

DATCHWORTH RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



GREEN ARMY

THE MINI & YOUTH WEEKLY RUGBY UPDATE

WEEK 5 - 2022/23 SEASON

SUNDAY 02 Oct 2022

Chairman's welcome & overview:

A busy weekend of Rugby with both our Men and Women sides, several Youth teams in Action. This week we also have details of the Mini Section 2023 Holt Tour, a fund-raising disco arranged by the Women's team and details of the Mini Section fixture vs Cheshunt and also the U17 Tour Weekend....

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

Mini Section News

U6 Update:

A productive training session for the U6s this week with a split between some fun games to promote exercise, teamwork and listening skills and then first introduction this season (or ever for new joiners) to match play in preparation for our first game next week.

A very good effort from all and especially Eli who was a deserved Player of the Week. Our game away against Cheshunt promises to be a memorable experience and I would encourage all who can to come along. As ever full details are on the Spond group

(www.group.spond.com/CMYED)



U7 Update:

Another glorious Sunday morning, another cracking turnout for the u7's, long may it continue!

Fortunately, we were blessed with the full array of coaches to Sheppard these rising stars. Splitting up into two groups, we continue to work on handling drills and teamwork prior to our first matches.

Splitting into 4 teams, we played a mini tournament with some very impressive individual performances in attack and defence. One brief interlude to remind everyone to stay on the pitch, was followed by the usual melee of bulldog.

Congrats to Oscar for player of the day and look forward to seeing you at Cheshunt next weekend.



U8 Update:

A glorious, sunny October day for the U8s to put in their final warm up practice before next weeks away fixture at Cheshunt. A good turn out this week meant the new coaches had plenty of players to take part in the drills.

The squad warmed up with an obstacle run with a focus on passing and catching on the move. We moved on to some more passing drills with the aim of looking along the line and being ready with our W hands to receive the ball. Great to see that we are dropping the ball less. We played our squad favourite of bulldog, with the defensive bulldogs starting to see that when they work as a team they have more success than all individually running for different players. The squad picked up the concept of 'buddy running' to run support lines really well in our new activity. We then finished with a 5v5 tag match with some great side steps and lots of tries scored.



A special shout out to Star of the Week, George. He showed fantastic communication skills in getting his team into defensive positions and his support running meant he was in the right place at the right time to score during the match. Well done!

U9 Update:

The U9s had a fantastic group of 21 players this weekend, all very eager to try their first competitive game of full contact rugby. We began with our usual warm up, concentrating on working the most used shoulder and neck muscles, before we branched off into a match.

This is what the children had been waiting for... the space and the speed of the game was a real pleasure to coach, ref and even watch, as everyone put into practice a lot of hard work from over the last few weeks. What an exciting season we have ahead, and I know from what we've seen so far, we'll be impressing home and away.

Special mentions this week go to Leon for a relatively new arrival, he's really setting a high benchmark, and also our player of the week Jude, who has also set a standard showing that you don't have to be big to make a great tackle!



U10 Update:

Great turn out again from the U10's this week as they all seem to be really bonding and showing true team commitment.

We started this week's training with some easy passing drills and then a fun movement and tackling warm up trying to encourage both speed in getting back into the game and the low tackle that we have been trying to push in the past weeks.



After a few stripped back training games concentrating on the tackle as opposed to the new skills we have been learning, we pushed a skill zone session to encourage our positioning and tower of power.



We finished on a final training game with lots of try's from both teams. The lower tackles were much improved from everyone on the pitch, but no one was getting close to an outstanding final run from Ivy to land a great try. We believe the whole team are ready for our first match next week now.

Player of the week this week went to Isaac Baker for what was in the opinion of the whole coaching staff, the best tackle we have seen so far this season. Just goes to show what you can do when you get the tackle in at the right height!

U11 Update:

An unexpectedly pleasant day greeted the 20 members of the Datchworth U11s who turned out for training this week. It was just as well, since there was perhaps a bit more standing around listening to the coaches than usual.

This was the week when we let the kicking cork out of the bottle and the players' excitement was tangible right from the start. We began the morning with some touch rugby and after everyone had arrived quickly moved into the 2-on-1 tackling and passing drill from last week. This is a great way of getting everyone to make a few tackles before match practice and also passing the ball under the pressure of contact with a defender.

Next was the main event of the day and after a discussion about the purpose of kicking and the associated off-side laws (if you thought football was complicated...) we played a form of rugby tennis with 2 opposing teams forming rucks after each tackle and then trying to kick over the top of the other team. This seems to work reasonably well and there were some great kicks, some great catches by the receiving players and not least some great chasing after ball following the kick.

It was a lot to take in for the players during a single training session and the coaches found it necessary to step in a few times to try and slow the game down and allow the players time to think and prepare for the clearance kick. It's a peculiarity of rugby that the team in possession of the ball is able to hold it at the back of a ruck or scrum without fear of the opposition being able to steal it, so the players actually have a bit more time than they realise and don't need to rush. But composure in this area will come with time.

We finished with a match played at the usual high tempo and saw several really well worked tries in addition to the new dimension of kicking the ball. Beyond the kicking it's noticeable that our tries are now being scored after multiple passes and often after several phases of play which is great to watch. This week, the trophy was inevitably awarded to someone who relished the opportunity to have a go at kicking and recovering the ball in the full back position and additionally contributed a couple of try scoring passes and also managed to land his shoulder on an opponent for a crunching tackle. Well done to Olly. The coaches look forward to another tight decision on next week's winner.



U12 Update:

Our final weekend of training at Datch saw 19 players take to the turf this morning for another practice of u12s rugby. After the standard warm-up with our growing squad, we set out to continue to build on the last four weeks with players practicing running lines off a 10 (fly-half/outside half). This was firstly through direct running into contact where we were looking to control attacking body position to make gains without getting heads and shoulders hurt. Secondly, we gave the option of passing behind the level runner to create space through pace around the outside. The crucial message here is always look to go forward.

With our first fixture next week, we moved the practice into a structured game where we could practice our patterns as if it was in a match. We finished with a full game where all the parts were tried out - with both misses (players not supporting runners, not passing instead of running, heading into contact rather than finding space) and some great hits (dominance in the breakdown, quick ball from rucks, running lines that found gaps, not stupid penalties). So, plenty to still work on, but plenty to be proud of as we head to a set of matches.

Some good performances from the squad today. A warm welcome to Idrak who joined us this morning before being put through his paces in Al's masterclass. In the bag session Fin L was good at taking on the bags with good shoulder position and Max continues to learn the arts of 10 with good footwork.

Player of the week goes to Freddie who was excellent in the training session overall but excelled in both the structured and unstructured games at the end of the session. Good to see him back and near his best for our first U12s match next week.



Talking of next week...

Next Week

- Thursday: Training - 6:30pm
- Sunday: AWAY CHESHUNT - 9:30 for 10:00am start

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!

Events: Women's Fundraising Disco - Saturday 12th November

The women's team are hosting a Disco on Saturday 12th November in the clubhouse. All funds raised will be put towards the rugby club. Tickets are £5 per person (over 18's only). Dancing starts at 7 pm, with the music ending at 11 pm, and carriages at midnight. We will be holding a raffle and running a tuck shop during the evening. Get your dancing shoes on and contact Lynne Solomon for tickets on 07950 335484. We will also be selling tickets in the clubhouse on Sunday mornings, please note tickets sold in the clubhouse will need to be paid for in cash.

Boys Youth Rugby News

U13 Update: Home Vs Ealing Trailfinders

All the Under 13 Datchworth team and coaches were really looking forward to our first league game – and apart from the result it did not disappoint.

It perfect conditions the boys started the game fantastically well. Showing all the skills we have been working on in training so far this season. We had some great tackling and counter rucking that meant we could move the ball wide to where we had created gaps to lick up some good early tries.

As the game moved on the size of the pitch this year started to take its toll on the boys. This tiredness meant that we started to see a very wayward defensive line. This allowed Ealing to come back against us with some very good tries of their own. It is a big change this year in terms of the size of pitch we play on, so the boys need to be ready for a lot of hard work.



We talked to the boys before the game about not being to win a game of rugby if we don't make our tackles. We did have lots of great tackles today, but we fell off quite a few at crucial times where it obvious we had some very tired defenders. It must be said it was not all doom and gloom, with the boys showing us some really good rugby at times. Some great passing into space that meant we could finish off some nice scores.



A huge plus from today's game was the spirit the boys showed to not give up. And all the newer boys in the team did well. Anthony was this week's player of the week. For someone that has not played much rugby previously his effort today was fantastic.

I love the fact the boys were upset at not winning today, but hopefully they can all see we have lots of good things to work on. I thought for the first game of the season it was a great effort. It was also nice to see the support from all the parents – thank you!



Lastly, thanks so much to all of the parents and players who collected the road-cones at the end of the morning. It really is appreciated by the whole club. Thank you.

U14 Update: Away Vs Ruislip

Our first League fixture saw us travel down to Ruislip on a fabulous morning to play rugby. We travelled with a match day squad of 19, including our new team mates Alex Hayes, Henry Ottaway, Zac Lewis, Innes Davidson and Louis Miller. Charlie T unfortunately damaged a finger in the Hertford game and is out of action for a short while. We wish him a speedy recovery and return to the squad. Warm up was good. With heart rates up and stretching done, we went into a short game of touch, then some run throughs split backs/forwards and as a full squad. Our opposition was undoubtedly strong, having come down from Pool B last season and combined their previous 2 teams into one squad of over 35. Physically it was clear that they have some sizable units too, but our boys were not concerned about that as we talked about getting into the game.



The match got underway and it was clear there was going to be a forwards contest, and the boys got stuck into that. Ruck intensity was good, and speed to the breakdown ok. There was also some aggressive running when carrying, and where we were ball in hand we were going through our phases and working forwards, getting close to their try line several times. Scrum time was a different story and it took us a while to get in control of stopping their push, but we did at times and also won a few against the head. Ruislip opened the scoring with 3 tries in the first 20 mins. Our defensive line was lacking, and the space was exploited by one forward in particular. Our first up tackles were not where they needed to be, drawing additional players in to support, creating more space for our opposition. We did get some clean ball at times and Innes scored in the corner taking us to 17-5 at half time.

We made our subs and got started for the last 25 mins. The score line was not in our favour, with Ruislip dotting down another 4 times in the second half, taking us to a final score of 43-5. Thinking back to our Hertford game, one thing remained completely consistent – the boys didn't let their heads drop once, fighting to the end of the match. There were plenty of positives to take away, but also some clear work to revisit in training – defensive intensity and shape, moving the ball wide when we did have clean ball (we did have opportunity there as we also drew their defence in) and communication with each other on the pitch a few examples. We recapped briefly after the game, then time to head in for some "pasta surprise" and a bit of fun post the match.



Ruislip Head Coach selected our players of the match today – from the forwards Tom Walker for his match performance but specifically his tenacity and sheer effort handling his opposing prop in the scrum – well done Tom! From the backs he chose Indy for his all-round performance in the match – great job Indy!

We are back on the paddock on Wednesday. The boys know what to expect to be working on. We also discussed any opportunity to watch some premierships rugby if they can – to observe their position and specifically how the defence forms when the ball is lost. In summary, we are proud of the squad's mindset and fight today. We know what we need to work on, and that is for us to get busy with on Wednesday as we prepare to welcome Royston next Sunday for a friendly.

U16 - Royston/Datchworth V Ruislip

Today we had our first test of our U16 player sharing arrangement with Royston. We lent Jack, Luke, Matthew, Oliver, Sam, Troy and William to bolster their team at an away league fixture at Ruislip, whilst others trained at home. The match was tight but went very well, with Royston winning 22-14 and all our boys making a big contribution.



Of note, William got player of the week for a huge effort in the forwards and Troy had a 100% kicking record. Well done!

U17 Academy – League V Harrow

The U17 squad had a Tour Weekend to make up for missing out at the end of last Season with GCSE pressures. We stayed in a fantastic YHA on the Thames just beyond Reading and enjoyed a great activity day on Saturday... while obviously 'Tour' rules apply we have a few pictures from the weekend!



On Saturday the boys enjoyed some Sumo Suit wrestling, some Last Man Standing Challenges, Raft Building, and some epic banana boat rides! Saturday evening was, (of course), the Tour Court – enough said. The team loved the activities and it was great to do some team building away from the rugby pitch, we would like to show our appreciation to the teams at hi5 activity centre and the YHA hostel for the extremely welcoming staff and facilities ensuring a great weekend for the boys.

On Sunday we met at Harrow Rugby Club and were joined by Alfie to get the side at full strength. After a slightly concerning, low intensity warm-up things were looking a little better in the final run-through, when we got under-way the first 10 minutes were a tightly fought event contest where our boys had to work in defence. As the boy's confidence grew they started to move the ball with control and as our play improved we started to move the score-board. A set of great Try's were scored, these came from some strong carrying, slick passing and finished strongly by Will, Luke (2), Alfie and Ash. We finished the game 27 – 5 winners a great result in our first league game of the season.



U18 Academy

Royston Colts A (12) 17 v. 19 (12) Datchworth Colts A

What can I say. A superb, backs to the wall win from the Green Army lads. Datchworth only had a squad of 15 available today, but still managed to secure a first league win of the season against a 22 man Royston squad. Every single Datchworth player contributed to the massive effort the boys put in today.

Datchworth started well, and controlled the opening exchanges. A poor clearance kick from Royston was superbly taken by the Datchworth fullback and run in from 60 meters out. What a start after 5 mins. It got better when our kicker, who was only told he was kicking when he arrived, slotted a good touchline conversion. Further Datchworth pressure resulted in the Green Army camping in the Royston half, and eventually working their way over for another try 0 - 12 Datchworth

Royston then began to build pressure, keep possession, and slowly work their way up the field. Datchworth defence was the strongest it has been for a while, but eventually the wall was broken and Royston managed to pull back two tries, converting 1 to leave the half-time scores level.

In the second half Datchworth were playing into the wind, with no subs, against fresh legs (and the referee), and withstood a great deal of Royston pressure. Some the defensive effort from Datchworth meant that Royston could not finish off a number of good handling moves. The scrum improved and began to hold its own, though at one point we had to go down to 13 players due to injuries. It says a lot about the character of the boys concerned that both return to the field of play after recovering from minor knocks.

In the final quarter Datchworth dug deep, began to apply pressure and forced their way up field. With 4 mins left on the clock the ball was finally moved through the backs and a converted score was the result. Royston 12 v 19 Datchworth. Fingernails were duly being chewed as Royston managed to field a clearance and ran up the far touchline to score. Royston 17 v 19 Datchworth. The conversion sailed wide, and the only question was could a tiring Datchworth hold out for the final 3 minutes. The answer was a resounding yes as another Royston touchline run was hauled down just short of the Datchworth try line and eventually the ball was knocked on by Royston and the game came to an end and every member of the Green Army could breathe again!!

A fantastic first league win of the season for the boys, and a great overall team effort. Royston were very gracious in defeat and the game was extremely hard fought and could have gone either way. We are looking to arrange a friendly for both Colts teams latter in the season, and look forward to another hard fought encounter.
Man of the Match: Adam for putting in a huge effort at lock, and all over the field
Dick of the Day: Jovan for conceding a penalty on half-time for deliberately throwing the ball into touch to try and make it dead.



Girls Youth Rugby News

Girls Youth Update:

U10's – U14's

We started off playing some competitive team games to get the girls all warmed up and ready for the session ahead. The dedicated time spent focusing on the girls passing and catching skills each week is really starting to pay off. The coaches and the girls are noticing a big difference, this is also being carried forward into their games of touch, which is fantastic to see. We spent some time honing the tackle and ruck technique by building on some activities covered the previous Sunday. The session ended with a small game of touch and then a little bit of kicking practice, of which the girls are keen to continue with on Wednesday.



‘Wednesday Warrior’ went to Annabelle this week. She impressed the coaches during the session with her excellent passing and rucking skills. Well done, Annabelle.



U16's

We're working on using space more effectively and improving our communication. The girls worked through a few different games testing these skills and showed some real improvement and understanding. We covered tackle basics for the benefit of everyone but especially our newer players Brooke, Tegan and Gracie, who all did a great job. The outstanding performer today was Katie who put in text book tackles - perfectly timed, powerful and safe. Forwards and backs then split to work on their respective specialisations. Backs, coach Dave focused on kicking whilst the forwards hit the scrum machines and practice a couple of lineout options. Great to have 3 functioning lifting pods now. Next Sunday we head to Welwyn for a joint training session and short match. Looking forward to it.

Senior Rugby Updates

Men's Senior Rugby: Away V Grasshoppers

The First XV had a tough afternoon away against a strong Grasshopper side. The team worked hard and will have take some important lessons for the challenges ahead.

Next weekend we have the challenge of a local derby game at home against Welwyn.

FULL TIME SCORE



 **14 48** 

datchworthrffc Tough game yesterday against a good grasshoppers side...

Women's Senior Rugby: Home V Cambridge

This week we played our first home game of the season. It was a friendly against Cambridge Women. Due to limited numbers from both teams, we played 10-a-side with a couple of players borrowed from our friends at Tabard. It was a great victory for the 'Green Army' in our brand new, shiny match shirts. Don't we look smart! We also had two players gaining their first cap for Datchworth, well done to Tanita and Lisa, who won player of the match, for her stonking run which was almost the full length of the pitch. A fantastic development match for both teams.

Thank you to those who came to support us.

FULL TIME SCORE



 **42 14** 

Mini Section Fixtures Programme – Looking Ahead

Week	Date	Datchworth RFC Mini Section - Provisional 2022/23 – 53 rd Playing Season
6	9 th Oct	Cheshunt V Datchworth (Away Fixture) Omid (Confirmed)
7	16 th Oct	Datchworth Vs Welwyn (Home Fixture) Matt Reynolds - Confirmed
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 6 – October 9th Pitch Allocations & Car Park Plan

Next Weekend – Week 6 (Sunday 9th October)

CAR PARKING Duty:

Huge thanks to Jon and Sally supported by James and Finlay S for getting the road-cones out this morning and thanks to the U13s for getting them recovered at the end of the morning.

Arrangements: Sunday 9th October 2022:

Mini Section – Away Vs Cheshunt - 9:30/45 for a 10:00am Kick-Off (Cheshunt layout below)



U13s Home Training Pitch 2 - 11:30 Training
U14s Home Vs Royston Pitch 2 - 9:30 meet for 10:30 Kick-Off
U16s Away Vs Bank of England
U17s Pitch 2 (TBC Numbers dependent) – 11:30 Training
U18s / Academy Vs Hertford Pitch 1
Girls Home Training Pitch 3 – 11:30 Training



Closing Notes...

Saturday was a tough day for the First XV away at Grasshoppers but then last Sunday the U18/As and U17/Bs Academy sides both enjoyed two impressive away wins in Sunday League Fixtures before the Women's team enjoyed an excellent home win against Cambridge. Last Sunday also represented the final training session for the Mini Section before they start a busy fixtures programme on Sunday Away against Cheshunt.

Good luck to the First XV for the home derby match with Welwyn on Saturday afternoon and for all sides playing on Sunday.

Have a great week

Best wishes,

Andrew

Andrew Howard

Chairman – Mini & Youth Rugby

