

## Issue 6: April 2015

Here are more examples from across the country which show the great work carried out by the rugby family.

### North Yorkshire – England Connected

England Head Coach Stuart Lancaster delivered a coaching session at Pocklington RFC on a bright Thursday evening after the North Yorkshire club was successful in a #WinStuart competition on Twitter. Typically enthusiastic, Lancaster reiterated that grassroots rugby is the lifeblood of the England team and his oft-repeated mantra “England Connected” was at its most tangible in North Yorkshire.

[Read more.](#)



### South West – Real Rugby Stories

How the "worst team in England" won the league...twice. Plymouth Arguam and their director of rugby Dave Sansom are the next subjects of Real Rugby Stories, our series of features that celebrates heroes across the grassroots game, from club stalwarts to inspiring youngsters and everything in between.

[Read more.](#)

### Are you ready for rugby's biggest year?

It is now less than 150 days until Stuart Lancaster's England side take on Fiji at Twickenham in the opening game of the 2015 Rugby World Cup. Over the upcoming months, every club in the country can immerse itself in the World Cup with these five initiatives. [Read more.](#)



### East Midlands – Better Facilities

Derbyshire club Tupton have officially opened their new £475,000 clubhouse at the Recreation Ground. The impressive facility, which was built with the help of a £70,000 grant from the RFU Lead Up and Legacy Fund, was officially opened by Dennis Sutton, who founded the club in 1969. [Read more.](#)



## South East – Samsung Try of the Month

Kieran Chan-Kitchener's five-pointer in Hertford Under 15's clash with local rivals Bishop's Stortford has won Samsung Try of the Month competition. England Sevens captain Tom Mitchell judged the hooker's effort worthy of top honours, fighting off stiff competition. Hertford will now receive £1,000 worth of Samsung products for their club. [Watch here.](#)



## Midlands – Groundsmen Workshops

Keith Kent, the RFU Head Groundsman at Twickenham, ran a successful workshop for club groundsman across the Midlands. The workshop, which was attended by more than 40 groundsman from across four RFU Constituent Bodies was held at Nuneaton Old Edwardians' Weddington Road ground. [Read more.](#)



## North Yorkshire – Better Facilities / Participation

Sir Ian McGeechan OBE visited Northallerton RUFC to open their new floodlights as a result of the club receiving an RFU Lead up and Legacy award. Northallerton will now be a hub for mid-week and Friday Night Lights matches for adult 2nd and 3rd teams and will be used to support local schools and other rugby clubs.



## West Midlands – Women's Rugby / O2 Touch

Handsworth and Aston Old Eds went head to head in both club's first ever contact fixture. A XV aside match with fully contested scrums and line-outs took place and showed just how far the clubs have come in a short space of time. O2 Touch along with the drive and determination of volunteers has been responsible for this success. Both teams now have over 20 women playing regular competitive rugby.





## Yorkshire – Schools Rugby

A season long programme of over 100 festivals within the RFU has supported the White Rose Schools Rugby Series in Halifax this April. The event was renamed the 'Martin Green Finals Day' as a fitting tribute to an avid supporter of State Schools Rugby Union across the area, until he sadly passed away last year. Nearly 400 players from Year 7 players through to 6<sup>th</sup> formers took part. An incredible achievement and a great day!

## North West - Innovation

Broughton Park FC are using innovative ways to drive participation and engagement ahead of RWC 2015. They have commissioned a local graffiti artist to produce his artwork on 2 wooden hoardings to promote the club. Players have already been recruited as a direct result of the art work, proving that a little imagination can work wonders, well done to everyone involved.



## North East – Changing Lives

David and Kieran (pictured) joined Middlesbrough college in September, both had no rugby experience. Since taking up the sport their lives have changed for the better. Kieran has lost 4 stone and seen a huge improvement with his asthma. David who has grown up in foster care, now living independently has found a hobby and something he hopes he can turn into a career along-side his Sport and Leisure course at College.

## South East – Player Recruitment

Both Sawston RUFC and Cottenham Renegades RUFC have traditionally struggled to retain adult players. However, a partnership with Long Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge, has helped to create fixtures and secure a long term future for both clubs.



## South West – Women's Rugby

A newly formed Gloucester/Hartpury women's team took on Bath Ladies at Kingsholm after the Gloucester v Newcastle Falcons game. A great showcase, especially as many of the players were brand new to the game this season. The teams have a great relationship with both Bath University and Bath Spa, from which players continue to be recruited.



**TEAMWORK  
RESPECT  
ENJOYMENT  
DISCIPLINE  
SPORTSMANSHIP**

## Northamptonshire – Club Development

In September of last year social club Corby RFC were struggling to put out a team and were doubtful that they would complete the league season. Thanks to the hard work of its members, the club has been turned around. Now with new players, coaches and a reinvigorated spirit, they are considering entering the East Midlands Merit Leagues.



## North West – Returning Players

RFU Community Rugby Coach John Foster has trialed a project in Merseyside & Cheshire to support the development of casuals & vets rugby in the North West. Since February, no less than seventeen clubs have played at least one fixture, most playing more. Promoting a flexible and fun culture to encourage returning players, there are now plans to expand the programme with the potential for casuals and vets festivals.

## South West – Better Facilities / Player Recruitment

It's been some year at Sidmouth RFC, not only have they benefited from a Social Spaces grant for much needed renovations, they've also used Devon RFU Innovation support to start a 3rd XV for the first time in 5 years. The Constituent Body provided funds to help the club pay a team manager's phone credit so that they could do the chasing necessary to pull a team together. Innovation indeed!



## East Midlands – Club Development

In August 2014 Mellish RFC lost 22 of its male adult players in a matter of weeks, leaving the club with just one senior team. With a change in mind-set of from key volunteers, the club are now providing a positive experience for players as well as integrating the clubs U17's into senior rugby. Mellish are back to running two teams with a third planned for next season!

## Yorkshire – Player Recruitment

Sheffield Oaks RUFC have recruited five new adult players, which has crucially enabled them to maintain their 2nd XV. Some of their new players have now played for the club's 1st XV. Amazingly, all five had never played rugby before.

