



Durham County Rugby Football Union

Season 2025-26

Minutes of the Schools Union Meeting & AGM

Durham City RFC

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Present: J. Pearson [JP]; C. Kirkland [CK]; S. Hardy [SH]; M. Tucker[MT] D. Patterson [DP]; J. Duncan [JD]; J. Riddle [JR];A. Tennyson[AT]; J. Foster[JF]; J. Raper[JR] [DCRFU Chair]; B. Walton [BW]; M. Tucker[MT]; J. Humberstone [JH];A. Smith [AS] [RFU Coach Developer]; S. Eтчells [SE] [CB Admin]

1. **Apologies:** M. Pepper; S. Powell; M. VanVuuren; A. Robinson; J. Cook; N. Greswell; T.Hindmarch; Y Madikizela
2. **Chairs Welcome:** [KR] Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting & AGM. Schools Union is to make sure our children and schools can get involved in rugby union at whatever level and that is why we are all here today.
Thanks to the Johnson & McClurg Foundation for their support of DCRFU Schools Union.
3. **Minutes from Last AGM** – No AGM for 2 years therefore no minutes found.
Minutes from Previous Meeting – **Accepted** with no matters arising.
4. **Co-Ordinators Report:** [JP] See Report – [JP] If agreed at the AGM there will be a restructuring of the Schools Union to meet the present demands of England Rugby – Schools and the change in emphases in the activities of the Schools Union – Durham. Having now searched for some significant time, without success, for 2 of our historical permanent trophies funding provided by Graham Johnson (the anonymous donor) was utilised to purchase a permanent replacement for the Lynn Mock Under 19 Trophy and the Ron Davidson U.15 Cup. I met with 3 members of the of the R F Johnson and C M McClurg Amateur Sport Foundation on 27/8 to discuss the possible way forward next year - 2026. I reported on what had occurred in the last 8 months and the plans for 2026 with potential costings.
5. **Re-Structure [JP]** - Meetings in Sept and Feb, main activities based are YMO activities and competitions, but we can still have ad hoc meetings. If you need anything regarding competition you speak to the person in charge of that age group and then Stu Hardy, if you need to. Facilities , Finance or equipment speak to the facilities Coordinator, he will then discuss will the Executive Group. - **Agreed**
6. **Elections:**
 - Chair – Chris Kirkland [to attend General Committee Meetings]
 - Secretary – Matt Tucker [To attend Community Standing Committee Meetings]
 - England Rugby-Schools – Martin Pepper [Depute – John Pearson]
 - Link to Johnson & McClurg Foundation – John Pearson
 - Comms Facilitator – Vacant
 - Chair of Competitions – Stu Hardy
 - Emerging Schools – Dougie Patterson
 - Boys Cup – Scott Powell



Durham County Rugby Football Union

Season 2025-26

Minutes of the Schools Union Meeting & AGM

Durham City RFC

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

- Boys 7's – Scott Powell
- Girls Cup – John Humberstone
- Girls 7's – John Humberstone
- Cleveland Comps – Kevin Rudd
- T1 – Kevin Rudd
- Reps to England Rugby Schools: Comps – Stu Hardy;
Established Schools – Vacant
Girls – Vacant
- SMT Link to England Schools – Chris Kirkland
- Young Match Officials – Joe Riddle/ John Pearson

7. Competitions:

- Entries have been sent out for all 15 a side boys cups, entries on the low side but still time to enter.
- Emerging Schools: 7 entries per age group; venues booked for Festival. The aim to move schools over to cup competitions as they become stronger.
- Cleveland Comps/ T1 mixed U12;13;14;15 either north and south or 1 competition.
- [JP] all competitions are supplied with new rugby balls and we use YMO's.

Andy Tennyson [RFU funded School Rugby Manager – Cleveland] – we provide Rugby in Primary Schools and try to upskill staff to get rugby back on the curriculum and hopefully get children back into clubs.

8. **Identify Needs:** Branded Gazebo to use at competitions and corner flags sets for schools who host. **Action:** **Stu Hardy to investigate prices.**

9. AOB:

- Ash Smith [Coach Developer] discussion regarding CPD courses for teachers and when best to hold. **D. Patterson to liaise with Ash.**
- SU needs a Inclusion & Diversity Policy – **SE to send over CB Policy.**
- YMO R2R – Jp asked schools if they would like pupils to do course to let him know. Vouchers will be purchased for Private Schools from Vic Young Funds and others for J & McCl Foundation Funds.
- **ALL Pupils who want to go on any course must have a GMS Account and therefore an RFU ID number. Courses and vouchers have to be booked by/ assigned to individuals.**

Durham County



RFU Schools Union

Durham County Rugby Football Union

Season 2025-26

Minutes of the Schools Union Meeting & AGM

Durham City RFC

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

- Discussed GDPR stopping SU and Ref Soc from contacting U18 YMO's regarding refereeing. SE – if you contact the YMO's using GMS email, there is no breach of GMS as everyone who has a GMS record has agreed that they can be contacted via the system. **Action SE to send Joe Riddle the email from RFU**

10. Date of next meeting: TBC

Meeting Closed.