



SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

The Schools Section has continued to work within the County to achieve a number of strategic objectives to develop rugby in Lancashire.

As part of the plan to increase participation, the schools committee have been asked to further develop existing schools cup competitions, to increase the number of emerging schools and look to include more Sixth Form, Tertiary and Further Education Colleges in the schools competition structure. The number of teams entered into the various competitions was up by 11% this season and the plate competition has continued to be popular which again has doubled the participation levels. In the main competition, out of the 44 schools entered (6 more than in 2006/07), 12 reached a final in either the cup or plate competitions. The emerging schools competitions entries went up from 21 to 24 with 9 of those schools appearing in one or more of the trophy and plate competitions.

A group of committee members have been working for the last ten months to put together a Lancashire Schools Union Development plan to identify the aims and objectives of the CSU and then prioritise the implementation for 2008-09. The model is based on the ERFU Strategic Plan and endorses what we are doing well in Lancashire and gives us guidelines in how to improve and promote the game of rugby in this county.

Ken Andrews now sits on the ERFU Rugby Development Committee and Lancashire is held in high esteem with the ERFU and the RFU. Many of our initiatives are being mirrored in other County Schools' Union and we believe that with our development plan we can continue to lead the way as a model of good practice that is recognised throughout the country. Thanks to Ken Andrews, Paul Fernside, John Morgan, Stuart Urquart, Robbie Jones, Keith Thompson, Kieran Doherty and Ian Robinson for the efforts in producing the plan.

It is with sadness that we heard of the tragic death of Ian Robinson of Merchant Taylors. Ian was leading a school rugby tour to Australia last summer when he was killed in a boating accident. A great stalwart of rugby at Merchant Taylors. Ian will be sadly missed by his family, school and the county.

Congratulations to our own Peter Hughes, not only on his retirement from the ERFU but in gaining two well deserved awards. Firstly he was awarded the Torch Trophy Trust Award for his services to rugby earlier in the year and recently for his award of honorary life membership of the ERFU. The latter he received from the President of the ERFU at Twickenham on Schools' Day.

Tim Stirk and Peter Hughes have been awarded Life membership of the Lancashire County Schools Union for their long and devoted service to schools rugby within the county and for promoting the county at national level as prominent members of the ERFU.

Congratulations also to the schools in Bolton for their part in the RFU President's Award given to Bolton RUFC for their success in the Community Award in developing youth rugby within the borough.

It is pleasing to report that a good number of Schools' personnel continue to sit on the various county committees and continue to help with the organisation and coaching of teams to ensure there is a continuity of good practice and experience in the various county age groups.

Representatives from the schools section on the 7-16 committee, 17-18 committee and the Rugby Development Partnership have helped produce a structure to aid CB player development in the county by developing a seamless pathway from the three District support teams to and between the County age groups. This has been part of the Lancashire plan to deliver the Schools of Rugby initiative put forward by the RFU to develop the individual skills of the best youngsters in the county.

My thanks also go to Dave Southern and his team of RDO,s and CRC's in the county who have developed excellent programmes to encourage new and emerging schools to participate in rugby.

Congratulations to Jordan Davies for his selection for the England 18 AER Group and played in the AER tournament in Treviso, Italy. At U16 level, two boys gained International honours, Ryan Glynn of Sedbergh and Ben Vernon of Hutton GS who gained their England caps at the International Festival in France .

Congratulations to the many schools who had excellent seasons and have had a good number of boys represent the Districts, County, Division and England and to all schools who took part in the Cup and Plate competitions throughout the season and especially to our finalists in both the main and emerging schools cup competitions.

LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS

Under 13s	Cup	The Manchester Grammar School	42	v	0	Kirkham Grammar School
	Plate	Merchant Taylors	17	v	0	Wade Deacon
Under 14s	Cup	The Manchester Grammar School	18	v	17	Audenshaw
	Plate	St Mary's College	12	v	10	Hutton GS
Under 15s	Cup	Lancaster RGS	15	v	11	Ripley St Thomas
	Plate	Cowley Lang College	13	v	12	St Mary's College
Under 16s	Cup	Lancaster RGS	11	v	10	Hutton GS
	Plate	Bolton School	14	v	11	Stonyhurst College
Under 18s	Cup	Hutton GS	8	v	7	Lancaster RGS
	Plate	Myerscough College	16	v	7	Bolton School

LANCASHIRE EMERGING SCHOOLS

Under 13s	Trophy	West Hill HS	45	v	15	Birkdale HS
	Plate	Maricourt HS	5	v	0	Cardinal Heenan HS
Under 14s	Trophy	Birkdale HS	12	v	0	Fairfield HS
	Plate	Cardinal Heenan HS	15	v	0	QEGS, Blackburn
Under 15s	Trophy	West Derby Comp	24	v	19	Blessed Trinity HS
	Plate	Birkdale HS +	10	v	10	Rivington & Blackrod HS

+ The Cup was shared, holding it for six months each

Our thanks must go to Rochdale RUFC who hosted the Lancashire Schools Cup Finals Day so well and also to Liverpool St Helens RFC who held the U18 Cup finals and the Emerging Schools Finals.

I must thank all those other clubs who have supported our programme by letting us use their facilities particularly Fylde, Preston Grasshoppers, West Park, Sedgley Park, Sefton, , Eccles, Tyldesley, and Ormskirk. Thanks also go to our two excellent referees societies for all their support especially in giving us high quality teams of three for all our main matches.

Many congratulations to the players and coaching staff off Hutton Grammar School who were voted Lancashire School of the Year 2008 for the second year running and they were awarded the Bob Sanderson Schools Trophy. Birkdale High School were awarded the new 'Ken Andrews' Emerging School of the Year Trophy. Both schools received their awards at the Annual Awards Dinner at Preston Grasshoppers RUFC.

Many thanks our Senior County Committee for their continued support for all our activities especially President, Dave Herriman who has supported us in many matches and all the cup competitions throughout the season and I thank him for all the effort he has made in championing schools rugby.

Congratulations to Paul Fernside, on his appointment as Chairman and we wish him well for the next four years.

Finally, our thanks also go all those willing volunteers who work so hard on committees, in administering competitions, coaching and team management.

KEN ANDREWS

Chairman