

Report on West Forum for 2010/11.

The West Forum met three times during the season, in September, January and March. A decision had been taken to dispense with the November meeting in order to come in line with the East Forum.

The attendance was mixed, with some clubs being far more enthusiastic than others. Crawley won the attendance table, providing at least two representatives at each meeting and totalling seven for the season, while Horsham came a close second with six appearances. One representative from Haywards Heath and Pulborough attended each meeting but Bognor and Midhurst failed to attend on any occasion.

In an attempt to assist every club, meetings for 2011/12 have been arranged for different days of the week and different venues, these being:

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at Crawley

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January at Hove

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March at Horsham.

Discussions on the format of the Mini Festival (West) led to the draw for this being made at the Mini Fixtures meeting in January at Haywards Heath and Kevin Blakiston kept the Forum up to date with mini matters.

Although Steve Searle was unable to attend, owing to training requirements at Brighton, he emailed his comments regarding the Under 13 and 14 Leagues and Steve Briscoe attended every meeting, with updates on the Under 15/16 Leagues. Mike Richardson was unable to attend the September or January meetings but he emailed regularly regarding the Colts competitions and gave the Forum an update in March. Despite the problems caused by snow in December, the Leagues worked well and I would like to thank the Organisers for their sterling work. Thanks are also due to Kevin for his efforts with regard to the Minis.

The Forum discussed the requirements for permission for tours, in and out of the County, problems with the shortage of referees for Youth matches and the apparent difficulty of arranging ELRA courses for aspiring referees, of which some had been cancelled for lack of support. The Forum hoped that it would be possible to encourage many of those on the Community Referees list to turn out for Youth matches.

Bad behaviour by players, coaches and spectators at Youth matches was addressed and it was emphasised that all clubs should have the Codes of Conduct for players, coaches and parents prominently displayed. The implication was that, if clubs want people to referee their matches, it would be helpful if they made every effort to make the experience as enjoyable as possible for the referee.

**David Beglan**  
**Chairman Sussex RFU West Forum**