



Cornwall
Rugby Football Union

www.crfu.co.uk

The Maul

April 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to you all...

Special points of interest:

- Cyber Guidance
- Chairmans Chatter

Hello to all our Cornish rugby family and welcome to this 4th edition.

We hope the rain hasn't done too much damage to your pitches. A big shout out and praise for the valiant efforts of your grounds men.

Hoping all our Age Grade players are enjoying their festivals and we look forward to seeing you around the County.



Cornwall Dates for your diaries:

- Sun 12th May: Honda Volunteer Recognition Day @ Truro
- Wed 26th Jun: CRFU Annual General Meeting @ Camborne

Save the Date:

- Sat 6th Jul: Coaching Development Conference
- Sat 5th Oct: CRFU Development Day

(Details to follow nearer the time, so watch this space.)

Don't forget to check out our website, which is up to date with everything rugby within the county.

1st Women's Cornwall Cup Winners



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Cyber Guidance	2/3
Chairmans Chatter	4
Fixtures	5
Codes of Conduct	6

Well done to all the participants it was a great day, everyone enjoyed themselves and the rain even held off until the end. A big thank you to Truro for hosting this event.

Cyber Guidance

[RFU Safeguarding Link](#)

Websites are a key part of the daily operation of most clubs. They are the most flexible way to communicate with members and anyone interested in joining a club. They also have the potential to be a very safe way to communicate with children, given their wide accessibility.

CLUB WEBSITES

However, in the same way, that a club has responsibility for the physical safety of a junior member when visiting the club's premises, that club must also ensure that there is nothing on its website which could harm a child, directly or indirectly. A club is legally and morally responsible for the content of its website.

There are two key risks to guard against:

- Abusive or inappropriate content, such as photos, videos or text which are on the site itself, or linked sites, such as adverts and blogs, and;
- Disclosing personal information about a child to people accessing the website. This could include the child's name, address, or any information about the child's life which could help a stranger target the child, or engage them in a conversation

One aspect of inappropriate content is that it can be perceived as bullying. This could be material on the site which criticises or humiliates a child. It could also be information which places undue pressure on the child to participate in some aspect of a club's activities.

BLOGS

Blogs are a type of content becoming commonplace on websites. The creation of a blog is straightforward. It does not require technical or design expertise, and it can be updated remotely.

Blogs present two particular challenges, including:

- Content moderation. As blogs can be updated frequently and remotely, this can make it tricky to keep track of the content
- Association with the blog. If a club chooses to host or endorse a particular blog, the club cannot distance itself from the content of such blog. Therefore, if the blog contains inappropriate content or incorrect information, this will be associated with the club

LINKED SITES

Many sites contain links to other sites. This could be for commercial reasons, such as the sites of sponsors or advertisers, or simply to communicate information to be found on other websites. Before creating a link, a club should thoroughly check the content of the other website, both for child protection reasons, and ensure the content poses no other risk to the club's reputation. Once a link is included on the site, the club should check its content periodically, and remove any link immediately if concerns arise.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Photos and video clips can make any child featured vulnerable to grooming if information about the child (name, address, activities or interests) is also disclosed. Furthermore, posting an image on the website carries a risk that the image could be taken and adapted for inappropriate use. Once an image is posted online, it is very hard to retrieve it.

MOBILE AND ONLINE COMMUNICATION WITH CHILDREN

There are now many ways for people to communicate online, including email, instant messaging or social networking sites.

The risks posed by such methods of communication arise from a variety of issues:

- the privacy provided
- the wide range of content that can be transmitted, including content of a violent, sexual or hateful nature
- the ease with which images can be forwarded onto others the difficulty in knowing truly who you are communicating with

In sport, there are additional risks: inappropriate pressure can be exerted by adults, particularly coaches, on children or inappropriate criticism of a child's performance. An official position or role within a club, such as a coach, can carry with it a level of authority, and engender a level of trust, that facilitates the control of a child.

Against this background, a club needs to establish rules covering how adults connected with that club communicate with children connected with that club. It is therefore recommended that:

- When communicating by phone, where possible volunteers should speak to the parent of a child.
- Volunteers should not communicate with individual children by text or online at any time, on any matter, unless there is an immediate risk to the welfare of that child which can be lessened by such contact.
- If a club needs to communicate club-related information to children by email (such as training or match details), it should use email groups comprising email addresses given by parents.
- Volunteers shouldn't communicate by email on a one-to-one basis with a child; if replying to an email from a child the parent should be copied into the response.
- Volunteers should not communicate with children through social networking sites, such as Facebook. Coaches should not be 'friends' with the children they coach.

CHILDREN-LED MESSAGING GROUPS

It is more than likely that children in your club, particularly those old enough to be active on social media and online messaging apps, will set up groups where they can message each other in privacy, commonly referred to as 'group chats'. Group chats are often set up using WhatsApp, or other social media apps such as Facebook messenger, and Instagram.

While we do not want to prohibit children communicating with their peers, it is important that clubs educate children about how to do this safely. Clubs should encourage children to never:

- Share anything online that they would not want released into the public. Once image is put online, whether via social media posts or shared in a group chat, it is very hard to retrieve it.
- Engage in abusive or bullying behaviour towards another person in or out of the group chat.
- Share images of a sexual nature, whether of themselves or others.

Clubs should make it clear that if children are engaging in group chats while being part of the club, that these group chats are not an extension or representation of the club.

The above guidelines should be considered when determining the most appropriate method of communication in any given circumstances. It is recommended that a club devise written policies which cover its particular circumstances and needs, then ensure the policies are followed fully and widely publicised.

Chairmans Chatter



As an 11yr old I already had discovered that football was definitely not my sport, moving to Senior school our PE master Bill Glen introduced me to Rugby and thus began a 49yr love affair with our wonderful sport.

I have been a one and half club man, starting at my home club of Launceston where I played Colts and moving to Bodmin RFC in 1983 when I moved to the town for work. 41yrs later I am still proud to be part of the club and to see its change and development over all those years. That brings us to 2019 when I became Chairman of the CRFU and those 5yrs have flown by.

My dad has always said you can't moan if you have no input

Almost as soon as I took office Covid struck and we had no rugby, but clubs with all sorts of issues. Through our hard working Management Board we managed those issues. We launched Project Trelawney where two members of the Board looked after four clubs and became a point of contact, this was a huge success and helped clubs deal with the pandemic.

First season back the County sides did the treble. First the U20s under Colin Hatch's guidance won the Jason Leonard Cup at Worcester RFC a great day, even if the players couldn't celebrate with a pint. Then to a glorious day In the Capital where our ladies won the Gill Burns and the men the Bill Beaumont. An amazing achievement and all involved should be proud of their achievements.

Club rugby has also prospered with many of our sides gaining promotion to higher leagues and the inclusion of second teams in the leagues giving them the opportunity to have regular rugby. It's great to have the mining community back in the same league with huge crowds watching both matches.

Our clubs are the lifeline of the CRFU so perhaps my proudest achievement is in helping our clubs survive, in my 5yr tenure we have only lost one club, Stithians, but I do hear murmuring of a return, fingers crossed.

Everyone of our clubs has its own unique set of challenges whether it be a high league club working out how to pay for transport to a small one team club working out how to repair a broken boiler. Whilst the demands are different none are less important and we try to help all we can.

Support and trust from within the Management Board has been imperative to our relative success and the team now has the know how and knowledge to help the clubs succeed. I know I can call on any of them to manage their areas and get the job done.

I'm a great believer in not overstaying a welcome, with that in mind I will be standing down as Chairman at this year's AGM. The past 5yrs have been amazing and I have enjoyed every minute, but before burnout I think a rest is in order. I think the County is at least in as strong a position as it was when I took the helm.

Finances are strong, our relationship with our sponsors has never been stronger and the open dialogue with our clubs continues. Every E mail, Txt, WhatsApp and letter I sent had my mobile on the bottom of it, I wanted to be not only approachable but also to be held to account.

I'm sure my successor will adopt a similar approach and be as accessible.

Thanks to Andy Richards who I coerced into taking the Treasurers role and did an outstanding job, and John Sumnall, Past President who's knowledge of the Cornwall RFU laws and by-laws is second to none.

All of the people who have served on the Management Board during my time, most of whom also served on a Club Committee. The time you have given up for Cornish rugby is unbelievable, total commitment to the cause.

Thanks to Mrs Saunter for her patience and understanding when I've been on County duty, her patience and calming influence are a godsend.

Finally Bill.....For igniting the passion.

County Fixtures & Results

Results so far...

31 Jan	U20's 48	v CSM 7
5 Feb	St. Ives 27	v Cornwall Clubs 33
28 Feb	Senior XV 26	v Navy 26
10 Mar	U20's 7	v Devon 41
27 Mar	Devon 28	v Senior XV 5
21 Apr	Somerset 22	v U20s 34



Fixtures...

5 May	Gloucestershire Vs U20's
12 May	Women's XV Vs Hampshire
18 May	Surrey Vs Senior XV
19 May	Hertfordshire Vs Women's XV
25 May	Kent Vs Senior XV
26 May	Somerset Vs Women's XV
1 June	Senior XV Vs Hampshire

Stow on the Wold	KO: 1400
Truro	KO: 1430
Esher	KO: 1400
Tabard	KO: 1430
Charlton Park	KO: 1400
Taunton	KO: 1430
Redruth	KO: TBC

Devon Men's XV v Cornwall 27th Mar 24

The CRFU are grateful to the supporters, players and staff who made the trip to Ivybridge to support our Cornwall squad.

We would like to thank Devon for their hospitality as always.

The match was played in atrocious conditions with the weather deteriorating as the night wore on. The live link was particularly useful to watch in the dry of the clubhouse.

We hope everyone got home safely in the appalling driving conditions.



England Rugby Page

Codes of Conduct

Another reminder to clubs about Codes of Conduct.

It is still being noted that some Players, Coaches and Spectators have been getting a bit over excited lately, please review your club policies and communicate to your members and supporters.

For information, the following England Rugby links have templates that clubs can use, if required:

- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [Templates](#)
- [Posters](#)

CORE VALUES (TREDS)

Rugby's values of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship are what makes the game special for those who enjoy the environment and culture they create. They define the game and define England Rugby.

TEAMWORK

Teamwork is essential to our sport.

RESPECT

Mutual respect forms the basis of our sport.

ENJOYMENT

Enjoyment is the reason we play and support rugby union.

DISCIPLINE

Strong discipline underpins our sport.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship is the foundation upon which rugby union is built.

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

