

COACH AND PLAYER DEVELOPMENT REPORT

BERKSHIRE CRFU AGM 22nd JULY 2025

COACHING

Much of the year has been spent trying to arrange a meeting with RFU representatives with the objective to discuss what they feel would be an appropriate collaboration to promote coaching throughout Berkshire.

Ian and I meet with Tim Pickard South West Area Training Manager and Merlin Gape O'Donnell RFU Coach Developer. The meeting proved to be extremely valuable with a number of positive outcomes.

Merlin is designing a strategy to ensure that all Clubs CC's are fully engaged with the RFU and the county. Whilst they must ensure that courses and initiatives are publicised they must be encouraged to engage with their own coaches to ascertain their needs and concerns. Tim and Merlin were supportive of our CB Strategy for the 25/26 season which will be to run a Coaching Conference and a number of workshops. They will assist in providing publicity and practical support when necessary and a Berkshire coaching calendar will be published at the start of the season. It was also agreed that the group would meet on a quarterly basis to review work that has been carried out.

Finally recent discussions with CC's have revealed concerns over a couple of issues. Firstly, coaching advice is required for coaches at U/9, U/8 and U/7 levels and we will run a workshop to assist these age grade coaches. Details will follow. Secondly concerns have been expressed by mini coaches that certain clubs are streaming their teams. This goes against all RFU policy and I would urge all Chairs to discourage this practice.

