



Chairman's Update - November 2020

Hi everyone

I hope you are all keeping safe and well? It's time for another update following our most recent committee meeting. I hope everyone has enjoyed the Autumn Nations Cup over this lockdown . Thanks to those who subscribed through the Amazon link to help raise funds for the club.

First off, some good news. Rugby will be back soon for us as well. As I write, all the signs look good for us to compete in a Ready 4 Rugby event in line with government regulations and RFU guidance, on Saturday 12th Dec. More than ever, a lot of work has gone on behind the scenes to make sure we're all set to play again as soon as we are allowed, so please make yourselves available to train, play or support the team. If you do come to support, please remember all the usual Covid precautions will still need to be followed, as well as any specific requirements of the club hosting the event, so please do your bit to help that happen. Hopefully, this will be the start of more regular rugby over the coming months.

We are also now coming to the end of the activities put on over Lockdown 2. It's now time to get your final stats in to John Neil Dickie for a chance of winning some club merchandise – might be welcome as the weather turns cold? I'm told the race is too close to call between the current leaders, so all to play for! If nothing else, a bit of extra training is always a good idea. Thanks also to Rhys Parker, who managed, even after the first lockdown, to still bring something new to the world of online quizzing – I for one learnt a few things, as did a few others I suspect. From my reading of the government announcements, traditional social events still look a long way off, but I think Rhys is rising admirably to the challenge of filling the void.

We spent some time discussing opportunities provided by the RFU to support the club. This included provision of financial support to help manage issues caused by Covid and other resources the RFU makes available. Most of the financial help is geared to larger clubs that have lost revenue from venues, bars and ticket sales, although we are still looking at the criteria in detail to see if there are some options we can take forward.



The RFU also has several toolkits available to help clubs run their affairs, and the committee agreed that while we do not have much on right now, it's a good opportunity to have a look at how we compare with other community clubs and see if there is anything we can do better, or differently – thanks to those who volunteered to help me complete this review, and I'll let you all know what we find.

One big opportunity has been identified through some community development funding provided by Surrey County Council – this is an exciting possibility that you will hear lots more about over the next few weeks, and to give us the best chance of success we need all the extended Woking community to get behind the idea, so please keep an eye out for further information and give your support when the time comes.

On a more procedural matter, but still one of great importance to the club, is the need to formalise some of our previous accounts that have not been through the full process due to delays caused by the pandemic. The committee have agreed an approach whereby the club accounts will be made available to any member who wishes to scrutinise them for a period of at least two weeks, in advance of an online Special General Meeting to be held next year – more details on this will follow, and while I appreciate it's not everyone cup of tea, it is important that the wider club community can see we are managing your money sensibly, so please also give this your support, as we need a certain level of attendance to legitimise the agreement of the accounts.

As always, if anyone has any questions, queries or comments about anything above, or anything at all to do with Woking RFC more generally, please get in touch with either me or any of the committee members, and we'll do our best to answer.

Regards,

Jon Hursthouse

Chairman, Woking RFC