



## **Middlesex 1879, 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Newsletter, Edition No 2, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

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

Thanks for all the feedback from the launch of the first newsletter. In this edition the Chair mentions our priorities during these difficult times. Information is mentioned on the RFU support funding for the community game, the RFU Councilor ballot results, updates on the competitions and groups. Last Wednesday a number of our coaches logged into a Coaching Webinar which will be a regular feature, please refer to [What's on information page](#) below for activities throughout the coming week. **Please forward this newsletter on to your contacts.**

### **Message from Eddie Keal, Chairman Middlesex County RFU**

Resilience is a word on many lips at present. How do we weather the storm and remain standing for the better times that lie ahead? Right now, our priorities as a rugby organisation are clear.

1. Play our part in protecting everyone's health
2. Protect the vital elements of our clubs and the game
3. Preserve and develop the rugby ecosystem in the County

We can only do number three if we succeed with 1 and 2. Which means you will see a lot of activity focussed on immediate support, particularly for clubs. Turning fine words and promises into timely and meaningful actions. We are all very pleased with the announcements from the RFU. Our job at Middlesex will be to act as the focal point or pivot to make much of it happen more quickly.

Please keep in touch with us. We've announced a series of different contact initiatives. Choose whichever suits you and your club best. All feedback and ideas are welcome.

Let's help each other to be resilient, but most of all, stay healthy.

### **Message from Tim Miller, Secretary & Head of Governance**

Dear Members,

This is to inform you of the outcome of the County Representative to the RFU Council Election for which voting closed at Midnight on Friday. The total number of votes cast was 47.

Votes cast for Chris Cuthbertson – 40 ----- Votes cast for Stephen Atkinson - 7

The ballot has been scrutinised by the Chairman and Treasurer of the County and therefore, Chris Cuthbertson has been duly elected as the County's Representative.

### **Lou Latter – Chair of Rugby Development**

What a first week in lockdown but a welcome announcement from RFU CEO Bill Sweeney in the £7m support package that is being made available to the community game. Rest assured the RFU and Middlesex are working hard to support our clubs in whatever way we can.

There are some great ideas coming out of the game, such as:

- Buddy systems – phone at least one club member regularly to guard against isolation.
- Maximise your online presence to help support your local community in whatever way you can.
- Have all your young players got rugby balls – help them stay active and work on their skills but there are also some great team 'pass the ball' videos being used on social media.
- Get GMS tidied up, prepared and ready for the new season.

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There are also a lot of other resources to access from the sports sector:

- The [Youth Sport Trust](#) has produced some free home resources to support schools, parents and young people to help learning and activity at home.
- Sport England has released some [important information about it's funding](#) over the next three months. If you have received Sport England funding then please read this guidance.
- Sport England has also launched [#StayInWorkOut](#) which provides tips, advice and guidance to staying active while at home.
- The Sport and Recreation Alliance has put together a handy list of [FAQs](#) following the announcement of Covid-19 support measures.

Finally, please do get in contact with me at [louise.latter@middlesexrugby.com](mailto:louise.latter@middlesexrugby.com) or one of your Group Officers. We are here to support you and listen to your concerns. This will help us ensure that we can provide advice and solutions that are tailored to you and all our clubs.

**Update from Andrew Smart Chair of Competitions** - As promised, I completed my deliberations around the six MMTs and 2 Vets MTs by last Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March and all the participating clubs have been informed of the results. The clubs in each merit table were given seven days to appeal my decision to Rob Park and a team of referees at the London. As my work finished, theirs has begun As, we are still in the appeal period, I am yet not in a position to confirm the Champions of each of our MTs or indeed those sides that have been relegated but I expect to be able to do that next week. I am conscious that we have a number of clubs that have teams in both the Surrey and HMMTs and also next week I will do an update on what has happened with them and their competitions.

My next step will be to speak to the clubs that have already reached county finals to see whether they would be interested in playing those games, assuming we will be playing rugby in September, before the beginning of next season. These finals include the main Cup, Federation Vase, MT Cup/Bowl/Vase, NW Floodlit Cup and H/M2 League Cup. Where clubs want these finals to be played, I will start to arrange dates and venues. Where one or both clubs don't want to play, the competition will be written off for the 2019/20 season

Finally, I have some ideas about revamping the three main county cup competitions, which have been in decline for some years, which would also see the inclusion of an extra competition, which I will share with you in a later newsletter. Lyndon and I would most interested in any comments once I have had a chance to properly explain them

**Update from Andrew Smart Chair of Group Officers** - Unsurprisingly along which much else that is going on throughout the county the Group AGMs in April have all been cancelled. However, the elections for the Group Officers will go on as planned. Clubs will be asked to select their officers after they have received nomination forms from their Group Secretary. All the elections will work to the date of the Group's nominated AGM. As it stands, I am delighted that seven of the eight Group Officers have agreed to stand again. Unfortunately, Brian East, Chair of the North Group, has decided to step down after many years of outstanding service and I am sure that I speak for all of us when I thank him for all his efforts. His common sense, his humour and his sense of calm will be sorely missed not only by the North Group, but us all and in particular all those across the county that he has done so much to help and inspire.

I am delighted that Jon Boyle the President of Hampstead has agreed to put his name forward to become the new North Group Chairman. It is of course completely a matter for the North Group Clubs but whoever does take Brian's place, he or she knows that they will have some big boots to fill. The dates for the group elections are as follows.

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South 6<sup>th</sup> April, West 8<sup>th</sup> April, North West April and North 20<sup>th</sup> April. The election of the Chairman of the Group Officers will be decided on the 21<sup>st</sup> May which is the date of the Group Officer's AGM.

Next week I will to explain in detail how the Groups are looking to support our clubs over this desperately difficult period for us.

## **What's on This Week**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 – 19.30hrs – 20.30hrs - Management on Line Conference Meeting.**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 – 19.0hrs – 20hrs, Game Developers Webinars – RFU LDT. Every Tuesday (7.00-8.00pm)** England rugby will be hosting educational Webinars from 7.00 – 8.00pm covering a range of topics and including special guest speakers to support the continued development of our volunteers in and around the game. Communication will come out every Monday with sign-up details and topic themes for the week. These will be promoted via our social media channels, If you are interested in attending the call please email Hannah Edwards – [Hannahedwards@rfu.com](mailto:Hannahedwards@rfu.com)

**Wednesday 01<sup>st</sup> April 2020 – 15.0hrs Warren Abrahams**

We are also running a webinar on Wednesday at 3 pm with Warren Abrahams who was Academy Coach at Harlequins and then England 7s and now is with US7s. He is presenting on how to develop players with great practice design.

Here is a link to sign up for the Warren Abrahams webinar

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vXRSLrrfTR-ETe1eC98C\\_A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vXRSLrrfTR-ETe1eC98C_A)

**Wednesday 01<sup>st</sup> April 2020 – 19.0hrs The Magic Academy – Sign up below**

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TLQuUoDTS6xZOzZ5izF4w](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TLQuUoDTS6xZOzZ5izF4w)

**Thursday 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 – 19.0hrs Coach Logic - Sign up below**

Here is the registration link to access the webinar [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_hB1DceKR32BD\\_aeeBгнаA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hB1DceKR32BD_aeeBгнаA)

Once coaches have registered, they will be sent a link to join the webinar on the night.

**Friday 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 – 15.0hrs London Irish Academy Online Webinar 10.30hrs – 11.30hrs  
To Sign Up EMAIL – [Jack.pattinson@london-irish.com](mailto:Jack.pattinson@london-irish.com)**

**Monday 06<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – 19.0hrs – 20hrs Accreditation & Health Check – RFU LDT**

- **Accreditation and Health Check support - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of April (7.00 - 8.00pm)** Volunteers support webinar to increase understanding of the club accreditation process and how it can support the development of our clubs business model and planning process for the years to come. Please see website link for more context to how the Accreditation process works and could be useful for your club.

[https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/running-your-club/legal-and-administration/club-accreditation.](https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/running-your-club/legal-and-administration/club-accreditation)

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