



| Newsletter | July 2020 |

A bi-monthly update published by the Yorkshire RFU



Welcome from Dawn Rathmell - President of the Yorkshire Rugby Football Union

Welcome all to the 'new' style Yorkshire RFU Newsletter which will be a bi-monthly edition. We have tried to include something for everyone and look forward to receiving your news items for further editions.

Things are difficult for all of us in these times, some more than others - a phrase I am sure you have heard a lot lately - but nevertheless true and you are all in our thoughts. I have never been on as many virtual meetings as I have during this crisis.

We as officers and a committee meet at least once a week to discuss how we can help our clubs in this time and have tentative discussions on the way forward once we have a date to the Return to Rugby (that's once they have finished laughing at the 'Covid Hair do').

When the crisis hit, we were in the throes of celebrating Yorkshire's 150th Anniversary. The decision has been made that once we are back we will continue where we left off as we feel it is an event that is well worth celebrating and hope you will join us in continuing the celebration. Let us know if you have any 150 events planned.

On that note we have decided to have a Yorkshire 150 Charity fundraising event to take place on Yorkshire Day - 1st August 2020. The charity we are supporting is State of Mind who I know have delivered workshops in some clubs before the lockdown. We will shortly be putting up the Just Giving page and are offering England Counties Merchandise for the team or individual who raises the most money.

I hope you will all join us in some way to raise funds for this very deserving charity. Help us to show what we already know, which is just how great this County is in coming together.

Please keep an eye on the web site and social media pages for the launch.

This newsletter includes: -

Return to Rugby Roadmap | Captain Tom's Honorary Membership
New appointments to Yorkshire RFU Committee | News on our AGM
Our volunteer celebration video | The Immediate Support Fund
Mental Well-Being | England Rugby Announcement
RFU Council Representatives Report | New Twitter and Instagram Accounts
England Rugby webinars | Yorkshire Academy Update



Return to Rugby Roadmap: Community Game

We all want to get back to playing rugby as soon as it is safe to do so and in June, England Rugby published their Return to Rugby Roadmap for the Community Game. The Roadmap sets out a six-stage process, aligned with Government guidelines, going from individual training with one person (stage A) through to a return to match play (Stage F). We are currently at Stage B (14 July).

England Rugby is currently considering the announcements made by Government on 9 July and will provide updated guidance to align with this later this month.

[Link](#) to our Return to Rugby Information Hub

As part of the Return to Rugby Roadmap activity, the Yorkshire RFU and Regional Development Rugby Officers (RDOs) are working with clubs to better understand how we all safely return to playing rugby. The joint team is holding three focus groups, using Zoom, in July. There will be around 10 clubs on each webinar.

Discussion topics include playing and coaching, age grade rugby and reopening club facilities. From these discussions, we will develop approaches to ensure that we are supporting our clubs as effectively as possible.

Remember that England Rugby has developed a range of guides to accompany the Return to Rugby Roadmap. You can access them by clicking on the Roadmap image on the home page of our website or by following this [link](#) to our Return to Rugby Information Hub.



Captain Sir Tom Moore jokes that he can no longer think of playing rugby as he accepts honorary membership from Keighley Rugby Union Football Club

Keighley RUFC was founded in 1920 by Keighley Grammar School old boys and the Club has taken the opportunity to share its centenary celebration by offering an honorary membership to the nation's most admired centenarian and Keighley Grammar old boy Captain Sir Tom Moore.

The Club wrote to Sir Tom to congratulate him on his magnificent achievement in raising over £35m for the NHS and to wish him a Happy Birthday. They were delighted to receive a response from the man himself.

In a Thank You card (scribed by grandson Benjie), Sir Tom said, "Thank for your honours, it truly means a lot to me. May your club gain success and I wish you all the best. Sadly, my legs aren't quite as good so I can no longer think of playing rugby, yet I keenly watch."



New appointments to Yorkshire RFU Committee

Two new appointments have been made to the Yorkshire RFU Committee. Mike Smith has been appointed Chair of Compliance and Michelle Lewis has been appointed Chair of Communications and Marketing.

As a past president of the Yorkshire RFU, Mike will be familiar to many of you within the County. He will also be familiar for his years of service at Halifax RUFC and as current Chair of the RFU North Competitions Committee.

Mike will be working closely with our clubs and other constituency bodies to practically apply the rules and regulations of the game. Leading a team of dedicated volunteers, he will have responsibility for governance, discipline and safeguarding issues.

Michelle's background is in communications and marketing. She is currently looking for more volunteers to support our communications and marketing work and if you would like to help, please contact the County Office.

Mike and Michelle have become members of the County Committee. Please join us in congratulating them on their appointments and welcome them to their posts.



Committee postpones our Annual General Meeting

As you're aware, we postponed our Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was due to take place on Monday 29 June. Given the lockdown requirements, we could not hold the meeting in the normal way on that date. We now plan to postpone the meeting for at least two months.

We did hope to hold the meeting before 31 July 2020 and we consulted with expert parties, including the Financial Conduct Authority, England Rugby, and our own Governance Group to understand how and when it is practical to hold this important meeting.

Based on this advice, we now plan to delay the meeting for at least two months. The decision is informed by Government guidance on social distancing and assembly of larger groups.

We will continue to keep you informed as our plans for our AGM develop in the coming weeks and commit to send out the call-in papers 15 days before the meeting date.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need to bring any matter to the attention of the Committee.



View our celebration [video](#) here

Celebrating our rugby community volunteers - saying 'Thank You' for your contribution

Every year, we ask clubs to nominate their outstanding volunteers and their contribution is recognised at our District and County Mitsubishi Volunteer Awards Evenings. We can't hold the events this year, so we've created this [video](#) to celebrate the contribution that every one of our volunteers makes.

We don't know when lockdown and social distancing measures will be lifted, but we still want to say a big 'Thank You' for all the hard work, dedication and commitment that our volunteers give to our clubs and to the sport of rugby.

We're really grateful to the CEO of England Rugby Bill Sweeney, to world-cup winning England player Mike Tindall and to England 7s star Ellie Kildunne for contributing to this celebration of our volunteers' hard work.

Keep watching until the end everyone nominated by their clubs is included in our Roll of Honour. Perhaps you'll see your name!

On behalf of everyone at the Yorkshire RFU and at your club, thank you for everything you do, and we look forward to celebrating with you when we can.



Information about making a request can be found [here](#)

Reminder about the Immediate Support Fund

We'd like to remind everyone about our Immediate Support Fund. Seven County clubs have already received grants from the Fund and we'd like to encourage any club within the County to apply to it if they are experiencing immediate short term cashflow issues.

The Immediate Support Fund has been created by England Rugby and the Yorkshire RFU to provide rugby unions clubs in Yorkshire with financial support. The aim of the fund is to support the most vulnerable clubs in the region.

All rugby union clubs in our region can apply to the Fund. We ask however that you only apply after you have fully investigated all other sources of support. It's important, for example, that clubs draw on any reserves they may have before applying to the Fund.

We'd also encourage clubs to make full use of all the Government and local authority support that is being made available.

Initial applications should relate to one in-month cashflow issue. Further applications can be made to the fund should support still be required in subsequent months. We're trying to help as many clubs as possible through this process and there is a limited amount of funding available.

Information about making a request can be found [here](#)

ALWAYS THERE TO LEND A CAULIFLOWER EAR.



Here's the [link](#) to the guidance from Mind

We're still one team – looking after one another's mental well-being

Just because we're not running training sessions or sending our fixtures, it doesn't mean that we shouldn't still be looking after our players, members and volunteers. They're the lifeblood of our clubs.

We've been pleased to share all the great activity that is taking place at clubs to make sure that they keep in touch during the lockdown. This has played an important role in supporting the mental well-being of our people.

As we're now preparing to return to rugby, the mental health well-being charity Mind has produced some helpful guidance to support clubs as they prepare for a return to play. Here's the [link](#). We're grateful to Lancashire RFU for use of their wonderful mental well-being posters reminding us always to be there to lend a cauliflower ear.



Read Bill Sweeney's full statement [here](#)

England Rugby Announcement

At the start of July, Bill Sweeney, the CEO of England Rugby, made an important announcement about the impact of Covid-19 on the organisation's revenues. He said:

"As you will be aware the long-term financial challenges are significant for the whole economy. We like many rugby clubs rely on revenue from matches and events at Twickenham Stadium and we re-invest this revenue back into the game.

Our detailed scenario modelling shows there may be a short-term impact of £107 million in lost revenues and we also know there will be a much longer-term effect. We are projecting a 4-5-year recovery with cumulative revenue reductions of around 20%.

We are having to make difficult decisions on what we can continue to invest in, as well as what is the right size and shape of our business for the future. To ensure we have a sustainable RFU we have announced to colleagues that it is proposed that the total number of roles across the organisation will reduce by 139."

We'll share any additional information about this process as soon as this is published by England Rugby and you can read Bill's full statement [here](#).



You can read their update report [here](#).

RFU Council – Yorkshire representatives report

Yorkshire RFU has two representatives, Ted Atkinson and Jim Chapman, on the RFU council. They are elected by our clubs to represent our views.

Ted and Jim also both sit on sub-committees which report to the RFU's Community Game Board; Ted is on the Nominations, Age Grade and Education and Player Development Sub-Committees and Jim is Chair of the Competitions Development Sub-Committee. Jim also represents the RFU on the Board of the England Colleges RFU.

Ted and Jim regularly publish a comprehensive update of their work. During the lockdown, the committees have continued their work, via virtual meetings, developing approaches to respond to the Covid-19 crisis, and to put in place plans for recovery and to continue to develop the game.

You can read their update report [here](#).



New Twitter and Instagram accounts @yorkshire_rfu

New Twitter and Instagram accounts for Yorkshire RFU

We have been doing a bit of housekeeping of our online accounts and as a result we have a new home for the Yorkshire RFU on Twitter and Instagram.

Find us on both at @yorkshire_rfu and follow us for all the latest information, news, and updates from the Yorkshire RFU.

You can also follow us on Facebook and subscribe to our YouTube channel.



England Rugby training and development webinars

Over the past few months, England Rugby has created several exceptional training and development webinars covering club, referee, and coach development. All these webinars are available on demand from the England Rugby website and you can access them using the following links: -

[Club webinars](#)

[Referee webinars](#)

[Coach webinars](#)



Yorkshire Academy Update

The RFU and Yorkshire RFU issued a statement on 15 July about the future of the Yorkshire Academy following a number of announcements by Yorkshire Carnegie.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) and Yorkshire RFU have been working to secure the pathway in Yorkshire since Yorkshire Carnegie announced it was no longer able to fund an academy programme. In the short term, the RFU and Yorkshire RFU are working to put in place a solution for the development of high potential young players when rugby is able to restart.

Read the full statement [here](#) Read the full statement [here](#)

This newsletter will be published every two months by the Yorkshire RFU. The next edition will be September 2020. If there's anything you would like to share with the Yorkshire rugby community through this update, please email yorkshirerfumarketing@gmail.com by 1 September 2020.

Our values

Teamwork | Respect | Enjoyment | Discipline | Sportsmanship