



# Westcliff RFC

Dear Members,

As we reach the end of our forthcoming season preparations, I thought a quick update from the Executive Board would be welcome. Rugby will soon be back at the Gables and the Senior Men's, Ladies, Youth and mini's teams have been hard at work preparing for the season ahead.

## *Senior Mens Rugby*

The 1<sup>st</sup> XV pre-season games kick off away at Southend RFC KO 8pm under the lights on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of August, followed by a home game against Brentwood RFC again under the lights on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of August. We will have the outside bar and BBQ available on the 26<sup>th</sup> KO to be confirmed!

Two local rivals promising two great evenings of rugby, it would be great to see as many of you as possible at Warner's Bridge and the Gables supporting the team.

The National 2 season kicks off at home against Sevenoaks on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September and as usual we will be holding our pre-match lunch, please contact Sianne at [hospitality@westcliffRFC.co.uk](mailto:hospitality@westcliffRFC.co.uk) to book your table. Our thanks go to Ian Dudley and Gareth Davies who are sponsoring the first lunch of the season.

The Sevenoaks game is swiftly followed by our much anticipated local league derby away at Rochford on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September. Rochford have kindly offered discounted entry to all Westcliff members on production of their membership card! We are in the process of producing our new membership cards so to take advantage of this offer we have produced an "Entrance Voucher" for Westcliff members. These will be available from the club from Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

There is of course concern regarding the solid ground, but the RFU have announced that there will be no delay in the start of the season. If clubs have concern that the pitches are unplayable the pitches must be inspected by a qualified referee.

Our thanks go again to Kent Bray who stepped down from Director of Rugby at the end of last season. Danny Johnson has now taken up the combined role of Head Coach and Director of Rugby. We welcome Howard Parr and Jimmy Rea who have been appointed as Coach and Player-Coach respectively.

Danny and his team have worked hard during pre-season which sees a good retention of last year's playing squad with the additional recruitment of players to bolster the squad. Keep an eye out on our social media channels for the squad announcements.



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(Community Amateur Sports Club)



We have news from last season that affects our start to the 22/23 season. As many of you know we were left with no choice but to cancel the away match at Worthing due to concerns over player safety due to lack of available players.

Despite our appeal, unfortunately, the National League (NCA), has deducted us 5 points from the start of the forthcoming season. Please give as much support as you can at both home and away games to get behind the squad and help overturn the points deficit!

### *Senior Ladies Rugby*

The Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XV pre-season friendlies start on 4<sup>th</sup> of September away at East London, 11<sup>th</sup> of September home against Romford Ravens before the first Cup game of the season on the 18<sup>th</sup> September.

The NC2 South East League kicks off on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September away at Thurrock, with our first home game scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, a local derby against Southend Saints. Please come along and support the Ladies throughout the season and we plan to hold a pre-match lunch on this day, please email Sianne to book you place.

### *Youth and Mini Rugby*

The youth and mini season formally starts on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September and we are looking forward to welcoming back all sides who have been boosted with numbers in the off season.

We have had a few changes in roles with Tim Ablethorpe being elected Youth Chairman, Marc Grange stepping up to now coordinate Youth Fixtures for Essex RFU and Gareth Sykes now taking over the role of Pitch allocation coordinator as well as Membership Secretary.

### *Changes to the Executive Committee and Club Officers*

Following the recent AGM and as is the norm for this time of year there have been several changes to key Club Officers in readiness for the forthcoming season.

Our thanks go to John Pacey who stepped down as President after six years and to Pete Jones who stepped down after seven years as Chairman. As a club we are in a great place following their guidance and they will be missed on the Exec Board. Congratulations to John being elected an HLM and Pete a HVP. We look forward to seeing you both at the club at supporting lunches and events this season.

Nick Crowe has been elected President for his second term!

James Evans has been elected Chairman, formerly Youth Chair.

Re-joining the board is Peter Mahoney as Director Liaison to rugby.

Tim Ablethorpe has been appointed Youth Chair and Dash Allum continues as Minis Chair

The rest of the board remains as last season and a full set of Bios and job roles can be found on our website!

<https://westcliffRFC.co.uk/my-club/>

### *EGM*

As discussed at the AGM, the Honorary Secretary will shortly issue a formal notice to call an EGM. This meeting is required for the Exec Board to present to the Membership the Constitutional changes in regard to changes the Executive Board has identified in order to future-proof Westcliff Rugby Club to allow more flexibility to support Senior rugby.

### *Sponsorship*

Huge thanks go to our continued and new sponsors for this season; we very much value your continued help and support, and we look forward to welcoming you all to the club!

If anyone is interested in sponsoring the club in any way please contact Jamie Lewis - [jamie@theaffinitygroup.co.uk](mailto:jamie@theaffinitygroup.co.uk)

### *Congratulations and Thanks*

Congratulations to Karen Hunter who become an HVP, well deserved for all your time and dedication to the Club and in recent years to our outstanding Lion Cub group.

To Adrian Hastie who becomes an HVP – a lifelong servant of the club in various capacities over many years.

Our thanks go to George Marrant who has stepped down from voluntary kitchen and pre-match lunch duties. Thank you so much for your time and dedication over the last few seasons and we hope to see you at the club on a Saturday enjoying the lunches and cheering on the boys! We will be announcing a new Kitchen Manager very soon.

### *Social Events*

The LoSCC v WRFC cricket match will go ahead on bank holiday Sunday 28th August 2022 at Chalkwell Park  
All WRFC members are invited and are of course very welcome to come along and support the team.  
Bar open from midday . BBQ all day. Match starts at 2pm.

To finish, myself and the Executive Board are looking forward to a great season ahead for Westcliff Rugby Club and look forward to welcoming you and your continues support.

Kind regards

James

James Evans  
Chairman, Westcliff Rugby Football Club