

Creber and Simms are picked for Hampshire

Local junior rugby standouts are selected to play for Hampshire, with one being given the captaincy

The RBSI Guernsey Rugby Academy continues to offer trialists to Hampshire, which is key to its future development strategy, and 2015 saw six under-14 hopefuls being put forward for the open trial which took place in January.

Morgan Camp, Matthew Creber, William Gray, Phil Le Noury, Cody Simms and Tom Yarwood were all shortlisted by the coaching staff and assessed ahead of the trials.

Gosport RFU hosted these trials and close on 200 candidates completed the tough selection process which enables the players to showcase their skills to the selectors.

Of these, just 45 would end up in the Hampshire county squad.

The academy was delighted that Creber and Simms stood out on the day and they were successful and have been selected to play for the county.

Hampshire is one of the largest rugby playing counties and competition is fierce and it came as no surprise to Steve Melbourne, Guernsey's rugby development officer, that these two boys stood out.

Both players were trialling as back rows and the selectors were very impressed with their strength and all round tackling and rucking abilities.

Their first squad training

was on 1 February and they acquitted themselves extremely well, and following this session they were picked for the first county game against Dorset & Wiltshire. Melbourne, who attended the game was very proud to hear the news that Simms had been picked as captain.

Both played the entire game and their strength in their play did not go unnoticed. Melbourne said that 'both boys did exceptionally well again a much bigger Dorset and Wilts side with Cody putting in some monster hits and Matt's showed that for a big lad he has got some great pace.

Hampshire unfortunately lost narrowly, but the coaching team was pleased with the style of play that they had worked towards and although not perfect, it is clear that the squad has some strong foundations to push on and challenge every team they will play.

Si Burns, the U14s manager, said:

'I was immensely proud of the boys attitude and professionalism throughout the day and I am really looking forward to the rest of the season.'

Matt Creber (right) and Cody Simms (top) impressed the Hampshire selectors during the trials, with Simms also being named as the captain.

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