



# Schools Rugby Champions (Supported by Scottish Widows Bank)

## Annual Progress Report 2008-09

### INTRODUCTION

---

Scottish Rugby recognises the valuable contribution that teachers have made for many years, and continue to make, in supporting, organising and coaching rugby in schools across Scotland. Therefore, in 2008-09 Scottish Rugby launched the Schools Rugby Champions initiative in partnership with Scottish Widows Bank. Our aim being to identify, recruit, support and reward a suitable member of staff in each state secondary school in Scotland, to act as the Champion for Rugby in that school, and help us 'grow the game' in communities across the country so that more young people can enjoy the benefits that involvement in rugby brings.

Each Rugby Champion receives a package of incentives including branded clothing and equipment, as well as the support of local and regional development staff, as they progress towards the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. These awards reflect the level of rugby participation they have achieved in their schools and the valued service they provide to the local rugby community.

During 2008-09, 200 schools were targeted to join the initiative.

**By the end of the season 212 schools out of 361 had registered!**

### AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT

---

The first year of Rugby Champions has been an unmitigated success. 2008-09 has seen a dramatic increase in the number of registered youth rugby players in Scotland, and growth in schools rugby is a key factor behind that. The number of school teams playing in local fixtures and the national schools cup has also increased. This is a direct result of the greater support, coordination and communication that Rugby Champions has fostered.

- 20% Increase in the number of school teams
- 17% Increase in registered youth players (clubs & schools)
- 14% Increase in registered male youth players (clubs & schools)
- 124% Increase in registered female youth players (clubs & schools)
- 29% Increase in the number of schools offering extra curricular rugby

In addition to the benefits of increased physical activity levels and social interaction by playing rugby we feel that rugby can contribute significantly to school life and have a positive impact on enabling all young people to achieve their potential. In addition to Rugby Champions Scottish Rugby have a number of quality initiatives that enable young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

## RUGBY CHAMPION FEEDBACK

---

If we look beyond the statistics we can see that the Rugby Champions initiative has been well-received and successful for a whole host of reasons:

- Recognition and thanks for teachers who have kept rugby going in their schools for years, perhaps decades!
- An incentive for teachers to get involved in rugby for the first time, or after a period out of the sport.
- A means of spreading the workload of running rugby in schools.
- As school budgets get tighter Rugby Champions contributes to the costs of running extra curricular sport by providing the essential basic equipment and allowing resources to be channelled to other areas like travel costs.
- A genuine incentive for schools to take small steps in growing the game so that they achieve a higher award and the rewards that come with it.
- It is an initiative that also fosters support and pride amongst pupils.

Here is what a few of the Rugby Champions have said about the initiative and how it is helping rugby in their school:

***"I think the scheme is really great for rugby in schools and has definitely helped the growth of rugby in our school!"*** Iain Dunbar, Teacher of P.E., Culloden Academy

***"We will be up to 6 teams this season and I am already looking at development work with the newly appointed active schools co-ordinator."*** David Kirby, Teacher of Technical Studies, Aboyne Academy

***I would like to thank you and the SRU for your continued support of school rugby. As the Active School coordinator for the school I am only too aware of the fact that the SRU put all other governing bodies to shame with the level of support we are given.*** Neil MacQuarrie, Teacher of P.E., Balfour High School

***"... we are hoping to see an improvement in our school extra-curricular rugby this year... Thanks for the encouragement..."*** Aileen Thomson, Teacher of P.E., Charleston Academy (Inverness)

***"... many thanks for your excellent support of schools rugby."*** David Changleng, Teacher of P.E., Peebles High School

It also appears to have stimulated their competitive instincts!...

***"... thank you very much for the (equipment) package; the boys are out hitting the bags as I type! What do we need to do to get the gold award?!"*** Chris Thomas, Teacher of P.E., Preston Lodge High School

Appendix 1: Regional Summary

	No. of State Secondary Schools	Total Registered	% of schools registered	RC GOLD	% of total	RC SILVER	% of total	RC BRONZE	% of total
<b>BORDERS</b>	<b>10</b>	10	100%	7	70%	2	20%	1	10%
<b>EAST LoTHIAN</b>	<b>6</b>	6	100%	3	50%	2	33%	1	17%
<b>CLACKMANNANSHIRE</b>	<b>3</b>	3	100%	1	33%	2	67%	0	0%
<b>STIRLING</b>	<b>7</b>	7	100%	1	14%	2	29%	4	57%
<b>SOUTH AYRSHIRE</b>	<b>8</b>	8	100%	1	13%	1	13%	6	75%
<b>FALKIRK</b>	<b>8</b>	8	100%	0	0%	2	25%	6	75%
<b>PERTH &amp; KINROSS</b>	<b>10</b>	9	90%	1	10%	5	50%	3	30%
<b>ANGUS</b>	<b>8</b>	7	88%	0	0%	4	50%	3	38%
<b>ABERDEENSHIRE</b>	<b>17</b>	14	82%	3	18%	5	29%	6	35%
<b>ARGYLL &amp; BUTE</b>	<b>10</b>	8	80%	1	10%	0	0%	7	70%
<b>EAST AYRSHIRE</b>	<b>9</b>	7	78%	0	0%	0	0%	7	78%
<b>CITY OF EDINBURGH</b>	<b>23</b>	17	74%	0	0%	5	22%	12	52%
<b>FIFE</b>	<b>19</b>	13	68%	0	0%	6	32%	7	37%
<b>DUMFRIES &amp; GALLOWAY</b>	<b>15</b>	10	67%	0	0%	6	40%	4	27%
<b>NORTH AYRSHIRE</b>	<b>9</b>	6	67%	0	0%	0	0%	6	67%
<b>MIDLoTHIAN</b>	<b>6</b>	4	67%	0	0%	0	0%	4	67%
<b>SOUTH LANARKSHIRE</b>	<b>17</b>	10	59%	0	0%	1	6%	9	53%
<b>HIGHLAND</b>	<b>29</b>	17	59%	2	7%	7	24%	8	28%
<b>ABERDEEN</b>	<b>12</b>	7	58%	0	0%	1	8%	6	50%
<b>EAST RENFREWSHIRE</b>	<b>7</b>	4	57%	0	0%	1	14%	3	43%
<b>WEST LoTHIAN</b>	<b>11</b>	6	55%	0	0%	0	0%	6	55%
<b>ORKNEY ISLANDS</b>	<b>2</b>	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>WESTERN ISLES</b>	<b>2</b>	1	50%	0	0%	1	50%	0	0%
<b>SHETLAND ISLANDS</b>	<b>2</b>	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%
<b>EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE</b>	<b>9</b>	4	44%	0	0%	1	11%	3	33%
<b>DUNDEE</b>	<b>10</b>	4	40%	0	0%	1	10%	3	30%
<b>MORAY</b>	<b>8</b>	3	38%	0	0%	1	13%	2	25%
<b>NORTH LANARKSHIRE</b>	<b>26</b>	7	27%	1	4%	1	4%	5	19%
<b>CITY OF GLASGOW</b>	<b>31</b>	8	26%	0	0%	1	3%	7	23%
<b>INVERCLYDE</b>	<b>8</b>	1	13%	0	0%	0	0%	1	13%
<b>RENFREWSHIRE</b>	<b>12</b>	1	8%	0	0%	0	0%	1	8%
<b>WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE</b>	<b>7</b>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>212</b>							