

What's happening at the Rugby Club?

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I. Remaining Fixtures

Following the win against Alnwick, we will now play either Lymm or Heath in the Papa John's Community Cup northern play-off on Saturday, 22 April. The decision on whether it will be home or away will be decided by a toss of the coin.

The 2^{nd} XV have qualified for the Yorkshire and North East Premiership play-offs after a comfortable win against Hull Ionians: this will also be played on Saturday, 22 April at home, most likely against Billingham. The 2^{nds} are due to play Sheffield Tigers at home next Saturday in their last league game - watch this space!

Once again, the 3rd XV have qualified for the Eastern Merit League I play-offs, and will play Hullensians at home next Saturday.

The 4th XV is in the Eastern Merit League 2 play-offs. They play Beverley at home next Saturday in a rearranged league game - their 19th game of the campaign, a great effort by Gareth and his men. Their play-off game will be played on Saturday, 22 April - probably away but we are not yet sure who against.

The Ladies 1st XV play their final game at Sefton on Sunday, 16 April.

2. Annual Awards 2022-23

If you were not able to go to the Players Dinner on the Thursday before Easter, these awards were made :

Player of the Season - 1st XV — Matthew Jenkinson
Player of the Season - 2nd XV — Guy Brumfield
Player of the Season - 3rd XV — Colin Lucas
Player of the Season - 4th XV — Fraser Priestley
Player of the Season - Ladies
Most Improved Player — Tom Brankley
Young Player of the Year — Jack Webster

Colt of the Year — to be awarded at Colts' Dinner

President's Award — Mark 'Fez' Ullyott John Harrison Award — Hugo Glover

3. Mini / Junior Festival on Sunday, 16 April

The Club's annual festival is running again, and seven other clubs have confirmed that they will be sending sides at every age grade. This year, the clubs that are attending are all 'local'.

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The event takes a lot of organising, and the coaches and managers work flat out to manage the on-field activity. They would really appreciate volunteers to help with car parking at the start of the day, to make sure we get all the vehicles off the main road quickly and safely.

We would really appreciate it if you can set some time aside, and let Volunteers to help with the running of the day are always welcome – if you can spare a few hours please get in touch with Jonathan Lane or Simon Farnsworth.

4. RFU Survey: Future of Professional Rugby

The RFU, Premiership Rugby, and Championship Rugby are working together to better understand the future of the professional game in England and need your help. As a rugby fan and follower, they want to hear from you. The survey will take about ten minutes and the responses will go towards shaping the future of the men's professional game in England.

As a thank you for your time, you will have the option to enter a prize draw for the chance to win four tickets to either England v Fiji or England v Wales as the team warm up for the Rugby World Cup!

https://www.championshiprugby.co.uk/news/article/future-of-professional-rugby-survey

5. RFU Tackle Height consultation

The RFU would like to thank everyone who has participated in providing valuable feedback in their consultation on reducing the tackle height in the community game. They have listened to thousands of players, volunteers and match officials to understand how we, as a game, can come together to best define and implement a reduction in the tackle height.

They have heard a wide range of views and gathered thoughts and ideas from 8,500 people through an online open survey, met with over 1,000 people during 25 in-person and virtual forums across 13 locations and met 270 coaches, players, match officials, disciplinary officers, Club chairs and CBs, parents and teachers through 22 focus groups and online panels.

Everything is now being independently analysed by the research company YouGov. This independently-verified feedback will be presented to the RFU Council ensuring your views are directly heard.

Once the RFU Council have fully reviewed your feedback, decisions will be taken on the proposed law variation and game regulations. Further updates will be provided towards the end of April and we will then provide a range of materials including virtual and in person training and education tools to enable the tackle height reduction to be implemented as smoothly as possible. These materials are being developed using the views, ideas and needs you have shared.

6. Annual General Meeting

This is provisionally planned for 7pm on Tuesday, 11 July at the clubhouse.