

Sussex Rugby Union

Facilities Report

23rdth November 2009

The quiet period has continued of late with clubs continuing their progress towards improving their facilities in a wide variety of ways. Three clubs Crowborough, Horsham and Lewes have ambitious plans to build new or have large extensions added to their clubhouses and several clubs are considering less ambitious programmes to improve their clubhouses or pitches.

Rick Bruin and I will be meeting shortly to look at the County plan for year two commencing in April 2010 of the three year plan and when completed will be passed to the RCDP Chairman before being put to the CB Executive for final approval early next year. Rick has warned of the probable shortfall in RFU funding during the next three years so it will be up to Sussex clubs to establish their claims for facilities improvements as early as possible.

The four Rugby Development Partnership Chairman have continued to encourage clubs to return their Questionnaires during the summer but a number of clubs have failed to do so despite reminders. The 'offending' clubs at this moment are:-

Cinque Ports, Ditchling and Littlehampton

Rick Bruin and I met with representatives of Littlehampton, Barns Green and Crawley at the RDP Workshop at Horsham on the 18th November to hear their latest ideas on facilities improvements. Littlehampton had not previously received the Questionnaire but have now promised to complete and return it quickly.

I am aware that one other of these clubs is currently working towards completing the Questionnaire

Update on present club schemes for assistance and help to improve facilities.

1. Seaford.

Recent internal improvements completed. Application for an RFF grant for new boiler submitted and approved.

2. Heathfield and Waldron.

New pitch completed, new training lights planned.

3. Horsham.

Plans for new Clubhouse and pitches progressing slowly. New Fund Raising Committee formed

4. Crowborough.

Application for RFF funding for improvements to pitch drainage, floodlights and new posts now submitted. Action on new Clubhouse progressing slowly

5. Hove.

Quiet at the moment

6. Shoreham.

Quiet at the moment

7. Haywards Heath.

Construction of new car park underway. Improvements to training area and new training lights being planned as a priority over pitch drainage improvements on adjacent fields.

8. Hastings.

Improvements to pitch drainage underway courtesy of an RFU grant. First floor clubhouse extension and balcony planned.

9. Chichester.

Improvements to Clubhouse facilities underway.

10. Crawley.

Meetings between the Club and the Borough Council have been ongoing with the Council showing very little interest in the clubs proposal to improve pitch drainage, lack of funds being cited by the Council. Club now considering purchasing the freehold of the clubhouse leaving the ownership of the pitches with the Council for use in the possible expansion of Gatwick Airport. Investigation into the working of the main switch on the floodlights continuing.

11. Hellingly.

Comprehensive study and plans to improve ground drainage and pitch improvements being considered. Additional external storage facilities much needed. New boiler facilities required.

12. East Grinstead.

Two story extension to Clubhouse (Planning permission granted 2007). All weather surface on training area and new all weather wheel chair access to third pitch now planned

13. Uckfield.

Improvements to pitch drainage and spectator standing

14. Eastbourne.

Plans for new training lights and clubhouse improvements being considered

15. Worthing.

Plans for ground floor and first floor extensions to clubhouse to provide additional facilities being considered also additional car parking area and additional training lights required

16. Lewes.

Extension to Clubhouse and new pitches and car park now being planned for the long term benefit of the club.

17. Newick

Quiet at the moment

18. Pulborough

Purchase of more land for new training pitch completed, extension to Clubhouse to provide external storage facilities and additional car parking area also planned

19. Rye.

Quiet at the moment

20. Cinque Ports.

New training lights completed. Return of Questionnaire awaited

21. Shoreham.

Improvements to Clubhouse subject to agreement with Adur DC

22. Barns Green

New pitch required. Fund raising for the purchase of adjacent field for new pitch underway.

23. Midhurst

New training lights required.

24. Plumpton

New training lights and shower improvements.

25. Bognor

Upgrading of showers, external redecorations, new goal posts pitch improvements, improved training lights and enlargement of training area

26. Brighton

Improvements to bar and dining area, new floor coverings in 2010, new commercial dining area, offices, additional player facilities, improved spectator areas, members dining room, second catering facility and gym in 2011. Resurfacing work to car park. Repairs to main pitch flood lights.

27. Ditchling

No submission, return of Questionnaire awaited.

28. Littlehampton

Presently using school facilities but growth is retarded. Club in need of a playing coach, mobile training lights and scrummage machine, possibly second hand. Considering application for a Ground Match Grant. New Club Secretary appointed. Return of Questionnaire awaited.

Please remember that whilst facilities programming can and will continue by the County and the RFU the final County Facilities Strategy for 2010-2011 cannot be completed until all the Club Questionnaires are returned and submitted to the RFU for consideration and evaluation Money is tight and Sussex must not miss out on facilities funding.

P R Mercer
County Facilities Officer
23rd November 2009