



## Chairman's Column

***(Mis)communication –***

***“No one ever replies to me.”***

***“There's not enough information out there.”***

Thank you for what I feel has been a very productive start to the new season, I feel positive that things are moving in the right direction, and more importantly, the players are enjoying themselves!



However as the weeks are creeping by, the same issues reoccur. Already the initial feedback from our Survey Monkey poll has raised the issue of a lack of communication from the league to yourselves. As we are in a period of transition, it will take time to improve and develop our practice to become more autonomous and successful at answering your queries and concerns. If you haven't already, please voice your opinions at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MP2F9PN>

Things are steadily improving and refining, however we do need your support and patience to allow us to achieve our goals and aims. I pondered with the idea of releasing a communications policy for the RDYFL,

however this seemed too formal. Instead I've dedicated my column to it for this month.

I ask for patience and a practical approach to having your concerns heard. Please remember:

- Email the committee member responsible for your query only, do not try to send the email to everyone 'covering all bases' as quite often this leads to emails being missed as they can be passed on as someone else's responsibility.
- Try to avoid ringing committee members during the working day or after 9pm at night, we do all work full time jobs and cannot answer phones at work. A text will quite often suffice.
- Allow us three working days to respond to your emails, this is a volunteer organisation, and I for one, don't check my personal or RDYFL emails until I am home at night.

If we can adopt this practical approach to how we manage the communications between clubs and the league things will start to run a lot smoother; the information vacuum will be filled and your concerns will be answered.

As always, I find talking to people works best, I am at Highfield Park or Holmebrook Valley on Saturday mornings, so feel free to drop by and see the Mini-Soccer centres in full flow!

I thank you as ever for your support,

Matt Hodkin

Chairman – RDYFL





## Promises and Pledges

*In my first address to you, I highlighted a number of areas I wanted the league to develop and refine as the season progresses.*

I have reviewed our communications in this month's edition, and without wanting to seem pessimistic, I feel now would be the time to talk about the most popular topic in Britain... the weather.

We have been very fortunate so far, however, the fine weather we have been blessed with for football this season probably will not continue. As a management committee we are in negotiations with a number of facilities regarding the hiring of 3G/All Weather surfaces for Mini-Soccer during the winter months.

Holmebrook Valley Park is in excellent condition, and will stand up to most weather conditions thanks to the drainage developments there. It is our intention to play as much football as possible this season at the Mini-Soccer centres. The leagues are purposefully smaller to allow for extra fixtures as the season progresses and for reorganisation of games should some teams wish for a greater challenge.

Unfortunately, we cannot control the weather (I have tried somewhat unsuccessfully for the last five years to do this). However, hopefully, we should be able to provide our youngsters with better facilities to develop their talents as the winter weather starts to creep in.

## Time for a Change?

*This is the third newsletter I have written in my short tenure as Chairman of the RDYFL and I'm after something else to give a voice to our young people.*

From the November edition onwards, it is my intention to have a Captain's Corner. This will be an opportunity for the most important people in the RDYFL to have their say on their football and why they play.

Should this prove successful, I will rotate the column through the clubs allowing our young people a chance to express their thoughts and feelings on the issues that matter to them.

As a league, we operate a player first policy, where the children feel valued and supported as they develop into footballers and adults. I hope that this will allow our players a voice and an opportunity to develop their talents further.

If you, or someone you know would be interested in writing a piece for the RDYFL newsletter, please contact me at:

[chairman@rdyfl.co.uk](mailto:chairman@rdyfl.co.uk)

Thank you for reading!

Matt Hodkin – Chairman RDYFL

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