RFU Council Representative Report

Date: 26th August 2025

Report compiled by: P Stewart

Matters since last report:

1. **RFU Council Conference – 27th/28th June at St Georges Park, Staffordshire**
2. **RFU AGM** – 28th June 2025 - hybrid. The 11 resolutions put forward by the Whole Game Union were significantly defeated. The resolution put forward by two Referee Societies was passed. Thank you – we had a 100% voting engagement from Northumberland, which was very much appreciated (and I believe a national record).
3. **Red Roses – RWC 25**
   The Red Roses have got off to a great start in their RWC25 campaign. I sent a letter of support from Northumberland to John Mitchell to wish them well and received a grateful response.
4. **NRU Women's RWC 25 Lead up and Legacy Programme.**
   Projects completed since last report:
   12th July 2025: T1 Beach Festival at Bamburgh – over 160 playing
   26th July 2025: T1 Beach Festival at Tynemouth – low turnout due to Lions Game but everyone who attended really enjoyed it.
   24th August 2025: Attended Tynedale RFC's Girls Festival – well done all at Tynedale
5. **RWC25 Welcoming Ceremony at Sunderland – 16th August 2025**
   Official welcome to the England and USA teams
6. **Attended Whitley Bay Rockcliff RFC -17th August 2025**
   Invited to their Founder's Day and the Dedication to the newly renovated grave of Little Billie (former England Captain).
7. **Red Roses Training Session in Durham – 18th August 2025**
   Women and girls' leads from across Northumberland were invited to a training session.
8. **Power in the North Event – 22nd August 2025**
   Attended this pre-match event which involved both a panel and keynote speaker.
9. **RWC25 Opening Game at Sunderland – 22nd August 2025**
   Fantastic opening game which was the result of years of hard work to bring this competition to the North. Well done all involved and the Roses were victorious with a 69-7 win.
10. **Ongoing RFU workstreams:**
    - NGB Governance and Representation Review – Chair of Representation Sub-Group
    - Nominations Standing Committee
11. **World Rugby 5 year Strategy 2025-2030**
    Delivered feedback into the strategy group.

Coming up:

1. **Northumberland Club Visits - commencing early September 2025**
2. **Governance and Representation Review**
   Following summer recess, this work will recommence on 1st September 2025
3. **World Rugby Meetings – 23-26th September 2025**
   Four days of meetings in London prior to RWC25 final
4. **World Rugby RWC Final – 27th September 2025**
5. **RFU Council Meeting – 3rd October 2025**
6. **Northumberland RWC 25 events**
   Next meeting 10th September
   4th-6th October 2025: RugbyFest Weekend – details to follow