

Craig Everett - WRU/MRFC Schools HUB Rugby Officer

First Quarter Report

I believe that I have made a positive impact in and around the Monmouth schools and the rugby club since I took up my role as WRU/MRFC Schools HUB Rugby Officer in August 2016. The objective of the role is to develop the game of rugby and rugby playing warriors and gentlemen in Monmouth at all ages.

I have assisted in recruiting 40 new players to Monmouth RFC Young Rugby over most age groups and most noticeably the more junior teams – Under 7s – 11s. New player recruitment has come about due to the excellent facilities and structure at the club, good relationships with the schools and encouraging the boys to come along and join in.

I am actively building relationships with the local primary schools, with the intention to inspire a taste for rugby and develop skills through training sessions run in the schools. This is an important initiative, ensuring a strong foundation of rugby to feed into the club and the senior schools. I have taken control of delivering Mon Stars rugby camps during schools holidays, which are always very well received and another great way of encouraging children and their parents to get involved with rugby and our community club.

I believe that I have built good working relationships with both Monmouth Comprehensive School and Monmouth Boys School. I understand that there was a level of apprehension in relation to my involvement at the start but, having spent time to engage with both PE departments, I feel confident that we are now working together with the same goals – developing and encouraging rugby participation. I believe that I have integrated well and am regarded as a valued member of staff and a useful rugby resource within both schools. I hope that I have earned the respect of both staff and pupils.

The response I have had within the schools has been great. I have been able to arrange countless fixtures and training sessions and have seen a significant improvement in individual skill sets already. With help from the teachers, we have arranged fixtures between the two Monmouth senior schools this season, which has not happened for several years.

Due to my involvement with the Boys school we have recruited 10 new players into the MRFC Youth Team, which is a great achievement. We will now play Youth team fixtures for the remainder of this season, with a side that did not exist at the start of the season.

I have taught 10 Rugby Leaders at Monmouth Comprehensive School, who will now help to deliver rugby coaching sessions with me at the primary schools. I hope to be able to deliver the Rugby Leaders programme to pupils at the Boys School this term.

A key part of my role is to help all Monmouth rugby coaches to gain the correct coaching qualifications and skills to ensure their players enjoy their rugby and are successful. Before Christmas, we invited two Welsh internationals to deliver CPD coaching sessions - Richie Rees and Rhys Thomas. These sessions covered “hooked on throwing” for hookers and “catch pass” for all players. We received very positive feedback from the coaches and players who attended at the CPD sessions. Coaches appreciate having the opportunity time to experience and learn new coaching

skills. Moving forward I would like to see greater participation in these CPD sessions and the WRU coaching qualification courses due to be held in Monmouth from all Monmouth club and teacher coaches - if possible.

Girl's rugby in Monmouth continues to flourish and a key objective will be to engage girls in the Comprehensive School and HMSG in the Maidens rugby franchise that runs from April to August as well as running tournaments and taster sessions throughout the year.

In my role as senior coach at Monmouth RFC I have been impressed with the desire and willingness of the players to take on new coaching techniques and to adapt to my way of coaching. With limited but committed players to select from, we have made significant progress in both League and Cup competitions this season. A successful 1st XV and a Druids (2ndXV) side that is playing consistently and well is critical for the future success of the club. All junior sides look up to the senior players and teams and so it is important that they are seen to be successful rugby warriors and gentlemen. It was great to see club Captain Sam Parsons and our two New Zealand players - Aмоса Nove and Jono Pahulu that we have brought over on a rugby sabbatical this year – running with 100 young rugby players at the Monmouth Santa Fun Run this Christmas – raising funds for the disabled class at Osbaston Primary school.

The success of the club has not gone unnoticed in the community. There is a real buzz around the club and the town as a result of our rugby initiatives and successes, which is both inspiring and motivational. I look forward to working with all concerned in developing our Monmouth Rugby Family!!

SPRING TERM PLANS 2017

The following is an outline of key objectives for the remainder of this rugby season and leading into the summer. In the event that any initiatives have been missed please contact me. Our ability to be successful will largely depend on key stakeholders – coaches – teachers – rugby administrators - throughout the Monmouth community engaging with the programme. Thank you all in advance for your wonderful support, help and hard work.

KEY INITIATIVES

- Transfer players to MRFC where possible and to enjoy 15 and 7 a side fixtures – predominantly played during the week and on Sunday mornings
- Develop MRFC teams at U13, U15, U16
- Continue to develop MRFC Youth team and fulfill remaining league fixtures
- Organise 7s tournaments for the senior schools involving years 7 – 8 – 7 – 10
- To organize MRFC Young Rugby Tournament in April 2017
- To continue to engage with disgruntled pupils through breakfast clubs and other initiatives and to try and engage them with the school and with rugby wherever possible
- Deliver Rugby Leader Courses in both senior schools and up skill the new Rugby Leaders & use Rugby Leaders in primary schools and club to deliver planned sessions
- Organise Primary school visits & consistent weekly rugby sessions
- Interact with all coaches – teachers at the club and schools – arrange CPD events – encourage participation in funded WRU Level 1 & 2 courses in Monmouth & individual – team coaching assistance



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- Develop Girls rugby in conjunction with the MRFC Maidens Girls Rugby franchise with interaction through all primary and senior schools including HMSG
- To organize Girls rugby tournaments and competitions using MRFC facilities as required
- Continue building on the success of the MRFC senior teams – increase skill sets and recruit new players
- To use our NZ Players to help promote rugby where possible around Monmouth
- Formulate plans and time table for Summer 2017 including: 7s – 10s tournaments – touch rugby – Maidens Rugby – Alternative team activities (canoeing – paint balling – alternative team sports & games) – Monstars Rugby Camps – Fun Rugby Festivals to encourage new participants

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