

# Schools Rugby



ENGLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL  
SCHOOLS' UNION

January 2011

Welcome to the second edition of *Schools Rugby*, the ERSFU newsletter pull-out supplement within *Touchline*. This publication will come to you each term and we would greatly appreciate your feedback and input. If your school has a

story to tell, pictures to promote the enjoyment of playing rugby, requests for features or news articles we'd love to receive this at [schools@therfu.com](mailto:schools@therfu.com) marked Schools Rugby Newsletter. Mark Saltmarsh, National Schools Development Manager

## Rugby Ready to Meet White Paper Challenge

### THE 'IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING'

White Paper aims to give more freedom to individual state schools when it comes to deciding the place and funding of sport within their curriculum and beyond the school day.

School Management Teams will have the money to spend as they see fit for the greatest benefit of their school, with the key issue being bringing the Big Society into schools.

It is the government's wish for "competitive sport to be at the centre of a truly rounded education that all schools offer."

The drive is for secondary school teachers to run competitions for more pupils and to continue to help their feeder primaries to do so. The Schools Olympics will receive £35.5m from the Department of Culture Media and Sport and will be the main focus of school sport competition.

There will be a significantly reduced school

sport network after summer 2011 with only School Sports Coordinators remaining. They will be funded by the Department for Education for a day a week in 2011/12 and 2012/13.

In the next 18 months, before the London Olympics is centre stage, rugby union has the opportunity to maximise its appeal thanks to Rugby World Cup 2011 and the approaching home World Cup in 2015.

Says National Schools Development Manager, Mark Saltmarsh, "With a changed landscape there will be challenges. However, we will be working to ensure that rugby union in schools thrives, grows and feeds the rugby journey to lifelong participation. There is opportunity for us as a sport and we are already developing specifically in many of the relevant areas, not only within our schools development programme but also on a wider basis.

"Our 'One New Team' and 'Play 2011' initiatives,

with the tools, resources, training and support to schools, teachers, club liaison teams, our field force and our Schools Union volunteers will be well placed to recruit and retain participants across the entire school programme.

"A higher quality offer to schools must be implemented including refined competition, young leaders, club links and teacher training pathways. This promotion will not only be to the school sport network but essentially will now be modified and delivered to school management teams.

"Delivery of rugby union will be through PE and the wider curriculum providing a vehicle that benefits both male and female pupils, staff and the school community itself. The RFU, alongside ERSFU, can and will aim to lead an accelerated strategic focus on quality and capacity so that rugby union in schools continues to thrive and provide the major pipeline to the wider game."



Mark Saltmarsh

## Youth Council Survey Gets Great Response

THE NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL'S SURVEY for 16-24 year olds achieved no less than 2,300 hits, after both Martin Johnson and Rob Andrew lent their support.

The questions were compiled by the NYC to discover what young people think about the game, rugby culture and what they would change if they were in charge for the day.

John Steele, the RFU's Chief Executive has asked the NYC for a full update and report once results are collected and these are being sent through to the man in charge.

The ten strong NYC comprises young people from across the country who feed the views of their peers through to the decision makers at the RFU. Their last meeting was at West Park RFC, Leeds on the 13th December, where items such as the new RFU Young Volunteer & Leader Strategy were discussed. At their meeting on the 26th January the group were to analyse and process the survey responses. You can follow the meeting by joining them on [twitter @official\\_rfu](https://twitter.com/official_rfu)

Latest NYC member, England Women's elite playing squad member Stacey Maguire, said "The NYC is an important step for shaping the future of youth rugby throughout the country. I am very much looking forward to seeing how we can help the future for others. I attended my first meeting in December, and was amazed to see how much work the team had already done."



Martin Johnson helps Marissa, 17 year old NYC member promote the survey

## Touchline straight to your inbox

Anyone who wants the monthly *Touchline* delivered straight to their inbox only needs to email [touchline@therfu.com](mailto:touchline@therfu.com)

And if you want coverage of your school's success or interesting story email [patriciamowbray@rfu.com](mailto:patriciamowbray@rfu.com) for inclusion in either *Touchline* or this Schools Rugby supplement.



## U19s In School or College Rugby

### Tim Stirk

RFU REGULATION 15 relating to age grade rugby makes explicit a situation which already existed before regulations were recently revised. It states that if an U19 student is playing in a school game this must not involve any U16s because that would entail them playing against someone three age grades above them.

There will be times when an U19 student plays in school matches and the onus is on his team coach, with the backing of the head teacher, to seek permission from the opposition for the overage player to be involved. They must have regard to the player's size, development and ability, to ensure there is not a disparity with other players taking part.

In essence if an U19 is either too big or too advanced for his school or college peer group his rugby should be being played in a club. However, if his level of rugby and size is comparable, there are no U16s involved and the opposition concurs this will not present a problem.

Note: The new regulation is 15.1.4.3 RFU Handbook pages 197-199.



Tim Stirk

## Scrum Factory

THE RFU'S SCRUM FACTORY programme supported by Marsh has a big fan in England Scrum Coach Graham Rowntree. Says Graham, "Props and hookers are vital to every team and to play in those positions requires a huge amount of skill and technique. Marsh's support of The Scrum Factory enables us to extend the coaching for those techniques up and down the country and recruit more players into the front row which, for me, is great news.

"I was lucky enough to have had some very talented coaches throughout my playing career and without those guys I wouldn't be here today. I'm sure the players involved in The Scrum Factory will find the expert coaching just as beneficial."



Matt Ferguson, National Scrum Factory Development Officer

The Scrum Factory initiative is incorporated within the Teacher Days (see page 3) and is open to all coaches and teachers.

THIS IS  
RUGBY.

Teamwork Respect Enjoyment Discipline Sportsmanship

## Bring Your School Squad to Twickenham for Free

**THE DAILY MAIL RBS FINALS** are on Wednesday 6th April. Up to 30 Free tickets are available for your school to come to Twickenham and enjoy the matches.

To be part of an exciting day of rugby simply e-mail your details and the number of tickets you would like to [schools@therfu.com](mailto:schools@therfu.com)



## Leading the Way

**LEADERSHIP SKILLS** are fundamentally important as they enable us to contribute to our local community. Providing our young people with leadership opportunities is more important than ever, especially with the jobs market as competitive as it is. Far too much negative comment is aimed at the youth of today but there are thousands of young people doing great things and these should be celebrated.

It is pleasing that the RFU and the Schools Union are playing their part in providing opportunities which foster leadership skills. Just scan this Newsletter and you can see fine examples such as the National Youth Council, PGL team building, young officials, FairPlay and the Canadian exchange programme.

Team sports encourage selflessness. Rugby is a physical game in which we rely heavily on each other. As a former hooker I was eternally grateful to those props who looked after me! It is also a game in which lasting friendships are made and personal development is as significant as the physical skills that are learnt. The rugby journey at its best provides young people with personal attributes for the future; attributes which will bring their own rewards but also the added extras that may attract employers. It offers far more than just the time spent on the pitch.



Peter Johnson, ERFU President

## More Free Resources Available Now

**MORE TEACHER RESOURCES** are available online in the RFU Resource Bank from this month (January).

Following the success of the year seven PE lesson plans, launched last September, years eight and nine secondary school resources are now downloadable free of charge.

There is also a term's worth of KS2 primary PE games, a-teacher group based in Staffordshire having assisted with developing these resources. Henry Smith, PE teacher at Mascalls School, Kent, said of the resources, "I'm pretty impressed. There are very comprehensive curriculum plans and clear diagrams, all linking very well to unit and curriculum aims."

All the PE resources use rugby to deliver

the national curriculum. Also available in February will be cross curricular resources in literacy and numeracy for both secondary and primary schools. The secondary cross curricular resources, developed in partnership with teachers based in Hounslow Borough Schools.

Garth Buckle MBE from the Business Links Team of the Hounslow Business Education Partnership has been assisting and in November at Longford School in Bedford the RFU Schools Development Team received an award in recognition of this partnership and working together for the benefit of schools.

All of the resources form part of the RFU's ongoing commitment to providing teacher specific tools, resources and training.



## Nigel's Notes

**NIGEL ORTON, SCHOOLS AND YOUTH DISCIPLINE SECRETARY.**

**50 points differential.** A new guideline came in this season that games should normally end once a 50 point differential is reached. Usually there is no benefit to continuing a one-sided match to either team, but if both sides agree the game can continue. Some cups matches end once 50 points accrue but lower sides involving enjoyable high scoring matches would not necessarily be curtailed; one example was a 59-47 result.

**Seal of Approval** is the kite mark clubs operating youth teams are encouraged to work towards. The RFU supports clubs committed to putting in place good facilities, methods and standards that make playing rugby a safe, enjoyable experience. Schools who equally operate such standards should aim to form club links with clubs that have a seal of approval or are actively working towards that aim. The RDO can advise on that status.

**Age Grade Regulations** - Rugby has regulations to ensure consistent standards and safe procedures. We also give advice on how to operate via guidelines. We wish to remind you of the Age Grade Regulations, born out of careful analysis and with the aid of medical opinion and legal considerations.

We recognise not everyone physically develops uniformly and that rugby is not just about size but also has to account for



Nigel Orton

mental maturation, so some dispensations have been written in. Age Grade Regulations must be adhered to or sanctions may be imposed. The priority has to be protecting young people from being exposed to unnecessary danger.

Every coach and team manager of a youth team has a duty to be familiar with and apply the relevant regulations. Ignorance can't be an effective defence. Top end sanctions are regarded as quite severe. So far this season one school and two clubs have been punished by disciplinary panels for breaching the age grade regulations. More information from [rfu.com/regulations](http://rfu.com/regulations)



Young referee, Craig Price, officiates

**THE YOUNG OFFICIALS AWARD** is for students aged 14-19 looking to develop their officiating and leadership skills in rugby union. Through a mix of both theory and practical sessions delegates will explore the aspects of a good official, display effective knowledge of law, develop communication skills, understand how to prepare for the challenges of refereeing and referee the kickoff, ruck, maul, tackle and lineout.

Six hours learning is combined with a further 10 hours voluntary officiating and it's recommended that candidates start by refereeing age groups two years below their own and progress up to and including Under 19, according to their ability.

The course can be delivered by an RFU tutor within your school, sports partnership or club. However, qualified teachers are welcome to attend tutor training to deliver this award. To run each course requires at least ten young officials to attend.

The course costs £25 per candidate, which includes all tutor fees and materials including a candidate folder, IRB laws of the game book, whistle and red and yellow cards.

To book a course or for further information please contact Adam White, Young Official Development Officer on 07576 180813 or e-mail [YODO@rfu.com](mailto:YODO@rfu.com)

The Young Officials Award is funded in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust, V and United Utilities.

## Party Before England Beat Wallabies



**BEFORE WATCHING ENGLAND BEAT AUSTRALIA** at Twickenham, which was great in itself, many teachers got together in the stadium's West Car Park for lunch, a drink and a chat with each other and members of the Schools Development Team and the Schools Union.

Said Elisa Blackborough, Education Administration Manager at the RFU, "This was a great opportunity to thank guests for all their hard work in schools rugby and for continuing to develop our younger players. It also gives everyone a chance to share good ideas and seek advice. To see 145 teachers there was fantastic."

There will be another party in the car park before the RBS 6 Nations England v Scotland match for teachers who have tickets to the game. If you want to be there just email [schools@therfu.com](mailto:schools@therfu.com)

## PGL Packages at Special Rate

**THE RFU** has recently teamed up with PGL, the UK's leading provider of school trips and children's adventure holidays – offering outdoor education and adventures of a lifetime to children since 1957.

PGL will offer a 10% discount to ERFU member schools for Monday to Friday and weekend packages at all PGL centres in the UK.

They also offer Free preview weekends for group leaders at centres across the UK – so you could take family or colleagues to one of their preview weekends to see exactly what PGL can offer your school.

You can also combine your training with activities to promote leadership and team building – from £49+VAT per person with one night accommodation or £32+VAT per person for non residential.

### – 10% off Monday to Friday Breaks

At all UK centres for 2011 dates (subject to availability)

### – 10% off Weekend Breaks

At all UK centres (Friday to Sunday/Monday) in March/April 2011 (subject to availability)

– **Leadership/team building** from £49+VAT per person with one night accommodation or £32+VAT per person for non residential.

Call to make a booking on **0871 460 5261** (These offers may not be used in conjunction with any other offers)



## Great Days Coming

John Lawn

**PROVIDING** coach development support to teachers and coaches operating at all levels of the schoolboy and girls game is vitally important to the long term future of the sport. Building on the success of previous years, preparations are well underway for the 2011 Rugby Teacher Development Days. Last year over 600 teachers attended the 16 regional events, taking advantage of the opportunity to discuss their thoughts on the game, and develop their experience and expertise alongside former England Head Coach, Brian Ashton MBE.

This year's events will again be supported by Brian, who, together with RFU Coach &

Playing Development Officers and National Scrum Factory Development Officer Matt Ferguson will introduce creating and play from turnover, and developing safe and effective scrummagers. All events will take place in June and July and will provide an ideal setting for teachers and coaches to look ahead to the 2011 – 2012 season.

Rugby Teacher Development Days are suitable for teachers and coaches of every level. As always the focus will be on how the coach can influence and develop the individual player to become an intuitive decision maker with the skills and techniques required in the modern high paced game.

### Rugby Teachers Days - Theme for 2011 Creating and Play From Turnover Scrum Factory - Developing Safe & Effective Scrummagers

Monday 24th January 2011	City of Manchester Stadium
Tuesday 7th June 2011	St John's College, Grove Road South, Southsea, Hampshire, PO5 3QW
Thursday 9th June 2011	St Edward's School, Woodstock Road, Oxford, Oxon, OX2 7NN
Tuesday 14th June 2011	Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B74 2NH
Thursday 16th June 2011	Baxter College, Habberley Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 5PQ
Tuesday 21st June 2011	The Kings School, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2ES
Wednesday 22nd June 2011	Hurstpierpoint College, College Lane, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex, BN6 9JS
Thursday 23rd June 2011	St John's School, Epsom Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8SP
Friday 24th June 2011	Bedford Modern School, Manton Lane, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK41 7NT
Tuesday 28th June 2011	Mill Hill School, The Ridgeway, London, NW7 1QA
Wednesday 29th June 2011	Felsted School, Felsted, Dunmow, Essex, CM6 3LL
Thursday 30th June 2011	QEGS Wakefield Grammar School, 154 Northgate, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 3QX
Friday 1st July 2011	Uppingham School, Uppingham, Rutland, Leicestershire, LE15 9QE
Monday 4th July 2011	Wyndham College, Wyndham, Norfolk, NR18 9SZ
Tuesday 5th July 2011	Plymouth RFC, Brickfields Recreation Ground, 25 Damerel Close, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 4NE
Friday 8th July 2011	Newcastle Falcons, Kingston Park, Brunton Road, Kent Bank Foot, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AF
Tuesday 12th July 2011	Portway Rugby Development Centre, Portway, Sea Mills, Bristol, BS9 2HS

Visit [rfu.com/coach](http://rfu.com/coach) to book

## World's Biggest Youth Sevens

**THIS YEAR'S ROSSLYN PARK SEVENS**, now in partnership with the England Rugby Football Schools Union, will be a truly cosmopolitan affair with, for the first time, a team from Denmark as well as squads from the Isle of Man, Romania and Kenya.

The Brasov team from Romania will be enjoying the hospitality of Sutton Valence School in Kent and British Council Schools teams from Madrid will be competing in the U16s and U18s competition.

The tournament which runs from March 28th to April 1st will use the services of no

less than 135 match officials and some 75 stewards and the Metropolitan Police will also have community officers on hand to help.

ERFSU President Peter Johnson will be in attendance and the RFU Schools and Students Development Teams will be there promoting teacher specific tools, resources and training as well as promoting the Pathfinder initiative. There will also be information on anti-doping, coach, referee and volunteer opportunities, as well as player development and academies, health and lifestyle and the RFU's Injured Player Foundation.



## Rugby Making a Difference With FairPlay

Charlotte Pearl

**IT IS WELL ESTABLISHED** that playing rugby regularly not only has a positive impact on behaviour and attitude, but that its benefits extend off the pitch and into the classroom. The sport's core values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship reflect the values that schools strive to develop.

The RFU is increasingly involved in projects that extend way beyond its clubs and teams and is using rugby as a way of working with vulnerable or at risk young people in schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs).

One inspiring programme is FairPlay, a two-year project that launched in early 2010, specifically targeting PRUs and Short Stay Schools. With more than 120 schemes already completed or in the pipeline, hundreds of young people are benefiting from an intensive eight-week scheme, which combines rugby skills and coaching from RFU community coaches and classroom sessions. The project aims to give extra support and new opportunities teenagers who have been excluded, are at risk of exclusion from school, including those either in or on the edge of the criminal justice system.

Nowhere has FairPlay been more successful than in Middlesbrough, where more than 100 young people were involved in one of the three local schemes. John O'Boyle, Behaviour and Attendance Adviser for Middlesbrough Council said; "The nature and values of the game, especially the fact that it is a contact sport helps work out issues such as anger in a secure environment. The spirit of the game lends itself well to building self-esteem."

A number of the Middlesbrough young people have gone on to join their local rugby club and the scheme received a royal seal of approval during a recent visit by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to Middlesbrough RFC.

Interested in joining the FairPlay programme? Contact Dave Marwick, RFU FairPlay Co-ordinator [DaveMarwick@rfu.com](mailto:DaveMarwick@rfu.com) or **07932 403 636**.

FairPlay is a partnership between children's charity Wooden Spoon, Barclays Spaces for Sports, The Rugby Football Union and the Enterprise Education Trust.



## More Tagtastic Opportunities with Yazoo



Sale Sharks Mark Cueto with youngsters at North Ribblesdale RUFC

**THE TREMENDOUSLY SUCCESSFUL** national Tag 2 Twickenham programme run for the past two years by the RFU in conjunction with Yazoo flavoured milk and the Child Victims of Crime (CVOC) police charity will be extended for at least a further two years.

The RFU and Yazoo work alongside the only national police children's charity promoting children's safety, health and welfare and encouraging their social inclusion and community involvement. Yazoo recently extended its Primary School Programme, cementing the brand's commitment until 2012.

In the past two years alone the RFU and Yazoo have brought tag rugby to over one million children as well as donating tag equipment to thousands of schools. The largest school tag rugby programme in England, it aims to improve the health of more than 250,000 primary school children through more than 25,000 tag rugby training sessions over the coming year.

Once all regional festivals and the Rugby School finals have taken place, two school teams get the chance to play a curtain raiser and form the guard of honour before an England international at Twickenham. Last year it was Stanley Primary from Teddington and proud Salopians St Lawrence School. Following Stanley's appearance on the hallowed turf, they also had a visit from seven of the South African Rugby Legends squad playing an England Legends match at the nearby Twickenham Stoop. Among those giving coaching tips were former Springboks scrum half Joost van der Westhuizen, flanker AJ Venter and former Springboks coach Ian McIntosh.

England and Sale Sharks wing Mark Cueto, an RFU Yazoo Rugby Ambassador, recently coached youngsters at North Ribblesdale RUFC after the club won a competition in Rugby World magazine for Mark to call in and pass on some of his impressive skills.

To find out more please visit [yazoo.co.uk](http://yazoo.co.uk) or [rfu.com/schools](http://rfu.com/schools)

## Canadian Exchange...

**FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS** a successful exchange programme has operated between the Ontario Rugby Union in Canada and schools in England, giving fantastic opportunities to boys aged 16 to 18 to spend an extended period of time in another country playing rugby and experiencing a different culture. During the last seven years, over 30 players from each country have taken part.

The first part of the programme involves the Canadian player coming to stay in England from September to Christmas, staying in his exchange partner's home, attending school and playing rugby for the host's school and possibly his club as well. The reciprocal visit occurs the following summer, when the English player stays with his partner's family in Ontario for seven to 10 weeks. The English player gets the chance to play regular club rugby and also to train with the Ontario provincial squads.

The programme is open to any school in England – state or independent. The Canadian players involved are all top quality athletes already playing at a high level, and some outstanding individuals have taken part. One of last season's participants, Taylor Paris, went straight from his host school, Kings Bruton, to New Zealand to represent the senior Canadian side in the World Sevens Series. Taylor has now been capped at full senior level by Canada and may well go to next year's World Cup.

Many other previous participants have gone on to represent Canada at various levels. The friendships and bonds formed between the individuals involved and their families are often enduring – with follow up visits back and forth across the Atlantic after the initial exchange.

There is no cost involved other than being able to provide board

and lodging for the Canadian visitor and airfare costs the following summer. Schools previously involved include John Cleveland College, Haydon Bridge High School, Bristol Cathedral School, Bishop Stortford High School, Dartford Grammar School, and this season, Stamford School and The Leys.

The programme is best suited to boys currently in Years 10, 11 or 12, and we are now looking for applications from any schools and individuals wishing to take part from September 2011 to summer 2012. Further details from: Paul Walsh, Canadian Exchange Programme Coordinator: Tel: 01509 891745 (work) 01455 212876 (home), 07914 284111 (mobile) or e-mail: [Paul.Walsh@dsfc.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.Walsh@dsfc.ac.uk)



Welbeck College playing Ontario U18s



## The Girls Are Back in Town!

**A MAJOR NEW** girls only competition will culminate in a national showcase at Twickenham this year as a match opener and at half time on Army Navy Day – May 7th.

Some 200 schools nationwide have been playing fixtures in local clusters leading to eight regional festivals. In partnership with the Schools Union, Babcock, who sponsor the Army Navy match have extended their support to encompass the girls' matches on the hallowed turf. Daily Mail and RBS will also be promoting the initiative.

## Fit For Rugby

**SENIOR STAFF** from the Rugby Football Union's Elite Rugby Department recently hosted a series of seminars and practical sessions for over 30 schools from around England at Warwick School.

The sessions on 'Rugby Fitness for Young Players' included Olympic Lifts, Conditioned Games, Boxing for Rugby Fitness and Athletic Movement Control.

Led by key speakers, including the RFU Head of Sports Science, Roy Headey, Fitness Coaches, Simon Worsnop and Neil Taylor, England Nutritionist Matt Lovell and England Under 18s Doctor, Andrew Franklyn-Miller, the free day long session was aimed at increasing awareness of the rugby fitness tools available.

The RFU National Schools Development Manager, Mark Saltmarsh, said: "I think the delegates gained a lot of expertise and knowledge. We organised the practical seminars so that the delegates could use what they learned straight away back at their schools.

"It's essential that as many young rugby players as possible have the opportunity to receive the best coaching, diet and conditioning advice that they can. Sessions like this are in direct response to support requested by our member schools at Forums and Conferences this year. We were most grateful to Warwick School for providing us with the facilities free of charge."

Visit [rfu.com/TakingPart/Fitness](http://rfu.com/TakingPart/Fitness)



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