



Datchworth Rugby Football Club

MINI MATTERS & YOUTH NEWS



Week 8

Sunday 20th October 2019

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

Week 8... what a weekend of Rugby! The Club has been busy throughout the weekend; starting on Saturday morning with the England V Australia Quarter Final game and breakfast, followed by the All Blacks win over Ireland before our own epic clash with London Welsh on Saturday afternoon! Sunday saw a great Mini Section friendly with Enfield Ignations against the backdrop of the Wales V France and South Africa V Japan quarter finals.... Closer to home the stories of this weekend's rugby are told below!

U6s Datchworth Training Session

A rare mild Sunday morning for the under 6s this weekend. We had a good turnout of 16 players we started off with stuck in the mud to get everybody warmed up and ready for the session. We then moved on to Rollerball relay again getting the kids to think more about picking the ball up and then passing to a coach. After that that we focused on more handling skills which was passing to the coach running around a cone, then taking the ball back and passed on to the next player. We then moved on to a 4 V 4 match encouraging children to pass the ball backwards and also begin to listen to stopping when tagged and resetting their lines. Finally we finish off of a game of bulldog and this week's player of the week was Darcy who was amazing throughout the session!



U7s Home Vs Enfield Ignations RFC

The U7s hosted their first fixture at home this week, we had nine players from Datchworth and eight visiting players from Enfield Ignations. The morning started with our usual warm up and Enfield joined us for the training drills. We then went onto play our matches, we played a total of three games and introduced the 'three-passes before a try' rule. This is a standard rule at Enfield, and it took a little time before our boys became confident at running forwards and then passing. However, they picked up the skill very quickly and we had some lovely phases of play as the day progressed.



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Throughout the matches we focused on passing to the nearest player in the correct place, being on-side, and staying within the boundaries of the pitch. We ended our session with an assault course.

Our Player of the Week went to Alexander, for epitomising the skills we were looking for. He was consistently in the right place to receive a pass after one of his teammates had been tagged. An excellent effort Alexander. Well done!

Finally, thank you to all the dads who joined in with assault course, and indeed to all the parents for supporting their children and making this a successful fixture.



U8s Home Vs Enfield Ignations RFC

This week the U8s hosted the familiar opposition of Enfield Ignations for our first home fixture of the season. It was great to see and hear some of the Datchworth players recognise some of their opponents from the numerous meetings last season.

With everyone arriving early we enjoyed quite a long morning of action, starting with some quick passing to warm up, followed by the matches kicking off promptly at 10:30. Enfield brought 2 teams to our 3 which meant there was the



unusual opportunity for the non-playing Datchworth players to cheer on their team mates in between games.

All the games were very evenly contested with multiple tries scored following several phases of play which is fast becoming something of a Datchworth speciality. The players are learning to support each other when in possession of the ball and are really benefiting from it. Our defensive play was also really strong with Datchworth winning the ball back from Enfield a few times following 6 tags.



Even though everyone played their part in another superb team

DRFC - Celebrating 50 Years of Rugby at Datchworth 2019-20



performance, Harry W won the player of the week trophy for his effort, determination and great side stepping skills. Even Enfield's eagle-eyed referee couldn't see which way he went - usually to the try line!

U9s Home Vs Enfield Ignations RFC

Back at home this week to welcome our friends from Enfield who brought with them 20 excellent players to take on the mighty Datch. After a quick warm-up where both Datch and Enfield proved they were equal at cheating at racing, we got stuck into two games and stuck in the boys did.

From the very first contact, Datch knew they were in a game. Enfield had taken to contact as well as our boys, and they had some significant players that Datch had to adjust to quickly with both physical tackling with direct running to deal with. We need to step up to this level quickly and make some good tackles, and it was Nathan first to highlight Datch's tackling power with a total take down of a blue and yellow shirt trying to go round the outside. Tackling was starting to come at a cost with many players feeling the reality of contact, but our strength in depth with players rolling on and off to keep Enfield at the top of their game. This first game did show a strength that we definitely had the edge in our width with good passing before the tackle stretching Enfield. Noah showed the skill and courage in the wings constantly chasing down and pushing forward, harrying the opposition in the wide.

The second game, with bruises and blood, took the game straight to Enfield with another show stopper tackle from Edward. Again James S was constantly in to the action harrying the ball carrier supported by Fin J and Max H. Kieran also showed great fitness and strength in supporting the tackle and pass. Like the previous game, the passing was a key strength with excellent width from Olly and Max K. Player of the week went to one of our stars in the wide. James P continues to be one to watch with great footwork, and a brain for space creating time for himself and teammates, before and after he gets a shot that the ball.

Next week we are back on the road but only up to Hitchin with a three- way fixture including Finchley. Big thanks to all the players and parents and carers as we continue our travels into rugby.



U10s Home Vs Enfield Ignations RFC

Following last week's gritty performance at Chess Valley, we all arrived at Datch for our fixture against Enfield with high expectations! Unfortunately, our performance this week didn't reach the levels of last week!

In patches, both our teams look really good with good technical tackling and aggressive rucking. However, at other times, the boys did not commit to either a tackle (waving the opposition through)

or the ruck (standing watching the other team securing the ball and not even attempting to ruck). This was disappointing following our aggression last week.

As a coaching team, we feel this is due to the boys still wanting the 'glory' of hands on the ball, running though players and scoring the try as this can also be seen when we have the ball, with each player running to try to score and very rarely looking for 2 or more passes or the offload. We have reached a point as a team when the development from tag into tackling and now rucking has meant that the team role of every player needs to be at the forefront. We don't play certain positions at this age group for a reason and unfortunately ALL players have to do ALL jobs. We need to be playing as a team, with it being irrelevant who starts with the ball, who runs with the ball and who score the try. Datchworth score the try, Datchworth run with the ball, Datchworth ruck and tackle.

We will take the positives of our performance into next week but a mind-shift needs to happen if we are to continue our great progress so far. Rugby is not an individual sport and when we think like this we are amazing! Lets all turn up with the new refreshed thinking and put it all into practice against local rival Hitchin next week.

Thanks to all our parents for their support this week both on the sidelines, carrying equipment and washing the shirts - it means a lot!

U11s Home Vs Enfield Ignations RFC

Firstly, I am pleased to report Bertie the young lad from Enfield who was blue lighted to hospital with a neck injury was released on Sunday afternoon with bad bruising.

Always good to welcome Enfield however, they were a little down on numbers as it is half term in North London.

We set up one pitch and rotated our three teams around their one. It gave us a chance to try players in different positions and combinations as we build into the season. We continued to play with structure and moving the ball quickly through the hands. We just need a little more composure in finishing when we get close to the opposition try line.

Similar to last week, every player was involved with a fantastic team ethic.

Player of the week was Alfie who is beginning to blossom into a very good player, two excellent try's. Well done.



U12s Datchworth Training Session

Due to a lack of available of numbers from Enfield we did not have a game and instead had an extra training session to build on the guy's skill base. We started with a game of rugby netball to get everyone lose and warmed up ready for some drills. When then focused on straightening the line

using quick feet and timing a sympathetic pass to our teammate. We then added some complexity with a scissors move of the first receiver which was a struggle for some to begin with, but we got there in the end! We finished with a lively game of touch to avoid any contact so as to not lengthen our already considerable injury list. All in all, a very constructive session so well done to all the boys!

YOUTH & GIRLS – Week 8

Next weekend sees the Youth training sessions starting a little later at 10.45 – 12.30 so the World cup semi final Wales V south Africa can be watched!! ***Summary from last weekend.....***

- **U13s – Training Session**
- **U14s – Training Session**
- **U15s – Away Vs Welwyn (Win 27 – 10) – see web site for full match report**
- **U17s – Away Vs Biggleswade (Lost 31 – 22)**

Girls Rugby

The u13s and u15s trained with a few of their Royston pals today while the u11s (a mixed Datch and Harpenden side) took centre stage with their first individual fixture against a strong Welwyn side.

The match was broken in to 4 quarters of 10 mins. The first was a very one-sided affair with Welwyn running in try after try with very little opposition. They were physically more dominant and aggressive in the tackle (which were high on too many occasions) and their skill level was a couple of notches above ours. However, given that many of this combined Datch/Harps side had only started playing rugby very recently they coped with it admirably. As the afternoon progressed the standard improved and by the last quarter it was a more evenly matched game. Tough matches such as these are a valuable learning experience for the girls and we will take plenty away from it. Well done to both sides for a good afternoon of rugby.



Senior Rugby Fixtures Update:

This weekend the First XV had another close fought battle with London Welsh. It was a great game and we were looking set to grab the win but ultimately fell just short as we ran out of time to sustain our strong second half come-back. The game ended 24 – 20 and we look forward to seeing them again in 2020 at Old Deer Park.



Datchworth Rugby Football Club

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 will be as above this season, confirm starting dates with your age group manager. We are aware that the plan detailed below does not work as well as hoped (very busy on Thursday with potential parking issues); these provisional arrangements may need to change to accommodate wishes where possible so at this stage this is the provisional arrangements going into the new season.
- 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.

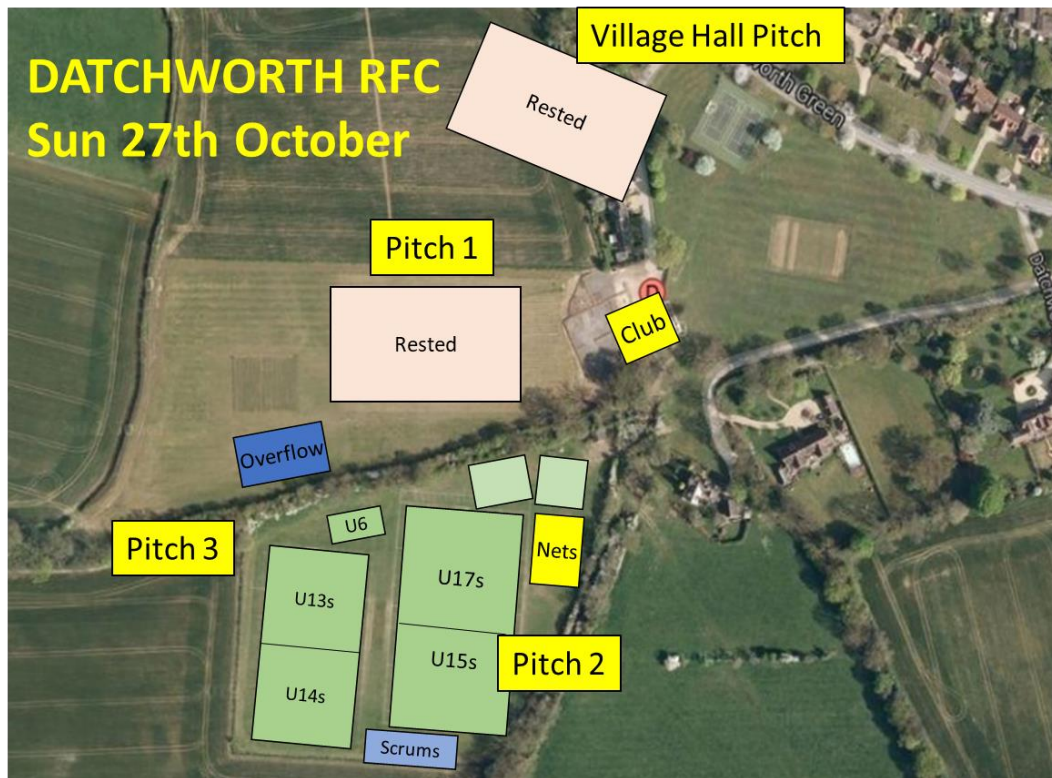
Week 8 Arrangements & Car Park Plan

Thanks to Duncan from the U11s for helping with cones first thing on Sunday. Thanks also to the U9 volunteers on a difficult week, the traffic lights at the top of the village were not in our favour particularly on a match weekend. Your help was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Matt, Paul and Noel who helped collect the cones at the end of another busy morning.

With youth squads at home training and no Minis or Visitors the cones will be put out at the start of the morning and will require collection at 1pm although we don't expect it to be a busy morning at the Club.



Pitch Arrangements: Sunday 27th October 2019



- Next weekend the Mini Section, U7s to U12s are all Away in an all age group Mini Section three-way fixture Vs Hitchin and Finchley. **Can all teams please arrive at Hitchin for 9.45 and be ready to start at 10 am.**



Hitchin Rugby Club play their matches at King George V Playing Fields in Hitchin.

Address: Hitchin Rugby Club, King George V Playing Fields, Old Hale Way, Hitchin, SG5 1XL.

How to get here: At Angels Reply PH on A600 north of Hitchin, turn into Bearton Road, turn left into Old Hale Way, entrance to ground is 400 yards on left by telephone box.

- **Next Weekend at Datchworth...** The U6s are at home training along with the Youth Squads. The Youth Sides are going to start training at 10:45 so those that wish can enjoy the Semi Final between Wales and South Africa (9am Kick-Off).

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 due 13th October** final payments due 14th Feb 2020.

Rugby World Cup Semi Final - Saturday 26th October

Morning from 9AM World Cup 2019 Semi Final England V New Zealand All Blacks, Supporters Breakfast!

Next Saturday morning the Rugby World Cup steps up a notch again for England as they play the All Blacks in the Semi-Final of the World Cup. The game kicks off at 9.00am and the bar will be open early with breakfasts available. Do come down to take in the atmosphere as we hopefully can enjoy the game!



Full English Breakfast at Datchworth from 9 ish.... This way Manu!





DRFC Celebrating 50 years



Datchworth RFC celebrates its **50th** season in 2019/2020 and there's a lot to celebrate!

As I write this, the 1st XV are second in London NW3 with promotion in their hands; the 2s and 3s are performing well in their respective Merit tables; and the Youth and Mini Sections are thriving, with teams of real quality.

We want everyone associated with our great Club, young and older, past and present, to join in the Club's celebrations. With this in mind, we have planned the following events. Please do come – fun and enjoyment guaranteed!

Saturday 2nd November 2019

50 years to the day since the Clubs first fixture, we play against our original opponents, Old Grammarians, kick-off 2.30pm.

Before that, at 1.30pm, our girls' team will play a fixture on the 1st XV pitch.

For the early birds, we shall be serving up a Rugby World Cup Final Breakfast from 8.30am with the Final kick off at 9.00am.

There will be a BBQ from 12 noon onwards.

In the evening, acclaimed local band, Inner Wheel, will entertain us and there will be a hog roast.

Sunday 3rd November 2019

Mini and Youth Fixtures in the morning, involving Datchworth, Old Grammarians and others. The usual excellent Sunday catering will be on offer.

Tickets are not required for any of the events taking place on 2nd and 3rd November. As you would expect, there will be reasonable charges for the BBQ and hog roast. The bar will be open on both days and the Club is meeting the cost of the band on the Saturday night.



Datchworth Rugby Football Club

Mini Section Club Fixtures - first 10 Weeks – 2019-20 Season:

Week	Date	Datchworth RFC Mini Section Provisional 2019/20 – 50 th Playing Season	Parking Duty
1	1-Sep	Registration & First Training Day (mandatory) + Pre-Training Coaches Meeting @9AM NO CONTACT RUGBY	U14s
2	8-Sep	Training at Datchworth (mandatory) Mini Section Squad Photographs & 50th Photo Day	U13s
3	15-Sep	Training at Datchworth (mandatory)	U12s
4	22-Sep	Training at Datchworth (mandatory)	U11s
5	29-Sep	Barnet Festival TBC	Youth TBC
6	6-Oct	Training @ Datchworth	U10s
7	13-Oct	Away Fixture Vs Chess Valley RFC (all age groups)	Youth TBC
8	20-Oct	Home Fixture Vs Enfield Ignations RFC	U9s
9	27-Oct	Away Fixture Vs Hitchin RFC (all age groups)	Youth TBC
10	03-Nov	HOME FIXTURE XX 50 th OGs TBC XX	TBC



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

Month	Date(s)	Club Event
September	Sun 1 st Sept	Registration Day and Welcome Drinks
	Sun 8 th Sept	50 th Anniversary Club Photograph taken at 12 noon on First Team Pitch
	Sun 22 nd Sept	11.15am... England V Tonga (Rugby World Cup Pool Game)
	Thurs 26 th Sept	11.45am... England V USA (Rugby World Cup Pool Game)
October	Sat 5 th Oct	9am... England V Argentina (Rugby World Cup Pool Game)
	Sat 12 th Oct	9.15am... England V France (Rugby World Cup Pool Game)
November	Sat 2 nd Nov	Rugby World Cup Final & 50 th Anniversary Weekend and Games (OGs)
	Sun 3 rd Nov	50 th Anniversary Celebrations Continues for Mini & Youth with Old Grammarians Games
	Fri 15 th Nov	DRFC Inter Age-Group Quiz Night in the Club House
December	Sun 22 nd Dec	Mini Section Santas Grotto & Christmas Drinks
January	Events TBC	
February	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
March	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
	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

Thanks to everyone who came down for the World Cup Breakfast on Saturday and to support the First XV on Saturday afternoon. Next weekend's World Cup Semi Finals and the three-way Mini Fixture with Hitchin and Finchley promises to set up another great weekend of Rugby! We will look forward to seeing you on Saturday or Sunday!

Have a great week

Best wishes,

Andrew

Andrew Howard

Datchworth Rugby Football Club

