

## WEST DORSET RUGBY CLUBS MEETING (30<sup>th</sup> May 2022)

### INVITEES

Name	Role	Jan 22	Feb 22	Apr 22	May 22
Ed Taylor (ET)	Coordinator				
Tom Davis-Richings (TDR)	Blandford RFC	Apologies & Report		Apologies	
Julian Hussey (JH)	Bridport RFC	Apologies & Report			
Tony Foot (TF)	Dorchester RFC				
Tim Rose (TR)	North Dorset RFC			Apologies & Report	
Sam Bailey (SB)	Puddletown RFC	Apologies & Report			
Mike Trew (MT)	Sherborne RFC				
Martin Hill (MH)	Swanage & Wareham RFC				
Jon Monaghan (JM)	Weymouth & Portland RFC			Apologies	Apologies
Alison Hunter (AH)	Dorset & Wilts				
John Constable (JC)	RFU Council Rep				
Gerald Burden (GB)	Dorset & Wilts				
Chris Burton (CB)	Dorset & Wilts			Apologies	
Lizzie O Connor (LO)	RFU - Club Developer				Apologies
Caroline Durston	Ladies & Girls Rugby				
Keturah Watts (KW)	Dorset & Wilts				Apologies

## INTRODUCTION

In the period, North Dorset have won League and Vase Cup Final versus Dorset Dockers.

County Seniors versus Essex @ S&W, U17 versus Cornwall @ Dorch

## PREVIOUS ACTIONS/NOTES

**Action 2.5** - All clubs to submit their accounts to Alison Hunter D&W treasurer – **Ongoing – Note 3 currently outstanding – Sherborne, Bridport (completed ??) and Puddletown – please send to Alison ASAP**

**Action 7.4** – Club Coaches (across this group) to consolidate the coaching course required (this was initially raised by AH for Level 1 coaching request). Our local coach contact is Smudge Smith **All – Ongoing – good information provided by Sherborne, Lizzie to send Training Needs Analysis Reports to aid the process, others to complete asap. Normal business, all clubs identifying their requirements and addressing.**

**Action 7.5** – Build upon Player Recruitment Topic outputs by next meeting. **ET – Ongoing – material generated here**

**Action 8.1** - We should have get together of interested parties from our clubs to agree actions to take this forward and encourage more Ladies & Girls participation. **ET / All - Ongoing - Dorset & Wilts session held this month (see attachment) and follow up planned 9<sup>th</sup> June – IMPORTANT THAT ALL CLUBS SEND A REP TO THIS. Other L&G news, North Dorset ran a successful 10s**

**tournament with 4 teams. Dorchester have a new coach for U14 girls, Weymouth & Portland/Dorchester team have issues to resolve to fill vacated roles – Tony needs to contact Weymouth, perhaps with support from Chris B.**

**Action 8.2** – Ensure Age Grade affiliations all completed – important for insurance purposes – **All** – **by mid August**

Note - 3 clubs including Weymouth & S&W from our area have grants for Rugby Focus weekend.

**Action 8.3** - Lizzie to provide recordings (W&G, Volunteering, Revenue Generation), also number of Webinars – Women in sport, Review of Club Structure, engaging Community etc. **LOC - Complete**

**Action 8.4** – Sam and Tom to provide short reports on Puddletown and Blandford status update. **SB/TDR – Closed – OBE**

Swanage & Wareham successfully appealed their Second team carrying points deductions over to next year.

## **NEW ACTIONS**

**Action 9.1** – Weymouth, Blandford and Puddletown to send in short report to include in minutes – **Sam/Tom/Jon**

**Action 9.2** – Set up Club visits to all 8 clubs during the season to include Ed, John and Lizzie – **Ed**

**Action 9.3** – We should look at ensuring continuity between U18 / U20 / Seniors rugby – we should keep in contact with players. Investigate if this is done – **Chris B**

Date of Next Meeting – ***ET to set this up in approximately 6 weeks time***

## **THE SEASON AHEAD – KEY ACTIONS / FEEDBACK FROM CLUBS**

**Puddletown** – No report.

**Sherborne** – 1) Management Team in place including new Treasurer, 2) Strengthened 1<sup>st</sup> Team Coaching staff, 3) Happy with 1<sup>st</sup> XV league/travelling – less happy with 2<sup>nd</sup> XV fixtures and distance to travel (L9)

**Bridport** – 1) Coaching in place, 2) Affiliation with Bath rugby working well and good support being provided, 3) Junior section strong including Colts Team this year, 4) Project to take over the running of The Clubhouse from the Leisure Centre is going well, and aiming to complete in July.

**Swanage & Wareham** – 1) RFU Winter Survival funding of £60K close to completion, after which roof works will start (including PV panels), 2) Running 3 teams (3<sup>rd</sup> team in merit table) and looking for a coach replacement, 3) Good support in Ladies section, 4) Mini/Youth – strong but no colts team, 5) S&W are also producing a Players Charter for next season outlining Player Expectations (and expectations of the Club). **Perhaps this could be shared with other clubs** – it was noted that Oakmedians Ladies did something similar.

**Dorchester** –1) Management Team in place including new Safeguarding, Secretary and Fixture Secretary, 2) Good numbers in youth rugby, 3) Coaching team in place, 4) Main building works focussing on replacement of 40 windows

**North Dorset** – 1) New Director of Rugby, 2) Running 3 senior men’s teams plus a ladies team, 1<sup>st</sup> team promoted, 2<sup>nd</sup> team in D&W1, 3<sup>rd</sup> team in merit table. Age Group and Ladies rugby going well.

**Blandford** – no report

**Weymouth** – no report

## **RFU FEEDBACK / D&W Update / Issues**

1. Competition Structure was explained including Leagues, which begin for some on 3<sup>rd</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> September and end on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Fixtures expected to be issued by 15 June (or earlier). There will be break weekends
2. 5 weeks of RFU cup games will follow the leagues, and will also look to run D&W cup competitions for those not taking part. Reviewing whether travel money will be available
3. **\*\*\* Thanks were voiced to John for his support in organising the local leagues \*\*\*\***
4. County representative rugby is under review – more news on this to follow

Leagues,

Cups

County Representative Rugby

RFU Council report on GMS review expected shortly, where aim is to improve quality of the data.  
**Looking for club volunteers with GMS knowledge to get involved to provide feedback.**

### **AOB**

Club Visit Plan to be set up for 2022/23

Remember to undertake GMS Data Cleanse

Ensure Touring Requests are sent in good time to Gerald

**In the summer there will be 20 Aug Bridport 10s, 8/9 July North Dorset 7s and Puddletown 10s (mixed tag)**

### **MEETING CLOSE**

ET closes meeting at 20:47, again a lot of good discussion.

## **PREVIOUS DISCUSSION TOPIC – Player recruitment**

- a) **What Working Well (WWW) – Best Practice**

Bridport - Mimicking previous “Tag festival – road to Twickenham” with 16 junior schools in the area (in March) – years 5 and 6, great way to get juniors involved and their parents to the club.

**Non contact Women's rugby** sessions – good for social rugby and builds link with family members

**Friday night rugby** under floodlights including Age group rugby

**Juniors support 1<sup>st</sup> XV matchday** and publicised (PMN thought)

b) **What can we DO BETTER (WDB)**

Need to **upgrade club facilities** to make it an enjoyable experience when supporters do come along.

**More volunteers needed** – this is becoming more and more difficult, current incumbents finding it hard to commit the time, players stop playing at younger age and do not move into volunteer role, hard to find volunteers for Sunday morning. We need to be able to get more support from the parents. Senior club officials need to be engaging with parents on Sunday mornings.

**Social media** advertising needs to be much more professional and engaging, e.g. Instagram etc

We need to maintain **continuity of coaching** with the youngsters

**Advertise our Successes** but needs to be a concerted campaign

## **PREVIOUS DISCUSSION TOPIC – Ladies & Girls Rugby**

North Dorset are doing really well and happy to travel up to 1 hr 30 mins to games, good numbers, good results, 3 in County Team, 4 coaches and aiming eventually to run 2 teams in a few year's time. Hosting a Ladies 10s tournament 28<sup>th</sup> May for 6 teams. Zac Pearce is contact name (and would be good to speak to re: Best Practice).

Weymouth & Portland/Dorchester are struggling, seem disconnected and coach not easy to get hold of, have invested in the team but little evidence of any "payback". Have had 6 or 7 games. Action required to address this. U14 girls have had good numbers.

Bridport do not run a team, and not sure joining up with other clubs would help. Putting efforts into encouraging Years 5/6 via Junior Tag Festival and get mums and daughters involved.

Swanage & Wareham – good numbers 16-22 players, won 2/16 games, 1 in county trial, struggling at age group levels.

Sherborne encouraging participation via schools. Now have 20 girls mostly in U15s.

Women's 6 nations should help encourage participation and England have applied for 2023 World Cup which again will help push this forward. RFU also suggesting having clusters of teams coming together where numbers are lower to gain coaching/ play a game.