



Middlesex RUGBY

“Middlesex Bringing People Together to Enjoy Rugby”

Middlesex 1879, 140th Anniversary Newsletter, Edition No 1, Monday 23rd March 2020

Presidents Message, to all our Middlesex Members & Member Clubs,

I do hope this newsletter will find you in good health. The Management Board are in regular communication with each other via conference calls, discussing the present situation around the game and our Community Clubs. One of the initiatives is to update the membership via a weekly Newsletter which will keep us all connected during these unprecedented times. We are also looking to run weekly Conference links, Coaching Webinars & online CPDs. Hopefully this newsletter will keep you up to speed with developments. Please look after yourselves adhering strictly to the government guidelines. <https://www.nhs.uk>, Together we can beat Coronavirus (COVID -19). robjlaws@aol.com,

Message from Eddie Keal, Chairman Middlesex County RFU

It's clear to every one of us that we have difficult times ahead. The County, through its Management team, will do its best to support our clubs. I can see that working in three distinct ways.

Firstly, being an efficient conduit for information back and forth from the RFU. Secondly, acting as a source or focal point for support, guidance and practical help for our clubs. And finally, drawing together different strands of the rugby family to deliver as much of a rugby programme as we possibly can.

Our primary methods of communication and delivery will change to become exclusively electronic, either online, social media, or videoconference. For a County that set itself an objective of “Bringing people together to enjoy rugby” that's going to be a tall order and a radical, albeit temporary, change. This may not be the “new normal” but we will probably never go back completely to the way we used to do things.

From time to time we will announce new communications and events. This newsletter being the first initiative. I hope you will continue to stay engaged with us through the various channels. Please remember we will still be available by phone and email. But much of what we need to facilitate just now is going to be about togetherness. Sharing, talking and listening. Advising and guiding. And that means bringing people together to trade experience, know-how and wisdom.

Lou Latter – Chair of Rugby Development

My main message is for clubs to get in touch with their issues and concerns so we can offer help and guidance. We are working with the RFU and will communicate any funding that can be accessed from various sources. They should also share good news and ideas so we can share e.g. selling their bar stock, reseeding pitches now if they can. louise.latter@middlesexrugby.com,

Update from Andrew Smart Chair of Competitions

CUPS

Where Cup competitions have reached finals, it is my intention to offer the two clubs the opportunity to play their game either in late August or early September prior to the beginning of next season's league and Merit Table campaigns. I intend to redirect the funding to support those finals from this year's competitions budget into next season. Where clubs do not want to play that competition will not be concluded for the 2019/20 season.

Those competitions that this will apply to are the Middlesex Cup, Federation Vase, H/M2 League Cup, NW Middx Floodlit Cup and the Middlesex MT Cup/Bowl/Vase Finals.

Where cup competitions have not reached finals, they will be written off for this season.

Vets Cup and Bowl

Middlesex Merit Tables

There will be no end of season playoffs including in Vets 2 . As the second promotion place in the Middlesex Tables is decided by the winners of the playoff finals, I will only be promoting the champions of each Merit Table. This will also mean that instead of relegating two clubs from each Merit Table as normal that will go down to one. In Vets 2 again there will be no playoff and the Champions will be promoted.

As we still had two weeks left in the league campaign, identifying our champions and bottom side is going to take some work.

I will deal with each Merit Table on a competition by competition basis. I will then write to each of the clubs in that Merit Table with my decisions about the champions and relegated side and how I arrived at them. Only clubs that are in that Merit Table will be able to appeal my decision. Any appeals as I have said will be dealt outside the county by the London Society of Referees to ensure no conflict of interest. I in turn will deal with any appeals for their competitions. I expect to have my decisions for all eight Merit Tables circulated by next Friday 27th March. Again, you must bear with me. It is a lot of work and I appreciate that some clubs are not going to be happy with decisions that I make. That is why there will be an appeal process and dealt with outside the county.

Cross Border Merit Table Matches

As yet I haven't discussed this with the Herts/Middlesex and the Surrey Merit Tables to see if there is still an appetite for these to be played before or at the beginning of next season. If there is and that is reciprocated by the competing county clubs, I will look organise those games when I get a chance.

David Gershlick, Chairman of the Middlesex 7s Festival

The scheduled date for the 21st Middlesex 7s Festival has been postponed from Sunday 3rd May until Sunday August 30th, the late Summer Bank Holiday weekend. This date is set in anticipation that the RFU will be able to lift the current suspension of Rugby Football along with all other Sports.

The venue will continue to be the RAA ground at Richmond with its 7 pitches enabling all levels of Competition for both Women and Men's 7s Rugby and including Vets X Rugby and Touch Rugby to be played throughout the day.

The Festival will have the usual Club facilities for Spectators and Players with the added attraction of the "Middlesex Village" to include a variety of stalls for Music, Real Ale Bar, Boutique Gin tasting, Street Food and one to Test your Rugby Skills.

All Clubs already entered will be given the opportunity of re-registering their original application or to seek a refund.

For more information on how to enter for August 30th please refer to www.middlesex7s.com

Peter Baveystock, Deputy President, Update on the Middlesex 140th Anniversary Dinner.

Dear County Colleagues, these are certainly unprecedented times and I hope you're all keeping safe and keeping in touch albeit distanced from our Clubs and the County. I know that many of you had committed to the 140th County Dinner on 17th April but this virus has meant that we've had to postpone it to Friday 25th September for obvious reasons. We do hope that you're able to make this new date but if not please let us know and we'll arrange a refund. For those who can, your place is secured and we'll continue to boost the attendees up to 120 if we can.

In the meantime, I'll stress again how important it is for you to keep safe and look forward to seeing you all when we emerge from this tunnel