

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT APRIL 2021



1. RFU COUNCIL MEMBER FOR KENT UPDATE

RFU Council Election 2021

I would like to thank the Clubs who wrote to the County to support my nomination as RFU Council Member for Kent for the period 2021 to 24.

My first 3-year term seems to have gone very quickly, but of course, I had only served 18 months or so before the Covid-19 pandemic meant we all became slaves to Zoom and Teams. I haven't met anyone physically from the RFU inside or outside of meetings for 13 months and that is likely to be the case until the end of the 20-21 season on the 30th July.

I'm looking forward greatly to resuming visits to our member clubs – let me know if you would like me to visit you at Rogerclarke@rfu.com as I will be working on my diary of visits for 21-22 in the next couple of months.

Virtual meetings have, of course, played a great part in Clubs and the County keeping in touch and you have all been hugely supportive of our cluster meetings both geographical and the Women and Girls' clusters. So much so, that the club attendance figures for the last clusters recorded an attendance of over 80%, which currently, is one of the best, if not the best, in England.

An early investment in March 2020 in Zoom has helped us with club liaison and with our new RFU staff team. I would like to thank Mark Finnis for a fine effort in contacting and helping clubs as our Developer in Kent, and Adam Cottingham, our CB Liaison Manager for his support, as well as Tim Holmes, who attends our Club Development meetings.

Recent Activities

Future Competition Structure Season 22-23.

A big thank-you to the clubs who have attended a range of consultation webinars, filled in questionnaires, requested the final proposal documents from the County office and / or asked me questions regarding the proposals for the

future competition structure. I discussed these with David Clent, Chair of Game Development, John Day Chair of our Competitions Committee, Dennis Attwood our Kent Director of Competitions, who sits on the London and SE Competitions Committee, as well as the KCRFU Executive Committee. As a result, I got a very clear view of opinions before voting on the proposals at the RFU Council Meeting held on the 16th April. I voted, following a long debate within the County on the proposal to admit lower XVs into the RFU leagues from Level 7 downwards, for the proposals as outlined.



RFU Winter Survival Fund.

Some 32 Kent Clubs applied successfully for the Winter Survival Grant and they should by now have received those grants into their banks.

Across England, 512 Clubs made successful applications, totalling £18.3m. Thanks must go to Bill Sweeney, the RFU's CEO and Steve Grainger, Development Director of the RFU, for successfully negotiating this grant with Government, and to the RFU staff team who handled the careful analysis of the data provided by applicant clubs, in conjunction with an audit panel from Sport England. This was effectively a DCMS (Department of Culture Media and Sport) funded initiative administered by the RFU on behalf of Sport England.

The grant payments had to be handled at speed, as all had to be allocated by the end of March; I saw this at close quarters as one of the three panel Members who approved the applications with Steve Grainger and David Roberts, the Chair of the Community Game Board.

Well done to all those Kent Clubs who reacted so quickly and, in some cases, had to provide supplementary information as well. The net result is that most if not all Kent Clubs should be able to reach the start of the 21-22 season in September with few, if any financial worries.

If there are still financial issues, the KCRFU Covid-19 Fund remains open, but your Executive will now be concentrating its efforts on rebooting and restarting the game over what remains of 20-21 and as we approach the start of 21-22. Retention and recruitment of players, coaches, and match officials will be vital in this task.

In the meantime, I look forward to meeting up with many of you in the flesh as we start to unwind the Covid restrictions.

Roger Clarke- RFU Council Member for Kent.

2. LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



1. Interested in personal development?

2. Interested in your club's development?

3. Interested in the development of the best game in the sports world?

4. Interested in the development of rugby people?

If the answer is yes to any or all of the above questions then the New Kent leadership academy (KLA) could be of interest to you.

Due to Covid, the KLA has been redesigned to be a mainly virtual education programme with some face to face interactions together with mentoring support.

The course will develop your learning and enhance existing skills in personal development, and essential club and playing matters. It will help you, your club, the county and the game to flourish and grow.

Applications are welcome from May to August and by e-mail in the first instance to **Leadership-Academy @kent-rugby.org**. Tell us in a short email why you would like to be involved and what you see as your desired development potential.

The academy intends to start in September and complete March 2022, the cost of the mentoring modules will be funded by Kent Rugby. (Please note: If some courses are identified as ideal for your learning, there maybe some small contributions required towards those courses)

Please contact us if you need further information and details, no questions are silly questions we look forward to hearing from you

Trevor Martingell
Leadership Academy Manager

3. ALLIANZ INNER WARRIOR

Allianz Inner Warrior returns in May! We are thrilled to be able to invite you to host a Warrior Camp to welcome female players back to your club.



Back in January, 169 clubs signed up to host a Warrior Camp before the pandemic sadly necessitated a postponement. We encourage those clubs to rebook and many more to join them. It will be even more fun in the summer weather which should help to attract more new players to give rugby a try.

We've been looking at how best we can continue to support our clubs with running Warrior Camps. We are delighted to have Allianz on board as a partner, who will help us to increase visibility and reach more new participants in the future.

If your club is new to Warrior Camps, click below for more information on what the camps involve, what you need to do and how we can support you

[Find Out More](#)

4. MITSUBISHI MOTORS VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Nominations close 2nd May 2021

The Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer of the Year 2021 launched on the 23rd of March. As the last 12 months have

been unlike any other, this year's awards will recognise the innovative ways in which volunteers have maintained engagement with their club members supported the local community with their response to the pandemic, and highlight some of the fantastic work that has taken place to grow the game and promote inclusive practices to ensure that Rugby is open for all.

The assessment process & key dates

As previously mentioned this year sees a new format with three national awards, with people able to nominate either an individual or group of volunteers through the online nomination portal accessed **HERE**.

Resilience in Rugby Award - This award will recognise an individual, or group of rugby volunteers, who have demonstrated significant success in supporting their club and its members over the last year

Beyond Rugby Award - This award will recognise an individual, or group of rugby volunteers, who have supported their local community in new and innovative ways during the Covid-19 pandemic

Diversity & Inclusion Award - This award will recognise an individual, or group of rugby volunteers, who have demonstrated significant success in championing diversity and inclusion within their club and the wider rugby community.

Nominations will close on **Sunday 2nd May**, following this we will be sharing nominations from your area with you and asking you to put forward which nominees you would like to be considered as part of the shortlist which the national panel (made up of RFU & Mitsubishi representatives) will then select the national finalists.

5. KENT COUNTY RFU VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Volunteers are essential to the success and sustainability of rugby clubs and their associated activities. This is demonstrated by the time, willingness and commitment that volunteers dedicate to the game, from coaches and referees to committee members, parent/guardian helpers and many more.



Every year, the Kent County Rugby Football Union (KCRFU) is proud to recognise these dedicated and selfless volunteers from across our grassroots clubs, who are nominated by their peers for going above and beyond in their activities to support the game that we love.

However, for the 2019/2020 season, with the emergence of the Worldwide pandemic, our initial plans to celebrate these volunteers were put on an unexpected hold, until a time when we could meet and reward them in a safe and appropriate manner.

Whilst our plans for a celebration evening are temporarily paused, as time has passed, we have decided that it is more important than ever to announce our successful award nominees and category winners, so their clubs and the County can, collectively, celebrate and appreciate their efforts. Distribution of the awards and certificates will be made to clubs in the forthcoming weeks, with an evening planned, hopefully, later in the Summer, restrictions permitting.

But in the meantime, the KCRFU is pleased to announce the successful nominees and winners for the 2019/2020 season: Please see our website page **HERE** for all the winners and runners up.

The KCRFU congratulates and thanks all of the nominees and winners for their dedication and hard work in supporting Rugby and their communities within Kent, and we all look forward to a time where we can meet in the clubhouse, on the sidelines or, on the pitch.

6. THE RETURN TO RUGBY WORKSHOPS

Thank you to the 23 clubs and their volunteers who joined the recent virtual Return to Play workshops. There was an overwhelming desire for clubs to work together and support each other as rugby returns to our clubs across the County.

The focus of the workshops was to support the needs and desires of players as they return to their club environments. Attendees engaged in productive discussion, identifying challenges and sharing their ideas/plans for April onwards.

There were some common challenges identified across the 3 workshops in 3 key areas;

- Lower engagement from Over 35s & players in lower level sides
- Front 5 concerns due to lack of scrums & mauls
- 17/18 year olds transition

Clubs identified some great ideas that had worked in their clubs to support the return to play and what they are looking to develop over the coming months.

Top Tips

Offer training/game formats to suit all players' needs
Regularly review what we do
Listen to **ALL** players
121 calls with players not heard from
Update Website/Social media
Develop Summer Programme

Club ideas generated from Workshops



Friday Night Lights / Midweek events for u17/u18s
Student night Socials 17-21 yr olds
Ready 4 Rugby Inter-Club events for Inner Warrior (Women's) Teams
Front 5 Competitive Playing Offer Events
Lower Level Team Rugby Events
Golf Days
Social events

If you are planning Inter-Club events for u17/u18s, Women's Rugby, Social Rugby, or the Front 5 that you would like to invite other clubs to attend please send details to MarkFinnis@RFU.com so that they can be shared via the Kent County RFU website events page & Social Media.

Follow the Local Club Dev Team
TWITTER - @RFULSECLUBSUP
INSTAGRAM- RFULSECLUBSUP
FACEBOOK – RFU LSE Club Support

7. RETURN TO RUGBY

Latest Guidance (use the links)
From 26th April we move to Stage D2 & Adapted Laws matches.

Return to Rugby On & Off Field Guidance

RFU Community Game Updates

Rugby Road Map

Adapted Laws Fact Sheet

Guide to Activity D1 & D2



8. NEED A REFEREE?

Whose The Ref (WTR) link with GMS has been temporarily suspended, in the meantime, if you require a Society Referee for your 15 a side law variation games, clubs should approach the Society appointments team directly stating teams, date, and time of match. Contact: appointmentsteam@kentrefs.co.uk

9. AGE GRADE SUMMER ACTIVITY

Use the links to access information



10. RESTART & REBOOT PLANS

Thank you to all clubs who took part in Kent County RFU's survey last month on how clubs plan to restart their rugby. Predominately Age Grade rugby was keen to re-start as soon as possible. However, there was a varied response for Senior rugby, clubs preferring to build on training/contact with competitive games to start next season. Take a look at the results based on 43 clubs data.

Click on the graphs to enlarge.

