



Newbury R.F.C. Mini & Juniors Mid Season Newsletter

January 2010

Dave Smith

Director of Youth

Welcome to the Mid Season Newsletter.

Whilst we have been frustrated by the weather you will read of the strength of our age groups and we look forward to the second half of the season, some good rugby weather culminating in our renowned Mini and Junior Festival Weekends.

Please continue to support the Managers, Coaches and helpers who make Rugby at Newbury such a great experience for the kids and thank you for your continued support for the club overall. Good Luck to all the age groups for the rest of the season. I'm sure they will all be successful and continue the great Newbury Youth Rugby Reputation.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

So far we have lost 5 weekends of rugby due to the wettest November on record and the coldest December since 1996. Whilst it's frustrating please understand the decision is made primarily for safety reasons.

NEWBURY 1ST XV BALL BOY ROTA 2009-10 Season

| Month | Date | Team | Home/Away | Kick Off | Ball Boys Girls & |
|-------|------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------------------|
| Jan | 16th | Cambridge | H | 3.00pm | U13 |
| Jan | 30th | Esher | H | 3.00pm | U14 |
| Feb | 20th | Blaydon | H | 3.00pm | U12 |
| March | 6th | Manchester | H | 3.00pm | U15 |
| March | 27th | Redruth | H | 3.00pm | U14 |
| April | 10th | Stourbridge | H | 3.00pm | U15 |

**We'd like to thank our
Mini and Junior Sponsors
For 2009/2010 Season and
Ongoing**



South West England Success

Congratulations to Jack Rossiter and Peter Allan who were successfully selected on Saturday for the South West England squad of 32 players to attend the squad development weekend in January.

We wish them every success and this again underlines the overall strength of our Youth Section at NRFC.

NEW MEMBERS / ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Any of your friends who want to join us in 2010/2011 please bring them along to training. If you know of anyone or would like to help contribute to supporting the thriving Youth Section then please contact Dave Smith or Mike Maher

"Expect Nothing, Do Something, Blame No One"



NEWBURY YOUTH CONTACT LIST

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|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
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| Youth Administration | Caroline Coombs | youthadmin@newburyrfc.co.uk |
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| U16 Head Coach | Chris Whetter | U16HeadCoach@newburyrfc.co.uk |

"Expect Nothing, Do Something, Blame No One"

NEWBURY RFC CLUB NEWS

6 Nations International Ticket Information

Update for Members

We have now received notice of our allocation for England v Wales and England v Ireland. Due to our present 1st XV league position this is greatly reduced on previous years. The tickets will be dispatched to Club by the RFU in about 2 weeks time.

We have had 81 applications but our total allocation is only 52 pairs covering both matches. We have had several requests from members for seats next to a friend; if these members would accept one ticket each this would spread the tickets. Our allocation for England v Wales includes 3 single tickets 1@£71, 1@£60 and 1@£52.

Again if any applicant would accept a single ticket this would help. Please telephone Chet Hobbs on 01635 522546 or e-mail chethobbs@hotmail.com

The final distribution will be decided with a draw shortly and all applicants will be notified accordingly.

"Get Well Soon"

Ian Skipworth (Skippy) our Operations Director at the club had a slip on the ice and snow last week and is in hospital.

Everyone in the Youth section wishes "Skippy" a speedy recovery.

ALL the Best ☺



ENGLAND GAMES AT NRFC

Sunday 21st Feb K.O. 3.00PM

England U18s V France U18s

Adults £8

U16S £2

Parking Free

Saturday 17th April K.O. 3.00PM

England Academy V France U 19s

Adults £8

U16S £2

Parking Free

Members Meeting 28th Jan 7:30pm

The next members update meeting will be on the 28th of January at 7:30pm in the Wickens Suite.

The management committee will report on activity since the last meeting and hold a questions and answer session.

All members are welcome. Come and support "YOUR CLUB".

Newbury RFC Mini & Junior Mid Season Report 2009 / 2010

NEWBURY RFC U6 & U7's

The U7's and U6's have had a good solid start to the season, with 46 paid up members. The older ones have been honing skills that were picked up last year and the younger/new players have firmly grasped the basics with many now fully integrated within the playing sides.

The U7's first competitive games were at Windsor mini festival the sun was out and rugby was all around.

Two teams entered and both teams were played in the Pool B.

Both teams came up against strong first sides Windsor and Redingensians, after a hard fought game with strong tagging and fast running both Newbury sides came up winner 3-0 against Redingensians and 4-2 against Windsor.

In the second games both teams came up against Sutton & Epsom, both sides again fought hard and long, one team won 4-3 and one missed out 3-6 (the score flattered the winners)

By the next game all players were prepared and focused, one team played Teddington and after a few harsh decisions battled back to draw 1-1. The other side played Redingensians and missed out by one try which was scored in the last dying seconds.

In the last pool game both sides came up against a very strong Rosslyn Park, both sides defended well and counter attacked were possible unfortunately they came up against the age group winners and lost 2-5 and 3-6.

One side was in the running for the 3rd and 4th out on the play off's but after a score change by match officials hours after the game had finished they ended up missing out by one point in count back.

All players trained hard and competed well in the training sessions, the next three games saw the U7's fielding two sides against Bicester, Banbury and Chinor, both sides had a mixed bag of results winning, losing and drawing but most importantly all enjoyed the games.

While the U7's played away the U6's stayed at home and continued to develop their skills, they enjoyed the bull dog type games and seemed to excel in the wet, and we even had U6's passing the ball before they were TAGGED- the players of the future.

As with all age groups the weather has meant we have missed some games and training but the enthusiasm within the U6's and U7's has probably grown as they are now chomping at the bits to play or train.

Ritchie Wallace
Manager U6's & U7's

"Expect Nothing, Do Something, Blame No One"

NEWBURY RFC U8's

The U8's started the season with 28 players and we have increased the total numbers to 38 with an average turnout on Sundays of 27. The squad has really developed during the first half of the season and is starting to play some attractive Tag Rugby. We attended the Maidenhead festival in October where we fielded two squads. Both squads played well and enjoyed the experience even when the rain came down. The results were mixed with both winning a match, drawing and losing.

The U8's provided the Curtain Raiser for the Wharfedale match on Halloween where they played as Phantoms v's Skeletons which proved to be a thoroughly entertaining experience for all involved. We have had 4 Matches so far this season against Banbury, Bicester, Chinnor and Oxford Harlequins. All the matches have been very close with Newbury showing both excellent attack and defence.

Richard Tomlinson
Manager U8's

"Expect Nothing, Do Something, Blame No One"

NEWBURY RFC U9's

Although the score line didn't always show it, the U9s really took the bull by the horns and got stuck into contact rugby. We had a few big knock backs against clubs that had trained all summer and in some cases, two or three times a week as well. Despite this, the U9s never got down hearted, instead they just picked up their game and became even more determined to improve. The highlight of the season so far has to be the tour to South Wales in October, where we played Pontypridd, Pencoed and Nantyllyllon. The opposition were outstanding and although no tries were scored by Newbury, all the players gave their all. The last few games of the season has really seen the U9s, getting it together with some outstanding wins.

The top try scorer for the season so far is Ross Ramos with 14, followed closely by Finlay Rossiter and Kieron Cartledge with 10 apiece.

The overall results for the season so far are:- STAGS - Won 7, Lost 4, Drew 2. Tries For 50. Tries Against 27. HARTS - Won 3, Lost 7, Drew 1. Tries For 32. Tries Against 37.

Maria Osborn
Manager U9's

NEWBURY RFC U10's

Autumn 2009 saw much the same squad returning at Under 10 level with Charlie Dominy, Rhys Evans, Sam Ogden and George Pavitt joining the squad of 40 children. In October, Jim Nield left the coaching team and we thank him for all his efforts over the past 5 years. Nigel Cripps and Mark Foster joined the team and we look forward to receiving the benefit of their combined years of experience at Newbury RFC in the months ahead.

The autumn has been tough at times for the Under 10s often coming up against strong, well drilled opposition at both the Windsor and Maidenhead Festivals in particular. Matches against Bicester and Chinnor brought really encouraging signs of progress and strong performances from both the A and B teams. The coaches have spent time conveying to the children the concept that rugby is a team rather than individual game and this has shown itself in much improved positional and general game awareness and rucking. There is still work to do to extend this to areas such as concentration, general support to team mates and tackling but weather permitting this will be improved on the training ground in the coming weeks.

As the second half of the season beckons the coaching team look forward to building on the progress to date and await with anticipation the challenges of the matches and the Bicester, Banbury and of course Newbury Festivals ahead.

Ian West
Manager U10's

"Expect Nothing, Do Something, Blame No One"



Newbury RFC U11's

The season so far has seen some extremely promising signs right across the age group.

For a start, numbers are up again, and we regularly get 40+ boys on a Sunday, with over 50 registered.

Skills have improved dramatically, especially at the lower end of the group - where good back inter-play and solid forward rucking and mauling is now becoming the norm.

Results have been reasonably good. In October we went on tour to Wales, and got taught some harsh lessons by very strong teams from Pencoed and Pontypridd, who showed some impressive support and handling skills. They also played on larger pitches, and put the space to good effect - we learnt from the experience.

In the B's and C's, on the whole, to ensure everyone played in each match, we have been playing mixed b/c's against b sides. Despite this we have won as many games as we have lost.

In the A's, we struggled at Maidenhead Tournament with a depleted team, but still came mid-table. We were runners up at Trojans festival, and have won all other fixtures (vs Banbury, Bicester, Oxford Quins and Chinnor).

We are looking forward to the weather improving, and getting out there again!

Ali Telling
Manager U11's

Newbury RFC U12's

The U12 group have had a buoyant start to the 09/10 season with several competitive fixtures against some new clubs. The squad has been boosted with several of the boys now playing rugby at school and this has brought about more of the boys defining their positions in the team and a couple of new faces.

Despite the festive layoff and missed sessions owing to weather I have heard that many of the boys are raring to get into the coming season and the last one of their minis journey.

Jan Fisher
Manager U12's

Newbury RFC U13's

The U13s have had a very good start to the season in Autumn 2009, with a squad of 47 players, 9 coaches and an unbeaten first half of the season for the A team.

The season started with a concerted recruitment campaign in local schools which resulted in adding 10 players and having a squad of 41.

We also had some welcome additions to the coaching team with Deane Anderson, John Peppiatt, John Dixon and Nic Emanuel bringing their significant experience to the coaching team.

This season we were determined to build a strong squad of players and we have had 31 players play for the A's but the downside is many clubs struggling to put out a true 'B' side

The A team started the season with a very strong test against Wimbourne, who have rarely lost in the last 5 years as minis. In a fantastic game and great rugby which ebbed and flowed, a last gasp try sealed a deserved 31 - 29 win. On the same day the Bs had an even stronger challenge when they lost to Grove A.

Good wins for the As followed against Reading Abbey 29 - 0 and Henley 58 - 0 in which many tries came from superb interplay amongst backs and forwards. The defence in both games was a major feature against stronger teams than the scores suggest. Henley was a particularly pleasing win, as we had never beaten them as minis. Unfortunately on the same day as Henley, the Bs had to play another A team, this time losing to Readingensians As.

A return trip to our 2008 tour featured a mixed A/B team playing the A teams of Kenilworth and Leamington. 2 great games one straight after another resulted in a 30 - 10 win against Kenilworth and a 5 - 5 draw against Leamington.

The next match was against Overton, which unfortunately was played in filthy conditions. However, the performance belied the conditions with a fantastic all-round performance, and one where the pack destroyed the opposition in the rucks and mauls, providing a perfect platform for 8 tries.

The final week before Christmas saw the opening match of the Berkshire league where Newbury steamrollered Tadley 79 - 0 with 15 tries. The Bs were again pitted against a strong A side Petersfield but scored in an encouraging loss.

There have been many highlights of the season so far, but some include:

- 2 hat-tricks for Jordan Ruddock and his all round play.
- 2 hat-tricks for big Will Britton, who along with his twin Alex have made a great start to their Newbury careers.
- Several other new players joining and making a huge impact, including Scott Cullen, Dylan Myburgh, Jason Bint, Alex Lockhart and Andy Payne

So we enter the New Year looking good for 2010 in a strong position to compete in the Berkshire league and with a very deep and developing squad.

Nico Lynne & Jill Brophy
Managers U13's

Newbury RFC U14's

Despite the recent weather and the frustration of losing 4 Roebucks Fixtures the Under 14's have had an excellent first half of the season. With 41 players, competition for places is high and the guys have really stepped up to the high intensity of training and the high expectation of them from the coaches.

It would be fair to say that at the beginning of the season we had two distinct levels of player and yet after just 12 weeks of training and some matches (1 Roebucks/Stags and 3 Stags) the gap is much closer and a number of players have gained their places in the Stags through others injuries or in the main by just hard work and application.

Whilst the Mixed fixture against Beaconsfield was a narrow loss the whole squad of available players ran out to a strong Beaconsfield outfit who won the Windsor Tournament a couple of weeks later but this set the standard and as a result allowed the coaches to concentrate the efforts on technical areas of the game such as the tackle, ruck and making sure the ball went wide to our pacey back line.

The Stags have managed 3 wins out of 3 against good opposition.

Oxfordshire Champions - Henley.

Surrey club Camberley.

The biggest scalp was that of the mighty Bath who where the toughest test so far with Newbury running out 17 - 19 winners with the last kick of the game.....Exciting stuff?

You bet and the league campaign for both sides starts as soon as the temperature rises and the ground thaws a bit....

Training sessions have been well attended and great fun with 1st XV Full Back Matt Williams who regularly attends and admitting he may struggle to get in either side even at 24!. His input with the kids is infectious and compliments the wise old heads of the other coaches who guide and educate both players and parents alike.

The second half looks very promising and credit to all the players and parents for their effort and input.

Caroline Coombs

Manager U14's

"Expect Nothing, Do Something, Blame No One"

Newbury RFC U15's

Despite the current cold snap and before that the wet weather the u15's have enjoyed a productive season to date.

Some pre season training sessions were well attended which set the tone for the season. September and the first half of October consisted of training sessions culminating in a match against Camberley which was won by both A and B teams convincingly.

The games served as a warm up for the tour to South Wales at the end of October. A squad of 30 players embarked on the tour along with the management/coaching team and a number of keen parents. On the Saturday Newbury took part in a triangular tournament against Haveford West and Ammanford (Two leading Welsh sides) and more than held their own showing some real commitment up front in poor playing conditions. The coaching staff were able to field 2 full sides and gave everyone a game by swapping the complete side at the half time in each game.

On the Sunday return journey we had organised a game against Coach Ian Leatham's old team. Our boys played against a combination side of u15's and 16's and playing over 3 20 minute periods ran out winners by 4 tries to 3. Again the strength of the squad was evident in the fact that everyone played at least 20 minutes. The tour was a resounding success and all who went really enjoyed their time.

Since then a couple of friendlies have been played with Newbury winning both comfortably but due to the bad weather no league games have yet been played. There are a number of league games for both our squads scheduled in the next month or so which will test the capability of the squad in both skill and resource but everyone is looking forward to playing again as soon as possible

Clare Almann
Manager U15's

"Expect Nothing, Do Something, Blame No One"

Newbury RFC U16's

The U16's at Newbury have had an excellent start to the season. Despite the players starting their exam year we have managed to retain 49 players, all of whom are actively involved in both training and matches. 5 players have represented Berkshire, 2 have made the squad for the South West England team and 1 player is still in the development squad for the Scottish exiles.

Both the A and B squads have played well in the early stages of the season. The A's won the Windsor festival and went on to record victories against both Henley and Bath. Likewise with the B's. They have had several matches cancelled due to the bad weather but have still beaten strong opposition. Results of note so far are beating Drifters A's 24-12 and only losing to another A team (Andover) by 3 points.

The team spirit amongst the U16's is fantastic. In our final year of Junior rugby at Newbury the players have developed into well drilled rugby players who play for their club, their team mates and their coaches before seeking individual glory.

Congratulations to all the players and Coaches and here's looking forward to the remainder of the season.

Vince Newton
Manager U16's.

Newbury RFC Girl's

The U15 and U18 girls play as part of a cluster team (the Berkshire Barbarians), joining with Slough and Reading. Newbury has 6 players who play for the U15s and 1 who plays for the U18s. All the players play for Berkshire and three have been nominated to trial for the Thames Valley Regional Team.

The U18s are rebuilding their team this year following the departure of a number of key players who are now playing senior rugby. The Berkshire Barbarians have won 3 and lost 2; whereas Berkshire have won 3, lost 2 and drawn 1.

The U15s have a strong squad this season are yet to lose a game. Berkshire Barbarians have won 6 games and Berkshire have won 6 games including winning a County Festival against Oxfordshire, Essex and Sussex.

In spite of the good start to the season the challenge for the team is to attract new players and grow the girl's game at Newbury RFC.

Malcolm Darvell
Manager Girls Rugby

HANDY INTERNET LINKS

<http://www.newburyrfc.co.uk> Weather updates / Match Reports

<http://www.newburyrfc.co.uk/youth> Youth section for Fixtures / Contacts

http://www.newburyrfc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/nrfc_minijunior_handbook_2009.pdf

Youth Handbook



<http://www.berksrfu.com> Berkshire Website

SUNDAY LUNCH AT THE CLUB

Sunday roast is now available in the Langdon suite, just £10.00 per person.

Enjoy a freshly cooked roast platter and dessert with family and friends after a morning on the touch line.

Make life easy on yourself and book your place now with Susie on 01635-239669.

STAY "In Touch"

Subscribe to NRFC newsletter 'In Touch' by using the link below.

<http://www.newburyrfc.co.uk/newsletter/>

QUIZ NIGHT

It's just £1.50 per person to enter a team of no more than 6 people. Half of the team money goes into the jackpot and the other half is put in a social fund to help fund other social events that the club would like to run.

Chef Gough's home-made Fish n' Chips available

Beer battered Fish and Chips for - £4.50

With Mushy Peas - £5.00

Portion of chips - £2.00

Last food orders' taken at 21:00.

We are looking for company teams, mini and junior supporter's teams, ladies teams and anyone who thinks they can win the jackpot!

So get a team together, chose your team name and get yourselves along to Kickers Bar for a great value evening of entertainment!

Check the Newbury RFC Website for the date of the next Quiz Night.

"Expect Nothing, Do Something, Blame No One"



The Vision for Youth Rugby

By Dave Smith - Director of Youth Rugby

The Youth section of the club returned to Monks Lane on 6th September. There are great plans for the Youth section of the club and to this end Director of Youth Rugby, Dave Smith addressed parents at an open forum on Sunday 20th

Some of the key note points of my presentation revolve around the structure, vision and future of the biggest section of the club and I have detailed these points below. It is the start of what I and my team see as a real opportunity to 'join up' all sections of the club from the minis through to the 1st XV. After our meeting, the parents and coaches enjoyed a morning of training with great assistance from members of the 1st XV who assisted in each age groups training session.

I expressed my thanks to 1st XV Manager Andy Widdop and the players for giving up their Sunday and making the morning really useful for coaches, parents but most importantly the kids in all the age groups.

The new Youth Handbook is published on the Youth Section of the NRFC website and I encourage all parents and players to read the sections regarding Codes of Conduct which underpin the ethos of the Club and the game we all play.

Moving forward, there is much to do, and I and the Youth Committee are keen to endorse the reignited motto of

"Expect Nothing, Blame No One, Do Something" throughout the Youth section.

The future players of our club are here already. Let's support them and the section in whatever way we can, either by volunteering - or if you can offer sponsorship for the section or for our festivals - the highlight of our season - then please contact me via the club or on my mobile 07824 994717 if you can offer any assistance.

"Expect Nothing, Do Something, Blame No One"



The key points of my vision are:

Vision

- To nurture Community Rugby and play safely and for fun.
- To maintain and develop the RFU seal of approval.
- To continue Newbury's Mini, Junior and Colts (Youth Rugby) as one of the leading organisations in the South - if not ALL of England.
- To progress players from U7 to U19 and the onward transition from Colts to Senior Rugby at Newbury Rugby Club.
- To develop a structure which brings 'home grown' players across all sides.
- To develop sustainable resource of coaches, first aiders and others to deliver safe and best-in-class coaching at all levels.

Structure - Youth Committee comprises of

- Director of Youth Rugby
- Mini Rugby Manager
- Junior Rugby Manager
- Girls Rugby Manager
- Colts Rugby Manager

Associated to this will be:

- Coaching Co-ordinator
- Child Welfare Officer
- Tournament Director

Organisation

- Each section (Mini Junior & Colts) to have a Fixtures Secretary.
- Each age group to have a Manager and a Head Coach with suitably qualified and CRB checked coaching team.
- On training weekends, the potential to rotate coaches across the age groups to give advice and observe.
- On match days maintain the age group coaching structure.
- To develop a structure with independent head coaches - not age group parent head coaches, from U13 - U16.

To develop strong links by regular meetings with:

- Colts Rugby Management
- Senior Amateur Management
- Professional Rugby Management
- To 'join up' each section of the club and be visible as one club

"Expect Nothing, Do Something, Blame No One"