



Atherstone RFC Junior Section
Ground: Ratcliffe Road, Atherstone, Warwickshire
Telephone: 01827 714934

October, 2008 NEWSLETTER

This Months News...

Sponsorship

The Atherstone RFC Junior committee would like to thank

- Wayne and Emma Farmer (Lewis' Mum and Dad) for their sponsorship of the Under 7's kit.
- Jeff Beale (Seb Beale's Grandad) for his sponsorship of the under 8's kit.
- Intersport / Cannon and Lewis Nuneaton for the donation of the First Aid bag.
- Ockey (who sometimes works behind the bar - trust me you can't miss him) for the donation of the First Aid kit to put in the bag.

Details of all sponsors can be found on our club Web pages.

We would also like to invite other potential sponsors to contact any of the coaches if interested in sponsoring any of the other age groups from Under 8's – U12's.

Fixtures for 2008 / 09

We are glad to announce our first fixtures as a club: -

Sunday 12th of October

- U7's / 8's vs. Old Salts (Away) 10am meet at the Club

Sunday 16th of November

- U7's / 8's, U9's / 10's & U11's / 12's vs. Old Salts (away) 10am meet at the club

Sunday 7th of December

- U7's / 8's, U9's & 10's vs. Keresley (away) 9.45am meet at the club

Sunday 1st of March

- U7's / 8's, U9's / 10's & U11's / 12's vs. Old Salts (home) 10.15am meet at the club

We hope to announce additional fixtures in the next few weeks.

For all fixture can parents for these age groups please confirm that their child / children can play in games and that they will have the following: -

- Transport to / from the match
- Playing kit to include Boots, Black Shorts and Black Socks
- Suitable clothes to be worn pre match if it is wet / cold and also between matches
- Filled Drink Bottle
- Change of clothes post match to wear in the club house

Please also confirm that you will be travelling in convoy with us or meeting at the away team club – preference is to travel in convoy as it is our first away match ;-)

Addresses of Clubs - Old Saltleians RFC, Watton Lane, Water Orton, Birmingham, B46 1LL, Club House Telephone 0121 748 3380

Rugby Club Social Events

There are a number of social events that are being planned over the next few months through the main club and they are: -

- Halloween Party / Fireworks display on Saturday, 1st November please see notice board for details.
- Atherstone RFC Kids Christmas Party, which is a great afternoon where the kids will play a few games and Santa will visit. Date T.B.C.

The Minimum Kit Required for training

Just to remind you that the minimum kit required for your child during games and training sessions is a securely fitting gum shield or mouth guard and a pair of rugby boots. The gum shield is for the protection of not only the teeth but of the whole mouth and jaw area. The boots are important because rugby is a winter sport and as such the pitches are wet so studs are vital for you children's safety when playing. For those playing in a contact team (Under 9's to Under 12's) head guards are recommended but not yet a strict requirement by the Rugby Football Union.

A reminder of the Plan for 2008-2009

As we mentioned in the last newsletter the 2008 / 2009 season is going to be a very important one for us as we plan to fully establish and build links for us in the Atherstone community and with the Warwickshire Rugby Union.

Seal of Approval

In May, the RFU's Warwickshire Rugby Development Officer approached the committee about becoming a Seal of Approval registered Junior Section. 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 training and playing equipment which can only be good news for the children's rugby development.

Seal of Approval also provides links with all local schools, which means that the RFU as part of their commitment to us will provide extra coaching to all schools in our area and point children to our recognised club rather than non Seal of Approval clubs.

Parent Voice on the committee

We would like to thank Richard Statham (David's Dad) for volunteering as one of the parent voice representatives on the committee. We do want more of you to become involved, you don't have to have a knowledge of rugby just an interest in what's going on with the Juniors and to find out what other parents are thinking. We are also looking for volunteers to become involved at whatever level you feel comfortable with, be that coaching or assistant coaching for the more enthusiastic or match day administrators for the less energetic. If you are interested in a role then please see Claire who will be happy to discuss in more detail. Any training required will be provided.

Registration Reminder

Just to remind everyone that the annual playing subscription is now due. It is important to remember that included in the price is Membership to ATCC plus RFU registration and insurance. If you haven't paid before the above-mentioned fixtures your child will not be able to play as they will be un-registered and un-insured. Any problems meeting the deadline, please speak with Adi (Bangers) and arrangements will be made. **So don't delay 'Pay Today'** ☺

A reminder of cost for this season

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

The Where & When

Just in case you happen to be reading this and your child isn't already part of one of the teams, we train every Sunday (excluding the Sunday's before and after Christmas and Mothers Day) from 10:30am until 12noon September to May.

Meet the Team

Darren Pearce – Vice Chairman and Coaching Assessor.

Darren or Mr Pearce as he is known to the kids when coaching at Racemeadow School has played rugby union at numerous clubs over the last 25 years. He started at Nuneaton before making his way to Atherstone in the first of his 3 spells. He has also played for Slough in Berkshire before coming back to Atherstone after a few years on the refereeing circuit. Darren is a Level 1 qualified coach, Warwickshire qualified referee and has coached Atherstone 1st XV, was a player and backs coach for the 1st XV last season but has now hung up his boots. He can now be seen on a Sunday helping the age groups out when an extra hand is needed.

Club Shop

We will be offering you the opportunity to purchase replica Match shirts, shorts, training or casual tops or fleeces for both children and parents. An online catalogue can be found on the club website under the Junior Section with prices. NOTE this is under construction at the moment and prices are estimates and will be confirmed soon, however if you would like to see what else may be available, please speak with Darren.

10% Sports Discount!

We have secured a 10% discount through our friends at Intersport / Cannon and Lewis Sports shop in Nuneaton. This will only be available on presentation of a valid Atherstone Juniors membership card. This is another good reason to get your membership subscriptions in now.

Membership Cards are now being printed.

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

Dial-In Message System

We have now provided a "Dial-In Message System" that will advise if Training or Matches are cancelled for any reason. Please use either the Dial-In Message or Web Pages to get the latest information.

PLEASE NOTE - This system is only for listening to our messages for you. We will not be monitoring the Message System for any messages left for us!.....**Dial: 07598 922 160**

For Web info about fixture's please enter:

<http://clubs.rfu.com/Clubs/portals/atherstonerfc/UpComingTrainingDatesGames2008.aspx>

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

We are updating our RFU web pages all the time and you can find copies of all of the newsletters and lots more information at our Website: www.rfu.com/clubs/atherstonerfc

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.