



Dear Member,

21 January 2009

I would like to bring to your attention a number of important matters in connection with Rugby Club membership. In so doing I do not intend to be hectoring or patronising towards any member or group of members, but trust you will understand why it was felt necessary to write this letter and that you will support the Club's position on the points set out below;

#### Reputation

Over the last few seasons the Club, players, and our Sponsors have made a big contribution towards making Club clothing available to players on teams at all levels and age groups through the Club. This has been very positively received and significantly adds to the appearance of a high quality approach at Dorking and a sense of pride from all who represent the Club.

A by product of expanding the availability of Club clothing is that when players socialize together after playing for the Club, they are immediately and easily recognizable as Dorking Rugby Club members. Any unacceptable anti social behavior will therefore, not unreasonably, be attributed to the Rugby Club as a whole as well as to individuals who may behave inappropriately.

At a time when its important to align support for the Club across the community for our development and other plans, a reputation for unruly - and worse - behavior will prejudice our plans to improve our facilities for all.

Can I therefore remind all members, and particularly the playing members, of the high standards of behavior that are expected and required in the evening socializing after matches when we all continue to represent the Rugby Club, just as much as during and after the match at the Clubhouse.

#### Subscriptions

Disappointingly, at this mid point of the season, there are still Club 'members' playing and otherwise enjoying the Club's facilities and who are yet to pay the relevant membership subscription for this season.

At a time when many other members are going to extraordinary lengths to raise funds for the Club, this situation is simply not acceptable. Any member playing who has not paid a subscription is not covered by insurance in the event of injury.

**As a result the Coaches and Captains of relevant teams, with immediate effect, will not select any player to represent any Dorking team who has not paid the subscription in full or is not paying on the agreed level of ongoing payment by standing order.** In case there is any doubt as to who has paid or not, Dermot Pearce will be issuing an invoice to non-payers. It hopefully goes without saying that any circumstances of hardship will be treated sympathetically if identified to Dermot.

#### Dogs

The Youth section coaches continue to have to sweep the playing areas at The Big Field and pick up a considerable amount of dog 'mess' before every training session on a Sunday morning.

In order to get our own house in order before resurrecting our efforts with dog users generally, **the Club Committee has made a decision to ban dogs from the Club as a whole.** We would therefore with immediate effect ask members to no longer bring dogs down to the Club at any time. I am sure everyone will appreciate the serious health and safety risk dog mess represents to our young players. Setting an example amongst Club members will be really helpful in influencing the behavior of others from outside the Club.

#### Members and Guests Lunch

After the success and enjoyment of the last Members lunch before the Cobham game, there is a follow up lunch before this Saturday's league game with Dover. John Vale, President of Surrey, will be our guest of honor. **It would be great to have a big turnout for John's visit and to blow away those January blues. Places or tables at lunch can be booked through Julian Biggs at 07970 430302.**

Thanks for your attention and future support for all the areas covered in this letter.

Shaun