

Surrey Spotlight #8

Apr 25

HELPING OUR CLUBS TO PROSPER
AND THRIVE



IN THIS EDITION

Women's U23 Competition
Adult Male Competition
Camberley RFC
Updates from Surrey Rugby
League Winners
Discipline Update
...and much more!

Front Cover Photo:
CHOBHAM GIRLS BY LAUREN HUGHES

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the intro

Chat from the Chair

It's been a whirlwind eight months since the start of the season and the AGM where I was appointed Chair after five years as Vice Chair. In that time we have seen the completion of both men's and women's leagues for 12 and 10 team structures. It's certainly been a challenging time for the Adult Male game with increasing walkovers across the merit leagues and squad sizes increasing from an average of 37 to 51 players being used per team.

We hosted an all clubs meeting at KCS and another online where we went through the season highlights, strategic plan and financial strategy, which saw over 40 clubs attend. The RFU SGM had a high turn out from Surrey clubs which voted against motion 1 and for motion 2.

We held the RFU lower XV consultation and vote to allow reserve teams into the RFU leagues. A 90% turn out saw a majority of 80% of clubs vote against this motion.



Joanna Gordon, Ty Lawless, Graham Shaw & Sarah Hall at Surrey Schools Final

We have seen plenty of activity across Coach Development, Referee Development, and Wellbeing courses with over 800 people attending the various sessions. We used innovation funding from the RFU to run courses and focus on developing coaching and referee quality and numbers across the CB. We continued to invest in YMOs which saw over 50 attend take up the whistle and introduction to Referee courses.

Strong numbers were nominated for the Honda awards and Surrey rewarded nominees with games at Twickenham, Stoop and other local venues. The committee have been out and about visiting clubs on match days, training nights and festivals, chatting to club officers, coaches and players around local issues and priorities, as well as attending lunches and presenting various awards to club members.

Minis & Juniors continue to go from strength to strength with plenty of activity throughout the season culminating in waterfall, Values & TREDs finals. We saw over 3,000 age grade players play across the finals weekends in March. The Stoop finals will see the top two sides in each age group battle it out to be County champions. This season has seen the county align more closely with the schools, overseeing their activity and 7s festivals and we will continue to develop and expand this next season alongside launching T1 touch rugby at clubs and schools.

REP RUGBY

We've had a busy season with the representative age grade teams with over 200 age grade players taking part in the various teams programs. Twelve matches have been played against other CBs and Surrey have put in strong displays with good representation in the divisional pathways.

We are looking forward to an action packed May with our representative Women's, Men's, Under 20 Men, Under 17 Boys and Vets teams in action. Keep an eye on the Surrey website calendar and social media posts for key dates and venues of the matches as well as an update on coaching teams.

A big thank you to all those involved in Surrey Rugby. Without you we wouldn't be able to deliver what we do for our grassroots game to help our clubs prosper & thrive.

Yours in rugby

Tyrone



the club

Camberley RFC



History Made and a Home Win for the Women on Super Saturday 18th January

History was made on 18th January as Camberley Women played their first ever Saturday home fixture, marking a significant milestone for the team. This occasion was made even more special as it was their first double header alongside the Senior Men, drawing an enthusiastic crowd of home supporters who added to the electric atmosphere. A huge step forward for visibility and growth for the Women's & Girls' section.

Camberley delivered an outstanding performance in their emphatic 27-0 victory over Andover Ladies. From the opening whistle Camberley's dominance was undeniable. An historic and joyous day for the Women backed by fantastic support from the home crowd and our U14 Girls as ball team.

Vic Willson - Camberley Women's Lead





the cover

Front Cover Fame

We ran the front cover competition again for this newsletter. Lots of great entries, here's our pick of the best. Keep them coming in! Congratulations to Lauren Hughes for her amazing shot of Chobham Girls which took top place this time.

(1) U15 Boys Festival - John Kilby (2) Boys Festival at Esher - Vic Young (3) Surrey U16 Girls - Rupert Brown (4) Woking RFC vs Guildfordians RFC - Justin Cliffe (5) Dorking 2s vs Havant - Vic Young (6) Surrey U16 Girls - Joanna Gordon (7) Old Reigatian RFC Colts after the Quins Cup - Thomas Judd





the laws

Discipline Update

Respect and Responsibility: Statement on Recent Disciplinary Ruling

Surrey Rugby takes this opportunity to reaffirm its unwavering commitment to upholding the core values of our sport - Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship - following a recent disciplinary case involving unacceptable sideline behaviour.

A parent associated with Rosslyn Park FC's age-grade rugby section has been sanctioned with an 18-week touchline ban after being found guilty of using abusive and discriminatory language during an Under-12's girls rugby fixture against Cobham RFC.

The incident, which took place earlier this season, involved the individual shouting a highly offensive remarks at a young player. The comment was considered to be in clear breach of RFU Regulation 19 and the Code of Rugby, which prohibits behaviour that brings the game into disrepute, including any form of abuse, discrimination, or intimidation.

The disciplinary panel considered statements from witnesses, club officials, and the individual in question before arriving at a guilty verdict. The 18-week ban reflects the seriousness with which Surrey Rugby - and the wider RFU structure - treats abusive and discriminatory behaviour, especially in youth sport.

We wish to make it unequivocally clear: there is no place in rugby for abuse of any kind, particularly when directed at children. Rugby is a game for all, and it is our collective responsibility - whether players, coaches, officials, or spectators - to foster a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment at every level of the game.

We commend both Rosslyn Park FC and Cobham RFC for their cooperation throughout the disciplinary process and for their continued work in promoting positive behaviour and inclusion within the game.

Surrey Rugby encourages anyone who witnesses inappropriate behaviour at matches to report it immediately to club officials or to the relevant safeguarding or disciplinary representatives. Only through collective accountability can we continue to build a game that is welcoming and safe for all participants, regardless of age, gender or background.

Let this case serve not only as a disciplinary milestone but also as a strong reminder: words have impact, and we all have a role to play in protecting the spirit and values of rugby.

Sarah Hall
Discipline Secretary
Surrey Rugby



the awards

Honda Awards

The Honda Volunteer of the Year Awards 2025 nominations have now closed and the committee has made its top five selections, which have gone to the RFU. The RFU will now decide their top choice. All the top choices from each county will be invited to a black tie dinner at Twickenham. All Surrey nominees will be invited to the Surrey Volunteer Awards Evening, to be held at Haslemere on Wednesday 18th June.

At that evening all nominees who can attend will be presented with a framed certificate and a gift from Honda. Our top choices will get an additional gift from Honda and then the finalist/s chosen by the RFU will be announced.

Your CB committee has continued visiting clubs to present well deserved awards from last season to those who couldn't make it to our Awards evening.



Aart Dane - Law Society - receiving his award from Law Society Chair James Fitzsimmons



Unsung Heros from Egham Hollowegians receiving their awards from David Doonan



Bruno Plastow, Surrey Treasurer, presenting to Rowan Nash of Dorking



Joe Topley - Raynes Park - receiving his certificate from Joanna Gordon



Jacob Woods - Woking - receiving his award from Woking RFC Chair Andy Jones



Woking Head Coach Mark Rose



Communications Update

WEBSITE

Annually : 45k active users, 526k event count
Info on competition rugby, Surrey rep rugby teams, courses, funding, festivals and much more!



INSTAGRAM

Followers: From 2,403 in Jan 23 to 4,194 followers today - most followed CB in the country
Last 30 days stats: 84,683 views - 19,541 accounts reached - 1,719 interactions - all on 27 posts



FACEBOOK

Followers: 2,637 in Jan 23 to 3,083 today, 64% men 36% women
Last 30 days stats: 38,862 views - 566 reactions - 1,806 photo views - 104 link clicks



TWITTER

Followers: 3,000
We post everything to this platform too as historically had a great reach, but saw a decline in use prior to them charging for analytics so have not purchased the package

NEWSLETTER

Sent out quarterly via socials and directly to Golden Roles
Tell us your stories
Front cover photo competition

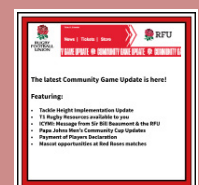
WHAT WE CAN HELP WITH

Advertising any roles you're trying to fill
Advertising any holiday camps you're running



FOLLOW US TO GET QUICK COMMS ON:

Referee & Coaching courses
Promotions to Surrey Rugby members
Rep Rugby information
RFU communications





international

South Africa v Argentina



The Rugby Championship is coming to London this Autumn, with Rugby World Cup winners and defending champions South Africa taking on Argentina in a big southern hemisphere clash at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham.

The fixture - which will be played on Saturday, 4 October (Kick-Off 2pm) - will see Felipe Contepomi's Los Pumas lock horns with the Springboks, in only the second Rugby Championship match ever to be played outside of the four core territories.

With Argentina taking the scalps of South Africa, Australia and New Zealand in last year's Rugby Championship, rugby fans can look forward to a fully-charged, highly competitive contest between two world-leading sides.

And with the match falling on the final weekend of the Rugby Championship, everything could be on the line to decide who will be crowned champions.

With many of the world's leading players - including Siya Kolisi, Cheslin Kolbe, current World Rugby Player of the Year Pieter-Steph du Toit, Eben Etzebeth, Julián Montoya, Pablo Matera and Santiago Carreras - set to grace the Twickenham turf, this is expected to be a white-hot ticket for rugby fans eager to see rugby at its finest.

Watch world class international rugby in action. Tickets are selling fast - Don't Miss Out. Buy Now! Visit www.ticketmaster.co.uk



rep rugby

What's Happening

[CONTACT SURREY U20](#)

[CONTACT SURREY WOMEN](#)

[CONTACT SURREY MEN](#)

As the league season comes to a close, Rep Rugby for the Men and Women will be getting underway. Coaches and Management of our teams have invited the best players from Surrey clubs to take part in this year's county programme. Our goals are clear - to develop players to their highest potential, foster a strong team culture and, ultimately, win.

The programme will include:

- High-level coaching from an experienced and professional team
- Game analysis to refine player performance and understanding
- Post-training food & support to aid recovery and team bonding
- Two focused training sessions to introduce our game plan and assess players in a structured environment
- Trial match with qualified referees, team coaches and Surrey selectors ensuring a fair and professional selection process
- Comprehensive feedback for all players, including key development areas for those not selected

All dates are on the website.

Other Rep Rugby Dates for the Diary

Surrey U17 Boys - 11th May vs Hertfordshire, 18th May vs Middlesex and 25th of May vs Hampshire.

Surrey U20 Men - 26th April vs Essex at Eton Manor RFC, 10th May vs Middlesex, 24th May Divisional Final, 7th June SW Semi Final and 21st June the Final

Surrey Men -17th May vs Sussex at Esher RFC, 24th May vs Berkshire at Esher RFC, 31st May vs Dorset & Wilts away. The final is on 21st June at Twickenham.

Surrey Women - 18th May vs Warwickshire at Broadstreet RFC, 25th May vs Buckinghamshire, 1st June vs Kent with the Gill Burns Final on 21st June at Twickenham.

the people

Surrey U20 Men



Another U20 season kicks off on 27th April away against Essex, and for this coaching team this will be our final year at U20s before we all move to the Surrey U17s.

Our season so far had been mostly training weekends with one warm-up match against Hampshire, but unfortunately no one weekend with the whole squad due to competing factors for the players time across University, club, family and study commitments. Yet again the coaches have remained focused, dedicated and committed to giving the players the best preparation for their forthcoming Championship matches, where we hope Divisional selectors will place many Surrey player names on their selection sheets.

I would like to thank all those involved in Surrey U20s - across players, (past and present) coaches, physios, admin and management. Across nearly 7 years we have had our share of success (winning one championship) and disappointment (not winning more championship titles), but we have all loved doing what we do and it really has been, and is, a team effort.

Good luck to this years U20s. Meet the U20 Men's Management, Coaching and Medical Team for this season. To find out more about the team, click [U20 MEN](#).

SURREY U20 MEN - MEET THE TEAM



Andy Drummond
Manager



Chris Doughty
Head Coach



Gary Stewart
Coach



Dave Saunders
Coach



Anna Blacopescu
Medical



what we do

Our Strategic Priorities

1. RUGBY DEVELOPMENT

Continue to support the adult male game recovery focusing on transition from Colts into Seniors ensuring the playing offer reflects local needs, while retaining players and providing playing opportunities for Vets and non traditional offerings such as Tag/ Touch and Walking Rugby.

2. REFEREES

Recruit, retain and further develop Referees working alongside the Referees' Society, with particular focus on Young Match Officials.

3. COACHING

Recruit, retain and further develop club Coaches and ensure our CPD offering is varied and flexible, while providing mentors to support their development.

4. W&G RUGBY PARTICIPATION & GROWTH

Support the growth and development of the Women's and Girls' game on and off the pitch in the lead up to the home World Cup.

5. REPRESENTATIVE PATHWAYS

- A. Ensure our representative pathway and framework provide a high quality coaching and playing experience for all qualifying players within the county
- B. Form strong cohesive links with the Academy and divisional pathway partners to ensure multiple entry and exit points for players to be given full opportunity to reach their potential and be kept in the game

6. GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

Support our clubs off the pitch with communication, guidance, advice and sharing best practice on: Governance, Financial Management & Performance, Regulations, Discipline, Safeguarding, Audits, Risk Assessments and being Rugby Safe compliant.

7. CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Help our clubs to prosper and thrive with support, advice and sharing best practice on club facilities, grounds, purchasing equipment, club sustainability, supporting volunteer and membership engagement, while growing club leaders.





what we do

Our Strategic Priorities

8. AGE GRADE & EDUCATION

- A. Provide rugby activity, competitions and regulation guidance for Minis & Junior Boys and Girls ensuring our offering reflects the playing philosophy and Age Grade Codes of Practice
- B. Work alongside our educational partners to ensure the playing offer is proportionate to players' needs and steer the clubs and schools to be aligned to the Age Grade Calendar requirements
- C. Improve clubs/schools/academies relationships by increasing liaison opportunities

9. DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE

Ensure that rugby union in Surrey reflects the whole community.
Ensure our values, philosophy, ethos and culture are reflected in everything we do as a CB and support clubs to deliver this.

- A. Support clubs to be more welcoming, diverse and inclusive
- B. Support clubs to be more reflective of their local community
- C. Develop a Diversity and Inclusion Charter in partnership with our clubs and stakeholders
- D. Promote the game's values, ethos and playing philosophy of the RFU and constantly promote the code of conduct charter & Nolan principles across our CB stakeholders

10. CB LEADERSHIP & SUCCESSION PLANNING

- A. Lead the Constituency Body in a way that delivers for today and enhances the future and support clubs to be sustainable for the future
- B. Support and further develop our committee members with career professional development opportunities
- C. Ensure we have a transparent and fair recruiting process to recruit, retain and develop a committee and volunteer group that reflect the localised Community throughout the CB

[FIND OUT MORE/
CONTACT INFO](#)

the game

U23 Women

Sunday 13th April saw the relaunch of the Women's U23 Festival, hosted at Camberley RFC. It was an amazing day of rugby with special thanks to Vic and the team at Camberley for providing the facilities for a great day. We had over 50 players from at least 10 clubs; Camberley, Old Reigatian, Farnham, Guildford, Wimbledon, Guildfordians, Cranleigh, Chobham, Cobham, London Irish, and even Shawna travelling 4 hours from Ivybridge RFC in Devon as a visiting player!! This is a great success for the restart of this competition. Congratulations to Old Reigatian RFC on winning the Shield.

Some reflections on the objectives for the day:

For everyone involved to have fun

- This was definitely achieved and great to see the players connect so well within their own teams and across the different clubs
- The fact that all teams had little to no training together but played some outstanding rugby is a testament to the players and coaches involved
- The Barbarians team was made up of players from 7 clubs but blended and adapted quickly and, for an outsider watching, it seemed like a one team attitude
- It was great to connect with players that were first coached with Surrey U13, now playing Women's Rugby at such a high level

To introduce U18 players into the women's game and demystify the 'gap'

- Safe to say all the U18s acquitted themselves really well and looked at home against players 4-5 years older
- Some good comments afterwards from parents, who thought it really helped their daughters' confidence and some casual observers who said it was some of the best Women's club rugby they've seen

To welcome back University players or those that may have drifted away and give them a good experience and connection back to Surrey clubs

- A great mixture of players from universities all over the country, where they have clearly been honing their skills and loving Uni life!
- A major success was hearing how it's made clubs really focus on improving their connections with past players and getting a good data set for future events
- Hopefully this can lead to some transition for players finishing Uni back into Surrey clubs at the right playing level for them



the game

U23 Women

To encourage players to aspire and sign up to play for Surrey Women

- We want the best possible side available and the coaches can only select those that sign up. There were many players at the competition who are more than capable of giving the training a go and letting the coaches see their talent for either this season or the future

To set up an U23 Women's competition that can grow

- The consensus was to progress with a twice a year event - the proposal for 2025/26 would be that the Christmas event is a social/fun event and the Easter event has the Shield for the winner
- In future years, with enough interest, we can evolve this to have Christmas be the qualifying/group stages and Easter be the finals day but for now let's drive the engagement
- Hosting - it has been agreed that Christmas 2025 will be hosted by Farnham RFC and Easter 2026 will be hosted by Old Reigatian RFC. We can then decide the next 2 clubs to host in 2026/27
- Surrey CB will continue to commit to provide referees on the day and medical cover, while clubs will provide pitches, food, physio/first aid etc

Our target should be to get to a good 15 a side 4 team competition and then grow to 6 teams. We know that with enough planning and engagement there's the possibility of getting players from other Surrey clubs.

Thanks again to everyone involved in making this a successful competition, one we can grow to be best in class across future seasons.

Graham Shaw



club development



Club Strategy & Future Planning

We have recently welcomed a new volunteer into the Club Development team, Danny Leeds. Danny specialises in club strategy and future planning and is looking forward to helping out clubs in Surrey. Please get in touch with him.

Why Strategic Planning is Crucial for Rugby Clubs

Rugby clubs are the heartbeat of communities, fostering camaraderie, player development, and a love for the game. However, without a clear strategy, clubs risk stagnation, financial instability and volunteer burnout. Strategic planning isn't just for professional organisations—it's essential for grassroots and community clubs to thrive in an ever-changing landscape.

Why Future Planning Matters

The RFU's "Enriching Lives" report shows that community rugby contributes £2.03 billion in social value, with £707 million attributed to improved physical and mental health. With clubs playing such a vital role, long-term planning is key to sustainability, growth and maximising impact.

Key Benefits of Strategic Planning

- Financial Stability – Diversifying income streams (sponsorships, fundraising, grants) ensures financial health
- Player Retention & Growth – Developing clear junior-to-senior pathways keeps players engaged
- Volunteer & Leadership Succession – Planning ahead prevents leadership gaps and maintains continuity
- Community Engagement – Strong partnerships with schools and businesses increase participation

How Clubs Can Future-Proof Themselves

- Define a clear vision – Where does your club want to be in 5, 10, 20 years?
- Develop a succession plan – Identify and mentor future club leaders and volunteers
- Secure sustainable revenue – Explore diverse funding opportunities and investment
- Regularly review & adapt – A good plan evolves with the club's needs

Clubs that think long-term, invest in leadership and build strong community ties will be the ones that don't just survive but thrive. The game is evolving—is your club ready for the future?

About Danny



Danny has been actively involved in community rugby for several years and currently serves as Director of Rugby at Haslemere Community Rugby Club. With first-hand experience of the challenges and opportunities facing grassroots rugby, he is passionate about helping clubs build strong foundations for the future. His focus has always been on creating an environment where clubs can thrive both competitively and as community hubs.

Beyond rugby, Danny is the founder of StrategiQ Advisory Group, a consultancy specialising in strategic planning, organisational effectiveness, and governance advisory. With a deep understanding of strategic planning and execution, board governance, leadership and operational strategy, Danny has worked with businesses and community organisations to design and implement frameworks that drive long-term success.

Danny is passionate about using his experiences to help clubs develop clear, practical strategies for the future. Whether it's improving governance, strengthening club structures, or planning for sustainable growth, his approach is rooted in pragmatism, collaboration, and a genuine passion for community rugby.

[CONTACT DANNY](#)



the rewards

Volunteer Rewards

We are delighted to be able to offer rewards to a limited number of volunteers throughout the season. We do this by picking nominees off our Honda Nominations list, both for clubs and for county. Everyone below went to the internationals held at Twickenham this Autumn and enjoyed pre-match hospitality either with our RFU Rep in the Spirit of Rugby or in the Honda hospitality tent.



Miriam Geraghty & Patrick O'Hara - Old Georgians



Maureen Ahad & Rob Agnew - Old Rutlishians



David Luxon & Mark Lushan - Sutton & Epsom



Andy Dickin & Andy Pennicard - Surrey Rep Rugby Coaches



Nick Darke & Rod Jermy - Surrey Rep Rugby Coaches



RFU Reps John Crate (L) & Paula Carter (R) hosted Value the Volunteer winner Keith Heal & his wife

the people

Surrey Men



The Men's Surrey team enters an exciting new chapter, with a fresh-look coaching team and playing squad proudly representing clubs from across the county. This year, we're focused on playing expansive, expressive rugby, giving players the freedom to play and showcase their individual strengths within a team-first approach.

If you've ever had aspirations of playing representative rugby, it's not too late to get involved. Training began Wednesday 23rd April and we welcome players ready to embrace this exciting style of play.

We're looking forward to our upcoming matches against Sussex, Berkshire and Dorset & Wilts and to building something special together, on and off the pitch.

Get involved. Represent your county. Be part of something new.

Meet the management, coaching and medical team for this season. Go to our website to find out more about them: [SURREY MEN](#)

SURREY MEN - MEET THE TEAM



Jorge Gonzales
Manager



Robbie Kennard
Head Coach



Chris Nicholas
Coach



Joseph Touma
Coach



Anna Giacobazzi
Medic



Dean Tooby
Medic



rep rugby

Surrey U16 Girls

As we wrap up another fantastic Surrey rugby season, we want to take a moment to celebrate the journey we've all been on together.

It's been a year full of hard work, commitment and real development. From the first training sessions to our match days, players have shown brilliant progress in their core skills, game understanding and overall rugby mindset. The energy, enthusiasm and dedication from everyone involved - players, coaches and families - have made this a truly memorable season.

We've seen great teamwork, leadership and resilience from across the squad and it's been inspiring to watch players push themselves while supporting each other on and off the field. The improvement from the start of the season to now has been clear to see and everyone should be proud of the effort they've put in.

A massive thank you to all the families, clubs and volunteers who've supported the programme this year - your encouragement and commitment play a huge role in everything we do.

We hope everyone enjoys a well-earned break and comes back refreshed and ready for what's next. Keep working hard, enjoy your rugby and we look forward to seeing many of you back next season!

Hannah Thompson - Lead Coach #TeamSurrey



what we do

Updates from Us

We recently held club meetings to discuss Surrey Rugby and the recent RFU SGM vote. At that meeting we presented updates from each of our departments and would now like to share them with you:

1. Lower XVs - working group to assess alternative options either for vote in 3 yrs or any interim alternative - Ty/ROC
2. Leagues - ongoing comp review of teams in leagues and alternative formats - request to have greater player representation so potentially a further working group? - Ty
3. Walkovers - request to review sanctions and reimbursement for walkovers - Ty
4. Create separate stakeholder surveys for players - coaches- managers- committee members- safeguarding - Youth Chairs on localised issues and priorities before the end of the season through survey monkey - Ty
5. Further in person engagement meetings - request to have regular engagement sessions with Surrey CB and RFU councillors - proposal to have 3-4 a season - Ty/Graham to discuss and schedule
6. Some clubs requested the Terms of Reference of the governance review in progress - Paula - [CLICK HERE](#) to view
7. Ongoing RFU/club/player engagement in governance review and other matters - Paula/John

Game Development

COURSES	ATTENDEES
Under 14-18 Skill Development	192
English Rugby Referee	60
England Rugby Coaching Award	113
First Contact	252
Tag Rugby	79
Primary Schools	62
Play It Safe	73
Principles of Scrummaging	73
Principles of Lineout	44
Secondary Schools	79
Take Up The Whistle	152
Young Match Official	62
Coaching Conference	25
Surrey Senior CPD Modules	112
Surrey Youth CPD Modules	160
First Aid	74
	1,612

the game

U22 Competition

The 20th edition of the Surrey Under 22 competition concluded on Easter Monday with 18 teams and over 400 players taking part. The format was devised 20 years ago to allow transition from youth to senior rugby, recruiting new players locally and from Friendship groups, and retaining players who are away at university or can't play on Saturdays.

Many of the clubs use this as a pathway through to 1st team rugby whilst other clubs see it as an opportunity to recruit lower XV players who want a more social offering.

London Society provided 12 referees across both venues with 24 matches completed under a shortened Game On format. This year the competition was held at two venues - Cobham and Esher - and produced a spectacular day of rugby. Founders of the Shenton-Smith competition - Anthony Shenton and Phil Smith - were on hand to present trophies, alongside Middlesex Chair Bob Lawless and Cobham President Lionel Frewin .



The John Douglas Cup as presented to winners Barnes RFC by Anthony Shenton



The Smith-Shenton Cup was presented to winners Twickenham RFC by Bob Lawless



John Douglas Shield presented to Sutton & Epsom RFC by Lionel Frewin



The Smith-Shenton Bowl was presented to winners London Welsh RFC by Bob Lawless



John Douglas Bowl winners Old Wimbledonians RFC



John Douglas Shield presented to winners Old Reigatian RFC by Phil Smith



rep rugby

Surrey U18 Girls

With A Level examinations just around the corner, the focus on the U18 Girls programme is centred more on game preparation and fixtures, with a programme of 4 training sessions and 3 games over a short period. Following a trial session in late October, the 34 selected players assembled in early and late November in preparation for the first fixture against Kent on 1st December.

Coached by Hope Dear, Andy Pennicaerd and Andy Dickin (with a guest appearance from U16 Head Coach Hannah Thompson), the squad quickly got to grips with the style and patterns of play, based on the senior County Women's side, ensuring that the best possible foundations are laid for the future of the club and county game in Surrey. The players showed great enthusiasm and teamwork from the beginning, working hard to adapt to the game plan and quickly building a great team spirit.



On a very rainy and muddy day, the first game against Kent, hosted by Old Reigatian RFC, was dominated by the Surrey girls, ending with a comfortable victory of 21-14 over a spirited and determined Kent side. Their performance was impressive, showcasing the skillset and playing patterns despite the challenging weather conditions. Sadly, the January fixture vs Sussex was cancelled due to the frozen ground, which was disappointing for the team who had been looking forward to continuing their momentum.





rep rugby

Surrey U18 Girls

The final fixture vs Hampshire was played in rare February sunshine at Cobham RFC, with Surrey running out eventual 15-5 winners in a tight contest. The game was highly competitive, with strong defence to the fore, both teams demonstrating great attacking skills and ball retention. Surrey's victory was hard-earned, reflecting their dedication and hard work throughout the training sessions and matches.

From the U17 portion of the age group, three of the Surrey girls have been selected for the forthcoming SE Regional PDG trials - good luck to all involved! This is a testament to their talent and potential and the coaching team wish them all the best. Additionally, huge congratulations to U18 cohort of Lily Woodhams, Estella Vaughan and Philipa Sutherland on their selection for Scotland U18 Girls - good luck in the 6N tournament!

As we come to the end of the 24/25 season, plans and preparations are well under way for the upcoming 25/26 U18s programme, building on the continued growth of the Girls' and Women's game in Surrey.

Andy Dickin - Head Coach



what we do

Our Finances

<u>MONEY IN</u>	<u>£289,500</u>	
RFU	£110,000	38.0%
Sponsorship	£80,000	27.6%
Competition Entries	£58,000	20.0%
Patrons/Int Tickets	£15,000	5.2%
Discipline/Governance	£14,000	4.8%
Schools Activity	£8,700	3.0%
Dividends/Interest	£2,500	0.9%
Awards Night	£1,300	0.5%

<u>HOW WE SPEND IT</u>	<u>£305,000</u>	
Rep Rugby	£66,000	21.7%
Admin/Office	£63,000	20.7%
Competitions	£46,000	15.1%
Sponsor Costs	£40,000	13.1%
Club Development	£24,000	7.9%
Game Development	£18,000	5.9%
Rugby United	£15,000	4.9%
Volunteers	£12,000	3.9%
Wellbeing	£6,000	2.0%
Governance	£5,000	1.6%
Schools	£5,000	1.6%
Marketing	£5,000	1.6%

what we do

Adult Male Competitions

CONTEXT

Second Lower 15 vote took place this year. CB call held to discuss voting procedures. Open and honest discussion from clubs about challenges surrounding Lower 15 entering leagues. 90% of Surrey clubs voted. 82% of those who voted, voted against.

Since the millenium - 22 Surrey clubs no longer functioning. 100 fewer senior men's teams playing every Saturday.

BIGGEST CHALLENGES

- Declining adult male game
- Frequency of when players want to play
- Increase in walkovers and merit leagues
- Late cancellations affecting both club's ability to find friendlies and bar takings
- Disgruntled players not getting to play rugby
- Fallout of players from Colts to Senior Rugby
- Fewer first team players converting to Vets
- Raging Bull Shield - is it fit for purpose?
- Player registration burden on volunteers

OPPORTUNITIES

- Revamp merit leagues for next season
- Review clubs' individual completion rate before entering in leagues
- Sanctions against clubs for late call-offs
- Cross CB competition flexibility
- Proactive fixture exchange to aid finding matches
- Working with clubs to accept Game On principles
- Triangular fixtures and cluster group opportunities
- Localised CB knockout cups
- Player registration to help us capture accurate data

the champions

League Winners

National 1: Richmond won the league and return to the championship after 3 years. They also take the Surrey Barrel as the winner of the accumulative results between Surrey sides. Rosslyn Park secure a top 5 finish. Esher are in the bottom two with the last round to go and need to win their last game with a bonus point and hope that Leicester Lions slip up.

National 2: Both Dorking and Barnes finished in the top three again and had two very close encounters with Dorking winning both games to take the Surrey Skull.

Regional 1: Wimbledon and Camberley finish in the top five with Camberley winning the double header encounter and taking the Surrey Cup.

Regional 2: No Surrey teams relegated this year across the three regional leagues. Farnham secure promotion to Regional 1 as champions. Guildford survive on the last day with a 5 point win. Strong shows from Surrey sides, Battersea Tiffins, Teddington Reigatians, Reeds, Chobham and London Irish.

Counties 1: Twickenham promotion on the final day from Old Ruts. Haileyburians relegated after one season in Counties 1

Counties 2: Old Cats & Old Wimbledonians win promotion to Counties 1. Kingston relegated.

Counties 3: Worth Old Boys crowned champions with Old Hamptonians gaining promotion

Counties 4: Haslemere and Old Glynionians promoted to Counties 3. London French and Old Pauline's relegated

Counties 5: Staines and Woking promoted to Counties 4. Strong showing from Guildfordians

Surrey RFU's Women's League Summary

Championship South 1: Richmond 2nd , London Irish 4th

Women's Championship South East 2: Streatham-Croydon 2nd, Guildford 4th (1 game left)

Women's NC2 South East (South) : Dorking - Winners

NC 2 South East (Central) : Bec Belles winners , Battersea 2s 2nd, Richmond 2s 3rd

NC3 South East (East): Old Ruts winners, Streatham-Croydon 2s 2nd

NC3 South East (North): Staines Winners , Barnes Women 4th

NC3 South East (West): Camberley 2nd (*1 game to go), Cranfordians 3rd

Surrey Reserve Leagues

Raging Bull: Richmond 2

London Premiership: CS stags

Championship: Farnham 2

Alliance: Bec Old Boys 2

Conference: Wimbledonian 2

Combination 1: Trinity 2

Combination 2: Old Emanuel 2

Foundation: Haslemere 2

Game on: Cranleigh 2

Vets 1: London Irish

Vets 2: Sutton & Epsom 2

Vets 3: Fish & Chips

The league playoffs, CB knockout cups and Papa John Cups launched in April and will run till the end of the season.

the champions

League Winners

Congratulations to all those teams from the Surrey Rugby Leagues who were champions this year!

The 2025-2026 leagues will be revealed by 18th May with the fixtures to be published by 8th June.



the people

Surrey Women



Another exciting Surrey Women's campaign is underway and we've hit the ground running following a fantastic response to our open call for talent. Since the conclusion of last season, when the Women's Surrey team featured strongly in the County Finals, the coaching team has been busy reviewing over 75 new players - an incredible reflection of the depth and enthusiasm for women's rugby across the region.

Over the past three weeks, we've been training hard, focusing on identifying new talent, trialling player combinations and introducing the squad to the refreshed team structures we'll use in this year's competition. The energy, effort and commitment from the players have been outstanding and we're building real momentum ahead of the campaign.

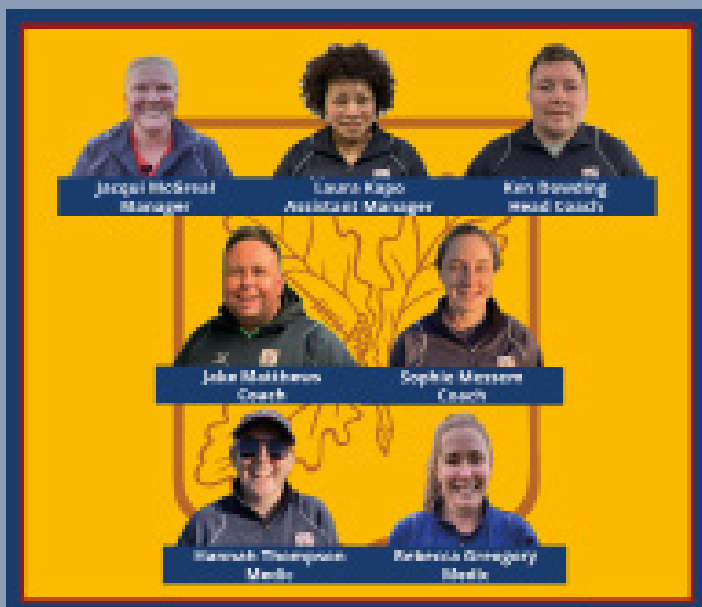
As a coaching team, we're especially proud to see all of our Surrey women's clubs represented in the wider squad, with multiple players from each club contributing to a strong, diverse and dynamic playing group. This mix of talent and backgrounds brings a real edge and vibrancy to the programme and it's a credit to the work being done across the county to develop the women's game.

Congratulations are also in order for the Richmond coaches and players currently involved with the county side, who are now through to the Championship 1 Final at Twickenham - a fantastic achievement and a testament to the strength of women's rugby in Surrey.

We have one more training session this week, followed by an in-house game to finalise selection for this year's Surrey Women's County Squad. Those selected will go on to represent the county in the upcoming tournament, aiming to reach the final again at Twickenham.

A big thank you to all the players, coaches and support staff who make this programme possible - your passion, hard work and dedication are what drive us forward. We're excited for what lies ahead and can't wait to see this team in action.

Meet the management, coaching and medical team for this season. Go to our website to find out more about them: [SURREY WOMEN](#)



what we do

Volunteer Reward & Recognition

HONDA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

In 2024 56 Surrey clubs nominated at least one volunteer, up from only 18 clubs two years previously. We encourage you to keep a key volunteer every year, and here's why...

Once we get all those nominations in, a committee of Surrey CB members reads through them all, then selects the top 4 or 5 Regional Winners, who are submitted to the RFU/Honda.

The RFU/Honda then whittle that number down to 1 or 2 per county who are the Finalists. They join other Finalists from other counties around the county, and are invited - along with a partner - to an overnight stay at the Marriott Hotel in Twickenham, a lunchtime event, a behind-the-scenes tour of the stadium and a black tie dinner. At the dinner Honda announces the overall winner for the year for each category.

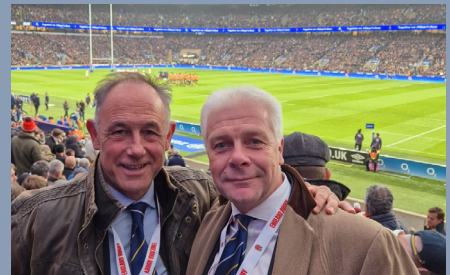
All nominees are recognised at local level with an invitation to a Honda Volunteer Awards Evening, tentatively booked for 18th June this year.

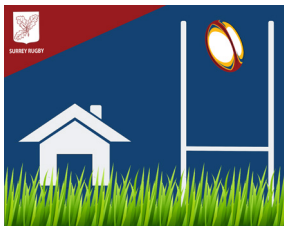
Treats for those nominated...

- We have a budget for Volunteer Recognition which allows us to buy tickets to England matches. We choose volunteers off the Honda list whom we reward
- The RFU asks us for names to award treats such as Watch the England Team Train. Again we pick those names off our list

CLUB VISITS

As a CB we have significantly increased club visits by committee members over the past two seasons by arranging to present Honda Awards at clubs for those unable to attend our Awards Evening. In the 2023-24 season we visited 67 clubs and gave out 108 awards.





what we do

Club Development

Your application should be:

- Developing an initiative associated with one of the Six Pillars of Surrey Rugby
- In line with other RFU objectives at any point in time

Your application should be for:

- Small facility related projects
- Ground maintenance projects
- Environmental projects
- Other projects or initiatives designed to develop the game of rugby within the local community
- Partial funding of a capital project/initiative where funds have also been obtained from other sources

Your club will need to be:

- Affiliated to Surrey County RFU
- Eligible for RFU/Surrey Rugby funding (eg not in contravention of Rule 7 - Payment of players)
- Without assets which could reasonably be used (eg reserves)

We can help you potentially find some other funding. For example a recent grant to Croydon RFC was match-funded by the London Rugby Lodge.

All info is on our website at surreyrugby.co.uk/what-we-do/club-development/grants-loans

RFU FACILITIES NEEDS SURVEY [FILL IN THE SURVEY](#)

To get help from the RFU you SHOULD FIRST complete this survey. If you need help, you will be entitled to:

- Pitches - a free pitch analysis from the RFU
- Engagement with local authority planning process
- Identify additional support outside direct funding

Pillar 1 Retention of 14-23 year old male players in the game
Pillar 2 Grow the Womens and Girls game
Pillar 3 Support our clubs to ensure facilities and grounds are fit for purpose
Pillar 4 Make our game safer and support player well-being
Pillar 5 Make our Game fully inclusive and Diverse whilst supporting volunteer and growing future leaders.
Pillar 6 Improve communications across the cb and share best practice & ideas with clubs to ensure communication is relevant and specific to all stakeholders and members across their clubs

[FIND OUT MORE/
CONTACT INFO](#)



the laws

Regulations Update

Reg 7: Payment of Players [MORE INFO](#)

- 2025 Payment of Players declaration went live on 1st March 2025 and is open until 30th June 2025
- The declaration covers the period of 1st June 2024 – 31st May 2025

Reg 9: Player Safety

- First Aid vouchers available through Surrey - contact [Holly Falconer-Leeds](#)
- Rugby safe club lead WhatsApp group set up with regular comms
- 7 x First Aid courses set up with clubs through the RFU voucher scheme
- Defibrillator promotion sent to clubs
- 52 vouchers still to allocate for the season and we have 6 clubs lined up

Reg 10: Tours/Festivals

- Submit form via website [MORE INFO ON TOURING](#) [MORE INFO ON FESTIVALS](#)
- Ensure sufficient medical provision, insurance and DBS
- Tours: Both Senior and Age Grade, outside England (ie including to Wales, Scotland, Ireland etc) need permission from Surrey Rugby. This also applies to clubs hosting a touring team from outside England.

Reg 15.5: Playing Up/Down [MORE INFO](#)

- 17 year olds playing adult rugby - 2 step approval
- Age grade playing up/down - 1 step approval via Surrey website

Reg 15.8/9: Out of Season Activity and Rugby Camp Approval [MORE INFO](#)

- Form on website – under Age Grade important info & forms

Reg 19: Discipline

- Increase in both Junior and Senior discipline issues
- Increase in Match Official Abuse & Pitch Side behaviour issues
- Lack of understanding of the requirements for club disciplinary procedure
- Club code of conduct and processes to be in place to manage internal complaints
- Contact: [Giles Bedloe](#) (Discipline Chair); [Sarah Hall](#) (Discipline Secretary); [Caroline Pitt](#) (Age Grade Discipline)

Reg 21: Safeguarding

- RFU Safeguarding Audit runs from August to October and completed on GMS
- Contact [Rob Byrne](#)



the reps

RFU Council Bulletin

Dear All

We wanted to trial a Surrey Clubs bulletin, following the recent RFU roadshows, Surrey all club meetings and the Special General Meeting on 27th March where we heard a very strong call for more and better communication with our clubs at all levels. Please let us know if this is of interest to you and what sort of news you might want to hear in future.

The SGM was attended by over 700 clubs, online and in person at HQ and the resolution to unseat Bill Sweeney was defeated by 466 votes to 206 votes. We had a good turnout from Surrey clubs with 42 out of our 65 voting member clubs casting a vote. There was good support for the second motion to expedite the Governance and Representation Review, which was passed by 554 votes to 127 votes. The consultation with clubs and players is expected to start at the end of April and we will let you know as soon as we have the details on how you can take part.

We had a Council meeting on 11 April and heard about the work that is being done to get more rugby being played in schools, with the RFU aiming to recruit over 100 new School Rugby managers to take T1 rugby into school over the next three years. We also heard that a GMS improvement plan is being pulled together and some of you may already be involved in user groups to help prioritise the things that need to be addressed most urgently. A communications review is underway, led by the new Comms Director at the RFU and our own Jo Gordon is in direct contact with Bill Sweeney to let him know how to improve things on this front!

You may have heard that Worcester has been given the 14th place in the new ou may have heard that Worcester has been given the 14th place in the new Championship League, to be launched in season 25/26, alongside the existing 12 clubs and the winner of National 1 this season. Worcester were awarded their place on the condition they pay off all rugby creditors and any outstanding loans to Sport England/DCMS taken out by the previous management of Worcester Warriors during Covid. We heard about the countdown to the Women's RWC and the investment in facilities to support and encourage more women and girls to take up the game. We hope many Surrey clubs will be successful in their applications. We also heard about the plans for the new Nations Cup, which will take place between the Men's RWCs, and in 2026 will generate additional revenue for the RFU as three out of the six finals will be hosted at the Allianz Stadium.



Paula Carter



John Crate



the reps

RFU Council Bulletin

Stephen Pearson, previous Council Member and President of London Scottish was approved by Council as the next Junior Vice President and will become President of the RFU for the 27/28 season. Council also approved the reappointment of Paula Carter as Chair of Governance for her second three year term. Both appointments will go to the AGM for members to vote on 30th June.

Council approved some updates to Regulation 15, Age Grade competitions, which mainly amend the rules around playing up or down an age bracket. These will be published in June ahead of the new season. Any changes to the rest of the regulations will come to the June Council meeting and will be published in August. One change you may already be aware of is that clubs at level 7 will no longer have to fill in a payment of players declaration if they do not pay players (which very few clubs at this level do). All levels above and any level 7 clubs that does pay players will still need to fill in an annual declaration.

We got an update from the Finance Director of the RFU who had good news on the RFU P&L forecast following the 6Nations TV rights deal being agreed with the BBC/ITV. The RFU is on track to make the forecast £6 million profit this financial year and she expects to know what additional income the Nations Cup will bring next year later this summer.

The next Council meeting is on 27th and 28th June followed by the RFU AGM on Monday 30th June.

Your feedback on this bulletin would be very much welcomed!

Paula Carter and John Crate
Surrey Council Members

paulacarter@rfu.com and johncrate@rfu.com



the game

Rugby Safe

EMERGENCY FIRST AID IN RUGBY UNION (EFARU) PLACES

During the 2024-2025 season the RFU are offering a limited number of EFARU free places to support clubs in meeting the Regulation 9 First Aid provision standards.

Each club is being offered a certain amount of free place(s), the only eligibility criteria is that the RFU/CB requests the club continues to have a Club RugbySafe Lead in place and ensures that the annual First Aid Risk Assessment is completed and recorded on GMS.

For more information on Regulation 9 First Aid provision standards visit [RugbySafe](#). DEADLINE for booking is 30/5/2025 For more information or to request a free first aid voucher(s) for your club please contact Tyrone Lawless

RFU AND LONDON HEARTS AED BURSARY SCHEME 2022-23

During the 2024-2025 season the RFU are offering a limited number of bursaries to support clubs in purchasing an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). This is a one off opportunity and we would highly recommend you take up the offer if your club is in a position to do so.

Working with London Hearts the RFU is offering a £250 bursary, this is in addition to the London Hearts subsidy of £300 which is already in place. This means your club can potentially purchase an AED for approx. £300-500 (depending on model/accessories etc.) instead of £900-£1200. London Hearts will also help you source any further local funding if applicable.

If your club could benefit from having an AED, the only eligibility criteria that the RFU/GRFU is requesting is that the club continues to have a Club RugbySafe Lead in place and ensures that the annual first aid risk assessment is completed and recorded on GMS.

London Hearts is an England-wide charity and one of the leading heart charities in the UK for placing defibrillators in communities and delivering CPR and defibrillator training. Working with England Rugby, London Hearts can support clubs, provide guidance on the purchase of defibrillators for rugby clubs who do not currently already have this lifesaving equipment. It also provides support to clubs who already have a defibrillator on site. With every package, London Hearts provides an online CPR and defibrillator training video and ongoing support, including advice on purchasing and maintenance of an AED unit.

For more information visit the London Hearts website: <https://londonhearts.org>

Please email your interest to jo@londonhearts.org or for further information read the complete document by clicking on the button at the top of the website page or contact our [Surrey Rugby Safe Lead](#)



our thanks

Surrey Rugby Sponsors



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. Here is Chair Ty Lawless hosting Surrey Sponsor Enigma at Twickenham.

We are looking for sponsors for our various representative teams: Men, Women, Under 20 Men, Vets, Under 18 Boys and Under 18 Girls. Various sponsorship packages available. Please contact Tyrone Lawless if you would like to discuss a sponsorship deal.



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.

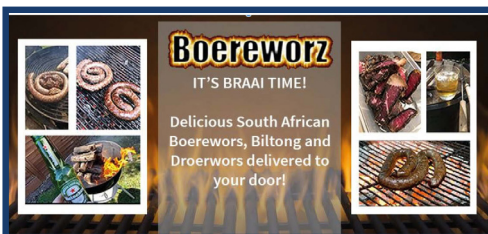
My Club - offering very competitive pricing for your club kit. Already supplying several clubs in Surrey. 10% of all sales supports grassroots rugby in the county. Click to find out more.

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 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?

Have something instant you'd like us to share on social media? Got coaching roles to fill? Email comms@surreyrugby.co.uk or tag us at [@surreyrugby](https://www.instagram.com/surreyrugby) so we're sure to see it. We get an average of 70k views of our social media channels and website each month.

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! We're the most followed county in the country on Instagram!

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](#).

We are grateful to the many volunteer photographers who we grab pitch side and who join our group to share their photos with us. These include Rupert, Simon, Michael, Madeline, Juddie, Joy, Justin, Vic, Grant and Faye.

If you'd like to join and share your pics with us, please get in touch with John. If you have a team playing in a final and are the photographer from your club, also get in touch as we may be able to get you pitchside for the final, depending on the venue. Our photographers have been at both the Stoop and Twickenham.