

September 2006



## County trials – your ticket to the USA & Canada?



Its county trials time again – but this year with the extra incentive for U17s of a possible regional tour to the USA and Canada beckoning for those who make the squad!

East Region have announced their intention to send the regional squad on tour taking in Washington State (USA) and British Columbia (Canada) in July 2008. That may seem a long way off, but (due to age band changes) the squad that gets on the plane will be effectively the one selected at this January's trials.

And the only way you will now be able to go to those trials is by getting into the county squad first.

So if you want to go on the first ever girls' rugby tour to North America county trials in Stevenage on the 17<sup>th</sup> September is your first target!

But that aside this year's trials promise to be well worth attending.

For the **under 17s** the coaches have decided to replace the rather stale round of drills (which tend only to highlight girls who are good at drills) with more match-play.

A 10-a-side inter-club tournament is therefore planned. Clubs with fewer than 10 U17s (or with spare players in excess of 10) will combine together - so even if you are the only U17 at your club you should still come along.

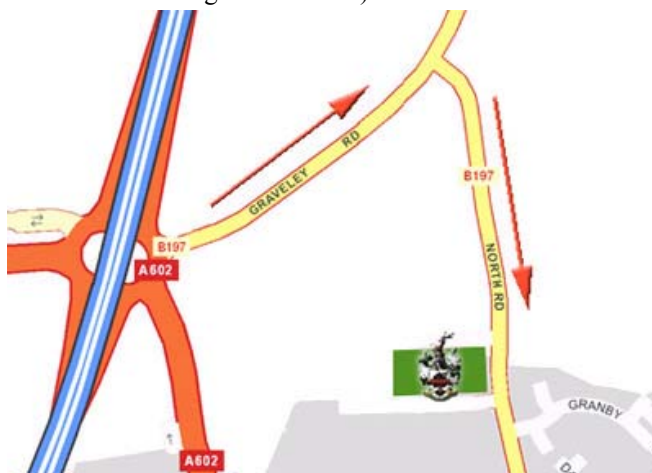
For the **under 14s** it will be the first chance for those taking up the game this year to meet and work with other girls from across the county.

And for the more experienced U14s its going to be time for them to step up and take on the role of leading new county team - possibly for the next two years, thanks to the age group changes next season.

So what else do you need to know?

**Where...** Stevenage Rugby Club. Exit the A1(M) at Junction 8 (North Stevenage). From the south take the FOURTH exit (FIRST exit if from north) at the roundabout.

After c500 yards turn right into North Road. Go up the hill until you see the Rugby and Tennis club on your right hand side (you can't miss the big white dome!).



**When...**Registration from 1.30 - forms will be distributed. You are asked not to arrive too much before 1.30 so as not to collide with the tail end of Stevenage's morning training. Play to start at 2pm and end around 4.

**Bring with you...** Registration form with parental permissions signed; rugby boots; gumshield. Forget any one **you will not be able to trial!!** Full stop. No exceptions.

Clubs are requested to contact Vicky and Luke with details of expected numbers of U17 trialists **as soon as possible**. If you have fewer than 10 girls then if possible make arrangements to combine with another club before the trials - the more that can be done beforehand the smoother things will run.

**If someone cannot make the 17<sup>th</sup>** then he tell Luke **now!** He and Vicky will then try to make arrangements to watch them before the trials.

### Welwyn pair selected for England performance camp

A day after the last newsletter appeared it was announced that two Welwyn girls - **Michelle Brophy** (centre, 17) and **Megan Williams** (fly half, and still - amazingly - only 14) - had been selected to attend the RFU's U17 performance camp at Loughborough – and were therefore “officially” among the best 30 U17s in the county!

The Performance Camp is the next step up the national ladder above the Performance Development Academies (PDAs) (featured in the latest Newsletter.).

### RFU hunts stars of tomorrow

With the England Women's team now in Canada for the Women's Rugby World Cup, the RFU is looking forward to the development of players who will represent England in the future, and has announced the introduction of a **U17 Talent Development Group (TDG)** which will provide selected players with a thorough individual development programme.

About thirty players selected at a series of nationwide “Talent Identification Days” will join the “TDG” and will meet regularly throughout the year.

The aim is to provide a ‘step up’ from Regional rugby and will develop the standard of England squads for years to come.

Players from Hertfordshire who attended the U14 & U17 PDA's in Guildford last summer will receive a letter inviting them to a "Talent Identification Day" on 26th October, but county coaches will also be invited to nominate ‘wild cards’ to the days.

The RFU also will be launching similar scheme for U14s. in February. .

### Emerging schools!

The first national girls U14 "Emerging School" championship" will take place this season. The

tournament - sponsored by The Daily Mail - has been running for some years, and the final at Twickenham is now an established event. Last year some girls' schools were included in a relatively small scale pilot event, but it caught the headlines and so next season its going national.

The plan is to have district level events in the autumn, leading to a county tournament in February. The best teams from that will go onto regional finals on 11th March and the national final at Twickenham on 5th May.

More information from Amanda Bate. .

### Hertfordshire hat-trick!

Hertfordshire Junior Rugby were winners of three of awards at this year's East Region Awards evening.



**Volunteer of the Year** went to John Birch, Amanda Bate won the **Outstanding Achievement award**, and the Hertfordshire U17 “A” team took **County Team of the Year**.

In addition a fourth award went to Hertfordshire when OA Saints were awarded **Club of the Year** for their performances in their first year of Women's Premiership rugby.

### 20 girls join Herts RFU scheme

Twenty girls took part in Herts RFU's "Athlete Support Programme" over the summer – the first time that girls have been included.

Nikki Alcock (*Letchworth*), Emma Burgess (*Hertford*), Megan Childs (*Saracens*), Francis

### Keep up-to-date

For the latest news turn to the County ‘Blog – <http://hertsgirls.blogspot.com>.  
Now covers adult women's rugby as well!

Dawson (*Welwyn*), Rebecca Dawson (*Welwyn*), Amanda Finch (*Saracens*), Milly Fuggles (*Hertford*), Hannah Gallagher (*Welwyn*), Hayley Guilder (*Letchworth*), Carla Kelly (*Letchworth*), Harriet Lilley (*Welwyn*), Hannah Marques (*Welwyn*), Alex Robertson (*Saracens*), Jess Robinson (*Letchworth*), Claire Shutler (*Saracens*), Gerry Thomas



(*Fullerians*), Natalie Threlfall (*Letchworth*), Emily Vivian (*Letchworth*), Melissa Waite (*Hitchin*), Megan Williams (*Welwyn*)

The programme - run at the University of Hertfordshire - had previously been restricted to the top U15 boys in the county.

### Be more than just a spectator!

There are now more opportunities than ever that will for parents and volunteers to become actively involved in the game.

**START RUGBY:** A new introductory course designed to give volunteers some basic ideas for drills and games-orientated coaching, especially for players new to the game. £25.00 per candidate.

*Dates & venues\*:* Wed 11 Oct – Welwyn 7pm -9.30pm; Sat 14 Oct – Fullerians 10am - 12.30pm

**TAG RUGBY:** The basic introductory game generally played at club level by U8s and below, but also used as a means of bringing new players into the game throughout the primary school age group - and sometimes beyond up to U14 level. This form of the game is also used at all county Youth Games - an excellent recruitment ground for girls' rugby. £25.00 per candidate.

*Dates & venues\*:* Wed 18 Oct – Old Verulamian 7pm -9.30pm; Sat 21 Oct – Hertford 10 am -12.30pm.

Anyone interested should contact their club first - they will have a coaching officer who will have application forms and may well also pay your fees for you.. Courses close three weeks before the start date. Forms are available from Peter Engledow ([peterengledow@rfu.com](mailto:peterengledow@rfu.com)) and need to be returned to him at University of Hertfordshire Office A/ 561, College Lane , Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AB. Cheques payable to RFDL.

### “Beyond Level One”

New this season is a series of coach training evenings called "Beyond Level One", aimed at extending the abilities of Level One coaches. The sessions will cost £10.00 per candidate and you can turn up on the night, but if possible clubs should advise approximate numbers. All courses will take place at Welwyn RFC:

Principles of Attack Wed (27 September); Understanding Defence Wed (18 October); Building a Scrum Wed (8 November); Lineout- Technical and Tactical (Wed 13 December); Continuity Skills (Wed 10 January); Coaching Process Skills (Wed 21 February).

Contact your club's coaching officer or Peter Engledow ([peterengledow@rfu.com](mailto:peterengledow@rfu.com)) for more details.

### U17 and U14 National Cup

This will be the first year that there has been an official U14 cup following last years pilot "Midlands Cup", as well as an U17 event.

All affiliated clubs should have received details and entries need to be in by **16th October**.

There will be two 16 team tournaments (each covering the "north" and "south" of England), with entrants divided into four pools of four. The pool stages will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> November with pool winners playing off for the North and South titles on 4th February. The north and south winners will then meet in the national final on 15th April 2007.

*\*Further dates for both courses at other clubs – including Hitchin, Stevenage, and Royston – are planned.*

## Calendar 2006-07

<b>Club tournaments:</b>	12.11.06 Training ( <i>Letchworth or match</i> )
8.10.06: Beckenham festival	22.11.06 Training ( <i>Hatfield</i> ) (U17 only)
22.10.06: Rochford festival	3.12.06 Tournament ( <i>Westcliff</i> )
26.11.06: National knockout round 1	
4.2.07: National knockout round 2	
15.4.07: National knockout final	
28 & 29.4.07: Regional tens (U17s only)	
13.5.07: National tens (U17s only):	
20.5.07 "Regional" ( <i>Hertfordshire?</i> ) 7s	
28.5.07: National Sevens (Harpenden)	

### East Region:

#### *Trials:*

Women: 3.12.06

Girls: 28.1.07

#### *Training:*

Women: 28.1.07; 2.2.07; 17.2.07; 10.3.07

Girls: 11.2.07; 25.2.07; 11.3.07; 22.4.07

#### *Fixtures:*

11.2.07: Women v South East (H)

25.2.07: Women v North East (H)

18.3.07: Women & Girls v E. Mids (A)

1.4.07: Girls v Yorkshire & Nth East (H)

#### *Girls' National Festival:*

6 & 7.5.07 (Rugby School)

### Hertfordshire Girls:

17.9.06 Trials ( <i>Stevenage</i> )
27.9.06 Training ( <i>Hatfield</i> ) (U17 only)
15.10.06 Training ( <i>St Christopher School</i> )
18.10.06 Training ( <i>Hatfield</i> ) (U17 only)

## Key contacts

### Women's Rugby Development Manager: East & East Midlands (*RFUW*):

Claire Sanderson ([clairesanderson@rfu.com](mailto:clairesanderson@rfu.com))

### Herts Rugby Development Officer (*Herts Sports Partnership*):

Amanda Bate ([a.l.bate@herts.ac.uk](mailto:a.l.bate@herts.ac.uk))

### Herts Girls' Manager, East Region Programme Manager, and Newsletter editor:

John Birch ([johnbirch@ntlworld.com](mailto:johnbirch@ntlworld.com)) (Tel: 07767 615274)

### U17 team coaches:

Vicky Lowe ([scoopscoop@hotmail.com](mailto:scoopscoop@hotmail.com)) and Luke Williams ([luke.williams80@ntlworld.com](mailto:luke.williams80@ntlworld.com))

### U14 team coaches:

Simon Shutler ([Simon@ipa.org.uk](mailto:Simon@ipa.org.uk)), Rachel Ansbro ([Rachel.Ansbro@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.Ansbro@north-herts.gov.uk)), and Laura Broderick ([law\\_15@hotmail.com](mailto:law_15@hotmail.com))