



Cornwall
Rugby Football Union

www.crfu.co.uk

The Maul

December 2024 Newsletter

Seasons Greetings and welcome to you all...



CRFU County Competitions Meeting

You are invited to an ALL clubs meeting, to discuss the league, cup competitions and the state of the game.

Wed 8th Jan 2025 @ St Austell RFC, 7PM

Please send a representative from your club so all views can be heard.

CRFU Facility Grants

A source of potential funding from the CRFU is pleasingly seeing more use amongst our member clubs.

This is a 'Facility Grant' whereby a club can claim back up to £500 maximum, or 50% of the actual spend (if less than £1,000 is spent by the club.)

The grant can cover anything that is spent to replace or improve anything related to buildings, the playing environment, driveways/car parks, fences or floodlights. In other words the general facility that most clubs may have at their grounds.

So far this season, since July 1st 2024, a total of £4,130 has been paid out in 9 separate grants with clubs benefiting being Penryn, Lankelly Fowey, St Austell, Helston, Illogan Park, Bude and St Just.

Projects have included women's toilets, clubhouse refurbishment and 3 related to floodlights.

Any club can claim for up to 2 projects per season (from July 1st - June 30th). Those projects must be unrelated, and the money must have been spent (with copies of invoices available) before a grant can be paid back.

For further information, please contact Ashley Shopland our CRFU Treasurer: (treasurer@crfu.co.uk, or 07768 687 998)

Chairmans Chatter

The County Championships question?



Several people have asked the CRFU why Cornwall Men only have 2 games in the County Championship this season, 1 Home and 1 Away. This article explains how this has happened.

Every season all counties can apply to the RFU to play at the level of rugby they believe they are able to participate in. Note there is no automatic promotion or relegation at the end of a season.

Each county makes that decision based on a number of factors specific to their situation. For example, but not exclusively, playing ability of their county, distance to travel, finances etc.

This season Surrey have withdrawn from Division 1 and opted for Division 3 rugby resulting in the current situation.

The RFU then allocate all counties to their preferred divisional level. Of course the numbers don't always stack up so the RFU decide where best to allocate counties. This is not by moving counties from their preferred level to a higher or lower level but maybe placing in a different geographical league than they would prefer e.g. this season Somerset have to play Yorkshire and Lancashire

Cornwall are able to select from players from National 1 down, that's Redruth and Camborne, and we believe that we have the ability, finances and commitment to play at the highest county level hence we apply for County Championship Division 1.

Other counties may have National 1 teams but due to any number of reasons, sometimes contractual, players from those clubs may not be available to play for that county. That county may decide, therefore, to enter at a lower level more suitable to their current available playing base.

The CRFU and also, we believe, the Cornish rugby community want us to play at the highest level of county rugby. We continue to work hard to try to bring alternative county fixtures to the Duchy and you may have seen the Tamar Cup announcement.

Incidentally, while county rugby is not as buoyant as it used to be, it is interesting to note that 6 Teams play in Division 1, 11 Teams in Division 2 and 11 Teams in Division 3.

That's 28 Teams who are playing County rugby at a level to which they believe they can commit and an indication that County Rugby is far from finished.

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If you need to contact me you can reach me using the details below:

Steve Murley – Chair CRFU

chair@crfu.co.uk / 07802647052



Dates for your Diary

Cornwall RFU Fixtures 2024/25



U20s

29th Jan v CSM

26th Feb v Cornwall Clubs

29th Mar v Gloucestershire (Home)

26th Apr v Devon (Away)

10th May v Somerset (Home)

Women's XV

18th May v Hampshire (Away)

25th May v Gloucestershire (Home)

1st Jun v Devon (Home)
Tamar Cup

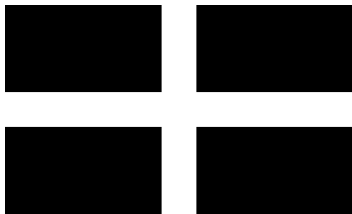
Venues to be confirmed asap

Men's XV

19th Apr v Devon (Tamar Cup)
Redruth RFC, KO 14:30

24th May v Kent (Home)

31st May v Hampshire (Away)



CRFU
helping with
cultural links



Officers from Devon and Cornwall Police, based in Newquay, attended a British and Irish Film Festival in Dinard, Brittany, France at the beginning of October.

Newquay is twinned with Dinard and there is also a unique Celtic bond between Cornwall and the Breton cultures.

Sgt Steve White is pictured here handing over a CRFU jersey to, the Chef du Police for Dinard, Alan Alsters, and his deputy, Fabrice Lipparini.

Insp Daniel Massey said ' It was a privilege to be able to visit and we are grateful to the CRFU for donating a jersey, to gift to our colleagues in Dinard, furthering the strong cultural links we have'



A Page in History

Cornwall Cups

Super Cup

Entrance to this competition is restricted to the two Cornwall Clubs (Camborne and Redruth RFCs) in the RFU National Leagues and was first presented in the 2007-08 Season

It has not been contested since 2009-10.

Cornwall Cup

Presently known as the Cornwall RFU Knockout Cup and is open to Clubs playing Level 6 to 8 inclusive.

The original Trophy was first played for in 1896-97. It was contested for one more season only and resurrected in 1967-68 when BBC Spotlight donated the present Trophy.

From 1990 to 1996 it was known as Bass CRFU Cup: 1997 to 2000 – Worthington Draught Bitter CRFU Cup: 2001 to 2010 Skinners Brewery CRFU Cup.

From 2011 it has been known as the Tribute Cup.

Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry Trophy

The Cup is presented to the winners of the Cornwall Clubs Knockout Cup

This Cup made of solid silver and stamped has a long history initially associated with the Royal Cornwall Rangers Militia which became the 3rd Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry (DCLI).

When the Militia was disbanded in 1953 and merged into the DCLI the Cup must have been given to the CRFU after this date. Unfortunately, it is not known when the Cup was presented to the CRFU but it is known it was presented to the Officers of the Militia by Colonel Edward St Aubyn circa 1889. (*Brinson, 2023*)

Recognising the importance of the history and value of the Trophy, the CRFU has agreed following presentation to the winners, will be returned immediately to the Bodmin Keep Cornwall's Army Museum and represented the following season.

Alan Barbary Trophy

The Cup was first presented to the Club that was placed first in the CRFU Official Merit Table in the season 1976-77. Falmouth RFC were the winners in that season.

In the 1990-91 season the Courage Leagues had begun and the Allen Barbary Trophy was awarded to the Cornish Club placed highest in the League structure. Redruth RFC were awarded the Cup in this season.

Further change took place in 1993-94 when the cup was awarded to the Club with the best League performance ascertained by the ratio of games won to those played. St Agnes RFC were awarded the Cup in this season.

R A C Barbary was Assistant Secretary 1947-50. Secretary 1950- 76. Council Representative 1966-76. And played for Truro RFC before the 1939-45 War.

The Goldsworthy Trophy

The Cup is presented to the Club placed first in Counties 2 Cornwall (originally Cornwall 1).

Note: I regret I am unable to find any reference to the person who very kindly and generously gave this trophy to the CRFU. Rather embarrassing to say the least. If you have any knowledge about this person, please contact the CRFU.

Peter Michell Trophy

The Trophy is presented to the Club placed first in Counties 3 Cornwall (originally Cornwall 2)

P J B Michell represented the County on 60 occasions as scrum half and was Captain in 1959-60 and 60-61. He was also Captain of a Cornwall & Devon Team selected to play South Africa in 1960-61. In 63-64 he played against the All Blacks Touring team representing Devon and Cornwall. His Club was Penzance & Newlyn RFC.

Peter Michell was President of the CRFU 2003-06.

Article kindly submitted by Former President, John Sumnall

Highlighting the RFU's Official Charity



www.rfuipf.org.uk

Taken from their website:

1993

The first charity for injured rugby players began as SPIRE (Support Paraplegics in Rugby Enterprise).

SPIRE was created by Ian Beer who at the time was President of the RFU. The aim was to support catastrophically injured players in any way possible. Ian and the board of Trustees set about contacting every player who had suffered a rugby injury which had resulted in some form of paralysis to offer them support.

2008

Brought a review of how the RFU and SPIRE could work together to better support catastrophically injured players, and this year saw the formation of a new charity called the RFU Injured Players Foundation. A board of Trustees was put in place made-up of former SPIRE Trustees and new individuals appointed by the RFU who had expertise in many sectors including spinal rehabilitation. This new approach enabled the charity to respond much more quickly to reports of serious injuries and provide assistance from the moment the RFU was notified of an injury. The RFU committed to supporting the charity with the use of its offices, and a substantial donation each year.

Today

We still continue to support our catastrophically injured players as well as investing in valuable research to expand our knowledge on how injuries occur, how they can be prevented and how we can help rehabilitate injured players. Today, we offer immediate and lifelong support to players who sustain a catastrophic spinal cord injury or acute severe traumatic brain injury at all levels of the game, and donate approximately £1,000,000 per year to improving their independence. The IPF still receives the RFU's support but now reaches out to the whole rugby family to increase the funds and help available to the rugby community.

Get Involved: <https://www.rfuipf.org.uk/get-involved>

Get Support: <https://www.rfuipf.org.uk/get-support>

England Rugby Page

RESOURCES:

(click on each heading to be directed to the relevant page of the website)

Club Management:

This section helps clubs navigate the demands of a club's business operations, and provide guidance on governing the club effectively now and in the future.

Coaching:

Coaching is one of the most crucial factors in developing, sustaining and increasing participation in rugby union, securing the future and quality of the game.

Refereeing:

Refereeing is a vital aspect of rugby union, ensuring the game is played fairly and safely while upholding the rules and spirit of the sport.

Player Welfare:

Clubs and organisers of rugby activities have a responsibility to health and safety to ensure that rugby union is delivered in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Safeguarding:

All matters relating to safeguarding within the game.

Rules & Governance:

Regulations that govern the game of rugby.

Useful links:

Community Help Platform:

<https://help.rfu.com/support/home>

Submit Help Request:

<https://help.rfu.com/support/tickets/new>

Platform 4 Rugby (lots of adult registration webinars): <https://www.youtube.com/@platform4rugby>

If you would like to submit an article or club event to our bi-monthly newsletter, we would love to hear from you.

Email: janebellcornishrugby@gmail.com

Newsletter schedule:

October, December, February, April, June, August



TEAMWORK, RESPECT, ENJOYMENT, DISCIPLINE, SPORTSMANSHIP