

Honorary Secretary Report to Buckinghamshire RFU AGM 2022

Introduction

I am pleased to table this report for Buckinghamshire Clubs. I have done only 6 months in the role and my thanks go to Simon Winman and Shelley Pigott for their help in me getting my feet under the table.

CB Executive & County Meetings (clubs)

The Bucks Executive has met 7 times this year, mostly on a bi-monthly basis to ensure that it remains on top of all matters with regards to getting back to a full rugby programme within the County. The CB has hosted 5 club meetings (to date) which have also become bi-monthly. These meetings have carried on being attended by Club Chairs (by zoom) and this forum has proved very successful in the County getting to the leaders in each club and to hear their issues first hand.

The County have also initiated a Director of Rugby forum for club DORs and these appear to have been appreciated by attendees, where sharing a problem can be beneficial! We probably need to increase the frequency of these from 2 per season.

Local Rugby Planning

Local rugby planning returned to a pre Covid situation with men's and women's leagues in full swing again. The County representative fixtures returned, along with the various age group competitions. One particular success was in the Girls Invitational Leagues and it looks like this will go from strength to strength next season.

Facility Grants & Loans

There was no significant activity on this front this season, Covid support grants / loans ceased and no new funding was available from RFU. We did however liaise with RFU Facilities managers to provide an update in the state of play regarding facilities cross our clubs

Tour Approvals

Some 20 clubs, mostly Youth age groups, submitted applications to tour. All were approved after some pushback in a few cases. A benchmark application template was provided to all clubs. Bucks County continues to request Tour approvals be sought for age groups touring withing England. This is beyond the (current) RFU requirement but enables us to monitor Safeguarding aspects. It is likely the RFU may demand this of all CBs in future.

RFU communications with CBs

The demands on community rugby volunteers from RFU employed staff continue to grow. We push back when this seems unjustified.

RFU Ticketing system

This continues to evolve each year with club / CB ticket secs having to adapt and change their processes. County has offered support to clubs, but most seem to be managing.

Finlay Gemmell (with input from Simon Winman)
Buckinghamshire RFU
Honorary Secretary

20th June 2022