



ANNUAL REPORT 2018 | 19

Homeless Rugby CIC



Foreword

As Homeless Rugby continues to grow, so too does the number of people involved, not least the team of amazing patrons! Sharing their rugby knowledge, experiences and reach has helped us continue to grow our profile across the rugby community.

On the Pitch

"We have been working hard over the past year to strengthen our existing teams, increasing the impact of the coaching and benefits gained by players on and off the pitch. We've had players progress from novice, to leading training sessions, showing tangible progress on the pitch that has led to personal triumphs for players off it."

Neil Back MBE - England, British and Irish Lions, Leicester Tigers, Nottingham RUFC



Off the Pitch

"Increasing number of Homeless Rugby teams across the rugby community has brought increasing challenges. By investing time and resources over the past 12 months we are striving to make sure players are protected, volunteers are supported and our partners are engaged to ensure we can sustain existing and grow new opportunities across the rugby playing world."

Simon Shaw MBE - England, British and Irish Lions, Wasps, Toulon, Bristol



Growing Forward

"2019 is another massive year for rugby, with some big fixtures and events on the horizon. Likewise, the environment for some of society's most vulnerable appears to remain uncertain and turbulent across the rugby playing world. Because of this we are continuing to look for new ways to create new teams, in new areas to help do what we can, with you, to tackle homelessness."

Danny Cipriani - England, Wasps, Gloucester, Sale Sharks, Melbourne Rebels



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Our Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

A society free from homelessness.

Vision

To transform the quality of life and opportunities for homeless people, using rugby as a catalyst to promote greater understanding, collaboration and support. Promoting lasting and life-enhancing relationships through clubs and charities. We believe that giving people opportunities to regularly train and play rugby can inspire and empower them to realise their full potential, directly improving their health, discipline, communication skills and self-respect.

Values

We believe participation in grassroots rugby can be a catalyst for people affected by homelessness to engage more effectively with wider society including support services related to health, education, training and employment.

We believe that by creating these opportunities, we can help enable some of the most vulnerable people to transform their lives through rugby.



Our Partners

MEINHARDT



**WARRIORS
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**



**newport
cityhomes**



**BALA
SPORT**



Our Players

Player recognition in 2018/19

Minister for Sport Tracey Crouch was full of praise as one of the Homeless Rugby players was named among five inspiring individuals honoured at the glittering Premiership Rugby Parliamentary Community Awards at the House of Commons.

Every year, hundreds of people up and down the country give their time to help run Premiership Rugby initiatives.

And following a tough judging process, 13 players were shortlisted for four prizes and travelled to London to rub shoulders with the great and the good of English rugby, such as Olympic silver medallist Marcus Watson and Harlequins' Dave Ward.

Tracey Crouch and Paul Farrelly MP, Newcastle Under Lyme, and Vice Chair of the All Party Rugby Union Group, were also present as four winners were chosen to join them on stage to collect their prizes.

"Sports like rugby have a unique power to improve lives. These inspirational players, volunteers and coaches show how sport teaches important skills, boosts mental and physical health and brings people together. I am delighted they have been recognised for their work."

Minister for Sport Tracey Crouch

Winners of the 2018 Premiership Rugby Parliamentary Community Awards:



Seth Mensah & Kerry Simons
PLAY Achiever of the Year

#RugbyChangingLives

Premiership
Rugby
PLAY
ACHIEVER
AWARDS

PLAY Achiever Award supported by Premiership Rugby
- Kerry Simons (Homeless Rugby)

"In the All Party Rugby Union Group, we know rugby can inspire positive change. It is a pleasure therefore, for us to host these Awards. I applaud the volunteers, coaches, clubs, charities and players who make these projects happen and look forward to seeing the work continue over the coming years."

Paul Farrelly MP

Our Teams

England

Milton Keynes

Homeless Rugby are proud to announce our newest team launched in Milton Keynes! A cross sector partnership including a local rugby club and its coaches, charity partners and the local authority has been working tirelessly to get this new team off the ground in 2019.

Homeless Rugby Director Verity Robinson has been one of the driving forces behind getting this new team off the ground in her local area.

"Homelessness in Milton Keynes is sadly an ever-present challenge, but what Homeless Rugby has done elsewhere is given people affected by homelessness the opportunity to re-engage with wider society, to make new friends, to invest in their health and to gain new skills on the pitch that can be transferred off it."

Verity is aware that the first training sessions marks the beginning of journeys for people on and off the pitch.

"It is a new game for a lot of people to learn, with new skills and a restart to physical exercise. These things combined with the cross sector interest and support for the new team mean that players will be embraced into a warm and positive environment. A special thanks must go to Milton Keynes RUFC, Help Our Homeless MK, Winter Night Shelter MK, MK Soup Run, YMCA, OU Student Association, The Bus Shelter and Milton Keynes Council for coming together to make this happen."

Worcester

Since January 2018, Warriors Homeless Rugby have played 35 competitive games. 23 people who are or have been homeless have represented the team during this period.

The team took part in the Droitwich Summer of Touch tournament after receiving a small grant from Harrison Clarke Rickerbys Charitable Trust. The team also received a small grant from Principality Building Society to support running costs. The team have been challenged to raise funds to cover the cost of travel to away games, and through charity car washes and bag packing at local supermarkets the team have raised £350.

One member of the team, who has been unemployed for over 10 years is now employed, working in a shop, whilst two other participants have found full-time employment thanks in part to the skills, experience and connections gained from rugby and the rugby community. Two of the youngest members of the team are also now in full time education at a local college.

Player Milestones:

- **Nathan Collins; 150 appearances**
- **Joe Pain; 100 appearances**
- **Richard Oxenbury; 100 appearances**
- **Jay Francis; 50 appearances.**
- **Kerry Simons; 50 appearances.**



New Milton Keynes Coaches Pippa and Marc

Scotland

Glasgow and Edinburgh

Homeless Rugby in Scotland continues to run through the partnership between ng homes and School of Hard Knocks (SOHK) Scotland, under the 'HaVaTry' banner.

This stands for Homeless and Vulnerable, and is an umbrella term designed to reduce stigma and encourage participation from a wide range of clients.

Focused mainly in Glasgow, HaVaTry participants come almost exclusively from the Pitstops Programme as it is offered as a post-course engagement activity, running weekly sessions in the north of the city at different times throughout the year. In total, 31 participants, both male and female, took part in a block of rugby throughout 2018 in Glasgow. 2018 also saw groups in both Glasgow and Edinburgh take part in the Scottish Rugby Tartan Touch initiative, a 10-week programme of social touch rugby based at local rugby clubs aimed at increasing participation.

In Edinburgh this took place at Lismore RFC and saw members from SOHK courses take part, while in the west, a regular mini bus took participants from Glasgow out to Whitecraigs RFC for weekly seasons. This latter links saw games arranged between a women's-only team and the newly-formed Whitecraigs Panthers squad.

At the Homeless Rugby International Cup event in May, 7 of the players came from the west, with 3 selected from Edinburgh. We acknowledge the support of ng homes, SOHK (Scotland), McCreadies buses, Bala Sports and Scottish Rugby in getting a side together and down to the event.

Scotland was also able to support the Charity event organised by Meinhardt and held in London at the end of the year with 4 participants travelling down to participate.

It was a fantastic day, which saw the combined Homeless Rugby team come 3rd overall, featured a mix of males and female players from Scotland and Wales competing amongst the corporate sides from the City. It was a great event which allowed corporate supporters the chance to meet and talk with beneficiaries of our programmes from Celtic courses!

Further expansion is planned for 2019 looking at formalising the partnership with ng homes and others in the west, while developing links in Edinburgh for a new team alongside SOHK (Scotland).



Coach Greg with players from across Scotland

Wales

Cardiff

The Puffins Homeless Rugby Team was set-up in April 2018 with a three-week training camp providing an introduction to touch rugby. The School of Hard Knocks, Crisis Wales and the Wallich all referred players to the team, which has since gone on to compete in the WRU Summer League and taken part in the 'Road to Principality' at Principality Stadium. The year cumulated with a number of players representing Wales at the International Cup in Worcester.

As part of Judgement Day 2018, the Puffins got to play against the Dragons and Warriors teams and got enjoy regional rugby action at Principality Stadium.

Support extension for participants in School of Hard Knocks Adult courses provided additional opportunities to keep player participating in WRU Summer Touch Rugby League in Cardiff by providing competitive fixtures and player development opportunities.

Weekly training sessions with the full Puffins squad has provided opportunities for fitness development alongside space for building friendships.

Touch rugby made a positive difference on and off the rugby field for players by helping improve their:

- Motivation and confidence
- Community belonging
- Physical and Mental health
- Employment and Education prospects



Coach Callum with players from Newport

Newport

Dragons Phoenix started off the year very slowly. For the first time since our establishment we were struggling for fixtures and struggling for numbers! Things looked very bleak with no sunrise on the horizon.

With hard work, determination the ongoing support of the Dragons Community Department we found a new beginning. We rebranded as Dragons Phoenix while also broadening the project to accept participants that were not only homeless within their lives but had experienced mental health issues as often the two fit hand in hand. We then managed to find a brand new sponsor in Newport City Homes that give us the backing for a whole new look on and off the field. The support we've had from Newport City Homes has been second to none as they've provided us with a brand new playing kit, learning and development opportunities for our participants as well as the occasional friendly fixture against the staff.

We have now become reborn from two participants at the start of the season to a regular 10 players training and playing showing strong commitment. Some of these players travel over an hour to attend training as we have branched out to the other areas of Wales that don't yet offer Homeless Rugby.

We are now aiming to play some good rugby at our upcoming tournament in Manchester whilst always maintaining one eye on getting players to the Homeless Rugby International Cup, hoping this year it will be brought back to Wales for the first time. We are also aiming to develop into a strong enough team to enter the local touch rugby league this summer gaining weekly fixtures and bringing a competitive edge to our team.



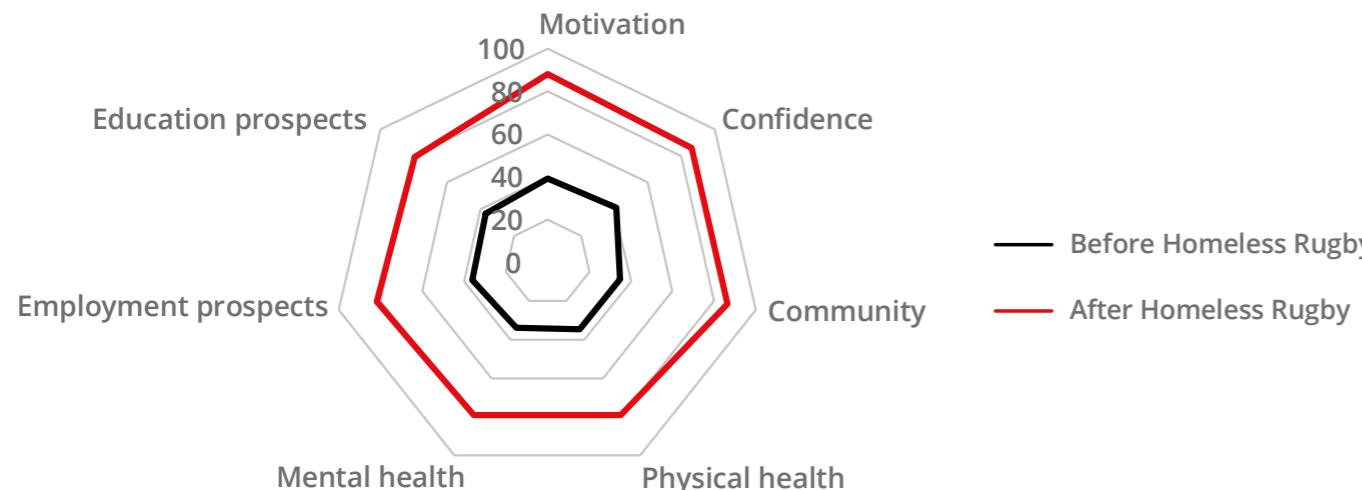
Our Impact

Homeless Rugby has continued to look at how rugby can positively impact players on and off the pitch. Using the power of rugby, the values of the game and support structures within the community we look at the impact we can have on players lives across their:

- Motivation
- Confidence
- Community
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Employment prospects
- Education prospects

"The main thing I have gained from playing rugby is teamwork."

Impact of Homeless Rugby - All



"It helped me overcome my addiction and gain my self-belief and self-confidence back."

Addiction is defined as not having control over doing, taking or using something to the point where it could be harmful to you. According to the charity Action on Addiction, 1 in 3 people are addicted to something.

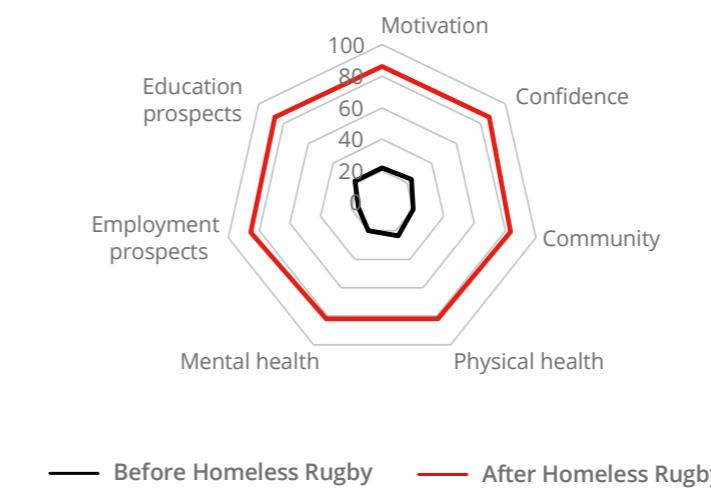
Some of our players have had challenges around addiction, however since beginning playing rugby 75% of our players believe they are either no longer, or less often involved in those activities.

Impact of Homeless Rugby - England



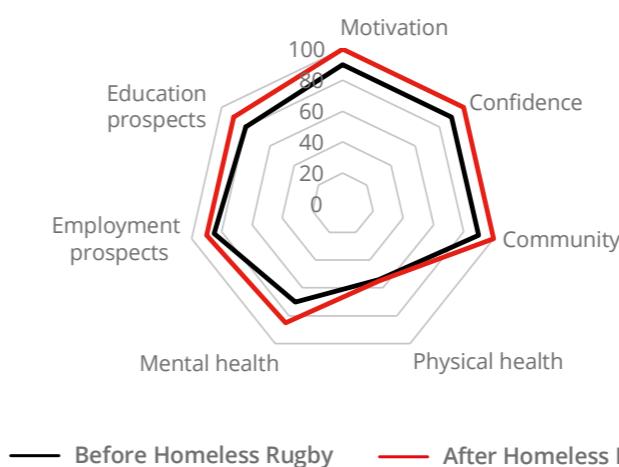
"A new skill in sport, confidence, self-belief, leadership skills."

Impact of Homeless Rugby - Scotland



"I have gained confidence around meeting new people. I have enjoyed being part of an important rugby team."

Impact of Homeless Rugby - Wales



"My self-esteem is back with more confidence. I'm healthier and more importantly got my family back in my life."

Our Events

Homeless Rugby International Cup

Worcester (England), Glasgow and Edinburgh (Scotland) and Newport and Cardiff (Wales).

2018's event was held in May and hosted by Premiership Rugby's Worcester Warriors at the fantastic Sixways Stadium. The league format saw each team play each other once with England taking the victory this year.

Ahead of the event we also announced new partnership with Bala Sport as the ball supplier for the 2018 Homeless Rugby International Cup.



Scotland team at Worcester Warriors Six Ways stadium for the Homeless Rugby International Cup

With the continued increase in the number of teams in existing countries where we operate, we are working towards delivering a truly international programme of homeless rugby. Next year we are aiming to have representation from Ireland and Italy as well as strengthening the depth of our existing teams. Looking forward we are also striving to have dual competitions at next year's event, including mixed competition to ensure our events are as accessible as possible for all.

Homeless Rugby Club Cup

We were excited to announce the new Homeless Rugby Club Cup in 2019, a chance for our teams across the rugby playing world to come together and represent their local community against other Homeless Rugby teams.

This year's competition had representation from Glasgow, Newport and Worcester all competing to win the inaugural competition. As Homeless Rugby continues to grow we are looking forward to this competition growing with it, welcoming new players and teams each year.

Hosted in Manchester on 8th March at the grounds of Manchester Metropolitan University, the event revolved around great rugby but also a chance for new partners across the rugby, charity and private sectors to come together and see the impact rugby has had on players of existing teams. Using this positive platform we promoted how others can create new teams in their communities.

"For us it's been about rewarding players who have faced massive challenges in their lives and embraced rugby to help tackle these. We've continued to show how rugby and the community can help change peoples lives for the better and we are calling on coaches and charities to come on the 8th, see the impact our existing teams have had in tackling homelessness and how find out how they can do the same in their community."

Greg Cann, Director of Homeless Rugby.

Following the day's competition, players attended the AJ Bell Stadium to watch Sale Sharks take on Leicester Tigers in the Gallagher Premiership and experience some high level rugby union action.



Meinhardt Touch Rugby Fundraiser

On behalf of us all at Meinhardt and Homeless Rugby, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part in, sponsored and supported the Meinhardt Charity Touch Rugby tournament. Everyone's presence at the rugby tournament and generous donations at the evening function made for another incredibly successful year.

With Meinhardt's support, the event raised over £8,000, which is making a huge difference to Homeless Rugby, supporting our existing teams and players and helping us create new teams across the rugby playing world.

The team at Meinhardt volunteered their time again to host an incredibly fun, competitive and successful event so from all those involved with Homeless Rugby we'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you.

In addition, thanks must go to the generous sponsors, Weston Homes, John F Hunt, Polypipe, JRL and Conrad Consulting.

We would also like to wish congratulations once again to the winners:

- **Winners of the tournament (Cup winners): Wates**
- **Runners up (Plate winners): Assael**
- **Player of the tournament: Isa Ribeiro**
- **Champagne Moment: Sanjay and Antony**
- **Wooden Spoon: John McAslan + Partners**

This year we had players from Wales and Scotland come together on the day to take part as an invitational team, test their new and improving rugby skills and also share their stories of how rugby had helped positively impact their lives.

Finally, we are excited to announce that work is now underway for the 2019 touch rugby tournament, promising to be bigger and better than ever. Watch this space.



Our Finances

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 31 March 2018

	Profit and loss account	Total
	£	£
At 1 April 2017	2,859	2,859
Surplus for the year	3,606	3,606
Total comprehensive income	3,606	3,606
At 31 March 2018	6,465	6,465

	Profit and loss account	Total
	£	£
Surplus for the year	2,859	2,859
Total comprehensive income	2,859	2,859
At 31 March 2017	2,859	2,859

Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2018

	Total	Total
	31 March 2018	31 March 2017
	£	£
Turnover	6,082	3,321
Cost of sales	(1,723)	(338)
Gross surplus	4,359	2,983
Administrative expenses	(753)	(124)
Operating surplus	3,606	2,859
Surplus before tax	3,606	2,859
Surplus for the financial year	3,606	2,859

The above results were derived from continuing operations.

The company has no recognised gains or losses for the year other than the results above.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2018

	Note	2018	2017
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	3	15	-
Cash at bank and in hand		7,050	2,859
		7,065	2,859
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	4	(600)	-
Net assets		6,465	2,859
Capital and reserves			
Profit and loss account		6,465	2,859
Total equity		6,465	2,859

For the financial year ending 31 March 2018 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.



Getting Involved

Rugby has the power to change lives and as we grow, so too does the number of ways you can become involved and help us tackle homelessness. Below are some examples of how you can get involved with Homeless Rugby.

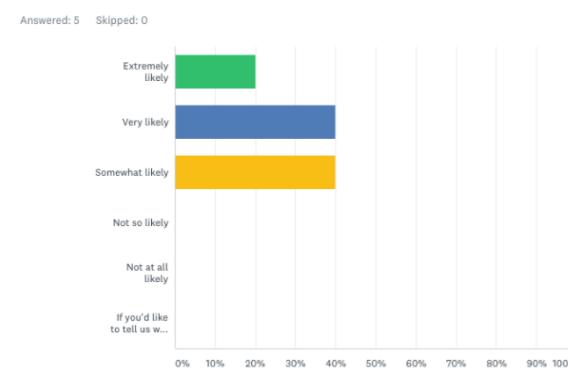
Volunteering

We support people affected by homelessness to have the opportunity to play rugby, improving their physical health and well-being. Part of our player journey includes working towards representing their local team, region and country at rugby events, including the Homeless Rugby International Cup. With teams from England, Scotland and Wales currently, with more teams to follow in the coming years, we are looking for volunteers to help us deliver truly international events with a social change impact. Volunteering opportunities include:

- **Events**
- **Monitoring and Evaluating**
- **Campaigning**
- **Communication and Marketing**
- **Financial Management and Accounting**

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you are interested in volunteering.

How likely are you to continue volunteering at Homeless Rugby in the future?

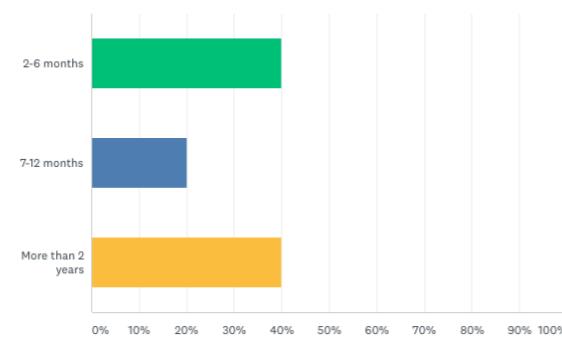


100% of our volunteers are either very satisfied or satisfied with their volunteer experience with Homeless Rugby and were likely to continue volunteering.

Please contact mark@homelessrugby.org to learn more about volunteering opportunities with Homeless Rugby.

How long have you volunteered for Homeless Rugby?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 0



Other reasons why people joined their local Homeless Rugby team included:

- *"To be part of a team."*
- *"Because I enjoyed playing rugby in the past."*

Multiple players believed rugby would help them regain their confidence.

- *"I was in the YMCA and it saved my life"*
- *"To help me get off drugs and get back healthy."*

Set up a new team/help an existing team:

100% of our players welcome the opportunity to meet and play against new teams. We welcome any support in growing our reach by setting up new teams, or helping our existing teams to improve.

Please contact greg@homelessrugby.org to learn more about our team based opportunities.



Donations and Fundraising

We are always keen to continue to diversify our income and we welcome any donations, reoccurring or one off. With no staff costs, 100% of your donations go towards supporting existing Homeless Rugby teams or outreach work to create new teams and sport opportunities. Please contact darran@homelessrugby.org to learn more about how you can donate to Homeless Rugby.





Get in Touch

We're always keen to hear from our supporters, and new people interested in getting involved with Homeless Rugby and our ever growing plans to #TackleHomelessness with rugby. To learn more about any of our activities, come to our upcoming events, support our teams or create a new team in your area drop us a line.



info@homelessrugby.org



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