

February Newsletter 2024

Email: countyoffice@middlesexrugby.com

President's Corner

Congratulations to **Poppy Love** (Brunel University and formerly Grasshoppers RFC) on her selection for the England U20's camp. And to, **Lily Pereira dos Santos** (Maggie Alphonsi PDG, Finchley RFC & Oakland College) and **Hayley Jones** (Emma Mitchell PDG, Ealing Trailfinders & Henley College) on their selection to the England U18s camp.



*Hampstead (maroon hoops) and Verulamian (blue).
Photo by Hugo Yamaguchi (Hampstead RFC)*

On Field; 25 Jan: **Hampstead 1 v Verulamians 1.** This Counties 2 Herts/Middx league match was won by Hampstead, 81 – 0 pts. The referee was Huw Evans with coach assessor Nick Edmonds (LSRFUR). Hampstead's head coach is Peter Breen, their chair is Debbie Crossan, and the captain was Edward Hart (2) who was named 'Man of the Match', for his exhibition of exceptional tackling.



Hampstead offloading to keep the play alive. Photo by Hugo Yamaguchi (Hampstead RFC)

Other notable performances were by omnipresent Tom Slater (7) who scored two great tries and Rob Modridge (11) who scored four tries and converted six.



Photo by Hugo Yamaguchi (Hampstead RFC)

The result might suggest Veas didn't offer a contest, but they did, right to the end, and tackled well. They were simply outplayed by Hampstead's fine moves, a strong advancing defence forcing the St Alban boys to kick away possession. And, overall, consistently doing the basic play well, of drawing a man and making a perfectly timed pass to a support runner finding space.



Photo by Hugo Yamaguchi (Hampstead RFC)

Originating in 1863, as Hampstead Heathens it is one of our oldest rugby clubs, they play on Hampstead Heath and use The Refectory pub by Golders Green Station as their social hub. They operate a large youth programme and ladies' teams, alongside two men's and a vets XV's.



1 Feb: With my planned game cancelled, a last minute re-route to Wasps yielded an opportunity to see five Middlesex teams in action: **Old Priorian 1 v Aylesbury 1** was won by OP 59 – 7 pts; referee was Ben Stuart (LSRFUR) assessed by Simon Hardcastle. Thanks to OP coach, Paul Davies for my welcome. Skipper was Damien O'Dwyer (7).



OP's known as 'Twisters' (green and black hooped jerseys) scoring

OP's good handling enabled them to dominate the match from the outset in a slick performance, although Aylesbury competed to the end in this Regional 1 Thames league encounter. It was 19 - 0 at half time, but a feast of tries followed in the second half. Ollie Mayes (6) scored three tries. Ben Ridley (2) also scored twice and Matt Ilube (13) scored two in the final minutes. It was OP's fifth consecutive win



Wasps 1 v Verulamians 1 in this Counties 2 Herts/Middx league match. The referee was Dean Human with his assessor, Adrian Lewis (LSRFUR). Wasps won 19 - 5 pts, but the consensus was they made heavy weather of their victory and all credit to Vees for bouncing back from the previous week's big defeat.

Coach Dan Shanahan awarded Wasps' 'Man of the Match' to centre Sean Collett; he had some really

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strong carries in the midfield. Other great performances were from lock, Jim Hynes and flanker, Elliott Fowler-Marsh. Dan noted that Wasps managed to be the only side to win scrums against the head and to ship scrum penalties. *“Very up and down from the front row!”*



Ealing Trailfinders (1871) 1 v Datchworth 1. Referee: Paul Richards (LSRFUR). Ealing won 90 – 7 pts in this Counties 1 Herts/Middx league match played on the AGP.

It was good to meet Ealing’s head coach, Phil Smith. Ealing are having a strong season with nine out of ten wins and comfortable margins. Today was no exception, under the debut captaincy of Ryan Conyard (12) standing in for Lewis Steadman; Ryan got two tries. Also, of note was Toby Holt (8) the club captain and match vice-captain who was ever-present. Ealing’s ‘Man of the Match’ was Luke Parry (2) who scored two tries, made twelve tackles and created two turnovers.



Ealing in black jerseys, Datchworth in green

London New Zealand 1s v Belsize Park 3s. Andrew Pini, coach of New Zealand Kiwis was pleased with their win, 23 – 14 pts in the Middlesex Premier Merit Table. Their captain was Martyn Tootell, a ‘shout out’ to club chairman, Gerry Cotterel too; he manages the team and keeps the club growing.

Jack Bancroft (10) was exceptional guiding play and goal kicking. Other players to note were Ayden Foster (7) and Jack Loughnane (1) along with Ted their Fijian ‘speedster’ who scored a great solo try from his own half. The referee was Bandara Wekadapola (LSRFUR).



London NZ black jerseys; Belsize in black jerseys with heliotrope sides

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Belsize Park 3's coaches were Connor Howell and Gabriel Remington. Chris Morgan (1) was their skipper today. The club fields eight teams most weeks (6 men and 2 women) with over 120 men getting game time, plus a membership of more than double that, which demonstrates their sound organisation and success at recruitment and retention.



15 Feb: Finchley 1 v Hackney 1 This was a Counties 1 Herts/Middx league match refereed by Kevin Allum (LSRFUR). The score was 40 – 5 pts. My thanks to president, Carl Elliott, women's chair, Catriona Hunter, youth coach, Eddy and others who chatted to me and made me feel at home.



Finchley's backs played well and both teams tackled robustly. Finchley's captain was Ed Kibble (4) and Jim Bloxham was their coach. Paddy Lynch (4) was 'Man of the Match', Micheál O'Reilly (14) showed great pace to score the opening two tries. Others who made an impact were Hugo Lloyd Williams (8) and Kieran Tomlinson (12).



2025 is Finchley's centenary, and they have several celebratory events including a black tie ball, a ladies T1 and men's Vets XV playing combined House of Commons & Lords teams at Allianz Stadium, a city lunch and an International Women's Day celebration with youth and adult female teams playing.

Formed in 1925 the club played at Arden Field, now home of Finchley Cricket Club; then moved to Summers Lane in 1931. Their first match was a win over Barnet Grammar School on Boxing Day 1925. They take credit for being the first English club, in 1984, to have a women's team. One of those first players, their Hon VP, is Deborah Griffin OBE who will be the RFU President next season. The current Director of Rugby, Mickey Clifford is father of Kelsey who played mini rugby at the club and is one of two current Red Roses connected to Finchley!

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Hackney's coach was Ben Chamberlain with Jacob Cole (12) leading the XV. 'Man of the Match' was Seb Faus (7), other notable performances were from Lewis Davenport (9) and Ryan Marshall (15).

Off Field: Congratulations to county VP, **Floyd Steadman OBE DL** on receiving an honorary doctorate degree from Brunel University. The former Saracen captain and retired headteacher now has a full collection of education qualifications: CertEd, BEd, MEd and Hon DEd.

What a memory for **Matthew Harriman**, of Regents Park RFC, who was an England mascot at the England v France men's 6N 'Le Crunch'. To Enfield U12 girls from **St Anne's School, Old Grammarians** and **Enfield Ignatians** who played T1 on the hallowed turf before 'Le Crunch', and to **Finchley RFC** whose members were involved in the pitch decoration for the anthems.

I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the County Clubs Dinner on Friday 16th May at Ealing Trailfinders.

The cost is £70.00 pp, which includes a complimentary drink on arrival and table wine. In recognition of their support that allows rugby to continue to grow, plus-ones are welcome. If you, or members of your club would like to attend, please fill out this form by Thu 17 April 2025 to secure your place:

For Clubs who wish to make a table/part table booking please complete the form with the names

of attendees and highlight the principle Club contact.

<https://forms.gle/gY4JnVw3wVZMRx278>

Nigel R Orton, President
nigel.orton@middlesexrugby.com

Message from Chair, Eddie Keal

We are approaching the end of the season, and the County is gearing up for a flurry of finals, events and celebrations. We are almost at the end of the latest round of Group Meetings.

At the Group Meetings, I have given some more information about the goings-on at the RFU and the forthcoming Special General Meeting of the RFU which has been called for Thursday 27th March 2025.

In preparation for this, and to make sure that all our clubs have the most up-to-date information we have announced an MCRFU All-Clubs-Meeting on Zoom for Monday 24th February 2025 at 7pm. We think it is essential that all clubs send an attendee or two to this meeting if they intend to vote in the SGM – whichever way. Andy Smart and I will brief you on the issues and the votes to be taken. I think this meeting is important preparation.

In addition, because many of you have complained about the lack of a "Bill Beaumont Roadshow" venue close to London, we have managed to secure a roadshow of our own, specifically for Middlesex voting clubs, in a central London venue on Tuesday 18th March 2025. I don't yet have the venue and start time, but this will be a full RFU Roadshow with Sir Bill Beaumont, Bill Sweeney and supporting cast. Again, this is essential preparation for those wishing to vote. It is also an opportunity to ask questions directly of the most senior RFU Management.

I won't write more in this Newsletter as I don't want to dilute this message. Please ensure your club is

represented at the call on the 24th February and the Roadshow on the 18th March. If you choose not to vote thereafter, so be it. We would like to make sure you have the information you need if you do wish to vote.

Enjoy your rugby!

Eddie

Middlesex Chair

Eddie.keal@middlesexrugby.com

Update from Fred Cracknell - Chair of Rugby Development (on the field)

It was great to be back out and around the clubs following a busy and fairly wet January!

The highlight of my month was certainly the pitch up and play event at Old Grammarians for U12 girls. There must have been 50ish girls from half a dozen clubs (if not more) in attendance, with several of the local schools involved in the school's outreach programme involved as well. A massive well done to Ang and the team at OGs for pulling the event together. If you want to look at similar events at your club, please do reach out. PUAP activities are a great way to bridge the gap between school and club rugby.

I managed to squeeze a game in for UCS 2s against Belsize 4ths when the Stags 2nd XV game I was due to play in went down. This was the first time I'd been to UCS and it was brilliant to hear how they have managed to put on a regular second team this season in the merit leagues. I certainly left with a smile on my face as both the Belize and UCS players settled into an afternoon in front of the 6 nations on the big screen. The real highlight of that Saturday was that I contacted 4 clubs, all of which had lower XV games going ahead, most of which were against other Middlesex opposition. With a lot of focus currently elsewhere we can't lose sight of the amateur men's game. There's some great material out there to support you with the recruitment, retention, and development of players and some great people within Middlesex with lots of

experience. We're here to help, please do reach out if you're struggling to get teams out or have ambitions to kick on but aren't sure how to get there.

My monthly reminder that we are moving closer to T1 being formally launched to the club game. Please keep encouraging your schools to explore the teaching resources available on the England Rugby website. There are some great resources there from curriculum plans to assessment sheets. I'm really excited about formally launching T1 and the opportunity it's going to bring to attract more people into our game. If you're already taking advantage of the T1 offering or are planning to, I'd love to hear how you're getting on!

The Middlesex Emeralds International Girls Festival is returning to London Irish Amateur Rugby Club at Hazelwood this year on May 4th and 5th. We are delighted to be supporting the festival again this year and hope to see all of our clubs represented across the U12, U14, U16, and U18 age groups. If you are interested in competing please either enter through the online form on both the Middlesex and London Irish websites or contact youthgirls@liarfc.co.uk

I'm looking forward to another month of rugby ahead. Please contact me if you want to help with the T1 rollout in any way, have any questions on anything rugby development, are looking for a lower XV player, a guest coach, or a referee over the next few weeks.

Please do reach out if you have any questions on T1 and how your club could benefit.

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Here's a photo from my game with UCS (Fred back row second from left)

Fred.Cracknell@middlesexrugby.com

Fred

Message from Andrew Smart, Chair of Competitions

First of all better news with the weather has seen a significant number of the outstanding fixtures now played and for Middlesex clubs this weekend will see the rest. Three of our clubs are now playing on Friday night, Harrow at home to Barnet, Teddington playing Old Priorians at Cobham and H.A.C travelling to Marlow. On Saturday Hampstead host Saracens Amateurs, Wasps travel to Tabard and UCS host Enfield Ignatians. So if anyone is looking for some league rugby to watch involving eight Middlesex Clubs, either Friday night or Saturday afternoon there is plenty to choose from plus a whole raft of Middlesex Merit games as well,

With over three quarters of the season now behind us, overall Middlesex clubs generally are maintaining their strong performances at the top end of their leagues. We continue to have clubs at the top of community leagues at six different levels (5,6,7,8,9 & 11) plus Ealing in the Championship

Anyway, a look at how all our clubs are doing following this weekends' fixtures

In the Championship after twelve rounds Ealing Trailfinders remain 13 points clear at the top of the table. whilst London Scottish climb another place up to seventh.

At level 5 in Regional 1 South Central after eighteen rounds London Welsh suffered their first loss of the season in front of 1300- spectators to a last minute try to second placed Jersey in what must have been a pulsating game going down 24-28. They however still remain top by five points with CS Stags 1863 continuing their outstanding season still 3rd, with Hammersmith and Fulham remaining tenth, but now now six points of the relegation places

At level six in Regional 2 Thames, again after eighteen rounds London Scottish Lions, are top by seven points over Belsize Park whilst H.A.C in third are nine points behind although with a game in hand. Old Priorians have now won six in a row and move up to sixth. Teddington up from tenth to seventh, Grasshoppers drop to eighth whilst Old Haberdashers who despite continuing to pick up points every week remain bottom still nine points from safety. Three Middlesex clubs in the top three positions in the league all chasing one promotion place

At level seven in Counties 1 Sussex/Surrey again after eighteen rounds Twickenham are second by four points whilst London Cornish remain seventh after a heartbreaking loss to them to a last second kick, 20-23 and all in front of Bill Sweeney. By all accounts an outstanding example of community and Middlesex rugby and a credit to both clubs. In Counties 1 Essex again after eighteen rounds Epping Upper Clapton remain Seventh. In Counties 1 Herts/Middx, again after eighteen rounds Brunel University remain top by five points with Fichley third and Ealing 1871 fourth. Old Streetonians remain fifth, Ruislip sixth, Chiswick down to tenth and Hackney remaining eleventh.

At level eight in Counties 2 Herts/Middx at level eight, after sixteen rounds, Hampstead are now top

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by seven points over Wasps and ten over Saracens Amateurs in third. Harrow redrop to fifth, U.C.S. are up to sixth, Enfield remain eighth with Old Millhillians bottom.

At level nine in Counties 3 Herts/Middx after twelve rounds Thamesians are top by eighth points over Royston who have two games in hand. Actonians drop to third, Finsbury Park remain fifth and Kilburn Cosmos sixth.

In Counties 3 Surrey, level ten after seventeen rounds Old Hamptonians remain second with a game in hand, whilst London Exiles remain eighth

At level eleven in Counties 4 Surrey, after fourteen rounds, Harlequin Amateurs drop to sixth London French ninth with Old Pauline bottom but having now won a game.

At level twelve in Counties 5 Surrey again after fourteen rounds, Staines undefeated remain top by ten points with Feltham now up to fifth.

The Middlesex Merit Tables, have seen our completion rate rise from Christmas from 69.4% now up to 75.6%. Brilliant effort by Steve Partridge and the clubs, not only arrest the downward trend but completely turn it around. Well done to all concerned.

In the Middlesex Merit Tables Premier Division after eleven rounds NZ Kiwis remain fourth.

In MMT1 after twelve rounds London Japanese and Quintin remain third and fourth respectively

In MMT2 West London, with two games in hand, remain top after twelve rounds by eleven points, Whitton Lions up to fifth, Haringey Rhinos remain eighth, Hanwell ninth whilst Old Isleworthians remain tenth and bottom.

In MMT3 after fourteen rounds, Ickenham up to ninth whilst Northolt drop to tenth.

In the Herts and Middlesex MTs Championship South after eleven rounds Old Grammarians are up

to second only four points behind the leaders although they have played a game more

In Merit Table South 1 after ten rounds Pinner & Grammarians are top by three points, Southgate up to third with a game in hand, Hendon drop to fourth but with two games in hand. Mill Hill who joined this merit table after Christmas are ninth but unsurprisingly have only played one game so far

In the Premiership Women's Rugby after fifteen rounds Harlequins Women drop to third with Saracens Women's up to second whilst Ealing Trailfinders Women remain seventh

Just to finish with some dates for your diaries

Middx Merit Table Cup/Bowl/Vase Finals 26th April at Wasps FC
Play-Off Finals 10th May at Chiswick RFC

Vets Cup Final date and venue still to be determined

Keep safe and all the best.

Andrew Smart

Group Officers Report

We are currently coming to end of our February round of Group meetings all held or to be held on Zoom. We have already had the South meeting on 3rd February, with the North Group Monday 10th and the North West on Wednesday 12th. The only Group meeting now outstanding is the West to be held this Wednesday the 19th.

Numbers to be fair continue to be a bit disappointing both with attendees and the numbers of clubs they represent. However, against the quality of the discussion has been high and whilst much has been around what is going at the RFU that is by no means the only topics that continue to interest and exercise our clubs. The final round of meetings that will include the Group AGMs will all be in person and spread across early to middle April. It will also be very interesting to see whether the level of

engagement changes with the All-Clubs Zoom meeting to be hosted by Eddie and myself on Monday 24th February. This is specific to what is going on at RFU and the SGM at the end of March. Hopefully we will see significant number of clubs that will look to engage that evening with invitations restricted to two per club.

At the same time, we had just concluded our “Pick up The Whistle” Courses”, hosted on behalf of the NW Group at Harrow and the North Group at O Grammarians. One more course to come again hosted on behalf of the South Group by Twickenham RFC in early April

On top there has been a “First Aid in Rugby” Course on behalf of the NW Group again at Harrow

So, plenty going on. All the course supported financially by the CB and with excellent attendances. Thank you on behalf of the Groups and their clubs to Bob Lawless who has done so much to drive these courses and to our County Treasurer Charles Portsmouth and the County for their financial support

On the one hand then the core business of the Groups to engage with our clubs at meetings continues to struggle. Against that the Groups have a proven record to deliver courses and training, for their clubs, supported financially in a big way by the CB and hosted by clubs for the benefit of their neighbours.

Hopefully a really well attended All-Clubs Meeting will show that we can still successfully reach out to our clubs and maybe provide a blueprint for the way forward

All the best

Andrew Smart

Update from Chair of Team Middlesex – Mark Coles

Greetings All! I hope this finds you and your club/school/university well and you’ve enjoyed the opening rounds of the Six Nations!

The big news hot off the press is we have now launched our Senior Men and Women’s assessment sign ups and are now received applications to be part of these programmes this year. Please see links below for more details to sign up or share with players.

Senior Men

Please nominate yourself by Sunday 6th April ahead of the assessments on **Wednesday 23rd April**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JyNCT0X_CDsLYIBCesaB5ObRQb6gqfuTpMJ6qe1LNNs

Senior Women

Please nominate yourself by **Friday 21st March** ahead of the assessments on Friday 28th March.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1I0n9DWHv7O97PM7YYqaeewa6c2KukSGm-NNnSWoLqco>

These are a real opportunity to take part in a different and complimentary experience to club and university rugby so please do share with any players you may know who would enjoy the experience.

Ahead of the spring hive of activity it would also me remiss to not update on our other teams. I last wrote how the U18B campaign had concluded with seven players making it to the L&SE Divisional side. In the time since, the lads also went over to Thurrock RFC and joined fellow nominees from other counties to go through an assessment process and all of those nominated made the final team, so a massive congratulations to those players, their schools and clubs.

At the time of writing the squad had just been through a weekend away at Warwick University with a mixture of player and coach education. Middlesex players Tom Burfitt, Sam Griffiths, David Shenan and William Miscampbell all made the squad

for the game against the North recording a 32-31 win. The programme concludes next week again at Warwick University with another camp and game against the Midlands, so we wish them the best of luck.

trying to do on our programmes giving a rounded experience to benefit our participants in their rugby lives and beyond. The U16G next game is away on Sunday 23 February to Buckinghamshire at Aylesbury.

England Rugby NORTH ENGLAND COUNTIES U18		England Rugby LONDON & SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNTIES U18	
1. Andy Jones	Derbyshire	1. Ryan Kelly	Surrey
2. Daniel Pears	Derbyshire	2. Jamie Bundock	Surrey
3. Sam Cunniff	West Yorkshire	3. Ethan Hurst	Surrey
4. Adam Bickel	Derbyshire	4. Edward Berry	Kent
5. Tom Brown	West Yorkshire	5. Tom Burfitt	Middlesex
6. Luke Povey	Derbyshire	6. William Bailey	Middlesex
7. Tom Hadden	Leicestershire	7. Frederick Durrant	Kent
8. Jack Hinchey	Leicestershire	8. Samuel Griffiths	Middlesex
9. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	9. William Jones	Kent
10. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	10. Thomas Langley	Essex
11. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	11. Christian Whetton-Clarke	Essex
12. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	12. Charlie Aldridge	Surrey
13. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	13. Errol Pearson	Eastern Counties
14. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	14. Harrison Dean	Kent
15. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	15. David Shenas	Middlesex
16. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	16. Max Cannon	Hampshire
17. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	17. Jacob Nash	Hampshire
18. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	18. Luca McLauchlan	Hampshire
19. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	19. Eben Skinner	Hampshire
20. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	20. Freddie Gayton	Sussex
21. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	21. Harry Barker	Surrey
22. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	22. Edward Aldridge	Middlesex
23. Alex Lister	Leicestershire	23. William Miscampbell	Middlesex

Whilst many counties are represented here, one of our own, Vice President Bob Lawless, does a sterling job in co-ordinating the London and South East (L&SE) and does an incredible amount of work to bring together the eight counties that make up our region to take part in these nationwide events. Bob leads on putting together the coaching and leadership teams, assessment days and working with his fellow reps in other parts of the Country to make these programmes a success, so I hope you will all join me in a huge thank you for all the work he does.

Finally, we launched our U20 Mens programme with a new leadership group and players who have both been involved in Middlesex before and new players from other parts of the country. With Head Coach Richard Hicks unfortunately unwell, Sam Challoner, Luke Povey, Chris Farrell and Kev Thomas all stepped up to the plate and put on a great first session for the lads with more to follow over the coming weeks. Creating an enjoyable and engaging environment really is key for us here and the team have really bought into this.

We as a County see the U20s as key age demographic for retention and the hope is to build a pathway into the senior side for our club/university and Age Grade players that we can be proud of. The teams first game is a friendly against Berkshire on 16th March (2pm K.O, Newbury RFC) so will share more details on that in next months edition.

It is also timely to wish Chris Farrell well as by the time of the next newsletter he will be married to Georgina and we wish them all the best for a wonderful future together!

The U18 Girls also returned to the pitch on Sunday 16 February after a successful last outing against Berkshire in a Triangular with Eastern Counties and Hertfordshire. Whilst I was not able to be present, I was reliably informed, the girls put in an admirable shift against two well coached sides.

Our U16 girls programme has also continued throughout late January and February with sessions on grass (4G) and in the classroom including an insightful presentation on Endocrine (a network of glands that produce hormones that regulate many bodily function) and menstrual health from Dr Nicky Keay. These really symbolise what we are





I've included the below dates for matches in our Adult Age groups. There will likely be additions and changes, but please do make a note in your diaries to come down and support our players. We're particularly pleased to be welcoming a Buckinghamshire Presidents XV down to our County as they look to build out women's rugby in their county with players in this side coming from clubs they have previously not drawn, from and look to showcase the game ahead of the Women's Rugby World Cup in the autumn.

U20 Men

16th March- Berkshire (Away- Newbury)- K/O- 2pm [Friendly]
 30th March- Essex (Home- Wasps)- K/O- 2pm
 11th May- Surrey (Away- Esher RFC)- K/O- 2pm

Senior Women

11th May- Bucks Presidents XV (Home- Wasps (TBC)- 2pm)
 25th May- Essex (Home- Wasps)- Kick Off- 2pm.
 1st June- Sussex (Away- Location TBC)- Kick Off- 3pm (TBC)

Senior Men

17th May- Essex (Away- Thurrock RFC)- Kick Off- 3pm.
 24th May- Hertfordshire (Home- Grasshoppers)- Kick Off- 3pm.

31st May- Buckinghamshire (Home- Grasshoppers)- Kick Off- 3pm.

Next month, I'll keep banging the drum again for how we're getting on in games and assessments we have scheduled, but for now thanks as ever for reading and hope you enjoy the rest of the (men's) Six Nations.

Thanks, as ever for reading and for your support
 Mark

Mark.coles@middlesexrugby.com

Middlesex Coaching & Referee Development

Coaching Development

- Monday 10th March 2025, Open Coaches Evening, 18.15hrs - 20.00hrs, the session will look at the coaching delivery with the U17s Academy. All welcome
- Summer Coaching Events. Is your club interested in running a developing back play or forward play coaching session, during May / June please do get in touch

Referee Development

- Monday 24th February 2025, 19.30hrs - 21.00hrs, Referee education session at Grasshoppers RFC, looking at the new laws that came into effect this January 2025 in respect of the actions of "escort runners" and other topical information including Q&As - All Welcome
- Young Match Officials Take up the Whistle Course at Enfield Ignations on Mondays 24th & 31st March 2024. Is your club in need of upskilled people to cover the refereeing duties. Middlesex can support clubs to run a course in "Take up the Whistle" refereeing skills, which is run over 2 evenings 19.00hrs - 21.30hrs. All you need is a minimum of 12 interested people. All candidates must be over 14. You can

either run a group for Young referees 14 - 18, a mixed group of youth and seniors or all seniors. You would need to have access to a quiet club house and a pitch to cover the practical work. This course is delivered free to Middlesex club

RFU Emergency First Aid

- Is your club interested in running an RFU Emergency First Aid Course. The course is certificated and lasts 3 years. If you are interested in running one of these courses you would need to have 12 interested people, available from 09.00 - 16.00hrs on a Saturday or Sunday. You would also need to have a quiet indoor facility to host this free course.

For further information on any of the above coach or refereeing activities, please do get in touch
Bob Lawless Middlesex chair of coach & referee development (M) 07803 196 409

Bob Lawless, Chair of Coach & Referee Development on (e) robjlaws@aol.com or on WhatsApp (m) 07803 196409

What's On

All Clubs meeting. 24th February on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82575101686?pwd=9NMD8EQrrpRlbgzzOLw3MQYZ6iI6uK.1>

Meeting ID: 825 7510 1686
Passcode: 286709

RFU Roadshow with Sir Bill Beaumont 18th March, venue to be confirmed

Save the Dates in 2025:

Further "Pick Up the Whistle Courses"

- There is also a further course at Twickenham RFC on the 7th and 14th April. Enrolment details still to be circulated.

Middx Merit Table Cup/Bowl/Vase Finals

- 26th April at Wasps FC
- Play-Off Finals 10th May at Chiswick RFC

County Clubs 7's

Saturday 3rd May – Venue to be confirmed.

Entry details to follow from Organisers, Steve Partridge & Mark Coles

County Clubs Dinner - Friday 16th May at Ealing Trailfinders – Booking book your place/places below.

<https://forms.gle/gY4JnVw3wVZMRx278>