

**Minutes of Hampshire Girls clubs  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Trojans FC**



**Present**

**Hampshire RFU**

Julie Greenslade – Executive Director  
Georgia Leprohon – Admin Officer  
Laura Self – Youth Chair  
Sandra Coffin – Hampshire Girls Representative

**RFU**

Alex Roe – RFU Club Developer  
Keshia Drain – RFU Competition Activator - Girls

**Club Representatives**

Basingstoke	Fiona Nicolson	Tottonians	Lydia Barber
Eastleigh	Neil Cornmell	Trojans	Alex Cleugh
Eastleigh	Stewart Lang	Trojans	Naomi Evans
Havant	John Bray	Trojans	Stefan Hargraves
Havant	Rhys O'Leary	Trojans	James Knight
Havant	Rich Williams	Trojans	Spencer Scott
Havant	Amie Boyes	Trojans	Diane Kane
New Milton	Fred Hood	Trojans	Rob Edmondson
New Milton	Alex Aarvold	Vectis / WW	Nathan Tombleson
Oakmeadians	Rob Jackson	W / Peter Symonds	Mike Marchant
Oakmeadians	Gordon Horsley	Wight Wolves	Claire Mumford
Petersfield	Clare Sutton	Winchester	David Wilson
Romsey	Peter Jones		

**1. Apologies**

Paul Croft – Havant RFC  
Michele and Russel Amos – Basingstoke RFC

JG welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced all present to the room.

JG then gave a potted history of the girls set up in Hampshire.

Pre Covid there were the 5 Hub clubs for Girls in Hampshire – Basingstoke, Ellingham & Ringwood, Havant, Trojans and Winchester. At that time the RFU RDOs ran the girls' meetings and there were Hampshire matches between the 5 clubs.

Covid then hit and we came out of Covid with no RFU RDOs. JG held a girls meeting and then the girls were invited to attend the Youth Forum and Sub-Committee meetings.

The RFU remit also changes and encouraged all clubs to grow their girls sides at their own clubs.

This has meant many clubs did have girls sides but of smaller numbers so Hampshire RFU did several things.

1. Joined up with Oxfordshire and Berkshire to create girls leagues at U14, U16 and U18 which meant girls clubs can combine and enter the leagues to play matches, as well as combined training sessions.
2. Hampshire also introduced Girls Pitch up and Play sessions (PuPs) for all age groups, these were successful in the first season we ran them and we have carried on with these, but it does depend on clubs stepping up to host these events.

**2. Communication**

JG said that there was a master spreadsheet of girls club contacts for all age groups and the office try to keep it up to date and circulate it whenever changes occur. JG said that communication is key and not very many people respond to email sent to these set of contacts.

To try to assist that we have brought in this season individual Girls WhatsApp groups and Spond. This again depends on these set of contacts giving us their mobile number to add to these groups, again not every one responds and the groups are incomplete.

JG said that she was now at a loss of how to encourage these set of contacts to respond and communicate with the county.

Stefan from Trojans suggested that there was a certain amount of email fatigue as emails were sent out multiple times on the same topic. JG agreed and explained that this was for updates on the PUP spreadsheet and contact spreadsheet and must be annoying for those who do respond.

After a discussion in the room it was suggested that the County office put the contact spreadsheet and the PUP spreadsheet onto the website and everyone then knows where to access it and that will be the most current up to date information. This will cut down the need to send multiple emails. The County office have now put these up on the website asap...

<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/hampshirerugbyfootballunionltd/a/hampshire-youth-rugby-66786.html?page=11>

It was also suggested that WhatsApp communities are looked into – again this does depend on the contacts supplying their mobile numbers to be added.

Link to Hampshire RFU website for the Hampshire Youth Rugby

<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/hampshirerugbyfootballunionltd/teams/276674>

### 3. Pitch up and Plays (PuPs)

This is the most recent spreadsheet as of 24-1-24



PUP dates and venues Version 2 20

Some people present were unaware that these events only happened if clubs volunteered to run them. Some clubs run big events and feed the players after. Feeding players is not mandatory the whole idea is that with a minimal festival type structure clubs can just pitch up merge teams and play. It is up to the hosting club how they run their event.

**Please note if no clubs come forward to host these events, they will not happen.**

### 4. HOB Leagues

The HOB leagues are leagues run by Adam Gillings in Berkshire for the counties of Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire. There are U14, U16 and U18 leagues and clubs can combine to enter them.

It was stated that there are less numbers this season in the leagues and travel can sometimes be an issue. It was suggested that we engage with Adam prior to next season to express our concerns. Numbers when the league matches are played vary a lot and some have only 8 players and some have lots of players. It was thought that communication can be better for these leagues.

As an aside Mike Marchant mentioned that at his college – Peter Symonds they have a lot of girls in the U18 age group. He is happy to arrange midweek friendlies with his group of girls – MM contact is [mmarchant@psc.ac.uk](mailto:mmarchant@psc.ac.uk) for those interested.

A question then arose about the CoE (Centre of Excellence) girls who have been asked not to go to training at their clubs and some coaches are concerned about overplaying the girls. The players need to discuss this with their club and CoE coaches.

Another question was asked as to why the U18 County girls only had three playing opportunities – JG responded that this is always the case the yellow weeks in the age grade calendar are the only weeks that the County can work with County Club Hampshire squads. The same goes for all the age grade Club Hampshire squads 3 x Playing opportunities only per season.

### 5. Girls action plan for Hampshire

Hampshire RFU also then in the start of the 2023-24 season circulated a Survey to all Girls club contacts of all age groups. There were 32 responses across all 4 age groups. With the help of the RFU we then created our first Hampshire Girls Action plan.



Hampshire RFU  
Girls Action Plan 2023

There was a discussion on the action plan, it is the first time we have created one and it is an evolving document.

***Clubs are encouraged to look at it and suggest any changes and improvements to it – them we can move forward with it. Thank you to Trojans who have already submitted their suggestions.***

**Please do this asap.**

This plan is produced for the CB to assist the clubs with girls to grow numbers whilst developing players and coaches at their clubs. It will also help the clubs produce their own action plan.

Club coaches should be encouraged to go on any coaching courses and CPDs that are on offer – see the coaching section on the Hampshire RFU website.

## **6. Love Rugby / Competitions – Kesha**



**Hampshire Girls  
Meeting 16-01-24.px**

KD went through her Slides (above) for detail on Love rugby and Competition offer in Hampshire. Competitions for just Hampshire clubs were discussed and everyone seemed keen for them to happen in 2024-25. People present were keen to put their stronger sides to enter the HOB leagues and their development sides to enter the new Hampshire leagues.

To enable this, we will need 4 competition organisers to run them who are familiar with GMS and who can create the leagues for U16 and U18 and the waterfalls for U12 and U14.

The County office does not have the capacity to run these competitions. Clubs will be able to combine to play and the format does not have to be XV a side it can be X-Rugby, 10s or even 7s.

### **Message from Kesha Drain post meeting –**

Thank you to everyone who came and contributed to the Hampshire Girls meeting on Tuesday. Please find the slides attached with the Love Rugby Information as well as survey feedback and link to the Age Grade Playing Calendar. Please feel free to send any thoughts & feedback to keshadrain@rfu.com. The next key step will be to get some insight into what the development playing ops could look like for your team-please take some time to look at the current Age Grade playing calendar and add comments on what you would change for next season by Monday 5th February. Following this we will look to consult a number of teams to ensure the playing offer is appropriate. Thanks again and I look forward to helping drive forward Girls Rugby in Hampshire

### **Message from Alex Roe post meeting –**

Growing The Girls Guide – During the meeting someone mentioned advice on how to get help get girls rugby promoted within the club. There is some really useful info on the Growing the Girls Guide on Page 4/5/6 which might help on this, as well as some other really useful info on how to develop girls rugby at you club Here is the link to access it - [https://www.englandrugby.com/dxdam/ca/ca80c13d-43d7-4e71-aacf-ae2f471c46ec/Growing-the-girls-game-creative\\_v1.pdf](https://www.englandrugby.com/dxdam/ca/ca80c13d-43d7-4e71-aacf-ae2f471c46ec/Growing-the-girls-game-creative_v1.pdf)

## **7. AOB**

Questions were asked by KD if the people present were aware if their clubs have a Club action plan and if so, did this include the girls and women's sections. Very few people put their hand up – if any.

A question was asked if the RFU accreditation still ran, AR said that since the demise of the RFU RDOs and CRCs there have been no RFU Accreditations. AR said that what was in place was the Club Governance Health check for clubs. This should help feed into the Club Action Plan and should include the whole club including girls.

There was a discussion regarding the girls' player pathway and why the girls start at U16, when the boys start at U14. A vote was taken and it was agreed that representation would be made from the County Office to the Hampshire RFU Council Rep – Terry Burwell and the RFU Player Pathway officer Martin MacTaggart about this discrepancy. There was mention of other CBs already running U14 Girls DPP, this will also be looked into.

Meeting closed 20.45

**NEXT GIRLS MEETING WILL BE ON Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March at Trojans 7pm**