

To all members and sponsors

3 years ago, I took on the role of Chair of our great club and at the time confirmed that I would complete a three-year term before passing on that position to a worthy successor. It is normal procedure for positions to change at an AGM but in these strange times the AGM has been delayed until at least September.

I felt that it would be more effective for my successor if that person had time to prepare for the new season in their own way rather than taking over in mid-season. Accordingly, I stood down at our committee meeting last week. The Chair of the committee is elected by the committee from the Committee members elected at an AGM. I was delighted that Michelle Forknall has been elected as interim chair until the AGM; it is my hope that Michelle will then be elected as full-time Chair, but it is open to any member of the club to seek nomination to the committee and then to seek support should they wish to be considered as Chair. I wish Michelle every success in preparing for the new season and Michelle will be adding her words of welcome to this letter.

I have enjoyed my 3 years as Chair; it is a very worthwhile position as it means that you are involved in all aspects of the club. The downside of course is that sometimes difficult decisions have to be made and it is for the Chair to put those decisions into effect and then deal with the fallout. Luckily in my 3 years those occasions were rare.

I wish to thank my committee for their support and for their incredibly hard work carried out on behalf of the Club. I will continue to remain on the committee, if elected, to assist Michelle and to carry out the other jobs that I have.

I have many happy memories and am very proud of how the club has developed over the last 3 years; last season showed that the future of the club is in good hands, when one looks at the strengths of the Mini and Junior sections which have developed as a result of the excellent work put in by all the coaches and helpers. I was naturally delighted by the promotion of the 2 Men's senior sides, where the playing and coaching strength has improved immeasurably. Allianz Park in March will never be forgotten.

However, it is the development of the Ladies team over the past 3 years that has given me the greatest pleasure; the Ladies under their excellent management and coaching team have added so much to the club, both on and off the field. We are a much more diverse club as a result and those Ladies that have joined the committee have undoubtedly brought a great deal of commitment and energy which is much appreciated.

It is a regret that we have not yet started building the new clubhouse, but we have correctly in these difficult economic times concentrated on the pitches, but I am confident that under the excellent guidance of James Fraser, this project will catch fire as the benefit to the Club and to the community will be incredible.

I thank you all for your support and I now pass the baton to Michelle.

Tim Fagg

To all sponsors and members

I really feel very honoured to have been asked to stand as Chair for Cranbrook Sports Club, especially as I will be the first Lady Chair in the club's history, and also one of very few female rugby club Chairs ever elected across Kent. In this very male dominated sport, this is a big thing for our

club, and especially for ladies rugby - not that you will be catch me putting on rugby boots!! I have been a member at the club for about 9 years, hold the role of Safeguarding Officer and was Mini Fixtures secretary before progressing to current role of Junior Fixtures Secretary. I am at the club most Sunday mornings, and when I am not pitch side supporting my daughter and 2 sons who play for the ladies and juniors respectively, can be found serving in the club kit shop with Lisa or helping Mandy out behind the bar. My husband is also a junior coach, so as you can imagine, rugby is a massive part of our family life and especially our weekends!!

My thanks, and that of the whole club, must go Tim for his stella job at the helm for the past 3 years, supporting and driving the club forward to where it is today. I know that neither Tim nor myself, would or will be able to carry out the role of Club Chair without the amazing support given by the club committee, all our Sponsors, volunteers, coaches, players, and members. We have a fantastic club at Cranbrook, with both senior men's teams working hard to secure the promotion slots last season, the enthusiasm of our brilliant ladies team, our dedicated coaches that turn out each Sunday for all our mini and junior players, and all other volunteers who so willingly give up so much time.

In these times of Covid-19, getting our members back to the club in a safe manner, both socially and playing wise, following all Government and RFU guidelines, is a challenge but one that myself and everyone is trying to facilitate. As such, we are planning to open the club bar on the 4th July to all members, from 12- 4pm. Please see the attached poster for details. This will mean that not only will you as sponsors and members be able to come and buy a beer (or 3!), but that we can all meet up as a rugby community, social distancing of course, in our grounds at Cranbrook. The club has invested in hand sanitiser pumps for all entrances, there is a one-way system in place in the clubhouse, much signage, and sanitising products available. We will all need to be adhering to these requirements for this to be a safe environment for us all.

Our senior men and ladies' teams have recommenced their midweek training at the club grounds, in line with RFU guidance. The clubhouse is not yet open midweek, but risk assessments have been completed, temperatures are taken of all squad members as they arrive, sanitiser is available, limited equipment is being used and training bubbles created to allow safe fitness training for all our seniors. If you are 18 or over and would like to come along and join the squads then please do get in touch with Chris or Lyndsey.

Information from the RFU on the start of the season for community rugby does not yet give any firm dates, but we have been told that they are working on 3 scenarios, with start dates of 1st September, 1st November or 1st January. As soon as we have any firm details from the RFU, I will ensure that these are communicated to all. The RFU have published a Road Map with the 6 phases of return to play- we are currently at phase 2. Changing rooms and showers are unable to be used at the moment, but when the RFU indicate it is safe to do so, we will get these opened as quickly as we can, following all hygiene requirements.

We are hoping to invite our junior and mini age groups back for some pre- season non-contact training/fitness during July and August, so please do keep a look out for messages from the relevant age groups. September will hopefully see the return to our Sunday training and we will be letting everyone know as soon as possible how this is likely to look, as we work out what space is going to be needed for all the age groups.

The Cricket section has recommenced with net coaching, in line with all ECB guidelines. If you would like to book a slot or find out more about this thriving section of the club, please do get in touch with John Sellick.

Please all stay safe and I look forward to seeing many of you soon!

Best wishes

Michelle Forknall