



Datchworth Rugby Football Club

MINI MATTERS & YOUTH NEWS



Week 10

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd November 2019

Hello, to all Datchworth, Mini Section Coaches, Managers, Players, Parents and Supporters,

Week 10... where on earth do you start to sum up this weekend at Datchworth? A huge crowd came on Saturday morning for our Club Atmosphere, (for at least the first three minutes of the game)... and of course our breakfast for the World Cup Final that was the kick-off of our 50th Anniversary Celebration weekend. England didn't perform to their potential and the World Cup slipped away with a third win for South Africa. Despite the disappointment for most the party atmosphere soon recovered, and we were all soon enjoying an excellent Girls game between Old Albanians and our own U13s. The Girls game was followed by a fixture with Hitchin which was an excellent and close fought game that proved the perfect way to celebrate 50 years of Rugby at Datchworth..... pleasingly we won... see combined picture below!



With the game complete we moved to the marquee for the hog-roast and fantastic live music from 5th Wheel! The party stayed in full swing until late into the evening with everyone having a really good time! On Sunday we welcomed Old Grammarians in all Mini Age groups and three youth age-groups for another full day celebration on and off the rugby pitch. Almost all the games were tightly fought encounters with the age-groups enjoying some great rugby. The stories of this weekends Mini and Youth rugby are told below.....



Ladies First

Our U13s girls kicked off our 50th Anniversary celebrations on the pitch with a fixture against Old Albanians. Datchworth were joined by 3 of their playing buddies from Harpenden for the day in a 9 a-side event. The girls were faced with a bigger and somewhat more boisterous crowd than they were used to but both sides rose to the occasion and put on a great display of rugby. It was an evenly matched affair with both sides making some great carries, crunching tackles and silky offloads. Our girls were 4-2 up with 5 minutes to play before OAs drew level with 2 quick scores. In true Hollywood style after a defensive battle on their 5 metre line, Datch made a break to score a winning try to finish the game. A great way to start the afternoon's play. Thank you to our guests, OAs and Harpenden, for helping to make the day so special. And thank you to all those you came out to support them.



Mini Section

U7s Home Vs Old Grammarians RFC

The 50th Anniversary weekend started bright and sunny for Datchworth U7s as we met our opponents Old Grammarians for a fixture on home ground. We began the morning with some warm-ups en masse, separated for some passing drills and then moved onto matches. Datchworth U7s had 11 players in attendance and with a bit of player sharing we managed three teams apiece. Overall the standard of play was very good, we began to see the practice sessions and drills coming into fruition as our players ran excellent support, passed smoothly and quickly to the nearest player and made some fantastic tries. We rounded off our session with an assault course which both Datchworth and The Old Grammarians enjoyed very much.

The U7s have really started to show their strength, their performance was very dominant throughout all the matches. Very impressive boys, well done! Our MOTM this week goes to Hugo, for being focussed and on task. He managed five turnovers by consistently pushing forward, which flustered the opposition into making mistakes, he also displayed great determination and enthusiasm. Excellent job Hugo! Finally, thank you as always to our parent support team for helping to make the day a success.



U8s Home Vs Old Grammarians RFC

Datchworth 50th celebration saw the Old Grammarians visit Datchworth and the under 8s had a surprisingly good turnout given half term. We played some very competitive matches.

Datchworth focused on straight running and defensive line speed, with great success. Flustering the opposition lead to turnover opportunities, as did both sides managing to rip 7 tags on a number of occasions. It was an outstanding team performance and Samuel L-K won the trophy due to his excellent tagging, turn overs and try scoring. Well done Samuel!



U9s Home Vs Old Grammarians RFC

Another great weekend of rugby at Datch with the U9s celebrating Datchworth's 50th birthday with our old friend Old Grammarians. The OGs brought 20 capable players with them allowing us to play two games of 20 mins each to get the most out of the players. After a quick warm up and introduction, both teams got down to work quickly with some excellent running rugby.

Learning from previous weeks, Datch started well with all team members getting involved when they had to. Earlier this year we decided that we would nominate a scrum half for each team and this has really helped with the shape of the team when we have the ball, which other clubs have struggled against. This week, Kieran and Fin J took on the role and both excelled at getting to the tackle area



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and organising the first pass at a good pace. Every week we are looking to make small changes to cut down on the the simple errors needed to improve our game: 1) going to ground early to allow better shape and not get pushed out and 2) not dropping the ball when tackled. Again, the boys took note of this allowing them to build phases when they had the ball. James P and James S used this tactic to continuously cut inside after having made ground in the wide, and I don't recall too many dropped balls from any player.



Another improvement this week was in the tackle, especially getting there and being more assertive. I'm not sure if it was weeks of seeing the pros do it, but this week so many players stepped up and into the tackle with great bravery. Noah got stuck in and took a bash to the leg which took him out for a few moments but got back to help his team, and Kryan was back from breaking his arm and gently got back into it by getting a bloody nose from somewhere. Overall all, players finished on their feet and did Datch super proud with their skill and attitude along with decibels in the three cheers!

The team coached by Wes and Alastair started their game well with Finlay talking to the scrum half role like a duck to water and this certainly supported the attacking line to get more structure and move the ball forward. During this match the team tackled well, and it was impressive to see Harry, James and Finlay driving players of the pitch at every opportunity. We were also beginning to run with the ball and passing through the hands which was great to see. At the end of game one the main conversation was around; spreading out in defence, stepping in from the touch line, continuing the tackling and using the width of



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the pitch. Game two started a little slowly allowing OGs a couple of straight forward tries before we stepped back up to the levels of the previous game. We saw plenty of strong running from Finlay and Harry, great line breaks from Edward and fast feet from William, Finlay and Max. The highlight of the game was when Datch were awarded a turnover on their own 5m and Finlay L passed to Finlay J who took the ball forward and just before contact passed to Harry, Harry took the contact and that set the ball through a number of hands before we scored in the top corner. After this the team never looked back and the boys should be very proud of this excellent team try and also the ferocious line speed and tackling displayed in the last three minutes of this game which was absolutely awesome.

Player of the week this week goes to a player who continues to improve every week, with this week a huge step up into the contact with a superb attitude of chasing down players that look like they are away. This attitude and great technical execution in the tackle (tackling from the side and behind!) not only stopped at least two tries but gives great encouragement to the team that there is tackling cover wide and behind. This week's player of the week goes to Max K!

Next week we are at home training to allow some work on a few areas of improvement with possibility of adding some backs moves. Massive thanks to parents, carers, and family for your continued support on this a brilliant weekend of rugby at Datchworth. Note: all players - you are responsible for your kit which includes gum shields ;)



Mini Chairman's note....the additional photographs included this week record the presentation of the U9s with their winning trophy from the recent Barnet Festival...well done to all.. a great achievement and another trophy that is now proudly on display in the Club Trophy Cabinet.

U10s Home Vs Old Grammarians RFC

It was great to welcome two teams from OG's to help celebrate the clubs 50th birthday.

For the first time since our under 6 days Titch and Casey were early – obviously this had nothing to do with the World Cup Final result... well played South Africa. In remarkably good weather after a short warm up we got down to our fixtures. Both the OG teams were well drilled outfits that provided a real challenge for our boys. It was really encouraging to see the effort that the Datchworth players put in. All the coaches have explained to the boys a number of times that we are not bothered about who is scoring the try – what we look for is the work before that. Who is setting up the ruck, who is making the tackle, who is supporting their team-mates? And in these fixtures against strong opposition this was especially important.

So it was great to see how ALL of our boys got stuck in and involved in the games. There was some great tackling this week by everyone – we will need to keep working on this, but that is always the case in rugby. And once we realised the OG teams were not going to let us easily win our own rucks the boys started to really front up in this area as well. We also had some strong running by the boys, but we do need to remember against bigger or stronger teams we should set up rucks rather than get involved in mauling.



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We had some good lessons this week. And we spoke about the fact that as much as we would love to, we will not win every fixture – but you can still really enjoy good hard rugby fixtures like the ones at the weekend and learn lots from them. The OG teams really showed us how good passing before being tackled is the next step for our boys. Some good things to work on came out of the weekend and I think over the last two weekends we have really seen several the boys take another step forward in their rugby.

This week's player of the week was Joshie. Well done!!! Lots of positives to work on at training this week!



U11s Home Vs Old Grammarians RFC

Happy 50th Birthday Datchworth. A fantastic weekend of celebrations, a huge well done and thankyou to all of those people that made it happen. One slight blot, England falling at the last hurdle in what was a wonderful World Cup campaign. Congratulations South Africa, worthy champions.

It has been a couple of seasons since we last played against Old Grammarians, today proved it's a fixture we would like every season home and away (note to fixture sec). On and Off the field, both sets of players were a credit to their clubs and coaches, behaviour and sportsmanship spot on.

Two Pitches, two teams of mixed ability with replacements from each club. The rugby was very physical with players putting their bodies on the line. Both clubs putting the ball through the hands and trying to put their players in to space. There was some wonderful rugby played and it was good to see our players showing endeavour and the right attitude from the first whistle.

It was an evenly matched fixture with and a lot for us as coaches to take away and work on Thursday and next Sunday's training days before we embark on 3/4 fixtures against strong opposition. Well done, a strong benchmark today it's important we keep moving forward and try to avoid any steps back.



U12s Home Vs Old Grammarians RFC

A bright autumn morning greeted the under 12's for the match against OG's to celebrate 50 years of the Datchworth rugby club. OG's turned up with some good numbers & we were depleted by half term, so we decided to play one 12 a side game and then a smaller Barbarians game with the remaining players. OG's were a big and aggressive side and the boys did extremely well to stay competitive over the 2 games we played. Some tough but valuable lessons were learnt by the boys in terms of being fully committed in the tackle and if we miss first up tackles how costly it can be. Despite the old flair up which is understandable considering the size mismatches the games were played in the right spirit. The boys should be proud of their efforts in some very testing circumstances. Hopefully Finlay's hand is ok we don't need any more additions to our injury list.

Youth Section

U13s – Home Vs Old Grammarians RFC

The U13's took on Old Grammarians in a prelude to us playing them early next year in the league. It was going to be tough for our team as they brought over 20 players and we had 15 due to holidays and a couple of injuries. We got off to a slow start, with OG's running in three quick tries in the first 12 minutes mainly though using a couple of big fast runners to out-flank our defensive line. However we got stuck back in after 18 minutes through a well-worked move off a penalty in their 22 to put Lucas in to score.



That raised the boys' spirits a lot and from then on through the rest of the game we traded tries and it was very evenly matched. We started the second half with a try following a great combination of Tom and Troy offloading between each other to score from halfway. Then we got another couple through excellent opportunism on chasing down our kicks and their poor defence, firstly through Troy and then Theo. Overall, we ended up losing 20-35 but we had the upper hand during the second half and put in a credible performance against a good team. Finally, well done to captain Tom Parman for getting Player of the Week.

U15s – Home Vs Old Grammarians RFC (Datch 26 – 46 OGs)



U17s – Winners against Old Grammarians RFC (53 – 19).



50th Anniversary Game

Some wonderful photographs from the 50th Anniversary Game with Hitchin... We won!



More Photos from the anniversary weekend are available via the links below:

<https://www.datchworthrugby.club/photos/50th-anniversary-xv-vs-hitchin-922815.html>

<https://www.datchworthrugby.club/photos/datch-50th-anniversary-girls-vs-oas-922407.html>

<https://www.datchworthrugby.club/photos/50th-anniversary-social-922818.html>



Senior Rugby Fixtures:

After the excitement of the 50th Anniversary Weekend next week are back to normal and our First XV are hosting Hackney, our Second XV are away to Tring and our Third XV are hosting St Albans. Good luck to all three teams!

2019/2020 Datchworth fixtures Home								
Date	1st team	H/A	2nd team	H/A	3rd team	H/A	Total	Total Home
14-Sep	Hemel Hempstead	A	Hatfield	A	Barnet Eliz 2	H	3	1
21-Sep	Luton	H	O.Grammarians	A	Beaconsfield 3	H	3	2
28-Sep	Fullerians	A	OA Gladiators	H	Cheshunt 3	A	3	1
5-Oct	Letchworth	A					1	
12-Oct								RWC Eng v Arg 9am KO
19-Oct	London Welsh	H	Cheshunt 2	A	Welwyn 3	H	3	2
26-Oct	Grasshoppers	A	Welwyn 2	H	Royston 2	A	3	1
2-Nov	50th O Grammarians	H	50th O Grammarians		50th O Grammarians		1	1
9-Nov		H	Tring 3	A	St Albans 3	H	2	2
16-Nov	Hampstead	A	BS Chindits	H	Biggleswade 3	A	3	1
23-Nov	Chiswick	H	Enfield 2	A	H Hempstead 3	H	3	2
30-Nov							1	1
7-Dec	Hammersmith & F	A	Letchworth 2	H	Mill Hill 2	A	3	1
14-Dec	Welwyn	H	O Grammarians	H	Beaconsfield 3	A	3	1
21-Dec								
28-Dec								
4-Jan								
11-Jan	Luton	A	OA Gladiators	A	Cheshunt 3	H	3	1
18-Jan	Fullerians	H	Cheshunt 2	H	Welwyn 3	A	3	2
25-Jan	Letchworth	H	Welwyn 2	A	Royston 2	H	3	2
1-Feb	London Welsh	A					1	
8-Feb								Eng V Sco 16:45 KO in Sco
15-Feb	Grasshoppers	H	Tring 3	H	St Albans 3	A	3	2
22-Feb	Hackney	A	B S Chindits	A	Biggleswade 3	H	3	1
29-Feb	Hampstead	H	Enfield 2	H	H Hempstead 3	A	3	2
7-Mar								Eng v Wal 16:45 KO Twickenham
14-Mar								Eng v Ita 16:45 KO in Ita
21-Mar	Chiswick	A	Letchworth 2	A	Mill Hill 2	H	3	1
28-Mar	Hammersmith & F	H	Hatfield	H	Barnet Eliz 2	A	3	2
4-Apr	Welwyn	A					1	
11-Apr								
18-Apr	Hemel Hempstead	H					1	1



Mid-Week Training Plan – Time & Pitch Space Allocations

Age Group	Head Coach	Pitch Space	Tuesday	Wednesday		Thursday		
			7 till 9	7 till 8	8 till 9	6 till 7	7 till 8	8 till 9
Senior Sides	Ian Reid	Full Pitch	Senior Session					8-9
U18	Simon Little							
U17	Phil Barnes							
U15	Phil Nightingale	1/2 Pitch					7-8	
U14	Andrew Howard	1/2 Pitch					7-8	
U13	Warren Sullivan	1/2 Pitch		7-8				
U12	Darren Hales	1/2 Pitch				6-7		
U11	Danny Shurety	1/2 Pitch				6-7		
U10	Pip Gray TBC	TBC						
Girls	Phil Solomon	½ Pitch		7-8				

Mini Mid-Week Training:

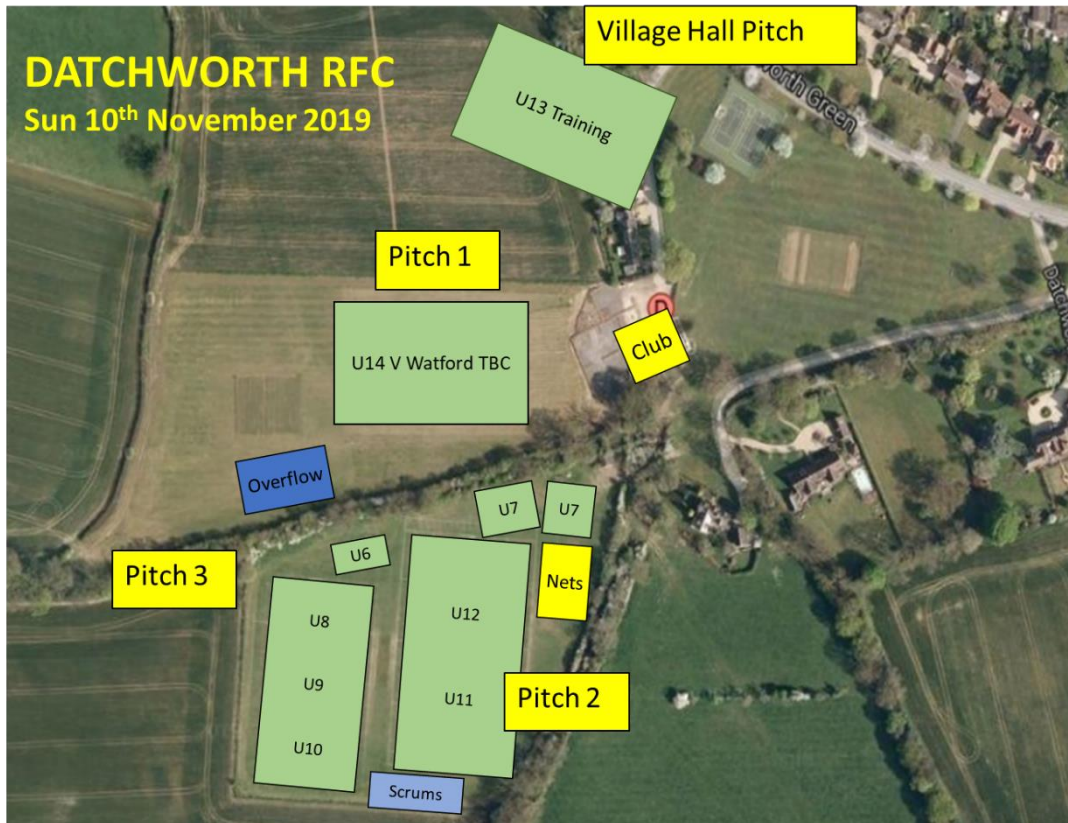
- Mid-week training is as above this season, confirm starting dates with your age group manager.
- Any squad with 6 till 7 can start earlier if Coaches / Players are able to do-so.
- Later Sessions must end very promptly to give squads training 8-9 a full hour.



Week 11 Arrangements

- Next weekend the U12s are on Parking Duty in the morning.
- The Girls Section will collect cones at the end of the day following their afternoon fixture.

Pitch Arrangements: Sunday 10th November



- Next weekend the Mini Section, U6s to U12s are all at home training at Datchworth. Meet at 10 for a 10:30 start.
- The U13s are Training (Village Hall Pitch)
- The U14s are playing Watford (location TBC)
- The U15s are away Vs Kilburn Cosmos
- The U17s are away Vs Fullarians
- The Girls are hosting a festival event on Sunday afternoon from 1pm

Minis Tour to Hilltop and Holt RFC

We are heading to Holt!! I am pleased to say most age groups now have a team to enter to the festival so the tour will be as planned! If you are still undecided the more the merrier and a few extras in each age group would help with the matches on the Sunday. Please email your age group manager or Nicola (mrsnicolahoward@outlook.com) but here are the headlines;

- When; April 10-12th 2020; Where; Hilltop activity centre Sheringham and Holt RFC Norfolk
- Who; Age groups U7 – U12
- Cost; Total £145 per person (2 nights' accommodation, full day of activities evening entertainments, tour top and festival) **Deposits £50/person** final payments due 14th Feb 2020.



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Mini Section Club Fixtures - 2019-20 Season:

Week	Date	Datchworth RFC Mini Section 2019/20 – 50th Playing Season	Car Parking
10	03-Nov	50 th Anniversary Games V Old Grammarians RFC (Minis AM / Youth PM)	U8 AM / Youth PM
11	10-Nov	Mini Section & U13s Training at Datchworth 10 till 12	U12 AM / Girls PM
		U14s Vs Watford (kick off at 11am)	
		Girls Section Event from 1pm	
12	17-Nov	Away Fixture Vs Letchworth RFC & St Albans RFC (at Letchworth)	Youth
13	24-Nov	Home Fixture Vs Luton RFC (all age groups)	U11
14	01-Dec	Away Fixture Vs Welwyn RFC (all age groups)	Youth
15	08-Dec	Away Fixture Vs Fullarians RFC (all age groups)	Youth
16	15-Dec	Training at Datchworth	U10
17	22-Dec	Xmas Fun Day Training – Santa Clause and Club Festive Morning	TBC
18	29-Dec	XMAS & NEW YEAR BREAK – NO RUGBY	No Rugby

DRFC Social Calendar – 2019/20 (50th Playing Season).

Month	Date(s)	Club Event
<i>December</i>	Sat 14 th Dec	VP Lunch – First XV Vs Welwyn Christmas Jumper Game
	Sun 22 nd Dec	Mini Section Santa's Grotto & Christmas Drinks
<i>January</i>		<i>Events – Age Group Quiz</i>
<i>February</i>	Sun 2 nd Feb	6 Nations Games - France V England 15:00 Big Screen & Big Atmosphere in the Club House
	Sat 8 th Feb	6 Nations Games - Scotland V England 16:45 Big Screen & Big Atmosphere in the Club House
	Sun 23 rd Feb	6 Nations Games – England V Ireland 15:00 Big Screen & Big Atmosphere in the Club House
<i>March</i>	Sat 7 th March	6 Nations Games - England V Wales 16:45 Big Screen & Big Atmosphere in the Club House
	Sat 14 th March	6 Nations Games - Italy V England 16:45 Big Screen & Big Atmosphere in the Club House



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	Fri 21 st March	50 th Anniversary Club Dinner & Dance (Tewin Bury Farm)
April	10 th to 12 th Apr	Holt Tour 2019 (U7s to U12s Rugby Tour Weekend)
	Sat 18 th Apr	Senior Section End of Season Awards (Band & Drinks)
May	Sun 3 rd May	End of Season Mini & Youth Award Day Presentation and Party

Closing Notes

This week the Closing Notes really need to record the Clubs thanks to a number of people who really did work hard in different ways over the weekend to make the whole event happen. Alex Rabson, Mitch, Noel, Ian Little, Nic Gudgin, Steph Hoare all worked very hard along with others to decorate the Marquee and sort out the Gazebo, BBQ and lighting for us on Friday evening. On Saturday the Kitchen team worked incredibly hard preparing breakfasts and then running a very busy BBQ throughout the day. On Sunday the U8s led by Kellie did a fantastic job of car park marshalling on a very busy day. On both days Jackie coordinated the raffle and raffle prizes. Many people enjoyed the excellent video Montage that was on display in the Club House that was expertly put together by Phil Soloman. Thanks also to Paul Ward for acting as official photographer throughout the weekend. Lastly on Sunday the help of Duncan, Jeremy, Rob, Ian, Neal, Noel, Alex, Jason and Mitch was all greatly appreciated as the Marquee was sorted ready to return the club to 'normal'! The success of the weekend speaks volumes to the one Club Mantra that we pride ourselves on at Datchworth and despite the World Cup disappointment everyone enjoyed a very memorable weekend at the Club both on and off the pitch!

Have a great week

Best wishes,

Andrew

Andrew Howard

Datchworth Rugby Football Club

