

To the Chair and Secretaries of all Bucks Clubs and the County Executive

RFU AGM

The RFU will be conducting a virtual AGM at 5:00pm on Friday 12 June, which I will be attending. You should have all received a Meeting ID, a RFU ID Number and a PIN enabling you to attend; these were sent to all members on 28 April.

This is now only four weeks away so I would like to remind all voting clubs and the County to register their proxies or appointed representatives on the virtual AGM Portal. Details and all AGM papers are available on the [RFU AGM page](#).

If you are unable to attend online, you are entitled to nominate someone else from within your club. Failing that, I am happy to be appointed as your proxy.

If you have any difficulty logging in, please contact CoSec@RFU.com. You are advised to login for this AGM ahead of the date.

Notes from the RFU Virtual Update held on Friday 15 May 2020

While sending out the above calling notice for the AGM, I thought that I would copy you in on the report from the most recent Council update that I send to the Bucks Exec.

The RFU's position regarding the situation in rugby is constantly evolving as they react to the changing circumstances and government policy. Here is the latest update:

The Community Game

The main area of the RFU's current activities revolve around the support and survival of the community game

- RFU loans: there has been a relatively low uptake of these loans (£2-£10k available) as it appears that the majority of clubs are in reasonable financial health. There have been 49 awards totaling £419k, 23 claims rejected, 6 still being assessed.
- Immediate Support Fund: £251k has been distributed to 81 clubs and the deadline for the use of these funds will be pushed back beyond 31 December.
- Rates: Most clubs have secured the £10k/£25k grants from local government.
- Sport England: 189 clubs have applied, 149 have been assessed. So far £730k has been awarded to 120 clubs.
- The future of 16 RFU clubs is considered to be at risk, most had pre-Covid underlying problems.

RFU webcasts on Tuesdays (aimed at coaches, refs and players) and Thursdays (aimed at volunteers) are increasingly popular.

RFU is talking to other nations. Italy will not start community rugby for at least 12 months. Australia and NZ are likely to start in the next 4-6 weeks (owing to the very low infection and death rates). The RFU is developing plans ready for some sort of start to the community game around October/November although much depends on government policy, the scientific advice and the 'R' rate, so this is by no means certain. The emphasis will initially be on just getting boots on rather than a structured league season.

The RFU Board definitely has a greater appreciation of the importance of the community game and the role that CBs play in assisting to deliver it.

The Elite Game

- It is recognized that the elite game will begin long before the community game. The reasons are: fewer players involved, the greater availability of testing, players are more easily traced.
- These matches are likely to be behind closed doors.
- The laws committee and the sport medics are working together to consider modifying the laws to minimize extended contact during the match, i.e. the constant resetting of scrums.
- With the elite game likely to start sooner than the community game, **CBs and club officials are asked to assist in dampening the expectations of an early restart in the community game.**

RFU Finances and Commercial

- RFU currently working through 4 scenarios: the financial outturn 1) with autumn internationals (AIs) taking place with the stadium open, 2) as 1) but behind closed doors, 3) no AIs, and 4) no AIs or 6N matches.
- 3 new commercial partners have been confirmed: Mitsubishi have signed a new contract, Umbro have signed as kit sponsor, Charles Tyrwhitt have signed as a new commercial sponsor to smarten up the England squad.

The World Game

- Sir Bill Beaumont has been re-elected as Chairman of World Rugby, Gus Pichot has resigned.
- SANZAAR nations are looking increasingly unlikely to travel north for the AIs so there could be more tests amongst the home nations.
- World Rugby has, not surprisingly, been unable to agree a global calendar so far.

If you have any questions or comments on the above, please give me a ring.

With best wishes
Chris

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