



Chairman's Column:

August 2015

Firstly, thank you for reading what I hope will be an informative and useful first addition of the RDYFL newsletter.



It has been an interesting year of transformation for us, with a number of changes to the management committee over the last twelve months, as well as, a growth in the number of clubs participating in our league. As an individual I am proud to be the new figurehead for such a historically regarded and respected league, and hope during my tenure you are highly satisfied with the service we provide for youth football.

As a committee we are working hard to improve our practices and procedures, providing you with a league you can be proud of. We actively seek your advice and opinion on all matters connected to youth football in the area, and I encourage you to voice your opinion on the newly constructed survey available via the following link at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MP2F9PN>

We will use your feedback to modify our practice and perfect the procedures we use in order to give you the best possible experience of youth football. We have decided to focus our efforts over the summer on the following areas:

- **Communication:** I would like to increase the transparency of the league offering regular updates of decisions made at management level and informing you of any developments and plans we have.
- **Fixtures and Results:** We intend to maximise the use of the F.A.'s Whole Game/Full-Time system and will be issuing fixtures and results through this. This will extend to Mini-Soccer and will allow for a more efficient system of reporting results and arranging fixtures.
- **Procedures:** Our policies and procedures are clear and available through the RDYFL rules and it is our intention to ensure all procedures are efficient, well managed and consistent.
- **All Weather Pitches:** We are working tirelessly as a league to find adequate all weather facilities to address the desire for winter football and you will be informed as soon as an agreement is formalised.

As the new chairman of the RDYFL, I thank you as ever for your ongoing support and participation in the league. This has been a difficult twelve months for all concerned, however I am certain we can all move forward together and focus on the key people that matter... the players.



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The Rowsley & District Youth Football League

News and Information from the League Management Committee



Survey Monkey:

We at the RDYFL are eager to hear your suggestions and respond to your feedback on how we can improve the league and service we're providing.



SurveyMonkey®

Following discussions at a recent committee management meeting, we have decided upon a number of areas that we would love to hear your suggestions on. Your contributions will allow us to refine our practice and develop the systems we are currently working with, in order to provide a more efficient service for players, parents and coaches.

The survey will be available for three months until 31st December 2015. After this date, we will collate the results and publish these along with your comments on the website. These will then be discussed at management committee meetings and will hopefully influence our future practice.

Please make the most of this opportunity by logging into survey monkey using the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MP2F9PN> and voicing your opinion on your Rowsley and District Youth Football League.



Rugby, Respect and Referees:

This summer, I've had a fortuitous opportunity to watch some other sports. A big passion of mine is rugby league, and yes, it does fit the stereotype...

"They respect the ref more in rugby..."
"No one ever argues with the ref..."

It's true. I went to watch St Helens vs. Leeds Rhinos at Headingley, and despite a few contentious decisions going against the hosts, all the players accepted the referee's decision every time.



Whilst we do have a right to make our opinion heard... it is vital that we set a good example for our youngsters. The RDYFL strictly enforces the RESPECT guidelines from the F.A. and we expect all coaches to be knowledgeable on the rules and procedures connected with this.

The RDYFL is one of the only local leagues where a qualified match official is designated to every game. However, when referees are made to feel undermined and constantly challenged, this does make it difficult for us when recruiting the next generation.

Please think, We are there to support the youngsters. Let's RESPECT the game.

For information on referees courses and becoming a referee, please contact Glenn Smethurst at: referees@rdyfl.co.uk

