

THE RFU INTERIM REPORT

Season 2006–2007



PRESIDENT BOB ROGERS



To serve as President of the RFU has been a huge honour. The memories I will take away from my presidency are of the great people I have spent time with, people working hard to secure the present and the future health of the game of rugby union in England.

In many respects it has been a difficult year but there have undoubtedly

been some magical moments, among them when a party of injured servicemen joined us at Twickenham's RBS 6 Nations England v Italy match and the tremendous atmosphere at the Ireland v England match at Croke Park. Presenting new caps to players has also been a great privilege.



Bob Rogers & Rob Andrew

Travelling around the country to clubs, matches, tournaments, festivals, dinners, awards and a multitude of different events has made me appreciate even more the sterling work of our volunteer administrators. They are the backbone of the game and I hope that I might, in some small part, have encouraged them and their possible successors. There is not a glamorous role but it is an absolutely essential one and I would urge all players past and present to consider maintaining an active involvement in the game. I am delighted that more than 60 clubs submitted entries for the first President's XV awards which recognised excellence and innovation in Community Rugby.

At the time of writing England have just returned from a tough tour of South Africa, while the England Saxons lifted the Churchill Cup at Twickenham in a hard fought final against the New Zealand Maori which saw a well earned Saxons 17-13 victory.



Twickenham has had a tremendously busy season with some fantastic matches. The Lehman Brothers Varsity Match saw Cambridge victorious with 15 points to Oxford's 6. Daily Mail Schools Day gave many young players the opportunity to compete in their finals at the Home of England Rugby at the conclusion of this excellent competition.

The EDF Energy competitions saw a total of 963 matches, an increase from last year's 851. The EDF Energy Cup Finals Day was a celebration of rugby at every level. The Anglo-Welsh Cup final was hugely enjoyed as Leicester Tigers overcame Ospreys in a tough encounter which saw them victors by 41-35. Cornish Pirates took the EDF Energy National Trophy with a 19-16 win over Exeter Chiefs; Mounts Bay secured the EDF Energy Intermediate Cup 46-36 in their final against Dunstablians and in the EDF Energy Senior Vase Final Northwich took the honours with their 18-13 win against Bradford Salem. On the Guinness Premiership Final day the EDF Energy Junior Vase was won by Hartpury College who beat Billericay 72-12.

The BUSA finals showcased university rugby, UWIC's women storming to a 27-5 win over Loughborough but their men losing out to UWE Hartpury who won by 27-14.

In May, the lead changed several times in a nail-biting Army v Navy game which eventually saw the Army lift the Babcock Trophy with a 39-25 victory. The Guinness Premiership Final brought a fine Leicester Tigers win by 44-16 over Gloucester. Just two weeks later came an historic clash of two English clubs, watched by a record crowd for a club match, when London Wasps lifted the Heineken Cup, having beaten Leicester 25-9.

Inclement weather failed to dampen the spirits of those attending the Emirates Airline London Sevens, when England won the Bowl by beating Portugal 10-0 in the penultimate leg of the IRB tournament. A double-header when England Saxons beat Scotland A, saw the newly titled Bill Beaumont Cup lifted by Devon as they beat Lancashire 27-6 in the County Championship Final. Yorkshire retained the National Under-20 county title with their 34-17 win over Devon. And appropriately the final Twickenham match of the season saw England Saxons wrest the Churchill Cup from New Zealand Maori.

Twickenham Stadium remains a wonderful place to meet up with old friends and to make new ones. However, during the year we have lost a number of people who have done much for the game and who are very much missed, among them Privilege Members Stanley Oswin, Gerald Penn-Barrow, Dr Leon Walkden and Alan Stevens, the RFU's senior Past President Geoff Butler and the first England coach, Don White.

I would like to thank those leaving the RFU Council: the Immediate Past President, LeRoy Angel; Bill Beaumont who has been elected IRB Vice Chairman; Bill Chappell; Chris Cuthbertson and Nigel Gillingham.

My successor, Bob Taylor, has my very best wishes for his presidency. I have no doubt that it will be just as action packed and gratifying as the past 12 months have been for me and that he will meet many people who make the game in England so enjoyable. I thank them all for their endeavours and their kindness to me and Janet, my wife, over the past year.

CHAIRMAN OF THE RFU MANAGEMENT BOARD MARTYN THOMAS



This has been a challenging year and, at the time of writing, negotiations continue with Premier Rugby Ltd (PRL) to find a long term solution to the issues which have been facing the game in England.

We were delighted that the Guinness Premiership clubs recently confirmed their participation in the European competitions

next season. A massive amount of work went into reaching a settlement. The RFU and PRL securing an agreement which ensures the long-term future of the competition was excellent news for the players, spectators, sponsors and broadcasters.

Consultation on The Way Forward process has been taking place with nine road shows around the country and a dedicated online feature, both attracting a pleasing level of response. It has been essential that the RFU involves all stakeholders because the entire game needs to buy into a solution. Our investment in Community Rugby will remain unchanged and, with a new agreement delivering extra money to PRL, any fears that the Community Rugby pot might be diminished must be allayed.

Detailed talks have covered a broad range of proposals taking in the season structure and the management of elite players. It has been important to structure an agreement which returns England to the top three in world rugby and gives the clubs additional funding to compensate them but which is within a financial framework that the Union can afford. Getting England

back into the top two of the RBS 6 Nations and into the top four in the world would turn revenues around, providing the funds to finance the agreement over the long term.

All the issues which have been affecting the game in England form part of the Way Forward and many structural and player management issues have been examined to give elite players the best chance of performing well on the international stage. If we can solve the issues that everyone has been grappling with for a decade through the Way Forward process we will have served the best interests of club and country.

PRL have had very genuine fears regarding the process but I believe that, as a former club director of rugby, the RFU Director of Elite Rugby, Rob Andrew, has brought an extra dimension to negotiations. There has been on both sides a real willingness to achieve a solution through negotiations involving complex issues. As I write negotiations continue and it is to be hoped that there will be a positive outcome to report to the AGM.

Communication remains a priority and this season RFU senior management continued their extensive travels for the sixth year of CB road shows. This took in 18 days on the road, eight counties and 24 clubs, with dozens of presentations, lively question times and useful chats. I would like to thank everyone for their input both on the Way Forward and at the CB events.

It is essential that those of our number who sustain catastrophic injury are adequately cared for within the rugby family. As I write, Council members will be receiving the finalised report of the Catastrophic Injury Task Group. Through the year the group has met frequently and its recommendations regarding support and pastoral care for players who become permanently totally disabled have been approved by the Management Board.

It has been a particularly busy season for everyone and thanks are due to the members of the Management Board and the RFU staff and management who have worked extremely hard both at Twickenham and across the country.

Everyone who plays or helps to run the game at every level has my very best wishes for the 2007/08 season.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE FRANCIS BARON



The work done over past years has ensured that the RFU's financial foundations are very strong. It is, however, essential to improve the performance of the England team to stop them being eroded. England's present world ranking of 7th has had a serious impact on revenues, although our RBS 6 Nations place of third was a step up from fourth place in the

previous two seasons. As members know, we have taken tough action to address this situation with major changes to the England coaching team, a reorganisation of the old Performance Department and the appointment last September of Rob Andrew to the new position of Elite Rugby Director. In this position Rob is responsible for overseeing the entire elite rugby operation.

We also commenced the Way Forward project, the aim of which was to address, once and for all, the fundamental long term problems that were affecting England's performances and thereby also the financial health of the whole game. This project was initiated in 2006 following the failure of negotiations with Premier Rugby in 2005 and 2006 to deliver improvements to the EPS Programme to enable England to properly prepare for and be competitive in international matches. The two High Court actions brought by Premier Rugby against the RFU in 2005 and 2006 over interpretations of the LFA highlighted the fundamental problems the elite game was facing in England. The objectives of the Way Forward project are straightforward:

- To secure the financial viability of the game
- To increase participation at all levels
- To protect the safety and welfare of players

The solutions we are seeking must take care of the interests of both club and country, be right for our professional players and their careers and restore England to leadership of the world game.

The negotiating room door has remained open to Premier Rugby throughout the process as our preference has always been to achieve agreement through dialogue and consensus. As the Chairman has reported elsewhere in this report, meaningful negotiations resumed in April 2007 with Premier Rugby and, at the date of writing, substantial progress has been made. I remain hopeful that, through the 'twin track' processes of the Way Forward project and the negotiations with Premier Rugby we will achieve our objectives.

TWICKENHAM STADIUM

A busy autumn saw the official opening of Twickenham Stadium's new South Stand with the Investec Challenge England v New Zealand celebration match. The Secretary of Culture Media & Sport, the Rt Hon Tessa Jowell, performed the opening ceremony and a parade of England rugby legends took place as Twickenham hosted an 82,000 crowd for the first time.

It was a great credit to all involved in the development project that the dates set for completion of the seating bowl were achieved, enabling all the autumn internationals and the RBS 6 Nations matches to be played in front of record crowds for matches at Twickenham. Construction work has continued throughout the season without affecting our match day operations. I am grateful to the project team and Twickenham staff for ensuring the smooth transition from 72,000 to 82,000 spectators for internationals in the stadium and note that our safety record is most impressive for a site which welcomes close to a million visitors a year.



All three tower cranes have now left the site and work on the commercial developments has commenced. These developments, which include a Marriott Hotel, a Virgin Classic Health and Wellness Club, a new Rugby Store, new Conference and Banqueting facilities, a Performing Arts Theatre and the new RFU offices, will be opened for business in a phased process during the course of next year.

This year we secured permission to hold up to five concerts at Twickenham Stadium. Last June and August saw the Eagles and the Rolling Stones in concert and this June we have Rod Stewart, followed by Genesis in July and the Police's two concerts in September. Hosting four concerts in the year that Wembley opened is an illustration of how competitive and attractive a venue Twickenham has now become for music concerts.

Twickenham also hosted its third Heineken Cup final in May, setting the world record for a club game, with a capacity crowd of just under 82,000 cheering on London Wasps and Leicester Tigers in the European tournament's first finals clash of two former champions. This achievement of our Premiership clubs is greatly to be applauded.

By the time of the Annual General Meeting Twickenham Stadium will have hosted no less than 21 matches, four concerts and a three day Watchtower Convention since last year's AGM. This has called for a great deal of hard work and I would like to thank everyone involved. I would also like to thank all whose efforts have ensured the welfare of the game and clubs across the country throughout a very busy season.

GENERAL RUGBY MATTERS

The Management Board last November took further steps on abuse of players and match officials in order to maintain the ethos and culture of our game. Referees were instructed to strictly enforce the rules on verbal abuse at all levels of the game. It is important that we uphold our standards and it is reassuring to note that our officials are among the very best in the world. The RFU's investment in elite refereeing has brought the appointment of three English referees for the 2007 Rugby World Cup, the most for any nation, with another RFU official appointed as a touch judge at the tournament.

Tony Spreadbury, Chris White and Wayne Barnes will take charge of games in France, while Dave Pearson will run the line. This is a real return on the RFU's investment in elite refereeing and has its origins in the formation of the Elite Referee Unit in 2001 and the recognition of the RFU and Premier Rugby that this was needed to develop world class referees.

The annual RFU snapshot of the game taken from the 2006 Clubs Questionnaire showed an overall increase but a small decline in adult participants. The Community Rugby Department recently launched UK sport's biggest ever adult recruitment campaign, Go Play Rugby, to attract 18-30 year old players and turn any decline around by attracting a further 5,000 players. A pilot project was launched by Rob Andrew last October in Surrey

and was very successful. The nationwide venture is being warmly welcomed and widely publicised.

We have also launched the CB Schools of Rugby programme, with 28 established for the U13-U16 age group. Far reaching changes are being made to the way young English players are developed with the introduction of a new coaching structure to drive up standards.

With the expansion of Twickenham, the decision was made to bring all aspects of the administration of the game to headquarters, including the schools rugby and referee work which has been carried out at Castlecroft. I would like to thank all of those who have for many years worked hard on behalf of the game from their West Midlands base and in particular National Education Manager, Ron Tennick, for his 17 years sterling effort at Castlecroft and approaching 35 years with the RFU.

The cross-border EDF Energy Cup competition saw double-header semi finals fought out at the Millennium Stadium before the Anglo-Welsh EDF Energy Cup final at Twickenham in April. The Cup level of competition has attracted many fans and EDF Energy's support at every level, of the new Senior Vase, the National Trophy and the Intermediate Cup, has ensured the continuing success of those competitions and excellent finals on the EDF Energy Finals day at Twickenham. The EDF Energy Junior Vase was also hotly contested and the EDF Energy National Schools Rugby Programme has been most welcome as it has taken tag rugby into more of our schools.

The hosting of the Barclays Churchill Cup in England for the first time saw interest across the country as four clubs hosted the initial matches and nine games were played in all. The England Saxons v Scotland A and the Barclays Churchill Cup, Plate and Bowl finals took place at Twickenham Stadium, the England Saxons lifting the trophy. The Barclays Churchill Cup alliance between the RFU, USA Rugby and Rugby Canada is now in its fifth year and has done much to develop players and boost interest in rugby union in North America. Last season the tournament gained IRB status and expanded to six teams, the three alliance nations joined by Scotland A, Ireland A and New Zealand Maori.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

We have continued to crack down on the 'black market' sales of Twickenham international tickets, cancelling those put up for unauthorised resale on website auctions and imposing sanctions on 35 clubs, CBs and individuals who contravened the 2006 Investec Challenge series ticket terms and conditions.

A key and successful component in our battle against the 'black market' operators has been the RFU's Official Licensed Operators scheme. The Management Board has recently agreed to extend the scheme for a further period and has invited companies to tender to become an Official Hospitality Licensee. The present RFU Official Licensees are: Mike Burton Group, Sportingclass and Events International. Their current licenses all expire at the end



of the 2007/08 season and they, as well as other candidates, have been invited to bid for new licenses.

England Rugby Travel Ltd, in its second year of operation, has been trading very successfully. It has been appointed an official travel agent of Rugby World Cup 2007. I am pleased to report that England Rugby Travel has sold record numbers of supporter packages for the tournament in September and October with more than 10,000 fans set to travel to France with the company. England Rugby Travel also took approaching 1,000 supporters to the Ireland v England RBS 6 Nations match at Croke Park. The company's debut year at the Hong Kong Sevens saw supporters enjoying exclusive access to an England training session and attending a meet the players event. Other events during this year included official travel packages to England's South Africa tour.

Our merchandise sales continue to hold up against last year and at the time of writing two and a half thousand newly launched England shirts have been pre-ordered for delivery on July 5th. The refurbished Twickenham York Street Rugby Store reopened last November and continues to trade well. With the move of the Twickenham Stadium Rugby Store into the South Stand a more comprehensive range of goods will be available to rugby players and fans.

In November the England Rugby Supporters Club, which recently celebrated its fourth birthday, was re-branded to give it a distinctive and appropriate identity. With some 21,000 senior members and 1,500 junior members, the Club continues to attract supporters and to reinvest profits back into the game at every level.

Fans are always keen to get close to their rugby heroes and last November the RFU launched a weekly Gillette Rugby Podcast, a ten minute audio magazine which supporters can download to their ipod or computer and listen to at their convenience. The podcast was number one in the iTunes chart during the RBS 6 Nations. We have also been trialling Bluecasting, the free transmission of video clips to personal mobile phones of fans who opt to receive them and we are reviewing the results.

Our strong relationship with long term sponsors continues and we are most grateful to them for their support. Greene King IPA came on board last autumn as official beer of England Rugby, with a noticeable presence in Twickenham Stadium and a Greene King IPA pub in the West Car Park on match days.

Lehman Brothers had a very successful inaugural Varsity Match as sponsors of both the men's and women's games and next season this popular fixture on the Twickenham calendar shifts to a 4pm Thursday kick off, which will give supporters the chance to continue the pre-Christmas enjoyment post match.

Enjoyment is essentially what the sport of rugby union is all about. I hope that everyone involved with rugby in England in whatever capacity has had fun this season and I thank everyone for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the game.



COMMUNITY RUGBY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN OWEN



Leading up to our major Player Recruitment Year of the Rugby World Cup, in partnership with CB and club volunteers we have made strides in developing and growing the game, prioritising Volunteers, Coaches and Referees.

Over £1million is being invested in 'Go Play Rugby', the largest adult player recruitment campaign ever

undertaken in UK sport, supported by Chelsea Building Society, the National Sports Foundation and the RFU through the Rugby Football Foundation.

The Rugby Leaders Conference launched the initiative, with subsequent local club launches. RFU recruitment toolkits, campaign materials and a dedicated website reflect the Surrey pilot research linking return to the game with the enjoyment of playing and the associated health benefits and stress the need to retain those brought back to rugby. The target is to recruit 5,000 adult players, bringing additional revenues in excess of £2.5m per year. Representatives from the England Rugby World Cup squad will be 'Play' ambassadors, with media exposure key to the campaign's success.

The national network of Volunteer Co-ordinators (VCs) has grown to 411, all using tools like the 'Activate' e-newsletter, 'Pitch In' DVD and 'On Side' booklet to dramatically increase the numbers of volunteers in rugby by 11.7% to 43,854.

With more than 2,000 16-24 year olds volunteering in rugby, more than 750 young 'Step Into Sport' Sports Leaders received information about rugby volunteering opportunities. Twenty two outstanding young volunteers were awarded Nike branded clothing and the 'YV+' scheme saw four attend an England U20 team training session and their match v France U21s. Young volunteers also supported the BBC as microphone runners during internationals.

The Recruitment Fund 2006/07 allocated over £235,000 to 39 Constituent Bodies and Federated Referee Societies to support 167 recruitment projects and £65,495 will be used to recruit a total of 2,537 new volunteers.

Thirty six future club and CB leaders completed this season's Leadership Academy and 18 graduates from last season's pilot reported their progress at a follow up workshop. CB volunteers provided 32 updated strategic plans and received support from a team of 12 CB Consultants. CB Orientation Day at Twickenham was attended by 31 new CB volunteer officers and the 'President's XV' scheme was introduced to identify and recognise volunteers' hard work. 31 projects made an outstanding contribution to the development of grassroots rugby in 15 categories aligned with the four themes of Community Rugby – More People, Better Places, Access for All and Enjoyment.

A new recognition booklet details RFU schemes recognising volunteers and 1,000 volunteer recognition certificates were distributed as well as more than 90 VIP ties and scarves. Over 500 volunteers were hosted at home international games and North Dorset RFC was nominated for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The appointment of eight regionally based Coach Development Officers (CDOs) made a significant impact on the number of coaches trained and qualified. Gary Henderson was appointed Acting Head of Coach Development, carrying on the work of Head of Coach Development, Evan Crawford, who in his six years tenure ensured that the RFU became one of the world leaders in

coach development. Final interviews for the role take place in late June/early July.

The number of Level 1 coaches has increased by 8%, with coaches attending the revised Level 2 course up by 39%. The first coaches who attended the UKCC designed Level 3 passed and courses are now being provided on a regional rather than national basis. The new Level 4 coaching award recruited its third cohort and is currently being reviewed in line with UKCC developments. The CDOs have also trained 84 volunteers to become accredited part-time Trainers and 489 Coach Educators to deliver high quality coaching courses within each CB and region.

Numbers of Club Coaching Coordinators (CCCs) have reached almost 1,000, our eight regional officers providing closer tracking and support and CCCs running a range of practicals and seminars in their regions and at CB level.

A range of coach development workshops have been delivered, together with 16 excellent teacher development days supported by Rhino and the Daily Mail. A series of countrywide workshops helped review services and resources and facilitated consultation on the Coach Licensing proposals.

Some 3,500 referees have qualified this year. In November 2006 the Referee Department introduced the Entry Level Referee Award, with more than 1,600 referees passing by the end of June 2007. Feedback on the Award, 50% of which is practical, has been excellent from delegates and the 27 accredited Referee Trainers delivering it.

The four Referee Development Officers, working with non-Society referees, have helped to create University Referees Societies, Club Cluster schemes and have delivered Continuous Professional Development. Next season sees the introduction of Referee Education Evenings, which will also involve non-Society referees.

Six referees have been accepted onto the National Panel for season 2007/8 and the calibre of this season's candidates means the majority are expected to progress to referee at National Division Two by the end of the season.

Our Rugby Development Managers and Officers are building on existing partnerships with Sport England regions and County Sports Partnerships and forging many new links through the new Community Sports Networks. We are facilitating school/club links in 87% of the Schools Sports Partnership national network. Our development work is also being integrated with CB strategic action plans and CBRDP outcomes.

We now have more than 150 Community Sports Coaches, with two thirds employed by the RFU and line managed by the RDOs, who draw together many financial partners. More than 3/4 million participants have been coached by the CRCs making a massive contribution to government, Sport England and RFU participation targets. Season 2006/7 saw a major increase in CRC sessions for people aged 16 years and over. With uncertainty over the future of some government funding, our development teams are working to attract new partners for this massive success story.

Player numbers at clubs continue to be strong amongst youth boys (+1%) youth girls (+2%) and mini/midi players (+2%), a growth of 2,757 players this year. Adult player numbers are still up on the figures from before the last World Cup despite a 1% (-1,013 players) decrease in the past 12 months.

A further 109 clubs have achieved RFU Seal of Approval since July 2006, with 349 now accredited, 66 achieving their second award and 18 their third. A nationally agreed standard, recognised by Sport England and its Clubmark scheme, is automatically awarded to Seal of Approval clubs and the first RFU Seal of Approval Club of the Year Award was presented to Witney RFC from Oxfordshire, the two runners up being Middlesbrough RUCF and North Dorset RFC.

A total of 279 clubs are now registered as Community Amateur Sports Clubs, an increase of 55 since July 2006, with an approximate saving to the game of £1.1m per annum or £4000 per registered club.

Supported by RFU resources, Freshers Fairs kicked off the season, 101 universities, an increase of 33%, joining the Higher

Education Rugby Development Programme. More games resulted from the expansion of BUSA leagues and there were 11 new university teams, an increase of 5%. A further 16,674 students took part in other rugby competitions over the year. Colleges responding to the RFU audit received free playing insurance and were supported by RUSLOs and RDOs.

RUSLO and RDO targets focused on University Development Plans, increasing participation in competitions and developing formal and informal FE / HE club links. A CDROM was developed for student player-coaches and there was an increase in the number of institutions establishing referees societies.

The Community Rugby Regional Development Teams have delivered more than 50 social inclusion projects, programmes ranging from inner-city projects in partnership with local police forces to girls after-school rugby schemes and from disability tag rugby clubs to a rugby festival played in power-wheelchairs. The Department also achieved Foundation status in the national Equity Standard charter-mark scheme.

Two new child protection training courses are now being delivered: Safeguarding & Protecting Young People in Rugby, a basic child protection awareness course, and the Club Welfare Officer Workshop advising Club Welfare Officers on child protection issues. With all clubs alerted to the 1st January 07 deadline for all adults working with young people to be CRB checked, 12,602 CRB applications were processed during the 2006/07 season in comparison with the previous 8,200.

Over the last season we have completed the first year of a three-year PhD study into the risk of injury, injury profile and risk factors for injury in youth rugby (including 520 players from schools, community clubs, and regional and national academies). The results of this work will support the development of appropriate conditioning and injury prevention plans, and help to design 'best-practice' treatment and rehabilitation guidelines, especially for high risk injuries.

A dedicated advice line has continued to operate and answer almost 500 enquiries on all aspects of health and player welfare. We have also designed a health and safety toolkit to assist clubs with risk assessments, ensuring that the risks associated with playing rugby are minimised wherever possible. This, combined with comprehensive insurance advice is available at www.rfu.com/virtualadviser

School competitions continue to grow the game. No less than 3,754 new and emerging schools played in the National Emerging Schools Programme, including over 42,000 players from non-traditional rugby backgrounds. Providing links to clubs, coaching and refereeing training for teachers and leadership courses for young volunteer is helping to create more sustainable rugby union activity in both schools and clubs.

The Daily Mail Cup competition again attracted record numbers, with 442 schools competing at Under 18 level and 544 at Under 15. At Under 18 level Barnard Castle produced a great comeback to beat Wellington College 23-22 in the semi finals, whilst Warwick held off St Benedict's to win 10-5. In one of the most dramatic Daily Mail finals seen at Twickenham, Warwick then came back twice to beat Barnard Castle 24-23. In the Vase final, Ermysteds Grammar School from Skipton beat Wilmslow High School by a ninth minute penalty.

At Under 15 level in the Cup semi finals Lymm High School surprised Wellington College by winning 19-6 in the semi finals, St Paul's beating Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School 27-7. In an exciting final Lymm High School overcame St Paul's 20-15. In the Vase final Woodhouse Grove used their forward power to beat Solihull School 22-3.

The England Counties played two Spring fixtures, losing a first ever match against AIB Ireland Clubs XV in Dublin 20-17 and beating France Amateurs at Blackheath FC by 41-10. The Dublin contest saw the team with 15 new players since last season's final game. The squad's coach, Ben Ryan, joined the England Academy set-up after the counties' matches and new coaching names this season included: David Baldwin, Director of Rugby at Manchester and a former Sale Sharks player, and Harvey Bijlon, Director of Rugby at Blackheath and a former London Wasps

player. At the time of writing, England Counties were embarking on an historic summer tour to Russia, the first visit of a senior England party to that country, where they take on Krasnoyarsk; VVA-Podmoskovie (Champions Club) and finally Russia.

England U16s experienced a very busy season with over 100 players taking part in the first trials. Development camps and festivals were followed by team selection for the Four National Festival and the 'A' team to represent

England at Millfield. England won all their games in the inaugural Four Nations tournament which involved Wales, France and Italy. Hosted in the Midlands the tournament was a great success both on and off the field, with the U16s the only England team to remain unbeaten since England won the World Cup.

The Millfield festival saw friendships being forged between the participating nations of England, France, Wales, Scotland, Canada, Romania, USA and Portugal. England U16 A Group beat Canada in their opening game 20-0, but were beaten 17-15 by Scotland in their second fixture. The final score in their last match v France was 15-10 to France.

The England U18s season culminated in an AER tournament in France and a Six Nations festival in Scotland. Divisional games and Six Nations and AER trials took place at Castlecroft over a weekend in February. In the Six Nations competition England U18s beat France 14-8, Scotland 15-6, Ireland 23-12, losing to Wales 21-9. An AER match v Italy on 18th March saw England victorious by 29-15. Before April's AER tournament in France: brought defeat to the Irish by 7-10 but wins against Portugal 79-0 and Italy 52-9.

The English Universities squad, drawn from players taking part in this season's BUSA Championships, faced a strong and experienced Irish Universities team in Dublin and despite leading for most of the game, conceded two late tries to bring a 21-10 defeat. At Twickenham against the Combined Services U23s they had a point to prove after last year's 26-23 defeat ended their 10-year winning streak. They made it in style by running in six sparkling tries to emerge victorious with a 23-6 win.

England Students completed a first-ever double victory over France. They claimed their first win on French soil in 14 years with a heroic 8-6 win in Cahors and in the return game gave their manager of 12 years, Tony Lanaway, a fitting send-off with a 19-10 victory.

The expanded National U17 Club Competition goes from strength to strength, attracting record numbers and a big crowd to enjoy the four matches played on finals day at Worcester.



CLUB ENGLAND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN SPENCER



We were delighted to announce the appointment of Rob Andrew as the RFU's first Elite Rugby Director at the start of the season. With an outstanding test rugby record as a player, and an impressive 11 years as Director of Rugby with Newcastle Falcons, Rob was the ideal candidate to oversee the entire elite rugby operation. Relationships

with the premiership clubs and the organisation of elite rugby have been much improved by the strengths and experience that Rob has brought to the RFU during his first season in the role, and the integration of the England management with the rest of the department has worked well under his leadership.

After the tumultuous events of last season, September saw a fresh start for England, led by Andy Robinson and his coaching team of Brian Ashton, Mike Ford and John Wells. The agreed Elite Player Squad (EPS) training days took place at Loughborough University during September and October, attended by all 40 EPS squad members and the 15 Senior National Academy players. Bisham Abbey was selected as the training venue for the Investec Challenge autumn internationals.

It was always clear that the autumn international programme was going to be a particularly challenging one for England, with an additional match against New Zealand being scheduled to celebrate the opening of the new South Stand. Following consecutive losses against New Zealand (20-41) and Argentina (18-25), a narrow victory in the first of two matches against South Africa was a temporary respite from the intense media and public criticism being levelled at the England management, players and the RFU. Following defeat (14-25) to South Africa in the final match, Andy Robinson resigned as England head coach. Although match results did not go the way that Andy, the supporters and players might have wished, they must not undermine Andy's tremendous achievements during his six years with the RFU and his enormous contribution to the England cause.

Brian Ashton was appointed England Head Coach in December. He is an inspirational coach renowned for his originality, innovation and perception of the game. Bath University became our training base for the Six Nations and the England captaincy was awarded to Phil Vickery. Brian was bold in his selection for

Brian Ashton



England v. Scotland, which saw the return to international rugby of Jonny Wilkinson and Jason Robinson and the test debut of Andy Farrell. Jonny broke the Calcutta Cup points' record during one of our best team performances in recent years, in which England won 42-20. The team also recorded a win against Italy the following week (20-7) although by contrast the performance was disappointing. We were pleased that some clubs agreed to rest England players from domestic competition the weekend prior to the match against Ireland. However, player fatigue, injury concerns and lack of preparation were contributory factors to a record defeat (43-13) in Dublin. Following injury to Phil Vickery, Mike Catt was offered an international recall together with the captaincy for the match against France. A much improved performance led to a good victory (26-18) with encouraging individual performances from young players: Toby Flood, Shane Geraghty, David Strettle and man of the match Tom Rees. The final match saw a 27-18 defeat to Wales in Cardiff and a third place finish for England on points difference.

Over 30 first choice players were unavailable for the England summer tour to South Africa due to injuries and the exclusion of players from Bath Rugby, Leicester Tigers and London Wasps



Saxons v New Zealand Maori

because of their involvement in European finals. Although it could not have been predicted that three English clubs would reach the European finals, we need to reflect seriously on the structured season if we want England to be competitive in the summer test programme. Under the captaincy of Jason Robinson, the squad selected was an interesting mixture of highly experienced players, others who have only recently come onto the international scene and seven who were uncapped. This was always going to be a tough and challenging series against a full strength South Africa, even before a devastating viral epidemic swept through the England camp. It was, nevertheless, a brave and determined England team that took on a strong South Africa, enduring consecutive test match defeats 58-10 in Bloemfontein and 55-22 in Pretoria. There has been much publicity about the value of the summer tours but there is no substitute for the experience the players obtain from playing southern hemisphere countries away from home.

The National Academy has had a very productive season under the direction of Conor O'Shea. A number of young players have come through the elite player development pathway and have begun to have a significant impact at Guinness Premiership and international level. This is testament to the work done throughout the system, from community clubs through to the regional academies, the premiership clubs and the national age grade programmes. The regional academies are currently the subject of a radical restructure.

Jim Mallinder and Dorian West have done some excellent work with England Saxons this season. At the time of writing their appointment as Northampton Saints Director of Rugby and Forwards Coach is being announced and we wish them both

every success in their new roles. They have done much to re-establish the Saxons' credibility with the players and clubs and to position it as a crucial step on the way towards senior England honours. Two wins in February against Italy A at Exeter (34-5) and Ireland A at Ravenhill (5-32) provided a strong platform for the Saxons' campaign to win back the Churchill Cup. The tournament came to England for the first time this summer, with the team winning 51-3 against the USA at Edgeley Park and defeating Scotland A 18-3 at Twickenham during the pool rounds. An impressive all round performance saw England Saxons regain the Churchill Cup with a 17-13 win against holders New Zealand Maori in an exciting Twickenham final.

The England Sevens squad has had a difficult year competitively, having been repositioned as part of the U20 development pathway for a much younger group of players. Mike Friday resigned as Head Coach at the end of 2006 and was replaced by Ben Ryan of Newbury RFC. Four of the core squad initially selected - Mike Brown, David Strettle, Nick Abendanon and James Haskell - earned promotion to England Saxons and the England senior team during the season. England Sevens finished fifth in the IRB Sevens World Series, a respectable position given the restructuring of the programme.

Nigel Redman and Mark Mapletoft led the U20 and U19 coaching programme for the season. We welcomed the IRB's decision to move to a single, age grade U20 competition from next year and entered an U20 side into the U21 Six Nations this season in anticipation. After comfortable wins against Scotland (31-5) and Italy (30-10), England lost two games in a row against Ireland (13-6) and France (32-13) and drew against Wales (21-21). Although it meant a third place finish in this year's U21 Six Nations, we are now a year ahead of our rivals in planning terms.

The U19 squad took part in the final U19 World Cup in Belfast in the spring where they won against Samoa (20-12), Argentina (17-15) and lost against eventual champions New Zealand (13-34) in the pool rounds. Beating Argentina again (31-13) in the second round stage, the team went on to lose (17-43) to France in the 5th/6th place play-off.

England U18 won eight of their nine games played this year, the only loss being a disappointing one against Wales in the Six Nations. We believe that a number of players from this group are destined for a big future in the game.

In May staff from the Sports Science and Medicine Department organised a briefing session for the rugby media on behind-the-scenes activity, which this season amounted to 420 days of training, touring and test match duty in support of all the England elite teams. In sports medicine, the RFU's injury audit has been completed, while the IRB-funded tackle study continues its detailed investigation of the precise mechanics of injuries caused in the tackle. The RFU's pitch side immediate trauma care course is now the world's leading training programme for rugby medical staff and has become the mandatory standard for all England and premiership medical teams. On the fitness front, Simon Worsnop has developed a new strength and conditioning coaching course for academy staff which is accredited by 1st4Sport and has been very well received by the fitness industry. The programming for the storage and calculation of fitness scores using the RFU fitness and anthropometric scoring template ('FAST') has been completed and is available to academy and England staff. The RFU policy on strength training for young people has been revised and approved by Club England, and recommends that children can participate safely in strength and conditioning programmes provided they are properly supervised in appropriate facilities.

The elite coach development programme continues to grow and develop under Kevin Bowling. Programmes are designed to inspire coaches to find their own solutions to coaching problems rather than simply imparting knowledge. The aim is to develop creative and innovative coaches who can meet the challenge of professional coaching.

We were sorry to lose Phil Keith-Roach as a full time member of staff during the season although he will continue to work with

us on a number of projects as an independent scrum consultant. Phil has been a fantastic coach with the England team and helped a lot of players throughout the age groups during his 11 years with the RFU.

The busy Ashridge programme has given coaches the opportunity to listen to a number of guest speakers on a range of subjects, from leadership in the armed forces to the management of change in Olympic sport. The level 4 and level 5 coach awards are now well established. The 'attached coach' programme gave seven academy coaches the opportunity to be 'fly on the wall' observers of international age group coaching teams in action and preparing for international competition.

The individual mentoring and support of coaches operating in the elite game is fostering a culture of continuous professional development. There is still a great deal to do and programmes are continually reviewed to stimulate learning and coach development. The most pleasing aspect is the fact that coaches are beginning to take more responsibility for their own learning and this is supported enthusiastically by the RFU and the elite rugby department.

The elite referee programme continues to flourish apace under the guidance of Colin High. We are delighted to report that three RFU referees - Wayne Barnes, Tony Spreadbury and Chris White - have been selected in the pool of 12 referees for this year's Rugby World Cup, while Dave Pearson has been selected as a touch judge. Tony will have the great honour of refereeing the opening match in Paris.



In December two MBA students from the London Business School were appointed to conduct a feasibility study for a potential national centre for rugby. The study involved an extensive round of stakeholder interviews in order to ascertain the diverse visions many in the game have on the usage of a national centre, followed by an evaluation of potential sites around the country. The project is nearing completion at the time of writing, and it is expected that recommendations will be made to the Management Board during the summer.

Turning to financial matters, the department is on target to deliver the requested 2.5% budget reduction for this season and 7.5% for 2007-8. While savings have had to be made across the department, in addition we unfortunately had to make Dave Reddin's post as Head of Fitness redundant in December to help achieve the targets set by the management board.

All in all this has been another eventful and challenging season for the Elite Rugby Department and it has not been the ideal preparation we might have wished for in defence of the World Cup. Whilst there have been a number of highs and lows on the playing side, behind the scenes the newly integrated operation has worked well and improved in its organisation of and support for all England teams. Looking towards the future, the national academy programme has seen the emergence of a new and promising group of players which we are confident will take England into the 2011 and 2015 World Cups.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PAUL MURPHY



It has been another busy year, the Committee having met five times with stretching agendas. Not surprisingly, much of this year's activity has centred on regulation changes. In several areas new or improved operating procedures have been put in place during the season.

RFU REGULATIONS

Competitions Sub Committee has completed the annual review of Game Regulations (GR). The change to permit dual registration of England Academy Players to facilitate their playing development was a significant step forward this season. Karen Vleck attended to the General Administration Regulations (GAR) including new regulations on Waging and Betting. Following a presentation from Gary Henderson, Governance reviewed the first proposals on a Coach Licensing Scheme. Throughout all the changes this season the appointment of Andrew Rogers as RFU Regulations Manager has been extremely beneficial in managing the reporting and processes for the 2007-2008 handbook.

IRB

Jonathan Dance has kept the Committee apprised of IRB matters, in particular the changes to IRB Regulations 17 Discipline, 21 Doping and 5 Agents. Phil Winstanley has successfully steered the Premier Rugby request for an Experimental Law Variation (ELVs) on 15 mins at half time. Proposed variations on uncontested scrums were referred back by the IRB for more evidence. The method of handling IRB correspondence received at Twickenham has been reviewed and a new process adopted to track responses.

RFU RULES

The Constitutional Task Group (CTG) under the Chairmanship of HHJ Jeff Blackett has not yet reported its proposals. This has postponed a much-needed overhaul of the RFU Rules for this season and only minor changes in payment of club insurance premiums have been proposed. The review of the rules will be planned for next season post the CTG report.

LAWS SUB-COMMITTEE

David Martin's Laws Sub Committee has kept a watching brief on the four Experimental Law Variations (ELVs) trialled in the County Championship. No final report is, as yet, available and further consultation will take place before the adoption of any approved changes in June 2008. The four Laws were: The Breakdown (Tackle area); Legally collapsing the Maul; Off-side at

Scrum (5 metres); Restrictive touch kicks in the "22". On January 1st 2007 the IRB introduced an amendment to Law 20 - Scrum to take immediate effect. The sequence of calls from the referee -Law 20.1(h)- would now be: "CROUCH...TOUCH...PAUSE...ENGAGE". This was successfully introduced into our game at all levels, although there are reservations at youth levels.

DISCIPLINARY

HHJ Jeff Blackett has had another busy year with disciplinary matters. The IRB issued substantial amendments to IRB Regulation 17 in late November for implementation on 1st January 2007. This caused significant changes to the RFU Disciplinary Regulations and particularly the recommended sanctions table. The disciplinary website has been much improved with decisions being posted very quickly, and plans to include video clips of incidents to accompany judgments are well advanced.

WELFARE

The Task Group examining how we manage catastrophic injuries has dominated welfare. This is reported elsewhere in the document. Governance agreed a new RFU policy on the Conditioning of Young Players presented by Roy Headey, Head of Elite Support, and Gavin Dovey, the RFU Anti Doping-Officer, brought forward recommendations on maintaining the effectiveness of the testing programme. The IRB adoption of an International Standard for the reporting of serious rugby injuries will be a great step forward in data gathering for risk assessment and mitigation. The RFU Elite Department played a key role in creating the consensus statement.

COMPETITIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Competitions Sub Committee has manfully managed both the competitions and regulatory challenges of the season. The FDR and NCA Representatives, Terry Brown and Sir Hal Miller, provided invaluable input to this year's review in particular to the revised England Academy registration and registration issues surrounding the adoption of Rugby First. Mike Lord who has been Chairman since 2003 is retiring this season and I thank him for his work over the past four years and the support he has given me as Chairman.

SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Integration of the S & YSC into Governance has continued this season by building the relationships and interaction between these two important areas. Tim Stirik has led the review of the Schools & Youth and the Daily Mail Cup Regulations. Both had major attention this year and more succinct and clarified regulations will appear next season. Peter Hughes, the Chair of the Sub Committee, is calling it a day at the end of this season. My thanks go to Peter for his hard work, help and support over the years.

The Committee has been admirably supported throughout the season by the professional staff at Twickenham in discharging its duties. My thanks go to Karen, Karen, John and Stephanie for their help and to all members of the Committee for their input and contributions through the season.

FINANCE DIRECTOR NICK EASTWOOD



As in 2005/06, the major financial event of this season has been the ongoing construction of the new South Stand development. I anticipate that by the year end we will have spent £35m on the project in 2006/07, to give a cumulative spend to date of approximately £75m. Notwithstanding this level of expenditure, we

have managed our cash balances carefully and, at the time of writing, have drawn down only £2m of external debt. The South Stand debentures have so far brought in some £23.7million, all the personal debentures having been snapped up and only some 150 business debentures remaining available. We do, however, anticipate that we will require the balance of the £20m facility from Barclays in the coming months and that we will also need to make use of a portion of a further £50m facility currently being finalised.

Our revenues have continued to suffer from the results of the England team and to a lesser extent the impact of the South Stand project, with all major revenue lines being below expectations in 2006/07. This is mainly due to the impact on revenues from the Six Nations championship, together with a reduction in the contribution from our retail and licensing business. Elsewhere our performance on the financial front has been solid and we have a strong balance sheet on which to base the development of our new business streams. It is, however, imperative that we improve the performance of the England team in order that our current levels of investment in rugby at all levels remains sustainable.

Our match programme comprised four autumn internationals and three Six Nations games. Six games sold out, but with a slightly lower number of available seats than budgeted due to the South Stand construction. This delivered record ticket revenues of £11.6m and £12.1m for the sell out autumn games and Six Nations games, respectively. For the match against Argentina we sold 72,000 tickets and generated £2.4m revenues, a good performance compared to £2.2m for the Samoa game in 2005/06 and taking into account the match programme. Broadcasting and sponsorship revenues will be broadly flat year on year, with no major underlying changes. Our hospitality business, operated through our 52.5% subsidiary Twickenham Experience, continues to grow and had its most successful year to date in terms of package sales at the major games. TEL will again deliver a pre-tax contribution of more than £6m for the year and this figure will grow significantly when the new facilities in the South Stand are fully open for business. Against these success stories, we have continued to struggle in our retail business. Forecast revenues for the year are in the region of only £3m, similar to last year but well below revenues of £5.7m in 2004/05. This reflects the continuing below par performance of the England team and, in addition, the general difficulties in the retail market together with a reduction in match day retail space due to the demolition of the old South Stand which contained a retail unit.

Our investment in Elite Rugby will be virtually the same as in 2005/06, with our priorities having been reassessed following the appointment of the new Elite Rugby Director and the rationalisation of costs subsequent to the Six Nations review in 2005/06. We are satisfied that our level of resources in the Elite Rugby infrastructure is at the right level in overall terms but our current negotiations with the Premiership clubs on a new long term agreement will undoubtedly require us to increase

substantially our investment in the access to and development of English qualified elite players and related areas.

We have continued the substantial level of investment in Community Rugby in 2006/07 both from RFU funds and Government-financed programmes. Increased RFU investment has been directed to refereeing (Rugby Referee Development Officers), coach development (four further Coach Development Officers) and, especially, Constituent Body Rugby Development Partnerships which were established in 2004/05 with the responsibility for the integrated development of all local youth rugby, funding for which increased in 2006/07 to £0.6m. The two major Government-funded programmes continue to be the Approved Coaching Centres and Community Rugby Coaches which received funding of £0.7m and £2.1m, respectively; these programmes provide a very significant addition to our coaching and coach development resources, much to the credit of this Government.

The Finance and Funding Committee met regularly during the year and continues to provide valuable and experienced input into game funding decisions. The main issue considered by the Committee during the year was the impact of the introduction of the new club funding/game insurance scheme for clubs at levels five and below, which was approved in April 2006 by the RFU Council. This resulted in very important changes to club funding and insurance arrangements for clubs at levels five and below for the 2006/07 season and beyond. With effect from 1st August 2006, the RFU ceased to pay amounts under the RFU Conditional Funding Scheme (and the Official Hospitality Licence scheme) but now funds all clubs' playing accident and public and employer liability premiums centrally. Key risks covered are:

- Player accident benefits, in accordance with the RFU's compulsory scheme
- Clubs' referees' and coaches' liability
- Clubs' public liability
- Clubs' employer liability
- Vicarious liability for clubs and officials for player-to-player incidents

With a change of this magnitude, it was inevitable that not all clubs would benefit, at least financially in the short term. We have heard from a number of clubs, the net financial impact on which has been negative in the short term. However, overall feedback from the clubs to the insurance helpline has been overwhelmingly positive, mainly because of the fact that hard-pressed club administrators no longer have to deal with such a complex and potentially threatening issue.

One of our main financial objectives over the last few years has been to increase the amount of capital funding for Community Rugby club facilities development. The Rugby Football Foundation to date has paid a total of £0.4m in grants and £1.0m in interest free loans in 2006/07, to a total of 106 clubs, with a further £2.3m of funds offered but not yet paid. We also continue to benefit from sources of public funding for investment in this area. 2005/06 was the last year of the first phase of the very successful Community Club Development Programme from which RFU clubs received more than £10m of capital funding between 2003/04 and 2005/06, more than any other sport, thanks to the efforts of our Funding and Facilities team. The next phase of CDDP funding will bring a total of £4.75m for 2006/07 and 2007/08 and we have fully committed our allocation of £2.4m for this year. In addition, the launch of the National Sports Foundation provides a further £3.0m in 2006/07 and 2007/08, the majority of which will utilise as an additional capital fund to be accessed by the clubs via the Funding and Facilities team. There has been a good deal of press speculation regarding the possible adverse impact of the 2012 Olympics on the funding of grass-roots sport. It is too early yet to say whether these fears are founded but we continue to invest significant amount of senior management time in persuading Government of the continuing need for substantial investment in grass-roots sports' infrastructure.



SEASON 2006-2007 MATCH RESULTS

ENGLAND

RBS 6 NATIONS 2007

Wales 27 England 18
England 26 France 18
Ireland 43 England 13
England 20 Italy 7
England 42 Scotland 20

INVESTEC CHALLENGE 2006

England 14 South Africa 25
England 23 South Africa 21
England 18 Argentina 25
England 20 New Zealand 41

SUMMER TOUR

England 10-58 South Africa
England 22-55 South Africa

ENGLAND SAXONS

SIX NATIONS

England Saxons 34-5 Italy A
Ireland A 5-32 England Saxons

BARCLAYS CHURCHILL CUP

England Saxons 51-3 USA
England Saxons 18-3 Scotland A
England Saxons 17-13 New Zealand Maori

ENGLAND LEVIES

IRB SEVENS SERIES

Dubai - Semi Final Cup
George - Semi Final Cup
Wellington - Plate Winners
San Diego - Semi Final Plate
Hong Kong - Quarter Finals Cup
Adelaide - Semi Final Plate
Twickenham - Bowl Winners
Murrayfield - Bowl Winners

ENGLAND U20

England U20s 31-5 Scotland U20s
England U20s 30-10 Italy U21s
Ireland U20s 13-6 England U20s
England U20s 13-32 France U21s
Wales U20s 21-21 England U20s

ENGLAND U19

England U19 18-11 Italy U19
England U19 29-5 France U19
IRB Under-19 World Championship
England U19 20-12 Samoa U19
England U19 17-15 Argentina U19
England U19 13-34 New Zealand U19
England U19 31-13 Argentina U19
England U19 17-43 France U19

ENGLAND U18

SIX NATIONS FESTIVAL

England U18 14-8 France U18, Hentley RFC
England U18 15-6 Scotland U18, Burnbrae
England U18 21-9 Wales U18, Hughenden
England U18 23-12 Ireland U18, Burnbrae

ENGLAND U18 AER

England U18 72-0 Portugal U18
England U18 7-10 France U18
England U18 52-9 Italy U18

ENGLAND U16

FOUR NATIONS TOURNAMENT

England U16 32-10 Wales U16
England U16 13-10 France U16
England U16 23-5 Italy U16

ENGLAND U16A

England U16A 22-0 Canada U16
England U16A 15-17 Scotland U16
England U16A 10-15 France U16A

ENGLAND COUNTIES

England Counties 17-20 AIB Ireland Clubs
England Counties 41-10 France Amateurs

ENGLAND STUDENTS

France Students 6-8 England Students
England Students 19-10 France Students

ENGLAND UNIVERSITIES

Ireland Universities 21-10 England Universities
England Universities 37-6 Combined Services U23

LEHMAN BROTHERS VARSITY MATCH

Oxford 6-15 Cambridge

DAILY MAIL SCHOOLS FINALS

Under-15 Vase: Woodhouse Grove School 27 Solihull School 3
Under-15 Cup: Lymm HS 20 St Paul's Barnes 3
Under-18 Vase: Ermysteds GS 3 Wilmslow HS 0
Under-18 Cup: Warwick School 24 Barnard Castle School 23

EDF ENERGY CUP FINALS DAY

EDF Energy Cup - Ospreys 35 Leicester Tigers 41
EDF Energy Trophy - Exeter Chiefs 16 Cornish Pirates 19
EDF Energy Intermediate Cup - Dunstablians 36 Mounts Bay 46
EDF Energy Senior Vase - Northwich 18 Bradford Salem 13
EDF Energy Junior Vase - Hartpury College 72 Billericay 12

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES SPORTS ASSOCIATION FINALS

Women's BUSA final Loughborough University 5-27 UWIC
Men's BUSA final UWE Hartpury 27-14 UWIC

ARMY V NAVY

for the Babcock Trophy
Army 39-25 Navy

GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP FINAL

Gloucester Rugby 16 Leicester Tigers 44

HEINEKEN CUP FINAL

London Wasps 25 Leicester Tigers 9

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Bill Beaumont Cup - Devon 27 Lancashire 6
County Championship Shield - Warwickshire 22 Somerset 8
County Championship Plate - Durham 30 Eastern Counties 20
National U20 Championship - Yorkshire U20 34-17 Devon



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