



Minutes from the Youth Chairs & Club Coaching Co-Ordinator's Meeting 13/08/13

Present: Nick Cole (Chair NC), Bethan Dennick (BD), Kevin Robinson (KR), Chris White (CW), Russell White (RW), Keith Oates (KO), Nelson Ody (NO), Mark Gardener (MG), Ian Binnion (IB), Stuart Dale (SD), Lee Marsden (LM), Storm Dinsey (SD), Richard Bradbury (RB), Matt Grapes (MG), Steve Trenchard (ST), Chris Grimes (CG), Jonathan Valentine (Oxford Harlequins), Pete Conway (PC), Michael Hutchinson (MH), Lee Heron (LH), Nick Todd (RFU), Clare Daniels (RFU), Dusty Miller (RFU)

Clubs Present: Banbury, Bicester, Chinnor, Chipping Norton, Gosford All Blacks, Grove, Henley, Oxford Harlequins, Wallingford.

1. New rules of Play:
 - a. The new rules will apply to Under 7, 8, 9 & 10 age groups. Until the 2014 15 season, U11 & 12s will use the old rules.
 - b. It was highlighted that it is problematic when playing the surrounding counties. The rules are determined by location, if the match is being played in Berkshire or Gloucestershire then we will play the old rules. For games in Oxfordshire the new rules will apply to the relevant age groups.
2. Colt's U18 League:
 - a. From the 2013 season the OBB leagues will be an under 18s competition only. The league structure will allow for under 17s teams to play in the lower divisions. The emphasis on the new league being focussed around administration of the age groups and management by clubs, as Colts will be under 18s. This will fall under the Youth Section of our Clubs.
 - b. However, there are some concerns around this with criticisms surrounding loss of U19s players, late rule changes, start times. Nonetheless, the meeting agreed this was a positive move and all will work to make it a success
 - c. It was emphasised that these meetings are held to discuss changes and therefore, it is vital that clubs with a view attend
 - d. All emails and correspondence regarding the OBB league should come through Russell White (RW) oxfordshire_jfs@hotmail.co.uk
3. 2013 – 2014 County Festivals:
 - a. The venues and clubs that offered to run the Tournaments were discussed. All venues were agreed with the exception of the U13's / U14's 10s scheduled for April 27th. Wallingford are to confirm if they would like to host this event.
 - b. The ambition of the County was to allow every club that wants to host a County Event to do so by dividing the age groups up into Midi, Mini and Junior Events. This in theory would allow for smaller clubs to hold events. Secondly, the selection of venues is done on a rotational basis, therefore, giving everyone the opportunity to hold events. Consequently it was decided to move the Wallingford U13s / U14's Cu Finals day to the other applicant Grove RFC as this would provide variety for the players and give another club the opportunity to participate in this seasons festivals.
 - c. It was noted that we should play the County Festivals on Sundays so that we avoid potential clashes with Saturday schooling and other sporting commitments.
 - d. Nick Cole (NC) stated that in his view the club coaching coordinators should act as the arbitrators at the events. This would hopefully stop any potential problems that may arise



- e. It was highlighted that availability of Referees and Volunteers were a major concern at festivals. The County is the catchment area for two elite clubs Wasps and Welsh which allows us to use their Community Department. They have paid Coaches who could act as Referees. Another suggestion was to encourage under 16s or Colts players to undertake a Refereeing Course which can go towards their GCSE in Physical Education or a BTec Sport. A third option was to invite someone from the Referee's Society to act as final arbiter and finally; it was hoped that RFU CRC's could attend festivals to help diffuse any potential friction points and offer advice where necessary
 - f. During this year there were reports of coaches having a disruptive and aggressive attitude towards referees. This needs to be addressed, some clubs have introduced a Code of Conduct for Coaches to sign. Others use their Coaching Coordinators to assess Coaches and to discipline when necessary. These initiatives should be taken forward.
4. School of Rugby:
- a. The School of Rugby is the system used for elite player development in the County of Oxfordshire. The system works and we are producing a good standard of players. Last season there were 360 players nominated with 85% of them registering with County.
 - b. 35% of the 85% who registered went through to the next stage. This has led to the targets for the County being changed by the RFU.
 - c. The overall percentage of the players coming from private schools has dropped to 53%.
 - d. KR and the RFU have been working on changes to the school of rugby. It will now work more closely with the EPD and increase the amount of players in the system. All of these changes and the statistics and a list of clubs who have sent their nominations are available in the attachment.
5. Women and Girls Rugby:
- a. The County is trying to establish and grow the girls and women's game. However, we still do not have enough female players.
 - b. Communications from the County have been patchy this season and there are misconceptions about eligibility, age splits, game and team availability, etc. In short, and because of the shortage of female players, the result is a lot of clubs are competing or using the same networks to attract females.
 - c. Girls and women want to play the sport. Women's rugby is one of the biggest growing sports in the Country.
 - d. On the 22nd September 2013 there will be a trials day for Girls at Gosford All Blacks Ground.
 - e. All communication regarding the women and girl's game is to be sent via Mark Gardner, in the process hopefully avoiding the problems of the past.
gardner_m@tiscali.co.uk
6. Rugby World:- Club Cup Champions
- a. There are seven clubs involved with this scheme and this appears to be working well. As part of the programme, Oxfordshire with Oxford University, have applied to mentor a developing rugby nation (1st choice Germany as we have connections through the Mini Plant in Oxford as well as University links).
7. Coaching needs and available resources:
- a. As a result of the previous meeting, CCC's have been issued with new tops to help identify and establish their status on Senior and Youth match days



- b. Courses: For CPD's please ask your Community Rugby Coaches about the potential to run a course. The award courses such a Level 1 and 2 will be run in Oxfordshire. If you look on the RFU Website it has the dates of the courses available in Oxfordshire. The best way of accessing and booking for the courses is through the post code search. There will also be highlighted any legacy funded courses, this means there will be a reduction in fees.
 - c. Questions regarding coaching courses should be directed to Clare Daniels:
ClareDaniels@RFU.com
8. AOB
- a. There is a new IRB Laws App available for android and I phone users. This has all of the latest rules and information required.
 - b. There is a new scrum directive which is crouch, bind, set. This was designed by the IRB and has reduced impact at scrums by 25%. All clubs must take responsibility for communicating the changes onwards – there are numerous online information sources including the Oxfordshire Website
 - c. There is a registration of players workshop on 2nd September 2013 to be held at Chinnor Rugby Club. Those attending must be the appointed Registration Secretary with a Rugby First login and password. They must also bring a working lap top that will be used for the registration process. When registering players please capture which secondary school they are attending to allow the County to process the information and target schools lacking in rugby players.
 - d. RW stated an apology for delaying the distribution of fixtures and relevant information for the current season due to working away. RW will endeavour to send all of the relevant information to the clubs involved.