

The logo for RUINN (Rugby Union Informal Networking Night) features the word "RUINN" in a large, white, serif font on a black rectangular background. Below this, the words "RUGBY UNION INFORMAL" and "NETWORKING NIGHT" are stacked in a smaller, white, serif font on a white background.

RUINN

RUGBY UNION INFORMAL
NETWORKING NIGHT

Press Release

On 10th November 2009 an unusual collection of senior city businessmen, ex – professional rugby players and current rugby players gathered in the comfortable surroundings of the auctioneers Lyon and Turnbull's in London's Pall Mall. They had gathered for the fifth RUINN (Rugby Union Informal Networking Nights) event. The evening consisted of an Autumn International Q and A with Mark 'Sharkey' Robinson and Hugh Vyvyan, an entertaining speech from special guest Jason Gardiner (Olympic Gold Medalist) and a charity auction.

The event, brainchild of Dan Harris (Sale, Saracens) and Ritchie Elliott (Cambridge Univ., Bedford and L. Welsh) started 18 months before. It was decided that instead of chance meetings with fellow ex professionals, in and around the city an organised rendezvous was needed. The evening has now grown from twenty lads and mates in the pub to over a hundred ex-professionals, their contacts and important RUINN supporters. It boasts notable members such as Joe Worsley, Richard Hill and Hugh Vyvyan.

The concept of RUINN is to provide an opportunity for ex professionals and nearly ex professionals to benefit others networks to enhance their own business, employment and social opportunities. It is hoped that the evening will illustrate the benefits that ex professionals can bring to business both as individuals with a unique skill set and as a source of a great network.

RUINN differs from other such events and organisations in that the players get free access to a whole range of useful and influential people all with an interest in helping. Many of whom have already employed ex players. The informal nature of the evening has already created useful relationships and has led to new employment opportunities and business deals. There is now a growing list of blue chip organisations keen to host or support the event. (RK Harrison, UBS, Irwin Mitchell, Kingston Smith). RUINN is a charitable organisation and all money received is donated to the Wooden Spoon and the RPA Benevolent Fund.

What next? The next step for RUINN is to make it more accessible to the growing number of ex professionals and business partners. The website is under construction (RUINN.CO.UK) which will give members access to the database and information on RUINN and its partners. The RPA are keen supporters and RUINN is very keen to get other sports on board.

The next event is scheduled for 11th March 2010