



## Atherstone RFC Junior Section

**Ground:** Ratcliffe Road, Atherstone, Warwickshire  
**Telephone:** 01827 714934

### **SEPTEMBER, 2008 NEWSLETTER**

Firstly I would like to give a warm welcome to all new and existing players and parents to Atherstone Rugby Club for the coming 2008 / 09 rugby season.

This is the first Atherstone RFC Juniors newsletter of the new 2008 / 09 season and we are hoping to one produce one every 2 months and provide as much information about Atherstone Rugby Club and the junior section as possible.

#### **The Plan for 2008-2009**

The 2008 / 2009 season is going to be a very important one for us as we plan to fully establish and build links for Atherstone Junior Section, not only within the Atherstone community, but also with the Warwickshire Rugby Union.

#### **Seal of Approval**

Back in May we were approached by Mark Richardson who is the Rugby Unions Warwickshire Rugby Development Officer about the possibility of us becoming a Seal of Approval registered junior section over the course of the next 12 months. What this means is that as a committee we are responsible for putting in place a plan of action and a series of policies and procedures that will enable us to apply for Seal of Approval status. Once Seal of Approval is achieved it opens a lot of doors for extra funding, meaning more money for coaching, equipment and facilities which can only be good news for you as parents knowing your children are playing for one of the top junior rugby clubs in Warwickshire.

What we also get from being a Seal of Approval registered club is increased links with all local schools, which means that the RFU (Rugby Football Union) as part of their commitment to us will provide extra coaching to all schools in our area and point children to our club rather than other clubs.

#### **Fixtures for 2008 / 09**

For those who came down last year you know we had to make the difficult decision not to expose the children to a competitive match at this stage against teams who would have had upwards of three years experience. This season however we are in contact with several other local clubs about the possibility of playing competitive matches in every age group and also hope to gain invites to tournaments at the end of the season.

#### **Some things we must do to achieve the plan**

To make a smooth transition from last year - where we have run 3 mixed age groups (U7-U8, U9-U10 & U11) to what could be 6 separate age groups (U7 new starters again, U8, U9, U10, U11 and U12 - we need to increase our assistant coaching resources and people.

Behind the scenes we have worked hard to make sure that the children are provided with both fun and structured training sessions that are also progressive in nature allowing the learnt skills to develop over the weeks thus building a solid foundation for the age group sections as they move from tag (U7-U8) to mini (U9-U10) through to midi (U11-U12) rugby.

- As we have to assume that all newcomers have not previously been coached to any level and having your child's safety in mind we will start with Tag Rugby throughout August and also focus on ball handling and basic rugby.
- This will then expand to include full contact Tackle, Ruck and Maul techniques, Line-out and limited Scrimmage, Running and Passing, Kicking and of course some of the basic laws in time for the matches starting in October.

To help us complete the plan we would like to encourage some parents to become involved in assisting at whatever level they feel comfortable with, be that coaching or assistant coaching for the more enthusiastic or match day administrators for the less energetic.

If you feel you would like to participate in some capacity and would like to find out more and what RFU training we can offer, please see any of the coaches.

#### **Parent voice on the committee...**

We would also like one or two of the parents to come onto the committee and become a parent voice. This is because as we plan, focus and organise the coaching, funding, welfare etc for your children to come to the club and get the best coaching possible, we want to start making sure we don't miss anything and that includes the parents view. Which is something that we feel is really important to us. You don't even have to have a knowledge of rugby just an interest in what's going on and what other parents are thinking. If you are interested in a parent voice role, then please see one of the coaches and they will go through the detail.

### **What will it cost me this season?**

Last season, we charged £2 per child per week / session and for those of you who have managed to attend all sessions, you will have paid approximately £50 for the 25+ sessions we have completed.

This season, we would prefer to introduce an annual subscription of £40 per child rather than weekly payments as it enables us to concentrate on the coaching promptly at 10:30 and it also offers you a saving. We will also be offering a £10 reduction per child for any families that have more than one child attending.

For example – 1 Child = £40, 2 Children = £40+£30, 3 Children = £40+£30+£30. As we are starting training earlier next season, this would equate to an approximate saving of (34 sessions @ £2 = £68 - £40 annual subscription – a saving of £28 for the first child and £38 for each subsequent child). The subscription will include a family membership to the main club & basic RFU insurance for your child. All of the money raised goes towards the development of the section and will be used to fund coaching courses for new and developing coaches and buying new or additional equipment needed for training and match days.

We would like to get all monies in to us by the 1<sup>st</sup> of 2<sup>nd</sup> week in September and the Fee can be paid by cash or cheque made payable to 'Atherstone Junior Rugby Section'.

### **When do we start again?**

We started training again on Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup> for the 2008 / 2009 season and this will be every Sunday (Apart from the Sunday's before and after Xmas and Mothers Day) at 10:30am till 12noon during the season. As stated on page one August will focus mainly on competitive non-contact match situations from within the club inter age group as this will enable us to then focus on key team skills in September ready to start playing competitive matches in October.

For those of you with access to a computer and the internet, please use this URL to access the Atherstone RFC Web pages as these will show the exact start date and also include some useful information - [www.rfu.com/Clubs/atherstonerfc](http://www.rfu.com/Clubs/atherstonerfc)

### **Sponsorship**

When we start playing games in October / November we will also be providing Match Kit for the games we will be playing and would like to invite potential shirt sponsors to contact any of the coaches if interested in sponsoring any age group.

Also, if there is enough interest we will be offering you the opportunity to purchase replica Match shirts and associated training tops or fleeces for both children and parents.

A catalogue with prices will be available next season.

### **Other News...**

Remember you can purchase Tea, Coffee and Squash from the club during coaching session from our ever-present Tracey.

### **Tesco Vouchers**

As last year we are a Tesco voucher for sports equipment registered club so if you shop at Tesco please collect the vouchers and hand them to one of the coaches.

### **Junior Section Contact Details**

#### Child Welfare Officer

- Adrian Barnes 07935 974 965

#### Coaches

- Nick Cameron 07725 263 940
- Claire Cooke 07970 511 825
- Danny Cooke 07765 060 622
- Darren Pearce 01827 715 324

If you are interested in helping out, giving any kind of feedback, offering any comments on improvements that could be made or indeed any questions you would like answered, please grab any coach who will be happy to listen or help – all feedback is welcomed and appreciated.

Alternatively, please feel free to use the E-Mail address below.

Junior Section E-mail: [atherstonerfc.juniors@googlemail.com](mailto:atherstonerfc.juniors@googlemail.com)

Website: [www.rfu.com/Clubs/atherstonerfc](http://www.rfu.com/Clubs/atherstonerfc)