

“What is going on in Rugby Union at the moment?”

Ok enough is enough. My growing unease about what is happening in our beloved game means I need to share my thoughts as a Rugby Mum with the Lancashire rugby family.

What is going on in Rugby Union at the moment?

Attacks by fellow train travellers on the England Manager after the Scotland/England game? (I know I know...),altercations in the tunnel ?, skirmishes on pitches across the land ?, drunken brawls ending up in Court appearances ?, players suspended for disorderly conduct just before the 6 Nations campaign ?,players openly laughing in the face of the opposition, referees accused of national bias ? I could go on.

Over the past couple of years I have watched with pleasure as Rugby Union has become increasingly popular in Great Britain. The creation of an inclusive rugby community promoting the sport to all sectors of society has been a joy to see and participate in. The huge increase in women’s rugby and the national “This Girl Can” campaign is something we can all be very proud of. Watching teams ranging from 6 years old to veterans trotting out on a weekend morning for my own Club makes me very proud.

What doesn’t make me proud is that the RFU Code appears to have been completely forgotten about and we are in danger of seeing a complete descent into precisely the mentality that is at the root of so much that is wrong with contemporary society.

The RFU Code is worth quiet contemplation: Teamwork. Respect. Enjoyment. Discipline. Sportsmanship.

When our national team or indeed our local side runs out onto the pitch it is not just the glorious 15 - it is ALL of us. Every single one of us that either plays rugby, works in rugby or supports a team runs out with them. We are all responsible, not just the players. We are one team.

But with that responsibility comes the requirement to hold everyone to account for their actions and behaviour.

Let’s get back to basics. Draw a line. Regain our pride.

We must all work to challenge the slip in standards and resurrect Rugby Union to its rightful place as an example of a decent, up-standing, physically hard sport that we can be proud to be a part of.

Grass roots or international. It doesn't matter. The Code is the same.

When we see players running out holding the hands of youngsters acting as mascots we should feel we can trust them to demonstrate - by actions on and off the pitch - that they will set an example of what the RFU requires.

If we can tackle this current malaise our sport will continue to flourish.

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