



Term 1 of the new academic year has been a busy one for all of our RDOs. Our three new team members, Babou in Rubavu, Etienne in Muhanga and David in Musanze, have got off to a flying start. Between them they have delivered more than 400 sessions in primary schools this term!



The trustees have been busy in the UK as well.

Tina was approached by the Robins Foundation – the official charity of Bristol City FC. Every year the Sports Business and Entrepreneurship undergraduates are set a 48 hours' fundraising challenge. This year their designated charity was FoRR. Mary, Glyn and Tina went to meet the students at the start of the challenge to tell them about the work of the charity. The students started the fundraiser having been set a challenging target of £3,500 by Paula their tutor. They smashed it! 48 hours later Tina returned to hear the fundraising stories from the teams and to find out the final amount which was a massive £4,154. Thank you so much!



Two trustees, Mary and Glyn attended two other events. The Global Solidarity Summit organised by Hub Cymru Africa and a Men's Mental Health networking event organised by 4Minds and hosted at Dragons RFC, Newport.



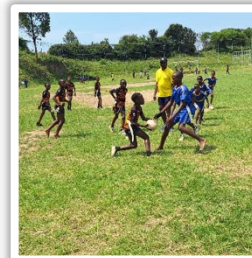
A Tag for Teachers (TFT) tournament was held in Rwamagana District with 16 teams from 8 schools. Congratulations to EP Ngarama for winning the boys' trophy and EP Bihembe for winning the girls' trophy. The TFT programme trains teachers in remote areas to deliver tag rugby in schools without an RDO. When the children are ready, we can then arrange a tournament! Thanks to Martin and Evariste for running a very successful tournament and well done the teachers who trained the children.



Martin arranged a friendly tournament between 4 teams of boys and 3 teams of girls from 3 secondary schools and then a 'big friendly game' between University of Rwanda, Rukaru against Kabarondo school. Martin is always excellent at arranging friendly games.



In Karongi district Rachel arranged a tag rugby tournament for 7 schools. Thanks to Kamanda for assisting Rachel. A great day was had by all.



In October, 7 volunteers from the UK spent just over a week in Rwanda with some of our RDOs. Amy Atkinson, with husband Kris, two sons and 3 friends visited schools, clubs and the federation to find out more about Rugby in Rwanda. They donated lots of kit and equipment. They also spent time at Akagera National Park. Big thank you to Kamanda for working so hard to make sure their trip was so successful. We are looking forward to working with Amy in the future.



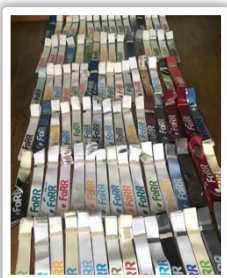
Kamanda and Joseph ran a TFT training in Rwabicuma sector in Nyanza district in November. 12 teachers from 6 schools took part and received the training and all the equipment they need to run tag rugby sessions with the children at their schools. Kamanda described the teachers as "sportive" and said it was one of the best TFT groups they have trained.



RDO Emmanuel in Kirehe district is leaving us as he has a new job as a truck driver. Emmanuel has only been with us for 15 months, but he has done an amazing job establishing rugby in the schools in and around Mahama Refugee camp. Thank you for your hard work, Emmanuel, and good luck with the new job.



The TFT programme is very popular. Many schools would love to take part. One limiting factor is the supply of tag belts. The kits are expensive to buy so we have been making them. We are lucky to have some manufacturers who donate or sell Velcro at discounted prices and we cut up old banners to make the belts and tags. Ernestine, RDO in Gasabo, is an experienced tailor and she had made hundreds of tag belts for us. The Isooko women's cooperative in Rusizi district is also making them. We are always needing a supply of old banners and we are trying to source these in Rwanda if possible. It is great for the environment as these large pieces of plastic are often single use for a particular event. Do get in touch if you have any old banners we can recycle into tag belts.



#1for1for1 - £1 pays for 1 child to have regular rugby coaching for 1 year.

<https://friendsofrwandanrugby.com>

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