

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT DECEMBER 2025



1. INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT



I was honoured to be appointed as President of Kent RFU at the AGM on 29th September, taking over from Doug Hursey, who has done a fantastic job over the 4 years that he has been in post.

I was educated at St Dunstan's College and then St Mary's Hospital Medical School where I

qualified as a Doctor in 1979. I played rugby for Old Dunstonians from 1974-1990 playing in every side from the 1st XV down to the 7th XV.

My father Dr Brian Thompson was Doctor for Blackheath and for Kent RFU for 20 years until his untimely early death in 1987.

In 1994, I became involved with Blackheath when my sons joined the Mini and, subsequently, Junior sections of the Club. I spent 14 seasons as a Minis' and Juniors' coach and 3 seasons as Chair of the Junior section. In 2001 I was appointed as Blackheath's doctor and I was also Medical Officer for Kent RFU from 2001 and for National League Rugby from 2020, which included leading the guidance for clubs across the country during the COVID outbreak. I retired from practicing medicine at the end of April 2025.

I was appointed Vice President of Kent RFU in 2012, and I am currently the Immediate Past President of Blackheath FC, having been President from 2018-2023.

During my 2-year term of office I hope to be able to visit a number of clubs around Kent. If you would like to contact me, my e-mail is president@kent-rugby.org.

In my capacity as Kent RFU President, I have, during October, visited Sidcup for their match against Battersea

Ironsides and also Blackheath for their match against Tonbridge Juddians. I also attended the Kent RFU cluster meeting at Dartfordians, and Canterbury in November.

Dr Alan Thompson
KCRFU President

2. PLAYER REGISTRATION

A big thank you to all Clubs for the effort your players or parents /guardians have put into registration of players for season 25-26.

Total numbers in Kent approach 16,000 towards the end of November. However, both Mark Finnis- RFU Club Developer for Kent- and I, believe that there are still some 4,000 players who are currently not registered. Evidence suggesting that most of this 4,000 reside in the lower Mini Age grade areas U6-U8. Although a number of these will be picked up through mandatory registration at County Mini Festivals a number will not.

Please encourage parents to register these players prior to the New Year and continue to encourage others in the Youth and Adult areas who are yet to contribute to total numbers.

With Thanks
Roger Clarke- Chair Kent County RFU.

3. NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR NEW KENT U20 WOMEN'S SQUAD

Kent Rugby is pleased to announce that preparations are underway to form a Kent U20 Women's squad for the upcoming season.

This new representative team will be built primarily from players who have featured in the County U18 squads over the past two seasons and who remain age-eligible for the U20 programme.



In addition, we are actively inviting nominations from club coaches across the county who believe they have players with the skill, commitment, and character to perform at this level — particularly those who may have previously missed out on County selection but have since developed and proven themselves in club rugby.

This is an exciting opportunity for players to progress within the County pathway, showcase their talent, and challenge themselves in a high-performance environment that bridges the gap between youth and senior rugby.

Further details regarding, training sessions, and fixtures will be announced in due course.

Eligibility: Players must be under 20 years of age on 1st September 2025.

Nominations: Club coaches are encouraged to submit nominations including player name, date of birth, position, and a brief summary of playing background and achievements.

For all nominations and enquiries, please contact:
Andy Miller – andrew.miller@me.com

4. 43RD KENT COUNTY MINI'S RUGBY FESTIVAL

Entries Now Open – Apply Early to Secure Your Club's Place!



We are delighted to announce that entries for the 43rd Kent County Mini's Rugby Festival, taking place on 29th March 2026, are now open. This year, we continue our commitment to increasing opportunities for Mini Players throughout Kent by inviting clubs to select their preferred venue and apply as soon as possible.

Following an overwhelming response to our invitation for clubs to host the festival, we are thrilled to confirm 10 hosts. We deeply appreciate every club that took the time to apply. If your club was not selected to host this season, please do not be discouraged – your enthusiasm is invaluable and we encourage you to apply again for future festivals or other county events. All details and booking links can be found [HERE](#).

5. DISCIPLINE -MATCH OFFICIAL ABUSE

The Kent County Executive are, through its Discipline Committee, carefully monitoring incidences of Match Official abuse reported to it involving Kent Clubs.

We are pleased to say that currently at the start of December the number of MOA's being dealt with is 3 Senior cases and no Age Grade cases. This is an improvement on past years. However, we will not rest on this topic until we find no reports of such behaviour and would request that Clubs continue to be vigilant and continue to bring the topic to the attention of all players, supporters and parents.

KCRFU Executive Committee

6. LOVE RUGBY SERIES!

Calling all Under 9/Year 4 to Under 11/Year 6 Girls – its time for the Love Rugby Series!

Girls between the age of 8 and 11 have told us that they want more opportunities to play rugby alongside other girls.

To build on the success of RWC 2025, the new Love Rugby Series is here for exactly this reason, with a nationwide calendar of girls-only festivals, joining up girls new to rugby with those already playing, for a fun, friendly and positive experience.

The first Series events are all ready to go, **so please click here to register**

Kent events

Southwark RFC – 13th December 2025

Ashford RFC – 21st March 2026

7. LOCAL CLUB ENGAGEMENT

As part of the member pledges we made earlier this year, we committed to enhancing engagement opportunities with our member clubs.

Local Engagement Sessions are focused on connecting clubs with RFU staff working both regionally and nationally. They will focus on practical support around current, topical issues.

Events will run from 2pm to 8pm, with timed slots being made available for clubs to meet relevant staff members in a clinic style approach. Further information on timings and slots will be shared ahead of each event.

Dartford Valley RFC- Wednesday 21st January 2pm-8pm

[Express your interest HERE!](#)

8. WELCOMING MORE GIRLS TO YOUR CLUB?

Inspired by the Rugby World Cup and thinking about running girls-only sessions for younger players?

TRY LOVE RUGBY: A 4-Week Introduction to Rugby for Girls offers free **guidance** and session plans to help create fun, confidence-building, and inclusive sessions for girls new to the game.

We are promoting girls-only club sessions on **findrugby.com** - supported by free Facebook and media advertising!

Add your sessions [here](#) to get involved.



9. NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

The National Engagement Sessions running from February through to April will open up opportunities for dialogue between clubs and RFU Executive and Board members, including Bill Sweeney (CEO), Steve Grainger (Exec Director of Rugby Development) and David Roberts (Community Game Board Chair).

We encourage clubs and stakeholders to take advantage of these opportunities to speak directly with RFU staff and Board members, share feedback, and help shape the future of the game.

Aylesford Bulls RFC – Thursday 19th February 1pm-3pm

To ensure as many bodies as possible can attend, each RFU member organisation may register up to two representatives.

[Register for National Engagement Session HERE!](#)

10. REGULATION 15 UPDATE - CONSULTATION

The RFU is reviewing Regulation 15, Age Grade Rugby and would welcome the input of coaches, teachers, team managers, volunteers and more to ensure all views are considered as part of any update.

This regulation sets out all the regulations for Age-grade players, including;

- Combining of age groups in the club
- The process for playing 17 year old players as adults
- Process for playing players out of their age group
- Playing / Training calendars
- Half Game rule and other competition regulations

If you have any feedback on the current regulation or any suggestions of how it can improved, **please click this survey HERE!**

Please feel free to send this link onto anyone in your club who would want to give any feedback on this regulation as part of the consultation process.

Thank you for your help and feedback.

11. ENGLAND RUGBY ADVANCED COACHING WORKSHOP 2026-27

From 17 November the England Rugby Advanced Coaching Workshop will be open for booking via GMS. The completion of the Workshop is essential to be able to book onto Part 1 of the England Rugby Advanced Coaching Award - Developing Advanced Coaching Practice.

All information can be found [HERE!](#)

12. RUGBY SITE COACHING RESOURCES

Phase Defence setup - Aaron Jones

Aaron Jones details the key aspects of building a seamless defence and asks involving fellow coaches and players along the way.

Another excellent series suitable for all age groups - male and female.

[Access HERE!](#)

Building Kicking confidence - Hamish Webb

Hamish Webb with a group of Old Alleynian Women players looks to build the players' understanding and confidence

connecting with the ball out of the hand. Suitable for all playing levels

[Access HERE!](#)



Catch and Pass Micro Skills - Aaron Jones

Aaron Jones develops the core catch and pass skills with a group of young players.

[Access HERE!](#)

13. THE ENGLAND RUGBY MENTORING AWARD

The England Rugby Mentoring Award is your opportunity to shape the future of our game. This nationally recognised qualification empowers you to support coaches, match officials, and volunteers across your rugby environment, strengthening the sport where it matters most: in our communities.



Through a powerful blend of face-to-face learning and online workshops, you'll gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to inspire real growth in others. Throughout the season, you'll work with a mentee in your own club, applying practical tools that focus on behaviour change, effective learning support, and helping individuals find their own solutions.

This course is perfect for anyone passionate about sharing their experience and supporting the next generation. Whether you're a coach, volunteer, or simply a committed member of your club, your guidance can help create a more supportive and thriving rugby environment, one with a trained mentor in every club.

Booking is now open via the RFU Game Management System (GMS) Course Finder, with the South East course locations and booking links detailed below

Saturday 24th January - England Rugby Mentoring Award- Caterham School

Sunday 8th February - England Rugby Mentoring Award- Champion School

Saturday 14th February - England Rugby Mentoring Award- St George's Harpenden

Friday 27th February - England Rugby Mentoring Award- Allianz Stadium

Or click here - <https://gms.rfu.com/GMS/coursefinder>

14. KENT RUGBY MASTERCLASSES NOW OPEN FOR BOOKING

Kent Rugby is launching a new series of Masterclasses designed for coaches looking to build on their existing qualifications and sharpen their technical and tactical understanding. These sessions are aimed at coaches who have completed the relevant England Rugby courses such as The Principles of the Lineout or Scrum courses, those working within the adult game, and individuals progressing beyond Level 2 (England Rugby Coaching Award) or developing post-Level 3 (England Rugby Advanced Coaching Award).

Delivered by specialist coaches, each Masterclass explores advanced concepts and practical applications to support more informed, confident, and effective coaching. If you're looking to challenge your thinking, refine your approach, and keep developing within the adult game, these sessions will deliver genuine value.

'Lineout Masterclass' CPD with Matt Corker and Nathan Morris former Premiership Lineout specialists

Date: Monday 12th January 2026 7-30pm

Venue: Aylesford Bulls RFC

'Scrum Masterclass' CPD with Danny Herriott and Nathan Morris former international and Premiership players

Date: Monday 2nd March 2026 7-30pm

Venue: Canterbury RFC

'Age Grade Coaching Masterclass' CPD with Russell Earnshaw former Premiership and 7s international player

Date: Monday 9th March 2026. 7-30pm

Venue: Aylesford Bulls RFC

Whether you're new to coaching or have years of experience, this workshop will provide fresh ideas, practical approaches, and valuable insights you can take straight back to your team. It's a great opportunity to develop your coaching and connect with others across the county.

To book your place please on any of the CPDs send an email to: Taff.gwilliam@btinternet.com

18-25 YEAR OLD WOMEN RUGBY PLAYERS



BRING YOUR BOOTS HOME - FRIDAY 2ND JAN 2026 7PM

**Have you been away with work, travel or studying?
Returning to Kent for the holidays?
Fancy picking up a rugby ball?**

Friday 2nd Jan 2026

7 pm sign-in for 7.30pm KO

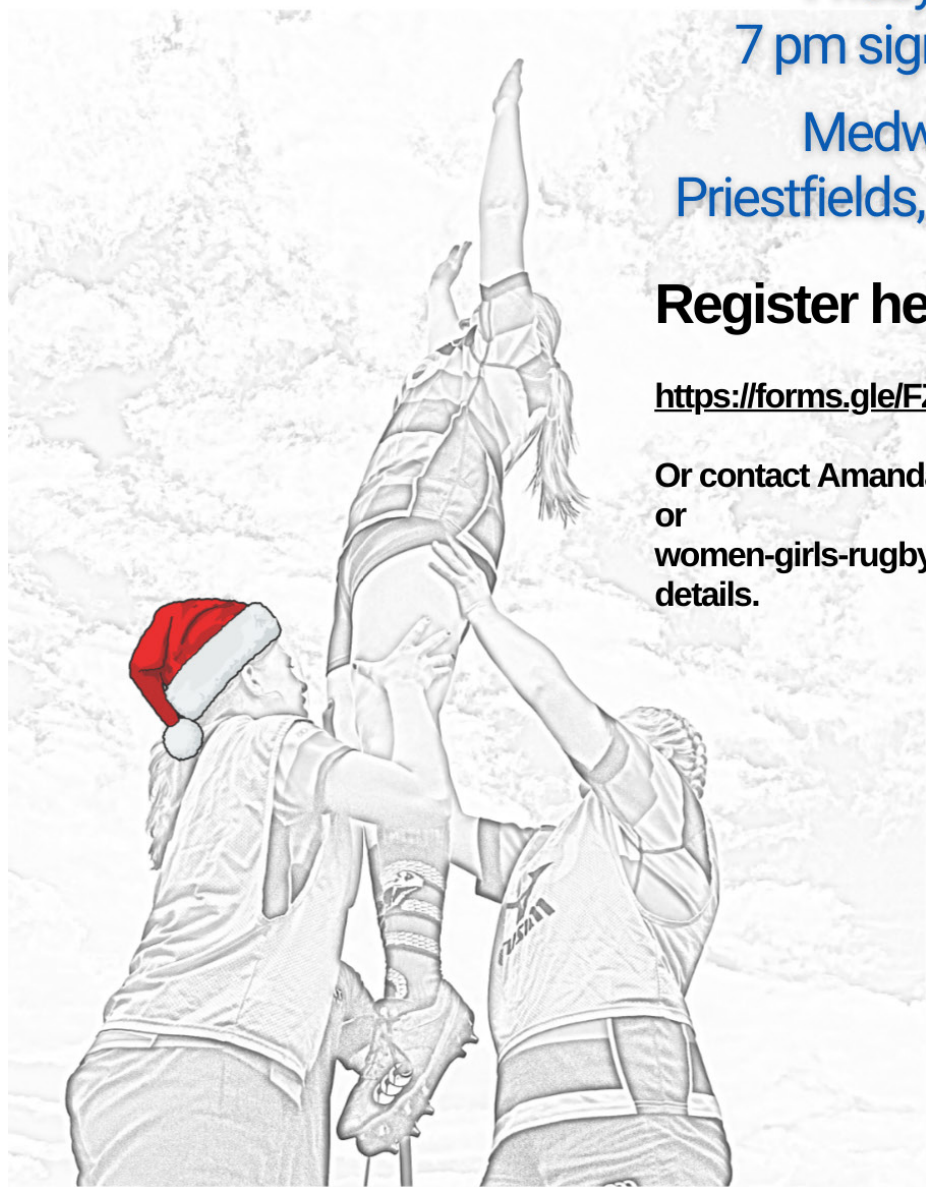
Medway Rugby Club

Priestfields, Rochester ME1 3AD

Register here by 21st Dec.

<https://forms.gle/FZG8ADXHcPnfT7gY8>

Or contact Amanda Johnston 0790 111 6837
or
women-girls-rugby@kent-rugby.org for more
details.



Scan me!

15. CHRISTMAS CLOSURE OF KENT COUNTY OFFICE

As we approach the festive season, we wanted to let you know that the Kent County RFU office will be closed from **Monday 22nd December and will reopen on Monday 5th January.**

If you require assistance during this period, please feel free to reach out using the contact details available on our website. However, please be aware that many of our volunteers may also be taking a well-earned break to enjoy the festivities, so response times may vary.

We would like to wish all our rugby clubs across Kent a very Happy Christmas and a successful, enjoyable New Year.

Thank you for your continued commitment to growing and supporting rugby in our county.



**TUESDAY 27 JANUARY
@ GRAVESEND RFU
FROM 6.45PM**

**KENT RFU IS HOSTING A
FREE WORKSHOP FOR ALL
CLUBS ON THE TOPIC OF
GROWING YOUR SOCIAL
MEDIA PRESENCE**

Hosted by Martin Woodard (RFU Club Business Manager), and Phil Woodward (Independent Consultant)

REGISTER HERE:

<https://shorturl.at/bDBEG>

FREE SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING WORKSHOP



**UP TO 3 PEOPLE FROM EACH CLUB
CAN ATTEND. A FREE, LIGHT SUPPER
WILL BE PROVIDED BEFORE
THE WORKSHOP**