



14th September 2009

Dear AU President / Women's Club Captain,

RFUW, RFU and BUCS are pleased to announce a new exciting programme that aims to improve the recruitment and retention of new female players at Universities.

Women's University teams often recruit new players in Freshers Week, only to lose them to other sports as the prospect of playing contact rugby is often daunting to those who have never played before. The welfare of the players is paramount and there are health and safety implications to those being expected to play competitive matches without having received sufficient coaching.

The 09/10 BUCS league dates have been arranged to start later than previous years, so that a structured development programme can be implemented.

Together, the RFUW, RFU and BUCS have put a programme in place to help address the issues experienced by University teams across the Country. The RFUW Club and Coach Officers will work closely with the RUSLOs and the RFU Delivery Teams to ensure that the appropriate coaches are appointed to the training days.

There will be events running across the country throughout September and October 2009 and will include sessions such as:

- *Game understanding and handling*
- *Introduction to Tackling*
- *Contact Skills and Front Row Clinic*
- *Developing Contact Skills*

For further information on local events, please contact:

North East – robertthomson@rfu.com
Yorkshire – alexbowden@rfu.com
Midlands West – andypton@rfu.com
London North – jamestraxon@rfu.com
South West – joannahawley@rfu.com

North West – johnlivesey@rfu.com
Midlands East – richardmarelli@rfu.com
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London South – mark.hyndman@rhul.ac.uk

Yours faithfully

Vicki

Vicki Putson
(RFUW National Student Lead)

“BUCS is pleased to be working in conjunction with the RFUW to provide a new and exciting programme for Women's Rugby.

It will provide teams the length and breadth of the country with training and development opportunities, that will enable them to progress in a safe and competent manner into the BUCS Competition Programme.

We hope that as many Universities as possible will take part in this free initiative”.

(Mark Brian, Head of Sports Programmes, BUCS)

For further information on the Rugby Football Union for Women, the player pathway and associated programmes then please contact vickiputson@rfu.com
