In this edition: RFU Leadership Academy celebration; Natwest RugbyForce; News from Cirencester RFC on facilities development; Update on new Game Management System replacing RugbyFirst; New Coach Education courses; Forthcoming workshops; New Natwest support for clubs; Summer Touch Rugby; Gloucestershire County Council new funding opportunity; GRFU Kit Incentive Scheme; Stroud Vets vs Gloucestershire Teachers XV

Congratulations Class of 2014! This season twenty four candidates from Gloucestershire rugby clubs are advancing their leadership and management skills through the RFU Leadership Academy, supported by eight mentors. The Academy, kicked off with a launch event in October 2013 supported by MARSH. It was set up to raise the awareness of the importance of leadership, as well as developing those with the potential to lead the sport into the future.

Endorsement by the Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) means candidates benefit by having access to a wide range of online resources, workshop opportunities, e-zines and certification on completion. Through the use of personal development plans, as well as group and 1-2-1 mentoring, the Academy offers close assistance and guidance during the delegates’ development as leaders.

During the Academy, candidates have attended a number of support workshops including: Leadership; Understanding your Facility Needs & Making them a Reality; A Practical Approach to Risk Assessments; Organisation Structures (including exploring incorporation, charity & CASC status). Feedback from the candidates has been very positive: “A fabulous session......and having the diversity of knowledge shows why we are a Union. Loved it”, “I think it was an excellent session”, “It has given me the tools to facilitate and so deliver my plan better”.

Congratulations to; Andy Blaylock (Stroud Schools’ Combination Rep), Samuel Gabb & Julian Mitchell (Painswick RFC), Tanya Webb (Tewkesbury RFC), Scott Laird & Daniel Hodge (Cheltenham North RFC), John Fowler & Rez Aminnia (Cirencester RFC), Peter Varley (Minchinhampton RFC), Jo Hammonds (Stroud RFC) and Stephen Knight (Tetbury RFC).

NatWest RugbyForce Last time we reported on the clubs who were successful in obtaining a small grant of £500 to use towards their NatWest RugbyForce project. At the time all these clubs had an opportunity to be awarded a further grant based on an additional application to a national panel. Three of our clubs have been successful here; Cheltenham Saracens and Stroud RFC were awarded a further £1000 each and Tetbury RFC received a further grant of £2000 towards their project. Works include; anti vandal paint, upgrading toilet facilities, upgrading shower facilities, upgrading bar area and general decorating of clubhouses. Congratulations to all & good luck with your projects over the 21st/22nd June!

For further details on any articles or how your club can get involved please contact:
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Ben Smith, Community Rugby Coach (Chelt) bensmith@RFU.com 07711 38 59 21
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**Cirencester RFC** is in the middle of a multi-phase project of refurbishment and whole club development. Phase 1 - Toilet Facilities - is now complete. The existing facilities were gutted and then totally rebuilt to a very high standard. This included floor to ceiling ‘Metro’ style tiling, chrome radiators and hidden cisterns, with restricted flow dual flush to save water. The gents also has waterless urinals; again with the environment in mind. Added to that are energy saving lights with automatic sensors. This should help CRFC to reduce the operating costs by quite a margin. The Alto floors benefit from a central drain; more hygienic & easier to clean. Phase 2 - Changing Room Extension - this is due to be finished in time for the club’s Beer Festival weekend at the end of August. Planning for Phase 3 - Social Spaces - is in the advanced stages and it is hoped to complete this before the start of next season. The funding for this project has been provided from sponsorship, grants, donations and payments in kind. The total of which was £142K. With this in mind, the Club would like to thank their sponsors and benefactors for their overwhelming generosity. Also a special mention to the other funders in this project; The Rugby Football Union, The Rugby Football Foundation & Gloucestershire Environmental Trust who, collectively, accounted for £71K of the funding in the form of grants. Looking forward to reporting further progress from the club later this year!

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**Coachings Courses Update!** New UKCC Level 1 and Level 2 courses are now online at: [www.rfu.com/takingpart.olcb](http://www.rfu.com/takingpart.olcb)

Please note the cost of courses from 1st July has increased, but Gloucestershire RFU have increased its subsidies to continue its support. For the Level 1, priced at £105 and £115 for the Level 2, you can claim back £65 towards both. Clubs need to send an invoice, made out to GRFU to their RDO once the course has been completed, detailing name of delegate, course name, dates and venues. For further questions please speak to [Morgana](mailto:Morgana). More courses will be online soon for 2015 along with new courses for Entry Level Referee Award. You will also find a list of forthcoming Advanced CPD courses for Level 2 coaches looking to progress to Level 3. These are being run at the University of Gloucestershire & SGS College, Filton Campus from August through till November 2014. Further details click [here](http://www.rfu.com/takingpart.olcb).

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**Training for the new Game Management System (GMS, replacement for RugbyFirst)** will take place at two venues within Gloucestershire, in August 2014. RugbyFirst ceases to exist at the end of July 2014. It is imperative that the appropriate people in your club/associated body, who use RugbyFirst, make every effort to attend which ever date is most convenient; neither venue is restricted to attendance from clubs in that area. You will be asked to confirm your attendance in advance when further details are sent out.

**Tuesday 5 August - North Bristol RFC**

**Wednesday 6 August - Old Richians RFC**

Drop in clinics for clubs from 1-6pm on each day (in hour sessions on the hour every hour) for clubs to sit with the RFU trainers to go through the systems.

As well as a two hour evening launch event covering the key functionality, the benefits and the importance of accurate data.

Please put these dates in your diary now, thank you.

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**Dates for the Diary**

**Revenue Funding Workshop**
Monday 14th July 6:45pm - 8:30pm
University of Gloucestershire
FREE OF CHARGE
Further details coming soon or contact [Morgana](mailto:Morgana)

**RFU In Touch Safeguarding** course for Club Safeguarding Officers
Sunday 13th July 10am - 4pm
University of Gloucestershire
FREE to Club Safeguarding Officers
Bookable online [www.rfu.com/takingpart/olcb](http://www.rfu.com/takingpart/olcb)

**Business Essentials**
Monday 29th September 6:30pm - 9pm
Painswick RFC
FREE OF CHARGE
Further details coming soon or contact [Morgana](mailto:Morgana)
Volunteer Reward & Recognition

In addition to the prestigious annual Gloucestershire Awards, GRFU, in conjunction with the RFU, run a Volunteer Recognition & Reward Programme. Nominations are welcomed by all clubs and associated bodies. If you know of a volunteer who has worked tirelessly for your club over a long period and the club would like to recognise them next season, please complete the nomination form which will be sent to the GRFU Panel for consideration. These awards vary from lunch with the RFU President and Twickenham tickets to RFU gifts. If you need any guidance on this please contact County Office. Click here for the VR&RP Nomination Form

NatWest Easy Payment Whether at the bar, in the club shop, or taking membership fees in the office, your club members and visitors need no longer be limited to cash or cheque payments. Improve the ease of transactions by introducing a WorldPay card payment system. NatWest have made it possible for all RFU affiliated clubs to receive preferential rates to manage and process debit and credit card transactions. Call 0800 096 3997 and quote code “1967” for more information.

A new grant scheme from Gloucestershire County Council called Active Together aims to encourage more people into sport and physical activity in the county. Through the scheme £40,000 of funding is being made available in each of the 53 county council electoral divisions in Gloucestershire to make it easier for people to get active. If your club has an idea for delivering new sport or physical activities to benefit your local community, speak with your local county councillors & find out more at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/activetogether

Pictured Keith Gee, Eric Blackman and the Gloucestershire Teachers XV

After three decades, a team of Gloucestershire Schoolmasters put their boots on again to play against the Stroud and District Combination Vets at Cirencester RFC. At stake was the Eric Blackman Shield generously donated by GRSFU and presented before kick-off to the ERFSU President Eric Blackman by RFU Past President JV Smith. Eric has been involved as a driving force in Gloucestershire Schools’ rugby for many years and this was a fitting tribute to mark his dedication and hard work. The match was well-contested but age differences and fitness levels soon began to tell, especially out wide, with a total of nine tries scored in the Schoolmasters’ 45-10 victory.

Touch Rugby

Does you club have a touch rugby programme running this summer? If yes please speak to Ben and Dave about how they can help with marketing to get more people & teams, skills sessions, referee training and more. Some of the clubs running touch leagues this Summer:

Cirencester RFC; all abilities, men & women welcome. Junior sessions running alongside. Saturdays 10:30am - 12:30 till mid August. Contact Rez

Stroud RFC Friday evening touch league 18:30 start Friday 4th July to Friday 22nd August Contact: touch@stroudrugby.co.uk

GRFU Kit Incentive Scheme

Congratulations to the following clubs who were eligible this season for the new GRFU kit incentive scheme:


All the clubs were awarded varying kit bundles from £100 - £225 for achievements undertaken over the 13/14 season. Kit has now been ordered and we look forward to delivering them in due course. The good news for those who weren’t eligible this year is the scheme will be repeated next year. Further details will be circulated at the start of next Season; hopefully even more clubs can take advantage of this offer in 2014/15!