



Herts Community Rugby Newsletter

Issue 3

February 2010

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Emerging Schools Leagues reaching conclusion:

Over 50 secondary schools have been competing in 31 separate leagues being run over 4 different age groups – years 7 to 10.

There are 'Shield' leagues for schools that are new to rugby or less experienced, and 'Trophy' leagues for schools with more rugby experience.

Winning schools qualify for either the County Festival or the Trophy semi-finals depending on age group and category.

County School Finals Festival on 12th March:

The winners of each area league will compete in the following tournaments:

- Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Shield competitions
- Yrs 7 & 8 Trophy competitions
- Yrs 7 & 8 Girls competitions

In all, 31 teams will be taking part. The winners in each category will go on to the London North Regional Finals on 26th March.

It's great to see several new Schools qualifying for this Festival this season including Marlborough, Bushey Meads, Kings Langley, Hemel Hempstead, Greneway, Edwinstree and Highfield.

County Schools Finals for yrs 9 & 10 on 3rd & 10th March:

For the first time we are running finals competitions for Yrs 9 & 10 Trophy schools. The winners from each area league qualify for semi finals on 3rd March with the final taking place on 10th March.

Yr 9 semi-finals

- John Henry Newman vs Leventhorpe
- Parmiters vs Sir John Lawes or Monks Walk

Yr 10 semi-finals

- Nobel vs Hockerill
- Queens vs Nicholas Breakspear or Sir John Lawes

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Teacher Twilight Coach Education Sessions:

This important initiative continues to be well supported by teachers with great feedback received from those attending.

Sessions were run at various club locations throughout Herts during October covering:

- Games / Drills for effective Rucking & mauling
- Refereeing the tackle, ruck, & maul

A further session is planned for March covering the coaching of scrum and line out.

U15 Girl's Club League Established:

Girl's rugby is thriving in Hertfordshire with the establishment of a U-15 Club league for girls.

Kevin Green has been instrumental in getting this off the ground with the result being competitive rugby for something like 100 girls at Royston, Old Albanians, Hertford, Stevenage and Bishops Stortford rugby clubs.

As it stands, the winners of this first ever Herts league look like being either Stevenage or Hertford.

'Coach-the-Coach' sessions at Clubs:

The Community Rugby Team have visited a number of clubs, including Tabard, Camelot, Barnet, Cheshunt, Datchworth, Watford & Royston, to deliver informal 'coach-the-coach' sessions.

The subject areas covered so far have included:

- Warm up activities & games
- Handling skills
- Rucking & Mauling
- Tackling

The intention is to include all clubs in this initiative in an effort to increase knowledge and confidence at all levels of coaching in Hertfordshire.

Harpenden RFC run Mini/Junior CPD:

A series of Coach CPD sessions have been run at Harpenden RFC covering topics such as:

- Continuity
- Ruck & Maul
- Line Out

Over 20 coaches from the Harpenden and Old Albanian clubs attended each session, and feedback was positive.

These courses are an essential part of the progression from the Level 1 to the Level 2 Coaching Award, and are available to be run at other clubs on request.

New U18 Schools Trophy for next season:

We will be running an U18 Schools knock out Trophy next season. Private schools and the eight strongest state schools are not admissible for this tournament.

The response so far is very positive with over 20 schools already confirmed as entered.