

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT DECEMBER 2018



1. CELEBRATE YOUR GOOD NEWS

KENT COUNTY RFU NEWSLETTER

IN TOUCH

We still have room in our next publication of In Touch for your club news/success stories. Do you have some good news to shout about? Has an individual in your club done something wonderful? Let us all hear about it!

Please send written articles with good quality (large size) images for possible inclusion in the publication by the 6th January, to Roger Clarke, Chairman of Kent County RFU. Email: chairman@kent-rugby.org

2. SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME 2018-2019 (PHASE 2)

The County's Small Grants Programme (SGP) makes available grant funding to assist Clubs to improve their facilities and pitches. The funding exists principally to provide a kick-start to major capital projects, such as the building of a new clubhouse or to improve changing room facilities, but subject to the financial resources being available, it is also used to support smaller projects. Grants from the SGP are available to all the County's clubs.

Phase 2 is now open for applications – Applications are invited from 1 December 2019, to be received by no later than 6th January 2019, with grant awards announced by 31st January 2019. Please read the application criteria to ensure your application is considered.

Application Criteria

Applications should be submitted to Nigel Fray (Facilities Funding Manager), by the deadline above, to: facilities@kent-rugby.org

3. NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR KENT GIRLS TRIALS

Nominations for Kent Girls trials is now open. Please note that as a coaching staff, we are looking for players who are experienced and accomplished players, and / or players of outstanding natural ability and potential.

Please consider very carefully before nominating players who are in danger of injuring themselves against high calibre opposition, or those who may decrease the quality of the trial process.



A maximum of 6 players can be nominated.

Download a nomination form **HERE**. Please note that an individual form per nomination is required:

Please forward completed forms to: women-girls-rugby@kent-rugby.org

The deadline for completing the nomination form is Monday 31st December 2018

4. RUCK MASTERCLASS

Monday 28th January 2019

Gravesend RFC

19:00-22:00

Ruck Masterclass delivered by Michael Patz - RFU Match Officials Development Manager and Premiership Assistant Referee.

This event is open to anyone in Kent who volunteers, plays, referees or coaches. To book on this free event use the booking link below. A buffet will be provided on the evening.

[Ruck Master Class Booking Link](#)

(Please note booking link says referees only, but is open to all)

5. INSIGHT CLUSTER EVENINGS

Kent County Executive Committee will be arranging more Insight evenings in the county to continue getting to the heart of its member club needs.

In order to achieve this we initially conducted a survey in the summer on 'What are clubs needs' this gave us a good range of topics you thought were important and some of which we were able to build into our activities and budgets for 2018-19. This was followed- in September- with an evening involving senior officials from 35 Kent clubs and held at Faversham, the home of Shepherd Neame our main sponsors.

The evening introduced the Executive Committee and gave a presentation about finances and County activity in the coming season. This was then followed by an open forum for questions and general discussion. It was agreed after Faversham that there should be further events to look in more detail at the key priorities for our clubs and to encourage additional clubs and their volunteers to be involved. We have therefore, planned three additional insight evenings to assist further in getting a focussed view of priorities. The three insight evenings will help to align future County activities and priority funding areas as we work in a more flexible manner with the RFU.

Please note the following dates, however, if you cannot attend the date in your area you will be free to attend one of the other events on another date:

Mid Kent – Weds 20th Feb at Maidstone RFC
East Kent – Weds 13th March at Canterbury RFC
West Kent (including Metropolitan) - Weds 10th April at Westcombe Park RFC

Further details on the agenda and the key volunteers we would like to invite will go out to you all in the new year.

Roger Clarke- Chairman KCRFU Executive Committee.

6. NATWEST RUGBY FORCE 2019

NatWest RugbyForce is a nationwide programme that helps grassroots rugby clubs up and down the country attract new members and become stronger and more sustainable for the future.

Clubs that register for NatWest RugbyForce 2019 can look forward to receiving a host of exciting rewards and

benefits, including £3,000 grants (six available), £500 grants (425 available) and online toolkits, to marketing and communications advice as well as access to special offers.

NatWest RugbyForce 2019 weekend will take place on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd June and promises to be another great event bringing the rugby family and local communities together.

Your club is welcome to run its NatWest RugbyForce weekend on a different date but the programme support and promotional activity will be geared towards the 22nd and 23rd June.

It has never been easier to access support from NatWest RugbyForce: 425 clubs registering before 17th March 2019 will have the opportunity to be selected to receive a grant of £500 towards their NatWest RugbyForce weekend. Registration to be part of the Nat West Rugby Force 2019 weekend is open until 17th March 2019. To register your club, simply Click below, to complete and submit the form



[Register for NatWest RugbyForce >](#)

7. NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Kevin Cope has taken up the role of Club Development Chair for Kent Rugby after Phil Mooney's work commitments meant that he could no longer dedicate time to the role. Kevin is no stranger to a County role as previously a few years ago held office as mini chair. Kevin will bring fresh ideas into this role particularly around volunteering. This is what he had to say about the role.

Why take on the role?

I feel passionately about supporting 'grass roots rugby' and would like to do more to help failing or struggling clubs. I think it is important that as a CB we are more proactive in finding new strategies to support such clubs.

The role of Club Development Committee Chair is well placed to work with CB resources and support that can deliver improvements in this area.

What rugby experience do you bring to the role?

I am currently an experienced mentor on the RFU

Leadership Academy programme and served for several years as Chair Kent Mini/Midi Rugby Committee. I also established and chaired a North Kent rugby forum in the Bexley borough, partnering with local clubs, local borough council and the Kent RFU.



Do you have any professional experience that might prove beneficial in the role?

I worked at Imperial College London as Head of Building Operations for over 41 years, providing operational services across one of the largest multi-campus estates in the University sector.

During my time there I was responsible for; initiating strategic objectives, budgetary management, providing safe working environments for 25,000 staff and students, championing disabilities and equality, chairing numerous committees, managing and developing a team of 25 managers.

What do you think will be your initial priorities?

I need to get to know colleagues working to support the CB and understand what their current objectives and priorities are in assisting club rugby. Although I am not necessarily up to speed with all the key issues challenging those sections, I feel I am suitably motivated to quickly understand them and support them in a positive way.

Kevin will be at Kent County's Insight Cluster Evenings in the new year and would welcome meeting as many club officers at the events.

8. XRUGBY 7s

An opportunity for clubs to grow memberships

XRugby7s is a format that has been developed by the RFU and World Rugby to assist with the recruitment and retention of players. Played over half a pitch, XRugby7s allows informal, social, mid-week games to be facilitated, and can be the answer to identifying a new player pool to support club membership.

Clubs are encouraged to identify two or three players to champion XRugby7s and facilitate regular sessions to

target a specific group at the club. This will provide players with the opportunity to play contact rugby, but with the flexibility to drop in and out, and self-manage game time. Regular groups are then more likely to fill in for teams at the weekend if familiar with the club.

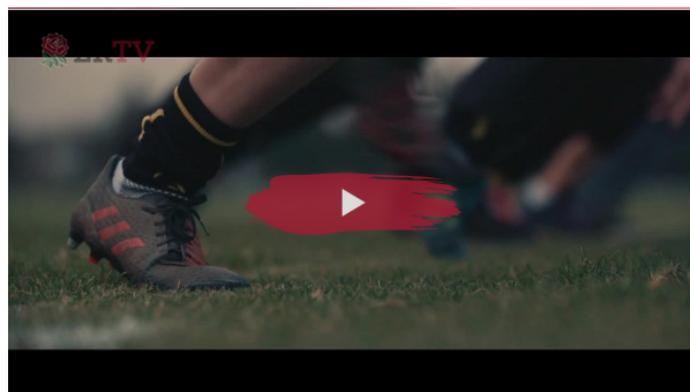
For more information, please visit the XRugby7s website, or email DomTripp@RFU.com.

7. INNER WARRIOR EVENT

Register to host an Inner Warrior event in January 2019

The next wave of Inner Warrior Camps will run from 12th – 27th January. The campaign has been hugely successful in getting more women involved in rugby, many of them never having had a chance to pick up a rugby ball before.

This video from Alban Barnes, Head of Girls Rugby at Fullerians RFC, details how they have maximised the impact of Warrior Camps for the benefit of their club. The club's first Warrior Camp in January 2017 saw 28 women take part, and since then numbers have continued to grow.



If you have any questions about Inner Warrior or Warrior Camps, please email InnerWarrior@RFU.com, and make sure your club has signed up to host a Warrior Camp, [here](#).

9. YRA VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME UPDATE

For the past five years the RFU have run a highly successful Young Rugby Ambassador programme - part of their RWC2015 lead up and legacy. Over the last year they have been pulling back the central control in favour of some excellent local work. They have kept alive a reduced central facility to log hours, in partnership with national charity, VInspired. VInspired have recently announced that they will be closing down their operation and hence they won't be registering any more volunteers on this system.

They are reviewing options for alternatives and will communicate these once known. In the meantime, they would like to thank the YRAs who continue to volunteer and make a difference in the game. If you have any queries, please contact YRA2015@rfu.com.

9. MOTION PICTURE LICENSING

An update for rugby clubs from Motion Picture Licensing Company.

Following a change in Copyright Law, any premises (including a rugby club) not charging an entrance fee, can no longer rely on the previous exception for showing 'film' in a broadcast ('film' covers a wide range of broadcast content, including TV shows) and may now require a license.

To understand if your club needs a licence, please call the RFU Alcohol Licensing helpline (managed by Poppleston Allen Licensing Solicitors) on 0115 934 9177.

10. GOOD CLUB GOVERNANCE HEALTH CHECK

Governance has become an increasingly important issue that clubs and Kent Rugby have to continually address.

From addressing issues of finance and compliance, review your club's governance by taking the RFU Good Club Governance Health Check.

Good Club Governance Health Check

The RFU has developed a guide to assist clubs in identifying the legal, regulatory, tax and other statutory requirements of which clubs need to be aware in order to ensure good governance and financial management.

Good Governance Model

The purpose of this is to act as a checklist that will point clubs in the right direction of these key issues upon which they need to focus. This in turn will enable clubs to better identify areas where they need to take action and to seek further information and advice where necessary.

Club Management Reference Guide

11. HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Kent County RFU would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Kent Rugby Office is now closed for Christmas and will re-open on the 7th January 2019.

