



## **WILTSHIRE YOUTH FORUM**

**30th September 2019 @ Melksham RFC**

**Present ; Matthew Glover (Melksham), Steve Allen (Salisbury), Ken Williams (Warminster), Ed Bell & Kev Thornton (Chippenham), Rob Ware & James Cook (Trowbridge) , Andy Cook (Devizes), Alan Low (Royal Wootton Bassett), Pete McAllister (Minety), Nick Elbourne (YPDG D&W), David Wookey (D&W), Julian Phelps (Chair), Garin Vivian (Bath Rugby), Justin Cliff (Secretary)**

**Apologies : Ron Jones (D&W), Clive Robbins (Marlborough) Damian Dix**

### **UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS POINTS:**

#### **Minis**

Abiding to RFU Age Grade Calendar all mini festivals involving midis (Under 12s/Under 13s) must be held on a club weekend.

Whilst Under 12's are not classed as mini's a common sense approach to inclusion in fixtures / festivals was the consensus - with many clubs including U12's within their festivals / fixture lists as a result of ease for parents.

Within some clubs in addition to U12's tagging onto mini's fixtures they were permitted a degree of autonomy in arranging additional fixtures in preparation for the U13 season

Requests to hold festivals must be submitted 8 weeks prior to the event and permission must be obtained from the RFU if inviting sides from WRU, IRFU, SRU and other nations

Amendment from Dave Wookey \* Requests to hold festivals must be submitted 8 weeks prior to the event and permission must be obtained from the **CB** if inviting sides from WRU, IRFU, SRU and other nations

## **Age Grade Competitions Midi/Junior/Colts Nick Elbourne**

If merged teams are entering competitions and they need to be re-branded (eg Cobras, Warriors) or agree to play under one name – details should be sent to Nick Elbourne

Electronic Match Cards are now in operation for U14/U15/U16 & Colts. We are the first CB to be trialling the use of EMC in our youth and junior competitions. It is hoped to save volunteer time and while there will be teething issues at start it is hoped everyone will be on board by end of the competitions.

NB With EMC if Players have played up/down then its ok to leave the name blank and Nick Elbourne will 'check the details'.

Nick advised there had been 1 or 2 examples of clubs entering competitions at the start of the season but finding they have insufficient number of players to carry on – this has resulted in merged sides and withdrawals.

**Action** Nick to send emails to all clubs advising of changes and a reminder that games can go ahead with reduced number of players

**Feedback** Whilst understanding that dates in season were dictated by RFU the forum was advised that fixtures appeared to start too early this season especially at U13 level – with the increase in number of forwards – this left clubs exposing players with no experience or training to 'competitive fixtures' – it also may encourage some clubs to commence training in the off season.

It was suggested that consideration should also be given to considering the number of home games allocated to a club on a given day across all age groups – this could result in difficulties with capacity of changing rooms.

For this season clubs are reminded that competition dates are flexible as long as agreement is reached between clubs playing fixture (avoid AGRPC - school calendar weekends) and there is no knock-on effect to other competition fixture farther into the season. Clubs to seek permission for fixture change of date from Competition Organisers to ensure this doesn't happen. Also use of floodlight events on Friday evenings (can be difficult with travel times) is something which can ease fixture congestion on a Sunday.

Nick will look to see how this can be considered for next season

## **Bath RFC Community Garin Vivian**

Garin has joined Bath Rugby from Pontypridd RFC. He is Community Events Coordinator and will be looking after clubs including Match day events.

Garin outlined the following matters

Bath Rugby are finalising their club affiliate programme – expect details in due course.

Garin advised that Bath Rugby would again be looking for nominations for the ‘Spirit of Rugby Award’ – this is for those volunteers within clubs who have made an exceptional contribution to rugby. More details to follow.

Garin outlined a number of forthcoming events. Further details will follow:

**Land Rover Preliminary Grassroots** event *30/11/2019* at the Rec – this will involve U11/U12 age groups (possibly X Rugby) – the final of this event will be played in Cardiff with 2 clubs from Bath Rugby Area, 2 from Wales and 2 from Scotland (date tbc)

**Land Rover Cup** *26<sup>th</sup> April* @ Trowbridge RFC – U11/U12s

**Dyson 7’s** preliminary tournament *14<sup>th</sup> March* for U14 boys and U15 girls at The Rec – with a Matchday 7’s to be held on the weekend of *29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>th</sup> March*. This event ends outside the playing season so thoughts on playing X Rugby for both dates are being looked at. Details to follow.

**Bath Rugby Community Day** *13<sup>th</sup> April* (Easter Monday) – Wooden Spoon U8 Festival in the morning with U12 Dorset & Wilts Competition in the afternoon. We also intend to have a girl’s event on same day at the Rec.

Julian will send details of Bath Rugby visits to schools for this season and match to the closest clubs. The intention is to put the clubs in contact with the Bath contact to see if clubs can gain some recruitment of players off the back of the Bath rugby event at the schools.

## **YPDC          Nick Elbourne**

Nick provided an overview of YPDC (Young Player Development Committee)

The purpose of the committee is to oversee the development of young players across Dorset & Wiltshire and is made up of representatives from schools and clubs. This committee is fed information from the forums in Wiltshire and Dorset so it is important if there are any particular issues or ideas that you would like to comment on these can be passed through forum chairs who attend this meeting.

James Cook enquired if the YPDC would be repeating last year's U16 & Colts survey to see how successful and if any changes/ learnings and implementations had worked. Nick advised the committee would consider this and repeat with what will be this year's U17's.

Nick stressed that the County Rugby set up was not an area that YPDC cover

A discussion about skilled based cluster style events ensued. Bath Rugby offer such events such as kicking masterclasses and Bath Academy are holding Bath Academy Coach Development Evenings - Sessions for U12 coaches and above. See below: Bath Academy Coach Dev Evenings 2019 which is a link to book.

<https://forms.gle/AFXnst1Kvd6VFuJ6>

YPDC to look into cluster groups for specific skills for players.

**RFU Councillor     Ron Jones**

In Ron's absence Julian Phelps advised

Every club and every age group should have a first aider and these should be showing on GMS. The first aid course does not have to be run by the RFU. The level of qualifications for first aider accepted by RFU is below - please read (from [englandrugby.com](http://englandrugby.com) website)

### **First Aid /Immediate Care Training**

Clubs should ensure that any first aid / immediate care training is appropriate and meets the RFU's minimum requirements (equivalent to Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work). The course content must be appropriate for the activities covered; it should also be accredited and recognised on the national Regulation Qualification Framework (RQF).

The Emergency First aid in Rugby Union (EFARU) course has been developed by the RFU. It is recognised as a full Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) course with extra rugby-specific elements. The qualification is transferable into the workplace and other sports. The course is designed for coaches and other volunteers designated as first-aiders and responsible for providing pitch-side cover at both training and matches.

The Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2 course is for Health Care Professionals/Allied HCPs working in the community game. The course's specific content addresses the immediate care training needs of healthcare professionals working within both rugby and other sports.

Alan Low advised that a non RFU course was available at £45 – if interested please contact Alan for details.

There have been issues with GMS and the RFU Councillors have a WhatsApp group where they can share issues with RFU IT. Please let Ron Jones know if you have particular GMS issues that are not being resolved and he can apply pressure via this WhatsApp group.

## **Schools**

Julian was tasked by the Forum to highlight to Janet Edwards and Ali Lund concerns over schools playing during the Club Calendar – in one example in the Salisbury area games were played on Monday, Wednesday & Saturday. This leads to youngsters being overplayed and seeking physio assistance at local clubs – it also impacts on clubs ability to field sides with RWBRFC losing 7 players in one week to injuries picked up in school matches – there is also a concern that the RFU have no mechanism to track whether players are exceeding the 32 matches per season regulation.

## **Refereeing Damian Dix**

*In Damian's absence Julian read through the following:*

1 For those unaware GMS now feeds directly into the Referee Appointing software Who's The Ref.

2 All competitions will appear once entered into GMS this includes fixture updates (Not instant but refreshed regularly).

3 Kick off times are as per initial entry so any changes so please email age specific Competition Organiser.

4. Encourage clubs to enter (U14 and over) friendlies into GMS using the fixture title Dorset & Wilts - GMS Manual Fixture 2019-20. This will help with your club's international ticket allocation.

6. All youth team contacts in D&W Competitions can register for access to Who's The Ref to see what fixtures and the name of the referee who has been appointed. (I'm working through the contact list Nick sent prior to start of season).

7 I'm also drafting a guide so those who have WTR access can get the most out of Who's The Ref and will send a copy once done which can be sent out through the forum.

Many Regards Damian

## **GMS/Safeguarding      Dave Wookey**

Dave reminded clubs that the deadline for the Club Safeguarding Audits was midnight on the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept (the date of this meeting).

Dave reminded all attendees of the regulations surrounding playing up/down in minis plus the regulations for playing up/down within Junior Rugby (see Reg 15)

In relation to the matter of 17 year olds playing Senior Rugby clubs are reminded that it is not for forms to be submitted on the day of the match – the recommendation is that these are submitted 2 weeks ahead of any fixture

\* Amendment from Dave Wookey

In relation to the matter of 17 year olds playing Senior Rugby clubs are reminded that it is not for forms to be submitted on the day of the match – the recommendation is that these are submitted 4 weeks ahead of intention to play. Players must not play until approval has been received

## **GMS**

James Cook outlined concerns over GMS and the amount of time volunteers were having to invest in the system which appeared to cause frustration for many volunteers – he queries if enough testing and feedback had been obtained prior to the release.

The matter of electronic match cards also saw Junior Team Managers receiving unnecessary Senior Match cards and vice versa

Dave Wookey explained that the RFU had withdrawn funding for him to train clubs however Dorset & Wiltshire RFU had funds available if clubs wished for him to visit

It was agreed that all concerns surrounding the usability of GMS should be directed to Ron Jones so he can then take these to Twickenham as suggested above.

## **DPP / County Richard Bourne**

In Richard's absence Julian advised

## ***DPP***

Emails have been sent to all clubs with regards second round of U14/U15 DPP nominations – the deadline for these is the 15<sup>th</sup> October

U13 nominations will be needed in December (details to follow)

## ***County***

As of season 2020/21 there will no longer be a Dorset & Wilts RFU County side at U15/U16 level following a decision from the RFU. All representative rugby at this level will fall under the Bath DPP responsibility.

All queries to Richard Bourne

**AOB** None noted

**Date of next meeting TBC**

**Meeting End 9.10**