

PRESS RELEASE



As part of our return to rugby programme, both rugby clubs are delighted to announce the new three-year partnership between Medway Rugby Football Club and The Royal Engineers Rugby Football Club

SEASONS 2020/2021 TO 2023/2024



Medway
RFC



Royal Engineers RFC
"Sapper Rugby"

Inspired by their move away from the current base at Minley in Hampshire the Corps needed to find a new home for rugby. With its four rugby pitches including two floodlit to match standard and the excellent "show" pitch that has an elevated viewing platform the space at Priestfields, Rochester Kent demanded a visit and inspection.



The pitch condition was found to be first class condition following Medway Rugby Club's £11,000.00 (eleven thousand pounds) recent investment in seeding



and pitch maintenance.

Located only three miles away from the 1 Royal School of Military Engineering (1 RSME) Brompton (a 10 minute drive) and with great links to rail and road the Army side began to seriously consider Medway as their new home. When the visit provided a look at Medway Rugby Club's new clubhouse facility providing a first-class Bar with fine Ales and popular Beers plus the Chef offering great food serious discussions got underway!

It is because of, not despite, rugby's intensely physical and

athletic characteristics that such great camaraderie exists before and after matches. The long-standing tradition of players from competing teams enjoying each other's company away from the pitch and in a social context remains at the very core of the game.



With regular matches played between both clubs recently including Veteran's rugby matches and the historical links confirming in 1932-33 (Medway RFC first season) fixtures took place between Medway RFC and Training Battalion REs and Depot Battalion REs a partnership was proposed. A photo from 1950 was then found in the archive of a charity match between the two club's some seventy years previously. This history sealed the partnership!

< Sept 1950

Rochester skipper, Dave Evans meets the Commander of the Corps prior to the kick-off. The Dean of Rochester is also in attendance. The match, in aid of the National Playing Fields Association raised £22.



The community pillars that Medway Rugby Football Club's 1600 members and the Sappers all align to are the England Rugby Football Union principles.

TEAMWORK, RESPECT, ENJOYMENT, DISCIPLINE AND SPORTSMANSHIP.

Both Clubs look forward to a fulfilling and rewarding Partnership. Pre-Season matches are being planned for late summer 2021 as both Club's plan their campaigns from September 2021. We hope to see you at Medway Rugby Club where you will see some fabulous local sport and meet some great people.

THE COMMUNITY

Medway Rugby Club is more than just the 1600 members playing rugby and supporting rugby, it's a community working with local schools, businesses and charities in the heart of Medway.



SUNDAY RUGBY

Six mini teams U5-U11; 6 youth boys' teams U12-U18; Three youth girls' teams U13, U15, U17. Our clubhouse is bustling from 8am to 5pm.



SENIOR RUGBY

Four senior men's teams playing competitive rugby on Saturday afternoons. We host various Veteran and Grand Masters festivals too.



THE CLUB

Through various social events, including past player, sponsor and annual charity ladies' lunch, we bring people together. The club is also available for private hire.



LADIES' RUGBY

Celebrating their 30th anniversary, our ladies' section now fields two senior teams. Ex-players include internationals and even a World Cup winner.

