



ARMY RUGBY UNION
President
General Sir Peter Wall KCB CBE

From Colonel MV Pemberton
Director of Community Rugby

ARU/Community/Corps

Chief of Staff
Headquarters
Joint Medical Command
Fort Blockhouse
PO12 2NB
Telephone: 023927 65965
Mil: 9380 65965
email: mark.pemberton158@mod.uk

Chairmen, Corps Directors of Rugby and
Corps Secretaries

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, can I apologise if this is the umpteenth copy that you have received – I have gone for an every possible route distribution in order to ensure that the Corps constituency is flooded with news. This issue immediately raises a point about our connectivity – the lists on the ARU Web Site are woefully out of date so I'll be having Taff Davey chase down you current structures and contact details.

You'll be aware that the new Corps season kicks off next week with the festival, and that the main tournament commences with pretty much a game a month leading up to the finals in March. You may not be aware that although the Inter-Corps Tournaments are presently without a designated sponsor (negotiations with VT continue and we very much hope that they will be back on board shortly) the ARU has provided funds to meet all the aspirations that were discussed at the Corps Meeting. In particular, I have funds available to assist you in the provision of medical support, coaching funding has been built into the Coaching and Coach development bid, and I have secured funds to permit each Corps to host their target opinion formers at one home fixture.

Other than Coaching bids, which will be dealt with directly by the coaching set-up, the other funds are held within my Community Budget and may be accessed through the Corps Competitions Secretary using a simple business case format. I have introduced this system as I wish to be seen to be fair and to be able to demonstrate probity. Also, as I am only too aware of the differing levels

of support that you receive from sponsors or your Corps' funds, I need to know why you need ARU money. Taff Davey has already distributed a simple Business Case format, basically what we need to know is what you want to do, how this will support the aims of the ARU, and how much it will cost. To give you a steer, if it meets one or more of the aims within the Community Mission Statement (see ARU web-site) you are likely to be on to a winner!

Moving on to more general things, I have very much hardened my view that the Corps' set-ups are the best agents for representing the Community constituency within the ARU. Corps Management teams are used to thinking outside a unit box, and I need to harness that knowledge to represent all the guys and gals who could, or indeed should, be playing rugby on a Wednesday.... be it for their Company, Regiment, Corps or one of the Army representative sides. I therefore look to you for counsel about how we can improve the Community side of the game. Some of you will be aware of the strength of Army Premiership Rugby, but you may not be aware of our attempts to get a league or merit table going in the Aldershot area. Hopefully this will be but our starter for ten, with the other major garrisons not far behind. This is but one initiative and I need your ideas of how else we can promote our game.

Although funding lines to support our planned development are secure we are still critically short of people prepared to run tournaments. My aim is to see a Chairman and Secretary in place covering each major competition group, and ultimately to see each competition represented on the ARU Council. Posts are not rank-tied and in some cases the levels of commitment are not onerous, but for the structure to work I do need volunteers to assist with the Community Cup and Garrison based merit tables, and to relieve me from my second role as Chairman of Corps Competitions. I very much hope that you will know of people ready for Army wide responsibilities. My current team really does need help so please Email me with any ideas or if you'd like to propose a volunteer!

All the very best for the season – and please feel free to give me your ideas in person, over the phone or by Email at mark.pemberton158@mod.uk

Regards

Mark Pemberton