

Press Release

Title: **Appointment of Richard Kearney as Calne RFC Head Coach**
Date: 8th May 2006
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Richard Kearney, former player and player coach, has been unanimously appointed, by Calne RFC's committee, as the club's new Head Coach. Kearney, an outstanding player, has now hung up his playing boots, after making a lasting impression on the Recreation Ground after his switch from Chippenham RFC two years ago.

Following the mid-season resignation of the club's previous coach, Kearney, along with fellow player coach Neil Watkins, stepped up to be the masterminds behind Calne's mid-to-late season renaissance. This culminated in a near promotion-clinching finale. Since Kearney's and Watkins' involvement, training numbers have swollen dramatically, allowing the player coaches to play a late season, 1xv versus 2xv trail game for the first time.

With Watkins' work commitments requiring his relocation to London, Kearney was approached by the committee and asked to consider the lead coaching role. Thankfully, for the club and after a period of consideration, Kearney accepted the challenge and is now looking forward to the new season.

Plans are already under way for a new and fresh pre-season training schedule. And Kearney along with his fellow senior playing section management team, consisting of 1xv Captain, Andrew Donegan and 2xv Captain Jason Dolman, are looking forward to what could be one of the most exciting seasons in the club's history.

Club Development Officer, Matt Snell, confirmed the excitement attached to the appointment. "Rich will have something that every coach desires, the unequivocal respect of the players he coaches. He is one of the most outstanding players the club has been fortunate enough to attract and although the team may be temporarily diminished following his retirement, we all agree that there is no one better suited, or more respected, or more aptly qualified to take our club forward."

Following Kearney's own retirement, Watkins' relocation and that too of Guthrie Holliday, Calne's first fifteen will be missing three of its most influential players for the 2006/07 season. The upshot of this is that it leaves a wide opening for more talented and experienced players to join the club. During the close season, Kearney, with the help of recruitment officer Snell, will need to attract, to the club, a top level Center, Second Row and Blindside Flanker, if the club's push towards Southern Counties status is to be realised. Snell added, "The club's doors have always been open to new players, Kearney can testify to this having joined the club from Chippenham RFC two years ago. It is important that we create a culture of competition and excellence in the club and as such, we want and are actively looking for the services of some big ball carrying and line breaking players." Any interested potential players should contact Matt for an introduction to the club, via the website, www.calnerfc.co.uk or directly via email play4calne@btopenworld.com or 07816 686764.

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