



PRESS RELEASE

BIRMINGHAM EXILES RFC WIN PRESTIGIOUS RFU PRESIDENT'S XV AWARD, SUPPORTED BY QBE

London, 7 June 2010

Birmingham Exiles RFC has won a President's XV Award, supported by specialist business insurer QBE, in acknowledgment of their initiative to promote the development of rugby at a grassroots level.

Birmingham was presented with the President's XV *Schools Development Award* in recognition of the excellent work the club has done to help increase children's participation in rugby within the local community.

The Exiles have worked together with Ninestiles School Sports Partnership and three local secondary schools to offer youngsters tag rugby, contact rugby, and matches, as well as an inclusion project for children who struggle to socialise with others. In all, 32 primary schools, five special need schools and up to seven secondary schools in the Yardley constituency of Birmingham have been helped through the scheme.

Each year the President's XV Awards, supported by QBE, recognise and reward projects that have been run in a voluntary capacity at rugby organisations.

Amongst some stiff competition it was Birmingham's innovative thinking that set them apart from the other entries. The RFU received a record 296 entries this year, representing a 33% increase on 2009 entries.

The club was awarded with a cheque for £500 and a special trophy to mark the achievement, handed over by the RFU at a special awards night presented by Richard Appleby, Senior Vice President of the RFU.

The President's XV judging panel this year included RFU President John Owen, Senior Vice President Richard Appleby, Junior Vice President Willie Wildash, RFUW President Gill Burns,



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England's most-capped player Jason Leonard and Paul Morgan, editor of Rugby World magazine. QBE was represented on the day by Senior Underwriter John Warwick.

Andy Root, Club Development Officer of Birmingham Exiles RFC, said: "It is a privilege to win this award and testament to all the time and dedication put in by a small group of volunteers who have shown exactly what a bit of hard work can achieve.

"It is extremely rewarding for a local community rugby club to achieve this award in competition with other clubs across the country. On a personal level I am extremely grateful for all the support received, especially from the team of coaches who have delivered the local children with a fun and rewarding programme. Birmingham Exiles RFC shows the true meaning of rugby by offering the opportunity to participate, enjoy and socialise within a friendly and family environment"

John Owen, President of the RFU, commented: "It's gratifying to see clubs like Birmingham Exiles RFC coming up with creative solutions to help develop and progress our game. There are so many volunteers across the country working hard to support rugby in their area, who all deserve praise for their ongoing commitment".

"The winning President's XV schemes have demonstrated a great deal of creativity in coming up with imaginative ideas to benefit rugby in the community, and Birmingham is no exception. We are delighted to be celebrating and rewarding their success. No doubt the example they set will be followed by volunteers across the country.

Steven Burns, CEO of QBE European Operations, added: "As Official Insurance Partner of England Rugby, QBE is proud to be involved with such a prestigious scheme. Supporting the President's XV Awards forms part of our commitment to supporting rugby at a grassroots level."

"The innovative thinking demonstrated by the Exiles is typical of the dedication shown by club volunteers all over the country, and we are pleased to be able to recognise their achievements."



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For more information on the President's XV Awards, please visit www.qbeeurope.com/rugby

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Notes to editors

About QBE

Founded over 100 years ago, QBE is a specialist business insurer, now operating out of 47 countries across the globe. We have been active in the UK since 1904, originally within the marine insurance market, but branching out more recently to offer commercial insurance to companies across the UK. At the end of 2009, the Group's turnover was over £7.2bn.

We provide insurance for a broad range of business categories, including property, motor (commercial, bus and fleet), public and product liability insurance, employers liability insurance, professional indemnity, leisure and sport, marine, energy, aviation, and bloodstock.

About the RFU

The Rugby Football Union is the National Governing Body for rugby union in England and supports participants and fans from the grassroots to the national team.