



Atherstone RFC Junior Section

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

APRIL, 2008 NEWSLETTER

Firstly - Thank You

As you may or may not know we are coming to the end of our first season for the juniors. We the coaches have thoroughly enjoyed our first season that has seen some 50+ children come down and hopefully enjoy the training that we have provided – so a big thank you to all the parents and children.

There are also a few names that need to be put down on paper for their continued commitment and support on a Sunday morning

- Tracey Barnes – Tracey is the lady behind the counter serving you all with Tea and Coffee
- Mat Barnes, Matty Kent and Shaun Major for stepping into the breach when we were desperate for extra coaching bodies. Mat B has probably attended more training sessions with the kids in the last 6 months than he ever did throughout his playing career and has been a major help in the U7-8 whilst Danny recovered from his broken leg
- Adi Barnes for making sure that we are all CRB checked and conforming to RFU Child Welfare regulations.
- Danny and Claire Cooke for not only coaching but also providing the chocolate digestives and their dining room for meetings
- To all our other coaches Nick Cameron, Tony Breen, Gav McCabe and Darren Pearce

What was the Plan for 2007-2008

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.

The mini and midi children have been on a very condensed and focused training plan this year, which we are sure has been at some times repetitive, however we would like to try and explain why we have had to coach in this way

- We had to assume that all children had not previously been coached to any level and having your child's safety in mind had to start at the U7 Tag Rugby level
- This then had to 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
- All of the above, would normally be taught over a period of three years

What is the Plan for 2008-2009

What we didn't achieve this year was being able to get the general competence to a level where we could play a competitive game before the end of this season.

It was a very difficult decision we had to make not to expose the children to a competitive match at this stage against teams who would have had upwards of three years experience and we must thank you and the children for your continued patience.

Next season however, we intend to play competitive matches in every age group with local clubs throughout the year and 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 this 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 man power.

To that end, we would like 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.

When do we start again

We will be starting training again Sunday August 3rd at 10:30am for the 2008 / 2009 season. 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

What will it cost me next season?

This season, we have 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.

Next 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). This 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 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 would like to offer you the opportunity to purchase Match replica shirts and associated training tops or fleeces for children and parents. A catalogue and prices will be available next season.

Junior Presentation

To coincide with the main clubs 40th anniversary awards and presentation evening the first annual Atherstone junior section presentation will be held the same weekend on Sunday the 11th of May from 1pm to 4 pm at the Rugby Club.

There will be hot food provided, entertainment in the form of indoor games and all children involved with the club this year are invited to attend.

Parents are allowed to prop up the bar if they wish!!!

Atherstone Junior Cricket:

The Atherstone Junior Cricket section started up for the new season on Friday evenings from 6.15 to 8pm (weather permitting). If any one is interested in playing cricket during the summer please contact either Vic Clements on 07775 544 534 or Mike Brookes on 07745 670 822 for more information.

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

Website: www.rfu.com/Clubs/atherstonerfc