



# Midlands Rugby League Update



With the season now fully in swing it's time to catch up on the activity that has been going on in the Midlands. This edition we will be looking at the recent Youth Sport Trusts Step into Sport camp, Kingsbury Sports Partnership Rugby League tournament, Midlands Origin and also nomination for local awards for one East Midlands club.

If your club is doing any projects or has any achievements for the newsletter then get in contact. Also keep up to date with everything that is happening in the Midlands via the website at [www.midlandsrugbyleague.co.uk](http://www.midlandsrugbyleague.co.uk).

## Step into Sport Camp 2010

More than 300 young leaders recently attended a national Step Into Sport Camp run by the Youth Sport Trust. The annual camp was run from the 29<sup>th</sup> March to the 1<sup>st</sup> April at Loughborough University. The young people who attend the event are selected by their School Sports Partnership.

The 16 - 19-year olds took part in the camp which aimed to teach them leadership skills. A number of different sessions were run throughout the duration of the camp including PGL run activities and athlete mentor question and answer sessions.

During the camp, Adam Brown, Young Officials Development Officer and Danny McNeice, Match Officials Development Officer, delivered sessions as part of the Rugby Football League's Young Match Officials Award.

The 26 people who attended the sessions, including two from America, learned the laws of the game, refereeing skills, health and safety, and practical aspects of the game. These new Young Officials are then directed towards their local referee societies where they can then referee at local schools festivals to gain experience before moving on to officiate at local amateur games.

Adam Brown Young Officials Development Officer "It was a pleasure to work with such vibrant and talented individuals who have a desire to learn more and better themselves" with Danny McNeice adding "The young officials award is an excellent and great way to access new officials and talented sports volunteers from a variety of different backgrounds. Anyone interested in the award shouldn't hesitate to pick up the phone and call me or Adam."

For information on Young Match Officials Award to organise one please contact Adam Brown [Young.Officials@rfl.uk.com](mailto:Young.Officials@rfl.uk.com) or call 07775421567.

## Volunteers aid in Kingsbury Sports Partnership Rugby League Tournament

May saw the annual Finals Day for the Kingsbury Sports Partnership Rugby League Tournament. After 5 weeks of league fixtures, 10 teams from Year 7 & 8 will compete to be crowned Champions at their respected ages. The competition has successfully run for the past 3 years, with this year boasting record participation numbers.

The event has been greatly supported by a dedicated set of volunteers who have recently completed the RFL run Rugby League Junior Leaders Award, taking on roles such as Team Managers and touch judges. There has been a valued contribution also from the referees who have all been locally appointed from the Birmingham University and the Birmingham Bulldogs, after taking the Match Officials 13-a-side Course.

Birmingham Rugby League Community Sports Coach Russell Parker said "through volunteers and the Junior Leaders Awards and referees courses we have been able to extend the size of the tournament allowing more school children to access Rugby League".

The Kingsbury Sports Partnership, a big supporter of the Rugby League programme in the Birmingham area, will once again host this summer's 6 week Year 9 & 10s competition. School Sports Coordinator and event organiser, Richard Simcox said "the standard of Rugby League has improved year on year and I am looking forward to seeing the progress and development of the 14 & 15 year olds who have played Rugby League for 3 years now".



# Outlaws Nominated Club Of Year

## Rushcliffe Sports Awards sees Nottingham Outlaws nominated

The Rushcliffe Sports Awards evening took place Thursday 8th July at the Rushcliffe Arena, with Nottingham Outlaws hoping to pick up their first silverware of the year. The club faced stiff competition from Nottingham Gymnastics Club, Nottingham Swimming Club and Boots Hockey Club. The eventual winners on the night were Boots Hockey Club but the club are over the moon to have been nominated and reach the final four.

"I'm delighted with the nomination" says club secretary Bryan Duffield. "We had an excellent season last year with our debut Rugby League Conference National season and this year we have continued to build on that success with our Carnegie Challenge Cup run. In addition we are now fielding three men's teams on a regular basis, alongside our women's teams and our growing junior section. We have also recently deployed a Community Rugby League Coach in partnership with the RFL and Nottingham Trent University."



## NHS V THE COMMUNITY Touch Rugby Tournament

NHS Rugby Reunion - Are you up for it?

As some of you will already know, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust annually host a touch rugby league during the summer months and this year, are calling on local rugby teams from the area to come and challenge the mighty NHS to a game! All you need to do is get together a team of ten players. You can bring your kids along too, as we'll also be hosting a family fun day. The tournament will be free of charge but all we ask for is a £1.50 donation which will go to the hospital's charity.

**What?** A touch rugby tournament, followed by a relaxed BBQ

**Who?** Anyone who's up for a game of touch rugby - it doesn't matter how good you are as long as your aged 14 or above! Up to ten per team. Teams must include two females.

**Where and when?** Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July, The Pavilion, Moor Lane, Perry Barr, Birmingham

**What do you need to do?** Drop an email to [richa.gautam@heartofengland.nhs.uk](mailto:richa.gautam@heartofengland.nhs.uk) with the names, email addresses and any health problems.

Contact [alan.robinson@rfl.uk.com](mailto:alan.robinson@rfl.uk.com) if you would like any further information.

## Midlands Origin Day

The second annual Midlands Rugby League Origin day, held at Bromsgrove RFU, was played on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June in front of around 500 enthralled spectators in glorious sunshine. The event showcased the best players from the clubs in the East and West Midlands regions as part of the development programme in the area.

The U13s, U14s and U15s were battling it out for a place in the 2010/11 Regional Player Development Centres. For the academy sides it was a chance to fight for a place in the Midlands U18 side and a shot at the England U18s Community Lions.

The results were as follows:

**U13s - West Midlands 8 - 52 East Midlands**

**U14s - West Midlands 32 - 16 East Midlands**

**U15s - West Midlands 36 - 8 East Midlands**

**Academy - West Midlands 16 - 28 East Midlands**

With thanks to Bromsgrove RFU for hosting the day and the NEW Ravens for all their support and assistance to make the day a great success. Also thank you to the volunteer workforce who kept the day running smoothly and supporting the Midlands in a great success.

If you missed out on this years Origin or want to see coverage of the event then it is available on Sky Sports at  
[http://www.skysports.com/video/inline/0,26691,12780\\_6225545,00.html](http://www.skysports.com/video/inline/0,26691,12780_6225545,00.html)

## Volunteering Opportunities

Club/Organiser	Opportunity	Description	Contact
Coventry Bears	Club Volunteer Opportunities	Coventry Bears are seeking Club Volunteers for a number of roles for the forthcoming season if you want to get involved please go online at for details	Alan Robinson Alan.robinson@rfl.uk.com www.coventrybears.co.uk
Nottingham Outlaws	Junior Coaches	Nottingham Outlaws Rugby League Club is seeking dedicated and talented coaches for their 2010 Junior Season. The club will be running teams at Under 10, Under 12 (Boys and Girls), Under 14 and Under 16 levels in 2010.	Director of Junior Rugby George Strachan 07723 821790 gstrachan@nottinghamrfl.co.uk
RFL	Projects	NHS Touch Leagues, Tag and Wheelchair activity throughout the Midlands.	Laura Whitehead Laura.whitehead@rfl.uk.com

**Volunteering is a great way to meet people, looks good on a CV and benefits many of the players involved on the day.**

### Do You Need Volunteers?

Advertise any volunteering opportunities here. Send any details of volunteering opportunities to [laura.whitehead@rfl.uk.com](mailto:laura.whitehead@rfl.uk.com).

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## Rugby League Volunteers take a trip to Rostov Russia



On the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010 a group of 13 RFL Staff and volunteers travelled to Rostov-on-Don on a 10 Day Project of delivering a Rugby League Schools Tag Festival to the Children of the City whilst also educating Student Coaches, PE Teachers and Match Officials. James Carter was one of these volunteers lucky enough to get a place on the trip. Below is account of James trip.

On the first day an audience hosted by Vladimir Kushnerchuk, Chairman of the Rostov Rugby League Federation (RRLF) opened the tour in front of a crowd of 200 including School Children, Coaches, Match Officials and PE teachers, and Students of the Cities' Universities. The audience listened to a Tag Rugby League Seminar delivered by Robin Peers (RFL NE Talent Coach). In the evening we were invited to an audience with the Director of the Rostov Technical University with delegates from the Sports Ministry and the Rostov Russian Rugby League Federation.

The next day we got our first opportunity to deliver Tag Rugby League sessions in our designated schools in preparation for the Schools Tag Festival on Thursday and Friday. Each School had 2 designated Coaches throughout. The first session introduced the Children to Tag Rugby League Core Skills of Grip, Carry and Tag. In total 7 schools took part from around Rostov-on-Don, around 350 children in total were given their first taste of Rugby League. In the Afternoon we were then invited to watch a regional Rugby League 7s Tournament at the Rostov Stadium consisting of 6 teams officiated by Match officials Adam Brown (RFL Young Officials Development Officer) and Gareth Bacon (Volunteer). During the tournament the Team Members were invited to take part in the Tournament, I had the opportunity to represent St. Petersburg which was a brilliant experience and privilege.

Sunday morning we returned to the Rostov Stadium to assist in the running of a Women's Rugby League 7s Tournament. The standard of play on both days was very high. From the two days of watching and playing in the tournaments it gave us an opportunity to assess the levels of play and areas which we could improve in their games. In the evening the group travelled to Novo-Cherkassk where we were greeted by the local Priest and taken on a guided tour of the area, taking in churches and historic landmarks of the area. The area is famous in Russia as a meeting point of the famous Cossack Army during the C18<sup>th</sup> and was visited recently by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Monday saw us back in the schools continuing on from the first day's activities, the sessions were progressed to introduce the Children onto Passing and Playing the Ball. In the afternoon we again returned to Rostov Stadium to watch an "Old Boys" v Students match from Rostov Technical University. The game was played to a high standard on both sides, even with a tremendous Thunder Storm that continued throughout the game and all evening.

With the addition of another new school on Tuesday, our coaching resources became sort after across the City. We had to pull together and agree to work alone in some schools, which Lee Carbutt (Volunteer) and I agreed to do so. This was a great feeling as it showed that more teachers and pupils were interested in learning our sport. The children progressed onto games of Tag Rugby League during these sessions with the new schools receiving combined sessions. In the afternoon, the first coaching seminar was delivered by Robin Peers to Russian Coaches and Players. He explained the key Coaching Points of Rugby League including Passing, Marker Defence and Play the Ball.

The Schools Tag Festival swung into action early on Thursday Morning at the Rostov State Technical University with 19 teams (250+ children) competing in a group stage Olympic style competition across 4 pitches. The top 3 Teams from each group would progress to the finals on Friday in the Cup, Bowl and Plate. The day ran smoothly, and every team thoroughly enjoyed participating. The standard of play was excellent considering they had only just held a Rugby Ball for the first time 5 days earlier. In the afternoon Adam Brown delivered a Match Officials (MOs) seminar too the potential Russian MO's. The seminar was well received by the Russian Delegates who were eager to take part and voiced lots of questions to Adam and the Team.

Friday morning saw the Team prepare for the finals at the Rostov State Technical University. The games were played at a fast pace and were officiated by Adam Brown, with Lee Carbutt and I Touch Judging the 3 Finals. The Plate was won by School 65, coached by Steven Beatty (Volunteer) and Claire Mullaney (Volunteer). The Bowl was won by School 17, coached by Adam Walsh (Volunteer) and Jake Cotterall (Volunteer), and the Cup was won by School 76, coaches Gareth Bacon and Nimai Parmar (Volunteer).

Friday evening we were invited back to School 17 for the closing Press Conference. During the Conference we were fortunate to be able to watch the Children of the School show traditional Russian Dances, Songs and Music which was a brilliant Cultural experience.

The whole experience from my time in Russia was fantastic and I was very fortunate to Coach in 3 Schools (82, 19 and 96), each very different from the other. The Children, Coaches and Students were all extremely enthusiastic to learn from us throughout. Even with the level of facilities that are available to the Players, their passion for Rugby League and Sport in general can not be questioned. The level of appreciation and hospitality that was shown to us by everyone was overwhelming. Hopefully from introducing Rugby League into the Schools it will offer the Children in Rostov-on-Don an opportunity to take part in a Team Sport and will offer them a different path in life. I hope that the Project will show the Russian Authorities that Rugby League is a great sport for the Children, the Students and for the City of Rostov-on-Don and that money can be made available to allow them the facilities, and the Coaching they deserve in order to express themselves to their full potential on the Rugby League Pitch.



