

Surrey Spotlight #5

Dec 2023

HELPING OUR CLUBS TO PROSPER
AND THRIVE



IN THIS EDITION

Honda Award Presentations
Discipline Update
Vision Impaired Rugby
Comps & Youth Update
Weybridge Vandals RFC
Sock Day 2024
Recent Tournaments
And much more....

Surrey Under 18 Girls
Cover image Gail Fogarty Photography

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the intro

Chat from the Chair

Without wishing to sound like the CEO of a public company I am pleased to confirm that Surrey Rugby is in fine form, in rude financial health and is firing on all cylinders in ensuring as many players as possible are out and about playing lots of safe, well-managed rugby.

At the recent AGM hosted at Barnes RFC we confirmed David Doonan in his official year of Presidency. David stepped up to the mark last season, in the absence through illness of Gary Ashburn, and was very active in visiting lots of clubs across the county. David is an honorary steward at Twickenham and wears many hats within both his home club Barnes and across the CB. We wish him well in his Presidency and look forward to helping our clubs to celebrate their many key occasions.



Elsewhere you will read of the monies Surrey Rugby has committed to its key activity pillars to support our clubs. This amounts to £100,000 over 3 years over and above the Target Funding we receive from the RFU. We are able to do this thanks to the continuing support of our sponsors, patrons and many others who give freely in support of the grassroots game. The pillars are set out on our website and will continue to be reviewed and tweaked as necessary to ensure we are reflecting your needs and priorities. If you feel that your club has other worthy priorities please be in touch directly –our help can vary from support and advice to facilities funding – from training coaches and referees or identifying facility grants and medical provision . The list is endless and we seek to answer “yes” if at all possible.

You will read in this newsletter of the excellent workshop held recently for Scrumhalves . I particularly welcomed this initiative as a joint activity with our neighbouring CB Middlesex – partly fuelled of course by the close relationships of our Deputy Chair Tyrone Lawless and former Middlesex President Bob Lawless - his father! This joint approach paves the way for future cooperation – we might occasionally compete in County Representative fixtures but when it comes to sharing best practice we are not in competition – and using our expertise to provide cost effective numbers is simply good sense.

We are always pleased to receive photos of your club and its players and this newsletter highlights the activities of both Reigate and Weybridge Vandals. Joanna Gordon, who leads our Communications and Marketing activity as well as our Volunteer Recognition Program, is always keen to hear from our clubs and is a constant spur to our Management Committee in visiting clubs and tournaments. It is a key activity to recognise and reward volunteers both on and off the field – the often unheralded band of thousands who keep our game going with no hint of reward or self interest. This is the lifeblood of grassroots rugby and underlines the ethos built on our key values.

Personally I have visited a host of Age Grade tournaments recently – Under 15 Boys, Under 16 Girls and last weekend was able to enjoy a thrilling “top the table” clash between Dorking and Esher – where the large crowd was treated to a feast of running rugby despite gale force winds and a heavy pitch.

You will read elsewhere of the excellent strength in depth developed in our Competitions and Game Development teams . It is no accident that Surrey Rugby has played higher levels of games throughout both Age Grade and Adult rugby than many other CB’s. Our commitment to Game On, Referee training and YMO development depend upon the tireless work of a large number volunteers –many of whom are also active in their own clubs. I thank them all for this work and we hope that the second half of the season –which will culminate in Cup matches and more Representative matches – will continue to flourish based on this work.

We are now in the run up to Christmas and the holiday period. On behalf of all the Executive, Management Committee and other key volunteers of Surrey Rugby I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year



game development

Coaching

As part of our 3 year strategy to support the game, Surrey Rugby are investing up to £20,000 a season in recruiting, retaining and developing coaches and referees throughout the county.

COACHING

It's been a busy start to the season for the game development team in supporting our club coaches with a series of courses and seminars throughout the county.

In September we launched with a series of scrum and tackle sessions for youth coaches focussing on age grade specific regulations.

We also held a network launch evening for our representative coaches focusing on the new strategy and coaching principles being rolled out by our Coach Development Lead John Simmonds.

Over 20 coaches, managers and medical team from the rep teams attended the course as we look to map out the plans for Team Surrey over the next 3 years.



In October we held a coaching conference at Cobham RFC and had over 25 coaches in attendance with discussions and coaching sessions delivered by John Bates and his team of trainers: Giselle Mather, Simeon Barnes, Amy Turner and Rich Pryor.

The areas they delivered were:

Building your team's culture and theming

Attack transition

Tackle execution & dominance

The Breakdown and its place within the game

In November we held a session focusing on attack delivered by Rory Teague and over 35 coaches attended. This is part of our commitment to support the transition of coaches from youth into senior rugby.

The session focused on:

Part 1:

Giving your attack 'life'

Using a system framework to disrupt an organised defence

Understanding the implications of static and dynamic moments in the game

Creating an emotional and physical connection with the ball

game development

Coaching

Part 2:

Changing pictures and emerging decision making through games and blocked practice

Personal philosophy of attack

Understanding the benefits of emerging decision-making vs emerged

Blocked practice – modern day coaching (Repetition without repetition)

Game design using dynamic restarts

We have two further sessions planned in January and February 2024.



We also held a scrum half Coaching Workshop delivered by Patrick O' Grady. Patrick is a Level 4 Coach who represented England at Youth Level and has been the Academy Manager for the past 8 years, coaching with the Elite Youth and Senior Players. Note - The workshop gave ideas to coaches in the development of the core skills of passing & kicking in relation to the position of scrum half.

The session commenced with the theory work indoors followed by practical work.

Other areas of Coaching CPD that we are focusing on this season are:

Kicking Masterclass

Breakdown Principles

Strength & Conditioning

We have also been working closely and collaboratively with Chris Spedding of the RFU promoting and supporting Surrey coaches to attend.



CHRIS SPEDDING



the club

Reigate RFC

Without doubt the creation of our Mini and Youth section has underpinned almost everything we have achieved on and off the pitch!

Like all clubs we face challenges for time, commitment, players, members and volunteers. And like almost every junior club we need to evolve and understand what makes our club an attractive proposition over other (sports) clubs.

Being successful off the pitch allows us to keep rugby on it, and confident we had strong coaches in place with a thriving Junior section, our focus the last 2-3 years turned to improving our facilities and offerings. Successful grant applications made to London Marathon Charitable Trust, Biffa via the Wildlife Trust, the Big Lottery Fund and the RFU plus many fundraising activities saw a new training pitch, new overflow carpark and new changing and shower facilities. Add to this a club room refurb and we were fit-for-purpose to maximise our offering to a wider community. Fast forward to 2023/4 and our ambition - to install new drainage across 2 pitches, install solar panels and to segregate our showers has come to fruition. We are immensely grateful to Reigate & Banstead Council via their CIL fund (Council Infrastructure Levy) and to Surrey County Council and the Your Fund Surrey Grant.

The installation of drainage has been an ambition of the clubs for years, we maintain what we have by spending between 15-20k p.a. but still we lose 8-12 weeks per season through waterlogged or flooding – common in the area. This c.£160k investment in drainage will go a long way to allow us to claim back much of this time and to continue to offer our pitch facilities to other local clubs. We have welcomed Reigate Women's Lacrosse to our ground and we have also opened our club to Reigate Priory Football Club - the oldest club in Surrey, who use our facilities throughout the week.





the club

Reigate RFC

Another exciting recruitment initiative is our partnership with Community Workers employed by the Council in every Ward. We tend to focus on areas in Reigate & Banstead where rugby might not be the first sport of choice but where there is an appetite to engage. We take rugby to these schools or communities through our volunteer Coaches, offering boys and girls the opportunity to have fun and potentially try something new. Certainly at Junior level, our aim is towards a fun, family-friendly, community-orientated and inclusive philosophy which underpins whatever we do. Inevitably as we progress from Youth to Colts and Senior rugby you blend all the above with a competitive streak. We want to progress; we want to do our best to compete and win games through the age-groups.

The mood down at the club is lively! Buoyed by our recent grant success and a strong start to the season for all age groups, 2023 and especially 2024 – our 90th is looking like a game-changer! At the time of this writing our 1st XV is 8/8 and the Junior section in excess of a 65% win ratio. There is a long way to go against strong opposition, nobody is talking about the ‘P’ word openly, but we must push on. The club totally believe in Senior rugby, what it represents and how other age groups look up to this group.

Mini and Junior rugby is crucial, up there with oxygen. If the car park is full, every square meter of pitch space is being used on a Sunday and midweek, there is no better sight. Clearly clubs do thrive without a Mini and Junior section but for us it represents everything we stand for, openness, inclusivity, active, a growbag. Our sponsors are very important and valuable too and we are tremendously grateful to FXD Capital, Regenerus Labs and PJS Builders for supporting the club in so many tangible ways.

John McKee



game development

Comps Update & Meet the Team



BARRY MYLAND
Regional 1



MARC BERTRAND
Regional 2



BOB LAWLESS
Counties 1



RICHARD BRAYNE NICHOLLS
Counties 2



JASON WILLIAMS
Counties 3



TYRONE LAWLESS
Chair of Competitions



BRIC TYSON
Vice Chair of Competitions

And breath, wow what a whirlwind start to the rugby season we have had.

Following last season's league restructure to the new tackle height law implementation we are starting to notice some trends with grass routes rugby especially at reserve team level.

Clubs generally have as many players/members on their books as previous seasons, and training numbers are fairly healthy, however the availability of players on match days has seen a significant decline since returning from Covid, with players wanting to play less frequently and wanting more flexibility over the playing offer available.

We have been promoting Game On and Stay Together Play Together across all levels of the game and supporting league regulations with a more flexible playing philosophy to assist clubs in getting the appropriate playing offer.

We have seen many different varied forms of games including: uncontested, smaller pitches, shorter games, fewer players and playing at different times and days.

We have also seen triangular and 4 team fixtures with clubs playing 3 x 30 or 2 x 40 minute games at one venue on the same day. There has also been Barbarians v Nomads or Chairman's v President's types of games, with players from multiple clubs clustering together to create teams for a game.

We have just finished the first half of the league season and it's a good time to summarise where we are across the CB.

The numbers are broadly in line with national average for % of completion and walkovers and we saw lots of postponements during the World Cup. However we are seeing those games pencilled in to be played in spare weeks and as double header fixtures in the New Year.

The Surrey RFU leagues are running at around 92% completion rate with Surrey 3 and 5 slightly lower at 85%.

We are working closely with the clubs who have struggled this season and will continue to support them as we move forward.

The reserve leagues are running at around 72% completion rate. We will be reaching out to clubs to discuss whether a restructured half a season would be more appropriate to support clubs in getting a challenging competition for those clubs seeking to play every week. We will also discuss an alternative offering for those clubs that have struggled to get a team out on a weekly basis throughout the first half of the season.

game development

Comps Update & Meet the Team



SIMON BURMAN
Counties 4 & 5

Surrey Rugby run a proactive fixture exchange through WhatsApp, Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) and this has enabled teams to quickly get fixtures following walkovers and postponements. These platforms also host clubs from neighboring CBs and this has proven a successful tool in assisting teams to get games played and player share. There have been over 40 matches created through this platform and it serves clubs well.



LES TODD
Championship & Conference

Vets have been arranging their own fixtures from the structured pools and they will then move into the cup format to conclude the season in April. We have around 30 vets teams playing across 6 levels and they all have 9 structured fixtures a season with the opportunity to win a pool and a cup final.

National 2 has seen a competitive start with Dorking, Esher and Barnes all competing for promotion into National 2.

Regional Leagues

Camberley are once again competing strongly in Regional 1 looking for promotion into the National leagues. Surrey clubs are competing across 3 Regional 2 leagues with Battersea, Old Reigatians, Reeds Weybridge and London Irish in strong positions.

County leagues

Teddington are unbeaten in Counties 1 followed by Weybridge Vandals and Tiffins as the promotion race to the regional leagues heats up. The league also hosts two clubs from Middlesex who are on level transfers and Eastbourne, Hove and East Grinstead have joined to form a Surrey-Sussex league.

Old Ruts and old Haileyburians are both on the charge in Counties 2 looking to secure promotion to Surrey and Sussex Counties 1.

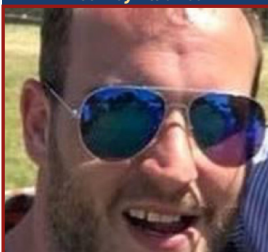
Bec Old Boys, Met Police, Old Georgians, Old Johnians are all jousting at the top of Counties 3 and it currently looks a four horse race to secure the automatic promotion spot.

Old Hamptonians, Streatham and the newly level transferred Southwark Lancers are battling it out at the top of counties 4.

Reigate are on the resurgence in Counties 5 having done a brilliant job in transitioning their Colts into Senior rugby. Raynes Park and London French are going to push them for top spot as the season progresses.



NICK TER AVERST
Surrey Alliance



PHIL SHENTON
Combination 1



ASH SHENTON
Combination 2

game development

Comps Update & Meet the Team



PHIL SMITH
Under 22



ANTHONY SHENTON
Under 22



CAM BARLOW
Surrey Vets



JAMES LAWLESS
Surrey Foundation



PADDY RALSTON
Fixtures Secretary

Reserve Leagues

The reserve leagues started slightly later and have been more affected with player availability during the World Cup but are starting to shape up.

Battersea 2 and Camberley 2s are currently top of the Premiership.
Chobham 2s and Farnham 2s competing for top spot in the Championship.

Old Ruts 2s followed by Haileyburians and Teddington 2s are top of the Alliance and looking for promotion into the Championship.

Farnham 3s, Feltham and Barnes 3s are competing at the top of the Conference League.

Combination 1 is proving a table of two halves with Sutton 4s, Wimbledonian 2s, Battersea 4s, London Media and Bec Old Boys competing at the top and getting out regularly.

Cranleigh 2s remain unbeaten closely followed by Guildford 3s and Camberley 3s. Racal Decca are showing as much initiative as ever and looking at player recruitment and flexible playing offerings to attract and retain players.

Foundation Leagues

The Foundation Leagues are there to aid player availability and a playing offer on a more flexible basis without league regulations. It's 100% adaptable to Game On profiles and supports player sharing and multiple playing variations.

Vets Leagues

Vets games have been closely fought and competitive yet still played in fun and within the values of the game.

Sutton & Epsom and Barnes have made strong starts to the season and remain unbeaten. Weybridge vandals, Cobham, Esher and Pauline's have had localized competitive Friday night under-light fixtures.

the game

Key Upcoming Dates

REP RUGBY DATES				
Date	Surrey Team	Opponent	Location	Kickoff
Dec 17th	U18 Boys	Sussex	Grasshoppers	2:00
Dec 17th	U18 Girls	Hertfordshire	Guildford RFC	2:15
Jan 14th	U18 Girls	Berkshire	Maidenhead RFC	
Jan 28	U16 Girls ERDPP	ERDPP Festival	TBC	
Feb 7th	U18 Boys	TBC	Thurrock or Dartford	
Feb 18th	U16 Girls ERDPP	ERDPP Festival	Guilldford RFC	
Mar 17th	U16 Girls ERDPP	North Midlands	TBC	
COMPETITIONS/FESTIVAL RUGBY DATES				
Date	Team	Event	Location	Kickoff
Jan 7th	U16 Girls	Surrey Cup Finals	Esher	9-4pm
Apr 10th	U22 Men	Surrey Cup Finals	Esher	11-5pm
Apr 21st	U12/U14 Girls	Surrey Cup Finals	Cobham	9-12
	U16/U18 Girls	Surrey Cup Finals	Cobham	1-5pm
	U15 Boys	Quins Cup Finals	Guildford RFC	1-5pm
	U16 Boys	Quins Cup Finals	Farnham RFC	9-1pm
	U17/U18 Boys	Quins Cup Finals	Farnham RFC	1-5pm
Apr 22nd	U15 Boys	Quins Cup Final	Quins RFC	6:15pm
	U16 Boys	Quins Cup Final	Quins RFC	7:45pm
Apr 23	U14 Girls	Quins Cup Final	Quins RFC	6:15pm
	U16 Girls	Quins Cup Final	Quins RFC	7:45pm
Apr 24	Colts Girls	Quins Cup Final	Quins RFC	7pm
Apr 25	Colts Boys	Quins Cup Final	Quins RFC	7pm
Apr 28th	U12/U13/U14	Waterfall Finals	TBC	
May 5th	Youth Festival 7s 12/14/16/18 Girls 12/13/14/15/16/ 18 Boys	Youth Festival 7s	TBC on Feb 24	9-4pm



the game

Rugby United



Streatham Girls U14s and U16s have had a stormer of a season so far. Having initially struggled to find a cluster that suited the numbers we have available, both age groups are now clustered with Guildfordians for matches. The U14s won all of their matches at Surrey 10s. They have around six girls training and five girls regularly available to play. Two of them are new recruits thanks to the RFU's Rugby United funding.



Our U16s are going from strength to strength, with seven committed girls playing with Guildfordians and winning Surrey's initial cup final. On Friday 24th November Streatham welcomed 40 girls to play a recruitment tournament at the club, followed by match teas in the club house. Three local schools bought four teams who played a round robin. We have already had interest from some of the girls in joining the club, with newbies aiming to start attending from December 3rd. Rugby United has helped to fund match teas for this event, which we hope will show girls the social and community side of rugby too. Two of our committed U16s are also Rugby United recruits, which alongside growth of the boys' sections is proving to be a very successful initiative



the game

Rugby Safe



Clubs and other bodies who organise rugby activity, have the following five responsibilities with respect to Safety and First Aid:

- Complete and record a risk assessment to determine the appropriate level of activity and first aid provision.
- Ensure that providers and appointed first aiders are appropriately trained and undertake re-certification in accordance with their qualification.
- Ensure that the procedures for the recording and reporting of incidents are followed.
- Ensure that suitable first aid facilities and equipment are available.
- Ensure that there is adequate cover to allow for absences.

Surry Rugby are awarding 1st Aid vouchers to clubs and individuals for the next season. If you would like to apply for an individual Voucher or a block of 12 for a club session then please contact Tyrone Lawless on Tyronelawless@aol.com.

EMERGENCY FIRST AID & IMMEDIATE CARE TRAINING

Provides information on First Aid training including the Emergency First Aid in Rugby Union (EFARU) course, and other relevant qualifications that are accepted and recognised for EFAs covering rugby activity.

EFARU Course Details for 2023-24 season:

Duration: One Day (6.5 hours) or Split Course (2 x 3 hours)

Price: £55 per person

Minimum Learner Age: 18 years old

A club, school, college or university can organise an EFARU course. To do so, visit the EFARU tutor map and following the process within the EFARU course booking chart. To attend the course, an e-learning pre-course module must be completed.

To run a course a min. of 8 learners is required, with a max. of 12. Where clubs don't have the min. numbers, the course can be opened up to other clubs/members of the public.

Visit the [England Rugby Course Booking Page](#) for available places.





the charity

Rugby Against Cancer

ABOUT THE CHARITY

After a lightbulb moment from our Founder Aaron Beesley (seen here on the right), Rugby Against Cancer was born in May 2018. On 11th November 2020 we became officially registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales #1192284

The rugby family is a tribe. A bond that cannot be broken between people who genuinely love, trust, care about and look out for each other. Rugby Against Cancer is here to support that family.

Cancer does not discriminate and can affect anybody, so we want to be there for those that need it. As a charity we harness the power of the rugby community to raise funds and awareness to enhance the lives of those living with cancer.

Over £30,000 has been donated by Rugby Against Cancer to help the lives of those affected by cancer in the UK.

The charity is run by a team of volunteers who have a passion for rugby and have all been personally affected by cancer in their own lives or those of friends, family & teammates. Each individual offers their time to help grow, manage and coordinate the charity so we can run events and give back to the community.



Esher RFC has a long history of getting involved with this charity, starting over 30 years ago when Peter Winterbottom, Harvey Thorneycroft and Hugh McHardy cycled from London to Paris together to raise funds.

I got involved with the Charity rehabbing Jack Jakeman (Esher Abbots & Cardinals and here on the left with me) through lockdown. Jack had cancer in his back the size of a rugby ball and came to me for Hydrotherapy and pitch side rehab. The fantastic news is that he is fully fit and playing for the Cardinals to great effect.





the charity

Rugby Against Cancer

THE RUGBY

Our rugby team plays in a range of matches including 15s, sevens and social 10s, both men and women. We aim to allow new players to represent the charity at each event and individuals can reach out to be added to our database for future fixtures. If you fancy joining the team, email your interest to play@rugbyagainstcancer.com



SOCK DAY 2023

Our first Sock Day 2022 event was a massive sock-cess, 13 clubs took part including men's, women's and juniors with over 1000 socks sold raising £4,600.

Each pair of socks worn = more support for families and teammates affected by cancer. This year the event will be on the weekend of Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th January.

We are aware some clubs do not have fixtures on this particular weekend, and we welcome them to participate when they can.

Socks can still be purchased directly from our kit supplier. [CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE](#)

Tony Mitchell



game development

Refereeing



REFEREEING

We have set ourselves the target of getting 20 more active referees a season to support the Adult Leagues and further referees to cover the Youth offer on Sundays. Surrey have committed to support the Referees Society in funding the running of courses to encourage people to pick up the whistle and referee.

There are eight Take Up The Whistle courses planned for 2023-2024 which equates to 200 places. Upon completion of the six hour course over two weeks the candidates get a Surrey Referee shirt and will get their course refunded when they have officiated in three playing opportunities. The courses are run throughout the season across the county and are run by Bob Ockenden.

The aims of the Take Up The Whistle course are:

To encourage all people to take up refereeing rugby union, be that current/former players, parents or coaches.
To provide an introduction to refereeing the 15 a-side game, including outdoor, practical elements so suitable clothing is required! Each participant receives a whistle, lanyard and red/yellow cards at the start of the course.

Courses are held at local schools/clubs and can be completed on a weekend morning or over two evenings.

You can find details of the courses on the Surrey Rugby website and London Society website.

We have also supported clubs to run the RFU introduction to refereeing course and this has resulted in four clubs delivering this and recruiting 80 Young Match Officials to their Sunday Mini and Youth rugby programmes.



the game

Surrey U18 Girls

The Under 18 Girls team has begun its campaign in style with two resounding wins! A full report on all three matches will be in the next edition, but photos have been uploaded to our galleries. Many thanks to Gail Fogarty of Gail Fogarty Photography for these fabulous photos! You can buy hi res versions very reasonably: [LINK TO GALLERY](#)





the awards

Honda Awards

Following the Honda Volunteer Award ceremony in the Summer, your CB committee has been busy getting round clubs and presenting to those who couldn't make it on the night. Congratulations to those recognised here! We've divided up the county amongst the committee and are working around the remaining nominees, whilst getting to know our clubs better and sharing the ways we can help you.



Michael D'Urso, Tom Little, Dave McCormack & Simon Parley with their awards, alongside Mel Reilly and Justin Latta who collected their awards on the night



Pete Rowe, Reeds Weybridge (centre) with Chair Ed Peters



John Masters, Esher RFC



Keiran Kanavan - Esher RFC



Gareth Stingmore, Cranleigh RFC



Old Reigatian Chair, Ben Hamps receiving awards on behalf of Carl Hassan, Jason Perfitt and Mike Smith.

the awards

Honda Awards



Dorking RFC club President Jon Watts receiving an award on behalf of Laurence Kikfeather



Tony Weimer, Carl Beddoe & Ian McKie - Guildfordians



John Potts & Colin Caddy from Sutton & Epsom



Paddy Ralston from KCS Old Boys



Keith Heal presenting to Rhys Parker of Woking



Tom Sheriden of Haslemere

the game

Under 16 Girls Tournament

No prizes were given out in November but the culmination of the U16 Girls Surrey Waterfall Cup preliminary competition took place at Esher on 26th November. Eight teams playing four finals across the day culminating in a great Cup Final under the lights.

First up was a final between two clusters of famous names. Richmond/Battersea/Wasps took on Harlequins Amateurs/Teddington/London Irish, with the result going down to a re-taken conversion with the clock in the red. Harlequins Amateurs/Teddington/London Irish won 45-44.

Next up was Sutton & Epsom v Cobham/Dorking with Sutton & Epsom coming out on top 49-5.

Wimbledon Ruts won the Shield Final 64-10 against Farnham.

The Cup Final saw Guildfordians/Streatham & Croydon take on Old Reigatians under the lights. After a tight first half Guildfordians came out on top 33-5 to round off a great day at Esher.

All the teams, joined by Chobham move on to the Surrey Cup competition running after Christmas with a Finals Day at Cobham on 21st April with the Cup Final due to be played at the Stoop on Tuesday 23rd April.

Match Day 1 - 22nd October

Match A	Richmond/Battersea/Wasps v Farnham - away w/o
Match B	Old Reigatians v Cobham/Dorking - home w/o
Match C	Sutton & Epsom 10 v 50 Wimbledon Ruts
Match D	Guildfordians 51 v 7 Harlequins Amateurs/Teddington/London Irish

Teams named first are the home team

Match Day 2 - 12th November

Cup Semi-Final A	Farnham 10 v 41 Old Reigatians
Cup Semi-Final B	Wimbledon Ruts 37 v 45 Guildfordians
Plate Semi Final A	Richmond/Battersea/Wasps 5 v 50 Cobham/Dorking
Plate Semi Final B	Sutton & Epsom 22 v 17 Harlequins Amateurs/Teddington/London Irish

Match Day 3 - 26th November @ Esher RFC

Cup Final	Old Reigatians 5 v 33 Guildfordians
Shield Final	Farnham 10 v 64 Wimbledon Ruts
Plate Final	Cobham/Dorking 5 v 49 Sutton & Epsom
Bowl Final	Richmond/Battersea/Wasps 44 v 45 Harlequins Amateurs/Teddington/London Irish

the game

Under 16 Girls Tournament



Richmond/Battersea/Wasps v Harlequins Ams/Teddington/London Irish



Sutton & Epsom



the rules

Touchline Behaviour

Touchline behaviour is a term used to describe the conduct of spectators, coaches, managers, and support staff during a rugby match. It can involve both verbal and physical actions. Touchline behaviour can have a significant impact on the game, both in terms of the outcome and the atmosphere of the match.

Think before you speak!

If a coach, team manager, spectator or player is standing on the sidelines berating the referee, making personal attacks on players or officials, and even commenting loudly on decisions, what impact does this have on the rugby field?

RED CARDS FOR OFF-FIELD MISCONDUCT

To address the issue of off-field misconduct, rugby governing bodies have introduced Red Card Sanctions for inappropriate touchline behaviour. This means that coaches, managers, or spectators who engage in verbal abuse, physical intimidation or other disruptive actions can be ejected and face further disciplinary action.



PROMOTING POSITIVE TOUCHLINE BEHAVIOUR

1. **Educate and Empower:** Teach coaches, managers, and spectators about the importance of positive touchline behaviour and the impact it has on the game. Encourage them to focus on supporting their teams constructively and avoiding negativity.
2. **Model Positive Behaviour:** Coaches and managers should set an example by maintaining a positive and respectful demeanour on the sidelines. Their actions will influence the behaviour of their players and spectators.
3. **Call Out Inappropriate Behaviour:** If you witness someone engaging in inappropriate touchline behaviour, don't hesitate to speak up. Politely but firmly remind them of the importance of maintaining a positive atmosphere.
4. **Support the Referees:** Respect the decisions of the referees and refrain from criticizing or questioning their authority. They play a crucial role in maintaining order and ensuring a fair game.
5. **Remember, rugby is a sport that values respect, sportsmanship, teamwork, enjoyment and discipline.** By promoting positive touchline behaviour we can create a more enjoyable and respectful environment for everyone involved.

Caroline Pitts - Surrey Rugby Junior Discipline



the support

Your CB out and about

As well as visiting clubs to present Honda volunteer awards to those who couldn't make it to the Awards Evening, (see pages 40-41) we've been getting around the county to as many clubs as possible.



Joanna, RFU Rep Paula Carter and Jo Fisher supporting the U28 Girls vs Middlesex



Surrey President David Doonan with Met Police Chair Simon Messinger



At a delicious pre-game lunch at Sutton & Epsom with Chair Pumba and President John



Tyrone Lawless hosting Surrey Sponsor Sporting Class at Quins



Hon Sec Sue Gardener even managed to meet up with Kew Occasionals in Dubai recently!



Joanna Gordon enjoyed meeting Old Worth Boys Chair Desmond Calnan at their game vs Met Police



Our new President David Doonan had an amazing day at London Irish Amateurs, helping celebrate their 125 year anniversary. Congratulations!



the support

Your CB out and about



Tyrone and David at the Under 15 Surrey Cup Finals at Esher



Paula presenting trophies at the Surrey Colts Cup Final at London Irish Amateurs



Surrey Chair John Pownall presenting trophies at the Under 15 Surrey Cup Finals



Surrey Rugby ex Presidents' Christmas Lunch, with Surrey volunteers also attending



Tyrone presenting Haslemere with their club award



Rep Rugby Chair Gavin Bolton, Joanna, Paula and a mini Bolton cheered on Surrey U16 Boys win against Hampshire



RFU Rep John Crate and John Pownall enjoying the Dorking vs Esher game



Wimbledon President and ex Chair Jim Green and John Woods with Dave Doonan Surrey President

the game

Visually Impaired Rugby

Last Spring SERFC hosted monthly training sessions for the Harlequins Visually Impaired Rugby team. The sessions went down so well that SERFC were asked (and willingly agreed) to host the England Visually Impaired Rugby team training sessions ahead of the first ever World International Tournament, which took place in France whilst the men's World Cup was in progress.

Visually Impaired (VI) rugby was developed in 2016 using coaching guidelines formulated by its ambassadors Andy Robinson OBE and Ian McKinley, as part of an initiative by The Change Foundation to create an innovative and inspirational new sport – but drawing on rugby's commitment to social inclusion and personal wellbeing, as well as its values of teamwork and fair play.



The sport was launched in 2017 in New Zealand, with a three-match test series between the Blind All Blacks and the Blind Lions. The game was further developed in Japan two years later, during the Rugby World Cup in 2019, with The Change Foundation setting up the Japanese Blind Rugby Union and ultimately arranging the Blind Blossoms face off against the VI Roses.

The sport itself is a form of seven-a-side touch rugby with uncontested scrums and lineouts. Each team is allowed six tackles – with the final tackle resulting in possession going to the opposition. Bells and ball bearings are inserted into a standard rugby ball to allow players to hear it when it is moving, while specially designed contrasting playing shirts enable them to see it when in close proximity. The aim is to make each game as close to a sighted rugby match as possible.



A donation of £50,000 from the Wasps Legends Charitable Foundation was a major contribution to the start of the sport, which is now played in France, New Zealand, Japan, Wales, Italy, Ireland and England.

As well as providing a competitive sport for its participants, VI rugby has social objectives, including increased integration into communities for its players, and pride in their sporting achievements, leading to greater self-confidence in their wider lives. It also leads to a more inclusive environment within those clubs that take part, which currently include Harlequins, Exeter, Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, Ospreys, Old Wesley/Leinster, Toulon, Benetton and Zebre.



In October, The Change Foundation hosted the VI World International Tournament, and saw teams from England, Ireland, Wales and France battle it out in front of rugby-loving fans at Toulon's home stadium, Stade Delaune. The Change Foundation ensured this was placed between the group stages and first Quarter Finals of the Rugby World Cup and in doing so ensured good media coverage and support from prominent former international players. And England won!

the game

Visually Impaired Rugby



After celebrating the victory Captain Jack praised his players and congratulated Ireland's Ian McKinley, a star of the tournament, on a fierce contest. He said: "Among the strengths we have as a team is the connections which we have built. We have a settled side now and are really close as a group."

Ireland had a number of women players in their squad and this is an area TCF want to develop further. However, currently only around 10% of the players, coaches and officials are female and the charity's Events and Challenges Manager, and Ex-Sutton & Epsom player Elle Rowley is leading the drive to get more women and girls involved. "I have had so much enjoyment from playing club rugby and the friendships developed last a lifetime and I want all visually impaired players - male and female - to experience the buzz of competing in high quality rugby and perhaps even representing their country," she said.

Watching the finals was former Wasps, England and British & Irish Lions legend Simon Shaw, who commented "It's excellent to see how the game has moved on and how the skills of the players have developed over the years. It's fast and extremely skillful. It is great that Wasps Legends played such an important role in the creation of this sport."

The Change Foundation's aims for the future in this sport include encouraging increased female participation, upskilling and qualifying coaches, and continued international development by hosting their first Six Nations tournament in 2024.



SERFC player member, Will Taborn, who started at the club at mini-level graduating to Colts, County, Senior rugby, and following a short stint away from the club remained a member, is the link between the club, The Change Foundation (TCF) and VI Rugby. Will is the Chair of Ambassadors for The Change Foundation and following a conversation around the need for a VI training base, introduced the club to TCF.



TCF's Director of Business Operation Alex Bassan was instrumental in creating the rules and coaching guidelines for the sport and has trained the 300 coaches and officials who now support the 700 players from around the world. Alex said: "Our aim is to double the number of players each year and hold an annual Six Nations competition with a World Cup every four years. The next countries in our sights are Fiji, Georgia, the USA and Australia, who host the 2025 British and Irish Lions and the 2027 Rugby World Cup. We would like to thank New World Tech, Wasps Legends Charitable Foundation, Best 4 Systems and friends and families of the players who have supported through this journey. Also, a special thank you to Will Taborn for introducing us to S&ERFC and being the tournament's physio in France and an extra thank you to S&ERFC for being the home

of the England VI Rugby Team. We were proud to carry the S&E club logo on our kit during the Tournament."

SERFC is proud to support TCF's efforts to grow VI Rugby and we look forward to continuing the great start to our Partnership. We are hosting a Visually Impaired Rugby taster session at the club on 20 January. If anyone wants to find out more about The Change Foundation, click here: [The Change Foundation - Changing the lives of young people through the power of sport](#)

Kind regards and thanks again.

Dennis Hegarty - SERFC

game development

Youth Update & Meet the Team



JOOLS GORINGE
Chair Youth Rugby



PENDY PATEL
Vice-Chair Youth Rugby & U16s



SARAH HALL
Under 13 Lead



KRIS ATKINSON
Under 14 & Under 15 Lead



FABS MAFFI
Youth Referee & Regulation
Coordinator

As we reach the Christmas period we can look back on what has been a very busy first half of the season for youth rugby across Surrey.

Jools Goringe, Pandy Patel and their youth competitions teams have worked extremely hard in delivering a fantastic set of playing opportunities for all age groups which has culminated in a series of Finals and Festivals attracting over 3000 players.

We have held two values festivals for each age group under 12-14 which have seen over 200 teams participate in various forms of playing offers from 10 aside to full teams and a mixture of streamed and non-streamed offerings.

The under 15s, 16s and 18s started the season off with the TREDs 10s which saw 60 plus teams participate in the non-streamed event. Over 400 matches were held across the hosting venues of Chobham, Esher, London Irish, Cranleighans and Old Whits.

In October we launched the Surrey Cup for Boys under 15, 16 and Colts and this year's format saw teams seeded into levels of 8-10 and then split into groups of 4-5 teams.

Each team played 4 matches to qualify for Finals Day where the top of each group played each other to be crowned champions of the Surrey Cup.

Teams who finished second to fifth of each group played against the team finishing in the same position of the other group in seeding finals at the same venues. Trophies were handed out to the cup winners of Oak, Beech, Birch, Maple and Cedar groups. The finals were held over the weekends of 3rd and 10th December across Old Reigatians, Esher, London Irish and Haslemere.

A full list of results for all finals and tables of the pools can be found on the Surrey website.



County Champions per age group are:

Colts: Dorking
Under 16s: Warlingham
Under 15s: Warlingham

January will see the launch of the Quins Cup for under 15s/16s and Colts and the draws will be out before the new year. The main finals will again be held at the Twickenham Stoop, with all other finals spread across Farnham, London Irish, Esher and Camberley. The structures will follow the same concepts as the pre-Christmas Surrey Cup



game development

Youth Update & Meet the Team

The Girls started off the season with various festivals being held across the county at Guildfordians, Old Reigatians, Cobham and Wimbledon.

The Under 12s and Under 14s attended a successful values festival at Wimbledon whilst the under 16s and under 18s started their Surrey Cup qualifying campaign.

The main Surrey girls competitions will launch in January, culminating in April at the Cobham Finals Day.



MINI RUGBY UPDATE

The festivals have been happening across the county being held at lots of clubs and will continue to do so throughout the season.

The Surrey festivals are in April and will be held at:

Sutton & Epsom: Under 7s

Haslemere: Under 8s

Wimbledon: Under 9s

Rosslyn Park: Under 10s

Old Reigatian: Under 11s

Ryan Reino has been kept busy answering club queries and signing off festivals and player consent forms. All the approved festivals can be found on the Surrey Website. The structures will follow the same concepts as the pre Christmas Surrey Cup.

The under 12/13 and 14s Waterfall Cup launches in January with finals days planned in for April at various venues across Camberley, London Irish and Haslemere (venues are subject to change)

the game

Surrey U18 Boys

Surrey teams are doing us proud with the Under 18 Boys also beginning with in style with two wins! A full report on all three matches will be in the next edition, but photos have been uploaded to our galleries. [LINK TO GALLERY](#)



the people



Meet your Surrey Team



IAN MCGRAW

Ian gave up playing many years ago due to a lack of ability and took up refereeing which he enjoyed for over 15 years with the London Society. During that time he was an active member of the South West region including working with the RFU delivering the ELRA courses with Bob Ockenden for 10 years. Ian was the founder of the Surrey Referees Group which received an RFU President's Award.

A former Chairman of Sutton and Epsom RFC and now their Disciplinary Secretary and Co-Club Safeguarding Officer, Ian has also been an accredited RFU member of the county Disciplinary Panel for over 10 years.

He is delighted to be returning to the role of Chair of Game Development at Surrey Rugby and working with some old friends and supporting President Dave Doonan, who has pockets as long as a wizard's sleeve.



EDDIE MATTHEWS

Eddie began his rugby journey playing minis, and has risen through the age groups to now play for Esher RFC Colts.

When he was an Under 16 Eddie took up the whistle, and began to referee when not playing.

Since then he has joined the London Society of referees, and is also appointed by Surrey and Harlequins DPP. You may spot him on a pitch near you, covering the backfield at fullback or checking studs as a referee.

Eddie is delighted to be taking on the role of Surrey Youth Ambassador with Surrey Rugby. This involves seeking views and communicating with Surrey Youth Players, Referees, Coaches and First Aiders.



JOHN SIMMONDS

Surrey Rugby is delighted to announce that John Simmonds has been appointed Coach Development Lead for all boys and girls age group representative rugby. Amongst others, John's roles will include:

Providing high-quality coaching support to strengthen the performance of age group coaches throughout Surrey Rugby representative teams.

Developing a culture across age group coaches that encourages the sharing and spread of best practice between different age groups. To include the sharing of different perspectives on coaching, the challenging of beliefs and to make development as accessible as possible; all with the aim of providing excellent coaching, every time, for every player in the age groups.

Ensuring clear messaging across (1) Surrey Rugby culture and (2) key principles of attack and defence that constitute the DNA of Surrey Rugby.

John is currently part of the senior men's coaching team at Esher Rugby but has over the past 10 years coached Surrey boys representative teams across all age groups (U13 - U20) as well as coaching Harlequins DPP and been a part of London and South East Regional player assessment team. He is a level 3 coach, coach mentor as well as the Rugby Development Officer at Esher Rugby.

John will report to the Chair of Game Development and the Chair of Age Grade Representative Rugby.



the club

Weybridge Vandals RFC

Surrey 'Island' Club

Weybridge Vandals RFC is uniquely located on picturesque Desborough island the largest island on the Thames. Before the land was acquired by its visionary founders in 1935 it used to be a zoo and players in these formative years got changed in converted animal houses and bathed in converted animal baths. It should also be noted that the Ground Fund set up to purchase the land received a very generous gift of £100 from the Surrey County Rugby Union - a considerable sum in those days.

Today Weybridge Vandals is very much a multi-sports club, with thriving cricket and netball sections complementing the rugby club and making it a 12 months of the year sporting location. Following a very long playing career for the Vandals and a successful career as a retail CEO Kevin Keaney took on the role of club President in August 2020. Kevin is very driven to helping the Vandals reach their potential on and off the pitch and he has taken a career sabbatical to help make this happen.

The first challenge that Kevin and the Vandals leadership team faced was ensuring that the club came through the extremely challenging pandemic lockdown period. With the majority of club income coming from bar turnover that was no longer available, the leadership team were facing a potentially massive hole in the club accounts. The club set up a crowdfunding campaign that ran from the middle of November 2020 to the middle of January 2021. The crowdfunding campaign was a huge success and more than 350 members of the Vandals family donated over £90k including a very generous donation from the widow of one of the club's past Presidents, Eric Davies. This money and a successful bid for the RFU COVID grant scheme meant that club came through the pandemic in a relatively healthy financial position, but Keaney also believes that the positive impact on club spirit that the crowdfunding campaign unlocked has been equally important to the club's success on and off the pitch since the end of the pandemic. "What really stood out in our crowdfunding campaign was just how much The Vandals means to so many people. We received numerous donations and messages of support from Vandals alumni across the globe and donations from Vandals around the world who may never visit the club again but felt compelled to donate. A new club battle cry was formed in "Once a Vandal, always a Vandal".

Coming out of lockdown the Vandals leadership team developed a clear strategy for the club as it heads towards its centenary in 2032. Our vision is....To be recognised as the best run and friendliest community multi sports club in Surrey.





the club

Weybridge Vandals

OUR STRATEGY

To turn this vision into reality is based on four distinct strategic pillars ;

- Player participation strategy
- Player development and wellbeing strategy
- Facilities improvement strategy
- Fundraising strategy

Each of these pillars has its own plan and has helped the club and each section in it focus their efforts on delivering the mission. Keaney says that “crucial to making this happen is the dedication and hard work of our small army of club volunteers and a clear fundraising plan that increases sponsorship, ensures we apply for all the grants that are available to us and run enjoyable set piece fund raising events”.



Anyone visiting The Vandals today will see a very different looking club than the one that went into lockdown. Here is a list of facilities improvements that have been made;

- A new patio and marquee looking out on the 1st XV pitch which allows the club to comfortably sit 130 patrons for match day lunches and has provided the club with an asset that brings in much needed event hire income.
- Two porta cabins which had previously been used for storage have now been converted into a gym and medical center.
- A lovely club memorial garden was created by volunteers for families or friends to plant a tree or a rose bush in memory of Vandals who have passed on. The club’s first supporters lunch of each season is now the Club Memorial Lunch and a toast takes place at the memorial garden before kick off.
- A new electronic scoreboard was funded by a sponsor and named after legendary long time touch judge Wildboy Malloy who passed away at the beginning of the pandemic.
- New purple, green and black mobile pitch surround which allows the club to transform to a cricket club in the summer.
- New club shop and a new online shop.
- Two new flagpoles, one of which always flies the club flag. The other recently erected pole flies the giant England flag RWC and was presented to the club by past 1st XV Captain Andy Cosslett when he stood down as Chair of the RFU.
- New state of the art permanent cricket practice nets.



Many of these facility improvements have been made possible by volunteer working parties.





the club

Weybridge Vandals

The leadership team's next big project is to significantly improve the female facilities across the club starting with the toilets. Like a lot of rugby clubs that developed their clubhouses in the last century, the female toilet and changing facilities are no longer fit for purpose particularly for a club with a fast growing Valkyries girls rugby section and a thriving netball section. The club has already been successful in winning grant pledges from the Elmbridge CIL for £35k and the RFU for £5k towards what will be a £100k investment in completely new ladies toilets and the conversion of the existing ladies toilets into a new disabled toilet and a baby changing room.

On the pitch the club's ambition is to reach the highest level they can within the rugby pyramid without ever paying players. Keaney is very clear on this, "As a club we are really passionate about the development and welfare of our players and we are investing heavily in top level coaches, physio, gym facilities, kit and equipment but we will never pay players as we don't believe this is sustainable at regional and counties level".

The club has a new Head Coach this season, Gareth Hatherley Hurwood, who is a Level 4 Coach and mentor who has previously coached in many different levels of the professional game. Gareth succeeds DOR Damian Porter who did a fantastic job leading the senior players through and out of lockdown. As well as taking responsibility for coaching the Vandals senior squad Gareth also has responsibility for the development of all our Junior and Mini Coaches. One role that he created during lockdown which has been really successful is the appointment of a Colts/2nd Team Coach. This role has enabled a really clear pathway for Colts to be able to make that step, from Junior rugby to Adult rugby.

The club recognizes that its unique island location has sometimes made it Surrey's best kept secret and in recent years it has worked really hard on raising its profile within the local community. A good example of this is the recent RWC where the club set up "Surrey's Best RWC Fan-Zone" for the duration of the tournament, with a giant screen set up in the marquee with good value quality food and drink available to patrons. The club ended up being a home away from home for the fast expanding South African community, which in turn has resulted in a numbers of new players across age groups.



Keaney is a big believer in the power of positive momentum and during lockdown he started writing a club update that goes out to a database of over 1,200 at least once a month. What was clear coming out of lockdown is that the Vandals family really appreciated this regular update on everything that is going on at the club and everything that is coming up in the weeks ahead so he has continued with this very personal monthly update.

Keaney is also a big believer in sharing best practice and ideas with other clubs, "One of the benefits of being Club President is the opportunity to visit and meet other clubs and to see and hear about the great work that they are doing. Running a sports club has many challenges especially in a very tough economic environment so the more that we can help each other the better. A good example of this is on the 16th December we have 230 people coming to our club Christmas lunch, thanks to the cooperation of our friends at Old Cranleighians RFC we have agreed a 1pm kick off that day which means that all our players can now also attend the lunch".

If you would like to hear more about the Weybridge Vandals story then please feel free to contact Kevin at kevin.keaney@ntlworld.com.

the game

Inner Warrior



Rugby is about so much more than just sport. The social aspects are so important that you make friends for life through the game and it provides a great support network.

To encourage more women and girls into rugby the RFU have set up Inner Warrior Camps which are a great option for so many reasons: anyone who's after a different way to get fit, or wanting a new challenge, or who simply want to meet new people. Maybe you used play but have hung up your boots, Warrior camps are the perfect way to ease yourself back in. It's all very relaxed, with

the emphasis on having fun with your team-mates.

Across the country over 200 clubs signed up to host a Warrior Camp in October and 150 clubs in January. There are range of camps running, some just for girls (11+), some for girls and women and some for women. These are the clubs who signed up to run camps in Surrey and the target audience for those camps.

CLUB	PROPOSED DATE	TARGET
Sutton & Epsom	16th January 2024	Women (18 and above)
Metropolitan Police RFC	17th January 2024	Women (18 and above)
Chobham RFC	7th January 2024	Girls (Age 11-17)
Streatham-Croydon RFC	17th January 2024	Girls (Age 11-17)

Want to be involved?

Camps will be running again next year. If your club might be interested in hosting a camp get in touch.

USEFUL LINKS & CONTACTS

Headline page about the campaign:
• www.englandrugby.com/innerwarrior

Digital Assets to promote your event:
• www.englandrugby.com/resources

Contact us at innerwarrior@rfu.com with any questions

the people

Surrey Honorary VPs

Congratulations to deserving new Honorary Vice-Presidents for Surrey Rugby who were ratified during this year's AGM. They are Tim Bale and Wendy Taylor - Esher and Miriam Brown from London Irish Amateurs. We still have to present a few so keep a look out in the next edition.

Surrey Vice-Chair Tyrone Lawless also took the opportunity to present Surrey ties to several people awarded the honour during Covid who never got their tie/scarf/pin - those were Ron Howard, Gerry Sheridan and Nigel Scott - from Esher.



Tim Bale



Miriam Brown



Wendy Warren



Ron Howard



Gerry Sheridan



Nigel Scott

the game

Under 16 Boys Tournament

Surrey Under 16s just completed the first half of the competitive season with Finals Day being held at Old Reigatians RFC.


What a great day it was and we would like to thank our hosts for delivering a fantastic rugby experience.

Warlingham A defended their trophy for the fourth year in a row and were given an almighty scare by Guildford.

Richmond pipped Camberley in the Bronze final.

We now move on to Quins Cup, starting in January.

2023/24 Surrey Cup- U16s Rankings

Tier 1 - Oak	Tier 2 - Beech	Tier 3 - Birch	Tier 4 - Maple	Surrey Cup - U16s Ranking
(County ranking 1 - 8)	(County ranking 9 - 16)	(County ranking 17 - 23)	(County ranking 24-29)	ACTUAL
Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	1 Warlingham A
Warlingham A 19 v Guildford 10	Warlingham B 12 v Teddington 20	Old Reigatian 46 v Weybridge Vandals 19	Sutton & Epsom B 12 v Whitgiftian 17	2 Guildford
Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	3 Richmond A
Camberley 15 v Richmond A 29	Old Cranleigh 17 v Rosslyn Park 25	Cobham 48 v Guildfordians 24	Cranleigh 34 v Richmond B 0	4 Camberley
5 / 6	5 / 6	5 / 6	5 / 6	5 Reeds Weybridge
Reeds Weybridge 29 v Farnham 24	Effingham & Leatherhead 28 v Sutton & Epsom A 7	Barnes 45 v Old Rutlishians 0	Chipstead A (WIN) v Streamtham & Croydon A	6 Farnham
7 / 8	7 / 8	7 / 8		7 OWW
OWW 27 v London Irish 17	Chobham 19 (win) v London Welsh 19	Dorking v BYE		8 London Irish
				9 Warlingham B
				10 Teddington
				11 Rosslyn Park
				12 Old Cranleigh
				13 Effingham & Leatherhead
				14 Sutton & Epsom A
				15 Chobham
				16 London Welsh
				17 Old Reigatian
				18 Weybridge Vandals
				19 Cobham
				20 Guildfordians
				21 Barnes
				22 Old Rutlishians
				23 Dorking
				24 Whitgiftian
				25 Cranleigh
				26 Richmond B
				27 Chipstead
				28 Streamtham & Croydon



Warlingham



Chobham

the game

Colts Boys Tournament


Many thanks to London Irish Amateur RFC for hosting the Surrey Colts Cup Finals.

A great day of rugby, despite the rain! Well done to everyone who competed, and the organisers from Surrey Rugby Youth Team, who did a superb job.

Great to see clubs working together to keep kids playing at Colts level. The Quins Cup, with the main final held at The Twickenham Stoop, will run as usual - after Christmas.

More photos available on the website via [GALLERIES](#)

2023/24 Surrey Cup - Colts at London Irish on 10 December 2023

Tier 1 - Oak <i>(County ranking 1 - 8)</i>	Tier 2 - Beech <i>(County ranking 9 - 16)</i>	Tier 3 - Birch <i>(County ranking 17 - 23)</i>	Tier 4 - Maple <i>(County ranking 24-27)</i>
Gold Dorking 33 v Rosslyn Park 25	Gold Haslemere 19 v Reeds 22	Gold Esher 17 v Elmbridge BaaBaas 41	Gold VG BaaBaas 47 v Battersea B 15
Bronze Farnham 26 v Teddington 30	Bronze Richmond 0 v Camberley 10	Bronze Old Cranleighans 12 v London Welsh 5	Bronze Chips/Reigate 17 v Teddington B 19
5/6 Old Reigatians 6 v Guildford 34	5/6 Warlingham 5 v Sutton & Epsom 7	5/6 Barnes 32 v Rosslyn Park B 12	 SURREY RUGBY
7/8 London Irish A v Old Ruts A	7/8 Battersea Ironsides 14 v Chobham 33	Invitational Wimbledon 41 v Shoreham 26	

Surrey Cup - Colts Rankings 2023
ACTUAL
1 Dorking
2 Rosslyn Park
3 Teddington
4 Farnham
5 Guildford
6 Old Reigatians
7 London Irish
8 Old Ruts
9 Reeds
10 Haslemere
11 Camberley
12 Richmond
13 Sutton & Epsom
14 Warlingham
15 Chobham
16 Battersea
17 Elmbridge Baa Baas
18 Esher
19 Old Cranleighans
20 London Welsh
21 Barnes
22 Rosslyn Park B
23 Wimbledon
24 VG BaaBaas
25 Battersea B
26 Teddington B
27 Chips/Reigate Baa Baas



ELMBRIDGE BAA BAAS
(Cobham and Effingham & Leatherhead)



DORKING



VANDALS GUILDFORDIAN BAA BAAS



ROSSLYN PARK



the people

Volunteer Rewards

As usual we like to reward the volunteers and supporters of Surrey Rugby. We haven't had as many opportunities as usual due to the World Cup being in France, but still managed some nice days out.

Look out for more deserving Honda nominated volunteers getting recognition for their hard work and dedication to the game in the next issues.

If you were nominated, you might be someone we call!



Nigel Heslop receiving the RFU President's Award at Twickenham - a very deserving recipient



Terry Long, Nigel Heslop, John Crate & Sue Carter enjoying pre-hospitality at Twickenham



Keith Heal, Surrey Volunteer Reward & Recognition in the CB Bar pre game



Old Reigatian U16 Girls Coaches enjoying the Honda hospitality before England v Scotland



Comps volunteers and sponsors at the Prem Cup



the people

Honda Volunteer Event

Our top two finalists for the Honda Volunteer of the Year Award this year were both groups; Old Emanuel RFC's Justin Latta, Mel Reilly & Matthew Hearsam and Old Reigatian RFC's David McGuigan, Iain Woodhams, Fhamid Malik, Mike Smith & Jason Perfitt. Both groups were invited to a behind-the-scenes tour of Twickenham, and a fabulous black-tie reception dinner. David and Mike represented Old Reigatians. Congratulations to them all! Thanks to [Leo Wilkinson Photography](#) for the pics.



Justin, Mel & Matthew



David and Mike



the game

Under 22 Men Tournament

The Surrey Rugby Under 22 Men Tournament returns this Christmas and Easter.

The competition was created over 15 years ago to fill the gap between Colts and Senior rugby and provide a playing offer at the key times university players are back.

This year we have 36 teams spread across 3 formats of 12. Each will be split into 4 pools of 3 playing pool games over Christmas with semi-finals and finals over Easter.

Last year's winners Sutton & Epsom will be looking to defend the trophy.

The ethos of this tournament is to provide competitive matches and allow clubs to recruit, retain and transition players from Youth into the Senior game. Many clubs have said they find this to be a key in keeping players engaged and retained in their teams.

John Douglas Competition	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
1	Richmond	Sutton & Epsom	Esher	Guildford
2	Barnes	OWW	Cobham	Old Reigatian
3	Reeds Weybridge	Wimbledon	Old Ruts	Dorking
Details	3 way at Chiswick on 21/12/23 3 x 40 minute games. 7pm, 8pm, 9pm	21/12/23: 7.30 Wimb v OWW 29/12/23: 7.30 Wimb v S&E 31/12/24: 7.30, S&E v OWW	3 way at Esher on 22/12/23 3 x 40 minute games. 7pm, 8pm, 9pm	19/12/23: 7pm Guildford v Dorking 24/12/23: OR v Dorking 29/12/23: 2pm Guildford v OR

Smith- Shenton Competition	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
1	Battersea	Camberley	Chipstead	Farnham
2	London Irish	Chobham	Old Hamptonians	Cranleigh
3	Twickenham	London Welsh	Trinity	Haslemere
Details	R1: TBC R2: TBC R3: TBC	22/12/23: 19:30, Camberley v Chobham R2: TBC R3: TBC	22/12/23: Chipstead v Trinity TBC:OH v Chipstead TBC: Trinity v OH	21/12/23: 7.30, Haslemere v Cranleigh 28/12/23 2pm, Farnham v Haslemere 5/1/23: 7.30 : Cranleigh v Farnham

Surrey Under 22 Development Cup	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
1	KCS/ Old Blues	Old Georgians	Worlingham	Roslyn Park
2	Cranleighans & Paulines	Cats & Walcountians	Effingham	Teddington
3	Old Johnians/ Tiffs	Old Emanuel	Reigate	London Scottish
Details	R1: 1 v 2 R2: 2 v 3 R3: 3 v 1	R1: 1 v 2 R2: 2 v 3 R3: 3 v 1	R1: 1 v 2 R2: 2 v 3 R3: 3 v 1	R1: 1 v 2 R2: 2 v 3 R3: 3 v 1
All Matches to be played on finals day				

Finals Day to be played on Easter Monday 1st April 2024

1st in Groups to Cup, 2nd to Shield, 3rd to Bowl.



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Organisers Phil Smith, Tyrone Lawless & Anthony Shelton

sponsor spotlight

SportingClass

Sportingclass are leaders in delivering sporting events and hospitality experiences for a wide range of international clients with a focus on personal service and integrity.

SPORTINGCLASS
www.sportingclass.com



ABOUT US

Sportingclass are a specialist sports consultancy delivering and activating highly successful brand sponsorship within the sporting arena. We create and deliver successful sporting events and hospitality experiences for our clients and are proud to be valued for our personal service, experience, integrity and connections. Established in 2002, Sportingclass is an exceptionally well-respected and trusted sports events, hospitality and consultancy company.

We have an extensive network of sports personalities which we can draw upon to enrich any of our events or hospitality, access to the most sought-after golf venues around the world and exclusive admission to certain sports events that ensures our entertainment is always far surpassing any expectations.

CORPORATE CONSULTANCY

Sportingclass are retained by a number of high profile companies to advise and deliver the best methods for brand interaction, develop new business relationships, entertain clients and optimise platforms for sales meetings and conferences.

EVENTS & HOSPITALITY

We do more than simply book hospitality, deliver a golf day or present a sales event. We ensure we understand end objectives and desired outcomes and work with clients to deliver an event or concept that will achieve a positive result. The perfect venue, the ideal speakers, the appropriate hospitality – we know how to engage people. We have had years of experience within sports and we have an immense net work of venues and celebrity personalities we can draw upon.

CUSTOMER ENTERTAINMENT

The Concept

To engage with clients and their families outside of working hours and develop an entertaining experience that becomes an annual, desired event to attend.

Sportingclass designed the Father and Sons Rugby Training Day, held at the Twickenham Stoop, for Dimension Data as an exclusive way to entertain their clients. Clients are invited to train and be coached by some top legendary names such as Lawrence Dallaglio, Jason Leonard and Andy Gomarsall. They are able to bring their son, daughter, nephew or niece to also take part in this totally memorable and unique experience.

The Result

We have established a regular event that is highly anticipated by clients of Dimension Data. It has become such an unmissable calendar event for many clients that they even enquire early when the event will take place, so they can ensure they are free to attend.

If you would like to discuss ideas or request more information on certain events please contact a member of the Sportingclass team on 020 3929 6376

Want to be involved?

If you're interested in sponsoring Surrey Rugby and supporting game development, competition offerings or a Representative Team we have a combination of Sponsorship Packages to support all sizes of businesses. Find out more on our website [SPONSORSHIP](#) or get in touch with Tyrone Lawless, Sponsorship Manager, via gamedevelopment@surreyrugby.co.uk.

the offers

Surrey Rugby Partners

We have been working with various companies to bring interesting deals to our membership. We hope you'll find something of interest and save a bit of money, or potentially earn some income for your club. If you know of any other relevant companies that might like to work with us, please put them in touch with Joanna at comms@surreyrugby.co.uk



Ruggarobe - the perfect sports coats for both participants and spectators on the sidelines. 10% discount to a Surrey Rugby Club member. Click to find out more.

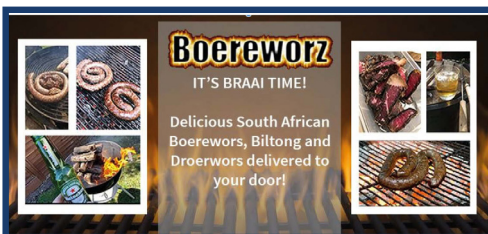
My Club - offering very competitive pricing for your club kit. Already supplying several clubs in Surrey. 10% of all sales supports grassroots rugby in the county. Click to find out more.

MY • CLUB



The KitBox - click to find out more about discount off beautiful handpainted rugby keepsakes in your club or county colours - and earn commission for your club.

BillyTong - buy award-winning biltong at reduced prices and other great deals. Click here to check out the special deals available to Surrey Rugby members.



Braaifellas - click to find out more about having your south African favourites catered or deliver for your special occasion

GazeboGazebo - Get a discount off rentals when you mention you're a Surrey Rugby member. Clicking here to find out more



the sponsors

Thank you!



Surrey Rugby is not for profit and exists to support 30,000 players , 5,300 coaches 2,300 referees, countless volunteers and parents of Youth - all of whom contribute to making our community rugby what it is.

That's over 70,000 members across our affiliated clubs!

We are very grateful for the fantastic support of our current sponsors - without whom we could not help our clubs to Prosper and Thrive.

the connections

Have your say

Hopefully you've enjoyed this edition of Surrey Spotlight. We'd love to hear from you! Have you got a story you'd like to share about your club, your players, your volunteers, or details about upcoming festivals or courses you're running? The deadline for copy for the next issue is end of March, but the sooner the better!

Have something instant you'd like us to share on social media? Please tag us at @surreyrugby so we're sure to see it.

Get in touch

Contact Surrey Spotlight Editor Joanna Gordon via comms@surreyrugby.org or on 077202-44555

Stay in touch

Make sure you keep up-to-date with what's happening in rugby within Surrey, find out first about any courses running and any festivals taking place - by following us on social media!

FOLLOW US:



Photos

Many of the photos in the newsletter are taken by our photographer John Kilby. John is happy to send you hi res digital versions of any of his photos - free of charge! Get in touch via [PHOTOGRAPHER](#).

Lots of the Women and Girls photos are taken by Gail Fogarty Photography. You can view all images taken, and buy the high resolution photos very reasonably, via the Events section of her client gallery at www.gailfogarty.co.uk. The password is Surrey RFU.