

CLUB DEVELOPMENT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2020



Extension to the UK Government Job Retention and Loan Schemes

The Job Retention Scheme has been extended until the end of April 2021 with the Government continuing to contribute 80% towards wages – giving businesses and employees across the UK certainty into the New Year.

Businesses will also be given until the end of March 2021 to access the Bounce Back Loan Scheme, Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, and the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme. These had been due to close at the end of January 2021. Please follow the link below for further information.

[Extension of Job Retention and Loan Schemes](#)

WRU Energy Scheme

What is the WRU Energy Scheme?

One of the biggest challenges for our clubs is managing both the costs of utilities as well as the time and effort involved in the process of managing suppliers. The aim of this scheme is to bring all WRU clubs together and work with trusted partners to ensure clubs are never overcharged or subject to hidden fees.

When did the scheme start?

In conjunction with our partners, Total Gas & Power and amber energy®, we launched the first round of the WRU Energy Scheme last month and it has been in planning since the beginning of 2020. Although the idea for the scheme came from clubs raising utilities as one of their biggest challenges prior to the Covid-19 situation, the impact of the measures implemented to restrict the spread of the virus have only increased the need for a scheme such as this.

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WRU Energy Scheme (Continued)

Have clubs joined already?

We completed Round 1 in November and the majority of clubs who requested pricing joined the scheme. These clubs included Abercarn RFC, Cefn Coed RFC, Pontarddulais RFC and Mountain Ash RFC amongst many others.

Will I get cheaper bills?

It will depend on your current deal and how the market has changed since your last contract was placed. What you can guarantee by joining the WRU Energy Scheme is that you will be offered a completely fair price with none of the hidden costs that can be added by some energy brokers. As well as that the real value of the WRU Energy Scheme is in all the additional benefits and support provided by our partners, amber energy®, as detailed on the next page.

How does my club get involved?

To register for Round 2 of the WRU Energy Scheme please email Huw Mitchell of amber energy® via huw@amberenergy.net. Include your club name, address and contact details and Huw will respond requesting some basic information to give amber authority to check your current contracts and energy usage. Once received you'll be included in Round 2 and your club will have the option to join the WRU Energy Scheme after receiving pricing in January.

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WRU Energy Scheme (Continued)

Benefits of the WRU Energy Scheme

AUTOMATIC CREDIT APPROVAL

Due to the COVID19 pandemic many suppliers are requiring small businesses to pay deposits in order to secure supply. WRU Energy Scheme members are protected from this, negating any supplier premiums and inflated unit rates.

A FULLY FIXED PRICE

Providing longer term budget certainty, with no hidden costs or fees.

ALL METERS UPGRADED

No more estimated bills. Your club only pays for what is used.

MONTHLY BILL VALIDATION

Never be over or incorrectly charged for the duration of the contract.

WRU ADMINISTER PAYMENTS

The WRU will pay the energy supplier and re-invoice your club on a monthly basis.

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WRU Energy Scheme (Continued)

Some comments from clubs who joined the WRU Energy Scheme in November:

“Abercarn RFC joined the WRU Energy Scheme for several reasons. Most importantly to benefit from better prices leading to a reduction in overheads, as well as to reduce administration. The scheme removes the need to shop around for best prices, which is important when most of the committee fit their duties around full time jobs.”

C.Roch, Hon. Secretary, Abercarn RFC

“Following the recent pandemic and the financial challenges faced by our club, we felt it was important to engage with the new scheme which will see the club reduce its energy costs. The quotes received for our club in respect of the new scheme have proved very favourable and we look forward to joining the scheme.”

H.Thomas, Secretary, Pontarddulais RFC

“Cefn Coed RFC have two grounds with changing rooms and floodlights to enable our mini/junior and senior sides to play and train. These facilities together with our clubhouse electricity/gas usage are more than suitable for this scheme.”

S.France, Club Secretary, Cefn Coed RFC

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Census 2021 – Honour a hero in your community

To mark Census 2021, we're delighted to announce that we've teamed up with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in a unique initiative to celebrate unsung heroes in your local area.

Purple plaques for competition winners

The Census is a survey that happens every ten years and helps plan and fund public services. To mark the next one, which is the 22nd survey, a search is underway across England and Wales for 22 people doing extraordinary things. The ONS will commemorate the winners of the competition with an iconic purple plaque to display in a place of their choosing. This could be their home, workplace or wider community.

Your local heroes

In your community you might know a nurse who's spent decades in the NHS. Perhaps there's a local war hero who volunteers at the community centre or a teacher who inspires their students. Communities are brimming with individuals who deserve recognition for their efforts and achievements.

Closing date and celebrity judges

The window for nominations will close on 31st December and nominees will be judged by a panel of community champions, led by Joanna Page.

Get nominating

You can get involved by nominating your community's heroes on the [Census 2021 heroes website](#).

Clubs with specific queries relating to any topic included in this newsletter should contact the WRU Helpdesk clubdevelopment@wru.wales for further guidance.