

Dorset & Wilts RFU

Club Huddle notes and club feedback



Huddle Area – South Wilts	Date – 10-May 2022 At Pewsey Vale RFC
Attendees / Clubs Amesbury: Devizes: Marlborough: Pewsey Vale: Salisbury: Wheatsheaf: D&W: Dave Wookey (chair), Gerald Burden, RFU: John Constable,	
First Face to Face meeting for 2 seasons – didn't it feel good to be able to chat pre and post meeting!!	
Agenda Items: GMS data cleanse Still needs to be completed. Priority is missing data and removal of persons not currently with the club (latter is a GDPR requirement) email verification still should be chased but time for those. Senior players should be asked to complete emergency contact details and the medical declaration in preparation for introduction of annual affiliation which is expected to replace registration is season 23/24. DW is available for help and advice and training sessions. Tours Reminder that time for clearances to be obtained must be given, some clubs had given 24 hours' notice which is not acceptable to CB or Union. Clubs were aware and are compliant Courses The initial coaching course have been brought forward to May, with them running through to August for new coaches. The clubs felt that it still wasn't good enough that only the windows are being offered for coaches to be trained. New coaches come along all the time and the courses should be available "on demand" by arrangement with area facilitators in order allow the game to expand and flourish at AGR and Senior levels. Safeguarding courses were asked about and these can be booked "on demand" , PiS courses via the CBSM, In Touch can be booked on regular basis via Course Finder - (Subnote on Safeguarding courses is that anyone requiring a DBS must complete the on line safeguarding course BEFORE submission of DBS application) First aid courses are continuously being required. Wheatsheaf struggle to run as don't have a facility, but PV said they need at least one and will invite others to join those. Mens league and cup issues – it was advised by SWDOC & DW Competitions Committee rep (JC) that the final rubber stamp on the leagues would be this month and fixtures should be out ASAP following that. There were concerns raised that reducing the allowed reserve players at community rugby level to 3 when professionals who have full medical and S&C care are permitted 8 is not safe and also could lead to one team clubs (we have three in this group) could result in a loss of players as insufficient competitive rugby at Level 8 & 9 given only 9 team leagues at 8 and 7 teams at 9, and also completing the league season by March will foreshorten the season too much that players may walk away from the game. Also of concern was the lack of ability to move game dates at the lower levels with the playing calendar being so fixed nationally, this resulted in games not being played this season and hence not providing rugby for the players – the whole point of league rugby! It is requested that these concerns are taken up by D&W council and Exec to the necessary levels	

Women league and cup issues

Women's leagues not yet decided on at RFU. So we still don't know whether the National Challenge divisions will be expanded, contracted or made more regional. Major concern is the travelling involved but it has to be borne in mind that the pyramid for Women's Rugby is still very flat with only Prem, Champ1, Champ2 and NC1,2,3 above the partially deregulated warrior leagues. It is of concern that as RFU run these leagues there is little flexibility allowing the advance of the Womens game, some clubs felt that league rules and regulations are in fact a hinderance to the expansion of the game as its hard to provide players for games and no ability to vary dates

Age grade Rugby – The question of numbers was asked, all clubs except PV stated they had increased numbers post Covid, and that numbers had built across the age grades during the year. Devizes noted that the Tag age grades (U7-8) were not giving the usual numbers from pre covid however. Quite why is open to debate, Is it because of recent scares in media (and social media) about Rugby injury or still covid fear? We don't know but would be interested to see if other clubs in the CB and wider have experienced the same. On the Girls front numbers are still critically low and while the super clusters are enjoyed by all players attending this does not seem to create new players for clubs. Concern is that lack of match play is an issue. I returned to the suggestion that the 5 huddles should form a team each and play each other. DW is happy to help organise matches either at sevens, tens or full fifteens level, however clubs will need to help. Clubs were made aware that the Council has a W&G representative – Brett Bader – and upcoming specific W&G huddles in June and July. While it was deemed a concern over numbers with the changes to the age grades for Girls to dual band groups plus U12 (especially at U12) would lead to lower numbers in each cohort. (My personal feeling is that wont be a concern if we develop the rugby offering.

A reminder that age grades for Girls teams will need updating on GMS over the summer!

Question asked about AG (Male) competitions, all felt as is works just fine.

Notes

Club feedback on what is needed for restart next season in way of CB support;

Salisbury: - Rep was only able to speak for Girls and reiterated that its some form of fixtures that are required. Also they felt the coach qualification would be a problem if not available at different times – see above)

Devizes: - retention and recruitment at some mixed, male & female ae grades (especially Girls at U12) hopefully future D&W forums can assist in this

Marlborough: Help with GMS training of new people needed – DW can provide – possible help with R&R much as others

Amesbury: may require some help and guidance – especially from CB – in addressing playing space with Wiltshire Council Hon sec stated they would provide any assistance and club Chair is to contact CB Hon Sec with details when available

Wheatsheaf: First Aid courses needed – see above – and concern over changes to league rules on subs, thus concerning for retention of players.

CB Huddle Officer completing the report: David Wookey

Pewsey: Need help with Coach development as are starting from the bottom up. (*Ben please can you contact them*)

1. RFU update

RFU SW staff to send as separate document as they were involved in other meetings and unable to attend

Actions

- Contact Dave for GMS training/assistance with Data Cleanse

Date of next meeting: TBA early Sept – Face to Face – any club wishing to host please let DW know ASAP - can be hybrid, but need better microphone to operate well.

Clubs to note that from next season Warminster will join this group

Hopefully that I haven't missed anything or misquoted anyone. Recording available from Gerald if anything needs checking