

Honorary Secretary Report to Buckinghamshire RFU AGM 2024

CB Executive & County Club Meetings

Bucks RFU Executive has formally met 5 times this year by zoom to ensure that it remains on top of all matters. The CB has continued to communicate directly with Club Chairs, holding 3 zoom meetings this season.

Tour / Festival / Camp Approvals

This season 10 different clubs applied for Tour approvals covering around 40 age group and senior tours. The Tour approval process we currently run for Age Group tours is to look at the documentation submitted on Safeguarding and to validate that a club officer has signed the Tour Approval form, acknowledging that they are satisfied with their club's tour arrangements. We have no capability to do any more than this.

One club held a Youth Festival, in conjunction with a third party. Some issues arose at this event and this has prompted some discussion around the role of CBs in 'approving' Festivals. Currently the RFU expect CBs to run their own approval process and are believed to be coming up with a standard on-line approval procedure. The key issue here is not so much the approval 'process' as the expectation of RFU staff as to the capability and resource capacity within a CB to review and validate any Festival arrangements made by a club / third party. Further review is required here.

Similarly, RFU expectations are that CBs will review and approve Rugby Camps run by clubs or by thirds parties. As above we have no capability to validate arrangements and simply record that a Camp is taking place and that it does not clash with any other camps in the area. We remind organisers that they are fully responsible for coaching capabilities, DBS checks, Safeguarding aspects, First Aid etc

Bucks RFU Rules

Revisions to our Rules were drafted and approved at the AGM in 2023. Several issues around our specific rule changes and the change process were uncovered on submission of the changes to the Financial Control Authority, but after some sterling work by Shelley Pigott, we are almost across the line on this.

County Sponsorship

Attempts are being made to source new sponsors, specifically by looking at employing a resource to find interested businesses, incentivising this role by way of a percentage payment. Enquiries to clubs to see if any club has tried this approach did not yield any results and appeals to VPs similarly drew no responses. Sponsor sourcing websites exist but these are nationwide organisations and our preference is to advertise and try to find someone local to employ

Finlay Gemmell
Buckinghamshire RFU Honorary Secretary
23th June 2024