



RECOGNISED: Minety's Cliff Garland, with his RFU award

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## Award winner Cliff really is scrum-thing

**MINETY** Rugby Club's Cliff Garland says he feels humbled after being handed an award from the Dorset & Wilts RFU for his work in developing his club's junior and youth section, writes DAN BARNES.

The 52-year-old, who is the club's head coach, was awarded the 'Value the Volunteer' award in Bournemouth before the Dorset & Wilts side's RFU County Championship Shield match with Oxfordshire on May 14.

Garland, who is also a selector for the Twin Counties, has been a coach at Minety for 13 years and says that he was surprised to receive recognition for his work.

"I've had a lot of different roles in the time I've been here and back when I started, we probably had 12 youth players and that's grown to about 150 now," said Garland, of London Lane.

"A lot of my initiatives

### Rugby

have been successful – we've gone into local schools, held tag festivals, and had teams all the way up to u18s with boys and girls.

"The biggest achievement has probably been the academy, which helps develop the whole person and focusses on things like nutrition and a rugby education.

"To receive an award is really nice but I'm sure that there are other coaches at other clubs that do just as much as I do and I'm happy to do what I do."

Under Garland's influence, Minety now has the most licensed coaches of all the rugby clubs in Wiltshire.

The club is actively seeking new youth players and boys and girls between the ages of five and 18 or players at u18 level looking to join the academy, can contact their head coach on 07903 816386.