



Datchworth Rugby Football Club

MINI MATTERS – Week 26

Sunday 25th February 2018



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

With rock-hard ground on the back pitches at Datchworth at 9AM on Sunday we had to cancel the fixture with Welwyn as there was no prospect to play contact-rugby on the back-field on Sunday before at least 12 noon. However; with a thick covering of grass the village hall pitch was playable and proved an ideal location for a training session for the U11s and U12s. The updates from this weekend are as below:

Datchworth Mixed Age Group Training:

A group of players from a variety of age-groups enjoyed a mixed age session with Dave Gore, Kirston and others. Despite the cold the kids enjoyed the chance to play some rugby. Mixing up the age-groups from time to time is helpful in supporting the 'One-Club' mind-set from the youngest age-groups. Thanks to all the coaches who helped to run this session for us.



Datchworth U11 & U12 Training & Game:

The U11s and U12s were well represented despite the cold-weather and both age groups had a helpful training session before next Saturdays' Spring Festival at Hertford. The training morning was finished off with a good in-house game that gave both age groups some valuable training game experience. The pictures below make it hard to believe that we had to cancel the main fixture due to frozen pitches.



Datchworth Youth Rugby – Round Up:

The cold has set in this weekend as both the away U15s and U16s games were called off. The U14s still managed to get a training session over at Royston.

Weather permitting, the Youth arrangements for next weekend are:

- U13s - London Scottish - Away Pool
- U14s - Hertford Bs - Away Semi Cup game
- U15s - Hemel Hempstead - Away Cup
- U16s - Hitchin - Home League
- U17s - TBC

Girls Rugby Update:

Dates for your diary:

- Sunday 18th March - u10s/u11s Girls Festival at Welwyn
- Sunday 25th March - Girls training at Datchworth (all ages from u10s upwards)

Ladies Touch Rugby:

The Ladies Touch Rugby sessions on Monday evenings are starting to gain some traction and great fun is had by those who attend. I'd like to encourage the mums and older sisters from the club to give them a try. You can either get in touch with Lynne beforehand (lsolomon@btinternet.com) or just turn up. It's a 7.30pm start.

Other Club News & Event Information:

2018 Datchworth Rugby Club - Mini and Youth Dinner and Dance:

For those wishing to come to the 2018 Dinner and Dance Payments all outstanding payments need to be made this week please. Payment of £55 per ticket to be made either by Cash or Cheque passed to you age group manager or directly to Nicola Howard, (made payable to Datchworth RFC), or a bank transfer to the Datchworth RFC club account (with reference Name age group and dinner dance);

Club Payment details:

- Datchworth RFC
- Sort code: 16-00-30
- Account No: 10019884
- Reference – 'Dinner Dance' and age group



Following confirmation of payment tickets can be collected from Nicola; any special dietary requirements to Nicola by Friday.

Holt Tour Final Payment:

The **Final Payment for the Holt Tour is due on the 6th March payment** details were detailed in the tour letter. The total cost per person is £135, (plus £7.50 per set of bedding where requested), minus deposits paid.

Mini Mid-Week Training: Continues - Wednesday 1st March February

The weather forecast for Tuesday / Wednesday is looking very cold and there is a good chance the pitches will be frozen or under snow; we will work on the assumption that all training sessions are 'on'; but please look out for a cancellation if we see very cold temperatures or snow over the next 48 hours.

- The first sessions are approx. 6:30 till 7:30 and the second session 7:35 till 8:35. Details and locations as below:

Age Group	Time / Date / Location	Notes
U10s	6:30 till 7:30 PM – Flood lit training pitch	Wed 1 st Mar Confirmed Session
U11s	6:30 till 7:30 PM – Flood Lit training pitch	Wed 1 st Mar Confirmed Session
U12s	7:35 till 8:35 PM – Flood lit training pitch	Wed 1 st Mar Confirmed Session

- **Mid-Week Training Pitch Space Allocation as usual**

Next Weekend's Rugby arrangements: Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th March:

Next weekend we have two Mini Section Rugby Fixtures:

Saturday 4th March Away @ Hertford (U10s / U11s / U12s)

On Saturday evening the U10s, U11s and U12s have each been invited to enter 1 team into the Hertford Flood Lit 'Spring' Festival; the arrangements for this event are:

- Players to meet at Hertford Rugby Club **5 - 5:15**
- Team Registration opens at 5.15pm in the Clubhouse,
- Each team will be allocated a changing room
- Coaches briefing at 5.45pm
- First matches will kick off at 6pm.
- Referees will be provided by Hertford for all matches.

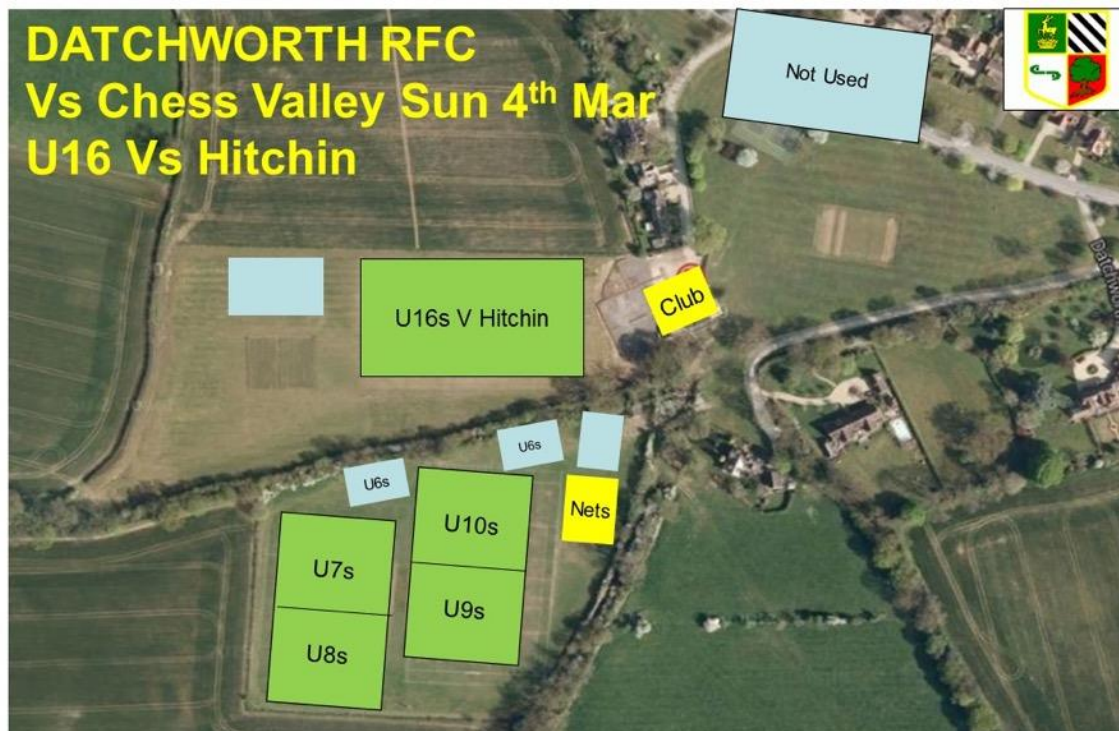
Sunday 5th March Home @ Datchworth Vs Chess Valley (U7s / U8s / U9s / U10s)



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Next Sunday our U7s, U8s, U9s and U10s are hosting Chess Valley at Datchworth. We will meet at 10AM and kick-off at 10:30 promptly. Hot-dogs at 12noon in the Club House.

As was the case this week I will inspect the pitches circa 8:45 and make a call if the pitches are frozen and we need to cancel the fixture; the email will be cascaded via age-group Managers.



Sunday 4th March Parking Arrangements:

Next Sunday - the U8s are on Parking Duty at Datchworth; for the Chess Valley fixture weekend it will be busy with a Youth Game also taking place and anyone who can help ease the parking burden by car-sharing, walking, biking or be dropped will be much appreciated.

It is also the ‘Entertainers Weekend’ at Datchworth Village Hall so there will be parents dropping children off in the morning at 9:15 for the Entertainers weekend, (before rugby drop-off) and there will be restrictions on our use of the Village Hall Car-Park. However; we only have 1 Youth game and 4 mini-age groups playing so this will be ok, with no other age groups training.

Mini Section Fixtures Plan – 2017/18 Season:

Week	Date	Datchworth RFC Mini Section Provisional 17/18 Season	DRFC Parking Duty
27	Sat 3-March 5PM	Hertford Spring Flood Light Festival U10s / U11s / U12s	N/A
	Sun 4-Mar 10AM	DRFC Minis Vs Chess Valley <i>at Datchworth (U7 to U10)</i>	U8



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28	Fri 9 th March	Datchworth Mini & Youth Dinner and Dance at Knebworth Barns	N/A
	Sun 11-Mar	DRFC Minis Vs St Albans at Datchworth	U7
29	Sun 18- Mar	DRFC Minis Vs Old Grammarians at Datchworth	U12
30	Sun 25- Mar	Hitchin Festival U7s, U8s, U9	
		Training at Datchworth, U10, U11, U12	TBC
31	Sun 1-Apr	Easter Sunday - No Rugby	Easter Sunday
32	8-Apr	DRFC V Welwyn Charles Morris Reserve Date	TBC
33	Fri 13 th	2016/17 Season Mini Section Rugby Tour Holt Rugby Club – Kingswood Festival & Hill Top Outward Bound Centre – Sheringham	TOUR WEEKEND
	Sat 14 th		
	Sun 15- Apr		
34	22-Apr	U9 & U10 – County Festival at Hemel Rugby Club U11 & U12 – County Festival at Barnet Elizabethans	
		DRFC Away Vs Tabard at Tabard (<i>TAG only now TBC</i>)	
35	29 - Apr	U7 & U8 – County Tag Festival at Hertford RFC	
		U9 / U10 / U11 / U12 - Training at Datchworth	
36	06-May	Final Training / Awards Day / End of Season BBQ	Minis

***** As you may note above – the only potential remaining date that could works for both Clubs to hold a re-arranged Charles Morris Cup this Season is Sunday 8th April – this date falls in the Easter School Holiday so I appreciate some people may be away – Managers will be seeking prompt confirmation to see if we have teams available to host the Charles Morris event on this date.**

Closing Notes & Roundup...

It was a frustrating weekend at Datchworth with the cancellation of our fixture with Welwyn. Despite the cancellation the players from various age-groups who came to the Club enjoyed a good



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mixed session on the village hall pitch that was still very playable with the better grass-coverage. The U11s and U12s also took the opportunity for some training and an in-house training game. Next weekend will be another busy one with our visit to Hertford on Friday and our visitors from Chess Valley on Sunday morning. Fingers crossed the weather is all ok for next weekend's rugby.

Have a good week and see you all next weekend,

Best wishes,

Andrew

Andrew Howard
Chairman – Mini Section
Datchworth Rugby Football Club

