

Mini/Junior News

Hello... and welcome to the first edition of our newsletter! Here you will find useful information and updates from the range of teams, Kittens through to the Colts, as well as general section news. There will be three editions each season with the aim of keeping you all informed, enabling us to continue to build on the strong foundations and thriving 'rugby family' we are very proud to have here at Drybrook.

Get your kit on!

This season we've expanded the range of training and match kit that is on sale for the section. As well as shorts, socks and hoodies, we now stock training tops (the quick dry type), waterproof jackets, track pants and beanie hats - clothing to cover all weathers!

Sizes in stock start from 5-6 years up to adults XL with other sizes available to order.

Prices range from £6 (socks and beanies) through to £25 (adult jackets), and, if like me, saving a pound or two is appealing, we are currently offering a reduced price bundle consisting of jacket, track pants and training top. Priced at just £40 for child's sizes and £50 for adult sizes, these are an ideal way to get your full kit on!

Don't forget, the kit isn't just for the players. What better way to show your support for the teams by sporting an embroidered hoody, beanie or any of the items available?

To check stock or place an order, please contact Georgie Lewis on 07876 645387 or catch her on a Sunday morning when the U9's are at home.

Are you the next Gordon? Ramsey not Bourne!

Overhearing my 9 year old talking about why he enjoys rugby so much, his final reason was 'you even get a hotdog after'! I'm sure this is true for a great many other of our players (and supporters) but we rely on volunteers to help in the kitchen on a Sunday morning, that's why we need you. At the minute we are very short of volunteers so we are currently seeking people who would be willing to help on a rota basis. Don't worry, you won't be tied to the cooker so you'll still get to watch most of the game!

You don't need to have any experience, just a willingness to pitch in and help feed the five thousand. It would also be an ideal opportunity for catering students to gain some experience in a busy kitchen.

If you or someone you know is able to help, please let your team coach know or contact Steph Watts on 07850 644378.

Thank you!



From tiny beginnings

Did you know that a baby/young squirrel is called a kitten? I didn't until I asked why our youngest players were given that name.

The Kittens is for players aged 3-6 years and they meet every Sunday (in the gym if it's wet/cold) from 10.30am for lots of fun and games and is a great way to introduce them to rugby. More often than not you'll hear them from across the pitch at the end of each session as they finish with a very loud team chant - a sign that they've all had a fab morning!

If you have a young kitten who would love to give it a try, please bring them along. Remember, from little kittens, mighty squirrels grow.

Representative Honours

Following extensive trials and training, three Drybrook U16's players have been called up for County U16's duties playing three consecutive games verses Somerset, Devon and Bristol.

The County A team narrowly lost to Somerset A on Sunday 17th January, where as the B team were triumphant. Both teams face Devon this coming Sunday (24th Jan) at Hartpury College. Kick off is 12 noon and it would be great to see some support from their home ground. The last game for our triumphant trio against Bristol takes place on 31st January and is also being hosted by Hartpury College.

Our congratulations to players Bailey Watts, JJ Tonks and Bret Thomas on their achievements.

Here Come the Girls

Drybrook Girls section continues to be one of the biggest and best in the County and beyond.

With teams for U13's, U15's and U18's, it means we are one of only a few clubs nationally who have teams at all age groups - not bad for a village club!

An amazing total of 12 Drybrook girls were selected to represent Gloucestershire this season.

Hannah Roberts and Leah Teague were selected for the U15's squad. For the U18's squad Shauna Bennett, Sasha Bowdler, Ellie Garside, Kirsty Gwilliam, Emma Hughes, Brittany Morgan, Kayla Skidmore, Lauren Wall, Ashleigh Wintle and Georgia Wintle were all selected. They all played in the County festival and the County games and did Drybrook RFC proud.

5 of those girls were put forward for South West Divisional trials on Sunday 17th January - Leah Teague, Shauna Bennett, Ellie Garside, Kirsty Gwilliam and Emma Hughes - we wish all the girls the very best of luck and will keep you posted in the next edition!

If you want to have fun, keep fit and make new friends then playing rugby for Drybrook is for you! Girls aged 10 to 18 are always welcome.

Thank you from the U9's

The U9's have been very lucky to receive a full set of new match tops this season.

The coaches and players would like to say a big thank you to Matt Jones at Lydbrook Valley Garage for his generosity in sponsoring the team.

I'm sure you'll agree they look very smart!



Drybrook's future looks bright!

Our Colts are now well into their second season since the formation of the county development league and looking stronger as the season progresses, largely due to the experience of team coaches Club Senior Vice Chairman Chris Rawlings and Junior Chairman Gordy Bourne.

Over the last two seasons the Colts have successfully furnished all three senior teams with new players, promoting a smooth transition from junior to senior rugby.

All new U17's and 18's players are welcome to join in training sessions at the club, 6.30-7.30pm on Thursdays. For further information please contact Jason Watts, team manager on 07801 951863.

Dates for your diary

7th Feb - U13's v North Bristol and U16's v St Mary's (County Cup)

7th Feb - Girls Section v Old Richians

21st Feb - U13's v Hucclecote and U15's v Dursley (County Cup)

6th March - U15's v Minety (County Cup)

6th March - U8's County Festival (at North Bristol RFC)

13th March - U7's County Festival (at Painswick RFC)

1st May - Presentation Day (Kittens up to U12's)

7th May - Presentation Day (U13's, U15's, U16's, Colts & Girls Section)

Wanted!

The Under 12's are currently looking for new players to help strengthen their squad. Any Year 7 pupils that have played before or are looking to start playing are very welcome.

Training/matches take place on a Sunday morning and are a great opportunity to try something new or go back to doing something you enjoy. If this sounds just what you need, why not come along and see what it's all about?

For further information please contact Dean Durston, U12's head coach on 07976 851335 or email deandurston@aol.com

Fun at the Festival for the U7's

So far this season the U7's are undefeated in 5 games amassing a total of 168 tries as well as enjoying their first rugby festival at Lydney RFC. The progress made in the few months together with ball skills is quite remarkable with every member of the team continually improving.

The team are looking forward to upcoming matches as well as the festival at Painswick RFC. Please note any outstanding membership needs to be paid and registration forms complete so all players can compete at the festival.

We are also holding a sponsored walk, BBQ and disco during the summer so watch this space! If anyone would like to get involved, please speak to one of the coaches.



U10's tackle the County Cup head on

Hosted by Old Richians on 15th November, this season's County Cup saw another great performance by the U10's. The first three pool games against Cheltenham, Old Patesians and Frampton Cotterell were won 20-0, 25-0 and 15-0 respectively and the last game against Cleeve lost 25-0. We finished joint top of the group and went through to the quarter finals where we faced a bigger hard running Tetbury side who moved the ball very quickly and beat us 15-0. Some hard physical rugby was played and this was a massive progression compared to previous County Cups.

A big well done to the team!



U13's go from strength to strength

Playing numbers have risen this season and we now have a squad of around 22 players training and playing regularly.

Up until Christmas, we have played 8 matches; winning 4, drawing 1 and losing 3.

Will Oversby leads the try scoring stakes with 20 tries already this season. Other scorers have been Ollie Baker (2 tries), Josh Brain (2 tries), Charlie Rushworth (2 tries, 2 cons), Leighton Davies (1 try, 10 cons) and Malyn Davis (1 try).

We have just started our county cup campaign and, despite losing our first match at Cleeve, hope to do well. Upcoming fixtures for the cup are in the diary, with kick off at 11am, all supporters are welcome.

We would like to thank our sponsors, Bec Cleaning Services and Oversby and Co Accountants, for providing the boys with smart new polo shirts to wear after matches.

Unfortunately we have lost one of our coaching team recently. Connor Auker-Howlett is off travelling the world for 12 months. We wish him well on his trip and hope to see him back sometime next season!

Chairman's Chance

Firstly I would like to thank Georgie who has volunteered to publish a newsletter for us. I hope that this chance for coaches/teams to report on games, other news from across our section and details of future events will be useful to us all.

We are now at the halfway stage of the season and I think that all of the section has done very well. I hope that we can carry this over in to the second half of the season.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Mini/Junior Section Committee and all volunteers for making our section one of the strongest in the Forest (if not the strongest).

If anyone would like to get involved in the running of the mini/junior section, please contact any of the coaches or committee members. We would be more than pleased to welcome you aboard.

Also, if you know any youngsters, boys or girls, who would like to play rugby, please bring them along to our training sessions or games where they will be welcomed by our coaches and team managers.

Best wishes

Gordon Bourne, Chairman of mini/junior section

Prize Draw!

Answer the following question to be in with a chance of winning rugby kit to the value of £25
What year was Drybrook RFC founded?



Name: Telephone Number:

Answer:

Prize draw closes 12 noon Sunday 7th February 2016. Entry box behind the clubhouse bar