



The Wanderer



WRFC NEWS EASTER 2021

Dear members, players, parents and friends

I hope you were able to enjoy the Easter holiday and some of our new freedoms. Fingers crossed we remain on course and I very much look forward to welcoming you back to the clubhouse later this month.

Club Open Day – 17 April 2021

Our welcome back outdoor open day will be on Saturday 17 April for all members and players. We will be open from 12.00 until late and no booking is required. Food and drink will be available, and you will be able to watch all the Premiership matches live from 2.00 pm including the Warriors v Harlequins game at 3.00pm. We will strictly observe C19 rules and for your comfort we will have a Teepee and an open sided gazebo or two...

An Evening with Lewis Moody – 10 July 2021

As part of our 150th celebrations and our post covid freedoms we are delighted to welcome Lewis Moody to our Club on 10th July 2021. Tickets for the 2-course dinner will be on sale soon. Keep an eye on the Website for details.

Return To Training

We took our first baby steps back to training on the 29th. We had an excellent turnout of senior players on the 29th and also of M/Js on the 4th April. We are working closely with team managers to make coaching and training safe and in line with the Government and RFU guidelines. The truncated season means that everyone will need to be flexible if we are to offer as many teams as possible training time over the next couple of months. Our latest guidance can be found here <http://bit.ly/wrfcrtlatest>. It will be some time before we have a clear and definite picture about the 21/22 Season and we will up-date you as soon

as we hear anything. Please keep an eye on the WRFC Website for the latest developments.

The WRFC family have been very supportive of the C19 measures we have introduced, and I know everyone will continue to put the safety and welfare of others first.

WRFC Colts

Marie Meredith is the new manager for the WRFC Colts. Marie will be known to many as a stalwart of the M/Js and last year's U16s manager. Marie will be joined by a new coaching team and the first training sessions was held on the 30th March. Again, details can be found on the Website.

GMS/Membership

We will publish the new GMS/membership policy in April. In short, the club policy will be that from next season, in all but a very few circumstances members, and players must be registered through GMS to enjoy the clubhouse facilities and to train and play.

Adrian Harling, Vice President and long-time member of the Club, has kindly agreed to act as our GMS Membership Ambassador. We still have a number of Patron Members who are not yet on GMS and also a number with whom we have lost contact. Adrian will be following up these members and pointing them in the direction of help. Our aim is to have everyone's membership sorted by the end of May and ready for, what we hope will be, a full season of rugby in 2021/22.

If you hear from Adrian or know him and need help with GMS please get in touch. Also if you know of a member who might not be receiving our membership communications or changed address please alert Adrian. Adrian can be contacted via email at adrian.harling@gmail.com.

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Town Hall Event

Thank you to those who participated in the Town Hall event on the 16 March. The aim of the event was to share with Members, Players and Parents our plans for emerging safely from C19, our financial position and our plans for GMS and membership.

Many excellent ideas and questions were put forward and have certainly given us food for thought. We have also reviewed the event and have added our conclusions to the slide pack. You can find a copy of the slides in the members area on our website. We will take these on board for the next meeting which will be in May. The meeting will be all about rugby.

Club Finances

We presented our analysis of the underlying financial position for the club at the Town Hall event. If we do nothing we believe we will have, from next season, a gap of somewhere in the region of £40,000 per year. It is a big enough number to worry about but not too big to address. We will continue to improve housekeeping wherever we can, look to attract more commercial activity, attract more sponsorship and advertising and of course look to increase membership income. On the latter we will be consulting members in due course about both fees and types of membership on offer.

On a positive note it looks like we will end this year with a surplus of around £20,000 due to the continued generosity of members paying their subs and the various (taxable) C19 allowances and grants. We are looking at how we might make use of this money. There are two worthy schools of thought – to bank the money given our overall financial position or to spend on club improvements as a C19 legacy. More on this in due course.

WRFC Commercial Web site

We have now launched our commercial web site – <https://www.wrfcevents.co.uk/>

It is separate from our club web site and is focussed on promoting clubhouse facilities for hire. We made the decision to use a separate web site as our current club web site is primarily for members and rugby and the opportunity to promote the clubhouse for hire was hidden in the morass of other information.

Grounds

We have given the go ahead to undertake the repair to the track down to pitches 3 and 4, the track between the main car park and clubhouse and some remedial work in the main car park. We are holding off any work on the muddy right-hand corner of pitch one until we know what cabling work will be needed for the new floodlights. The work should start soon and I apologise if there is any inconvenience during the work.

150 Challenge – Floodlight Fundraising

If you haven't seen Sarah from the MAs WhatsApp video post look at it now. It is inspiring and reminds us all what a great team of people and Club we have.

We have now raised over £3000 and a big thank you and congratulations to the members who have already finished their challenges! Congratulations to James Swain who ran 150m, Sarah Nicholls who ran 150km and Chris Burton who bikes 150km. Many other challenges are just getting under way or are rolling on including 150 consecutive days of burpees, selling brownies, soap, chili jam and golf!!

If you haven't already signed up do so now, make a difference and help us get those floodlights in ready for THIS Winter. Details at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-150-challenge>

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150th Anniversary Celebrations

Plans for the 150th year celebrations are moving along at a pace. A big thank you to 150th anniversary team for all your hard work. Some dates for your diary:

10th July 2021- An evening with Lewis Moody

21st August 2021 - 150 Club celebrations - Come and see some ex-Worcester Rugby club and Worcester Warriors players, play against a select 15 and enjoy a mouth-watering BBQ.

5th March 2022 - Masquerade ball along with a casino and dinner- A sit down masked dinner and an exciting chance to play those favourite casino games! Tickets will be on sale later this year.

21st May 2022 - End of season dinner and close of the 150 year celebrations- A sit down dinner with a guest speaker (tbc). This will also be a fantastic celebration of closing the 150th year with a bang! Tickets will be on sale later this year.

Club Kit Supplier - Scimitar

I am delighted to announce that following a competitive process we have re-appointed Scimitar as the kit supplier for a further five years. Scimitar were found to be the best value-for-money and best long-term partner for us as we move into our 150th year.

Scimitar have been supplying us for as long as the company has been in existence and we have an incredible relationship with them. Directors Jon Rew and Sam Carter have played for the club many times and are Worcester people. They offer more than just kit supply and it is this relationship which played a key part in the new five-year deal. The quality of their offering, green credentials and the

fact that they control the supply line were very key in our decision.

Club Badge

The kit deal has also given us the opportunity to standardise our club badge and launch a badge for our 150th anniversary. See the mock-ups below. Our full Club name is 'Worcester Rugby Football Club' and our colours are Navy Blue and Old Gold. We will, over time and when it is appropriate to do so, replace the myriad of badges that have crept in over the years.



Adult Women's Rugby

It's great to have women's rugby back at the club. Benny Williams, Womens Lead tells us all about it here;

Benny Williams

I grew up living and playing rugby in Basingstoke and then ended up playing my last part of my age grade rugby at Ellingham and Ringwood. I moved up to Worcester to study Sports Therapy at University of Worcester and joined Worcester RFC in 2013. I played at Worcester RFC from 2013-2017 playing for both for the 2nd team and then eventually the 1st team. In 2017 in the last prem game of the year I sustained a bad leg break and decided I wouldn't play again. When Worcester Women RFC transferred over to be at Worcester Warriors I initially joined as a Sports Massage Therapist but then soon got myself stuck into a bit of coaching. Since then I have coached the Worcester Warriors Development team, Worcester Women RFC, University of Worcester

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Womens team and Lead on the Centre of Excellence. In January 2020 I was appointed the role of Head of Womens Development at Worcester Warriors.

The squad is made up of those who used to play Worcester Warriors Women development team; players from the university; wanting to try rugby for the first time and those wanting to just play rugby more locally.

We train on Mondays and Thursdays evenings and will be looking to play games on different days over the weekend including some Friday evening fixtures to allow for players to have an action packed weekend and not feeling always beaten up on a Monday morning.

Working together WRFC and Worcester Warriors Women want to be able to offer both elite and club rugby locally. It was really important for us that the U18s girls team had a women's team to feed into so they can stay at Worcester RFC if they so wish. We will strive to make sure we are helping create a good cross team ethos within the club and inspire those girls in age grade rugby. We want to help those players with ambitions of playing over at Worcester Warriors develop to be Premier 15s players. We also want to have more local women get into rugby for the first time to enjoy and love the game.

To be able to achieve our ambitions of 'rugby for all' we are aiming to have at least 2 teams to support individuals in their needs and wants. As a section we are aiming to have our 1st team within the Womens Championship to make sure players are getting a competitive and challenging playing program. The 2nd team will be for those players that just want to play socially or learning the game for the first time. Our motto is 'Be Better Together' as this is all encompassing across everyone's needs and wants as everyone wants to get better and that can come in many forms as better people, better rugby players, better fitness etc etc. And of

course we also look forward to participating fully in the social life at Westons!

We are really excited to get back training and create better links with other sections within the club. Anyone interested in coming to join or anything else can email [worcesterrwarriorsrfc@gmail.com](mailto:worcesterwarriorsrfc@gmail.com).

Worcester Black Knights American Football Team

The Knights start their pre-season training on Cummins this Sunday. They will be observing strict C19 rules and training from 10.00am – 1.00pm. If you see them give them a warm WRFC welcome.

And finally,

Please don't use Westons as a golf range. It isn't just any old meadow!



**Stay safe
Steve Lloyd
Chair**

**MEMBERS & PLAYERS
DON'T FORGET...
GMS**

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