



PRESS RELEASE

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

London, 29 April 2010

Lymm RFC has won an RFU 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.

The club was presented with the President's XV Fundraising Award after raising £900,000 over five years in order to extend their playing facilities, resulting in the acquisition of 10 acres of local land that was then developed into three new pitches and a mini-rugby area.

The money was raised through generous donations across Lymm RFC's membership, as well as successful cash-raising initiatives that included an annual Lymm Grass Roots Ball, and a scheme that saw the club's under-10s squad filling Smartie tubes with 20p pieces.

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 Lymm'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 RFUW President Gill Burns.

The President's XV judging panel this year included RFU President John Owen, Immediate Past President Brian Williams, Senior Vice President Richard Appleby, Junior Vice President Willie Wildash, Rugby Football Union for Women President Gill Burns, 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.



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Andy Leach, Treasurer of the Lymm RFC Grass Roots Appeal, commented: “Lymm RFC is delighted to have been recognised by the RFU for five years’ worth of hard work, fundraising and investment in facilities.

“The most pleasing aspect of our project is that this has truly been a club-wide effort, reflecting both the ambition and commitment of our membership and the importance to our community of Lymm RFC. We would like to thank the RFU for the help they have given to us in successfully achieving our plans and also QBE for the support that they are giving to grass roots rugby through their sponsorship of these awards.”

John Owen, President of the RFU, commented: “It’s gratifying to see clubs like Lymm 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 Lymm 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 Lymm RFC is typical of the dedication shown by club volunteers all over the country, and we are pleased to be able to recognise their achievements.”

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.

Imagery



Lymm RFC president Tony Wright receiving the RFU President's XV Recognition Award from RFU Cheshire representative Mike Lord



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Lymm RFC president Tony Wright receiving the RFU President's XV Recognition Award from RFU Cheshire representative Mike Lord.