**Draft** Press Release, CLUB VERSION

**Players flood back to xx Rugby Club as grassroots rugby returns with a bang**

[Insert Name] Rugby Club has seen [record/strong/insert appropriate description of specific number] numbers back at training since outdoor sports were given the greenlight to return.

Many wondered what effect the pandemic would have on playing numbers after the best part of a year without any meaningful rugby. Early signs are extremely positive and suggest the long lockdown has not dampened enthusiasm for the sport in any way.

Far from losing players, xx Rugby Club, like many across the country, has seen full attendances at training sessions, including new players.

From minis to the veterans, across the entire nation, kit has been donned, boots laced, Covid measures put in place and rugby returning with a passion.

[Insert quote from club on the individual situation – what has the response been across minis, juniors, colts, senior men and women’s teams? What impact has this had on volunteers, players, coaches from a physical, mental and emotional perspective. E.g…]

“It has been overwhelming to see so many players flooding back. We’ve had incredible turnouts across xxx

“To see the youngsters running around on the pitch was just amazing. The first couple of weeks have been characterised by huge grins spreading across pitches as they see their team mates again for the first time in months. We’ve also been receiving lots of enquiries about other youngsters, who’ve been cooped up for so long, joining us - which is great.

“This is a very exciting time. It feels like a fresh start towards the 2021/2022 season. Everyone is full of enthusiasm and absolutely thrilled to be allowed back to training and even more so to play in competitive games, with the adapted laws, from 26 April. It’s excellent timing as many players were starting to feel the constraints of the national lockdown both mentally and physically.

“We’d encourage anyone who would like to give rugby a go to come down to a club training session. New players are always welcome and you’re sure to be given a warm reception in a fun environment. We’re making sure we follow all the Covid-19 guidance and sanitising processes to enable players to enjoy themselves and keep fit in a safe outdoor environment.”

Training sessions are held on xx at xx

Juniors and minis sessions are held on xx at xx

For more information about joining the club, visit xxx website or contact xx