

# Lewes RFC Pride Club Proposal

## Background

Lewes RFC ("the Club") is a historic, successful, and proudly community-minded rugby union club. Over 90 years thousands of fantastic players, volunteers and supporters have contributed to the club. It is important to Lewes RFC that those who have donned the blue and white hoops or have worked to allow others to do so remain part of the Club long after they hang up their boots and brushes. With that Lewes RFC wants to establish a group/network for those people to still be connected to the Club. The Pride Club is named so to demonstrate our love of the Club and to fit with the 'lions' brand. This will not replace the Vice Presidents (VPs) which remain one of the Club's highest honors, but will in places overlap and supplement the VPs.

## Summary

- The Pride Club will be open to all those who have played, supported or helped the Club in any way
- This is a different group to the VPs who are very welcome to join
- The Pride Club will exist both virtually through a network database and a quarterly newsletter, and physically through 2-4 lunches a season
- Membership of the Pride Club will initially be free with money being paid for lunches attended, however a small membership fee will be considered after the first 12 months
- The Pride Club will have a modern and progressive feel that attracts all.

## Aim

- To contribute to Lewes RFC being the best amateur rugby union club in England.

## Objectives

- To increase the community feel of the Club
- To provide a route for those who do not play or volunteer at the Club anymore to feel officially connected to Club
- To provide a place for those who do not play or volunteer at the Club anymore to meet old friends and make new ones, and a place to welcome the wider Lewes community

## How will it work?

- The Pride Club will be opt-in and initially all of the Club membership will be invited to join and subsequently there will be a bi-annual advert. It should become practice that any player, coach or volunteer leaving the Club is immediately invited to join the Pride Club. There will be no limit on membership numbers.

- From its establishment the Pride Club will be rooted in inclusivity and therefore we will aim for a balanced gender membership, as well pushing for a membership that reflects the Club's inclusivity policy.
- The Pride Club will be led by at least two members of the Club, ideally Committee members, with support of the Pride Club from the Committee. The Pride Club will not have an independent governance structure and fall under the governance of the Committee.
- The Pride Club membership will receive regular (quarterly) and tailored communications keeping the members up-to-date with what is going on at the Club and updates on the Pride Club itself.
- The Pride Club will be invited to watch the 1st XV of the Men's and Women's sections play twice a season with a lunch offered beforehand and drinks offered after. The Pride Club lunches will (depending on the outcome of a consultation with the VPs) happen on the same day as the VP lunches, this will be reviewed after 12 months. It is critical that at least two members of the Committee are in attendance and also the leadership team/committee of the section that is not playing to provide the updates (Captain's Report) and make the lunch a success.
- The Pride Club lunches will primarily be an opportunity for Lewes' alumni to meet, reminisce, laugh, learn what the Club is doing, and feel proud to be a part of Lewes RFC. A secondary outcome of the lunches will be to fundraise for the Club through various mechanisms on the day such as raffles, auctions and games (e.g. heads or tails).
- The Pride Club will be invited to the end of year Club event

## Membership categories

The resulting effect is that the Club will have four distinct membership categories:

1. Playing membership
2. Vice Presidents
3. The Pride Club
4. Sponsor

## Next steps

- The Pride Club concept note will be put to the Club membership at the July 2020 annual general meeting for approval
- Pending approval The Pride Club will launch at the start of the 2020/21 season
- Two Committee Members (Rab Willis and James Sale) will coordinate the launch and the running of the Pride Club, this will be reviewed after 12 months