



JUNIOR SECTION BLANDFORD RFC AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2009



www.brfcjuniors.org

Welcome to the BRFC Junior Section Autumn Newsletter 2009. We have now been back from our much needed summer break for over two months and it is wonderful to see all our players getting back into the swing of things so quickly. Already it has been a good start to the season with the presentation of the RFU Mini and Youth Seal of Approval award.

Our ties to the Senior Section have become closer this season with four of the Junior Coaches continuing to play in the senior teams and senior players now coming along to help out at training. The newly appointed Senior Chairperson, Justin Frampton is looking forward to continuing this close association and seeing many of you at the clubhouse functions over the next few months. Following on from this association we have several new faces on the administrative and coaching staff this season and I am sure that you will make them feel part of our extended family. I would also like to welcome all of our new players and congratulate them for settling into their respective age groups so quickly.

Most of you have now paid up your subscriptions for this season; however there are still a few outstanding subscription fees. Please remember that if you have not paid your child is not covered by the RFU Insurance. Included for paid up members with this newsletter is the membership card which is proof that you are entitled as a paid up member of the club to use the Clubhouse facilities located in the town. Remember there are certain changes which will require you to submit a new registration form via the club to the RFU. If you are unsure if you need to submit a new registration form, please see Joy.

This season we will again be operating a Photographic Permission Policy and already some parents have been issued with their Photographic Permit, remember whilst it is nice to take pictures of your child we must comply with RFU guidelines. The introduction of this policy ensures that we are seen to be complying. If you have not already applied for a permit and wish to take photographs please see Joy or myself. Your coaches will check with opposing teams if there are any caveats on taking pictures of matches.

Our website is continually being updated with information for all parents, players and coaches, and can be found at www.brfcjuniors.org. Please visit the site to read all about the section, its policies, forthcoming fixtures, tuck shop rotas and more; Though the site has been running for just over a year now it is still relatively young and is a work in progress, however if you have any ideas for new pages please submit your ideas to the webmaster, whose e-mail address can be found under the contacts page. Those of you who have used the website in the past will have noticed that there have been a considerable number of changes over the closed season and it is now a combined site with information about our Senior Section. For those of you who have a web enable mobile device access to a special mobile compatible page is available via www.brfcjuniors.org/mobile containing information on training and matches.

We will continue to use the website as a means of communication which will help both parents and coaches in the transmission of information. Details of matches or match/training cancellations together with forth coming events will appear on the home page, so if you are in any doubt about the status of matches or training please check here. The site will also have match reports written by the coaches or for some age groups their team managers, parents or players.

Currently our fixtures page is off line whilst we up date a few changes which have occurred. Full details of matches or training are posted on the home page of the website for the following week. Once we have finalised the fixtures list it will be uploaded to the website and copies will be available from the Tuck Shop; I will inform the coaches when the copies are available in the Tuck Shop so until then please either check the website or contact me if you do not have access to the Internet.

I would like to remind all players, parents and coaches of the timings for training and home matches. All players and coaches should arrive at the latest by 1000hrs ready to train or warm up in preparation for their match. Any important news will be given out at this time over by the Tuck Shop.

For those of you who have been part of the club for a couple of seasons will know that we improved our pitch side facilities by building our Tuck Shop. This has proved very popular and has been well used not only by our players and parents but visiting teams as well. Staffing of this facility is undertaken by volunteer parents and many of you have already committed to a Sunday on the Tuck Shop Rota, there are still some gaps which need to be filled. An up to date rota is available to view at the Tuck Shop. If you able to help fill one of the vacant slots please speak to me. Without volunteers to help run this facility due to the spread of matches this season we will not be open the

Tuck Shop on some Sundays. The choice is up to you, either volunteer or find that the facilities of the Tuck Shop are not available on some Sundays. We are also hoping to be able to add cakes to our selection of items which we sell and are looking for parents to donate a cake for us to be able to achieve this goal. The types of cakes should be either individual small cakes or a larger cake which has been pre-sliced. All cakes should also be pre-wrapped.

Earlier in this newsletter I spoke of what was available via the website which includes the Codes of Conduct. I would like to remind players, coaches and parents that the RFU has laid down codes which are to be complied with at all levels. As a club we are seen by many within the rugby world as being a leading club in complying with these codes. Please help us to maintain this high standard by being familiar with the requirements of the Codes of Conduct.

Mick Solomons (Under 10 Coach) has kindly agreed to take on the role of Coaching Coordinator for the Junior Section. He will be the focal point for all courses and advice. Following a recent meeting he attended he has reported that if enough interest is shown the Dorset RFU is prepared to arrange a "Ready Rugby" course to be held at Blandford on a Sunday morning whilst the children are training. This course is a "hands on" type of course where general techniques are taught and is now a pre-requisite for any of the more advanced courses. Any parent who would be interested in taking part in this course should provide their details to Mick, Joy or myself. We need 12 or more before the course can run. Attendance at the course would not incur any financial outlay by attendees from Blandford.

So far this season the weather has been reasonably kind to us, however as we progress into winter please remember that it will turn colder and children should be provided with plenty of warm clothing, to wear either when training or waiting for their turn to take part in a match. It is better to have several thin layers than one thick layer. The players can always take off a layer if they become warm. All players should also have a waterproof coat. Please ensure that your child's name is clearly written on all their clothing, it is amazing how much lost property we accumulate each week and as it is not named it is very much hit and miss if we get it back to its owner. Players should also be provided with a drink each week. This can either be water or still juice, fizzy type drinks can cause stomach cramps when running around and should be avoided. Rugby is a winter sport and unless the conditions are very extreme we will always play or train, the only exception to this rule is for away matches where our opponents make the decision. If you are in any doubt if a fixture is going to proceed then please contact your age group coach for confirmation or visit the website.

Christmas still seems a long way off but remember it will approach rapidly so if you are looking for any items of kit to help out on the present front speak to Noel in time for him to order any items which may not be in stock. A comprehensive list of items available is on the website.

We will again be having a "Fun" morning on the last day before Christmas and will be looking for some parents to help out with this event. We are in discussion with the senior players to persuade as many of them as possible to come along and join in the fun.

This year we will be ending the day slightly differently and instead of the morning finishing at the Tuck Shop we will be holding a social event at the Clubhouse in town after the fun morning. The format of our Christmas event will be aimed at the players with a "Hog Roast" type meal being provided for a modest donation. It is hoped that that a certain gentleman with a red coat and white beard could well be popping along to provide us with some Christmas cheer. (Hopefully someone will tell him of the change of venue!). We are hoping to be able to hold a raffle (to subsidise the cost of refreshments) and are looking for parents to provide small prizes which can be included in the draw. Prize donations can be donated from now until the event at the Tuck Shop. Draw tickets will be on sale from 8 Nov at the Tuck Shop until the event. Full details including timings will be published on the website and your children will be given flyers containing the information, once confirmed.

I look forward to seeing you all on Sundays.
Regards

Helen Oliver

Chairperson BRFC Junior Section