

# Women's Rugby North West



*e-News No.2 March 2006*

Dear **Supporter**,

If this is the first time you've seen this newsletter, welcome to the rugby community supporting the development of rugby for women and girls here in the North West. This newsletter aims to provide a regular vehicle for keeping all those interested in promoting the sport, up to date with recent news and with sources of information to learn more. Since Christmas the County programme has been completed and despite the weather our Regional program has got off to an excellent start.

If you have any questions about the RFUW or Women's Rugby North West, please of course feel free to contact me or any of our locally based representatives. Meanwhile we are all looking forward to a busy Spring programme with lots of activities planned. I look forward to meeting you at one or more of these events.

Best regards in sport,

**Jo Wells**

RFUW Regional Manager North [jowells@rfu.com](mailto:jowells@rfu.com)

## **Emerging Schools**

For the first time this season the RFUW have been running an Emerging Schools Competition. A similar tournament for boys has been run for a number of years by the RFU, and has been very successful in increasing participation in rugby, indeed a number of North West schools have reached the final stages.

At the moment in the North West the main resource for the development of girls club rugby are community rugby clubs. Consequently there are few schools offering full squads of players and competitive matches. However Cheadle Hulme School in Manchester have been offering rugby for a number of years and as a reward for their pioneering efforts, they have been selected to represent the North West in the finals of this event which will take place at Twickenham on May 6th. Please wish them good luck.

The 2006-7 Emerging School tournament is already being planned so there will be opportunities to enter next season. Please contact your regional RFUW contact if you'd like to participate.

Full story at :

[http://www.rfu.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/RFUHome.Community\\_Detail/StoryID/13194](http://www.rfu.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/RFUHome.Community_Detail/StoryID/13194)

## County News

### Lancashire win RFUW Northern Counties Trophy



Lancashire won this years Northern Counties triangular tournament with wins against both Cheshire and Yorkshire. A cup has been presented by the RFUW, hopefully we'll get to see a picture of it being presented for the next newsletter. Time permitting in the calendar Lancashire will be pitted against county opponents from the South. Good luck. For next season the tournament is hoping to become a 'quadrangular' with teams from the North East or Cumbria taking part.

### Cheshire Senior Women Secure international Services

The Cheshire Senior Women's squad has secured the coaching services of ex Sale and England RFU star Barrie-John Mather and his assistant David Ingleson. Vicky Reeves, who coached the girls up to their Northern Counties Trophy games fell ill shortly afterwards with nodules on her vocal chords. Manager Vicky Brookes was to step into the breach until she thought the squad may benefit from a more experienced rugby brain, or two. On hearing the plight of the Women's team BJ, now coaching at Fylde and David from Preston Grasshoppers were more than happy to offer their services to the girls for the two training sessions remaining before a summer of 7's rugby. The team will get their first taste of the new coaches on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March @ Chester and they'll be repeating the experience on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April @ venue TBA.

## Regional Update

### Trials

A bitter morning at Broughton Park in January 29th saw the regional trials for all age groups kick off. Good attendance all round saw players put through their paces by a team of experienced volunteers from across the region.

Thank you to all those clubs that have supported the event and encouraged their players to put themselves forward. While the Women's teams have already got involved in matches, the junior squads had a follow up coaching session at Moss Farm and have playing squads selected. Matches are looming against the West Midlands and North East, in advance of the National Festival in Rugby over the May Bank Holiday weekend. Match reports and pictures will be posted on the Women North West calendar web page.

[http://www.northwichgirlsrugby.co.uk/html/nw\\_calendar.html](http://www.northwichgirlsrugby.co.uk/html/nw_calendar.html)



U17's  
squad training @ Moss Farm



### **Women enjoy success - so far so good**

The North West representative team have won both their matches so far. Excellent wins against the North East and East Midlands have helped them make great strides towards a possible appearance in the finals in May. Two of the squads Cheshire players, Sylvia Baaijens and Jodie Silver both made their debut for the Regional squad against in the North East game. With Sylvia playing in the second row and Jodie scoring a try from the wing. Two more members of the Cheshire team were selected for the North West squad and we wish Amy Jane Dutton and Trish Brown the best of luck competing for a place in the 22 for the next game. Hopefully we'll see some match reports and photographs of the matches for the next newsletter.

### **North West vs North East at Broughton Park **Won 35-12****

Result thanks to Sylvie Baaijens (Chester RUFC)

### **North West vs East Midlands at Waterloo 26th Feb **Won 42-3****

Result thanks to Jodie Silver (Altrincham Kersal RUFC)

### **Regional Dates for your diary**

#### **U14's & U17's**

**March 19th** West Midlands @ Lichfield Rugby Club KO 2pm

**April 9th** North East @ Broughton Park KO 2pm

For information on the matches or arrangements please contact the following :-

**Seniors Manager** Linda Buckton [LndBu@aol.com](mailto:LndBu@aol.com)

**Youth Manager** Phil Clarke [philclarke@rfu.com](mailto:philclarke@rfu.com)

### **Other News**

#### **NWWAGRAG & LWAGRAG get formal**

At recent committee meetings the North West followed the example of the Lancashire Women's & Girls Rugby Action Groups and set up a formal constitution. Carried by the members attending the meeting, this revised setup now allows both groups to formally apply for funding to support rugby and act as a stronger co-ordinating force for the growing sport.

To learn more about each of these groups why not pop along to the next meeting. The next NWWAGRAG meeting will be on 20th March at Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Club at 7pm. Carol Isherwood the RFUW Director of Rugby will be there to answer all of your questions.

**NWWAGRAG** Anna Goatman [anna\\_goatman@hotmail.com](mailto:anna_goatman@hotmail.com)

**LWAGRAG** Anna O'Malley [Littleanna@fish.co.uk](mailto:Littleanna@fish.co.uk)

#### **Youth Games**

Across the North West region, June usually sees the organisation of a range of Youth Games to promote participation in sport. A wide range of sports are offered and these often include both contact and Tag rugby for children of different ages. This is a great way for young people to learn about rugby and have a great time playing against other teams.

Local communities are always looking for volunteers to help with these events,

especially for coaching rugby. If there's enough interest this summer perhaps girls tag teams participating in their individual Youth Games would also be interested in a regional tournament? Again please contact your local RFUW representative or your nearest Youth Games organisers if you would be interested in helping out.

**Cheshire Youth Games - SportCheshire** [www.sportcheshire.org](http://www.sportcheshire.org)

**Merseyside Youth Games - Merseyside Sport**

<http://www.merseysidesport.com/>

**Lancashire Youth Games**

[http://www.wyrebc.gov.uk/Council\\_Services/Sport\\_and\\_Leisure/Sports\\_Development/Events/Lancashire\\_Youth\\_Games](http://www.wyrebc.gov.uk/Council_Services/Sport_and_Leisure/Sports_Development/Events/Lancashire_Youth_Games)

**Greater Manchester Youth Games - Greater Manchester Sport**

<http://www.gmgplc.co.uk/gmgplc/responsibilities/majspons/gmythgame/>

### **Internationals**

The England Women's team continued with their winning form against Scotland with a 22-5 win. Unbeaten this season they also have wins against Spain 86-3 and Wales 38-5. Lets hope they can maintain their winning run against France and Ireland. You can now view the matches live and read more about all the England games on Sport TV, click on the following for more details.

[http://www.sportuk.tv/pages/womens\\_rugby/index.html](http://www.sportuk.tv/pages/womens_rugby/index.html)

**England vs France** Saturday 11th March in Paris KO 4pm

**England vs Ireland** Saturday 18th March at St Albans KO 3pm

### **Events**

For a full calendar of events for the North West please consult the Calendar web page at the Women's Rugby North West temporary web site:-

[http://www.northwichgirlsrugby.co.uk/html/nw\\_calendar.html](http://www.northwichgirlsrugby.co.uk/html/nw_calendar.html).

Some further events with North West participation are highlighted here.

#### **Sun Alliance Festival of Rugby 29th-1st May Rugby School**

Rugby School will again be the venue for a wide range of community and girls events. North West U14 & U17 girls squads will be taking part over the weekend competing against teams from across the UK.

#### **Vale of Lune Tournament 29th (U17) & 30th April (Ladies)**

This is a tournament for U17 & Women's teams to be staged at the Vale of Lune club. Please contact Sandra Richardson

[sandrarichardson@therfu.com](mailto:sandrarichardson@therfu.com) for the U17 event or Sue

Garnett [susie.garnett@btinternet.com](mailto:susie.garnett@btinternet.com) for more information. Copies of the application forms are on the Women's North West web site, just find the correct date on the calendar.

[http://www.northwichgirlsrugby.co.uk/html/nw\\_calendar.html](http://www.northwichgirlsrugby.co.uk/html/nw_calendar.html)

#### **Women's Regional Competition Final 21st May 2006.**

Final of the regional tournament run alongside the Super League final @ Moseley Rugby Club.

#### **Summer Solstice Seven's Competition 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2006.**

Ladies 7's event to be held at Notts Casual Rugby Club. Cheshire Women's

team are planning to field two teams.

### **Getting more information**

Finally to close this edition of the newsletter, I hope you found the news interesting and hope it might encourage you to learn more about our activities in the North West. Further information about the North West regional activities and clubs, is currently at a temporary web site courtesy of Northwich Rugby Club. Further information about the RFUW is at the main RFU web site. Please feel free to copy this newsletter to colleagues who are not on our current circulation list and encourage them to sign up for the next copy at the North West site.

### **Women's Rugby North West**

[http://www.northwichgirlsrugby.co.uk/html/womens\\_rugby\\_nw.html](http://www.northwichgirlsrugby.co.uk/html/womens_rugby_nw.html)

### **RFUW**

[http://www.rfu.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/rfuhome.community\\_detail/storyid/5972](http://www.rfu.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/rfuhome.community_detail/storyid/5972)

### **Lancashire Rugby Union Women's County page**

[http://www.rfu.com/clubs/index.cfm/fuseaction/ev.view\\_Report/grou\\_select/29/even\\_id/105983/page\\_id/84](http://www.rfu.com/clubs/index.cfm/fuseaction/ev.view_Report/grou_select/29/even_id/105983/page_id/84)

### **RFUW Regional Community Representatives**

**Lancashire** Ollie Barlow [obarlow@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:obarlow@myerscough.ac.uk)

**Merseyside** Mark Turner [markturner@rfu.com](mailto:markturner@rfu.com)

**Greater Manchester** Phil Clarke [philclarke@rfu.com](mailto:philclarke@rfu.com)

**Cheshire** Dave Livesey [davidl@sportcheshire.org](mailto:davidl@sportcheshire.org)