



## Chairman's Update - March 2021

Hi everyone,

Lots to look forward to this month and to cover in my latest update to the club. As always I write to you following our most recent committee meeting for March, but more importantly in just a couple of hours our first training session at the Rec since the end of the most recent lockdown restrictions will be taking place.

At the last meeting the committee made some key decisions that we wanted to share with the players at a Players Meeting called by First XV skipper, Mick O'Shea, which took place on Sunday 28th March. With training resuming tonight Head Coach, James Plowright, and Mick have thought long and hard about how best to resume training after such a prolonged delay whilst remaining compliant with the remaining Covid restrictions. There will be a few changes to business as usual. The first few sessions will be quite relaxed, and reduced to 1 hour only, starting at 8pm, to give people a chance to get back into training as a group. The focus during training will be on injury prevention and progressively developing physical fitness, and re-vitalising any lost rugby skills!

We understand no-one has had chance to engage in any contact work for a long time, so this will also be progressively introduced, as restrictions are relaxed. Obviously nothing is certain at the moment, however we are making plans to resume competitive fixtures in some form from 1st May – something to look forward to! Please spread the message, and encourage people to come along and get involved!

Away from the pitch, our thoughts turned to the next AGM. In a break with tradition, the committee agreed to hold the AGM later than usual, to try and permit us to actually meet in the same place (with a bar) and avoid having to use Zoom. Club Captain Jim McGiven kindly offered to help organise the AGM, and you'll hear more about this soon.



Amongst other functions, the AGM is where the Club committee members are elected; please do consider standing for the roles when they are advertised. Our club relies heavily on the committee members who volunteer to work behind the scenes so that the rugby can happen. Any contribution from people associated with the club who want to help out is always appreciated.

A point I will highlight is that as a result of the pandemic, my personal circumstances have changed significantly over the last few months. As a consequence it is highly likely that I will be leaving the Woking area. Therefore, I shall be stepping down from the role of Chair. The club will need someone to take on the role. I would be very happy to have a discussion with anyone who may have an interest.

We are also getting very close to submitting the next stage of our application for funding for a new clubhouse through the Your Fund Surrey scheme. Please continue to encourage everybody to show their support through the interactive map (you need to zoom in on the Rec and support the WRFC clubhouse proposal) as the greater the support on here the more likely our bid is to be successful in making the next stage.

Please also think if there are any skills or experience you can bring to the project as it goes forward – it's potentially a significant undertaking and the more help we have, the better the chances of it going ahead successfully!

Webmaster Richard Benn has done a great job with the new look website – have a look if, you haven't already. All the important details and information about the club are on there, however as always, please feel free to get in touch with me or any of the other committee members if there's anything you want to know more about or discuss further.

Regards,

Jon Hursthouse

**Chairman, Woking RFC**