

ACTIVATE



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

Issue 1 | May 2006

Grassroots rugby thrives thanks to enthusiastic, talented, dedicated volunteers. We are delighted that **YOU** have become part of our network of 345 club volunteer coordinators (CVCs). Thank you for being the focal point at your club to recruit, retain and recognise volunteers. As we come towards the end of the season it's a busy time for CVCs when we celebrate the achievements of our volunteers and look ahead to next season for helpers to keep our clubs running successfully. There are lots of ideas in the new RFU Volunteer Recruitment Pack launched by Martin Johnson. This newsletter will keep you up to date with the support available for CVCs from inside and outside the RFU. Most important of all we want to share your good ideas for what really works, so please drop us a line.



Win a 'Pitch In' Polo Shirt

Tell us how you've used the new Volunteer Recruitment Pack to find volunteers. If we publish your story, we'll send you a special shirt!

Did you know?

Volunteers contribute 1.2 billion hours to sport each year

Contact Us

Send your volunteering questions, stories, photos and feedback to community@therfu.com

EVENTS



Volunteers' Week (1-7 June) is the UK's annual celebration of the work volunteers do. Your rugby club could take advantage of this national high profile event. Visit www.volunteersweek.org.uk for a range of tools and resources to help you celebrate the contribution that your volunteers have made.

RECRUITMENT

Your local Volunteer Centre can match individuals and groups interested in volunteering with opportunities at your rugby club.



www.volunteering.org.uk/volunteerdevelopmentagencies

RETENTION



skills and support for sports volunteers

- free downloads
- top tips
- quick guides
- best practice case studies
- workbooks
- workshops
- newsletters

and much more...visit www.runningsports.org

RECOGNITION



The Diana Award recognises the contribution young people make to their school, family or community. It rewards and celebrates school students including sports leaders. Since 1999, **over 11,000 young people** from across the UK have received an Award. If you want to nominate a young rugby leader go to www.diana-award.org.uk. Hurry the deadline is Friday 23 June 2006

The highest reward for a person's work is not what they get for it, but what they become because of it.
John Ruskin

RUGBY HERO

JOHN TAYLOR, at 72 years young, is a valued volunteer at Newmarket RUFC. Neil Osborne, Chairman of the Club, said, "He has worked tirelessly in the name of rugby union for fifty years and has in fact taken on added work within the club for the past 6 years". John's record includes 10 years as 1st XV captain, 25 years as fixture secretary, Chairman of clubhouse and ground committee since 1972, press officer for the club and, for the past few seasons he has been director of rugby and 1st XV team manager! He also refereed for 20 years, is a member of Eastern Counties Community Rugby Committee and Cambridgeshire RFU committee. In a 'typical' week John Taylor will complete the match reports for two local newspapers and local radio, check on injured players, take shirts to cleaners, arrange team selection, check the clubhouse, attend an evening committee meeting, telephone players for their availability, check the pitch (which is on school premises) with the headmaster and caretaker, review the progress in the youth section, collect shirts, confirm arrangements for the match, do numerous tasks to ensure that match goes smoothly, have a pint of shandy, and return home! "We at Newmarket are having to appoint FIVE new committee members to take over the work done by John Taylor when he retires, that, I think, speaks for itself." John Taylor will be presented with a special RFU VIP tie at the Club AGM.



For more information visit www.rfu.com/volunteer