

SUSSEX RUGBY UNION COUNTY FACILITY PLAN 2010 - 2011

Sussex Rugby Union County Facility Plan for year 2 April 2010 to April 2011 and provisional programmes for years 3 and 4 - April 2011 through to April 2013

I am pleased to advise that following my meeting with Rick Bruin RFU Funding and Facilities Manager (London and South East) at Hove RFC on the 10th December 2009 to discuss facilities funding for Sussex clubs that the following County Facilities Plan for year 2 has been agreed and that the programmes for Years 3 and 4 have been provisionally established for grant or loan aid funding from the RFU/RFF.

Year 1. -April 2009 – 2010 and ongoing.

There are seven clubs included in year 1 which have received funding for current projects or are working towards a further submission to satisfy RFU criteria.

Chichester. Improvements to clubhouse.

East Grinstead. Planned extension to clubhouse (PP granted in 2007), all weather surface on existing training area and all weather wheelchair access to third pitch.

Eastbourne. New training lights and clubhouse improvements. Application for new goal posts under the RFU Goal Post Scheme approved.

Hastings. Improvements to pitch drainage completed. New spectator's balcony planned by club.

Haywards Heath. New car park, improvements to training area, new training lights and possible improvements to pitch drainage.

Midhurst. New mobile training lights.

Seaford. Internal improvements to clubhouse and new boiler installation.

Year 2 – April 2010 to April 2011.

It was recognized that the following two clubs have demonstrated that they are sufficiently far forward both technically and financially to proceed and deliver their projects during year 2.

Crowborough. Pitch drainage, floodlights, new goal posts and new clubhouse.

Hove. Pitch improvements, extension to clubhouse and new netball court.

Year 3 – April 2011 to April 2012

The following clubs have demonstrated they are reasonably well forward with their plans both technically and financially to proceed with their projects during year 3.

Crawley. Improvements to pitch drainage and electrical work to floodlights main switch. Complicated negotiations with Crawley Borough Council over clubhouse and pitches ongoing.

Hellingly. Provision of new boiler, additional external storage facilities, new floodlights, pitch improvements and new drainage.

Heathfield and Waldron. New pitch completed. New floodlights and /or additional changing room facilities.

Uckfield. Improvements to pitch drainage and spectator standing. New Port a Cabin toilet facilities and drainage.

Rye. Improvements or renewal of their training lights.

The following two clubs have demonstrated they are reasonably well forward for inclusion in this year but probably on balance not until Year 4.

Bognor. (provisionally). Improvements to showers, external redecorations, improved training lights and enlarged training area. Application for new goal posts under the RFU Goal Post Scheme approved.

Horsham. New clubhouse with two new artificial turf pitches.

Year 4 – April 2012 – April 2013

The following clubs are earmarked for inclusion in Year 4. These clubs have all provisional or outline facility improvement programmes but are further behind other clubs in potential delivery.

Barns Green. New pitch- fundraising underway.

Cinque Ports. Club currently making enquiries with Hastings Borough Council on possible re-development of unused land for pitches and the refurbishment of an existing sports clubhouse at Pebsham Public Waste Disposal Site.

Lewes. Extension to clubhouse, new pitches and car park.

Pulborough. Purchase of additional land for new training pitch completed, extension to clubhouse to provide external storage facilities and a further car park area planned.

Year 4 and onwards.

Certain clubs have registered an outline proposal to develop facilities but further information is awaited. Consideration will be given to their programmes and possible funding when information is to hand.

Brighton. Improvements to bar and dining areas, new commercial dining area, additional player facilities, improved spectator areas, member's dining room, second catering facility and new gym. Externally, resurfacing the car park and repairs to main pitch floodlighting.

Littlehampton. Presently using school facilities but growth of membership retarded. Playing coach, new mobile training lights and scrummage machine needed.

Plumpton. New training lights and improvements to showers.

Shorham. Improvements to clubhouse.

Worthing. Ground and first floor extensions to clubhouse, a further car park area and additional training lights.

Post Meeting Developments.

At the time of the meeting two clubs had not prepared or submitted proposals for facilities improvements. Proposals have now been submitted.

Ditchling. Application for new set of goal posts under the RFU Goal Post Scheme approved.

Newick. Application for new set of goal posts received after closing date of the Goal Post Scheme.

The Sussex Rugby Union County Plan for 2010 to 2011 is an ongoing programme under constant change influenced by the acceleration or slowing down of clubs ideas and priorities for their future facilities requirements. Clubs need to be aware of this and not hold back if there is a change to their plans. Clubs should also be very much aware that RFU/RFF funding will be curtailed next year and as expected in the immediate following years.

The Rugby Football Foundation has informed me that the RFF Groundmatch Grant Scheme through which clubs can improve their facilities was closed on the 28th February 2010. RFF loans are still available at the present time but for how long is not known.

PR Mercer
County Facilities Officer
1st March 2010