

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT JANUARY 2022



1. CLUB CHAMPIONS WEBINAR MARCH 2ND

Free to All Kent Clubs and funded for you by Kent RFU

Last year the county struck a deal with Club Champions, the business club for community sports clubs, whereby every Kent rugby club can become a “Squad Member” free of charge. Many of our clubs have taken up this offer but many have not and we would actively encourage you to do so.



Club Champions was founded and is led by Kent based sports sponsorship expert Roger McKerlie and has an advisory group that is the envy of the sports marketing industry.

All sports clubs need more money to secure their long term sustainability and to enable them to invest in projects and Club Champions will show you how to do this. To see how highly rated Club Champions is by their members, including some of our clubs, look at the videos at <https://clubchampions.net/videos>. You will also see the promotional video that they made for Medway RFC.

As a Squad Member, your club will benefit from access to their “Four Core Pillars” videos, regular newsletters, commercial guides, and invitations to quarterly webinars - free of charge! All you have to do is register your interest directly with them by emailing mark@clubchampions and giving him the contact details of those from your club who you think would benefit from being a member.

In addition, Roger McKerlie will be running a free 30-minute summary session for Kent Clubs as a webinar on March 2nd at 7:30pm

Register for your Free place [HERE!](#)

2. HONDA VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The Honda Volunteer of the Year Awards 2022 will recognise and celebrate rugby volunteers for their achievements and efforts over the past 12 months. No matter what their role, on or off the pitch, behind the scenes, or on the committee, we want to hear about the volunteers who do a great job, day in, day out.

There are so many outstanding volunteers who have really made a difference and the Honda Volunteer of the Year awards provides a great opportunity to recognise this and say thank you.

This year’s awards include three categories:

Unsung Heroes - This award will recognise an individual, or group of volunteers, who have gone above and beyond over the past 12 months to ensure their club is fit for the future.

Connecting The Community - This award will recognise an individual, or group of volunteers, who have made an outstanding contribution and had a significant impact within their local community over the last 12 months.

Game For All Volunteer Award - This award will recognise volunteers either individually, or part of a team, who have developed an inspiring offer to open the game up to new audiences & make the game more accessible to all over the past 12 months.

Get involved and say thank you to a volunteer, or a group of volunteers, who have gone above and beyond in the last year. Nominations close at 9 am on Monday 28 February.

Local winners will be announced between April and June 2022 and national finalists invited to an awards ceremony at Twickenham in September 2022.

Nominate now to say Thank You [HERE](#)

If you have any queries please contact either volunteerrecognition@rfu.com or Kevin Cope, Kent RFU Club Development Chair - email: club-development-chair@kent-rugby.

3. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE ACTIVITY FUND

Sport England have launched a new £5 million fund to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee that aims to use sport and physical activity to bring communities together and tackle inequalities.

Using money from the National Lottery, the fund will make awards of between £300 and £10,000 to community organisations in support of new projects providing opportunities to become more physically active.

The funds could be used for things such as facility hire and coaching costs, or even small capital improvements.

Further information can be accessed [HERE](#).

4. CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES

The Bill Beaumont Cup, also known as Bill Beaumont Cup Division One, is the annual, English rugby union, County Senior Men's Championship, organised by the RFU for the top tier English counties. KCRFU is delighted to report that the pool fixtures have been organised for this competition with 2 home matches for Kent.

7th May 2022 - Hampshire v Kent
14th May 2022 - Kent v Hertfordshire
21st May 2022 - Kent v Surrey



(Picture by Tony Fielding)

The Women's Championship is also running alongside the Senior men and Kent Women are also placed in Division one.

7th May 2022 - Berkshire v Kent
14th May 2022 - Buckinghamshire v Kent
21st May 2022 - Kent v Surrey



Details of the games will be advertised on our website in due course.

5. PAYMENT OF PLAYERS DECLARATION REMINDER

The Payment of Players Regulation can be found here ([RFU Regulation 7](#)).

The payment of players declaration is due to be submitted between 1 March and 30 June 2022 and is mandatory for all clubs whose men's first XV team play at Level 3 to Level 7 (inclusive) and Level 8 and below who provide Material Benefits to players wishing to be eligible for RFU benefits.

The declaration covers the period of 1 June 2021 – 31 May 2022.

Further information will be provided prior to the declaration going live in March.

6. MAXIMISING BAR PROFIT WEBINAR

26th January @ 7 pm

If your club has a bar you will know this asset plays a significant role in your annual accounts. This webinar is designed to provide guidance and practical advice to help you control the bar's finances, whilst offering practical measures to improve its profitability.

Whether you have a number of full-time staff or a group of helpful volunteers running your bar this webinar will help you evaluate and reflect on what is a vital source of income for your club.

Register for Maximising Bar Profit webinar [HERE](#).



7. FIRST AID/PLAY IT SAFE COURSES

If your club is planning to request a first aid or safeguarding course at your venue, we would kindly request you conduct a venue risk assessment BEFORE requesting the course to ensure the space where the course will take place is ventilated and can accommodate the minimum number of participants socially distanced.

We will ask all course participants to wear face masks for the duration of the course unless they are exempt.

If you are not sure you can meet these requirements, we recommend you delay requesting the course. You can find updated government guidance on preventing the spread of Covid-19 below:

Government Guidance can be found **HERE!**

8. NATIONAL RUGBY SURVEY

Now open.

The survey is there to capture the views of adult & age grade players, parents and volunteers, so that the RFU can help shape the game of the future.

Complete the Survey

There are two prize draws on offer to participants:
£50 England Rugby Store vouchers for individuals completing the survey

Signed England Rugby merchandise for clubs who collect 10+ responses

9. KENT COUNTY U15 GIRL'S NOMINATIONS OPENING Feb 11th.

Kent County RFU are opening nominations on 11th February for clubs and schools to nominate players for Kent County U15 Girls representative team.

The Kent U15 girls' team is formed from girls who are in school years 9 & 10, to further qualify girls need to either play their rugby in Kent or live in Kent. To help you to select your players for nomination, a selection criteria can be found **HERE!** All girls invited to attend are asked to arrive ready changed in their Club/School kit.



There will be a two-stage trial, the first on 10th April, followed by a second assessment day on the 8th May. The trials process culminates with the selection of a squad of players who are then required to attend training sessions led by the County.

To nominate players for selection please use the below link. Please note the link is active from 11th Feb, with a closing date of 20th March.

Nominate **HERE!**

Historically we have been short of front row players so if you nominate 2 front row players you qualify to log back in and nominate an extra player, 7 in total. If possible we would like at least one front row nomination from every club/school.

No players can attend the trials without being nominated and have received an official invitation.

10. CLUBS DUTY OF CARE RESPONSIBILITIES

As national Covid restrictions and the RFU's own Covid-related guidelines begin to ease, clubs may unwittingly fall into the trap of dispensing with their usual duty of care procedures. Clubs are reminded that they should still abide by their 'business as usual' duty of care responsibilities and obligations. These include continuing strict adherence to all player welfare and safeguarding regulations across all adult and age-grade sections of the game.

Further information (including on 'RugbySafe', the RFU's overarching player safety and wellbeing programme) is available on the RFU website.

Nigel Fray
Hon. Secretary & Director of Governance
Kent County RFU

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Our Website:

<https://www.kent-rugby.org>



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