

Northumberland Schools Rugby Union

Chairmans Report 2009

Thanks for another successful season!

Less to say this year but that is by no means a reflection on the amount of activity going on. The emerging schools competitions have enjoyed greater support this year and are offering an opportunity for ever more students to play the game.

I would like to thank everyone involved for offering their support. Teachers, club colleagues, CRC's, development officers and the professional players at the Falcons have all offered their time so that our young players can have the opportunity to experience the game and to develop their expertise.

The representative programme continues to thrive with coaches juggling the sometimes conflicting demands of achieving good team structures and results whilst also focusing on individual player development. We seem to be doing a good job at making sure that our efforts are seen as part of a process of development rather than as an end in their own right.

Last year we raised the issue of the need to encourage effective front row play. It has been really pleasing to witness youngsters being allowed to scrummage, even on the occasions when my own players have been on the end of a bit of a hiding. The sessions run by 'Crusher' seem to be making a difference. Hopefully we are on a continuing programme which will ensure that our schools, representative and senior club sides will have a steady stream of well trained and competitive performers.

We also raised the issue of discipline and respect last year. I am led to believe that with a few minor exceptions our game is in very good hands. I would like to thank coaches for their continued efforts to ensure that the game maintains its high expectations in this aspect. We want to encourage robust and competitive play whilst eliminating the thugs from the game.

On a sad note I have to report that David Peffer has decided for personal reasons to stand down as the Northumberland Rugby Football Schools' Union Representative. David has attended meetings for us for a very long time. I would like to thank him for his commitment and the calm manner in which he represented us at the National level.

Finally, I would like to extend our thanks to Carlo, Roz, Max, Richard, Dean, Dave, Chris, Remi, Sally and the numerous age group coaches who help to provide a top quality experience for youngsters in Northumberland. Needless to say very little of this would happen without the support of the Northumberland Rugby Union, clubs, referees and the Newcastle Falcons.

Thanks to one and all

Steve Mullins
Chairman