**Safeguarding and the role of the Welfare Officer**

The welfare of our members is paramount. We need to adopt additional policies and procedures to ensure that our insurance conditions are fully met, particularly regarding safeguarding of a young person or an adult at risk.

A young person is classed as anyone under 18 years of age and an adult at risk is a person who is over 18 years and at risk of abuse or neglect because of their needs for care or support. These are not often easily identifiable, so it is important we have policies and procedures in place that cover all eventualities and that we inform our members about the steps we have taken.

In the event of claim under the Abuse element of our inclusive members insurance package, insurers are likely to request sight of our safeguarding policy and enquire as to the safeguards we have in place to protect our members and the actions we undertook once the matter was reported to us. A visible safeguarding policy, a Welfare Officer accessible to members and a documented audit trail of how the incident was then dealt with will be key in demonstrating that the club acted appropriately and will ultimately aid the insurers in dealing with the claim.

As you will be aware details of the policies and procedures in place were sent to all members by email. Full details are on the club's website.

I hope you understand why we need a Welfare Officer so I am putting myself forward for the role.