

SUSSEX RUGBY UNION FACILITIES PLAN 2010 – 2011

A SUMMARY OF THE YEARS PROGRESS TO APRIL 2011

Steady progress has again been made this year building on the successes of the previous year and a number of Sussex clubs have benefited from both grant aid or loans made by the Rugby Football Union or the Rugby Football Foundation. Crowborough RFC's long term wishes finally turned to gold when the club received grant aid for their long awaited new clubhouse early in the year. The clubhouse will be ready for the 2011-2012 season and will undoubtedly be a huge benefit and encourage a rise in standards across all sections of the club.

Other clubs such as Horsham and Hellingly have worked hard during 2010 and 2011 to progress their facilities projects and it is pleasing that in May of this year both clubs were invited on to the Rugby Football Unions Capital Investment programme for planned improvements, in the case of Horsham for their clubhouse and in the case of Hellingly improvements to their pitch floodlighting.

A number of other clubs received financial assistance during the year.

Burgess Hill, Chichester, East Grinstead and Uckfield have progressed their plans for improvements and are likely to submit their proposals this year or possibly Year 4. A number of other clubs also have ambitious plans for their clubhouses, these include Lewes, Heathfield and Waldron, Cinque Ports and Shoreham. Nearly all the twenty eight participating clubs in the County have one plan or another to improve their clubhouse or pitch facilities. I will continue to encourage all clubs to progress a pro-active policy irrespective of the level of future funding available to Sussex.

The RFU and the RFF will continue to assist clubs with grants and loans and actively encourage applications for financial assistance through the Groundmatch Scheme. Details of the various schemes are available on the respective web sites. In addition to the RFU and RFF schemes, clubs may now apply to Sports England for assistance under their Sportmatch Scheme relaunched in January of this year. Sportmatch brings additional funding to not- for- profit organisations and offers grants from £1,000 to £100,000 to match sponsorship from the commercial sector, private individuals or charitable trusts.

P R Mercer
County Facilities Co-ordinator
6th June 2011