

The Wanderer

WRFC NEWS January 2021

Dear members, players, parents and friends

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2021. It would be custom to wish everyone a happy New Year, but it feels a little hollow just at the moment. We will, despite everything, get through these dark months and I look forward to being able to celebrate with everyone, sometime later this year, the return of rugby for all. As always, our thoughts are with you and with those continuing to work on the front line. In the meantime, please stay safe; follow the guidelines, stay at home and do your bit to help prevent the spread of this dreadful, now more virulent, virus.

In this edition

[Managing Covid19](#)

[New Club Roles](#)

[Club Finances](#)

[100 Club Donation](#)

[Member Communications](#)

[GMS and Membership](#)

[New Floodlights and Fundraising Campaign](#)

[Worcestershire Black Knights – American Football](#)

[Team](#)

[And Finally...](#)

Managing Covid19

I must put on record my thanks to Paul Knott and the many others involved in managing our response to Covid19 and the restrictions over the last several months. It has been a massive undertaking for everyone with Government and RFU guidance often changing daily. Despite the

challenges we have managed some limited rugby activities and kept everyone safe. I know from communications with other Clubs that players and members elsewhere have not always been as understanding so a big thank you to the WRFC family for their continued support. Paul has kindly agreed to continue steering us through C19 and will be in touch as soon as there are any new developments. We think it will be several weeks before we hear anything from the RFU.

New Club Roles

Talking of resumption please take time look at the [advertisement](#) (at the end of this Newsletter) for three new Club roles we are looking to fill. As part of our continued efforts to promote a One Club ethos and involve more members in the running of this great Club we are now looking to recruit three volunteers for Club Welfare, Volunteering and Club Social. These roles will play a key part in re-energising the Club once we get the go ahead to re-open.

Club Finances

I am sure many will be wondering how we will manage, financially, over the coming months. We are assuming the Club will be closed for the foreseeable future and when it does re-open the bar and commercial activities will be severely restricted. We have reduced day to day expenditure as much as we can but we still have some bills to pay - such as utilities. We are also assuming there will be no competitive rugby until the start of next season.

We will get through this, but it would be safe to assume that, without significant external help, we



Mini – Junior – Senior



One Club

The Wanderer

WRFC NEWS January 2021

will end the year with a sizable deficit. We will publish a forecast next month so members know what to expect at the end of the season.

In the meantime, Sam Carter, Business Development and Tom Reeves, Media/PR have begun to plan how best we promote the Club for external events as well as encouraging members and friends back to the Club when restrictions are eased. More on this next month.

100 Club Donation

A huge thank you Dick Cummings and all the 100 Club members for their generous donation towards the replacement posts on pitches 1 and 3. The posts were toppled by the winds last year and, as with many occasions in the past, the 100 Club has come to the rescue. If you are not already a member of the 100 Club apply now! Just click here for an application form: [WRFC 100 Club](#)

Members contribute £4.33 per month by standing order and have the chance to win some great weekly and monthly cash prizes as well as join in the socials.

Member Communications

A key item raised at the AGM by members was concern about the plethora of communication channels used by the Club and those associated with teams. Some members are unclear where to look and feel some messages can be confused and contradictory.

We agreed to look at this and Tom Reeves has been reviewing the various formal channel of communication we use - including our website. Tom will be reporting the outcome of his work

next month. In the meantime keep an eye on <https://worcesterrfc.rfu.Club> for all the latest news and events. Sadly, there isn't much to report at the moment!

Greg Fincher, Vice Chair and Patron Representative wrote to all patrons via GMS in December seeking views on Club matters and communications. The five responses we received - all concerned about parking for Warrior's matches. We will respond on once we know when the professional game can allow spectators once more. Patron views are important to us so if you have any thoughts let Greg know. Greg will be writing to Patrons again with an update on Club news in March.

Finally, we are looking to trial a couple of 'Town Hall' events before the AGM in June. We had hoped to have these at the Club - over a shandy - but C19 has put paid to this for the time being. A Zoom meeting is therefore most likely and details will be announced shortly. If you have any thoughts on topics that are of importance to members, players or parents, please let me know.

GMS and Membership

We have made good progress on the move of Patron and Player members across to GMS. We hope to sign off a new membership procedure next month. Our aim is to have all members and players signed up to GMS and outstanding subscriptions paid by the end of May so we can start the new season with a clean slate. We are also chasing up those who have not paid or paid in full for last season. Where a member has not paid since 2018/19 their membership will be terminated.



Mini – Junior – Senior



One Club

The Wanderer

WRFC NEWS January 2021

Tim Cunliffe is currently overseeing GMS and membership so if you haven't already signed up for GMS or paid please contact Tim asap!

New Floodlights and Fundraising Campaign

We have established a small group to look at the case for additional floodlighting and funding. There are many pros and cons alongside some big challenges including planning permission and finding the £40,000 needed. I hope the group will be able to make a recommendation to the Management Committee in March.

Worcestershire Black Knights – American Football Team

We have agreed to host the Worcestershire Black Knights American Football Team in 2021. This includes the hire of a spare pitch on a Sunday for training and their 4-home league matches which are held in the summer months. With careful planning this can be achieved without disruption to our M/Js.

The Worcester Black Knights play in the SFC2 Central league and are regulated by the sports governing body British American Football Association (BAFA). They have around 60 playing members and expect to play against Birmingham Bulls, Hereford Stampede, Northants Knights, and Ouse Valley Eagles.

We have been very impressed with the youthful exuberance of the Knights management team who are keen to find a home that not only offers them

training and playing facilities but also offers them



a social base. For our part it offers us the chance to

welcome some sporting activity during the summer months. The deal is initially for one season and we will review the arrangement in due course.

The fixture dates have yet to be released and, needless to say, C19 means we are having to review the outline timetable and logistics for training and matches.

And Finally...



We are exploring the potential for a WRFC educational and rugby Academy. We are still at the early stages of discussion and planning but if successful the Academy will

offer education and rugby to children excluded from mainstream education and allow us to make use of our underutilised facilities on week-days. Whilst there is some potential commercial benefit to the Club the Academy allows us to broaden our appeal and play a bigger part in the lives of children – fitting for our 150th year. The final decision will be subject to full Committee approval later this year.

Stay safe

Steve Lloyd Chair



Mini – Junior – Senior



One Club

The Wanderer

WRFC NEWS January 2021

Calling all Players, Members and Parents

Your Club Needs You!

As part of our plans to promote a one Club ethos and involve more of you in the running of this great Club we are looking to fill three new volunteer roles.

Player Welfare/'Rugbysafe' Lead – All age groups and teams

The rugby community is increasingly mindful of player welfare - on and off the pitch. WRFC wants to be regarded as forward thinking, a safe environment to training and play and have player welfare at the heart of rugby activities.

The RFU are also encouraging all Clubs to appoint a 'Rugbysafe' lead to promote good practice across the game. RugbySafe is the RFU's game wide player welfare awareness campaign that aims to ensure that all rugby is played in a safe and enjoyable environment.

WRFC is looking to appoint a volunteer lead to provide oversight and leadership across all aspects of player welfare. Working with established leads such as Safeguarding, Team managers etc. and, where needed, creating new roles, the Player Welfare/Rugbysafe lead will oversee:

- First Aid / Immediate Care Pitch-side Provision (with the Club's First Aid Coordinator)
- Playing and training policies* e.g. the management of head injuries
- Safeguarding (with the Club's safeguarding lead) across all age groups and teams
- Emergency Action Plan
- Player mental health
- Inclusion
- Adoption of best practise, training, guidance and awareness
- A welfare subgroup of key Club leads.

*C19 will remain with the Club's C19 lead for the time being.

The lead will report to the Director or Rugby and be the point of contact for and represent the Club on all welfare matters.

The role would ideally suit someone who already has a good understanding of WRFC and rugby and/or sports welfare/health. The Club will support the individual with appropriate training.



Mini – Junior – Senior



One Club

The Wanderer

WRFC NEWS January 2021

Volunteer Co-ordinator

As a members' Club we are run and organised by volunteers from the ranks of players, members and parents. All give their time generously, help create a strong sense of community and make WRFC a great place to be.

Whilst our voluntary arrangements work well in most areas we recognise there is a need to promote and better coordinate volunteering across the Club.

With Club leads the Volunteer Coordinator will be responsible for:

- Promoting volunteering across all players, members and parents. This will include leading on specific campaigns.
- Undertaking a skills audit across the Club to establish what time and skills our players, members and parents might have to offer the Club.
- Through the skills audit identifying individuals who may have specialist skills the Club might, from time to time, call upon.
- Working with Management Committee members to identify opportunities for players, members and parents to assist with unplanned pressures and initiatives.
- Building up a volunteers list from across all players, members and parents.
- Identifying and meeting routine needs e.g. mid-week Bar rota and with the age group/team car park marshalling for match/Warrior match days.
- Meeting ad-hoc needs e.g. filling pot holes in the car park, litter picking or painting the changing rooms!
- Seeking out best practise and developing a Club volunteers policy, compliance with other Club policies, guidance and where appropriate training.

The role will suit someone familiar with the Club – across all sections and have good organisational and interpersonal skills.

Club Social

Building on our long history we want to forge a strong Club community in our new Clubhouse. A Club not only focused on training and matchdays but also on having fun and making the Club a great place to be.

Club Social will involve engaging with all players and members promoting, overseeing and from time-to-time organising social events. This could include a race night, a curry night, a pool tournament or fundraising. The aim is to get people together and have fun – and all at a modest cost!

This role will be part of the Business Development team and involve close working with Bars and Commercial.

The role will suit someone familiar with the Club – across all sections and have good organisational and interpersonal skills.



Mini – Junior – Senior



One Club

The Wanderer

WRFC NEWS January 2021

oo0oo

As these are new voluntary roles the first task will be refine the remit and agree the priorities for the season. I am happy to look at shaping the role to suit the skills and time the volunteer can give and you will also be free to build a team to support you.

A key objective will be engaging with all sections, age groups and teams to help promote our aim to be one Club. This will be especially important as we emerge from the C19 restrictions.

If you are interested, please let Jeff Crawshaw know at secretary@worcesterrugbyClub.co.uk by not later than 14 February 2021.

Appointments will be made in February or early March and are offered, initially, up to June 2022.

Steve Lloyd, Chair



Mini – Junior – Senior



One Club