

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT AUGUST 2021



1. CELEBRATION OF MIKE CORDELL'S LIFE

There will be a memorial service for Mike Cordell (former Kent County Secretary and RFU councillor for Kent) at Twickenham Stadium on Tuesday 14th Sept at 13:00 in the RFU Council Rooms, TW2 7BA.



If you knew Mike well and would like to attend, please contact the Kent County Office (office@kent-rugby.org) to be added to the attendee list.

A just-giving fund raising page has been set up by Mike's family in his memory, if you wish to make a donation use the link [HERE!](#)

2. KENT COUNTY AGM

As previously advised, Kent County RFU will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 15th September, 7.00 pm at Charlton Park RFC.

The calling notice, which comprises of details of the venue, the agenda, and the report from Kent RFU for Season 2020-21 can be accessed [HERE!](#) on our documents page.

On behalf of the Kent RFU Executive Committee, we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Charlton Park, as this will be the first chance for many of us to meet 'face to face', since the Covid pandemic restrictions.

If you wish to attend, please drop an email to office@kent-rugby.org so that we can manage space and catering requirements.



Sylvia Taylor
Honorary Secretary
Kent RFU

3. AGE GRADE DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE FOR 2021/22

Important Changes

The RFU is seeking to modernise the disciplinary arrangements for age-grade rugby to reflect the need to balance match bans with education, skills improvement, reparation, club 'community service', and deferred match bans.

The intention is to trial elements of the proposed changes in 3 CBs; Kent, Essex, and Cheshire during the 2021/22 season with the intention of introducing national change for the 2022 season.

The main impact this will have for clubs is that all Age Grade sending offs, citing's and Reg 5.12 offences will be dealt with by an Age Grade disciplinary panel made up of the Kent County RFU Age Grade Disciplinary Secretary, another CB member, and an official from the club of the player concerned.

This will ensure the new sanction arrangements are consistently applied in a way that involves the clubs in the development of innovative approaches which are not wholly reliant on match bans.

Further details will be available via the Kent County RFU website including an explanatory video, in due course. However, in the meantime can you please ensure that key individuals in your clubs know that the clubs will not be able to deal with those disciplinary matters unilaterally as was previously the case and that all instances of sending offs and match official abuse, should be immediately reported to the Kent County RFU Age Grade Disciplinary Secretary.

Please ensure your club referees are aware of the need to deal with on-field matters appropriately and complete red card reports promptly, forwarding them to the Kent County RFU Age Grade Disciplinary Secretary, within 48 hours of the game.

Andy Gent
Age Grade Discipline Secretary
youth-discipline@kent-rugby.org

4. AGE GRADE REGULATIONS

I hope you are all looking forward to the return to Rugby in the next few weeks. It has been great to see some teams already engaging in the summer activities and I hope some great sessions have been enjoyed by our young players.

All of the coaches and volunteers that have continued to engage with their teams over the last year and a half, in difficult and challenging circumstances deserve our gratitude and those of the players and parents for all they have done to keep Rugby thriving in our county.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you over the next few months as I tour the county and I am looking forward to hearing from you and the challenges you are facing and how we can assist in overcoming them.



You will I hope be aware of the many changes to the Laws and Regulations which have been implemented over the last few months. A summary of the changes and links to the details from the RFU can be found **HERE!** on our website.

These changes are generally in the Community Game Update which is currently produced each Tuesday by the RFU and is very soon after available on our website and social media channels.

Many things require CB approval within the regulations and many of these will not be familiar to you so I urge you to refer to Regulation 15 and its appendices (**Here**) to ensure you are fully compliant with the requirements.

Please ensure that you give us enough time to approve anything we need to approve as we all have day jobs and, like club level, the Kent Volunteers have an ever-increasing workload.

We do also need some people to help in compiling the competition results and data for a couple of age groups after Christmas so if you would like to get involved please let me know. This is not an onerous task but helps the smooth running of the age Grade competitions immensely.

Alan Erskine
KCRFU Youth Chair
youthchair@kent-rugby.org

5. REFEREES RETURN TO RUGBY

Many of us are now returning to rugby activity and would like to draw your attention that not only are players returning to rugby activity but also referees.



Referees have also been out of the game during the COVID pandemic and have the same challenges as players in getting match fit for the game. However, referees also have to be mentally fit to be able to concentrate for 80 mins and recall laws that they have not implemented for some time, something that will only be achieved as we progress into the season. Therefore please ensure your players, coaches, and spectators/parents show good rugby values to our referees as they get back to match mental fitness.

Please note referees also have to get to grips with Global Law trials which came into effect from 1st August.



Please show your respect for the referee so that we can keep referees in the game by them having an enjoyable experience on the pitch.

6. YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Tues 7th Sept

This year, Youth Mental Health Day will focus on how young people #StrideForward with their mental health.

To support young people, and Youth Mental Health Day, Kooth's London and South East Team will be providing a live webinar on Youth Mental Health Day. It will look at dealing with Anxiety and Stress, Self Care Tips and outlining Kooth's free support with opportunities for discussion and to ask questions.

This can be accessed by any school, youth services, or healthcare professionals with their young people across London and South East. The event will be on the 7th of September, from 2 pm - 2.45 pm.



And it's all FREE including Bacon Rolls, Burgers, Hotdogs Tea, and coffee throughout the day.

Email Colin Wooster: blackgps@aol.com before September 30th to register. Enquiries 07595 590975

To register, please use the link - [Registration Form](#).

7. RFU RECRUITMENT OF CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

In response to a need to see greater diversity and foster more inclusive dialogue, the RFU Council is seeking to recruit new members from under-represented groups, in order to better represent the game's participants, be more reflective of our community, and to gain insight relating to those under-represented groups.

Therefore, the RFU are seeking up to four new volunteers to be part of their Council. The positions will be a fixed term until 31 July 2023.

To apply or for more information please visit [EnglandRugby.com/careers](https://www.EnglandRugby.com/careers) to access the job description click [HERE!](#)

If you are interested in applying, please feel free to contact Roger Clarke, the RFU Council member for Kent (RogerClarke@RFU.com or chairman@kent-rugby.org), who will be happy to explain what is involved and to answer any other questions that you may have.

The closing date for applications is 21 September 2021.



8. IMPROVING WINTER SPORTS PITCHES WHATEVER YOUR BUDGET.

SUNDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2021

Open to all sports clubs, schools, and local authorities. All sports included.

- Planning for your annual pitch maintenance.
- Machinery and Product demonstrations by many trade suppliers and contractors. Some of it is Hands-on.
- Which materials, machinery, and contractors?
- Planning budgets & what to include?
- Where to source funding?

Everything you need to know and more.

We welcome all Committee members to attend, along with your grounds maintenance team.

10th October 2021

CHARLTON PARK RFC
60A BROAD WALK, SE3
8NB 11am-4pm.

BETTER PITCHES MEAN
LESS CANCELLED
GAMES, HELP RETAIN
PLAYERS AND PROVIDE
INCOME.

Presented by Keith Kent
former Head
Groundsman at
Twickenham Stadium,
Manchester United and
Leicester City.

The day is Sponsored by
Rigby Taylor with many
other trade and
contractor partners
offering their help
support and experience.