

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Adrian Siddorn

Challenges and Opportunities

Mr President club members

The coming season will present both challenges and opportunities for the County.

Due to the financial review undertaken at Twickenham the County will receive 16% less funding from the RFU in the 2019 -20 season. The RFU funding is the Counties main source of income.

Alongside this we are being asked to change the way the spending plan is constructed. This presents both challenges and opportunities. The challenge being changing the way the plan is presented using the short time available, the opportunity being we now have a more user-friendly document that will be posted on to the web site for all clubs to look at.

As part of the review most of the grant funding will not be available to clubs, however please note emergency funding for broken boilers etc will still be considered.

As part of the process of deciding our priorities five forums were held around the County in each of our Combinations. To all those that contributed thank you. Mike Heath and the Rugby committee gathered all the data and this was then used to construct the spending plan for next season.

Within the plan are our key priorities :these are

- More games played by adult males' women and girls
- More club volunteers
- Better understanding for clubs of funding opportunities and the application process to access those funds.

Our business as usual e.g. competitions and facilities will carry on alongside these priorities.

There is an ongoing review of our operating procedures to streamline our organisational structure to better deliver our priorities to you our clubs. To accomplish this a task and finish group is looking at our structures, communication methods and meeting schedule to make them fit for the challenges we will face.

I am pleased that great progress has been made to improve the already close working relationship we have with the professional staff that is the RDO's and the CRC's. This relationship is vital to the CB and our clubs and I thank the whole professional team for their commitment and help.

As part of the financial review mentioned earlier the RFU has withdrawn funding for the Bi Annual Leadership Academy and if Counties wish to run the Academy the not insubstantial funds have to come from their own resources. Gloucestershire has decided to canvas past members to see the value they gained from the experience and to seek the interest from clubs. We will then decide if we will commit funds to this in the next season 20 - 21.

This season that is just finishing saw a lot of changes to the management committee not least myself taking over as Chairman from Peter Williams, there were changes of the County Administrator, volunteering, age grade rugby and coaching all had new sector heads. Despite these challenges the management team delivered the majority of their objectives from last years spending plan and completed the movement and modernisation of the County office.

I thank those new to the committee for their input this year. To this end I would like to personally thank Andrea for her ongoing patience and efforts particularly when helping me..

Whilst mentioning Peter Williams who has had some health issues, I am pleased to report he is progressing well and hopes to soon take up his position as the County Presidency.

In closing thank you to all of the volunteers involved with the Gloucestershire Rugby Football Union and thank you to all of the Clubs we serve. Every volunteer puts our clubs at the heart of everything we do and we are here to serve your needs please do not hesitate to contact the County office or the professional staff when your club needs help support or information. Finally and not least a personal thank you to the management committee for their support

Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you.