

DEVON RUGBY

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RETURNS TO DEVON

Devon's County Championship campaign returns home this May, with the Senior Men facing Somerset at Brixham and the Senior Women hosting Cornwall at North Tawton.

Big crowds are encouraged as both teams look to make their mark with the Tamar Cup also on the line for the women. More on page 2.

DEVON CUP FINALS DELIVER DRAMA

Devon Cup Finals have already delivered standout performances across the county, with multiple clubs lifting silverware in a fantastic showcase of local rugby.

More finals are still to come, with key dates set as teams battle it out to close the season on a high.

Devon Clubs Chase Glory in Knockout Weekend

It's a big weekend for Devon clubs, with teams across the County competing for progression in the RFU Communities Championship and promotion play-offs.

In the Counties Championship quarter-finals, Paignton host Weybridge Vandals in the Counties One competition, following an impressive win over Nailsea & Backwell in the previous round. Salcombe also have home advantage as they welcome



St Agnes in the Counties Three Plate, while South Molton travel to Perranporth in the Counties Two Plate after a standout 65-10 away victory last time out.

There is just as much at stake in the promotion play-offs. Topsham face a crucial home tie against Stourbridge, with the winner earning the right to take on Exeter University for a place in National Two next season. Meanwhile, Tiverton take their promotion journey away to Chippenham, hoping to progress before a final showdown with Chew Valley for a place in Regional One.

We encourage supporters from across Devon to get behind these clubs as they represent the county on a wider stage and we wish them all the very best this weekend.



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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RETURNS TO DEVON

The County Championship season is getting into full swing, with both the Bill Beaumont Cup and Gill Burns Cup campaigns just around the corner.

Following early away fixtures against Buckinghamshire for our Senior Men and Berkshire for our Senior Women, attention now turns to two exciting home games — and a chance for the Devon rugby community to come together and show its support.

Our Senior Men return to Devon on Saturday 16th May, taking on Somerset at Brixham RFC with a 2:30pm kick-off.

A week later, it's the turn of our Senior Women, who host Cornwall on Sunday 24th May at North Tawton RFC.

This fixture carries extra significance, with the Tamar Cup on the line. Currently held by Cornwall, a Devon victory would see our women reclaim the trophy — and secure a memorable moment as Devon looks to hold both the men's and women's Tamar Cups.

We are encouraging strong support for both fixtures as our county sides represent Devon on the national stage.

Match Details:

- Devon Men v Somerset Brixham RFC
Saturday 16th May, 2:30pm £8 entry | Under 16s free
- Devon Women v Cornwall North Tawton RFC
Sunday 24th May £5 entry | Under 16s free (cash only at the gate)

Come along, bring your club mates, and be part of the atmosphere as Devon's county teams take center stage.

DEVON CUP FINALS DELIVER DRAMA

The Devon Cup Finals have already delivered a fantastic run of rugby since our last newsletter, with clubs across the county putting on memorable days both on and off the pitch.

Congratulations to our recent winners:

Exmouth who overcame Brixham to lift the Senior Cup

Devonport Services Seconds who beat Topsham Seconds to take the Second Team Cup

Cullompton who secured victory over Newton Abbot in the Intermediate Plate

OPM's who triumphed against New Cross to win the Junior Bowl

A huge thank you also goes to our host clubs, whose efforts helped create such successful and well-supported finals days, a real showcase of Devon rugby at its best.

But there's plenty more to come, with several key finals still ahead:

Upcoming Finals – Dates for the Diary:

- Junior Cup Final Saturday 9th May | At Topsham Exeter Saracens v Honiton
- Second Team Shield Saturday 9th May | At Exmouth Exmouth Seconds v Paignton Seconds
- Intermediate Cup Final Saturday 16th May | At Barnstaple Barnstaple Seconds v Okehampton
- Senior Shield Friday 4th September | At Tiverton Tiverton v Topsham

With silverware still to be decided, we look forward to more competitive rugby and strong support from across the county as the Devon Cup season reaches its conclusion.



Vacancy: Director of Age-Grade Rugby

Devon RFU is seeking a volunteer Director of Age-Grade Rugby to lead the development of youth rugby across the county.

The role oversees junior to Colts rugby across clubs, schools and colleges, providing direction, supporting volunteers, and strengthening player pathways.

We're looking for someone with a strong understanding of grassroots rugby and the ability to lead and collaborate effectively. Previous board experience is not essential.

This is a great opportunity to support the next generation and make a lasting impact in Devon rugby.

Interested?

Tim Warren – secretary@devonrfu.com

Colts Finals Day Round-Up:

This season's Devon Colts Merit Table Finals, proudly sponsored by Ashburton Motor Works, delivered a fantastic showcase of young rugby talent from across the county.

Congratulations to our 2025–26 winners:

- Devon Cup – Ivybridge
- Devon Shield – Exeter Athletic
- Devon Plate – Bideford
- Devon Bowl – Teignmouth

A huge thank you goes to all 24 clubs who took part in this season's competition, as well as the Devon & Plymouth Society of Referees for their continued support.

We are also extremely grateful to Paignton RFC and Sidmouth RFC for hosting two exceptional finals days — both clubs delivered events of the highest standard and showcased Devon rugby at its very best.

Supporting the Transition from Colts to Senior Rugby

Devon RFU is committed to supporting players as they move from Colts into the senior game, and we're pleased to see strong engagement with our Transition Funding initiative.

Following an open invitation for clubs to apply for up to £750 to support transition-focused activity, three applications have been approved:

- Kingsbridge RFC – £750 awarded for a

summer event supporting both young men and women into senior rugby.

OPM's RFC – £750 awarded for their programme, "The Bridge to Senior Rugby"

- Paignton RFC & Newton Abbot RFC – joint award of £750 (£375 each) to deliver an Under 21s tournament across the season

While the application deadline has now passed, we remain keen to hear from

clubs with ideas or initiatives that support this important transition. If you would like to discuss a potential project, please get in touch before the end of May.

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