



## Chairman's Update - April 2021

Hi everyone

WE'RE BACK...!

After what has been a frustrating and challenging year, we are now back training and playing something that resembles rugby. There are still some restrictions that limit the most intimate parts of the game, but overall it's great to see players old and new back on the pitch representing the club.

This newsletter comes a little delayed as the April committee meeting was postponed until early May, but it did give us an opportunity to reflect on our return to the game. Overall, Head Coach James Plowright has done a great job under the circumstances to get the team ready for fixtures with other clubs, and the players have been responding very positively to the training sessions.

We have seen the welcome return of some familiar faces and new blood to bolster the squad. Our first match in over 6 months away to Mitcham & Carshalton at the start of May, whilst wasn't the result we wanted, it was still encouraging to see a full team and several subs on the pitch. Along with a strong, socially distanced, group of travelling supporters as well. Aside from a few bumps, the players were clearly pleased to be back playing as well. Thanks as well to our volunteer club photographer Justin Cliffe, who has taken some fantastic photos that I'm sure will liven up more than a few social media profiles.

With the return to playing, we are putting plans in place to re-establish our social calendar! Rhys Parker, our Social Secretary has already got a few events lined up. A players social and fancy dress Beer Pong tournament Saturday 29th May at Camphill.



All being well following on from this and the complete removal of any Covid restrictions, a Club Reunion event on Saturday 26th June post AGM is also planned. Given the challenges and restrictions of the pandemic our aim is to bring together as many past and present members of the club to get together after more than a year of being kept apart – please save the dates and join us if you can. I know Rhys has a few more ideas for events in the pipeline, so keep an eye out for details as they become available by following the club social media and checking the website.

Personally, I have been working with the committee on our bid for the Your Fund Surrey scheme. We are close to submitting the first stage of the application on what we hope will be a long and successful journey to securing the funds required to develop our very own clubhouse.

Thanks to everyone who has registered their support on the interactive map (and if you haven't – please do!). This will be so important to the funding decision, as a key element is being able to show community support for the project – the more numbers the better!

In addition, the club has access to apply for summer international tickets and other top level matches. Paying members currently have the option to bid for tickets to the final of both the 2021 Challenge Cup & Heineken Champions Cup on Friday 21 May and Saturday 22 May at Twickenham. Email Club President Stanley Fisher for further details if interested.

And finally....

The upcoming AGM – Saturday 26th June.

As reported previously, your committee decided to delay it slightly this year until 26th June to allow the meeting to take place physically, although a lot of the preparatory work will still need to be done online to some extent. Our Club captain, Jim McGiven is getting things organised (thanks Jim!) so you can expect to hear more about this soon. Please do consider standing for a position on the committee.



Volunteers are the life blood of grassroots rugby clubs and needs people behind the scenes to get a squad on the pitch at the weekend. If we are to build the club for the future. The more people that contribute, the easier it is for everyone.

As always, if there is anything you want to discuss regarding anything to do with the club, please feel free to get in touch with me or any of the committee.

Regards,

Jon Hursthouse

Chairman, Woking RFC