Rugby Report

Date 08.04.24

Report compiled by **Dave Challenger**

Successes:

Hadrian cup - superb event, played in just about every season going. Ravens had a very good outing making it to the final. Looking to see how we can support this growing in to next season. Conversations to be had with Ravens to see how it can develop.

Some excellent progress being seen in growing the game at various clubs. Wallsend now have a re-established second team with some very good results. North shields women and girls section growing by the week with new players being recruited. Some sharing of good practice with other clubs really essential here to help clubs who have expressed some difficulties in attracting new players or retaining current - looking to facilitate these discussions moving forwards.

Colts cup finals, two very competitive games played which demonstrated the current standard of colts players across the County. We need to look at ways in which we keep hold of these players, both in rugby and where possible within the County (how do we look at encouraging players to return to represent county and club whilst at University - particularly those who move out of area). Tynedale have very good first hand experience of this bringing players back for U20s.

Rep rugby -senior women's trials underway with games coming up in May. Men's due to begin trials and training the coming week, games also in May. New coaching team on board with the senior men - looking to be competitive but with a focus on making the experience enjoyable again - some clubs haven't nominated players this season who we would have expected to see, need to work with these clubs to establish how we can re engage and get players wanting to represent Northumberland - NOTE: Senior men's dates hugely impacted by Papa Johns games and Park 7s - out of CB control but it does mean we lose a lot of players to these events - we have to look at how we can manage these whilst still remaining competitive.

Under 20s campaign still underway. First round win against Durham in some very challenging conditions at Tynedale. Durham went in to half time 22-5 up, Northumberland won 24-22. Strong show of resilience and a desire to win - hopefully this carries into upcoming rounds.

ERDPP U16s playing upcoming fixtures. Date with RFU staff early May to review season, reflect on some success and challenge and plan for next season.

Hugely successful Vets cups on Good Friday. A special thanks to be noted to Simon and the team at North Shields for hosting a superb event, welcoming 7 teams from 6 clubs and with more individuals expressing an interest in joining social media pages with an intent to join a vets side in the County - cup 4 winners Morpeth and Cup 5 - Ponteland/North Shields. RFU funding has

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massively helped the Vets rugby this season which we will be looking to build further again next season to encourage more vets players to return (or try for the first time!)

Upcoming events - Future Colts event at Alnwick to allow transition for U16s players in to colts to help retain and further develop this age group. Alan Gardiner has kindly run this event in the past and is doing so again this year, currently we have 6 teams attending, but would be superb if a team from every club in the county could attend (if they have the respective age grade)

Also upcoming, U18s girls transition to women's rugby event being held at Morpeth prior to the Womens County Match. Aim is to help develop those coming out of U18s rugby and in to senior (both club and county).

Lots going on for rugby development towards the tail end of the season, updates to come on the coach development weekend in July also!

Issues requiring Decision, Discussion or Dissemination

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