GMS prompt in V12 which asks "Do you want to initiate a player transfer?". You click yes please, the Transfer Request Form is generated automatically by the system and is sent to the relevant Adult Registrar at the other club informing them of the players' intent to change clubs. And the re-registration follows automatically over the next 7 days, with GMS re-assigning the player to the new club's GMS system and letting the new Registrar know the date of effective registration. This is a simple and efficient system which I assumed was the same for all players.

It appears not to be so.

Female players, I am reliably told by GMS Trainer Dave Wookey cannot be transferred in this way. When I tried to transfer the player, I received a message to contact Bob Morrision, at the RFU Women's Results & Registrations Office, which I did. He explained that I needed to:

1. Fill in a paper copy of the RFU Registration Form for the Player and obtain a wet signature
2. Email it to him so that he could initiate the transfer
3. Fill in a paper copy of the Player Transfer Form and send to the Registrar of the previous club to gain consent from them to transfer
4. Wait the required 7 days AFTER receipt of paperwork to receive confirmation of player registration.

Despite this seeming ridiculously lengthy and not possible for new volunteers to manage well (ie they have no idea who to send the transfer forms to at "previous clubs"?), we followed these instructions and sent the paperwork to Bob. It transpires the paperwork did not arrive until the Monday (the player was due to play that Sunday, we had explained this to Bob) and so we were sent an Expediation charge of £45 (needed in order to "speed things up" and achieve the registration transfer by the Sunday. We (reluctantly) accepted this and were then further told that the link for the payment could not be sent to us until the previous club had confirmed their consent to release the player - which of course, previous clubs are not motivated to send through in a timely manner so there is very little chance of that happening.

The upshot of all this is a huge amount of extra volunteer time and effort being needed to transfer a female player over the extremely simple and efficient way for a male player - on the SAME system (GMS v12) with the SAME software to deal with this - and the impact is that these two ladies will NOT be able to play in their game this Sunday, whereas, for any male adult player, they would have be facilitated to play.

This seems to me to be a clear discriminatory issue - surely, if we are serious about Volunteer Retention, Growing the Female Game, and Player Participation there should be NO DIFFERENCE at all in the registration process for male and female players?"

I wonder how many D&W clubs have been caught by the this antiquated procedure? I have had to do it a few times now for Amesbury and the first time I could not find any explanation or instruction on this for Women, when for Men its simple and automatic

2 Huddle Meetings

As lead area rep I will try to drop in on as many huddle meetings as possible – if online! As such if the other huddle leads can let me know when meetings are taking place and share post meeting notes with me so I can format the required council report I would appreciate it. These are only notes and not “minutes” so require no sign off by attendees, just the facilitators recollection of the conversations.

3 – RFU SW staff involvement – or lack thereof

My last few meetings have been without input from RFU despite being assured they would be there and no prior notice to pass out was given. This last meeting I had 2 attendees from RFU who then said they were on the wrong meeting and had to attend the W&G meeting, Surely one could have remained with me as RFU support – which I wanted input from last evening as it happened – and 1 attending the W&G meeting (I was aware of a W&G meeting as Aimee apologised for her non attendance at mine. Scott had stated that Ben would cover my meeting. Either RFU will support D&W or not, but we need to know which

4 - Reg 15: 17 year olds playing Senior Rugby

This arises from recent conversations where the regulation is not clear that if a player had been approved in previous season and requires further approval for this season (not yet 18) BOTH forms are required for the second approval – if already considered OK at club level previously that seems a duplication. Also the smartsheet forms are returned to the parent but not to the submitter it appears. The system is set up by RFU so Julie has no input to that. I am aware John has already raised this at RFU level but feel from a club PoV it would be beneficial to ensure the approval is returned to the submitter as well as whoever else are the standard returns to.

5 – Adult Registration 2024 onwards

Would be great if RFU could get something out on this soon. I have clubs asking why we are still insisting on paper hardcopy forms which carry personal data and risk compromise in 2023 when Age Grade is all on line. There is beginning to get confusing over Affiliated seniors and Registered Seniors/age grade!

Also, I would like to find out what will happen to players not requiring effective registration but need assigning to teams – Non standard formats such as Walking Rugby, Touch, Mixed ability, sevens and 10s teams.

I will be raising this through my own channels but want CB to be aware its becoming an issue both within D&W and outside and the longer its delayed the worse it will get. The secondary point below is for us as CB council to consider though and maybe submit to RFU as a CB point

Now, I don't hold with the panicking worries of some that clubs wont have players if its left to players to re-register, but do wonder if that element is necessary, the important thing is self-registration in the first instance as I am hearing reports of club registering players without the players knowledge – thus ticking the signature seen box on V12 when clearly they hadn't (We had a player start with us found he had been registered with another club without his knowledge – he had played summer sevens with them but that does not require effective registration!!) – this last point could be a disciplinary issue but would never be found positive!

Just wanted to respond with some follow up information to your notes ahead of next week's meeting;

Transfer process

- I have made enquiries on clarification for this and awaiting responses
- RFU SW Support
 - Yes, there was a conflict with 2 D&W events happening on the same night. It was felt that Ben's support was best placed on the W&G Forum for a number of reasons, including opportunity for introduction to them, identification of potential support, supporting the D&W leads with the both the event on the night and future engagement programme. I believe Ben did touch base with you following your huddle to see if there was anything he could support with. In terms of optimum support, the numbers of attending clubs was greater on the W&G call than your huddle.
 - Scott did notify you that he was on annual leave.
- 17 year olds playing Adult rugby
 - To clarify, the club approval is required every season. Without this a player can't play adult rugby at that club. The player approval is only required one time. Once they are approved as an individual that is in place until their 18th birthday, even if it spans two seasons. The system sends approval/decline messages back to:
For club approval/decline – Club Sec or Chair (whichever countersigned the application) and CSO

For player approval/decline – Proposer and Parent (as submitted on the application)

I hope this provides some answers to the queries raised.

NMcC

Volunteer Recruitment Programme Update

Email text from Stephanie Alimark

I am just getting in touch to let you know that the Volunteer Recruitment Programme will open for applications on Monday 16th October – Friday 24th November.

This is the second season the programme will run and as a reminder it provides clubs with the opportunity to apply for funding (£500) and access a range of resources, to help plan and deliver a volunteer recruitment activity. This could be a volunteer open evening, a volunteer work party, targeted marketing & communications, or another idea that meets the aim of the programme.

The objectives of the programme are to help:

1. Create new opportunities to recruit volunteers
2. Raise awareness of volunteer opportunities amongst new audiences
3. Embed volunteer management in clubs working practices

Clubs (National League 1 & below), Constituent Bodies and Referee Societies* can apply for the fund, with the opportunity for up to 130 organisations in the 23-24 season to receive a support package of £500, along with access to online learning modules and resources to plan a successful volunteer recruitment activity.

** Please note that organisations are only eligible for a one-off grant of £500 across the 3 years*

Once applications have closed, we will share which clubs have applied from your area, so that you can highlight if there are any clubs who should not receive funding, prior to the assessment process.

I will be back in touch to share a link to the website, including application form, once live next Monday, so that you can share with your clubs but if you have any questions in the meantime please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks as always for your support,

Proposed date for the Volunteers & League Awards Evening

7th July 2024 at NDRFC



RFU Council Representative

Previous month's activity:	<p>Couple of Points from Adult Competition Management Sub- committee that I sit on-</p> <p>Concern over the number of 17 years olds who have played Adult rugby in the first 3 weeks of the season- have they all been 'signed-off' to play?</p> <p>Also, still high level of Match Official Abuse- can we please make sure everyone is supporting the referees where possible, especially Colts/Age Grade games.</p> <p>The Men's league Pre-Season briefing pack needs to be circulated again and will be followed up with 2 further editions as the season progresses.</p> <p>Webinars in early October around the Papa Johns Cup for this season- Regional leagues on October 2nd and Counties level October 4. Suggest as many clubs attend as possible.</p> <p>Also, sessions are coming up to explain the changes being proposed and to get feedback back around player registration for next season. Invites have gone out in the CGU but these need flagging again. (Dates- 9th October -Regional level, 11th October- Counties level and 16th October- Merit table- split 6pm- Players, 7pm- Team selectors etc.)</p> <p>RFU Council meeting on Friday 29th Sept so post meeting will share some notes as usual.</p> <p>As part of this meeting we will be getting an update on the Community Game future and also on the Schools Review which has been undertaken recently. Also we will be updated on the recommendations after the Tackle Height Lessons Capture Review.</p>
Current Budget update:	n/a
Proposed Activity (including estimated cost)	Continued attendance at meetings where possible, especially Cluster meetings (much easier if virtual), visit clubs and general pick up information around the current state of the game and our clubs.

AGE GRADE

4. Matters Arising – responses to HM actions below:

Description	Who	Comments	Status
CSU financial assistance request	HM	Done. JC, NM & HM met with CSU (Andy Marriott and Janet Edwards) and they have requested £1590 to provide pitch side medical cover and balls to state schools. Please see 2 supporting documents attached – CSU activity and dates; CSU funding request.	Green

		ACTIONS: For discussion at Council. Decide whether to provide funding (partial or full) and respond to CSU request.	
Under 17-18's Cup competition	HM/GH/NE	U18s (Colts) competition has been arranged by NE and has started. However, clubs have not paid their entry fees. ACTIONS: For discussion at Council. Options include suspending fixtures for clubs that have not paid; send invoices to clubs that have entered.	RED
Revised date – HM to hold an Age Grade meeting via Zoom on the 18 th of September. To allow time for his report to be compiled the Council planned for the 19th will be moved back 7 days to the 26th of September.	HM/JMc/CB/GB	Done. 100 attendees to the Age Grade Forum. Recording available from GB along with the chat room Q&A. ACTIONS: 1. Online survey to be created and sent to D&W AGR landscape (all stakeholders). 2. Organise Huddles in November to discuss competitive opportunities (some clubs have offered to host these already)	Green
Club visits	All	Attended Bath U14 Festival at NDRFC on Sunday 24 September. Met with Matt Lishman at Bath RFC to discuss DPP and RDPPG along with other items. Met coaches from Devizes, NDRFC and Swans.	

8. Age Grade (HM)

Activity included in item 4 (matters arising). In addition I have completed/planned the following:

Month	Activity	Action
September	Hosted AGR Forum online. 100 attendees. Supported by RFU development staff (NM & BS).	Create and share online D&W AGR Survey in October (HM, BS) Book Huddles in November (HM)
	Attended CB Club Advisory Group (online). Discussed competitions in neighbouring CBs. Most CBs do not have competition until after Christmas. All CBs have limited competitive opportunities. Hardly any have cups, most have leagues.	Consider models of good practice for competitive opportunities from neighbouring CBs as well as nationwide (HM)
	Attended W&G Managers and Coaches meeting online	

	Attended Bath Rugby U14 Festival at D&W RFU. Met with Matt Lishman and various club volunteers.	Use DPP curriculum to create guidebook for club coaches (HM)
October	Consult with D&W AGR including players, coaches, managers, clubs, schools Invite clubs to enter interim competitive opportunities in January 2023 (U14, U15, U16) Competitive opportunities for U12 and U13 will be festivals (use existing festival "series")	
November	Use consultation responses to inform Huddles and insight further discussion Finalise competitive opportunities for U12-U16 for January 2023 Recruit competition volunteer team (D&W Matchmakers)	
December	Review findings from survey and Huddle meetings to create 5 year D&W AGR Strategy focused on Player Centred, Development Driven, Competition Supported	
January	Finalise competitive opportunities for 2024-25 season D&W Matchmakers tasked with organising these competitive opportunities	

I would like to organise Huddles at the following clubs (offered to me during or after the AGR Forum on 18 Sept):

- West Dorset at Dorchester (Jo Brookes offered)
- East Dorset at Bournemouth (Dan McKrill offered)
- NE Wiltshire at Royal Wootton Bassett (can't find the message but someone offered)
- West Wiltshire at Trowbridge (Graham Busson offered)
- South Wilts at Salisbury (Mike Rigby offered)

I guess the lead volunteer can be asked to help organise too.

They can be held on any of the following dates (one per evening so I can attend all), I don't mind which is when just whatever works for each host club:

- Mon 6 Nov
- Thur 9 Nov
- Mon 13 Nov
- Thur 16 Nov
- Mon 20 Nov
- Thur 23 Nov
- Mon 27 Nov
- Thur 30 Nov

If they can start at 7pm it will give me (and others) time to get there after work.

D&W RFU September 2023

Teams at Risk

The following teams have been identified as teams at risk based on engagement with the club and data – registered players etc

Women's Teams

Devizes

Trowbridge

AGR Affiliation Numbers

Nationally 111,000

D&W – 4,130

Club	Total
Salisbury RFC	324
North Dorset RFC	310
Wimborne RFC	305
Royal Wootton Bassett RFC	287
Chippenham RFC	270
Oakmeadians RFC	266
Bournemouth RFC	214
Supermarine RFC	208
Sherborne RFC	190
Dorchester RFC	181
Trowbridge RFC	173

Devizes RFC	173
Marlborough RFC	169
Bradford-on-Avon RFC	165
Melksham RFC	161
Corsham RFC	136
Bridport RFC	125
Swanage & Wareham RFC	118
Blandford RFC	76
Lytchett Minster RFC	75
Weymouth & Portland RFC	67
Cricklade RFC	63
Colerne RFC	58
Minety RFC	54
Warminster RFC	53
Poole RFC	49
Swindon RFC	41
Amesbury RFC	39
Swindon College Old Boys RFC	18
Pewsey Vale RFC	5
East Dorset Dockers RFC	2
Christchurch RFC	2
Calne RFC	1

U12 Girls

Clubs below have been successfully awarded the U12 start up grants for 23/24 (£500 and kit package).

Devizes

Dorchester

Oakmedians

Royal Wootton Bassett

Salisbury

PJ Cup Webinars

Clubs have until 28th September to sign up to PJ Cup webinars for updates on the competition for this season.

2 October exclusively for clubs competing at Regional 1 and Regional 2 level.

4 October exclusively for clubs competing at Counties 1 and below

International Ticket Allocation Process

Please note that the total number of tickets allocated to each section of the Game and the policy that at least 50% of the tickets for each match are available to the Game, remains unchanged. Your allocation is for each England international played at Twickenham Stadium.

RFU Voting Clubs

- Every voting club receives an initial allocation of **six tickets**.
- Each voting club with an aggregate total of 30 players or more at U13 and below correctly affiliated on GMS, will receive an additional **two tickets**.
- **All remaining tickets** to be divided between voting clubs, based on the number of 15 a side games played by the club (male and female teams). U14 -U18 age grade teams are limited to a maximum credit of 16 matches per season in accordance with the RFU Age Grade Code of Practice. The club must have enough affiliated players on GMS to fulfill the number of fixtures stated.

The 28 Geographic CBs

- Every geographic CB receives an initial allocation of **20 tickets**.
- **All remaining tickets** to be divided between geographic CBs, based on the number of 15 a side games played by their clubs. U14 -U18 age grade teams are limited to a maximum credit of 16 matches per season in accordance with the RFU Age Grade Code of Practice.

Referees Societies

- Every voting society receives an initial allocation of **six tickets**.
- All remaining tickets to be divided between voting referee's societies, based on the number of games the society appoints to.

NMcC

<u>REF No</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLUB</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>OUTCOME</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>DID THE CLUB REPORTED INCIDENT ON TIME</u>
DW23-24/001	02/09/2023	Weymouth & Portland	Seniors	Ryan Lewendon	2 yellows cards - 9.13 & 9.14	Proven	Sending off sufficient		Yes
DW23-24/002		Yeovil	Seniors	Senivalati Waqa	9.27 - Two Yellows	Unknown	Unknown	Passed to The Somerset RFU	Unknown
DW23-24/003	09/09/2023	Combe Down	Seniors	Jack Regnard	9.12 Strike	Unknown	Unknown	Passed to The Somerset RFU	Unknown
DW23-24/004		Chippenham	Seniors	David Newman	9.12 Kick	Proven	2 weeks		Yes
DW23-24/005		Frome	Seniors	Zach Bartlett	9.11	Unknown	Unknown	Passed to The Somerset RFU	Unknown
DW23-24/006		Frome	Seniors	Unknown	9.28 - MOA	Unknown	Unknown	Passed to The Somerset RFU	Unknown
DW23-24/007	10/09/2023	North Dorset	Age Grade	Huw Willetts	5.12 - MOA				Club maybe unaware of the incident
DW23-24/008	16/09/2023	Chippenham	Seniors	Alafoti Faosiliva	9.27 - Two Yellows	Proven	Sending off sufficient		Yes
DW23-24/009		Supermarine	Seniors	Tom Bickford-Russell	9.13 - High Tackle	Proven	3 match ban		
DW23-24/010		Lytchett Minster	Seniors	James O'Shea	9.28 - MOA (VMA)	Proven	4 match ban - TREDs and a letter of apology	Reported via the D&W Safeguarding Manager	No
DW23-24/011	17/09/2023	Lytchett Minster	Seniors	Jack Daniels	9.28 - MOA (VMA)		Not Proven		
DW23-24/012		Wimborne Un 18's	Age Grade				Red Card Rescinded		
DW23-24/013	00/01/1900	Wimborne Un 18's	Age Grade	Tim Collier	5.12 - MOA				
DW23-24/014	23/09/2023	Gordano	Seniors	Oliver Critchley	9.27 - Two Yellows			Passed to the Somerset RFU	
DW23-24/015		Puddletown	Seniors	Spectator	5.12 Verbal Abuse				No
DW23-24/016	24/09/2023	Chippenham v Corsham Un 14's	Age Grade	0	0	0	Both Clubs to received training	Received via the D&W website abuse reporting link	
DW23-24/017	28/09/2023	Malmsbury School	School	Joe Chambers	9.13 - Dangerous Tackle	Proven	1 match ban		
DW23-24/018	30/09/2023	RWB	Seniors	Harry Brookes	9.12 Head butt				
DW23-24/019		RWB	Seniors	Liam Dewsbury	9.12 - Kick				
DW23-24/020		Pewsey Vale	Seniors	Oliver Spence	9.12 - Punch				
DW23-24/021		Winscombe	Seniors	Oscar Browne	9.27 - Two Yellows			Pewsey Vale	
DW23-24/022		Salisbury 2's	Seniors		9.27 - Two Yellows				
DW23-24/023	08/10/2023	Bournemouth Un16's	Age Grade						