



31<sup>ST</sup> January 2010

**Dear Giants Player**

It only seems like yesterday we were planning for our inaugural league season. I would like to thank and congratulate you for the hard work and effort you displayed throughout what was a very testing time. I don't need to tell you, that to play rugby league you need to display courage and commitment that was most evident in last season's performances.

This year marks the dawn of new era for rugby league in the South West of England. There is a new regional development officer in post, Joe Catcheside, there is a more structured season and representative rugby will be back on the agenda. Part of his remit is to encourage more teams and promote junior and ladies rugby in the region. A range of coaching courses are being held prior to the season starting and as soon as I know more details I will let you know.

This year we are being joined by two more teams – North Devon Raiders (who may well move between several different RU club grounds), and South Somerset Warriors (who will be based at Ivel Barbarians in Yeovil). To avoid clashing with the Union season and to make sure the geography is manageable, the league program is as follows:

Two groups of four who play each other home and away (six games):

Group 1 - Exeter Centurions, Somerset Vikings, South Somerset Warriors, South Dorset Giants  
Group 2 – East Devon Eagles, Devon Sharks, North Devon Raiders, Plymouth Titans.

Then each team will play all the other teams once, with two games at home and two away (four more matches). Each team has 10 games, five at home and five away. The League Leaders will go into the Grand Final; second and third will play off for the other place in the final, at the home of the 2nd place team, as per other seasons. There will also be a cup competition and with eight will a straight knockout and as soon as we find out who we've got, we'll let you know.

The South West Nines this year takes place on the first Bank Holiday Weekend in May, and will be in Exeter. I would like us to enter a team as we didn't last year and it would good for our profile and standing in the region.

The England Lionhearts will be selected from a Regional Tournament on Monday, May 31st, held in the Midlands. Eight regions will play three games of 20 minutes each way, with the National Selectors in Attendance. Chris Richards from Somerset Vikings has been appointed new SW Region Coach and he will then arrange SW regional squad sessions beforehand. We will be putting lads forward who demonstrate core skills, desire and commitment through the early part of the season.

This January I became a level II rugby league coach, so will be able to back up Pud more efficiently this year. Mark 'Bam Bam' Sample will again captain the side as he did last and I am sure he'll get the support he deserves. We're proposing to start in the last weeks of April, Tuesday and Thursday as per normal. A 'special game' hopefully at Weymouth Football Club is being organized in June with details to follow, once they're finalized.

Finally the best news of all, we will be playing all our home games at Monmouth Avenue this year, back where we belong. With your help this could be really a marquee year for the club. If you have any issues or queries please get touch

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**SOUTH DORSET GIANTS AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB**