



# NEWS FROM THE LANE



## PRESIDENT SARAH BAINES

Although we continue to experience unprecedented, difficult, and downright weird times, I would like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, all our players, members, volunteers, sponsors, parents, and staff for the support you have shown the Club over the past 7 months.

We took the opportunity during the enforced closure in April, to undertake a much-needed refurb of our public County Bar, and a refresh of our main function bar, decking area, and clubhouse frontage. The work was completed almost entirely by Club members at a cost of materials only and for those that have managed to see it already, I'm sure you agree it is a huge improvement and we look forward to everyone enjoying our facilities, uninterrupted in the not too distant future.

Although we haven't been able to start our competitive, playing season as we would have wished, it has been a real pleasure to see great numbers turning up to training at both senior and mini junior levels and I would like to thank the coaches for all their hard work in ensuring as a Club, we adhere with the ever shifting guidance and restrictions and the players for complying.

I also wanted to assure you all that, whether we have been open or closed, the Clubs volunteer

management team and retained staff have been, and remain, dedicated and extremely busy behind the scenes. We continue to look for commercial opportunities, in line with national guidelines, to ensure the Vale remains competitive and sustainable and remains a place where people of all ages want to come and play rugby to the best of their ability, socialise and make lifelong friendships, which is what rugby is all about.

This year has sadly seen us lose some of our stalwart and much valued club members and in their honour, we WILL carry on the good work and retain the values of rugby championed by those that have gone before. We, the Vale, are a family and I would ask if anyone is or knows of anyone that is struggling in any way, please contact myself in strictest confidence – 07949 824365, sarahbaines2014@outlook.com.



## DIRECTOR OF RUGBY JACK FERGUSON

It looks like we are heading into another period of uncertainty and I would like to look back, but also forwards at the situation as we find it.

As a senior section I could not have been prouder of the way the players, coaches, and support team have responded to the situation. From day one we have followed the RFU guidance, which although necessary, has been difficult and limiting at times. The coaches have done a great job of keeping sessions both within the rules to keep players and themselves safe but also to make the sessions challenging and enjoyable. This has been evident in our numbers at training across the full senior section. On several evenings we have been at the maximum numbers permitted and that shows the appetite for rugby locally.

As we are at stage "D" in the return to rugby road map and although the RFU are in talks to move to stage "E" we should be prepared for that to take a good while. Come the New Year I hope we will see a return to the game we all love, but until then, players should keep enjoying the freedom we have to train as a group. It is probably more important now than ever to keep your boots on, it is a luxury we are currently afforded but could easily be taken away!

There is a lot to look forward to, we have several retuning and new players into the senior squads who bring experience, skill, and importantly competition for places. The squads look great!

Ladies have seen some of the highest training number for years and there is a real buzz around the squad they are building. They have created a great environment and the numbers prove it.

The Colts have been training as the seniors do, with senior coaches. The skill set and quality is there to be seen, when the numbers are high the training session have been outstanding, and it is great to see the next generation of vale seniors being developed.

Competitive rugby will be back and as a senior section we look forward to those first games back at Powder House lane and a few drinks in the bar afterwards.





## MINI JUNIOR CHAIRMAN GARETH MANNING

The Mini and Junior sections of the Vale have returned to training after a much longer than usual break caused by Covid-19.

The club is abiding by the rules set by the RFU for returning to play, we have strict measures in place to ensure that training is safe and complies with Covid19 requirements and we have been able to test these out with a few teams over the last couple of weeks.

I could not wait to welcome the players back to training and look forward to welcoming new players too. It has been a long wait and we are really looking forward to working with the children over the coming months.

Things will be different to start off with the focus on training and fitness, and games of touch rugby, but we have already seen some progress from the RFU in relation to what activities we can do and how we can structure training, and we hope to be back playing matches and representing the club around the region as soon as it is safe to do so.

What will not be different is our focus on ensuring that the players at the club enjoy themselves and develop their skills as they progress through the age groups at the club. We believe that through encouraging the core values of rugby – teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship – we are encouraging them not only to enjoy playing rugby but also developing skills and attributes that will benefit them away from rugby.”

Training is currently held on Sundays at Powder House Lane, Mini's 9:30 -10:30am and Juniors 11-00 -12:00 noon.



At date of writing (17.10.20) we have today been forced into a second temporary closure due to national Covid19 restrictions. Please be assured that we will be monitoring the local and national situation closely and will re-open the Clubhouse and bars as soon as we possibly can.

If you have any queries about functions or Club matters, please telephone 01524 64029 and leave a message that will be picked up and responded to, although this may not be the same day.

Training for all sections and age groups remains as before, following all current guidelines.

For all up to date information please visit the Club website:

<https://www.valeoflunerufc.org>

