



Touching Base – Issue 1

Welcome to the very first Rounders England e-newsletter written specifically for County Sports Partnerships.

Please forward this on to your fellow team members and anyone else that might be interested to know what is happening in the world of Rounders!

NEWS FROM HEAD OFFICE



A Word From the Rounders England CEO, Alison Howard

Welcome to our new, quarterly, e-zine – 'Touching Base'. The aim of this publication is to keep you informed of developments and progressions in the wonderful world of Rounders.

As this is the first issue we thought it best to provide you with an overview of some of our current key initiatives, but future issues will focus more on case studies and sharing good working practice.

So, if you have a Rounders success story that you would like to share or if there is anything else that you would like to see from us, please contact our Marketing Officer: Jo Betts
E: jo.betts@roundersengland.co.uk

A Few Rounders Facts

Rounders England Core Priorities:

GROW – 13,780 more participants by 2011

SUSTAIN – Reduce steep decline in 16-18 year old participation

Our core focus is on, but not limited to, adult and BME female participation.

Did you know that...

- Rounders is now played by adults as well as children.
- There are over 40 Rounders leagues all over the country.
- It is one of the few sports played by men, women, girls, boys, by single sex or mixed teams.
- There is an England squad.

The initial appeal is that Rounders is fun to play, is extremely social, is a safe non contact sport, can be played by people of all ages and ability and doesn't involve buying a lot of very expensive equipment. After a short time the sport can become addictive.

THE TEAM

Rounders England Employees

As a small Governing Body, Rounders England currently employs 14 members of staff – a mix of full and part time.

As well as a voluntary board made up of 7 members; 4 elected, 2 appointed and the CEO.

All responsible for the delivery of the Rounders England interventions in the Whole Sport Plan 2010 – 2013, the majority of the team are based at Head Office in Sheffield, however we have 4 Regional Rounders officers based across the country who primarily develop Rounders 'on the ground'....



Indoor Rounders

Indoor Rounders makes Rounders an all-year-round sport. The indoor rules are similar to the traditional Rounders rules making it easy for people to play and coach, but with a few exciting variations.

Played with 6 players instead of the traditional 9, in a 4 badminton court (or larger) hall, using a softer ball, this is a fast paced, exciting game with the ball bouncing off the walls and ceilings at crazy angles. Indoor Rounders can be organised as a traditional team session, but also lends itself to 'pay and play' which means that Rounders can also appeal to individuals seeking participation opportunities.

The game is perfect for schools, not only for wet PE lessons, but it also removes some of the participation barriers; for example fielders are not put under pressure to throw the ball long distances and due to it's fast nature there is less standing around waiting for your turn to go into bat – this may even encourage 'non-sporty' types to give it a go and who knows they could even enjoy it!

Download the indoor rules free of charge:

<http://www.roundersengland.co.uk/rounders/index.cfm/play/indoor-rounders/>



Wheelchair Rounders

Indoor Rounders has also made the sport even more accessible and recently students from St Francis Special School in Lincoln have taken part in a game of wheelchair Rounders to launch the Lincolnshire Wheelchair Rounders Project. The initiative, managed by Lincolnshire Sports Partnership, was the first of its kind in the country and will eventually be rolled out to eight schools in the county.

Rachel Belcher, NGB Project Officer at Lincolnshire Sports Partnership said:

"Wheelchair Rounders is all about engaging children with a disability in sport. It's fun, easy to play, and great for the children. We are delighted that Lincolnshire is the first county to develop the sport and look forward to seeing it develop in schools across the country."

Read the case study:

<http://www.roundersengland.co.uk/rounders/index.cfm/play/wheelchair-rounders/>



Rugby & Rounders

Rounders England are currently developing links with RFU clubs across England who have expressed an interest in hosting Rounders during their out of season period over the summer.

Targeted at a mixed audience of rugby players looking to keep involved with the club during the off season, and their wives and friends, this initiative introduces more women to the



Meet Amey Rowe, Regional Rounders Officer South East



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Meet Judith Handley, Regional Rounders Officer West Midlands



rugby clubs, increases footfall commercially and gives Rounders players good quality facilities.

The new clubs will ideally form links with local leagues or they could form the hub for a league if there are several other rugby clubs locally.

E: judith.handley@roundersengland.co.uk

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Return to Rounders

Targeting women who have not played since school, these series of fun Rounders sessions (indoors or outdoors) aim to increasing confidence, skill levels and social interaction to enable participants to feel comfortable joining or forming a local club or league.

Rounders in the Park

Encouraging young people and families to give Rounders a go, informally in their local parks - Rounders England offers a series of fun sessions where participants can just drop in. Pitches are marked out in parks, and bags of equipment are then left with park keepers so that they can be borrowed/hired by the general public. An information board is available giving basic rules and signposting further playing opportunities.

Meet Siobhan Cleeve, Regional Rounders Officer East



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COMPETITION

England Squads

Many are surprised to learn that there are England Rounders teams representing their country at adult, U21, U18, U16 and U14 levels.



The squads have recently all enjoyed a start of season internal training session, whereby many got to play together for the first time.

Without much International competition, due to Rounders being in its infancy overseas, our squads rely heavily on our neighbouring countries for competitive play.

Next international fixture: England V Wales – 24th July 2011 at Stafford Cricket & Hockey Club.

Rounders England Approved Suppliers

We strongly recommend that you purchase all of your Rounders equipment from Rounders England approved suppliers:

Safari Sports
www.safarisports.com



Ladies Club National Competition: Enter Now!

Rounders England are currently recruiting clubs to play in the forthcoming 'Ladies Clubs National Competition'. All Rounders teams across the nation have the opportunity to become involved in the highest profile tournament of the year to identify the club champions of England!



The competition will take place at Stafford Cricket and Hockey Club, The Riverway. 12th June 2011, 10.30am – 4pm.

For more information: michele.golland@roundersengland.co.uk

Aresson Sports:

www.areson.co.uk





National School Championships 2011

Due to the issues around School Sports Partnerships we are concerned that there may be some disruption to the regional school competitions. Rounders England are therefore encouraging schools to reserve their place in these tournaments to enable the events to run as successfully as they have in previous years.

The National School Championships are now open for entry in the following categories:

- Year 6 mixed:** 8th July 2011 at Stafford
- Year 9 mixed:** 15th July 2011 at Rotherham
- Year 10 & 11 girls:** 1st July 2011 at Corby

For more information: michele.golland@roundersengland.co.uk

WAFt Sports:

www.waftsports.co.uk



COACHING & UMPIRING

Rounders Coaching & Umpiring Courses

To support the interventions of the Rounders England Whole Sport Plan, working alongside 1st4sport, we have developed the following Rounders courses:

1. **Rounders Young Leaders Award:** a 6 hour Rounders specific course which builds on the skills already gained during the Sports Leader Award.
2. **Preliminary Coaching for Teachers:** is designed to introduce teachers and leaders to the basic principles of the striking and fielding activities of Rounders and is particularly aimed at Key Stages 1, 2 & 3.
3. **Intermediate Coaching for Teachers:** is designed to help teachers and leaders develop the tactics involved in Rounders. It is particularly aimed at Key Stages 3 & 4.
4. **UKCC Level 1:** This 2 day course provides the knowledge for Assistant coaches (working alongside a more qualified NRA Level 2 or UKCC Level 2 Coach) to deliver Rounders activities.
5. **UKCC Level 2:** This 4 day course provides coaches who have an ongoing involvement in Rounders with an introduction to the processes and principles of coaching Rounders to adults and children.
6. **Preliminary Umpire Award:** is valid for 1 year and provides candidates with a basic understanding of the Rounders Rules and teaches candidates the skills to provide advice on umpiring a game.
7. **Intermediate Umpire Award:** prepares candidates to undertake a written test showing a high level of knowledge of the rules. The course also gives the candidate practical instruction and demonstration of game control.
8. **The National Award:** is the final level in the Umpiring Pathway and once passed enables candidates to umpire at the highest level including national games.

Rounders England Resources & New Rule Book - ON SALE NOW!



"The Small Games Cards & Skills Cards are excellent, they fit into a pocket and are a very useful memory jogger to carry around" (Hull Colligate School, April 2010)





P.E. Teachers Wishing to Deliver the RYLA Course:

Rounders England have recently reviewed their Rounders Young Leaders Award (RYLA) and one of the changes is to now allow PE teachers to deliver the course.

Following a 4 hour RYLA Orientation training course, PE teachers may then deliver the RYLA within their own school (and other local schools should they wish to).

For more information: coacheducation@roundersengland.co.uk



Workforce Development

We are currently looking to increase our pool of Coach Educators (Tutors and Assessors), particularly in the West Midlands and South of the country, to compliment our existing coach educator workforce.

For further information on becoming a Rounders England Coach Educator: coacheducation@roundersengland.co.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

Tell us your Rounders stories: email photos, video links and copy to jo.betts@roundersengland.co.uk

For more information about any of the articles above, please contact us or visit the official Rounders England website: www.roundersengland.co.uk

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