

# KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT APRIL 2026



## 1. ANNUAL LEAGUE AWARDS DINNER AT ASHFORD INTERNATIONAL HOTEL ON THURSDAY 21ST MAY.

It is time once again to celebrate the achievements of our senior men's & women's teams across the county. We are pleased to invite your club to the 2026 Annual Awards Dinner – a special evening to recognise and honour the accomplishments of our rugby community, over the past year. With thanks to our principle sponsor, Shepherd Neame for generously providing welcome drinks to kick off the evening in style, this event is a highlight of our calendar and a wonderful opportunity to connect, reflect, and celebrate rugby in Kent. Last year clubs booked whole tables of 8 and reported to us that they had had a great evening.

Event Details:

Date: 21st May 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: The Ashford International Hotel

Dinner & Awards Ceremony Included

Cost: £28 per person (subsidised by Kent County RFU)

Complimentary Places: Each club will receive two free places for every league or cup competition in which they were either the winner or runner-up. Additional places can be booked at the subsidised rate.

This event is a highlight of our calendar and a wonderful opportunity to connect, reflect, and celebrate rugby in Kent. Last year clubs booked whole tables of 8 and reported to us that they had had a great evening.

It is extremely difficult to arrange a dinner of around 250 attendees, so please confirm by no later than 4th May, how many places you require (including your complimentary allocations) by contacting me at the Kent County Office: [office@kent-rugby.org](mailto:office@kent-rugby.org)

(Please note: KCRFU have to pay for all dinner places so any no shows will be charged the full rate of £38 pp)



Final names of attendees noting any dietary requirements will be required no later than 11th May. Your timely response is crucial to ensuring a smooth and enjoyable evening for everyone.

We very much look forward to celebrating with you!

## 2. MARTYN'S LAW

Martyn's Law (the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025) is now on the statute books and must be implemented by April 2027. Sports clubs throughout the country are trying to work out what the impact of this new legislation will be. It is important, therefore, that they understand how to manage the new responsibilities the Act creates, balanced against the level of risk and already heavy burden on club volunteers.

To support this, the Howden Insurance Sport team is hosting a webinar on Tuesday 19th May with solicitors Clyde & Co and health & safety consultancy, Praxis42, to explore the issues clubs face to provide clear, practical guidance to support organisations of all shapes and sizes. We invite you to share this webinar with your clubs and networks.

Event details

Date: Tuesday 19th May 2026

Time: 18:00 - 19:00

Venue: **REGISTER HERE FOR THE WEBINAR**

### 3. ROAD TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP: BLACKHEATH'S PLAY-OFF JOURNEY BEGINS

As the league season concludes across the community game, it's been a strong and exciting period for Kent clubs in the play-offs.

Tunbridge Wells have already secured a win in their opening play-off fixture against London Scottish Lions and now travel to Letchworth Garden City this Saturday, playing for the opportunity to face Henley for a place in National 2.

At Regional 2 level, both Gravesend and Old Colfeians progressed through their first play-off matches with wins over Horsham and Brighton respectively, before Old Colfeians came out on top in an all-Kent encounter. They now go forward with the chance to enter Regional 1 next season, alongside Sidcup who secured promotion as league winners.

At the top end of the game, Blackheath Rugby have secured an impressive 2nd place finish in National League One, earning themselves a home play-off against Plymouth Albion.

With so much success across the county, Kent clubs are warmly encouraged to come along and show their support as Blackheath represent us in this crucial next step on Saturday 9 May. It's a great opportunity to come together and back one of our leading clubs at a pivotal moment.

The winner of this match will go on to face the loser of the Championship play-off (either Richmond or London Scottish) in South West London on 23 May, with a place in The Champ at stake.

Blackheath Rugby v Plymouth Albion

Saturday 9 May

Bar opens 12:00, Kick-off 15:00

Tickets £15: <https://blackheathrugby.ticketco.events/uk/>

Let's get behind them and continue to support Kent rugby at every level.

### 4. COURSES

Coaching kicking for the first time?

Want to level up how you coach the tackle?

Want your team to score more tries?

Kent and England Rugby have teamed up to help the county be the most skillful in the country - players and coaches alike.

These will be the last courses taking place in person for the following skills.

– TackleSafe– U8s going into tackling, or a coach wanting to get more skilled at coaching this area?



– Kicking– U10s/11s coach introducing the kick? Or wanting to know how to coach this?

– Catch & Pass– Suitable for all coaches who have completed foundation courses for their age groups!

Only 30 places on both days!

**Friday 8th May** – London @ Blackheath FC <https://bit.ly/ERSkillDevelopmentDayMetKent>

Individual courses:

9.30am – <https://bit.ly/ERTackleSafeMetKent>

12pm – <https://bit.ly/ERKickingMetKent>

2.30pm – <https://bit.ly/ERCatchPassMetKent>

**Friday 5th June** – Rural Kent @ Ashford RFC <https://bit.ly/ERSkillDevelopmentDayRuralKent>

Individual courses:

9.30am – <https://bit.ly/ERTackleSafeRuralKent>

12pm – <https://bit.ly/ERKickingRuralKent>

2.30pm – <https://bit.ly/ERCatchPassRuralKent>

You can book all three together, or choose to book one or two of them, depending on what course is best for you!

Only 10 places are available for each course, and 10 for the whole day – so you need to act fast!

England Rugby Coach Developer Chris Spedding will be leading both days of learning and development!

**Emergency Funding**

Self employed?  
Cannot work due to rugby injury?  
Loss of income?  
**Access an application form [HERE!](#)**

# COME TO THE COUNTY'S WALKING RUGBY FESTIVAL

A fun Kent based festival for all!

Hosted by



Canterbury Rugby Club  
Saturday 20th June  
Registration at 9:30am

Food available from Scrum Kitchen  
Bar open

For more information, contact:

Glen London,  
glondon2001@yahoo.co.uk or  
07775779638

P5 PLUS



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Ken Matcham  
Photography

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