



BEDWAS RFC

BEDWAS RUGBY (2011) LTD

Company No. 7889431

G J Arrowsmith
Director
(Rugby)

P G Browning
Director
(Sponsors)

R Davey
Director
(Facilities)

W J Price
Director
(Club Affairs)

W H Rees
Director
(Secretary)

Tuesday 29 June 2021

Dear Member – Annwyl Aelod,

It gives me great pleasure to write to you as we look forward to the return of rugby to the Bridgefield this weekend and the start of a busy summer of rugby with the British & Irish Lions tour of South Africa and Welsh summer internationals.

As ever, our volunteers have been busy about the club getting us ready for the return of rugby and the return of more and more of our customers in the clubhouse. You will notice some lovely new furniture in our function room and work has commenced on our upstairs dining and sponsors areas. What's more, our burger bar has been refitted and will be in action for spectators' matchday catering once again.

It has been heartening to see the club return to being a hub of activity, evidenced most recently by having Danter's Funfair at the club over the weekend. This weekend (Saturday 3 July) will see rugby finally back at the club after 18 long months as we host Senghenydd RFC and Nelson RFC in 10's friendlies. It has been a long time since we hosted the senior teams of our local rivals at the club and I know the local fans will be thrilled to get down the club and enjoy some sport. All rugby will be played in accordance with WRU COVID-19 regulations and social distancing will be enforced across the premises. We will bring you more fixture information, including about the Championship Cup summer competition, as soon as we are able.

Another development coming to the club will be the removal of our rapidly deteriorating main stand. Formerly an 'A Licence' criteria requirement for the club, the stand has become ever more challenging to maintain and keep safe. Given the ample other areas across the club to spectate, we have decided to part ways with the stand, saving the club a considerable ongoing cost and removing an unfortunate focal point for vandalism and anti-social behaviour. We will consider how to best make use of the vacated space left by the stand in the near future.

In more exciting news, we have recently signed up to get Sky Sports back at Bedwas RFC. This means that we now have Sky, BT Sport and Premier Sport at the club, meaning we have access to a full range of rugby, football and other sports. We will be open for the entire Lions Tour (including the Wednesday evening games) and we look forward to supporting Warren Gatland and the touring party against the world champions South Africa.

Another positive development has been the election of former directors, Mark Lewis and Dave Cousins as Life Members of the club. It has been a long time since Bedwas RFC bestowed that honour, but Mark and Dave are hugely deserving recipients of our highest honour. Not only did

they fight tooth and nail to get our club back in the hands of its members, but they also saw the club achieve consistent excellence on the pitch for a long tenure in the Premiership. I know that you will all pass on your congratulations to Mark and Dave when you see them in the club.

In other rugby news, tickets for the upcoming Autumn Internationals will be made available through the club in due course. 2021/22 Vice-Presidents and members will be able to contact me to place requests for tickets once we start the process. A notice will be made in the club and on the website when this happens. Please note, we are unlikely to have much availability for tickets for Wales v New Zealand so I want to manage expectations in this regard.

Speaking of membership, we have now started to advertise memberships for 2021/22 in the club and new membership cards will shortly be arriving for distribution to both Vice-Presidents and members. You can ask Bill Price, Alfie Jehan or myself about purchasing a membership. Please speak with me or Peter Browning regarding vice-presidency membership. Bedwas RFC memberships can also be purchased via our website.

Lastly, we will be scheduling our long-delayed Annual General Meeting shortly. We are grateful for the patience of members in this regard and will release information about the AGM in due course.

Balancing work, volunteering and getting the club back on its feet has demanded a great deal from our people so we are grateful for your patience as we get things back up and running. We have some fantastic rugby to look forward to now and we are feeling very optimistic about the coming weeks and months. I hope to see you all about the club, enjoying our national sport, and making the most of our returning freedoms!

Best wishes – Dymuniadau gorau,



Will Rees
Secretary
Bedwas RFC