

# ACTIVATE



The Rugby Football Union's e-newsletter for rugby club volunteer co-ordinators

Issue 2 | June 2006

## 'Release your talents'

*Steve Keates, Volunteer Co-ordinator (and Chairman) at North Dorset RFC shares his way of locating, supporting, recognising and communicating with volunteers.*

The most important thing is to welcome people to the club. We have 850 members as well as parents, supporters, family and friends. When people ring me in response to our radio or newspaper adverts, I invite them to the club, show them round and make them a cup of tea personally. This welcome gives everyone the opportunity to be involved as part of the extended 'family' at North Dorset RFC. We run 19 sides and have over 100 volunteers supporting them. Everyone has talents, from cooking to first aid, fundraising to growing plants. It's my job as volunteer co-ordinator to fit round pegs in round holes so people feel comfortable and get satisfaction from their volunteering. The club has been constantly developing since it was founded in 1951 at the Phoenix Pub in Gillingham and talking to individuals is the best way to find out about them and share a bit about me, my role and the club. Communication is key; Volunteers get information through our newsletter "Winning", email, our website and notice boards. The magnificent contribution of volunteers gets recognised in lots of ways; we present certificates, write thank you letters, have committee suppers, send Christmas cards, give flowers, award the unsung hero trophy at our dinner and we nominate volunteers for the 'North Dorset People and Places Award' which was won last year by our grounds keeper, Bruce. Finding ways to help people release their talents for rugby – even if it involves a rubber chicken at the Ladies Dinner – is what it's all about for me.



## RECRUITMENT

### Lancashire RFU's 'Club Volunteer Co-ordinator Support and Development Programme'

Lancashire RFU were awarded funding for a programme providing encouragement and support for individuals to take up the Club Volunteer Co-ordinator role in each of the 50 clubs across the county. They appointed a 'County Volunteer Manager' who recruited and trained three 'Cluster Volunteer Co-ordinator Officers' who encouraged clubs to appoint CVCs and provide one-to-one support and mentoring. All new CVCs were giving an 'Introduction and Guidance pack' and trained at interactive CVC workshops and forums. Project Manager Bob Grant explains "The programme has become an integral part of our communication process and alerts us to any issues perceived by the clubs. Lancashire has received benefit from this initiative and we are determined to deliver an equivalent benefit to our clubs by our ongoing commitment".

## RETENTION

Volunteering England offers a range of services designed to help and support everyone who works with volunteers. Their 'Good Practice Bank' brings together articles, information sheets, case studies, links and other helpful guidance on a range of volunteering issues. To find out more visit: [www.volunteering.org.uk/managing\\_volunteers/goodpracticebank](http://www.volunteering.org.uk/managing_volunteers/goodpracticebank)



## RECOGNITION



Congratulations to Des Pastore, who received an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for Services to Rugby. Des, who played his last game of rugby on his 91st birthday, said he was "very proud" to be appointed MBE. The wing-cum-centre played for Chester and Sale before ending his 75-year career last September.

## WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN!

Tell us how you've used the new Volunteer Recruitment Pack to find volunteers. If we publish your story, we'll send you an exclusive 'Pitch In' polo shirt!

**Did you know?** The London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will need up to 70,000 volunteers from around the UK and across the world.

**Contact Us** Send your volunteering questions, stories, photos and feedback to [community@therfu.com](mailto:community@therfu.com)

## RUGBY HERO



LES HUMPHRIES, a founder member and valued volunteer at Uttoxeter RFC was nominated for recognition by the Chairman of the club, Gordon Richardson. "Les is one of those men who don't come along very often. He's not only the founder member of JCB RFC, the original beginnings of Uttoxeter RFC, but was the main instigator to move the factory team down to Uttoxeter, twenty-five years ago. This man has personally recruited over 50% of our playing staff and been involved with every type of job mentionable without being asked, including Fixtures Secretary, for years! However, his finest contribution to our club is his presence; I'd like to say has represented my club with pride. Les Humphries is an awesome ambassador of Uttoxeter RFC, without him, the club would not exist and his unsung contribution is going to take some replacing". Les was presented with an RFU VIP tie at the Staffordshire RU Volunteers Award Dinner in May.

For more information visit [www.rfu.com/volunteer](http://www.rfu.com/volunteer)