

NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2020
FROM OLD COVENTRIANS RFC COMMITTEE

Firstly we hope you are all still keeping as fit and well as you can and circumstances allow. We are starting to see some light at the end of this COVID-19 tunnel but we must remain focussed and vigilant. Whilst we continue to make sacrifices on what was our normal life we are beginning to see and understand how our rugby and social activities will progressively get back to normal, even though it may take a while.

During this lockdown we have taken the opportunity, adhering to all published government and RFU guidelines, to implement some £35,000 of major drainage, renovation and seeding works on our pitches. Here, special mention must go to Mark and Nick Harrison who spent over 3 weeks working full time as volunteers on replacing a major part of the 1stXV pitch drainage which had become prone to flooding and thanks also to a number of others who supported them. Providing we remain patient and do not play or train on them for a few more weeks we should have some great pitches next season, whenever that may start.



Other works amounting to some £10,000 of expenditure have included a new bin store and the replacement and testing of our main electric fuse boards, and the 'Friday volunteers' have also taken the opportunity to tidy up and upgrade a number of outside areas. Also the Matrix flat green bowlers have contributed to a much improved look outside by building a new wooden pavilion.

In addition, we have a very special dedicated core of volunteers who have given up their time and, with a lot of effort, done an amazing job deep cleaning the bar room and kitchen. There has also been a team of volunteer cleaners and decorators working in the club following up on comments from Members, who are implementing some of the suggestions for improvement starting with the redecoration of the club rooms and changing rooms. This is ongoing with plenty more to do and anybody that wants to help will be more than welcome.

Financially we will have a challenge if the lockdown continues for many months but are OK at present. As we are sure you are aware, we have lost nearly all our income, especially that from bar, food, social functions, room hire, car boot and car parking, whilst we still have to pay for many of our overheads. We have, however, maintained a prudent financial reserve which is keeping us going whilst we have been unable to trade. Thanks must go to the Committee and club members for their support and for helping us to maintain a relatively stable and secure financial position. Financially we shall be able to ride the Covid-19 storm, even if competitive community rugby were to be delayed until January.

The Management Team continues to hold regular management meetings using Zoom. We are continuing to look at how, and how soon, we will be able to reopen the clubhouse and begin to resume trading and socialising. We will continue to use Zoom until we can legitimately, and safely, meet F2F.

You are no doubt keen to know when it will be possible to resume some rugby activities. We can't provide anything definitive yet but we are working on it hard. There are many detailed guidelines being issued by the RFU regarding training, playing and the reopening of clubs to manage the Covid-19 risk, and we need to ensure we do not invalidate our insurance. An RFU summary requirement for how we can return to rugby is shown below, and as you can see that we are currently at Stage B. We shall adhere to these guidelines, with safety being paramount, and we plan to instigate and maintain new procedures to reduce the possibility of transmission. This will include a strong cleaning regime covering both rugby activities outside and clubhouse use.

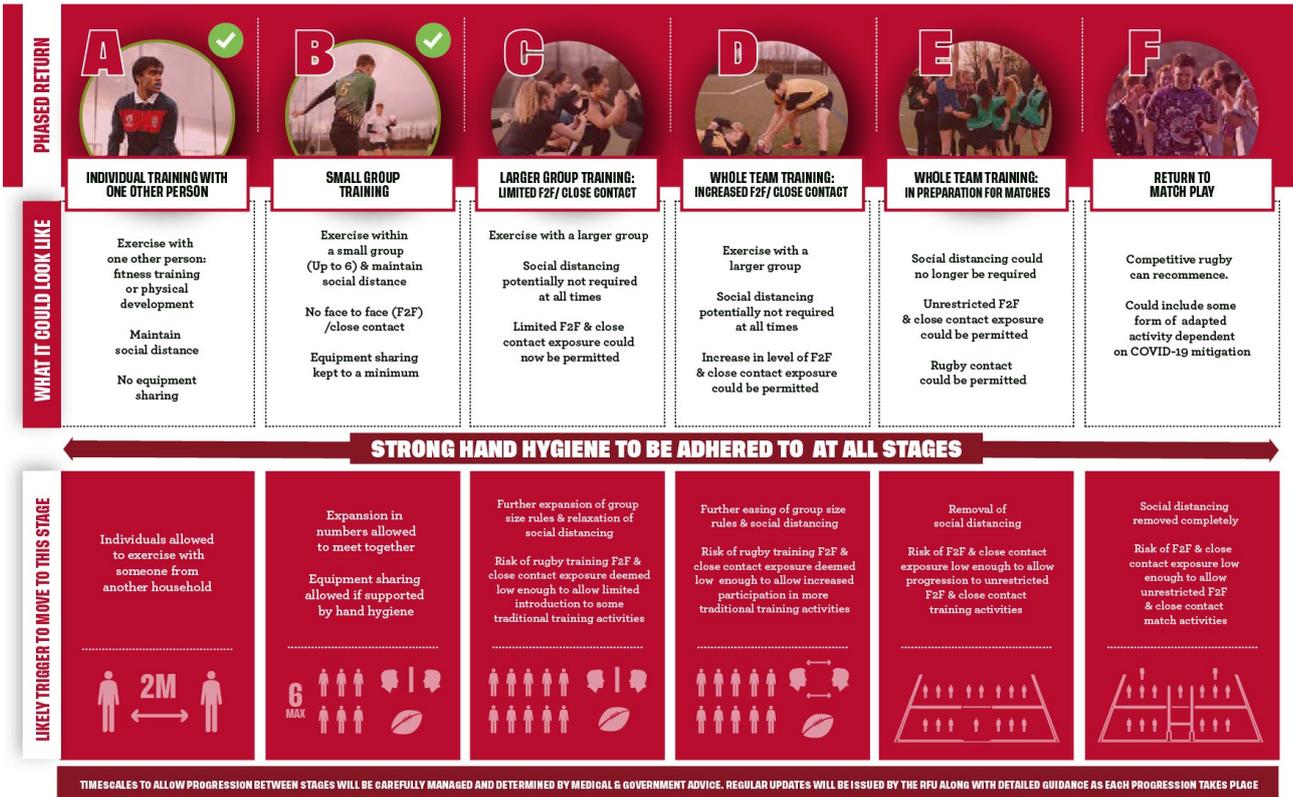
The first step back will be some fitness training for the Senior squad starting around the beginning of July, but this has to be constrained to groups of six per quarter pitch. We are separately working on a plan to commence some Junior activities as soon as there is an easing of Government and RFU regulations, but again, safety will be paramount.

Further information will be circulated towards the end of this month about our plans for a phased reopening of senior rugby and junior rugby activities and an update on when we expect to be able to restart trading from the clubhouse.

We are OCs and we look forward to being back at the Club with our friends, team mates, coaches and our OCs family soon. We all need to remain patient a little longer.

As we begin to approach the end it is even more important that all members of all age groups in minis, juniors and seniors continue to keep in touch with each other whether via phone, social media or over the fence. We are already staying in touch with posts on social media, however, If anybody has any more ideas or wants to help then please contact Jo Banks or Jamie Phillips from the social committee.

#ocsfamily
#rugbyfamily
#stayconnected



<https://www.englandrugby.com/dxdam/bb/bb42cab-9918-4663-a22f-16a5decda744/RUGBY%20RESTART%20ROAD%20MAP%20FINAL%202020-01.jpg>