

JUNIOR SECTION BLANDFORD RFC CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2008



Welcome to the BRFC Junior Section Christmas Newsletter. We are now approaching the festive season where thoughts turn to celebrating with our families. Our last training day before Christmas will be on **Sunday 21 December**. There are strong rumours that the children will receive a visit during the morning from Santa, who will distribute a small present to each child. We will be returning to training and/or matches on **Sunday 4 January 2009** after what I am sure will have been an enjoyable break not only for all of our players and their families but the coaches and admin staff. No doubt the children will be keen to run off all those chocolates and other goodies they have consumed over the holidays. Please remember to check the website for details of what is happening (www.brforcjuniors.org).

When we return to training we will have entered the period of the year when the weather can be somewhat unpredictable. **The club policy is that training will take place, even in the rain.** The coaches will decide if training is not to occur if we receive warnings of severe weather but unless you receive a telephone call from your age group coach training will take place. On match days again unless you hear from your coach you should either turn up at our home ground or the away venue for your child's age group. When our opponents are either travelling from a long distance or we have to travel and the weather is bad then coaches in consultation with the other club will decide if the fixture is to proceed. This now brings me onto wet weather clothing for players. Please ensure that your child has plenty of layers on over the winter period, this should include at least two sweat/rugby shirts or at the very minimum a T shirt type layer under a rugby shirt. Additional layers on the legs are also recommended. Many of our older players wear cycling type shorts under their normal shorts and on really wet or cold days top up this layer with a pair of track suit bottoms. A waterproof coat is essential as is a change of clothing for afterwards. Remember to ensure that your child's name is on all clothing. It is amazing the items we collect as lost property which are never claimed each season. The changing rooms located at the school are always open so children can change into their dry clothing before leaving to go home. The only request to those using the changing rooms is that they do not wear their boots into the changing rooms as if these rooms are left dirty then we will receive the cleaning bill from the school.

Now enough of talking about the English weather lets move on to more interesting things. Our U13 squad have progressed to the next round of the County Cup and we wish them continued success in the competition. The U11 and U12 will have been entered into their respective festivals and the coaches for these age groups will provide those age groups with all the details.

Looking even further ahead to the summer holiday period when you will be looking for a variety of events to keep your children occupied. Blandford has again been successful in our application to Sociouss Sports and this company will be holding a Summer Rugby Camp (10 Aug - 14 Aug) on our grounds with coaches from a number of southern hemisphere countries who are qualified at international level. Details of this popular event are already being advertised on their web site together with details of how to bid for a place. For further information about this event which is an excellent week for any child interested in rugby please visit the Sociouss website at www.socioussports.co.uk. Or you may be interesting in hosting a coach; full details are on the website.

We still require parents to check that we have the correct details listed for your child; there is a Player Data Folder containing your child's details which can be found at the Tuck Shop. Please review and sign the appropriate data sheet making any alterations. We are only human and transcribing the information from written to electronic can result in the occasional error. 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 do this speak to Joy and she will advise you. Following recent incidents within the county of clubs playing non-registered players this has become much more important. Please remember that when completing your registration paperwork we need 2 passport photographs, there are still a number of outstanding photographs for children in all age groups. If one of these is your child please supply the required number of photographs at the earliest opportunity.

Most parents have completed and returned the Medical Information/Photo Permission forms. If you have not completed your forms please complete and return them to either myself or Joy.

If you intend to take any type of photographic images of your child in line with RFU Policy you must register your intent with the club. Joy has details of this process and will explain it to any parent who wishes to take photographs.

Now a plea for additional help, BRFC Junior Section is looking for parents or even young adults to become involved in a number of fields within the section. We have had a tremendous response with our player numbers following the recruitment campaign run during last years closed season: now we need the extra help. Volunteers do not have to take up the role of coach but if they feel that this is an area where they would like to become involved then please speak to me. There are also many other tasks including Team Manager, Tuck Shop assistants or even just helping set up the equipment before training or clearing it away afterwards. These small tasks help the section to run smoothly and relieve the pressure on those already involved.

In order for the Tuck Shop to function we have had a few dedicated volunteers so far this season but the majority of the slots for helping out have remained vacant despite my plea in the Autumn Newsletter. We have now had to resort to the other option I spoke about in that newsletter and select at random, parents to fill the vacant slots. Full details of which parents have been picked can be found on our website. I regret that this was the only option left open to us to ensure that the Tuck Shop was open for children, parent and visitors every Sunday. If you feel that you would be able to undertake the running of the Tuck Shop on a more permanent basis then please speak to me.

Sadly we have had a few minor incidents within age groups where the children have not behaved in an acceptable manner. Can I remind you that the RFU has a number of Codes of Conduct which cover parents, spectators, coaches and players behaviour. Details of these codes are available on our website and each age group has a copy of the player's code of conduct. Please if you have not already read these documents take time to view them and the content of these documents. It is also important that all our children know what is expected of them and what we as parents, spectators and coaches should be giving to them in return.

This now brings me to the end of this newsletter so all that is left is to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from myself and all the coaching and administrative staff.

Helen Oliver

Chairperson
BRFC Junior Section