

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT February 2025



1. RFU COMMUNITY GAME FUNDING: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND BUDGET ALLOCATION 2024-25

At the National Engagement meeting, held at Dartford Valley RFC on 3 February, many representatives of the clubs which attended expressed their deep concern at the apparent abandonment of RFU support for the Community Game, especially at adult level. Clubs pressed strongly the RFU Board members on the need for much greater financial and practical support to the Community Game, not least as evidenced by reinstating Regional Development Officers and Coaching Coordinators.

Responding to these concerns, Steve Grainger (Executive Director of Rugby Development) and David Roberts (RFU Council member for Hertfordshire and Chair, Community Game Board) explained that the RFU has allocated £30 million from its own budget in 2024-25 to the Community Game. This money is unrelated to Allianz's sponsorship of England Rugby.



This funding aims to deliver the RFU's main purpose and vision: 'More people playing Rugby and for longer'. To achieve this, the RFU has devised a set of strategic objectives to support the game both on the pitch and in the clubhouse, which it hopes will directly benefit every club across the Community Game, including to enable clubs to optimise their offer to their local communities. The budget has therefore been allocated to many of the key areas which clubs identified at the National Engagement meeting as crucial areas to address, such as introducing or increasing participation in Rugby in schools (and the workforce to facilitate this), and coaching development. There is also significant money allocated to insurance (£4m), for both club personal liability and personal accident, and improving facilities.

COMMUNITY GAME FUNDING OVERVIEW – 2024/2025	£30.9 million
<i>Of which includes certain of the items discussed at the National Engagement meeting (will not sum to overall total):</i>	
INSURANCE – both club personal liability and personal accident	£4 million
INJURED PLAYERS FOUNDATION – Core operations and lifelong support to catastrophically injured players.	£1.2 million
COACH / MATCH OFFICIALS QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING – initial training, CPD, Red Roses scholarship programme, Young Match Officials learning hubs etc.	£1.5 million
T1 RUGBY – Delivery of Rugby to new audiences including 1800 schools & colleges and to women over 16 in Rugby World Cup cities.	£1.4 million
SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES – School Rugby Managers and University 'Activators', Programme to increase club participation among 6–12-year-old girls, and other projects.	£1.3 million
ON THE PITCH – Interventions and costs allocated to our efforts to keep more players playing for longer.	£0.7 million
FLOODLIGHTS, PITCHES & SHOWPIECE FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS – RWC25 Impact programme facility upgrades, usage and depreciation of 28 RFU AGP sites.	£4.6 million
STAFFING – salary and on-costs of 148 staff in Rugby Development.	£9.1 million

It will be for our clubs to determine whether the RFU's vision and the budget allocation has been sufficient and well-directed enough to achieve the greater and sustainable participation in the game that we all wish to see. To that end, the KCRFU Executive Committee is keen to ensure that clubs continue to keep us advised as to your views.

Executive Committee, KCRFU

2. KENT COUNTY RFU 42ND MINIS' FESTIVAL



Sunday 23rd March 2025 brings the 42nd Kent County Minis' Festival, a morning of action packed rugby for our U7 to U11 players.

We have 8 confirmed hosts and therefore are able to offer players, parents/carers, coaches, managers and their spectators a choice of venues for 3 of our Age Groups.

See our website on where the festivals are happening and how to enter your teams, **HERE!**

3. KCRFU MINIS 'THANK YOU'

One of the topics discussed at our KCRFU Minis' Forum held on 13th October 2024 was how to best recognise the work of our clubs' Minis' sections. We agreed to give every club in Kent which has a Minis section a 'thank you' gift. This consisted of 5 ball bags, 12 size 3 balls, and 8 size 4 balls. Each qualifying club now has, for their U7 to U11 age groups new kit for the season, branded with our KCRFU superhero logo and mantra, "We play rugby, what's your superpower?"

For those who were unable to attend the forum and collect their packs, please contact KCRFU Minis Chairperson, Dawn Waters to arrange collection/delivery. mini-rugby@kent-rugby.org



4. KENT WOMEN'S & GIRLS' WORKSHOP

Kent Women & Girls Committee and the RFU are hosting two workshops for clubs to talk through opportunities that can be leveraged from the Women's World Cup and for the Kent Women & Girls Committee to better understand to support your club.

The workshops topics include

1. Recruitment and Retention for your Women and Girl's section
2. Development planning for your Women and Girls section Using the Women's World cup to promote your club
3. Your club on and off field needs.

7-9 pm - Tuesday 25th February 2025 Beckenham RFC

7-9 pm - Thursday, 6th March 2025- Gravesend RFC
(Please note in Cricket pavilion)

Please confirm your attendance by completing the following form

<https://forms.gle/uPd1ouetYGphmJet5>

5. GROUNDS WEEK 2025

Grounds Week is an annual nationwide celebration of the people behind the scenes who make playing surfaces and green spaces look and perform their best. GroundsWeek will take place from March 17 - March 23 and it's shaping up to be the biggest celebration yet. Last year, this initiative reached an impressive 18 million people, highlighting the growing appreciation for the vital work done by grounds staff in sport. It is a nationwide celebration of the incredible individuals and teams who, often voluntarily, maintain playing surfaces across the UK.

The annual celebration is important because it recognises the vital role your grounds staff play in our sports and communities, and inspires the next generation of professionals and volunteers to consider careers in grounds management.



To participate, please go to the Grounds Week 2025 website ([#GroundsWeek - Grounds Management Association here](#)), where you will be able to find an easy-to-use #GroundsWeek Toolkit, which includes resources like the official logo, social media templates, graphics and more.

Thank you in advance for your support in recognising and celebrating the efforts of grounds teams up and down the country.

Grounds Management Association

6. GMS RUGBYSAFE STATUS

Is your club's first aid risk assessment and GMS RugbySafe status up to date?

If you are a Club RugbySafe Lead, Chairperson, or Hon Secretary (providing your details are up to date and correct on GMS) you should have received an email regarding your club completing a first aid risk assessment (FARA) in November.

A massive thank you to the clubs who have completed their first aid risk assessment within the last 12 months. If your club has never completed a first aid specific risk assessment or it hasn't been reviewed/updated in the last 12 months, we are asking that you take action.

Along with Howden, the RFU brokers of Club Liability insurance, we have developed a **risk assessment tool for clubs to use.(HERE)**

Once your club has completed a FARA, please ensure you update the RugbySafe & Player Welfare section in your club's organisational profile on the RFU Game Management System (GMS) – there is no need to upload the risk assessment.

Please ensure your club's first aid risk assessment is completed and recorded on GMS by no later than Friday 31st January 2025. Clubs who haven't completed a FARA by this date will be in breach and non-compliant with Regulation 9 and may be liable to sanctions.



More information on RugbySafe and other player welfare-related topics is available in the **Player Welfare-section on EnglandRugby.com (HERE)**

If you have any questions, please contact your CB RugbySafe Lead who should be able to help. Otherwise, contact the **RFU RugbySafe team(HERE)**.

Thank you for playing your part in making rugby a safe environment and prioritising the welfare of your players.

7. RFU INTRODUCTION TO REFEREEING COURSE

Is your club short of referees particularly for your age grade? Why not book an RFU Introduction to Refereeing Course at your club. You only need 9 candidates to book a tutor who will run the course.

If you are struggling with numbers why not book a course as a joint initiative with another club.

All the information on how to book a course and tutor can be found **HERE** on Kent County RFU website.

Any individuals can also register their interest for a course with Billy Huntley, RFU tutor in Kent who will guide you to an appropriate course.

bill-huntley1231@hotmail.co.uk

Emergency Funding

Self employed?
Cannot work due to rugby injury?
Loss of income?
Access an application form HERE!

8. WOMEN & GIRLS EVENT

The Kent Women & Girls Committee is hosting a double event on Friday 18th April at Beckenham RFC.

Women's Forum - 11am

To talk through key topics impacting Women's teams and their clubs.

Bring Your Boots Home April '25 - 12.30pm

A social match for 18-25 year old female players wanting to reconnect and have some fun.

Players please register at <https://forms.gle/PXmeZtU3rvS8kBTa6>

Should you have any questions, please contact Natasha O'Leary on 07926 941136 (nolearycreative@gmail.com)

BRING YOUR BOOTS HOME

CALLING ALL 18-25 YEAR OLD FEMALE RUGBY PLAYERS...

PLAY MORE RUGBY IN YOUR HOME COUNTY THIS EASTER

BECKENHAM RFC
18th April 2025

Scan me

- 11.00am Kent Women's Rugby Forum
- 12.30pm Player Meet Time
- 2.00pm Game Kick Off
- 4.30pm Post match food and drinks

Register via the link in the caption or QR code above

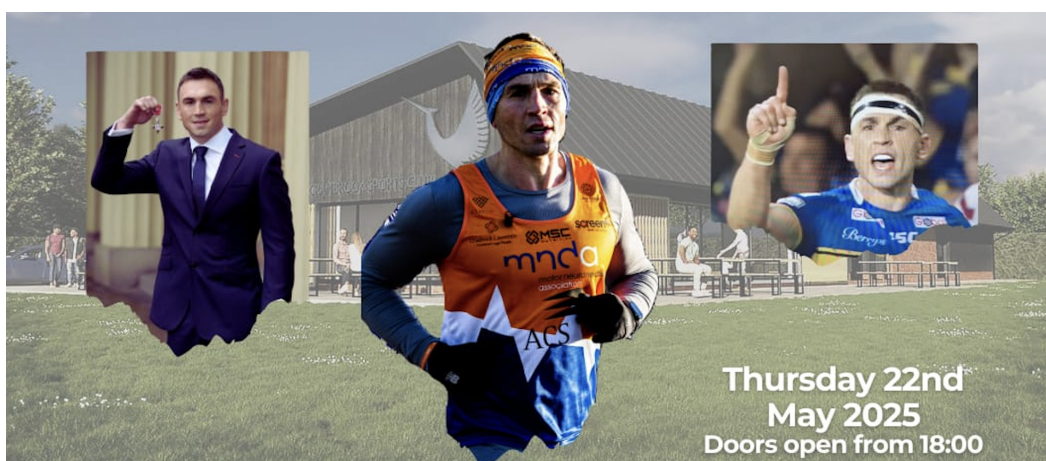
Please email: nolearycreative@gmail.com if you have any questions

SINCE 1698

SHEPHERD NEAME

BRITAIN'S OLDEST BREWER

Date	Topic	
Wednesday 5th March 6:30pm-8:00pm	Growing your Social Media – Women & Girls Audience	Book your Space
Thursday 6th March 7:00pm-8:00pm	When Safeguarding and Discipline overlap – dealing with incidents effectively	Book your Space
Monday 10th March 7:00pm-8:00pm	Giving girls the chance to Love Rugby	Book your Space
Wednesday 12th March 6:30pm-8:30pm	Review your Club Structure	Book your Space
Wednesday 19th March 7:00pm-8:00pm	Clubhouse Wins - Boost Customer Numbers & Increase Spend	Book your Space
Monday 24th March 6.30pm - 8.30pm	How to Achieve Greater Sponsorship Success	Book your Space
Monday 31st March 6:30pm-8:30pm	Review your Club Structure	Book your Space
Wednesday 2nd April 7:00pm-8:00pm	Safeguarding - Managing poor practice / low level concerns in rugby union	Book your Space
Wednesday 30th April 7:00pm-8:00pm	Growing your Volunteers through great experiences	Book your Space



A CHARITY EVENING WITH KEVIN SINFIELD

CBE, OBE, MBE

at

Cranbrook Rugby Club



Charity No. 294354



Charity No. 1172923

CRFC is hosting a very special charity evening in aid of
MND & Cranbrook's new community sports club

100% of the funds raised are committed to the charities.

Auction of unique prizes - Raffle - Bar & food available

Master of ceremonies Barrie 'Baz' McDermott
former Leeds Rhino, England & GB



For more details and tickets go to
www.cranbrookclubhouse.com/home

