



# Notebook



*The Singapore Free Press, 8 March 1951*

## EASTERN COUNTIES WANDERERS RETURN!

Next season will see the return of the Eastern Counties Wanderers XV following a decision by the Eastern Counties Management Committee at its meeting in April.

The idea of the Wanderers is to offer a route to representative rugby that bridges the gap between the current Eastern Counties men's team and the three county representative sides - its revival is part of a broader review of representative rugby in the Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk and will offer players who are currently turning out for lower level clubs the opportunity to play at a higher level and to compete for places in the senior squad which is largely made up of players from clubs at levels 3 to 5.

"There are many players at local clubs who for work, family or other reasons cannot commit the amount of time necessary to play in National League 1 or similar but who still have the talent and ambition to play higher levels of rugby", says CB Chair Alasdair Bovaird, "the Wanderers concept will give them an outlet for that talent."

Planning is now underway under the leadership of Eastern Counties President, Ian Forton, to schedule fixtures for the 2018-19 season, and to appoint a coaching/management team. Coaches at club and county level will be involved in the planning to support the new team without interfering with the needs of clubs through the season.

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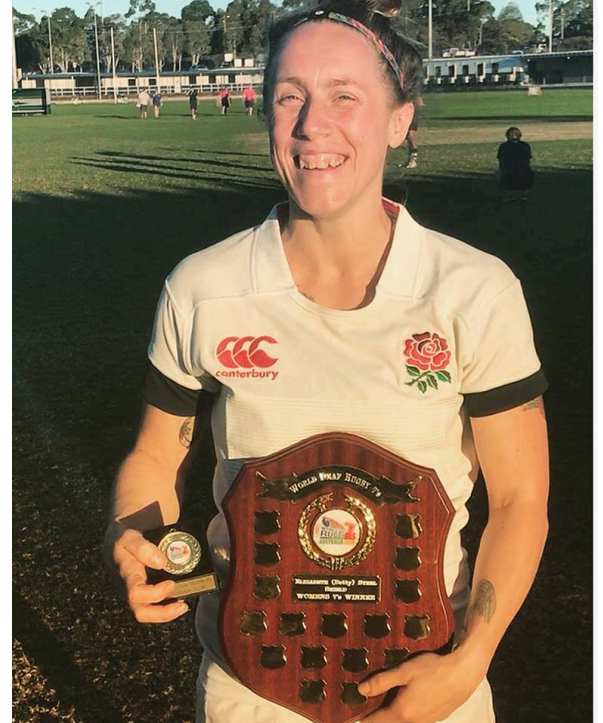
## EC'S VERY OWN STEPH "RATTY" HANRATTY ONLY WENT AND WON THE INAUGURAL WORLD DEAF 7S!!!

We would like to congratulate Steph on her fantastic achievement, not only being selected to be part of the England Deaf Women's 7 squad, but to actually travel to Australia and be such an integral part of the success of the team. With Steph scoring 62 of the 102 points scored by England Women throughout the competition!

The women's squad played their first ever international fixture against another rugby Deaf nation. They played a five-game series against Australia women's Deaf team winning the series 5-0 in five extremely close games. Therefore, becoming the official world Deaf women's champions.

AND if that wasn't achievement enough, Steph has been made vice-captain of the England Women's Deaf XV with a view to her taking over the captaincy in 2-3 years!

Having missed the first EC Women's game against Oxfordshire for obvious reasons, Steph returns to the squad for the game against Buckinghamshire on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May, where we hope she will keep her high scoring form going! Well done Steph, you are a true inspiration to us all and especially Women's Rugby.



## COLCHESTER RFC RFU ACCREDITATION PRESENTATION

All clubs will be aware that the objective of the RFU's Accreditation Scheme is to encourage clubs to become stronger, more efficient and effective and more enjoyable places in which to play rugby.

One of the key drivers here relates to integration with the local community. Colchester RFC heeded this advice to the full before the last game of the season at their Mill Road ground when President, Brian Borges, was delighted to accept the plaque acknowledging the Club has successfully navigated through the re-accreditation procedure.

The presentation was made during a luncheon for 180 members and sponsors including the Right Reverend Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester and Will Quince the local MP.

The day was successfully completed when the 1st Team went on to maintain their unbeaten home record scoring the thousandth point of the season in the process.



## DISS FLOODLIGHTS

The ECRU Funding & Facilities Group identified the provision of floodlights at the Diss Club as a priority project within the CB and the scheme was subsequently included in the RFU's Facility Fund Programme.

This action resulted in the award of a £25k grant by the RFU that has helped the Club realise its dream of providing new floodlights in this its 60th anniversary year.

In recognition of his efforts the official switch on was performed by Brian Bale the Club Treasurer.

He said "the ambition is to continue to grow the club in terms of membership, standard of rugby played and continued improvement of facilities. It's all part of a continuing development."





**EASTERN COUNTIES RUGBY UNION  
AWARDS DINNER  
SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018  
7PM - 11.30PM**



**GUEST SPEAKER  
PETER WHEELER  
ENGLAND & LIONS LEGEND**

**THURSTON RFC  
ROBINSON FIELD, IXWORTH RD,  
THURSTON, BURY SAINT EDMUNDS  
IP31 3QE**

**£40 PER PERSON**

**WELCOME DRINKS AND SAUSAGES  
COURTESY OF OUR SPONSORS  
GREENE KING & MUSK'S SAUSAGES**



Email [dinner@ecrugby.com](mailto:dinner@ecrugby.com) for tickets

# SITUATIONS VACANT

## TWO EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD EASTERN COUNTIES RUGBY INTO THE FUTURE

Eastern Counties are looking to appoint two key volunteers for the 2018-19 season to lead key aspects of the game from next season:

**Honorary Director of Representative Rugby** - this volunteer will lead and co-ordinate all the Eastern Counties representative rugby programmes - male and female, youth, under 20s and adults. Our vision is "to play at the highest level while maintaining and growing our connection with the community of clubs and players across Eastern Counties" and the Director of Representative Rugby will need to pull together a team of people to help us deliver that vision. They will also be expected to work closely with those leading the representative squads in the three counties - Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk - to ensure that a consistent and quality experience is available to all involved.



**Chair of Community Game Growth** - a volunteer is required to Chair this new group tasked with ensuring that more 15-a-side rugby is being played across the three counties. Our objective is that no player who is available and wishes to play a game of rugby should be unable to find one to play, and our view is that this will require new approaches to support clubs and players in providing those playing opportunities. Coach development, youth rugby and adult competitions will fall under the remit of this group and the post holder will be a member of the Eastern Counties Management Committee. They will also have responsibility for alternative forms of the game - touch, sevens, etc - as pathways to the fifteen-a-side game.

Full details of these roles and the appointment process will appear in social media and on the Eastern Counties website during the week beginning 14 May - please take a look and think about putting yourself forward if you are interested.

## DISS RUGBY CLUB ARE LOOKING FOR A FORWARDS COACH

Please apply to Ed Hegarty [norfolkgees@btconnect.com](mailto:norfolkgees@btconnect.com)



## WOODBIDGE CROWNED WINNERS OF THE EASTERN COUNTIES COLTS CUP

WOODBIDGE COLTS 27 – 19 WEST NORFOLK COLTS

Congratulations to Woodbridge Colts who won the Eastern Counties Colts Cup on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May, by 5 tries to 3, against an excellent hard working and determined West Norfolk squad. The game was a splendid match, flowing from end to end, entertained over 300 spectators in the holiday sun, and was a great advertisement for Colts Rugby in Eastern Counties.



## JOSH GILBERT MEMORIAL MATCH

Hadleigh 2nd hosted the Josh Gilbert Memorial match against Thurston 2nd on 28<sup>th</sup> April, the very last EC league game of the season. A replay of the game in September when Josh died on the pitch following heart failure.

Thurston won by 27 points to 26, with both sides scoring 4 tries each, the lead changing hands 5 times!

The game was played in a superb spirit throughout, a great advertisement for social rugby in Eastern Counties, and epitomised all that Josh enjoyed and cherished in the game



## ADVANCED PROP STAR

The feedback from the previous courses has been outstanding along with your thirst for knowledge we've now created 'Advanced Prop Star'. The evening will be delivered by Tim Reed (RFU Community Rugby Coach, Level 3 Coach) David Marshall (RFU Community Rugby Coach, Ex Wasps) Glenn Remnant (Ex-All Black, Rotherham, Cornish All Blacks, Cambridge) as well as Eastern Counties RFU Development Team.

The informal CPD is aimed at Senior Players and Coaches, that have ideally attended the initial Prop Star workshop(s).

The delivery will include a brief theory module, that will lead into the practical content on the pitch. The informal CPD will be roughly an hour and a half, with a short amount of time allocated at the end for Q & A. (Although questions will be encouraged throughout!)

The content for the evening:

1. What do we do at the Scrum - hit and hope or do we have a purpose?
2. Scrum with and without the ball
3. Front row roles and responsibilities during attacking and defensive scrum.
4. What kind of scrum works where? (pitch specific delivery)
5. Attacking options off a defensive scrum!
6. Back row & front row who needs who?

To book onto the course please use the link below or book via our Facebook page. We will be using Eventbrite for this CPD and you'll receive a receipt to confirm your attendance: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/rfu-17213132346>

If you require any further information, please let feel free to contact Matthew Short on 07715 856944 / [matthewshort@rfu.com](mailto:matthewshort@rfu.com)

## ENGLAND WOMEN'S STAR RACHEL BURFORD GUESTS AS A COACH FOR EC WOMEN

### *Two Old Timers call it a day!*

Eastern Counties Chairman and Chair of Marketing and Comms – Alasdair Bovaird and Russ Clarke played their final game of Rugby (probably) on opposite sides in the Norwich Union Presidents match against Wendens Ambo on 28<sup>th</sup> April. A game which was graciously hosted by Crusaders RFC as Norwich Union's pitch is now in use by Sprowston Cricket Club with whom they share their ground.

With Norwich Union resting players in readiness for their Norfolk Intermediate Cup game the following weekend the Firebirds (2<sup>nd</sup> XV) took the field against Wendens Ambo.

Now it would be a lie to say that the game was an example of flowing champagne Rugby with both sides fielding some vintage players, however the spirit in which the game was played was testament to the true spirit of grass roots Rugby, the referee Nick Craig playing his part by not letting the odd mistake by either team get in the way of a cracking game of Rugby. The final score, not that anyone really cared was 22-10 to NU.



England Women's centre Rachel Burford joined the EC Women's team coaching team for their final training session on Sunday 22<sup>d</sup> April before the team began their Gill Burns Division 2 County Championship games. Both the players and coaching team learned a lot from Rachel as she passed on her knowledge in what was an informative and enjoyable session for all involved.



After the session Rachel said on Twitter: -



Great session with @ECRURUGBY Great players and coaches. Thanks for having me!  
#countyRugby #wrugby



# WHEREABOUTS

## MAY

9

- 3 - Wymondham Dinner
- 5 – ECRU Men v E. Mids. at Ampthill RFC
- 6 – Diss – Norfolk Big Rugby Day
- 8 – EC Management Committee
- 11 - Bury St Edmunds – Mitsubishi Volunteer event
- 12 - ECRU Men v Lancashire at Sedgley Park RFC
- 15 – RFU Roadshow at Shelford RFC
- 16 – ECRU Leadership Academy Celebration event
- 18 – Southwold RFC – Volunteer Awards evening
- 19 – ECRU Men v Yorkshire at Grange Road
- 21 – Cambridgeshire RU Clubs meeting
- 22 – ECRU Competitions meeting
- 30 – Norfolk RU AGM



**Roger Pierson**  
RFU Council Member



**Ian Forton – ECRU President**

- 3 – W5 - EC Men vs East
- 8 – EC Management Committee
- 13 – EC Women vs Bucks at Aylesbury
- 18/19 - London Competitions AGM
- 19 - EC Men vs Yorkshire Grange Rd
- 22 – EC Competitions Committee
- 24 – County Planning



**Alasdair Bovaird – ECRU Chairman**

- 3 - Wymondham dinner
- 5 - East Mids v EC, Ampthill
- 8 – ManCom
- 12 - Lancs v EC @ Sedgley Park
- 13 - Bucks v EC Women @ Aylesbury
- 15 - Community Clubs roadshow @ Shelford
- 16 - Leadership Academy @ Bury St Ed
- 18-20 - Leadership in Union residential
- 21 - Cams committee
- 22 - Competitions Committee

- 
- 1 – Club Development Committee
  - 8 – EC Management Committee
  - 19 - EC Men vs Yorkshire at Grange Road
  - 31 – Partnership Meeting



**John Winders**  
Chair Club Development

- 
- 5 - ECRU Men v E. Mids. at Ampthill RFC
  - 6 - Norfolk Big Rugby Day Diss
  - 8 – EC Management Committee
  - 13 – EC Women vs Bucks at Aylesbury
  - 18 - Mitsubishi Awards Norwich
  - 19 - EC Men vs Yorkshire at Grange Road



**Robert Temple**  
ECRU Honorary Secretary



**Pamela Clarke – ECRU Treasurer**

- 8 – EC Management Committee
- 13 – EC Women vs Bucks at Aylesbury
- 16 - Leadership Academy @ Bury St Ed
- 19 - EC Men vs Yorkshire Grange Rd



## 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](mailto:Notebook@ecrugby.com)




by the third Friday in the month.

Russ Clarke

ECRU – Chair Marketing and Communications

## Eastern Counties Rugby Union


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-  [/ECRURugby](https://www.facebook.com/ECRURugby)
-  [@ECRURugby](https://twitter.com/ECRURugby)




## EC REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS' – RESULTS/FIXTURES

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

29<sup>th</sup> October  
Middlesex 17-30 EC U15s 

Middlesex 57-23 EC U18s 

19<sup>th</sup> November

EC 10-12 Essex U15s 

EC 24-59 Essex U18s 

3<sup>rd</sup> December


EC v Bucks H Stowmarket

### EC U17's (Boys)

18<sup>th</sup> Feb (Sun) Herts 24-24 EC (away) 

25<sup>th</sup> February EC 24-24 Essex at Thetford  
**Match Postponed – Frozen pitch**


7<sup>th</sup> March EC v Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire Baa-Baas  
**Match Postponed**

25<sup>th</sup> March Kent 15-22 EC (away) 

### EC Women (Gill Burns County Champ.)

29<sup>th</sup> April EC vs Oxfordshire 45-0 


6<sup>th</sup> May EC vs BYE


13<sup>th</sup> May Buckinghamshire vs EC 20-22 

20<sup>th</sup> May – Semi Final vs Leicestershire

27<sup>th</sup> May - Final


### EC U16's (Boys)


21<sup>st</sup> January EC 31-12 Leicestershire 

4<sup>th</sup> February EC 12-0 Notts Lincs & Derby at Holt RFC KO 2pm 

18<sup>th</sup> February EC East Midlands at The Leys School KO 2pm

### EC U20s (Men)

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February EC 15-24 Surrey at Shelford RFC 2pm 

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February EC 21-21 Kent at Shelford RFC 2pm 

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March v Hertfordshire (away) **CANCELLED** due to weather conditions

### EC Men (Bill Beaumont County Champ.)

5<sup>th</sup> May East Midlands vs EC 19-22 

12<sup>th</sup> May Lancashire vs EC 52-31 

19<sup>th</sup> May EC vs Yorkshire

27<sup>th</sup> May - Final



*EC Women's squad pictured with England Women's star Rachel Burford*

## MAY:

England Rugby Refereeing Award Colchester 6th Form College 20/05 & 10/06/2018 9am - 5pm  
<http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses/search/#/search?id=&c=&eventid=226335861>

England Rugby Coaching Award Ipswich School 20/05,10/05,24/06/2018 9am - 5pm  
<http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses/search/#/search?id=&c=&eventid=226337320>

England Rugby Refereeing Award Uni of Essex 20/05 & 10/06/2018 9am - 5pm  
<http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses/search/#/search?id=&c=&eventid=226335861>

CPD Coaching Back Attack Lakenham Hewett RFC 30/05/2018 7pm - 9.30pm  
<http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses/search/#/search?id=&c=&eventid=226338611>

## JUNE:

Teacher Development Day 2018 Bedford Modern School 12/06/2018 8.30am - 3.30pm  
<http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses/search/#/search?id=&c=&eventid=226338409>

Rugby Ready Mistley RFC 17/06/2018 10am - 1pm  
<http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses/search/#/search?id=&c=&eventid=226338774>

Kids First Refereeing Children Bedford Modern School 20/06/2018 1pm - 3.30pm  
<http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses/search/#/search?id=&c=&eventid=226338617>

Teacher Development Day 2018 St Joseph's College 28/06/2018 8.30am - 3.30pm  
<http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses/search/#/search?id=&c=&eventid=226338422>

## JULY:

Eastern Counties Coach & Referee Conference 2018 Diss RFC 08/07/2018 8.45am - 4.30pm  
<http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses/search/#/search?id=&c=&eventid=226338680>

Young Match Officials Conference 2018 Diss RFC (open to qualified YMOs) 08/07/2018 8.45am - 4.30pm <http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses/search/#/search?id=&c=&eventid=226338687>

**INFORMAL CPDs for 2018/19** - Following the huge success of 'Prop Star', attracting over 100 players and coaches from across the CB...we are looking to deliver a series of informal CPD sessions during the summer and throughout next season. We would like to know from **YOU**, what training needs you have and what you like to see available for your players, coaches and referees...so please get in touch if you have any ideas!

As ever, please distribute these opportunities to relevant personnel, contacting your local Rugby Development Officer if you have any further questions:

Norfolk - Sam Carpenter - [samuelpcarpenter@rfu.com](mailto:samuelpcarpenter@rfu.com) / 07872827151

Suffolk & Cambridgeshire - Chloe McMorran - [chloemcmorran@rfu.com](mailto:chloemcmorran@rfu.com) / 07715856728