



26th June 2020

Dear all,

Important notice regarding the 2020/21 season

First of all, the sports service have confirmed there will be **no BUCS competitions until January 2021** at the earliest, with the target of a January 2021 – April 2021 schedule. A full calendar for the Lent 2021 BUCS season is set to be released by the 28th August 2020 – though I have been advised that this is likely to be revised or delayed and not set in stone.

This 4-month 2021 schedule will be considered a ‘bridging season’ with no promotion or relegation. I will be in contact with the Blues Committee to ensure our ‘top 2’/Varsity win will remain as criteria for receiving 5 full blues.

With a busier schedule in Lent term (all being well), this will provide us with the opportunity to build our match fitness in preparation for Varsity. With games possibly the week before Varsity, this will give scope for squad rotation meaning the season will bring ample opportunities for everyone in the squad and will hopefully give us a fully prepared 1st and 2nd team heading into the 20th March 2021.

The 2021/22 league (which likely does not affect most of the current squad) will be based upon the 2019/20 league standings from this year which guarantees we will be playing in the South East BUCS league for the next 2 seasons unless extenuating circumstances emerge such as teams dropping out.

Return to play

- Despite no league fixtures, **training is still possible in the Michaelmas term** with strict adherence to government and RFL guidelines
- At present, the RFL guidelines are groups of size 6 maximum with a 2m distance maintained – this allows for fitness and skill games so long as balls are sanitised regularly and there is the possibility for players to wash hands
- The RFL has scope to ease their stance in accordance with government guidelines and the next step according to their ‘return to play’ plan is to allow for tag rugby games which I hope will be in place before Michaelmas
- Myself, Max Holcroft and Reuben Brown, as President, Captain and Vice-Captain respectively, are in the process of putting together a training plan for Michaelmas that best suits everyone and which will hopefully attract new players through advertising on social media, the sports fair and through other means. This training plan will cover all stages that the RFL have set out on their website so that we are adaptable and ready for when Michaelmas term starts
- Training will be coordinated with Amritz Ansara, CURLFC’s new safety & welfare officer, to ensure we can get the most out of our sessions, both progress and enjoyment, while still complying with the guidelines
- Ed Plaut will also be working hard to ensure the boys can still play off the rugby field and I’m hoping a Michaelmas full of socials and good training sessions will give us a good squad to be working with come January

Understandably, it is not the most ideal situation to be dealing with but I’m very confident the club will respond well to it and we will be in a strong position when play resumes.

The new committee are working extremely well in their new roles and I’d like to thank them all for the positive start we have made. The club are very much heading in the right direction and we look forward to sharing our new ideas for the club in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you for your continued support,

Elliott Stockdale - Club President