

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT MAY 2026



1. KENT RUGBY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TRAINING DAY

KIMS Hospital Saturday 27th June 2026.



Led by Guy Slater, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, this training day is specifically designed for all Health Care professionals working with Kent Rugby clubs. The event will give you a unique opportunity to learn from experts and collaborate with like-minded professionals, as well as the opportunity to expand your professional network.

By attending this training day, you will also earn CPD points, adding value to your professional development.

See more details on our website [HERE](#).

2. CHARITY MATCHES AND INSURANCE COVER

The Kent County RFU (KCRFU) is aware that many registered charitable organisations, HM Forces' veterans, and the emergency services often seek to raise teams to participate in matches as a means to raise funds for their respective good causes.

This is of course something which the KCRFU warmly supports. However, such teams (whether transitory or not) must comply with RFU Regulations, especially those which relate to player safety and welfare (Regulation 9) and which covers discipline, particularly if a player receives a red card or if there is ever a match official abuse report (Regulation 19). Affiliation to either a member club of the KCRFU (and through it, the RFU) and/or the charity team becoming either a full voting or associate non-voting member of the KCRFU is essential to facilitate this.

The other crucial main benefit of a charity club or XV being

an RFU member club (even as a non-voting member) is that all domestic rugby activities are covered by the RFU's insurance policies provided to member clubs via the RFU's insurer, Howden. Affiliation provides full insurance against catastrophic / serious injury and wider public liability cover, the absence of which would, in the event of a serious incident, expose the individual(s) responsible for the charity XVs to the risk of personal liability.

We therefore strongly advise those involved in arranging a charity team to adopt one of the following:

1. Apply to become a member club of the KCRFU;
2. Be included as a recognised team on the roll of a club which is affiliated (voting or non-voting member) to the KCRFU; or
3. If your charity team is linked to HM Forces, to become, as appropriate, a member of either the Royal Navy RU, Army RU or Royal Air Force RU.

Nigel Fray

Hon. Secretary & Director of Governance

3. YOUTH RUGBY INFORMATION

Overall, it has been a very successful season for youth rugby in Kent.

The Kent competitions were generally very successful and, thanks to the feedback received from clubs, a number of tweaks and improvements will be introduced for next season.

Congratulations to our 2025/26 Trophy Winners:

Colts -Winners – Tonbridge Juddians (third consecutive year), Runners-up - Canterbury

U16s Winners – Canterbury, Runners-up – Blackheath

U15s Winners – TJs, Runners-up – Sevenoaks

The Sevens competition was also very well attended, with all age groups thoroughly enjoying the day.

I have enjoyed watching a number of competitive games throughout the season and look forward to seeing many more next year.

Looking ahead to next season, links to the entry forms for all age groups are now live on the Kent website. [HERE](#)

Please note the following important points for next season:

Team names entered into the application form must already exist on GMS. Please speak to your club's GMS officer to ensure this is set up before the start of the season. Help is also available via the online GMS Hub.

Team officials will require access to the Competition Module within GMS (granted by your club's GMS officer), including permissions to enter scores. This access can be arranged now.

All players must be registered on GMS by their parents (or by the club if absolutely necessary) before they can be selected using the electronic match card system. This is a requirement under Regulation 15 and must be completed each season. Unregistered players will not be permitted to play. GMS registration for the 2026/27 season opens on 1 July 2026.

Please be realistic and honest when indicating your team's playing level next season (Good, Average or Development), as nobody benefits from one-sided fixtures.

Please also carefully consider the number of teams your club will realistically be able to field regularly throughout the season, bearing in mind injuries, holidays and school rugby commitments.

The competition rules have been updated for next season and can be found on the Competitions page of the Kent website.

Before next season begins, however, there is still plenty of summer rugby activity to enjoy. The RFU has published its Summer Activity Framework, which should be followed for any planned summer rugby activity. The framework can be found below:

{Summer Activity | Rugby Football Union}

Approval Forms

The approval process for next season will open in July 2026 once any Regulation 15 updates have been incorporated into the forms. The application system has therefore been temporarily closed pending confirmation of those regulation changes.

Please also remember that any approvals granted during the 2025/26 season will lapse at the end of the season, and reapproval will therefore be required.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone involved in youth rugby across Kent for their support and commitment throughout the season.

I wish you all a restful summer and look forward to another successful rugby season in Kent starting this autumn.

Alan Erskine

Youth Chair, KCRFU

4. ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER 2026

The Kent County Rugby Awards Dinner once again brought together 35 of our member clubs for an evening of celebration, with 205 people in attendance.

The event, which focused very firmly on the players, recognised the achievements of clubs across the league structure, with awards presented to league winners and runners-up in recognition of their performances throughout the 2025–26 season. Success was acknowledged across both the men's and women's leagues, reflecting another strong year of rugby across Kent.

Thanks are also extended to principal sponsor Shepherd Neame for their generous support of the evening. More than simply supplying refreshments for the event, Shepherd Neame continues to be a valued partner of Kent Rugby, sharing strong community values and a long-standing commitment to Kent.

Their contribution of a substantial quantity of beer, ale and craft lager for all attendees was greatly appreciated and helped create a fantastic atmosphere throughout the celebrations.

As Britain's oldest independent brewer and one of Kent's longest-established businesses, Shepherd Neame continues to invest in sustainability, local sourcing and community partnerships through its "People, Pubs & Planet" initiative. Their commitment to supporting local organisations, employment and communities across the county makes them an important partner for rugby in Kent and we thank them for their continued support.



The dinner once again highlighted the scale and depth of rugby in Kent, with clubs coming together under one roof to celebrate the achievements of the season. We wish you all a successful 2026-2027 season.

All photographs from the evening can be downloaded [HERE](#).

Lordwood Valkyries Ladies - Winners of Women's NC 2 South East (East)



5. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The **Kent County RFU AGM** will be held on Monday 21st Sept 2026 at Weaving RFC at 7pm.

Kent County RFU Annual Awards dinner 2027 Thursday 20th May.

6. COACHING CONFERENCE

Book your place on the coaching conference on the 27th June at a subsidised rate for all Kent County RFU clubs.

Book **HERE**.



In partnership with KENT RFU

XV ASIDE COACHING PERFORMANCE DAY

Up to **45% OFF**

9am Start
3.45pm Close

£49.99
(ex. VAT)

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE
SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON
MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL

Book Now
www.coachcentered.com/shop



Pre-Course Game Model Webinar
Pre-Course Task: 'Talents Matrix'
XV ASIDE Coaches
Welcome & Introduction
Session 1
Walk & Talk Reflective Scenarios
Session 2
Walk & Talk Reflective Scenarios
Lunch
Session 3
Walk & Talk Reflective Scenarios
Session 4
Walk & Talk Reflective Scenarios
Social Learning & Action Planning
Synthesis: 1 Day, 1 Week, 1 Month

• Subsidised by KENT RFU



Emergency Funding

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

