

March Newsletter 2025/26

Email: countyoffice@middlesexrugby.com

Middlesex Clubs Award Supper, Friday 5th June 2026, 7.00 for 7.30pm

Middlesex County Rugby warmly invites you to the 2026 Middlesex Clubs Award Supper, to be held at Grasshoppers RFC Syon Lane, Osterley, TW7 5PN.

The Supper is on Friday 5th June 2026, with the usual welcomes and speeches, followed by a presentation of trophies to the County's competition winners.

The cost of the Supper is £40.00 per person, which includes a complimentary drink on arrival, table wine and three courses. Our MC for the evening will be our very own Steve Partridge. In recognition of their support that allows rugby to continue to grow, plus-ones and other rugby colleagues are very welcome.

If you, or members of your club would like to attend, please fill out this form via the link below by Friday 15th May.

[Book your place here](#)

We need to confirm catering numbers by Friday May 15th May, so we are regrettably not able to accept late entries after this date. Likewise, refunds after this date will only be given in exceptional circumstances.

Further details with final arrangements and payment details will be sent out in April 2026.

Questions or queries please reply to this email, or contact peter.baveystock@middlesexrugby.com



President's Corner

Plenty to report on our clubs, the County and with the RFU

Back to the Allianz Stadium on Saturday 21st February for the Ireland game and then on Sunday 22nd I was back at Grasshoppers to support our Middlesex u18 girls against Essex u18s girls. Bit of a disaster because the girls weren't there. No idea where they were but I guess it would help if I could read. Anyway, I did manage to catch up with Peter Baveystock as we watched top of the table Grasshoppers RFC Women host Belsize Park Rangers in Women's NC 3 South East (Central) in an entertaining game dominated by the home side who are now 8 points clear at the top of their league

On Monday 23rd February off to Twickenham RFC for the South Group meeting. Another excellent Group meeting with plenty of detailed questions and great discussion

On Tuesday 24th together with Chales, Andrew and Eddie we attended the Leadership Academy meeting at the Hercules Pub, Lambeth North. A very interesting evening with some very bright,

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focused young people who will hopefully serve their clubs and possibly our CB for many years to come

Then it was back to the Allianz Stadium on Friday 27th February where the less said the better..... Well as it happens that is no longer the case. There is a process to be followed so I don't intend to say too much here but in early April I am looking for the County to allow me to hold an All-Clubs meeting on Zoom about the RFU SGM set for the 24th April around the new RFU Governance Structure. A dry subject indeed but one that severely impacts on CBs and all clubs. Anyway, a discussion for another day but in my judgement a really important one

Caught up with Eddie again that same evening when we went to Ealing Trailfinders to watch their 1871 2nd team win Middlesex Merit Table 1 with a dominant display against Old Stretonians 2nds. Nice to get out and clear our heads. Needed to.....

On the Saturday I had commitments at Harrow where I ran the club for a function

On Monday 2nd March it was the West Group meeting on Zoom. Another decent and informative meeting

On Friday 6th March it was off to watch Saracens Amateurs v Ruislip in awful conditions. All credit to the home club who's pitch despite the torrential rain we had in the afternoon stood up so well to the game. Another tough evening for Saracens but they never gave up and scored the final try of the evening which is much to their credit

On Saturday with a 2pm ko I went to watch a match in Middlesex Counties 1 where third placed Old Haberdashers hosted 2nd placed Finchley in a quite exceptional game of rugby. 20-20 all a half time then 27-27 Old Habs finally pulled away with two quick tries before Finchley scored at the death to pick up both a try bonus and losing bonus point. Such an enjoyable game with two sides looking to run the ball at every opportunity. A credit to both

teams and to Middlesex Rugby. Really enjoyed it. Then back to Harrow with a 3pm ko to watch them host Kilburn Cosmos. Tight game, with Kilburn well deserved winner by 25-22 with a try close to the death. Caught up with Simon who was spotting a new and talented referee who had played in the Championship for both Cambridge and Richmond. First season of refereeing, clearly going places

On Tuesday 10th March I chaired an RFU Organising Committee Competitions meeting before joining our management meeting

On Friday 13th March I went to Old Priorians to watch them play a Middlesex County Clubs side made up I believe from 16 Middlesex clubs which was great to see. Very nice evening. Plenty of willing volunteers for the club raising money for the School. Old Priorians ran out comfortable winners against a scratch Middlesex team. Far too much pace out wide but lots of great feedback from the players and something I understand from Mark Coles that we will look to expand on. Caught up with Eddie where we looked to set the world to rights. Thanks to Pat Sheehan and Old Priorians for an enjoyable evening. I hope they made loads of money. They had hoped to play our U20s but they had a fixture on Sunday so Mark sorted out a County Clubs team

On Saturday on a quite glorious sunny afternoon with no league rugby across the country below the National Leagues I made my way to Chiswick to watch Quinti host NZ Kiwis in a Middlesex Premier Fixture. Impressed with the standard although both clubs are struggling a bit. Both could easily be at home in Middlesex Counties 2, In the ned NZ Kiwis ran out comfortable winners with Quintin picking up a well deserved try bonus point.

On Sunday made my way to Wasps FC to watch our u20s play Herts U20's in the U20s County Championship. Decent game in difficult windy conditions where despite our u20s scoring 26 points they went down to a strong and determined Herts side

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Next Friday I plan to go to Ealing 1871 hosting Hampstead in Counties 1 Middlesex where a try bonus point win will see them crowned as the first champions of this new league. Hampstead a very talented side will not roll over and I am looking forward to a really good game

Then on Saturday down to Surrey 5 as a guest of Old Pauline, currently second in that league with two games in hand as they host fourth placed Egham Hallowegians. The reverse fixture earlier in the season saw Old Pauline winners by 26-12. Looking forward to a competitive game of rugby at a superb venue as a guest of Tim Cunis and the host club. Looking forward to it

Much going on and I am trying to get to as much as I can. Enjoying it

Andy Smart

[Message from Chair, Eddie Keal](#)

It's been another busy month. No apologies from me about the long laundry-lists of activity that we've been up to. The Management Board is working hard.

I'll do another video soon about our three key areas of activity that overlay the business-as-usual. For those that missed the last video, those themes are Safer Environments, Better Coaching and Enhanced Communications.

None of which are rocket-science but all are backed by RFU investments on which we can capitalize. Hopefully we can land some of these topics early in clubs to make a real difference to the rugby we play.

It's heads-down for all as we zoom in to the end of season activity. You will see the Middlesex 7s and the Middlesex Clubs Awards Supper elsewhere in this newsletter. Please find time to put it in your diaries and get your entries/bookings in as soon as possible.

All the best

Eddie

Middlesex Chair

Eddie.keal@middlesexrugby.com

[Video Message from Mark Coles – Team Middlesex](#)



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02.mp4

[Message from Steve Partridge, Chair of Competitions](#)

The end of the season is fast approaching, and the feedback I get from many clubs is that they are on fumes, limping towards the finish line. Don't know exactly why, but this season has felt the hardest in a long time..

Middx 7's entry is now open, and it's guaranteed to be a fantastic day, as we approach our end-of-season Cup and Play-off final competitions. All finals this year will be held at Wasps FC.

We will, of course, use the summer to investigate what our Merit offering should be next season, factoring in international weekends and other factors that impact completion rates.

Here is how Middlesex clubs are faring in their respective leagues.

London Welsh are currently in 10th place in National League 2 East, with 53 points from 21 games (6 wins, 13 losses). 33 points behind league leaders Old Albanians, who currently sit top with 17 wins and 4 losses on 86 points.

In Regional 1 South central **London Scottish** are sitting in second on 76 points, having won 15 and lost 4 games, and are currently 17 points behind league Leaders Jersey on 93 points, who are unbeaten with 19 wins out of 19. **CS Stags** are in 5th place on 61 points, having won 10, drawn 1

and lost 8 games. **Hammersmith and Fulham** remain at the bottom of the table on 16 points with 2 wins and 17 losses

In Counties 1, Essex, **Epping Upper Clapton** are currently top in the table on 62 points, having played 15 games and won 12, drawn 1 & lost 2. **Thurrock**, who are in second place with a better record with 13 wins & 1 loss, but have had -4 deducted.

H.A.C. are sitting in 2nd place in Regional 2 Anglia on 85 points, having won 17 games and lost 2, and are 2 points behind league leaders **Eton Manor** on 87 points, who have won the same number of games 17 out of their 19 games and lost 2, but are ahead due to 2 extra bonus points.

Twickenham are currently sitting 8th in Regional 2 South Central, with 47 points, having won 8 games and lost 11. **Bournemouth** is sitting at the top of the table on 88 points with 18 wins and 1 draw from their 19 games played.

Brunel University still remain in 1st place in Regional 2 Thames with 18 wins and 1 loss (courtesy of **Belsize Park**) on 92 points. **Belsize Park** are sitting in 3rd place on 74 points with 14 wins and 5 losses. **Old Priorians** are sitting in 4th place on 73 points with 13 wins and 6 losses, followed by **Teddington** on 54 points in 5th place with 9 wins and 10 losses

In Counties 1, Middlesex **Ealing Trailfinders 1871** are currently sitting at the top of the table on 74 points, with 15 wins and 1 loss out of 16 games. Followed closely by **Finchley** on 69 points with 13 wins and 3 losses out of 16 games. **Old Haberdashers** are in 3rd place on 60 points with 11 wins and 5 losses, followed by **Hampstead** on 56 points, **Chiswick** on 48 points. **Old Streetonians** are in 6th place on 39 points, dropping down to **Ruislip** in 7th place on 29 points, **Wasps FC** is in 8th place on 22 points, **U.C.S** is in 9th place on 14 points and in last place, having now played 4 friendly walkover games, are **Saracens Amateurs** on 1 point with 1 win and 15

losses. So far we have seen -5 points deductions for **Old Streetonians**, **Ruislip & Saracens Amateurs**.

In Counties 2 Middlesex, we have now split into the Phase 2 Trophy (top 4 teams) and Phase 2 Shield (bottom 4 teams). With points restarting

In the Trophy, **Hackney** are top on 9 points with 2 out of 2 wins. **Barnet Elizabethans** are in second place on 6 points with 1 win and 1 loss. **Kilburn Cosmos** in 3rd place on 5 points with 1 win and 1 loss. **Harrow** are in 4th place on 1 point with 2 losses out of 2

In the Shield **Enfield Ignatians** are top with 9 points, with 2 wins out of 2; **Actonians** are in joint second place with **Finsbury Park** on 5 points, with 1 win and 1 loss. **Old Millhillians** in 4th place on 0 points, with 2 losses from 2 games.

In Counties 4, Surrey **Staines** are currently sitting 5th on 37 points, having played 14 games and won 7 and lost 7 and are 15 points behind league leaders **Old Emanuel** who have 52 points with 10 wins, 1 draw and 2 losses out of 13 games.

Old Grammarians are 2nd in Counties 3 Herts on 54 points, having played 15, won 11 and lost 4, with **Hitchin II** top of the league on 57 points with 12 wins and 1 loss.

In Counties 5, Surrey. **Old Paulines** sitting in 2nd place with 10 wins and a loss on 50 points, 9 points behind **Economical** on 59 points with 11 wins, 1 draw and a loss. **Feltham** in last place having won 1 and lost 11 but with -22 points adjustment are sitting with -13 points. **Harlequin Amateurs** have withdrawn from the league.

Middx Merit Tables

The Middlesex Merit Tables have been tough this season, but we have seen a slight increase in completion rates. We do need to look at both the 6

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Nations weekends and aligning to the structured league fixtures calendar to ensure fairness.

The finalists for the Merit Cup, Bowl, and Vase have been confirmed, and the games will be played on 11th April at Wasps FC. Congratulations and good luck to all the finalists

Cup Final RP 4ths v Twickenham 2nds 4pm KO

Bowl Final Belsize Park 4's v Hendon 2pm KO

Vase Final Actonians 2's v Ealing 1871 3's 12pm KO

Last week's fixtures played 07th March

Prem - 4 games scheduled, 3 played, 1 Walkover, 75% completion.

Div 1 - 5 games scheduled, 2 played. 3 Walkovers, 40% completion.

Div 2 - 5 games scheduled, 4 played, 1 walkover, 80% completion

Div 3 - 5 games scheduled, 3 played, 3 walkovers, 60 % completion

Total 19 games - 12 Played, & 7 Walkover, - Total 63.1%

Overall season to date.

Premier Total 61 Games - 49 Played(1 Game On) 3 PP & 9 w/o - **80.3%**

Div 1 Total 76 Games - 54 Played(4 Game On) 5 PP & 17 w/o - **71%**

Div 2 Total 112 Games - 76 Played, 6 PP, 1 void & 29 w/o - **67.8%**

Div 3 Total 90 Games - 65 Played (4 Game On) 4PP & 21 w/o - **72.2%**

Total 339 games - 244 Played, 1 Void, 76 Walkovers & 18 postponed - Total 71.9%

Out of the 18 postponed Merit fixtures we have dates for 16 for them so the overall completion rate will only increase and likely the last 2 remaining will be voided down due to lack of time to play them.

The single club team in the merit tables that are not in the structured leagues are performing as follows

Middlesex Premier Merit table are currently dominated by lower 15's holding top 6 places

New Zealand Kiwis are currently sitting in 7th place on 40 points, having won 4 and lost 8 games. 40 points behind league leaders London Scottish Lions 2nds on 80 points, having won 11 and lost 1 game, with **Quintin** bottom on 31 points, having won 1 and lost 11 games.

Middlesex Division 1 Merit table Champions Ealing Trailfinders 1871 2's

West London is sitting in 2nd place on 70 points, having won 7 and lost 7 games, and are 32 points behind league leaders **Ealing Trailfinders 1871 2nds**, who are on 102 points and have won 13 games and lost 1. **London Japanese** are in 5th place on 59 points, having won 6 and lost 8 games.

Middlesex Division 2 Merit table

Pinner are sitting in 4th place on 77 points, having won 8 and lost 10 games, and are 32 points behind **Belsize Park IV** who have won 15 and lost 2. Hendon are in 9th place on 59 points, having won 6 and lost 10 games. **Haringey Rhinos** are in 10th place on 55 points, having won 5, drawn 1 and lost 9 games.

Middlesex Division 3 Merit table

Ickenham & Uxbridge are 2nd in the league on 86 points, having won 11 and lost 4 games only 5 points behind league leaders with a game in hand. **Old Isleworthians** are in 5th place on 77 points, having won 10 and lost 7 games. **Hanwell** are in 8th

place on 54 points having won 4 and lost 12 games and **Northolt** are in 10th place on 35 points with 2 win and 14 loses. **Whitton Lions** are bottom of the league but recently transferred down from Division 2 and have won 4 out of their 7 games since moving down into the league.

Steve Partridge

Middlesex chair of competitions

Middlesex Coaching & Referee Development

Coach Development - To date this season Middlesex Coach Education Programme have run **10** sessions which have been available to a variety of Middlesex Coaches. There have been **7** sessions targeted at our youth coaches with themes of an Introduction to contact, a Back Play Workshop, A Ruck Development session and a visit to the Saracens & Harlequins PDG skill clinics. **145** Middlesex Youth coaches have attended these sessions. For our more Senior Middlesex coaches there has been **3** coach education sessions with themes of "**Ball Carry in the Middle of the Pitch**", "**Principles of Counter Attack**" and "**Understanding Kicking as part of your Strategy**" These sessions have been delivered by Rich Whiffin, Nick Evans and Stephen Shingler all are involved in the professional game at International & Premiership levels. A total of **56** Middlesex senior coaches attended. Thanks to Hampstead RFC, University College School, (UCL) Grasshoppers RFC, Harrow School and London Welsh RFC, Chiswick RFC, & Ruislip for hosting, these sessions.

The photograph below is of Hampstead RFC Tackle & contact ready course held on Monday 23rd February 2026. This was a very well hosted Middlesex Coach Education session organised by Jen & Walter Ladwig of Hampstead RFC, at University College School, (UCL) Hampstead. 17 Youth coaches from Hampstead RFC, Hackney RFC, Kilburn Cosmos RFC & Saracens Amateur RFC and 2 guest coaches from Southwark RFC attended. The theme of Tackle & Contact ready was well presented by Tutor Dan Cottrell.



The photograph below is of a Ruck Development course hosted by Chiswick RFC on Tuesday 24th February. The theme of the session was 30 practical drills & games to improve the Ruck. Thanks to Chiswick Chair of Youth development Gauthier De Beer for organising this evening and to Tutor Dan Cottrell for sharing the knowledge.

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Upcoming Middlesex Coach Education Sessions

Thursday 19th March 2026 - Wasps, Safety in building an effective Scrummage

22nd April 2026 - Saracens will be hosting our North Middlesex Partners to a PDG session at Harrow School

Referee Development - To date Middlesex have run a **"Young Match Officials"** courses at Ealing Trailfinders, Old Grammarians RFC, and a **"Take up the Whistle"** course at Grasshoppers RFC Other courses are planned for Twickenham RFC, Harrow RFC and Hackney RFC

Upcoming Middlesex "Take up the Whistle" short refereeing Course
Thursdays 13th & 20th April at Twickenham RFC

Focus on Middlesex Coach Walter Ladwig, Hampstead RFC

Walter Ladwig – Hampstead RFC (U13 Head Coach & Coach Developer)

At Hampstead RFC, Walter Ladwig serves as Head Coach of the U13 age group and supports the development of volunteer coaches across the minis and junior section.

He works with a group of eight coaches and nearly 50 players across two teams in the U13 programme. His approach focuses on developing players who can make good decisions and play with confidence. Training sessions combine high-repetition skill development with competitive, game-based activities so players learn to solve problems under pressure. At this age the priority is helping every player improve, enjoy the game, and build the habits and understanding that will support them throughout their rugby journey.

Alongside his age-grade coaching, Walter draws on his experience as a university lecturer to oversee Hampstead RFC's multi-layered coach development programme. In addition to supporting coaches through RFU qualifications, the club places strong

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emphasis on developing how to coach, not just what to coach. A former RFU Club Development Officer regularly observes mini and junior coaching sessions and provides structured feedback to coaching teams during the season.

The club also runs targeted CPD sessions several times each year, focused on coaching through practical, game-based activities. External coach consultants work with older age-group coaches to review match footage and shape future training priorities.

Walter believes that better coaches create better environments for young players to learn and enjoy the game.

But he also tells parents that the real measure of success will be if, at 18, a group of these players still want to get together for a beer and remember the rugby they played together.

For further information on any of the above coaching articles or if any Middlesex club would like to host a coaching event, please do get in touch.

Bob Lawless, Chair of Middlesex Coaching (M) 07803 196 409

All the best
Bob

What's On

- **May 9th Middlesex 7's at Wasps FC.**

- **Friday 5th June - Middlesex Clubs Awards Supper, Grasshoppers RFC, please book at the link below:**

[Book your place here](#)

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