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The Tathra Sea Eagles have announced a reciprocal deal with the London Chargers, facilitating moves between clubs for players in years to come. Picture supplied

In league with UK

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY SAM ARMES

TATHRA Rugby League Club has announced a new partnership with English club the London Chargers, in an exciting first for both clubs.

The reciprocal deal will provide an opportunity for players to experience a new way of life in the other city, in a deal that Tathra Sea Eagles secretary Matthew Hughes

said had benefits for both players and respective clubs.

"We wanted to expand our horizons, giving players the opportunity to experience what it's like to be in another country - playing rugby league, living there and having the opportunity to travel," Hughes said.

"From our point of view it's about putting Tathra on the map and advertising it to one of the biggest capital

cities in the world. "The rugby league seasons coincided with each other and with the partnership we can always guarantee to send players back and forth."

London Chargers chairman Todd Peut was equally excited for the partnership and said he looked forward to the opportunity - something the London club had been considering for a while. "Getting that flow of

Australians to come over and Poms to go the other way, that's why we wanted to set it up," Peut told the *Bega District News* this week.

"It just so happened that Matt reached out. It was something our club had been talking about for a couple of years now but it was never formalised."

No stranger to Aussie rugby league players, the London Chargers started

out a decade ago with a large Australian contingent according to Peut.

Since then, while the numbers of Aussie players had slightly dropped for the London side, domestic interest had grown rapidly, as well as players from neighbouring European countries.

"When we started out in 2013 the majority of the side were Australians.

"Moving into where we are

now I reckon we only have a handful of Aussies, about 10 per cent of the side," he said.

Each club will be a point of contact for players looking to make the move.

The partnership will see the clubs assisting with finding accommodation and work for players, while also helping them to adjust in their new country.

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