



DATCHWORTH RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

GREEN ARMY

THE MINI & YOUTH WEEKLY RUGBY UPDATE

WEEK 7 - 2022/23 SEASON

SUNDAY 16th Oct 2022

Chairman's welcome & overview:

The Rugby weekend started with a cooked breakfast for those watching the Womens World Cup game between England and France. England won a tight game 13 – 7 with Hannah Botterman playing her part in the win! On Saturday lunchtime the First XV hosted Ruislip for another home-game; like the international it was also a tight game and featured a debut for Connor Sullivan from our Academy side. I am delighted to say this week we came out on top with a tight but deserved 24 – 18 win. Players from our 2nd XV joined up with Black Horse for a game with Biggleswade the combined side were also 38 – 29 winners. On Sunday attention turned to a home Mini Fixture with Welwyn. This fixture was different to our traditional February game but was nonetheless a great morning of rugby....

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

Mini Section News

YOUR CLUB



AGE GROUP MANAGERS NEEDED:

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 / m. 07880179365



U6 Update: Home Vs Welwyn

U6s had the pleasure of hosting Welwyn this last weekend and decided we would hold a mixed training session followed on by mixed teams for some games. This format worked well and the more experienced players from both Datchworth and Welwyn helped those just starting out find their feet begin develop.

It was really pleasing to see attacking/defending lines begun to form of their own volition with a bit less encouragement from the coaches. Player of the Week went to Hugh for his terrier like tackling and classic poacher's try when the ball came loose.



U7 Update: Home Vs Welwyn

Another Sunday morning. More glorious weather and lots of people in attendance for derby day. Despite initial concern Welwyn arrived with a large and strong squad, allowing us to pitch 4 teams v 4. The only problem was a shortage of pitches and some mid match crowd control. It proved a very even contest with some promising play by both teams.



With only two matches gone we are impressed with how quickly the squad is grasping the key principles of running forwards and passing backwards, whilst we still stray outside the lines occasionally! Next steps to work include the defensive offside line and passing pre tackle.

Player of the week goes to Hugo. Excellent work buddy!



U8 Update: Home Vs Welwyn

Another glorious Sunday morning at Datchworth provided perfect conditions for the U8 boys to play host to local rivals Welwyn. Numbers meant we were able to put out one full team. However, it would be great to get more players into the squad so please do talk to fellow school mates and spread the word.

With some ball handling and buddy running drills, to warm up, we got underway with two matches back to against the two teams Welwyn brought over. Playing on a much bigger pitch it was obvious that space was key to success. Some fantastic running from our boys saw plenty of tries being scored. It was great to see that the team spotted this as a potential threat also and adapted to ensure that their defensive line spanned the pitch. The boys are also finding their voice, taking control of this themselves and showing leadership qualities.

A special shout out to Rupert, our Star of the Week. With tenacity and determination to run straight and forward, he gained many metres for the team, again and again.

Amazing team work and performances from all the players saw Datchworth edge the final try tally. Well done U8s.



U9 Update: Home Vs Welwyn

If I may start with the small negative on a really positive day, 2 coaches unfortunately had to carry out the parking duty as we had no response from parents on our spond group. This did lead to a delay in the warm up, especially as Dave couldn't find his phone also this week (it was wallet the week before and keys the week before that), without volunteers we will be allocating parents to be on parking duty next time, but please do let us know if you can help.

Onto the rugby.

We had our local derby very early on in the season....and boy did we put Welwyn to the sword. Expectations were high from the opposing team this week, but we knew we would be up to the task, Welwyn had 'hoped we could give them a good game' as they had played a fair bit of contact and attended a festival.

We split into 2 teams, one of 9 and one of 10 players, again a great show of commitment to the team, with several players on holiday or not available, it was a light a quick warm up due to the late arrival of the coaches on duty and Dave looking for his phone. But we focused on some stretching and our tower of power.



Heading into the games, both teams played both Welwyn teams, meaning 4 games in the day of which we won them all, dare I say comfortably. It was great to see some players getting stuck and being almost unstoppable, it was a fast paced game with a lot of crash balls. We will work on this and encourage the players to move the ball more to find the space, but to their credit the defence on both sides was up pretty fast and reduced options.

Special mentions this week although there really are too many to mention go to, Leon who is flourishing in the new environment (understatement), Jude playing a self proclaimed full back position and putting in some try saving tackles, Father Christmas (Cam Vidler) scored a great try, Angus for some solid running, Romilly for some fantastic tackles and of course our 2 players of the week, Ethan and Teddy, both deservedly working hard for the team, and pivotal in our solid victory this week. It's not all about the winning and we as coaches are trying our best to keep that the ethos of the team, having fun comes first, but occasionally it's a little sweeter.



U10 Update: Home Vs Welwyn

The U10s had a low turnout this weekend which made for hard work all round in three separate matches against a tough Welwyn squad.



The team struggled at first to adapt to the different abilities of this team in comparison to the game against Cheshunt last week which seemed to initially catch them off guard. What was impressive to see was the items we had covered in a small training session on positioning in the ruck was instantly improved and made us much more dominant in the ruck. Welwyn however were confident in ripping the ball catching Datchworth off guard and leading to a few easy turn overs achieved by Welwyn.

The team were quickly learning from their mistakes though and by the final game were clearly the dominant team on the pitch with some great turn overs of their own and lots of great tries.

Player of the week was an easy decision this week with easily the most dominant performance on the pitch this week both in defence and attack with I believe three tries in the last game alone. Congratulations to Zachary Pointon on a great performance, but well done to all the team on a hard fought and tiring battle.



U11 Update: Home Vs Welwyn

A glorious Sunday morning was the stage for this week's battle against Welwyn. 18 Datchworth warriors showed up, ready to go, for what was expected to be a labour of Herculean proportions.

We started the session with some handling skills, followed by a warm-up game of touch. Welwyn had already assembled in the corner of the pitch and were running drills. Big lads pinging the ball around, switching and crossing, displaying a level of professionalism and thoroughness that would make a German car manufacturer jealous. As noted by the parents on the side-line, this looked like it was going to be quite the challenge.

We cleaved the pack into two relatively equal teams, taking note of players who display a fervour for similar parts of the game and assigning them to opposite teams. It is great to be able to put together teams where individuals can play in the manner they find most enjoyable, but work cohesively.

Coach Ben refereed one pitch, Coach Cedric the other.

The introduction of kicking, whilst fun, carries some particular risks. Namely, the receiving team have the opportunity to get a 20-metre head start before crashing into a defensive line you hope and pray is there. With the size of some of the Welwyn players, being what it was, the danger was very real.

From our initial kick off, the players put in a rapid chase, closing the distance, maintaining the line and evidently putting the fear of god into the opposition. Post a fumble by Welwyn, the ball was recaptured and we cut through the Gordian knot of Welwyn players to score a rather quick first try.

What followed was a textbook example of what happens when you have a team committed to each other, capable of making their tackles, happily running into contact and supporting one another. Numerous crunching tackles deflated the opposition, rucks were turned over with the ferocity of a honey badger clawing at the burrow of some poor rodent. Try after try, after try... after try was scored, to the extent that I actually lost count. When Welwyn did manage to get to the breakdown, before we pilfered the ball, they showed great rucking technique and strength, but alas it was not enough to get them into the game.

I gather the other game was of a similar nature, with the team systematically hammering home their advantage in most areas. The second games were unsurprisingly similar. Maybe played with a modicum more flair, given the results of the first.



Each individual gave their all, made their tackles, passed the ball when in contact, protected the ball in the breakdown and grabbed every opportunity to either make ground or score tries. Our player of the week was Jake for executing all of the above and showing some exceptional hard running skills.

Whilst it is inordinantly difficult to find fault in such a comprehensive set of victories, we do need to keep the momentum and work hard to build on our ever burgeoning set of skills. We will continue to work on passing, especially offloading pre/during contact. We want players to be selfless, team oriented and above all happy with how they perform.

All 18 players can hold their head up high.

U12 Update: Home Vs Welwyn

Everyone needs good neighbours, with a little understanding you can find the perfect blend. It was with these words that our neighbours Welwyn joined us on the first team pitch for a game with sportsmanship and discipline to test us in our second match of the season. Here's a roundup of two games of a perfect blend of players and play.

Game 1 (Nathan, Seb, Kia Welwyn players):

Datchworth got off to a slow start by losing the toss but from there it was a very much a dominate display. The structure of the team was the biggest difference to Welwyn, who although committed to the contact either ran into strong tacklers or were isolated out wide where passes went amiss. Our scrum and especially our front row (Aiden, Fin L, Kryan) dominated the hook constantly putting pressure on Welwyn on their feed (Edward was a constant pain at scrum half harassing everything in purple hoops). Our best move really showed Datch's skill through the midfield with strong running bunching Welwyn in one corner to allow the ball to go through the total backline for Freddie to score in the corner that was pay-per-view standard. Don't know about the score but we did ok.

With that game complete Coach John made the decision to make it even harder for Datch by giving Welwyn a few of our heavy hitters and taking off Edward and Fin J to increase the challenge. On came Charlie and Idrak to show the strength in depth at Datch.

Game 2 (Kyran, Freddie, Fin S Welwyn players):

With one game in the bag we pushed on with a changed squad but not a change of attitude. With Welwyn reffing this one it was a good challenge for all the boys out there so no excuses. From the kick off the intensity carried on from both teams - both were hard in the contact and quick to try and get away from tacklers. It was more of a game of attrition at the start with a lot of players running into traffic when a pass or a run on the outside would have been a better option (a little less kicking may also be something to think about). This was actually really good practice for Datch as we have



to learn to play as a total squad due to the level of involvement across games that can last 40 minutes so players will have to come in and out but not drop our standards. This was shown clearly with Kia (who is still relatively new) making good gains when he had the ball, Charlie continuing to build as a scrum half and the introduction of Idrak who looks like he's got great potential. One last thing was Fin L's leadership in the forward line - always communicating, always helpful and always involved in the loose.

A great pair of games against our local neighbours where everyone got a great run out played in the right spirit. Ultimately Datch were too strong in both defence and attack. Many great performances this week. Big thanks to all the players that filled in for Welwyn to give us two good games. Kyran and Tommy were super strong in scoring and making ground (less cutting inside would be good), Kia had his best week in Datch Green, Aidan and Freddie dominated the attacking mid-field, Fin L continued in dominating as hooker, and Fin S was excellent in the second for us and them! Player of the Week this week is Nathan for showing great sportsmanship to play for Welwyn in the first half with no complaints and then showing for Datch why he's such a useful player by involving himself everywhere from setting up ruck positions, tackling, stepping into the scrum half role, and scoring a brilliant try from a perfectly timed run and angle. Well done Nathan.



With the Sunday complete we showed that Datch was there for one another because that's when good neighbours become good friends :)



Boys Youth Rugby News

U13 Update: Away V Welwyn

What another great autumn day to play rugby! We arrived at Welwyn today knowing that over the years we have had some great tight games – today did not disappoint!

It was the ultimate sporting cliché of a game of two halves. After a good start by the boys we let the Welwyn team take control of the game for the rest of the first half. So going into half time the boys were facing an up hill battle to get back in the game.

The message from the coaches at half time was very much that we were letting Welwyn win rather than being out played. We had to put more pressure on the opposition in defence and keep hold of the ball in attack – we gave it away far too easily in the first half.

The second half really showed what potential the boys have if they believe in themselves! We had some fantastic team play that resulted in a great team effort to come back right at the end of the game to win. The way the boys fought for each other was great, it truly was a team effort in the second half. We had quite a few of the boys pick up some knocks, I hope they all recover quickly !

Thankfully today the coaches were not asked to pick a player of the game as it would have been extremely hard after such a great fight back! We had players like William, Ben, Bryn, Anthony, Sonny, Noah, Zach putting in a great effort against a bigger Welwyn pack, And in the backs once we woke up in the second half we had some great performances as well.

Two of the boys that scored some great tries in the game and worked really hard with their team mates to get the win were Arly and Casey – however as you can see they very much struggled in the fashion stakes after the game!!



U14 Update:

This weekend we had a split training session, with 15 boys up at Datch and 11 at Haileybury School for their first DPP session.



Those at Datch were training with Coach Duncan, along with guest coach Pumbaa from our senior squad. Many thanks to Pumbaa for stepping up to support our youth squad. They packed in a full schedule, which included passing, tackling, rucking, and defensive ABC and AABC (different positions around the ruck), plus plenty of game time focussing on the skills learned during the session. A couple of boys picked up injuries, which were attended by pitch side first aiders. Josh landed on the wrong side of a tackle and was rewarded with a boot to his jaw – no broken bones but it will be sore for a few days and bruised. Wishing you a speedy recovery Josh. Daniel got a small knock to the head, but was cleared as safe to return to the game. Recent joiner Luke P was picked by Pumbaa as his player of the day, with Cameron coming a close second. Well done boys!



Those at Haileybury were attending the Saracens Developing Player Programme, and what a lovely morning it was for it! The session was well organised, and saw the boys formed into groups of c20, rotating through a



different set of coaches and activities. Saracens had a coach and an academy player present in each small-sided game zone, with the focus on "Supporting the Ball" or "Supporting the Space", as well as having some fun and meeting players from other clubs and schools. The games all had a focus, built into rugby netball, touch or a rough touch, with no full bone on bone contact during games today. One example was "man on fire" (we would call this fighting on the ground), working hard to present the ball; tackle technique with a chop tackle that only concluded once the tackler was back on their feet. Game play focussed on finding space – offloading into supporting players making a run timed for the tip pass, rather than square and direct forwards contact. There was plenty packed into the hour and our lads seemed to have a great time and fitted in really well. Coach Dave is also participating to learn and develop as a coach and was able to steal some new ideas on how to condition a small-sided game



play, as well as the levels of energy and precision in detail delivered by the coaching team and academy players.

We are back to business next week with an away Fixture at Cheshunt – looking forward to that!

U16 Update:

We had a joint training session with Royston, to build joint teamwork for our player sharing arrangement. After a warm up and working on competitive line outs we ran through some phased play and finished with a full contact practice game.



U17/ 18 Academy – Home Training

Weekend saw a 1st XV debut for Connor Sullivan from the Academy. (Can you please insert opposition and score) Andy Riley reported that though Connor did not get much ball, he made ground when he did, as well as making all his tackles and tidying a couple of loose balls in defence as well.

Harry, Sid and Kitt, making his debut, played for 3rd XV against Blackhorse (Hertford), in a 38 – 29 win for Datchworth. Harry managed to get his name on the score sheet, Sid managed to play the whole game without incident, and Kitt put in a typically brave performance at scrum-half.

The Academy training session was light on numbers this week but the 15 players worked very hard and achieved a great level of intensity in the fitness, forwards and backs work.

Next week we will train on Thursday as usual and visit Grasshoppers on Sunday.

Girls Youth Rugby News



Girls Youth Update:

U10's – U14's

In training this week, the girls worked hard on their 1v1 scrum technique, really focusing on correct body position. Some good battles were seen across the group. Passing and ball handling skills are improving week on week. We then put these skills to the test in a game of touch. Coaches Dave and Mez introduced a variety of different rule changes to keep the girls focused and switched on during the game. A great session with a good work rate from all the girls.



'Wednesday Warrior' went to Sophie for her excellent form in the scrum and her dazzling footwork in the warmup games. Well done, Sophie.

U16's



It was an away league fixture this week against a combined Biggleswade and Bedford side. They proved to be very strong opponents with 3 or 4 dominant players testing our defence to the limit. For the most part we put on a great display and managed to stifle much of what was thrown at us. But a few injuries created some gaps that Biggie/Beds were able to exploit and they began making a few breaks. The score line of 47-5 didn't reflect the balance of the game, which was well contested overall. It does highlight the need for us work on our defensive lines and coming up in attack. Unfortunately, we gave their strong runners too much space to work in and they punished us for it. Player of the Match this week goes to Charlotte for an impressive display against her old club. Incredible to see how far she's come in such a short time. Taking high balls, some big carries and a big defensive performance means the PotM award was very well deserved. Next week we are off to OAs for a joint training session and game to finish.



Senior Rugby Updates

Men's Senior Rugby: Home V Ruislip



FIRST XV HOME WIN 24 – 18!



Women's Senior Rugby:

England played France in the Women's World Cup last Saturday, so the club hosted a breakfast attended by the majority of the women's squad and some of the girls. Great to also see a wider audience from the membership supporting the Red Roses so early on a weekend.

We will be hosting a further breakfast if the Roses are successful in reaching the final on 12th November. Look out for notices.



Some of the squad also travelled to Tabard on Sunday to support them in their game against Ruislip. It was a tough fixture against top of the league opposition. Great to see that both the Tabard tries came from Datchworth players. Well done to all the players and especially Izzy and Shannon for their points.

News & Events

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 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!

IMPORTANT....Postponed - Disco - Saturday 12th November

Unfortunately, the disco which was due to take place on Saturday 12th November has had to be postponed. We will let you know as soon as a new date is arranged, keep an eye out in the newsletter for further updates. Thank you.



Mini Section Fixtures Programme – Looking Ahead

Week	Date	Datchworth RFC Mini Section - Provisional 2022/23 – 53 rd Playing Season
8	23 rd Oct	Training @ Datchworth
9	30 th Oct	Datchworth V Enfield Ignations (Home Fixture) 9 for 9:30 Start - Confirmed
10	6 th Nov	Datchworth Vs Barnet (Home Fixture) Colin Harrison - Confirmed
11	13 th Nov	Datchworth Vs Letchworth & Hertford (3-way) Teresa Wingard / Paul Threfall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letchworth host U12 & U10 • Datchworth host U11 & U9 • Hertford host U8 & U7
12	20 th Nov	Training @ Datchworth
13	27 th Nov	Royston V Datchworth (Away Fixture) - Niall Tallis
14	4 th Dec	Datchworth Vs Biggleswade (Home Fixture) Phil Pearson - Confirmed
15	11 th Dec	Letchworth Vs Datchworth (Home Fixture) Teresa Wingard - Confirmed
16	18 th Dec	Santa Clause and Club Festive Morning Datchworth
17	25 th Dec	XMAS & NEW YEAR (No Rugby)



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

Diane Wyatt – Club Secretary e. ldwyatt@hotmail.com

Will Nash – Membership e. will.nash@datchworthsportsclub.com



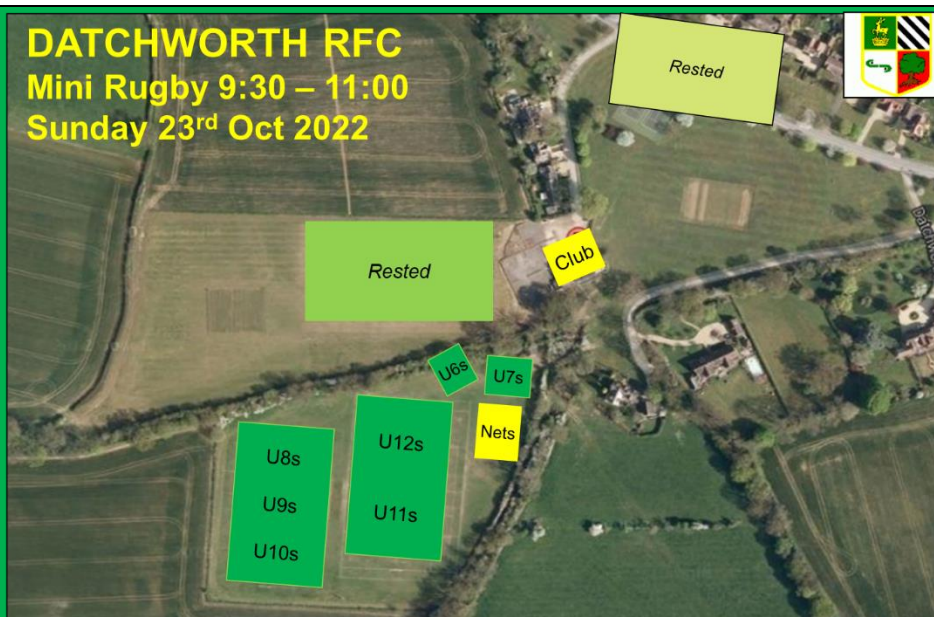
Week 8 – October 23rd Pitch Allocations & Car Park Plan

Next Weekend – Week 8 (Sunday 23rd October)

Thanks to the Academy Boys for clearing cones last Sunday and the U9 Manager and Coaches for helping with the marshalling prior to the games with Welwyn on Sunday.

Arrangements: Sunday 23rd October 2022:

Mini Section – Home Training 9:30 –11:00
U13s – Home vs Hertford
U14s - Away Vs Cheshunt
U16s - Training
U17s - U18s / Academy – Away vs Grasshoppers
Girls - TBC



Closing Notes...

A good weekend for the Club, a strong win for the First XV and a powerful performance from all of the Mini age groups against Welwyn on Sunday. A nice picture from the weekend... Mini & Youth Rugby stalwart and legend Mr Jim Fookes visited the Club on Saturday and was helped by Club Rugby Legend Ian Little and Club Cricket Legend Steve Nash...lovely to see. #OneClub.

Next weekend the Mini Section are back training, but most Youth sides are in action. Good luck to everyone.



Have a great week

Best wishes,

Andrew

Andrew Howard

Chairman – Mini & Youth Rugby

