

DATCHWORTH RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



# GREEN ARMY

THE MINI & YOUTH WEEKLY RUGBY UPDATE

WEEK 9 - 2022/23 SEASON

SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022

Chairman's welcome & overview:

The highlights from this weekend was provided by the Mini Fixture with Enfield on Sunday Morning. Every age-group enjoyed a good fixture with reasonably well matched numbers. A special mention to the Nick, Steve and Lewis from the U10s who were out in force with other parents to help with Car Parking this Sunday morning. The Senior Section had mixed fortunes; a disappointing home defeat for the First XV against Old Streetonians and a welcome win for the Third XV.

The stories of this weekend's rugby are share below:

## Mini Section News

### AGE GROUP MANAGERS **STILL** NEEDED:

**YOUR CLUB**



Some of you will be aware that a couple of our age-groups need a manager to support the Coaches with the mangement side of our age-groups. Currently we are looking for a manager to step forward for the U6s and U8s. If you are interested in taking on the manager role please drop me a WhatsApp or email.... Your support would be greatly appreciated.

e. [andrewdhoward@outlook.com](mailto:andrewdhoward@outlook.com) / m. 07880179365



### U6 Update: Home Training

A bit of a rainy start to this week's training but Datchworth's youngest players certainly didn't let that stop them!

After a few warm up games of Stuck in the Mud where we practiced using our voices to call to our teammates for help we then had a Halloween themed game of Zombie Tag. We've noticed that side stepping and moving around our opponents is something we need to work on so we practiced our side steps by dodging the static Zombies who would try to grab our tags as we shot past....well done U6s!

We finished our session with a focus on formations while playing: holding the defensive line when defending and maintaining the 'V' for victory when attacking. The team all did remarkably well with this and should be proud of how far they've come in such a short space of time. Keep up the hard work, U6s!

Huge thanks to Finn's Dad, Ben for helping out this week...your advice and knowledge was very much appreciated 👍

### U7 Update: Home V Enfield Ignations

A damp October Sunday saw Datchworth host Enfield at home. Comfortably the best fixture of the season so far saw a very well drilled visiting team come up against the might of the U7s. Datchworth's tenacity in attack swung the overall result in favour of the hosts. In order to keep the teams warm both sides opted to for 5v5 which meant the pitch was that much busier than a 4v4 match. This made for some closely fought contests, especially in the tag count, with special mention to Oscar, Ethan and Preston for their tireless work in defence.

Freddie R, Freddie B and Max and Ayotobi ran in a slew of tries to keep the scoring ticking over. However our teams joint players of the week, who had plenty of tricks up their sleeves, showed us just how committed (and brave!) Harriet and Poppy, who now deserve a good rest & lots of treats before coming back next weekend for some fireworks against Barnet! Special mention to the parents and First aiders who stepped in without our usual St John's presence to assist. Coaches would like to also politely suggest that now is the time for gum shields as the players grow, become faster and the likelihood of knocks increases. See you all next week.



**U8 Update: Home V Enfield Ignations**

Sunday morning saw the U8s continue their great start to the season as we welcomed Enfield. We were matched exactly with Enfield for numbers and with 12 players from the squad attending we were able to compete in 2 games of 6v6 tag rugby.

The squad put the previous week's training into action and we saw fantastic organisation with whole teams acting as a defensive line and even more impressively walking up together to put pressure on the attacking team. This led to Enfield running backwards and they soon buckled as Datchworth gained turnover ball again and again.

Some individual brilliance from our flyers and with support running from others, Datchworth crossed the line several times for some impressive tries. Datchworth's strength in depth and ability to field two strong teams was too much for Enfield to handle and our U8s won all four halves to secure wins in both games.

A special shout out to our star of the week, Ted. Showing leadership and organisational skills, he led the defensive lines and created cohesion as a team. He also got knocked down but showed determination and resilience in bouncing back up dusting himself off and getting stuck back in. Well done, Ted.



**U9 Update: Home V Enfield Ignations**

Enfield U9's visited Datchworth this week and with them came the rain. During the warmup Coach Jack practiced catching with the hands and chest to overcome the wet, slippery ball.

This proved decisive in the games as we definitely made fewer handling errors. Enfield came with 12 players, so we played 2 x games of six a side with a few subs for Datchworth. Hattie and Romilly were out team captains today and didn't they do well. Our attack as always was so effective early on but it was our defence that was troublesome for Enfield as they struggled to get through and score. What's very encouraging is that we're all getting more confident to tackle which is great for the U9's.



All of the above plus our closing down opposition space when in defence makes us very hard to play against, which shows with our long unbeaten run.



Players of the week were Jack Taylor (for his excellent attacking and tackling) and Charlie Blackman (for his brilliant go forward attitude). Well done guys.



### U10 Update: Home V Enfield Ignations

A lot of players missing this week made for a tough fixture for the 11 players facing Enfield this week. With strong numbers from Enfield fielding over twenty players, our one team had to face two full games against a much fresher Enfield especially towards the end of the games. The U10's game play has seen such improvement over the past few weeks that the tired legs hardly seemed to matter. Some amazing play from every player in the team this week with notable plays from every single player at some point in the games including surging runs from Ivy and Aiden which were unfortunate not to have produced a try.



The work we have been doing on positioning in the ruck was clearly paying dividends and the number of secured rucks and in fact turn over balls is greatly increased. Positioning on the pitch is improving with every game allowing some lovely runs to develop. We need to concentrate on not gifting the ball to the opposition with panic passes and open ball carries allowing them to easily rip, but in general the standard of play is improving every week which is a credit to every player on the pitch.

Player of the week this week went to Lawson Ansell whose sturdy drives through the middle of the pitch every week are becoming a staple offensive tactic, usually drawing at least three players to create space for the layoff. This week however Lawson was fully committed all over the pitch and made a number of great tackles as well as his half pitch surge (with a number of opposition attached) ending in a try. Fantastic performance.



### **U11 Update: Home V Enfield Ignations**

It was a damp clock changing, Sunday morning, that didn't deter our squad of 18 brave, under elevens turning up on time for our clash with Enfield Ignations. It seemed like the trick of the extra hours sleep and the chocolate intake really made for a treat of exceptional rugby. We split into two teams and after a thorough warm up and some handling and tackling drills we went straight into two matches playing 12.5min halves.

Both Datchworth teams were absolutely fantastic coming out of the traps with a pace and enthusiasm that seemed to overpower a well organised and drilled Enfield and demonstrating a hunger for the ball and try scoring that was hard for the opponents to compete with.

Our speed at the breakdown and ability to win the ball at the turn overs meant that we were able to keep control of the ball and our strong tackling meant that the visitors were unable to really challenge the score line which ended up a little one sided.

One of our teams didn't concede any tries and the other only 1 in each match, in what was a great display of skill and strength from the home team, where everyone played their part.

We would ideally like to see some more passing before or upon taking contact to move the ball quicker from side to side to create and exploit overlaps but it was hard to find any fault in Sundays performance.

There were a number of superb individual performances and great to see how all of our players are developing on their individual strengths and contributing to a great overall team performance.

The player of the week this week was awarded to Hardy, whose tackling and energy was outstanding during both matches, and he also did some great running and a well deserved accolade for a great performance.

We would like to thank Zac for sharing his dry robe to keep our subs warm on the sidelines and to say that we look forward to welcoming Barnet next week and seeing if we can build on another top performance.





## U12 Update: Home V Enfield Ignations

With slightly better weather this week, we welcomed Enfield to Datch's first pitch for a real battle of rugby. Enfield travelled with 23 players so we knew we were going to have to compete across the morning if we were to stay in the matches and take our opportunities when they arose. Here's a round up of the morning.

### Game 1

From the very first kick off it was obvious this was going to be a very frantic game. Enfield were well drilled in the breakdown and ruck but Datch had the better handling in attack. It was end to end stuff with neither team really dominating but, through good running from the forwards to make ground, the back line was able to spread the play. This put pressure on Enfield who's press caught them out crucially near the goal line from which we could power over from a short distance. Both teams had opportunities to score but chose the wrong option, so when scores were taken it made the difference. Think we sneaked this one but lots to learn especially in the front row where Enfield were excellent.



### Game 2

Second match and this was going to be interesting as Enfield weren't going to change their squad every 20mins but run them through in 30min blocks meaning our team would have to take on a fully warmed-up and ready team. And take them on they did, with both a defensive shift that stopped at least 2 goal bound tries and enough skill in the backs to get out of trouble and make up ground. One area that we need to see if we can practice is not getting sucked into the ball without doing something. The crowded midfield meant we couldn't get the ball out wide as much as we would like. Not sure on a score but certainly held their own.

### Game 3

The final 20 minutes with probably even scores (although we're not counting remember). The first 30minuters got to finally have a rest having put in a real shift. This



allowed those who had a 10min break to return afresh, but Enfield were not going to let anyone have a rest, with Datch showing better handling skills in the backs but Enfield had the power in the rucks with successful turnovers as Datch hadn't committed enough or strong enough to keep the ball. However, as with the other matches it was our ability to recycle and then direct running that made the difference with scores coming from breaking the line. Throughout the morning, Enfield didn't let up so it was great to see Charlie controlling the ball and getting it moving. Jamie working at full back covered a lot of ground until a knock took him off. It is this total squad effort that will allow us, going into Juniors, to be able to take on big clubs without worrying. Can't remember the score but some of you may have been counting.

A great morning of rugby with everyone putting in a shift. Even the weather approved with no one getting too wet. A couple of good performances of note (some of them from Enfield but that will be in their newsletter). Jamie who stopped a wide break before going off with a knock. Aidan was great going forward, constantly breaking the line and making territory. Oscar in his first game for Datch was constantly active in defence and attack. Tommy started to balance strength and speed in attack and Nathan who had one of his games where he was everywhere saving a try on the wing and at what seemed like every ruck and tackle (and that catch at kick off!).

Our Player of the Week goes to Oli who has brought an excellent attacking game in the outside which stretches the game. This, plus a fend that we all need to learn and a listening attitude that allows him to improve in-game. Well done Oli!

Next Week:

Thursday Training: 6pm  
Sunday Home: 9:30am vs Barnet

Reminders:

1. Towel in the car as players come back wet. If they have a change of clothes even better
2. Bring a plastic bag or something to put coats/tops in so they don't get soaked if it's raining.



## Boys Youth Rugby News

U13 Update: Training

Today's session was all about working on our skills rather than team play. Firstly, was a lot of work on our handling, really concentrating on getting the boys to catch the ball away from their bodies so that they can quickly get a pass away if needed. By the end of the handling drills we were really seeing some improvement.





Next, we moved onto a drill to encourage the boys to use their footwork to beat defenders. There was a few of the boys that still wanted to stick their heads down and go straight ahead. But we did get them all pulling out some strong side steps. All the boys need to keep thinking that if they decide to run with the ball during games the aim to make themselves as hard as possible to be tackled!

We then moved on to some defensive drills. First concentrating on the tackle technique then on defensive line organization. These are two areas that we need to keep working on.

We finished the session wishing Bryn a very happy birthday by a good old-fashioned pile up!

#### **U14 Update: Training**

A busy week of training for the boys this week, with both Wednesday and Sunday sessions focussed on skills development. Thanks go to Woody for stepping in to coach alongside Jason on Wednesday, whilst Coaches Dave and Duncan spent half term consuming puddings in Bakewell!

Sunday saw a bright morning at Datch and following a nice win (52-27) for the 3VX on Saturday (If any of our awesome parents and carers would like to train or play do ping us. Advert over back to U14s!) we had a great turnout, with 26 boys training. A quick pit-stop on the 1st Team pitch for the squad photo and we got back to bringing together into the game the specific work we have covered separately on defence and attack. Thanks coach Nick for the spare match shirts for the photo as we ran out – the boys will be pleased to hear that the missing shirt has been located in the U13 box.

We started with a “flair square” to get the boys’ heart rates up and present a problem to solve – scoring in a small space. Each of our 4 teams had 2 attempts, and fair to say that the progression in round 2 was evident – teamwork, width and depth on the ball key, with a healthy dose of communication. We built on this using the “A B C” defensive shape which our senior section use (in just over 2 seasons our players will be eligible to play senior rugby – where does the time go?), building on the work Pumbaa and Woody, our recent guest coaches, introduced. Straight into a touch game with the encouragement of securing a turnover just by having the defensive shape in place working well – lots of turn overs and the best defensive structure we have see to date at a training session (imho!).

Next was another skill zone, this time on 1:1 tackle technique, with the twist of not knowing who was going to run at whom in a 1:1 tackle. We will continue to focus on this to build our players confidence at every session – at least for 10 mins or so. Combined with our defensive structure this will help the squad to contain the opposition. We then moved to bring the defensive line and an attacking shape into action for the final 15 mins, moving to a full contact 13 a side game – with points rewarding the pass to depth (triple points), a kick (double points) and positioning a complete A B C (worth 5 also), to ensure that players had these options prominent in



their minds. The game play was good, but also fair to say that as we tired the defensive shape suffered first. Fewer A B C calls were audible and we lost our depth on the play. Key point for the coaches was the players awareness of this – if you are not aware then you cannot take action. Working on how we manage fatigue is another thread you will see worked on as we move through the season and into the new year.

We look forward to our friendly with Letchworth next week, followed by our next league game with Old Grammarians visiting us the week after.

### **U16 Update: Training**

This week our U16's had another joint training session at Royston, with reduced numbers due to half term. We started off doing some defensive line awareness and



tackling, eventually migrating to a practice game. All was going well until near the end of the session unfortunately Harry Hatch fell badly in a tackle and broke his arm. Thankfully he's doing OK and is on the mend, all of our best wishes go out to him and his family.

### **U17/ 18 Academy – Training**

Debut for Logan with the 1st XV against Streetonians on Saturday. Sadly, he did not get a chance to show his attacking ability, but performed well in defence, and worked hard throughout the game.


We only had 11 boys for training on Sunday, but an excellent session was led by Duncan and Phil, and the boys worked really hard.

Next week we are away at Welwyn RFC, timings tbc.



## Girls Youth Rugby News

### Girls Youth Update:

**U12's:** On Sunday the U12 girls joined forces with Bedford, Bishops Stortford, Harlow and Biggleswade for a 'Pitch Up and Play' hosted by Bedford Athletic Rugby Club. Neve, Sophie and Daisy all took part representing Datchworth with pleasure. 

Numbers were good so they all played a 60-minute game of full contact rugby. The Datchworth girls seamlessly slotted into a mainly Bishops Stortford side. Neve was the first to score a brilliant try, making a superb run to the try line. Meanwhile Daisy showed excellent tackle technique and confidence in attack. Sophie found her place on the wing and was able to be positioned herself perfectly to support and complete 2 tries. The final score was 8-8 reflecting a brilliant performance by all the girls.

**Wednesday Warrior.** Neve won Wednesday Warrior for excellent play in her first ever game of rugby last week. With two games under her belt now, it's amazing to see her confidence growing week on week. Well done, Neve.



**U14s:** A rest weekend for the u14's.

**U16s & Women:** We held a joint training session with the women and u16s girls this Sunday. The focus was on communication and defensive alignment. We had a bit of fun with a blindfold game with the players directing their teammate to pick up cones. We improvised with available clothing for the blindfolds. No one dared to ask Women's Captain Faye why she had 3 blindfolds good to go in her bag. Coach Phil joined in and thought he was doing an amazing job until he took the blindfold off and realised he was almost last. The rest of the session was games of touch, testing the players with changing of direction of attack, constantly needing to realign the defence under pressure. By the end, communication levels had gone up and everyone saw the link between that and being able to effectively realign. Special mention to Alice who was absolutely superb at getting the breakdown first, protecting a stealing ball with ease. Great job. This coming weekend we have a recruitment event for the whole Women & Girls section. Please take a look at the flyer coming out and encourage female friends and relatives to attend.

## Senior Men's Rugby Updates

### Men's Senior Rugby: Home V Old Streetonians

The First XV had another difficult afternoon at home against Old Streetonians losing 20 – 48. A Datchworth based Third XV Baa Baa side won 53 – 27 against Biggleswade.





## News & Events



### **Youth and Mini trip to Twickenham England Vs Japan 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Datchworth RFC are delighted to have secured 25 adult and 25 Child (U15) Tickets for the Autumn International Japan Vs England.

Tickets are available to paid members and priority will be given to those requesting equal numbers of adult and child tickets, this will hopefully prevent any odd numbers of child tickets being left unallocated.

Cost; all ticket purchases must include the Coach as part of the package to ensure a full coach and to make the coach affordable for all.

**1 x Adult (£44) / 1 x Child (£23) / Coach (£13 per seat) / Coach parking (£1.50 each) = £96**  
**(for 1 x adult / 1x child inc coach)**

To request an adult and child ticket please contact Nicola Howard ([mrsnicolahoward@outlook.com](mailto:mrsnicolahoward@outlook.com)) on a first come first served basis and on confirmation of your place(s) by Nicola please make payment directly to DRFC (or Cash to Nicola or Andrew)

Datchworth RFC

Acc. No. 10019884

Sort Code 16-00-30

Reference 'YourName EngVJap'

**Please note** – the England V Japan game is on the same afternoon / evening as the Hertford Flood Light Festival (Sat 12<sup>th</sup> November) that will include a single team from our U10s, U11s and U12s – if you are unable to watch England V Japan due to the Hertford Festival you will be given priority for tickets for the England V Italy 6 Nations Game in 2023.

**Please note** – the Child tickets are available to players up-to **15 years old** (U16 Age-Grade).



**2023 Holt Mini Tour Details:**

The annual and ever popular Minis tour to Norfolk is once again scheduled for April 2023! This tour is open for age groups U7-U12, Datch minis will be heading to Hilltop adventure centre for two nights of fun and activities followed by the participation in the Kingswood rugby festival at Holt RFC. Full details have been sent to your age group managers for distribution with this week's newsletter. Places are limited so if you would like to come or have any questions, please get in touch or complete the forms and send back to Nicola (by email [mrsnicolahoward@outlook.com](mailto:mrsnicolahoward@outlook.com) or by hand) ASAP!

This will be the last tour Nicola will be arranging so if you think this is an event you could help to arrange in future seasons to come please also get in touch with Nicola to give you an insight into the planning/logistics this season and can hand it over seamlessly for next season!



## Mini Section Fixtures Programme – Looking Ahead

Week	Date	Datchworth RFC Mini Section - Provisional 2022/23 – 53 <sup>rd</sup> Playing Season
10	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Datchworth Vs Barnet (Home Fixture) Colin Harrison - Confirmed
11	13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Datchworth Vs Letchworth & Hertford (3-way) Teresa Wingard / Paul Threfall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letchworth host U12 &amp; U10</li> <li>• Datchworth host U11 &amp; U9</li> <li>• Hertford host U8 &amp; U7</li> </ul>
12	20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Training @ Datchworth
13	27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Royston V Datchworth (Away Fixture) - Niall Tallis
14	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Datchworth Vs Biggleswade (Home Fixture) Phil Pearson - Confirmed
15	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Letchworth Vs Datchworth (Home Fixture) Teresa Wingard - Confirmed
16	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Santa Clause and Club Festive Morning Datchworth
17	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>XMAS &amp; NEW YEAR (No Rugby)</b>





## Mid-Week Training Plan

Age Group	Head Coach	Pitch Space	Tuesday	Wednesday		Thursday		
			7 till 9	6:30 till 7:30	7:30 till 9:00	6 till 7	7 till 8	8 till 9
Senior Sides	Simon Little	Full Pitch	Main First XV Session					8:00 till 9:00
U18 Academy	Phil Nightingale	½ Pitch					7: 00 till 8:00	
U17 Academy	Andrew Howard	½ Pitch					7: 00 till 8:00	
U16	Warren Sullivan	½ Pitch			7:30 till 9:00			
U15								
U14	David Gore	½ Pitch		6:30 till 7:30				
U13 (TBC)	Nick Broughton	1/3 Pitch				6:00 till 7:00		
U12	John McGinty	1/3 Pitch				6:00 till 7:00		
U11	Ben Wesson	1/3 Pitch				6:00 till 7:00		
Girls Squads	Phil Solomon	½ Pitch		6:30 till 7:30				
Women Side	Phil Solomon	½ Pitch			7:30 till 9:00			

### 2022 / 23 Season Rugby Membership:

Next weekend is week 6 of the Season and the last session, (for the Minis) before games start. Hopefully most have managed to join the Club for the Season ahead before the fixtures really kick-in across all age-groups. If you are yet to join and affiliate with the RFU please, try to do so next week. The Membership team, (as below), will all be able to help with any questions or concerns.

Jackie Lewis – Membership e. [lewismj68@hotmail.com](mailto:lewismj68@hotmail.com)

Diane Wyatt – Club Secretary e. [ldwyatt@hotmail.com](mailto:ldwyatt@hotmail.com)

Will Nash – Membership e. [will.nash@datchworthsportsclub.com](mailto:will.nash@datchworthsportsclub.com)



## Week 10 – November 6<sup>th</sup> Pitch Allocations & Car Park Plan

### Next Weekend – Week 10 (Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November)

Next weekend the U11s are on Car Park Duty at the start of the morning and the U14s are collecting the cones at the end of the morning.

### Arrangements: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022:

Mini Section – Home Vs Barnet Elizabethans 9:30 – 11:00

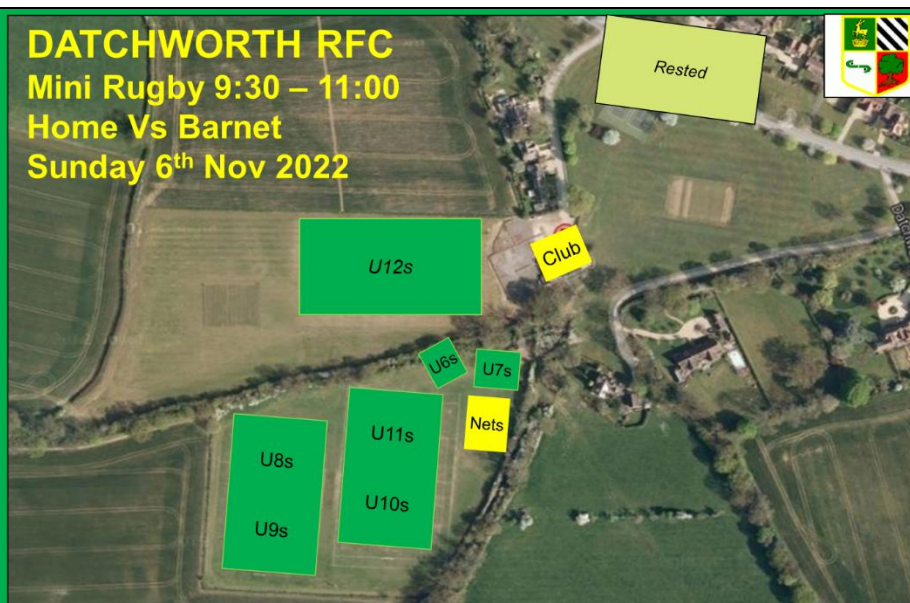
U13s - Training 11:30

U14s - Home Vs Letchworth 13:00 Kick Off

U16s - Away Vs Cheshunt

U17s - U18s / Academy – Away Vs Welwyn

Girls - Recruitment Event @ Home



*Closing Notes...*

We have another Home Mini Fixture next weekend as we look forward to welcoming Barnet to Datchworth. As you can see from this week's reports the Mini Section are in good shape; next weekend several Youth Sides are also back in action so good luck to all playing games next weekend; lastly the Girls Section are actively recruiting again next Sunday as they continue to build their player numbers.

Have a great week

Best wishes,

*Andrew*

**Andrew Howard**

**Chairman – Mini & Youth Rugby**

