

Message from the ESRL Chairman

As the school sport landscape goes through a number of changes including the new national curriculum, a recent government announcement on the funding for primary school sport.

The RFL education programme has also undergone changes. We have a new team to support the development of Rugby League across education and also reviewing our own strategic direction to ensure Rugby League school offers are meeting the needs of the players and the schools. On the pitch the boys and girls regional finals have showcased the best of Rugby League in schools and we look forward to the national rounds.

Yours in Sport

David Gent ESRL Chair

RFL Education Team - Ebony Blake

It is with great pleasure that I commence my new role as the National Education Manager with the RFL and look to continue with the work that has been undertaken by my colleagues in education.

With the school sport landscape shifting and the recent RFL restructure it will be my job to ensure that the education offers for Rugby League are clear and appropriate to each sector and that the RFL continue to work towards making Rugby League easier and more enjoyable to play.

Continuing her work within education, Kate Hebden moves from a generalist role within the team to a more focused position as the FE/HE Manager. Similarly, James Szymik will continue to work within the education team as moving from his role as the South Student Rugby League Development Officer to an Education Officer, looking after Schools, Further Education and High Education in the South of the country.

I would like to welcome Tom Tsang and Peter Brooke to the team, who join us from the Midlands and the North West development teams respectively. Tom and Peter will take up positions as Education Officer and will assist in the coordination of Schools, FE and HE Rugby League.

A full list of contact details for the education team can be found www.therfl.co.uk

RLWC2013 Educational Resource

Motivate, inspire and engage your students with Rugby League World Cup 2013.

In October this year, RLWC2013 will give your pupils a chance to get involved in the action. The RLWC2013 Education Resource is aimed to those learning at Key Stages 2 and 3 and is packed full of exciting activities and opportunities that neatly fit into your school's curriculum.

On the site there are a range of literacy programmes, maths, science, CPSHE and PE activities, so there is something for all your pupils regardless of age and appealing to all interests.

These fun packed exercises aim to bring the all-important core principles from the game of Rugby League into your classroom.

You will also be able to involve your students with some 'once in a lifetime' opportunities to get your whole school inspired by all 14 nations competing at RLCW2013.

See how St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Wigan got on with the programme in our special RLWC2013 Education video.



Regional Round Up



Regions have had a busy few months battling the weather to get the boys and girls regional games played, here is a roundup of the action that has been taking place across the country.

Cumbria

In great conditions for Rugby league the Year 7 teams, St Bernard's and Dowdales served up a free flowing game. St Bernard's opened the scoring through Hugh McParland who from 10m out stepped through a gap, Dowdales rallied and prop Joe Walker crashed over from close range. On the stroke of half time St Bernard's nudged further ahead and continued their dominance to take the final, whilst the Y10 Champions Schools Finals for Cumbria opened with a bang, as Whitehaven and Dowdales showcased an action packed close call game. Whitehaven's scorched 75m from a kick return and with Adam Blake's conversion got his team off to a fantastic start. Dowdales responded and with a fast passed end to end second half. A hatrick try in the last 5 minutes from Bradley Walker inched Dowdales ahead at the final whistle.

North West

The first half of the North West Year 11 finals was dominated by an excellent display from St Peter however Saddleworth came out firing in the second half with a great Try. The set started in their own 20 which was finished in the corner after some great offloads. St Peters remained strong to take the title of champions. But it was the Year 9 game that really showcased rugby league within the North West.

Straight from the kick off the game was explosive with St Edmond Arrowsmith having to perform a great try saving tackle in the first set. The first 5 minutes was an end to end game, however, it was Michael Ashcroft for St Edmond

Arrowsmith who broke the deadlock. Whilst the remaining 10 minutes was controlled by St Peters, who started to apply the pressure St Edmond Arrowsmith held on to a 12 point lead at half time. St Peters got the scoring underway in the second half with Callum Baines going around the outside of his fellow winger to score a 50m try. St Edmond Arrowsmith replied with the best Try of the finals with Ben Fisher completing his hat trick on the back of some great support play taking the score to St Edmond Arrowsmith 26 – 16 St Peters. St Edmond Arrowsmith started to feel the pressure with 15 minutes which St Peters capitalised straight away taking the lead for the first time. An outrageous dummy from Declan O'Donnell to walk over the line, Gave St Edmond Arrowsmith a 4 point lead with 5 minutes to go. However within the dying seconds of the game St Peters produced their own show and go leaving the full time Score St Edmond Arrowsmith 36 v 36 St Peters.

North East

Churchill Community College entered the boys Champion Schools Competition for the first time ever this year with the Year 7 boys being the most successful team. Churchill under the leadership of Mr Collingwood navigator the local rounds unbeaten and turning on the style with touch tackling and a speedy attack to North East Champions.

Whytrig Year 8 Boys have done things the hard way this season, Due to a clash of dates with another However 100% attendance along with lots of wins brought them to the last tournament in the District round knowing another 100% success rate would lead them into the district final. With no more than 6 points separated the two teams and an extra time St Johns attack Whytrig, came back from the dead to run half the length of the field effort to secure at 26-22 win.

Astley High school, have continued to produce successful teams this year under the leadership of Mr Scott. Record numbers of players have choose to pick Rugby League during the schools enrichment timetable slot, and this in turn has led to a fantastic achievement from what now has to be classed at the number one Rugby League school in the North East.

Yorkshire

Outwood Grange Academy Year 11 rugby team are hoping to become the most successful school rugby team in the history of rugby league. If they can successfully defend their National title, they will be the only team to win the competition in every school year. The secret to Outwood's success is their teamwork, commitment and consistency, with fourteen of the current team having played in the first ever game back in 2008. Another element that has benefited the squad is the fact that all but one of the squad plays for local teams Stanley Rangers or Westgate Wolves, therefore the majority of the team is familiar with the rest of the teams' game.

Midlands

The Midlands Regional Finals of the RFL Champion Schools competition took place on Thursday 14th February at Old Leamingtonians RFC in Warwickshire. The day, which featured the teams who had battled through from the East Midlands, West Midlands and South West regional competitions, saw a number of excellent games, culminating in a stunning Year 11 finale. All finals, with the exception of Year 7, were played as a tri-series, giving all three teams the opportunity to experience the magic of finals day.

London

London have had yet another year of growth with Champion Schools, a rise of around 10% with nearly 80 schools across approximately 40 boroughs and 12 counties. 2012 Year 7 Champions Howard of Effingham has started their 2013 campaign strong with teams through to the national rounds in both year 7 and 8 competitions. Colchester Royal Grammar school also showed strength in numbers taking their place in the year 8 and 10 competitions. Both Tiffin and The Gilbert School negotiated tough semi –finals to gain their places in the Year 9 national rounds, whilst Brentwood, Feltham and Matthew Arnold had a comfortable round to secure their Year 11 and 10 places respectively.



Champion School National Rounds

Boys Year 7 -10

National Semi-Finals	Completed by Wednesday 22 May, Oulton Raiders
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Girls Year 7- 10

National Festivals Year 7 & 9	Tuesday 21st May, Derby Haslams
Year 8 & 10	Thursday 23rd May, Derby Haslams

National Finals Friday 23rd August

Richmond Athletic Association, Twickenham

Boys Year 11

National Semi-Finals	Tuesday 7th May
National Final	Wednesday 15th May

Girls Year 11

National Festivals	Wednesday 24th April
National Final	Wednesday 15th May