

Minis and Juniors End of Season Review 2020

Thank you for all your support during the 2019/2020 season, it has not been a season without its challenges (plague and tempest) which resulted in its abrupt end! However, we hope to see you all back at the STG very soon, in person or virtually. We have a great season in terms of participation this season with fantastic numbers of players across all age groups. Notable mentions, over 25 new players U6s (which is a positive sign for the future of the Minis), 9 new recruits at U16s (great for the Colts) and we were able to roll out two squads at U13s. Although we currently do not know when the new season will start, we do hope to keep encouraging as many boys and girls as we can to start playing and continue to play rugby and to form a lifelong attachment to the game. We were awarded National Club of Month for September 2019 by Quilter Kids First / England Rugby for our commitment to child-focussed rugby.

Minis and Juniors Coaches

During the 2019/2020 we saw a record number of new coaches. of including Toby, Stefan and Tim taking up the post of Head Coaches at U6, U7 and U14 level. To accommodate the expanded coaching team, Craig Brindley (Colts assistant coach) has stepped up as our Coaching Coordinator and is working incredibly hard to provide a new development programme. After a fantastic effort and long stint as Head Coach, Nick Summers is stepping aside from leading the U13s.

County and Quins success

We have had several players representing county and an amazing 7 players selected for the Quins DPP programme.

Marketing and communication

We made some changes to the Minis and Juniors pages on the website and will continue to make improvements this over the summer.

Club activities and events

We started the season with a fantastic Minis Open Day. We held a fun our Minis Christmas party with the U9s very own Paul Clarke on the decks and the Burns Night supper (organised by the U9s). Many Juniors teams also arranged their own social events and the U16s made it to Jersey before lockdown. It was a shame however that so many key club events and tours were cancelled including our own Minis Festival and the end of season awards.

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Lewes RFC in the community

As a club we are helping the local Covid community response, with members volunteering to help with food banks, assistance service and sewing scrubs. We even made the England Rugby Touchline magazine!

<https://www.englandrugby.com/news/article/rugby-values-importance-of-volunteers>

To donate to Lewes Coronavirus volunteers:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/lewes-coronavirus-volunteers>

Fitness during lockdown

We are trying to encourage our players to keep as fit and active as possible. Its great to hear what you have been doing. U14s Head Coach and PE Teacher, Tim has created a yourtube Channel called the *Fitness Lockdown*:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw89sWhjGVq31MbHEezmgpw>

Pass it on challenge (Minis & U14s)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmfcwXyhcwQ&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3knaeS4IzRTrQo2YcXmPQGxrkXhnEg1eXUqNHar6INmuU_kb8jstLk3h0

Get in touch: email

juniorchair@lewesrugby.com

Facilities

You will be delighted to hear that one of our men's players has been painting the clubhouse (thanks to Paddy Henshaw for organising) and the changing rooms are having a refurb funding by Lewes District Council.

Planning for 2020/2021 Season

We are being regularly briefed by RFU on this and also around any changes we may need to make to policies and procedures to ensure player safety etc when we do return.

Irwin Mitchell Mentoring Programme

Just before the (abrupt) end of the season, Lewes was selected as one of the pilot clubs for a new pioneering mentoring programme for players U14-U18. Watch this space for more information!

<https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/playing/irwin-mitchell-mentoring-club>