

BRAINTREE RUGBY CLUB YOUTH AND MINI SECTION

September 2008



Toby being presented with Under 7s Most Improved Player at the annual ceremony

Thoughts from the Youth and Mini chair

Welcome to another season! What happened to the Summer? I am sure those of you who were in the club on the first Sunday of the season felt we hadn't had one.

The clubhouse is looking brighter thanks to Dave and Dennis, especially the small bar which has been redecorated, and the seating has been re-upholstered thanks to the generosity of Edward Parsley Associates.

On a sad note, October will see us bidding farewell to Michael and Evie Barton, who will be 'seeking their fortune' in Spain. They have both been a central part of the section for many years, and will be greatly missed. I am sure you will all join me in wishing them the very best of luck in the future, and assuring them that they will always be part of our club.

As in previous years we will be making sure that the club Code of Conduct is acknowledged and adhered to by coaches, players and spectators. It is extremely important that we ALL put out the right signals to people when representing our club – coaches, players and spectators.

One final word – VOLUNTEERS. The club is run by volunteers, and we desperately need some of you, especially from the younger age groups, to become involved. If you think you can help out in any way please give me a ring.

It just leaves me to wish you all an excellent season, and to remind you that I am always available to answer any questions.

Corinne Winwood
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New system up and running

Membership

We now have a registration and club data system for registrations which Barrie has worked very hard on getting running during the summer.

Ann and I can now register players ourselves which saves a lot of time, rather than having to go via the registrar. But we would appreciate some patience whilst we get used to the new system.

The new fees are as follows: £20 if re-registering before 30th October (that's forms received by us, not the coaches), and a reduction for more than one child in a family (2nd is £15, 3rd is £10).

Registrations received after 30th October will be charged at £30, except new ones which continue at £20.

Ann and I are in the club house every Wednesday from 7pm and Sundays when the under 15s are playing at home, we will be pleased to answer any queries.

Katrina Holbrook
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From U7 to the 1st XV – a team for every year

For all of our successes last season, I considered our major achievement to be fielding sides at all age groups.

Once again we have a full fixture list from 13s to Colts. Hopefully all coaches will continue to maintain the ambition of keeping their sides together to U18 when they can join with the senior colts still available to play.

League programmes give a good focus for teams to gauge their achievements and improvements and the non-league games the opportunity to look at alternative line ups and to see all squad



Youth

members in action. The excitement of cup games never lessens and I wish everyone success and enjoyment.

The club is very lucky to have a Development Squad structure in place, enabling our Under 17, 18 and 19s to play alongside experienced senior players on a Saturday to introduce them to senior rugby.

The playing captain of this side is Nigel Brand who himself played in the Junior Section.

Dave Gilder
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Brian goes back to school



Schools

My aim this season is to visit as many primary schools and secondary schools in the Braintree area, and introduce them to rugby and Braintree Rugby Club.

I am currently coaching year 9s at Tabor Science College. I have done so for the last two years. This enables me to strike up a good working relationship with the PE department who have good links with local primary schools in their catchment. This should help me to make easy contact with these catchment schools.

In July of this year I had a very productive meeting with Joel Sheljean, head of Mid-Essex Schools Sports Department. He is very keen to strike up a good working relationship with the rugby club.

It is hoped that we will be able to hold a Mid-Essex Primary schools tag tournament in March-April 2009, attracting lots of children to the Club.

Also planned is a competition for year 7s & 9s from schools across Mid Essex. The finals would be played at the Club.

Robin Kay, Mini Co-ordinator, is helping on my visits. He has set up links with St Francis Primary School where he has been coaching for the last year.

Brian Joslin
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A fun-packed calendar

With the new season upon us we already have a few dates that need putting in your diary. These occasions are a great opportunity to get together and fundraise for our club.

First up this year is the Halloween Party for the Under 11s and under. This will be held on Friday 24th October in the clubhouse. Non-members are more than welcome.

As always there will be a fancy dress competition and fun and games for your little monsters. Parents are invited to stay in the small bar and try their luck at the quiz.

We have something for the ladies on 20th November, with the return of our Pamper/Shopping evening. Items for sale will include handmade cards, chocolates, handmade jewellery, bags, shoes, painting, smellies... We are also hoping to have a beautician offering mini treatments.

In the run up to Christmas we will have the Bazaar and this will be closely followed by the Party on Sunday 21st December for the Under 11s and younger. This is open to all club children and once again Magic Olly will be entertaining us.

For those of you new to the club, it's important that you know that we hold a Summer Ball every June. It's a fantastic opportunity to get on your gladrags and dancing shoes.

Later in the year I hope to also arrange a trip to the new Great Leighs racecourse along with a day out specifically for the ladies. It's about time the Mums went on tour!

Michaela Wadforth
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New laws for the new season



Coaching

This summer many of our coaches have been on training courses, some as long as four days, ensuring they are at the standard required. We pride ourselves on having qualified coaches according to our Coaching Policy – available on the new website (see p4).

This season also sees the new Experimental Law Variations. It will be interesting to see what they bring to the game.

New balls have now been handed out to all the teams and we are all looking forward to another great season of rugby.

Barrie Winwood
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Harry "Tulip" in characteristic attack for last year's U11s at the Upminster Festival

Calling all new helpers and volunteers

Have you sought enhanced CRB clearance?

In order to work with youngsters at the Club the RFU requires you to carry out an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check.

This is a painless procedure that requires the completion of a CRB form (available from me), the return (again to me) of the form with three pieces of evidence (originals not photocopies please). I will then send this off to the RFU and you will (after 4 to 6 weeks) receive notification of the outcome. It would be very helpful if you would let me know when you have received clearance and provide a copy of your CRB certificate.

NB: Even if you have clearance with another organisation you are required to undergo a new check through the RFU.

Do you have a copy of the club's child protection guidelines?

It is essential that you are aware of child protection issues as they affect youngsters who play rugby.

Take time, therefore, to have a look at the Club's Child Protection Policy on the website (hard copy on the noticeboard) and make sure that you collect a copy of the Child Protection Guidelines from me.

I will also be arranging some in-house child protection training for those who will not be undertaking coaching courses and will provide an opportunity for you to watch the RFU's "Guide to Child Protection and Best Practice" DVD.

If, at any time, you have concerns about a child's welfare and don't know what you should do, please contact me immediately.

Above all else remember: The welfare of all young people is paramount

I am at the Club (usually in the bar) most Wednesdays, and Sundays (when the Minis are training or at home). If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to give me a call on 07930 503355.

Sally Cowens

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It's Robin's mini-adventure



Minis

Hi. My name is Robin Kay, I am the mini coordinator for this season. I became involved in the club when my son started to play in the under 7s. This season he is in the under 11s, my how time can fly.

I have also been a level 1 coach since November 2006, one of my aims for this season is to improve the communication between coaches, teams and parents. I think the head coach's are getting used to the amount of emails I can send in a day.

As well as this I feel it is important to boost the social side of the club, I would like to see more parents using the club house after training on Wednesdays and Sundays, and feel this is a great way to get to know parents from other age groups.

I would also like to point out that this club is run by volunteers, and I would like to see some new faces to help out, as this can only enhance the club and benefit the players, so if you have some free time why not come up to the clubhouse and I'm sure we can find you a job.

It would also be great to strengthen the link between the mini and senior sections, by supplying ball boys for the first team home matches, I believe it would give some of the younger player's encouragement to see the senior first team and help out.

So I would like to thank all the volunteers already at the club, and make welcome all the new members but also get old members involved in the club to. I hope to do a good job as mini coordinator, and if you have any ideas or would like to help out please speak to myself or another committee member.

Robin Kay

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Who is who 2008/09

President	John Leech	Bumbles (pre-Under 7)	Sean Channing
Chairman	Corinne Winwood	Under 7s	Darren Gleed
Secretary	Debbie Barker	Under 8s	Richard Whiteside
Treasurer	Mark Olley	Under 9s	Sean Vickers
Social Secretary	Michaela Wadforth	Under 10s	John Evans
Coaching Coordinator	Barrie Winwood	Under 11s	Paul Turner
Child Welfare Officer	Sally Cowens	Under 12s	Glenn Cowens
Schools Liaison Officer	Brian Joslin	Under 13s	Eric Payne
Fixtures Secretary	David Gilder	Under 14s	Brian Joslin
Mini Coordinator	Robin Kay	Under 15s	Dave Gilvray
Youth Coordinator	David Gilder	Under 16s	Brian Pemberton
Registration Secretaries	Katrina Holbrook/ Anne Molyneaux	Under 17s	Aidan Thomas
Publicity	Ben Rooney	Colts	Billy Maddams
Mini Parent Rep	Mark Parker	Fillies (girls)	Mark Parker
Youth Parent Rep	Sue Sibthorp	Senior Chairman	Barrie Winwood

www.pitchero.com/clubs/braintreerugbyunionfootballclub/

How to keep the Fix Sec happy ...



Fixtures

Having taken on the role of fixtures secretary, I will hopefully still be in such good humour if invited to write for this esteemed publication in the coming months.

Things have started well; my fellow fix secs have so far been answering their phones and replying to emails. These may seem very minor achievements but being able to contact people certainly helps.

As you will all see from the invaluable yellow books, all age groups have a very full programme of matches. Once again we are indebted to

Barrie Winwood for his hard work last season, which is why you all have so much rugby ahead of you this season. If I do my new job properly in the coming months next season's book will be as full.

A short note to all coaches and managers in our youth and mini section.

The easy way to a happy fixture secretary:
Keep me informed of any contact regarding your games.

Don't make fixtures for yourself.

No late cancellations
Here's wishing you all an enjoyable season.

Dave Gilder
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