



Buckinghamshire RFU Chairs AGM report 2023/4

Well, in the blink of an eye, another season has passed in the rugby calendar. As always there are the highs and lows that occur during our journeys through the season, some will end on those highs, and some of us ending with a slight feeling of frustration on how the season panned out. I think the important thing to remember is what we can do as a rugby family to help those that may need additional support from time to time, and for those that do need that support, to be in a place where that support is accepted in the rugby spirit, after all, we have all felt that frustration before, even at our biggest clubs. A thriving local rugby scene absolutely benefits us all.

It was fantastic to yet again see so many clubs representing the County across both age grade and Senior levels and I am sure you will be able to read more about their individual success via the DOR report. From me personally, thank you so much to all of you that took part. For those that did not quite make it, please come back next season!

So outside of playing rugby, the County have again been busy, a couple of notable examples being:

1. The County raised over £30,000 from external sources; this was in order to offer a rugby “taster” to those within our communities that may have never considered rugby as an option before. We have engaged with a local charity, Hope After Harm to provide logistical support. We have also engaged the Dallaglio rugby foundation to actually run the season long program. It will be aimed at 14 to 18 yr old boys and girls from Milton Keynes and Aylesbury, those that the courts, social services and the Police deem “maybe at risk”. We hope, amongst other things, to show them the value of teamwork alongside the other core principles of our game. Should this prove a successful program, and subject to further funding, we would look to target other areas in the County in future seasons. Thanks must go to both Milton Keynes and Aylesbury rugby clubs for allowing the use of their facilities FOC.
2. Again, this year our Value the Volunteer awards day took place immediately prior to our 1st County match at ARFC, and was attended by 56 of your dedicated club volunteers. Thanks goes to Mike Wild for his endeavours and patience to ensure such a good turnout. The feedback we have had has been one of the day feeling special, and we hope the guys and girls will be revitalised in continuing to support your clubs in their various ways. It truly is humbling, when you read the citations of the

individuals concerned, they are without doubt the life blood of all our clubs (and County).

I would like this opportunity to thank on behalf of all your club members across the County, our very own club executives for all the work they carry out day in day out, mostly unseen and likely never heard of. You have my utter admiration.

I must also thank my own Executive, who have somehow put up with me for another 12 months and more importantly, for all the work they carry out in support of you all. Some special mentions:

Chris McCombie, as he starts his 2 years in the office of President Buckinghamshire RFU, good luck!

To our immediate past President, Melvyn Peters, who you will all have seen at your clubs over the last couple of seasons, a real gentleman with absolute integrity. Thank you Sir.

To Simon Winman, our RFU Council member, who works tirelessly to ensure our voices are at least heard at Twickenham, even if they are ignored most of the time! And as always too our loyal and hardworking Admin officer. Just thanks Shelley.

I will end by confirming our support to all our clubs in Bucks, we will help, advise, seek clarification and generally be on the end of a phone should you need us at any time. Our aim is and will always be to help our member clubs develop and grow and to work alongside them on these endeavours. We will resume the club Chairs meetings in furtherance of these aims at the start of the season.

Take care and enjoy the summer off!

Neale.

