

## Issue 16: January 2016

Here are examples of some of the great work being delivered across the country.

### South Yorkshire – Pitch Up and Play



Doncaster Demons RFC held a Pitch Up and Play Women's Event at which 26 women attended, 11 of whom were new to the game and/or club. They took part in fun rugby activities before staying to watch Doncaster Phoenix 1st XV play a North One fixture.

Following the event, many of the new players have shown interest in joining the Demons or Doncaster O2 Touch. The event and the club also featured week in a local newspaper, 'The Star'. The next Pitch up and Play takes place on 20 February.

### North West - Rugby Union in Secondary Schools Course

Twenty four teachers, teaching assistants and coaches working in school environments and trainee teachers braved the cold and rain to attend Rugby Union in Secondary Schools course. The course supports delivery in at least three All Schools, six targeted work programmes and three established schools, as well as the wider impact that the 10 trainee teachers will have after graduation.



### West Yorkshire – Match Officials



New Year, new referees. On 11 January, budding referees attended Bradford Grammar School for the start of their Level 2 Referee course.

Steve Lee, Premiership and Championship Match Official, supported the candidates, giving them a real insight into the role alongside great tips and advice.

### Middlesex - Coaches

From September to Christmas last year 18 new club coaches joined the men's and juniors' sections at Hampstead Rugby Club through parent recruitment sessions.

All 18 are now helping as lead coaches, assistant coaches and team managers. Hampstead RFC are hosting a Rugby Ready on the 5th March to educate and train these volunteers further as they move onto the next step of their coaching journey.





## Isle of Wight – Young Leaders

This January, 24 young leaders completed the Refereeing Children Level 1 CPD. The course was split between 13 young leaders nominated from the Isle of Wight's All Schools cluster and 11 from the junior club's U16s & Colts. In return for attending the course, the leaders agreed to referee the Y7, Y8 and Y9 Isle of Wight Central Venue Series events including all three of the island's All Schools.



## Derbyshire - Return to Rugby



At the beginning of January a whole host of new and existing U18 - U24 players from five clubs blew the 'cobwebs' out of their system after the Christmas & New Year break. The aim of the event was to encourage previous players back into the game, whether they were returning from university or seeking additional games. Over 100+ targeted players attended the event, competed in various formats of the game, from 7s to 15s. Players from Derby RFC, a great example of a successful Return to Rugby team, were also in attendance.

The weather was poor but enthusiasm was high, which was great credit to all the clubs involved. One player from Chesterfield Panthers, came along with no intention to play, as well as no kit but ended up borrowing from other players and the club's lost property bin to enable him to play.

## Tyne & Wear - Rockcliff RFC

What do you do when the minus 3 degree temperature through the night in the North East results in icy ground and a cancelled U16s match?

Rockcliff RFC came up with a solution by taking the players to Longhands Beach in Tynemouth, getting them to brave the wind chill on the sand. Despite the freezing temperature, players were eventually treated to bright sunshine and took full advantage of the chance to develop their handling skills.



## Northumberland – All Schools

Ashington High created a video documenting the impact the CBRE All Schools programme is having in their school. They have been involved in the programme since the start of the year and have seen new players enjoying the game and a school that's proud to be involved in the sport. Video available to view [HERE](#)





## Surrey – University rugby

Four Universities and 60 players were represented at the RFU facilitated Merit Table festival at a wet and windy London Irish RFC. Six mini games, played by students and refereed by students, were followed up by a much needed warm meal in the clubhouse.

Two Surrey Universities (Surrey University and Farnham University) combined to make a Baa Baas team with Royal Holloway University and Reading University making up the other two teams.



## South Yorkshire – Referees Society

The South Yorkshire Referees Society met at the beginning of this year. Back in June / July 2015 there were only 24 active referees in the region, making it a struggle to cover all 1st XV games in South Yorkshire and U17 / U19 leagues in Yorkshire.

However, after changing several elements including how the Society meetings are run, improved advertising, a strengthened use of referees to recruit and retain and a greater understanding of Planning Funding Reporting (PFR), there has been a positive rise in referees.

As a result of the changes implemented, 20 referees have been recruited so far to the society, making it 44 in total. A further seven are also in the pipeline. In addition to the increase in referees, the biggest change is how the referees are now being perceived by the clubs.

## Derbyshire – Transition



The University of Derby development/3rd XV students and local club, Long Eaton RUFC attended another Derbyshire Development XV fixture on what now is starting to be a regular 'Friday night under lights' at the University on their new 3G pitch.

The majority of the players were under 25 with a sprinkling of 'older heads' to help develop the young players and assist in the transition to senior rugby. Long Eaton RUFC swapped five different players into the University of Derby in each of the three x 20 minute periods.

## Northumberland – Level 1 Referee course

This month the Northumberland team had a Referee Level 1 course with 32 young volunteers taking part. The course enabled attendees to put their new whistles and refereeing skills to the test during the schools' competition at Bullocksteads.

Many attendees signed up for the relaunched Young Rugby Ambassador programme, giving them the chance to log the voluntary hours they do in their clubs and schools to gain recognition for their efforts.

