

## RFUW NEWS UPDATE – October 2006



With the new season upon us please find below some important information that you will require throughout the new term and some news updates.

**2006 IRB Rugby World Cup** - England came within touching distance of becoming the first ever nation to hold both the men's and the women's Rugby World Cup titles in September. Following a gallant team display in the final at the Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, Canada, England had to settle for a 25-17 defeat to the Black Ferns, but with the game being heralded as the best ever women's rugby match Geoff Richards' side can certainly hold their heads up high. England booked their place in the final following wins over the USA (18-0), South Africa (74-8) and France (27-8) before taking on Canada in the semi-finals, winning 20-14.

**Super 4 Trials** - This year's Super 4 trials will be held at Broadstreet RFC on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Players are selected from the PDAs held over the summer. Last year's 44 do not need to trial again. The trials will be attended by the England squad coaches. The Super 4s trials provide an opportunity for new players coming through the ranks to be recognised by the England coaching staff. Games, consisting of four teams playing off against each other, will be held at Lichfield RFC on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October there will be a preparation day and we will be looking for a number of retired World Cup stars to assist with coaching (tbc).

**Regional Programme** - Senior regional trials will take place on the weekend of December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Trial forms will be available to download from the website from October and the closing date for forms to be returned to Head Office is November 17<sup>th</sup>. Under 14s and Under 17s regional trials will take place on the weekend of January 28<sup>th</sup>. Youth Trials will be closed in some regions and open in others. This information will be included on the trial form and the website. The youth trials form will be available on the web from December and the closing date is 12<sup>th</sup> January. PLEASE NOTE YOU WILL **NOT** BE ABLE TO TURN UP AND TRIAL ON THE DAY FOR ANY OF THE TRIALS. All training and fixture dates for the programme can be found in the RFUW handbook and will also be available on the website, along with further information and your appropriate Regional Programme Manager's contact details.

**Simplified injury reporting** - On the rare occasions when a serious injury occurs, the RFU asks that clubs complete and return a report form. This enables our Injured Player Welfare Officer to get in touch with the club, the player and their family to offer practical support and advice when it is needed most. This reporting system has now been simplified to ease the administrative burden on clubs and aid the early notification of such events. A single, one-page form replaces the four different,

longer forms that used to be required. All the details about how to report injuries can be found at [www.rfu.com/health](http://www.rfu.com/health) or by following the link 'Injuries' on the RFU home page.

*For reference:* Any injuries that occur whilst playing rugby or taking part in organised squad rugby training sessions that fit any of the following definitions should be reported using the Reportable Injury Event Form: (a) An injury which results in admission to a hospital intensive care unit, high dependency unit, specialist spinal or head injury unit. (b) Deaths which occur during or within 6 hours of a game finishing. (c) Any injury that is likely to result in an insurance claim to the RFU insurers. Any other injuries or accidents should be recorded in a club's accident book; guidelines on this can be found on the Health and Safety Executive's website: [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk). The RFU continues to examine the number and type of injuries that occur in rugby through its research projects carried out in both the Professional and Community games. For further information please contact [health@rfu.com](mailto:health@rfu.com).

**Affiliation** - A letter confirming your affiliation and any fees paid or owed is enclosed for your records.

**Club Contacts** – These have been updated for this season and are enclosed. Please ensure you contact us if there are any changes to your club contacts during the season so you don't miss out on any important information by post or e-mail. Advise changes in contact information to [RFUW@therfu.com](mailto:RFUW@therfu.com) or telephone 0208 831 7996.

**RFUW Annual General Meeting** - The RFUW AGM will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at Lichfield Rugby Club at 11.30am prior to the Super 4 and Under 19 matches which will take place at the same venue. Enclosed you will find your official AGM notification and further details. Please return your attendance form as soon as possible, whether you can attend or not, so that we can ensure in advance the meeting will be quorate and will be able to take place.

**Rules & Regulations** - Please note changes to the RFUW Rules & Regulations enclosed for the Under 14s for this season. Unfortunately these changes were not made in time to be included in the 2006/2007 handbook. You should have already received this information from us by e-mail to your club contact. If not please read the enclosed document carefully and keep a copy of this with your handbook.

**RFUW Youth Registration Procedure** - All female age group players should register in the same way as boys players through their club to county. Forms should be completed and returned to the RFU County Registrars who will input them to the database or clubs can do this directly if they elect to use RugbyFirst to register players.

Female players should register once at Under 14s level and then register again when they move into the under 17s age band. **(NB. The RFUW age bands change to U15s and U18s from the 2007/08 season).**

**U18s Players in Senior Rugby** - We have had a number of questions on the issue of U18s in the front five/ front row. For clarification the current situation is that U18s cannot play in the **front row**. As soon as the player turns 18 she is then eligible to play there. We expect that coaches will ensure that the player has been thoroughly prepared to take her place in the front row and take every precaution in terms of the safety of that player.

**Law Guidance Card** - Please find enclosed the newly produced and updated pocket size law guidance cards for your use. You should ensure that you always have a copy available on match days for your referee's information. This is also available for download from the RFUW website.

**RFU Grand Draw** - The RFU Grand Draw is a ready made raffle to help you raise funds for your club. The RFU provide the tickets, the prizes and you receive 90% of the ticket sales! Last year's Grand Draw raised just short of £343,000 of which 90% - over £308,000 - is with the 600 clubs which took part as tax-free donations from the Rugby Football Union Draw Society. 16 clubs raised £2,500 or more and another 82 over £1,000. The top club - Pulborough RFC in Sussex - raised over £5,700. You should shortly be receiving a 'starter pack' from the RFU. For further information or to pre-register go to the community rugby section of the RFU website.

**The Barclays Spaces for Sports scheme** - This scheme is providing 1200 coaching packs per year, donating them to teams and groups who have the greatest need. Applications are particularly welcome from areas of social and economic deprivation and teams working with specific groups, e.g. people with physical and learning disabilities, young people, women and girls and black and minority ethnic groups. To find out if you are eligible to apply telephone 0800 0274221 or email [enquiries@spacesforsports.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@spacesforsports.org.uk). The pack of coaching equipment and clothing, which can be used for a variety of team sports, includes: training bibs, training cones, whistles, water bottles, stop watches, t-shirts, baseball caps, coach's jacket, coach's clipboard, first-aid kit, team bag and tote bags.

**New Under 17s Talent Development Group Programme** - Please see attached flyer.

**Rosie Williams**  
**Managing Director**