

Bringing people together  
to enjoy rugby.

## NEWSLETTER

140th Anniversary



President:  
Peter Baveystock

**Edition No 29, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Email: [countyoffice@middlesexrugby.com](mailto:countyoffice@middlesexrugby.com)

### President's Message

**Injured player Foundation** – As Eddie has mentioned in his article, I've selected the IPF as my chosen charity during my term of office and reiterate Eddie's comments on the fantastic job they do. I would urge you all to log onto that link and donate what you can for that great cause to support seriously injured payers. As well as making a direct donation through the portal I've decided to donate my £50 payment for the 2022 County Dinner (which is still sitting in the County accounts) so would ask that those of you who have not asked for refunds consider this.

Well, as with the theme of this newsletter, it's great to be back playing proper rugby and I've enjoyed some excellent pre-season warmups but experienced my first league rugby on Saturday when I visited CS Rugby and saw them play Brighton with Brighton winning well in the end although SC Rugby did make Brighton sweat towards the end of the game.

**Pat Kamara** – It is with great sadness that were heard today of the passing of a Finchley and Middlesex great, Pat Kamara.

Pat started in an exceptionally strong Finchley Colts. He was selected for England U18 but was found to be slightly over age. After playing Soccer for Barnet FC he turned down the offer of a contract, saying he preferred rugby.

After a couple of years in the adult game he was selected for The Middlesex County XV. This resulted in offers from three senior clubs, he settled on Saracens, and playing on the wing was top try scorer for the two seasons he was there.

After a spell at Wasps he returned to Finchley and brought with him many new ideas that transformed the way we played. Pat became a very successful Club Captain and established Finchley's long run in London 1.

When he retired from playing, Pat took up coaching, eventually becoming Head Coach and started the Mini Rugby section at Finchley.

For several years Pat ran the bar and clubhouse with his usual enthusiasm and a broad smile for everyone!

Funeral arrangements will follow but please free to pop along to Finchley this Saturday from 4pm when they will be celebrating Pat's life.

**International tickets** - Application forms have been sent to all those entitled to apply for tickets for the Autumn matches at Twickenham. The tickets will be allocated in accordance with the County's International Tickets Policy - which can be found [here](#).

Applicants should note that the County's ticket allocation has been reduced by 30% and should demand exceed supply a ballot will be held. Application forms should be returned to the County office by 20 September 2021. All tickets are

KEEP UPDATED  
FOLLOW US ON :

 [Middlesexrugby.com](http://Middlesexrugby.com)

 [@MiddlesexRugby](https://www.facebook.com/MiddlesexRugby)

 [@MiddlesexRFU](https://twitter.com/MiddlesexRFU)

 [@MiddlesexRugby](https://www.instagram.com/MiddlesexRugby)

Middlesex Rugby, PK1 Twyford Avenue Sports Ground, Twyford Avenue, Acton, London W3 9QA  
tel: 020 8896 3400 email: [countyoffice@middlesexrugby.com](mailto:countyoffice@middlesexrugby.com) [www.middlesexrugby.com](http://www.middlesexrugby.com)

Middlesex Rugby is the operating name of Middlesex County Rugby Football Union Ltd. Registered in England no. 29174R  
Registered Office: Sproull & Co, 31-33 College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1EJ // VAT NO.223174395

eTickets (use of the Twickenham App is required) and successful applicants will be informed, and tickets distributed once full payment is received.

For queries, please contact either Charles Portsmouth ([charles.portsmouth@middlesexrugby.com](mailto:charles.portsmouth@middlesexrugby.com)) or Mark Coles ([mark.coles@middlesexrugby.com](mailto:mark.coles@middlesexrugby.com)).

Finally, I hope you all have a fantastic 2021/22 season and look forward to visiting you at some stage.

Stay safe

**Peter**

[peter.baveystock@middlesexrugby.com](mailto:peter.baveystock@middlesexrugby.com)

### **Message from Eddie Keal, Chair, Middlesex County RFU**

It's great to be back! There is so much to see and do. We have a full round of Group Meetings over the next two weeks and a County Board on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We all have rugby to watch or play, and training is in full swing everywhere I look.

All of us have all been busy over the Summer, making plans, preparing clubhouses, getting fit. The County Board has been busy too and we're very much looking forward to getting out to visit clubs as often as possible.

It's an easy decision to keep this Newsletter going. It is remarkably popular. And as always, we will use it to link to information on the web wherever we can, to make it easier to read, and a useful reference point. Expect a burst of activity from our social media channels too – having some rugby to focus on makes a big difference to the content!

Our President has chosen the RFU's Injured Players Foundation as this season's County charity, a new but very welcome idea. The IPF does

magnificent work and supports those few players and their families who need help at the worst of times. There will be a few fundraisers during the season to support them. That starts with me.

I will be running the London Marathon on 3<sup>rd</sup> October in support of the Injured Players Foundation. I've been training since lockdown began in March 2020 and have most of the hard yards behind me now. I would truly appreciate your support to help raise some money. You can read my story and find out more about the IPF and its work by following this link.

<https://rfuipf.enthuse.com/pf/eddie-keal-london-marathon-for-rugby-ipf>

It will be my first marathon, and getting to this point has been very, very hard. Please donate if you can.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all again very soon!

Stay safe and well

**Eddie**

### **Update from Lou Latter – Chair of Rugby Development**

Welcome to the 2021-2022 season. I hope that your Pitch Up for Rugby weekends went well and good luck to those running them this coming weekend.

I'll apologise now, there is rather a lot to cover so this may be a rather long piece but all essential information.

We're back but do remember you can get all updated information from the [Club Support Centre](#) and [Helpdesk FAQs](#).

**KEEP UPDATED  
FOLLOW US ON :**

Please do familiarise yourselves with the [Age Grade tackle height law changes](#) that come into effect at the start of the season for ALL age grades.

Middlesex are also participating in the U16-U18 tackle height evaluation, to help explore and better understand the important relationship between the actions of the tackler and the ball carriers. Clubs are asked to provide information from rugby match play injuries via an online portal, where parents and players can provide their consent to participate. Please do encourage our teams and players to participate in this trial. To request access to the CRISP registration portal please contact [rfu-crisp@bath.ac.uk](mailto:rfu-crisp@bath.ac.uk) with club name and age group taking part.

We are also running some First Aid courses. Clubs are entitled to one place at the venue within their Group. If you have more than one volunteer that would benefit, please do let us know and we will add them to a reserve list. Please send the volunteer's name, club, position, email and RFU ID to [loulatter@hotmail.com](mailto:loulatter@hotmail.com) and [andrew-smart@ntlworld.com](mailto:andrew-smart@ntlworld.com). Dates and venues are:

- North West Group clubs – 18<sup>th</sup> September at Harrow
- West Group clubs – 25<sup>th</sup> September at Grasshoppers
- South Group clubs – 26<sup>th</sup> September at Chiswick
- North Group clubs – 16<sup>th</sup> October at Old Grammarians

We are also running two workshops focused on changing perceptions around and marketing the female game. For the zoom details please contact [loulatter@hotmail.com](mailto:loulatter@hotmail.com). This workshop will help club volunteers, teams & players understand the importance of branding their team & players to make the most of new opportunities in the sport.

The [Rugby Leadership Network](#) is back. Please do encourage your future leaders to apply for the London and South East or South and London Networks. There is also a specific Network for W&G leaders. For those that are unsuccessful in the applying for the Area networks, we will also be running a specific Middlesex Rugby Leadership Network this season as well. More information will come out in the coming weeks but if you are interested then please do let me know.

I don't need to remind you everything we've missed out on over the last 18 months, and our annual volunteer awards evening was an event that we had to cancel. Great news though, we are back with a double-celebration for both our 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 volunteers. Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October will see over 250 volunteers join us at the Spirit of Rugby to celebrate their achievements and where we will announce the Middlesex awards winners. Invitations for all those that were nominated for the Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer Recognition Programme will be sent out during this week.

And finally, I am looking for a new volunteer to become the Women and Girls CB Lead. The job description has been shared with W&G contacts and is on the website for reference. For further information on this role or other opportunities within the Rugby Development committee, do let me know as I'm happy to talk through the role with anyone that is interested.

As ever, please do get in contact if you want to discuss anything.

Stay safe

**Louise**

[Louise.latter@middlesexrugby.com](mailto:Louise.latter@middlesexrugby.com)

## Message from Andy Smart, Chair of Competitions

So after just about 18 months rugby is definitely back. On Saturday we saw our first league fixtures at levels 5 and 6 across the county since March 2019 and I am able to report some middling success for our clubs with three wins and three losses. The results perhaps less important than the fact that rugby is back in full both on and off the field. Still for our level 7 and 8 clubs this is their last weekend of preseason before they begin their league campaigns on the 18<sup>th</sup> September whilst for levels 9 and 10, they still have a little time, not beginning until 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Notwithstanding action on the field as with any new season most of what I have to talk about concerns the administration of our game particularly around the management of Covid, covered in RFU regulation 22 and in particular Appendix 1. This details the responsibilities of clubs should covid become a factor in a game going down. [Regulation 22.pdf \(englandrugby.com\)](#)

Part of the reporting conditions if that should happen is the completion of the Covid Declaration Form, [Covid 19 Declaration.pdf \(englandrugby.com\)](#) which has to be signed by four different club officials prior to submission. Once again, I encourage you to make sure you are fully conversant with both Appendix 1 and the Declaration Form. I suspect that Covid will remain a significant factor for us all across this season. Indeed, at the weekend we already had one game gone down at level 6 in the SW Division because of Covid with none of the protocols followed by the affected club. This matter now sits on the desk of David Barnes the head of discipline for the RFU to be dealt with.

One of the big changes this season deals with what happens to clubs who withdraw from the leagues. In any normal season any club that drops of the league at any time in the season is automatically placed at the bottom of the leagues when and if it applies to re-enter. However, in this season the RFU have given special dispensation so that any club that does withdraw provided they complete the Covid Declaration Form, evidencing the impact of covid on their decision will be placed at the bottom of their league rather than removed in the normal way and will be relegated at the end of this season. What happens if you are at levels 5, 6 and 7 where there is no relegation and you do withdraw is a question that still needs to be addressed. So far two clubs across London, Heyward's Heath in L1S and Stevenage Town in L3NW have withdrawn before their seasons have even started and whilst we all hope for the best, they perhaps will not be the only ones. Interestingly neither has taken advantage of the declaration. Both have been withdrawn from the league tables and both will be playing their rugby in their CB merit tables.

All sorts of issues this week with the Electronic Match Cards which no longer recognises players on your clubs registered players list unless they have been assigned to your 1stxv squad. The instructions came out in last week's Community Game Update if you still have it otherwise this is the link to the article and instructions [Community Game Update 31/08/21 - Electronic Match Cards and Team Management | Rise 360 \(articulate.com\)](#)

A couple more things  
Regulation 13.2.6 and 7 deals with promotion and relegation this season which has to be understood in the context of the restructure of the leagues and the introduction of lower xvs at levels 7 and below from the 2022/23 season. Briefly as I have already said at levels 5, 6 and 7 there is no relegation. At 8

and below decisions about how many clubs are relegated will be made at the end of season.

At levels 5 two teams from each league will be promoted

At level 6 that goes up to three

At level 7 three will be promoted from every 12 or 13 team league and four from a 14-team league

At level 8 only the champion club is guaranteed promotion although that might increase at the end of the season

At 9 and below. No-one is guaranteed promotion although that will hopefully change as above

Finally, I am currently conducting a consultation via the league secretaries of the clubs in H/M1 and H/M2 about the introduction of the Game On Principles into their leagues, as per regulation 13 Appendix 2, 6&7. In brief there are six separate elements to the principles and clubs can agree to play one, some or all of them. The consultation is being conducted on the understanding that even if the majority of clubs in the league vote to introduce Game On into their competition, agreeing to play under the principles must be made on a game-by-game basis. If both teams cannot agree the match will proceed without the application of Game On. Where clubs agree to play a match under Game On the result will stand for the purposes of leagues points.

Clubs have been asked to respond by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September. The majority decision will count and clubs not voting will not be included in the result but will have to abide by the decision of the majority.

Still more to cover but that can wait for another day

Any questions on any of this please come back to me otherwise I will be attending all the September Group meetings and happy to take questions then.

## **Update from Jok Dunbar, Chair of Representative Rugby**

**Coaching** – We've gathered the Middlesex section coaches for an informal chat about past, present and future setup of the representational game for the county. We agreed we should be aiming to create an ethos and culture of pride for the Middlesex shirt, win, lose or draw it should be an honour to wear the colours and to play your best at any age group. We need to be fully aware that budgets will be more limited than ever, if at all, and we need to offer more than just smart training facilities and 'stash'. We can become more social and make it an event that players want to attend because of the friendships, level of play and mutual respect for each other.

Due to coaches moving out of the area, change of jobs etc we have lost a few personnel from the various sections, however we still have key people in each age group still keen to coach and a few new faces to add to the roster. We also agreed that the transition for players between each age group is an area we can really improve on and by helping across the sections the coaches will get to know players, more importantly the players will get to know coaches as they hopefully move up the age groups.

**U20's** - Whilst we await the outcome from the RFU regarding funding we are putting a plan B together. Should the funding be secured, and the representational calendar is to go ahead we will proceed as previous years but with a shorter programme with a section assessment, then simply a training session then game, training session then game etc If the funding is not given then we propose a smaller programme involving Hampshire, Berkshire in three fixtures involving all

three counties and split the costs between us. We will of course keep the costs to a minimum with pitch hire, physio & referee costs and team teas only.

There are more conversations being held with the girl's sections and hopefully we will be driving recruitment across the clubs. Grasshoppers have an excellent setup for girl's sections but even Leroy admits we need to build numbers in the other clubs offering girls rugby.

### ***Jok***

### **Report from Chair of Groups, Andy Smart**

So, it turns out that rugby is back. Real rugby and everything that goes with it. Open club houses, spectators, singing, real ale. Brilliant. I wondered myself during some of the darkest days whether I was still bothered. Well, it turns out I am. A difficult season definitely but so much to look forward to. A chance to catch up with old friends, a bit of banter on the touchline, a few laughs in the bar as we reminisce about what real rugby was like when we were young. I am not sure if this fits in with a Group Officer report but hopefully you understand where I am coming from

Still back to business. As we return to rugby the groups are now up and running as well

This week we start with the North Group meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> which is on Zoom, then it is at Harrow on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> for the North West

Next week we start on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> with the South Group meeting at London Cornish followed by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> at Grasshoppers

Just a reminder of the dates for the other groups meetings in case you haven't seen them.

- South-Mondays **1/11. 24/1. 4/4.**
- West-Wednesdays **10/11. 26/1. 6/4.**
- North-Mondays **8/11. 7/2. 11/4.**
- North West-Wednesdays **3/11. 12/1 (Zoom). 2/3. 13/4.**

Once, another very well attended (76) All-Clubs meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August. Excellent presentations firstly by Simon Hardcastle on the new Global Laws trials that we will be playing under this season followed by Paul Astbury on the Future Competitions Structure and the current work of the Implementation Team. A very informative and useful evening which was recorded and is on the County Website for anyone who wasn't able to get on the meeting.

Finally, can I remind Clubs about the Emergency First Aid in Rugby courses being held across the county. To be honest despite clubs telling us that this is exactly what they want, the take up at the moment is very disappointing. The need has been identified, the county is fully funding the course, the easy bit surely is letting us know who from your club will be coming. However, in case you missed the circulation or are still to action it, time is running out so I include a copy of the original message that came out both from the county office and via your Group

"The county will be fully funding forty-eight places on four Emergency First Aid in Rugby Union Course across the CB. Andy and I have taken the decision that each Group will host one course for 12 attendees on behalf of its own member clubs.

The course dates and venues are as follows

- NW Group - Harrow RFC Saturday 18th September
- West Group - Grasshoppers RFC Saturday 25th September
- South Group - Chiswick RFC Sunday 26th September
- North Group - Old Grammarians RFC Saturday 16th October

The course times will be from 9am until 5pm and places are limited to twelve.

To ensure that as many clubs as possible can access the course the intention is to limit attendance to one person per club and you can only attend the course for the group your club is in. If there is greater demand, we will seek more funding to support further course(s) and we will run a reserve list if courses are not full.

So, if your club is interested in securing a place on this course, please email either [loulatter@hotmail.com](mailto:loulatter@hotmail.com) or [andrew-smart@ntlworld.com](mailto:andrew-smart@ntlworld.com) with the following details:

- Name of proposed attendee
- Contact details including email and phone number
- Club and position held
- RFU ID number: - This is required for booking on any RFU Course"

Please don't miss this opportunity. The cost to the county of £3600- not an inconsiderable amount when we are having to justify every penny of our budgets.

All the best and keep safe

**Andrew Smart**

### **Update on Coaching & Refereeing Development**

- A number of Middlesex Coaches are currently on the RFU Mentoring Programme and will be mentoring coaches involved in the Male & Female game at all levels in Middlesex
- An Invite has been sent out to all clubs in Middlesex to nominate coaches who would like to have the support of a mentor as part of their coaching pathway. All interested coaches are invited to apply (contact details below)
- Coaching CPDs are being organised to suit all levels of coaching in Middlesex, more

information will be come available in future newsletters.

- A weekly newsletter RCDtv is available to all coaches in Middlesex, this is sent to your email address each Friday and contains over 2,500 coaching skill development drills. (Those coaches who are interested in receiving the weekly newsletter, please use the contact details below)
- 3 sessions have been held on the New Laws Variations for this coming season, each session has ben very well attended with over 120 coaches who have attended the on-line sessions
- Discussions are underway to hold an RFU Young Referees Award in Middlesex. This will be open to both Male & Female persons between the following ages, U16s – U18s. The Award course will be funded by Middlesex and will be a 6 Hour course with 10 hours practical officiating experience and all interested match officials will need to attend 3 monthly webinars. More Information to follow.

For more information on Coaching & Refereeing Development, please contact Bob Lawless Chair of Coaching & Refereeing Development  
(M) 07803196 409 (e) [bob.lawless@middlesexrugby.com](mailto:bob.lawless@middlesexrugby.com)

### **What's on**

#### **Group Meetings**

- **South-Mondays 1/11. 24/1. 4/4**
- **West-Wednesdays 10/11. 26/1. 6/4.**
- **North-Mondays 8/11. 7/2. 11/4**
- **North West-Wednesdays 3/11. 12/1 (Zoom). 2/3. 13/4.**

**KEEP UPDATED  
FOLLOW US ON :**