



Notebook

“THE THIRD PLACE” – IMPROVING THE CLUBHOUSE EXPERIENCE

You may well be aware of the term "the third place", namely the location we gravitate to after home and the workplace. In the rugby context this is of course the clubhouse. The ECRU Funding & Facilities Group recognises that from time to time Clubs may need to consider improving the experience people have when visiting clubhouses. With a good experience visitors are more likely to call again, stay for longer and perhaps ultimately play a positive part in the Clubs affairs.

Our Funding & Facilities Group has a budget to encourage clubs to think more about improving the quality of the clubhouse experience and is inviting Clubs to submit details of their clubhouse projects. The Group will assess these projects having particular regard to those that support the experience of visitors including referees and spectators. For the best schemes submitted Funding & Facilities will make a contribution which at this stage is likely to be in the order of £500. Clubs will be expected to match this contribution on a £ for £ basis to complete the project.

Clubs are invited to email a short statement to John Winders at development@ecrurugby.com before **27th January 2018**, the closing date for submissions, setting out: -

Details of proposals that will improve the clubhouse experience for users:
An estimate of the costs involved; and
Expected benefits for the users of the clubhouse.

The Club Development Committee will consider all applications at a meeting to be held early in February.

Contents

The Third Place	1
Volunteer Recognition	2
Alan Goggin playing at 70	2
GMS Workshop	3
NatWest RugbyForce	3
University Returners	4
Whereabouts	5
EC Annual Dinner Date/Venue	5
EC Representative Teams	6
EC Women's Playing kit	6
Upcoming CPD Courses	7

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer Recognition Programme



Andy Pott of Norwich RFC has been recognised in the Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer Recognition Programme when he and his wife Helen were invited to Twickenham Stadium to watch the England vs Australia game in the Autumn Internationals. Andy said of the day “Our tickets were very good with Jonathan Joseph's and Danny Care's tries being scored immediately in front of us. Thank you for arranging this wonderful day out for us both. Helen had never been to Twickenham before and was very impressed by the whole event”



Andy Pott and his wife Helen at Twickenham during the Autumn Internationals

Volunteer Recognition Opportunities



Do you know a volunteer who has given so much that they deserve to be recognised for their work at the Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer of the Year Awards?

More information about the Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer Recognition Programme and how you can nominate someone can be found here:-

<http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/volunteers/recognition/volunteer-recognition-opportunities/>



Nigel Brown - Thetford RFC

Nigel Brown, coach to Thetford RFC and Suffolk RU has been invited to a Volunteer Recognition lunch in the Members Lounge at Twickenham Stadium to honour his contribution to the game. He was nominated by ECRU Club Development and the RFU Coach Development Team.



Alan Goggin with his Colchester team mates, flanked by sons Ben and Luke

Alan Goggin celebrated his 70th birthday in style doing what he loves the most “playing Rugby”, starting at 50 alongside his two sons who were in their 20s at the time and shows no sign of retiring any time soon.

Alan plays for Colchester 5ths but is always willing to help out other teams short of a prop when his game is called off. Alan said, “for the last 50 years I’ve played sport and never stopped – and I don’t want to stop to be blunt”.

Many happy returns Alan, long may you continue!

GMS WORKSHOP AT DISS RFC FINAL REMINDER - 10TH JANUARY 2018



ECRU Management Committee attaches a considerable amount of importance to communications and recognises the value of the GMS system.

A number of Clubs continue to raise questions over the operation of GMS. As a result, EC Club Development is to deliver a "Running Rugby Workshop" on the subject at the Diss Club on 10th January.

Based on the feedback the workshop will cover

- Allocating roles and generating training reports; and
- Team Management Tile - Fixtures.

A buffet will be available at 6.30 before the event starts at 7pm.

All those with an active role in the administrative side of your club are encouraged to attend, in particular those with membership, registration, team management roles.

Too book your place please let Lisa know the names of the people attending from your club at: - Admin@ecrugby.com



NATWEST RUGBYFORCE



NatWest RugbyForce returns for 2018

England Rugby in partnership with NatWest has launched NatWest RugbyForce 2018, the ninth year of a nationwide programme that helps grassroots rugby clubs up and down the country to attract new members and become stronger and more sustainable for the future.

Seize the opportunity to earn your club a unique NEW support package that will benefit your members and the local community by registering today.

6 large grant support packages which include one of the following:

- Pitch Maintenance Kick Start
- Energy Smart
- Transform Your Social Space
- A place for all to play
- Health & Safety/Accident Prevention/Safe Place
- Young Person (U24) led project

Register by 4th February 2018

[Click here for more information](#)

EC SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Eastern Counties Rugby Union are keen to encourage and support initiatives that help clubs keep in contact with those players who head off to University.

If you are organising a game for University Returners or other activities aimed at retaining players in this age group, then please get in touch with CCPD Chair Ross Cowie who will be more than happy to help with advice, guidance and budgets permitting financial support for your event/game.

For more information contact: -



Ross Cowie - Chair CB CCPD
E: rossrugby@btinternet.com

U21 / UNIVERSITY RETURNERS GAMES

The first of the Eastern Counties supported University Returners / U21s fixtures took place on Wednesday 20th December, with Colchester hosting Diss, and Ipswich hosting Southwold.



Colchester U21s host Diss U21s

Paul Mills at Colchester said "In a very competitive game of rugby played in excellent spirit, an under 21s team from Colchester took on their counterparts from Diss under lights at Mill Road on Wednesday December 20th.

Featuring many university returnees and some current players, this was an excellent opportunity for both sides to reconnect with their clubs and to renew old acquaintances. The final score of 17-14 to Colchester (home try scorers Ed Parry, Craig Tierney and Alex Peterson) is probably inconsequential taking into account the purpose of the game itself but it must be said that the skillset and commitment shown from both sides was of very high quality. Well done to all and a big thank you to the 3 officials for allowing an open and flowing game of rugby"



Ipswich U21s host Southwold U21s

Mike Hancock at Ipswich said "Ipswich were hit by Southwold storm as a stellar back division clicked impressively to destroy plucky Ipswich in front of a large crowd at Humber Doucy Lane.

Whilst hampered slightly by giving so many players game time a disjointed Ipswich could not contain a rampant Southwold whose slick handling, offloading skills, pace and cohesion was a delight to watch at times. Ipswich pressed the Southwold line hard on many occasions but couldn't manage to breach the stoic Southwold defence whose eye for a counterattack from deep in their own half often proved successful.

A wonderful evening at Ipswich RFC, with thanks to all involved particularly referee Darryl Chapman who contributed magnificently to the occasion. Ipswich 0 - 79 Southwold"

WHEREABOUTS JANUARY

- 6 Jan – Colchester RFC
- 13 Jan – Cambridge RFC
- 15 Jan – London RFU ManCom
- 18 Jan – RFU CB & Club Committee
- 20 Jan – Shelford RFC
- 27 Jan – Crusaders RFC
- 29 Jan – Cambs RFU Committee



Roger Pierson
RFU Council Member
ECRU Secretary

- 6 Jan - Aldeburgh & Thorpeness RFC
- 13 Jan – Diss RFC
- 20 Jan - Harwich & Dovercourt RFC
- 27 Jan – Ipswich RFC
- 29 Jan - Volunteering Group



John Winders
Chair Club
Development

JUNE 2018						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

The **Eastern Counties Annual Awards dinner** has been confirmed as taking place on: - **Saturday 16th June 2018** and will be held at Thurston RFC

Guest speaker Peter Wheeler

More details to follow....



Ian Forton
ECRU President

- 6 Jan - Wisbech RFC
- 13 Jan - Ely RFC
- 15 Jan - London RFU ManCom
- 27 Jan – Crusaders RFC



Alasdair Bovaird
ECRU Chair

- 3 Jan – RDO Team Continuity Meeting
- 6 Jan - Colchester RFC
- 13 Jan - Mistley RFC
- 14 Jan – Newmarket RFC (Accreditation)
- 26-28 Jan – Leadership in Union
- 29 Jan – Cambs RFU Committee
- 30 Jan – Competitions Committee



Pamela Clarke
ECRU Treasurer

- 13 Jan - Cambridge RFC
- 14 Jan - Southwold Swallows
- 17 Jan - Leadership Academy
- 21 Jan - Leadership Academy
- 28 Jan - Woodbridge Amazons
- 31 Jan - Finance Committee



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If you would like your club article to appear in this Newsletter, then please send it (preferably with a related photo/image) to: -

Notebook@ecrugby.com




by the third Friday in the month.

Russ Clarke

ECRU – Chair Marketing and Communications

Eastern Counties Rugby Union



Tomo Industrial Estate
Tomo Rd
Stowmarket IP14 5AY
01449 614 674
Admin@ECRURugby.com

 ECRURugby.com
 /ECRURugby
 @ECRURugby





EC REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS' – RESULTS/FIXTURES

EC U18's (Girls) and U15's (Girls)

29th October
Middlesex 17-30 EC U15s 
Middlesex 57-23 EC U18s 

19th November

EC 10-12 Essex U15s 
EC 24-59 Essex U18s 

3rd December

EC v Bucks H Stowmarket

EC U17's (Boys)

7th or 14th January tbc Match v Yorkshire

28th January (Sun) Match tbc

18th Feb (Sun) Herts v EC (away)

25th February EC v Essex at Thetford
(2squads)

7th March EC v Norfolk, Suffolk &
Cambridgeshire Baa-Baas

18th March Kent v EC (away)

EC Women's Trials

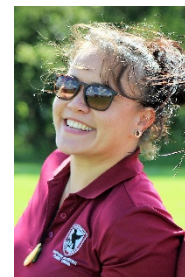
#1 - 21st January 12 noon – Stowmarket RFC

#2 - 11th February 12 noon – venue tbc

#3 - 4th March 12noon – venue tbc

NEW EC WOMEN'S KIT

EC Women, who begin their Gill Burns County Championship campaign in April will be doing so in their new kit, which has been designed by a Tekura Maeva who played as part of the EC Women's squad last season. Tekura (Teki to her friends) offered her services during last year's campaign and has, as you can see produced a striking design taking inspiration from the Eastern Counties Raven.



Tekura (Teki) Maeva

EC U16's (Boys)

21st January EC v Leicestershire

4th February EC v Notts Lincs & Derby

18th February EC v East Midlands

EC U18's (Boys)

17th December Essex vs EC **Cancelled**

EC U20s (Men)

Sunday 28th January v Cambridge at
Grange Rd 2pm

Sunday 11th February v Surrey at
Shelford RFC 2pm

Sunday 25th February v Kent at
Shelford RFC 2pm

Sunday 18th March v Hertfordshire
(away)

Course/Venu	Date/Time	URL
Rugby Union in Secondary Schools - Beccles Free School	3 Jan 2018 9am - 5pm	226337519
Rugby Union in Secondary Schools - East Bergholt High School	3 Jan 2018 9am - 5pm	226337520
CMOD Scrum - Shelford RFC	9 Jan 2018 7.30pm - 9.00pm	226337646
GMS Workshop – Diss RFC – to book email admin@ecrugby.com	10 Jan 6.30pm – 9pm	n/a
Play It Safe - Norwich RFC	15 Jan 2018 6.30pm - 9.30pm	226337632
England Rugby Refereeing Award - Easton College	Sun 21st Jan, Sun 4th Feb 2018 9.00am - 5.00pm both days	226336427
Refereeing Children - Hadleigh RFC	22 Jan 2018 6.30pm - 9.30pm	226337813
Play It Safe - Bury St Edmunds RFC	22 Jan 2018 7pm - 10pm	226337692
EFARU - Holt RFC	23 & 24 Jan 2018 6.30pm - 10.00pm	226337783
Kids First Refereeing - Joyce Frankland Academy	25 Jan 2018 7pm - 10pm	226337600
Play It Safe Southwold - RFC	28 Jan 2018 2pm - 5pm	226337318
Kids First Refereeing - Coleridge Community College	29 Jan 2018 1pm - 4pm	226337732
Rugby Ready - Coleridge Community College	29 Jan 2018 9am - 12pm	226337734
ERCA - University of East Anglia	4, 18, 25 Feb 2018 9am - 5pm	226337761
ERCA -The Leys School Cambridge	4, 18 Feb, 11 Mar 2018 9am - 5pm	226337275
Rugby Ready - Lakenham Hewett RFC	5 Feb 2018 6.30pm - 9.30pm	226337815
Advanced CPD Game Planning - Cambridge RFC	11 Feb 2018 9.30am - 12.30pm	226335830
Advanced CPD Performance - Analysis Cambridge RFC	11 Feb 2018 1pm - 4pm	226335831
EFARU - Shelford RFC	25 Feb 2018 9am - 5pm	226337423

For More Information Contact: -

Norfolk - Sam Carpenter - samuelpcarpenter@rfu.com / 07872 827151

Suffolk & Cambridgeshire - Chloe McMorran - chloemcmorran@rfu.com / 07715 856728