



RFU COMMUNITY GAME UPDATE

Distribution List, Send Out:

Club Chairmen

Club Honorary Secretaries

University & College Club Honorary Secretaries

Referee Society & Federation Honorary Secretaries

Welcome to the 6th Community Game Update. As highlighted in the last Community Game Update we have attached a survey for your views and thoughts on this new format of communication. We are keen to receive your views so that we can further improve our communication with you.

Simon Winman – Head of Club Development

Paula Rowe – Senior Communications Manager

21st November 2014 - Update No.6

Message from RFU President Jonathan Dance

Graham Thompson – a great rugby man.

It is with great sadness that I let you all know of the recent death of a great rugby man and current Sussex Council member, Graham Thompson.

Graham was the kind of colleague and friend who makes us all want to stay involved with the game. He played for Lewes Grammar School, and Lewes RFC in the 70s, but off the pitch contributed his significant skills as an accountant, serving as the club's honorary auditor, Chairman and later as President.

Graham then became President of, Seaford, his home town club, and continued to work for his county and the game as Sussex Honorary Treasurer, Chairman and President. A Life Member of Sussex RFU, he has been their representative at Twickenham since 2006.

The entire game benefitted from Graham's expertise as he brought his unique insight and expertise to many committees, among them: the Audit & Risk, Remuneration, Governance and Finance & Funding Standing Committees. Additionally he served on the Game Development, CB Finance, Club & CB Services, Funding and Training & Development Sub Committees.

Graham will be hugely missed by all who knew him in the game and our thoughts are with his wife Carole and daughter Gail.

Funeral arrangements

There will be a private family cremation followed by a service of celebration for the life of Graham Philip Thompson at St Leonard's Church, Seaford, East Sussex on Thursday 27th November 2014 at 3.30pm.

Club blazers/ties and bright colours are welcome but please no black.

No flowers but donations can be made to Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Refreshments afterwards at Seaford RFC.

For Action

All CB & Club Officers

Community Game Update Survey

Please take part in the survey [here](#) to register your views on the Community Game Update. We will report back in the New Year. Deadline for completion is in two weeks' time, **Monday 8th December**.

All CB & Club Officers

NatWest RugbyForce 2015 – it's so much more this year!

NatWest RugbyForce 2015 will be helping rugby clubs the length and breadth of the country to get ready to open their clubhouses and be **the place to watch England** take on the best in the world. A separate email with further details and a reminder of the registration link will be sent to the game next week. It is attached here for your information.

Please Note: The NatWest RugbyForce 2015 programme has replaced the draft programme which had a working title 'Club Together'.

Club Chairmen & Honorary Secretaries:

The RFU President's Awards 2015

The RFU President's Awards 2015 are now open for nominations via the website page [here](#)

Last year we had an impressive 241 entries across the 7 categories – this year, with your support, we want to achieve at least 300.

The overarching theme is to identify and reward outstanding teams of volunteers, **although nominees for Category 7 – the President's Choice, 'Beyond Rugby' can be an individual or a group.** Categories 1 - 6 embrace the key areas which together contribute to a successful, vibrant club and help to deliver opportunities in all areas of the game. The categories are:

1. PLAYER RECRUITMENT

The team of volunteers receiving this award will have worked creatively to recruit new players from different backgrounds

2. PLAYER RETENTION

This team of volunteers will have used all formats to keep players enjoying rugby

3. PEOPLE POWER

This will be an exceptional group of volunteers using innovative ways to recruit, retain and recognise coaches, referees and volunteers

4. CLUB MANAGEMENT

The winners of this award will be a volunteer team using effective and efficient club management and development, modernising the running of their club

5. BETTER FACILITIES

These volunteers will have developed fantastic facilities to transform their club environment for everyone who visits

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The winning team will have forged links with schools, colleges, universities, businesses, community groups and people that traditionally have had little contact with the game

7. PRESIDENT'S CATEGORY - 'Beyond Rugby'

This award will go to the person or people who have used the game as a vehicle for social change. The winner or winners will have used rugby to transform lives or communities.

CB Chairmen; Honorary Secretaries; CB Volunteer Coordinators

Leadership Survey (from Ron Jones)

As RFU Council Rep for Dorset & Wilts, I currently sit on the Club Development sub-committee and am leading a small group looking into the development of local rugby leaders across the next three to five years. We aim to do this by integrating the programmes that are currently run to develop leadership across the game, and identifying pathways and opportunities for leadership development.

In order to be able to effectively establish how we currently identify and support the future leaders of the game I would ask if you could complete a short survey (4 questions) [here](#)

I would be grateful to receive your feedback by **12th December 2014**.

For Distribution

Club Honorary Secretaries: distribute to club player registration official

Adult Player Registration (men)

A revised Adult Player Registration form, Edition 22, has now been created. We have taken the opportunity to add a “Return Loan” option under “Registration type” into it, while other changes are mostly updating the links to our new englandrugby.com website page which you can find [here](#). There is no change to process with Level 4 and above being sent to Twickenham and Level 5 and below completed on line.

Club Honorary Secretaries: distribute to Club International Ticket Secretary

International Ticket Allocations

At a recent meeting of the International Rugby Ticket Sub-Committee (IRTSC), the new Game Management System was discussed and the importance of clubs being encouraged to cleanse their data and ensure that the information within it is accurate. We are conscious that the link to ticket allocations provides a potential disincentive to this.

The IRTSC has agreed that the number of international tickets allocated to a club for the 2014/15 season will remain in place for seasons 2015/16 and 2016/17, irrespective of any decline in the data during that period as a result of cleansing.

During this period the IRTSC will undertake a full review of the current system of allocation for all areas of the game, to assess the fairest way to ensure that clubs are rewarded for the amount of rugby actually being played. Any changes will not take effect until the 2017/18 season with any required audit taking place during the 2016/17 season.

M R Cordell, Chairman, International Rugby Ticket Sub-Committee.

CB and Club Honorary Secretaries: distribute to Youth Chairmen & Safeguarding Teams

New Rules of Play Update for Under 7 to 11 and Under 12/13

We have recently been receiving some very constructive feedback on the implementation and management of the game for the New Rules of Play age groups. Following our recent communication on 7th November, we are pleased to inform you that the updated versions of the U10 and U11 NRoP are now uploaded and can be found [here](#).

ACTION: Please delete all previous versions and replace with these with immediate effect.

In addition to this, updated versions of the U12 and U13 NRoP have also been sent direct to the pilot CBs.

For Information

Club Honorary Secretaries and Honorary Treasurers:

Music Licencing

Historically, many amateur sports clubs did not require a licence from PPL when playing recorded music. Following a change in law, amateur sports clubs are now, in almost all cases, required to hold a PPL licence as well as a PRS for Music licence. From 1st January 2014, PPL and PRS for Music introduced a new joint licence for eligible amateur sports clubs which is administered by PPL.

Unfortunately this change in law has meant an increased bill for many rugby clubs. This has led to some rugby clubs ignoring payment requests from PPL.

Potential consequences of not obtaining the applicable licence

If a club decided to take on PPL by refusing to obtain the requisite licence and pay the applicable licence fees, then as per the PPL website it is possible that PPL may decide take legal proceedings in respect of copyright infringement. Unfortunately amateur rugby clubs will now inevitably have to work the increased licence fees into their budgets and ensure that they obtain the required licences to avoid further action from PPL.

For more information and to obtain a licence please click [here](#)

CB & Club Honorary Secretaries and Honorary Treasurers:

FREE RFU Legal Helpline still here to support

Call the RFU Legal Helpline number on 0844 56 18177 for free legal advice to help manage your rugby club 24/7.

To access the service rugby administrators can simply call up and quote the scheme number 81066.

Qualified advisors will provide immediate, independent advice on all aspects of rugby operations including: Tax, VAT, PAYE, payroll, employment & personnel, health & safety and commercial legal.

CB & Club Honorary Secretaries and Honorary Treasurers:

Don't forget about our searchable funding database!

If your clubs are on the lookout for new funding opportunities, the RFU's FREE **GrantFinder** service is still available to support their sporting financial needs. With a step-by-step search facility available to all members, you can access hundreds of opportunities at the click of a button.

[Start searching now...](#)

Heads Up

England Fixtures in 2015, all on Sky Sports:

Friday 13th February – 1945: England U20s v Italy U20s @ Plymouth Albion RFC

Friday 13th March – 1730: England U20s v Scotland U20s @ Darlington Mowden Park
(Double Header -England Women are playing Scotland Women afterwards at 1935 also on Sky)

Friday 20th March – 1955: England U20s v France U20s @Brighton

