



Chairman's Column:

September 2015

The first week of the season always throws up many challenges and problems for all volunteers, however it always proves how supportive people are when it comes to children's football.



6:40am Saturday 12th September - I'm awake and I have that odd slightly sick feeling in my stomach. It's the first week back of the Mini-Soccer season and I know I'm excited.

Every year I have had that same feeling of excitement and worry about the year ahead. This is my seventh season as an organiser and member of the R DYFL committee and I'm still as nervous and eager as when I first started refereeing at the age of 14.

Things have changed a lot since 2003. The R DYFL has grown significantly, and I am proud to be affiliated to a league which still has such positivity and growth. Members of your management committee have put in a tremendous amount of work to get the season up and running.

I would like to thank every single person involved for their tireless work over the summer and months to come.

The first week always has many surprises and issues for us to deal with and manage for future weeks. This is the same every year, we do try our best to anticipate problems, however, what never ceases to amaze me is the support we get from Clubs, Managers and Secretaries to ensure all the players get their opportunity to play.

I stated in my previous address to you all that I want your feedback on how we can improve and look to move forward as a league. Please voice your opinion on our Survey Monkey page:

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

We want to listen and have as many doors open as possible. This is your league, and your opportunity to develop it to make it better for you.

One thing this weekend didn't surprise me however... The rain returned with a vengeance on Saturday morning, drenching the ground, but not dampening anyone's spirit!

Thank you for all your support.

Matt Hodkin
Chairman R DYFL chairman@rdyfl.co.uk

Clearing up issues:

Referees:

I'm delighted to announce we have a new referees' secretary. Glenn Smithurst has joined the management committee to organise match officials for the current season.





The Rowsley & District Youth Football League

News and Information from the League Management Committee



The first week for referees was a little hit and miss, I did allocate fixtures myself, and I do apologise for any issues which may have arisen.



Following feedback from various clubs, we are going to move towards using the Full-Time system in our referee allocations, this will make it easier to assign referees and modify any changes should they occur. As always, this will present its own challenges and I ask for your patience and support as we make this transition.

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

Q: Saturdays or Sundays?

A: Both.

We have listened to the clubs and teams and it is our intention to offer BOTH Saturday and Sunday football.

It is not the league's intention to move to a Saturday League at all. We want to offer the opportunity for as many children to play football under our administration as possible. This is why we have U11s and U12s leagues on Saturdays and Sundays, this is not a misguided attempt to move entirely to a Saturday. In order to run both days, we rely upon your commitment of teams to us, so thank you for your support.

Social Media:

Social media. Facebook. Twitter. Instagram. All of them are fantastic tools for networking and sharing our thoughts.

However, when used irresponsibly they cause a lot of issues. As a pastoral leader in a secondary school, the majority of friendship fallouts I deal with are down to the misuse of social media.

As U7s to U11s football is now non-competitive, what does worry me is when results are published on social media by parents, players and supporters of teams. I do appreciate that this is in 99% of cases just a celebration and pride in the youngsters' achievements. However, we must as adults appreciate how it can cause upset for others when we do this.

I do ask that you think carefully before you post. Showing our support is crucial to the development of our youngsters, but please show sensitivity when you do so.

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