



Foxbury News

Old Elthamians RFC
Youth Section
Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I
March 2011

Chairman's message



Welcome to the first of our Youth Section quarterly newsletters for 2011.

Over the last 3 – 5 years the youth rugby section has developed considerably and the current “state of the nation” is something we should be proud of. The number of players registered is at an all time high of 283. This year's Foxbury Festival was a great success and continues to re-enforce our reputation within the rugby community as a club that knows what it is doing. The academy, under the leadership of Ian Sutton is now into its second year and is a significant development for the older age groups. We have restructured the organising committee and leadership set. Links with the Sports Club and the Senior rugby sections have continued to

improve and the behind the scenes infrastructure of the club is far stronger.

But we cannot be complacent. I am aware that at times communications between the sections is still an issue despite the developments around the web site and the re-launch of our news letter. We are working hard to achieve the RFU's Seal of Approval Accreditation which will help drive further improvements and address some areas of weakness in management of the section. I am confident that we will meet head-on any challenges we face and as always exceed expectations.

On the field we continue to improve as the quality of our coaching improves under the direction of coaching co-ordinator, Mark Garrett. My thanks to Mark and the body of

coaches we have who are always seeking to improve on a personal basis and as a group and without whom we would not exist.

However, I am also very proud of the fact that although rugby as a professional sport is developing and growing, which brings different expectations and pressures we still hold true to the values and spirit of what rugby is all about. The fact that Matt Watkins and his team have volunteered to host a Schools Tag Tournament on behalf of Kent RFU next month is testament to this (see article on next page).

Finally, a request. If you want to be involved helping out in some way be it at an age group level or across the club please let us know.

Alan Farmer
Youth Rugby Chairman

Player Focus: Nick Thompkins

Nick first started coming to OE's in his buggy to watch his older brother Alex, but it wasn't long before he escaped and was running about at Foxbury. He played on and off with the U7s for a number of years until he was the same age as everyone else in the group.

From that time on he was focused and determined in every thing he did in training and on the rugby pitch. His dedication to improve all aspects of his game, especially his speed, paid off.

He became a member of the Saracens Academy 3 years ago and has recently received a scholarship to attend Oaklands College in

Hertfordshire where he will study and of course, play rugby.

After an almost never ending sequence of trials, Nick was recently selected to attend the U 16s England Camp. We have just heard that Nick has not only been selected to play for England, but has the honour of being made the Captain for the upcoming international against Italy on April 20th at Macclesfield RFC. Well done Nick from the whole club—we are really proud of you!

Russell Taylor
Head Coach Under 16s



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Coming Soon

Keep an eye out for the snazzy new Youth Section Gazebos (tents to the uninitiated). They'll be coming to a ground near you soon!

Our resident gazebo expert Kevin Day personally oversaw the break-up of the Russian nuclear fleet so that he could pick the best materials—every gazebo comes with a glowing recommendation.

Kevin assures us that they are light enough for your son to carry and will be as easy to assemble as IKEA furniture. That's OK then!



Minis update



Much has happened throughout the mini section this season. In September we welcomed Paul Moyses and the Fisher brothers to the mini section coaching fraternity, and what a great job they're doing with the U8's. An exceptionally talented group of children who pioneered the RFU Proficiency Awards for us this year and show much promise for the years ahead.

We finished last season as overall winners of the Kent Mini Cup and finally received our trophy in late January which is now housed in the clubhouse. The 2010/11 season got off to an excellent start at the Foxbury Festival in October. The U8's won their section, in their first competitive Festival, the U11's coming runners up in theirs, losing narrowly to TJ's in the Cup Final. The U9's lost in the Plate Final, whilst the U10's won their age group

for the third year in succession, with the U12's coming third in a highly competitive group, winning two matches and losing two by a try on each occasion. With increased numbers across all age groups its essential that we as a section offer competitive rugby for all the boys. Like a number of the larger clubs in the County, we are looking to arrange a B Festival and Fixtures to supplement our existing training and development days. For the first time this year the Kent Festival will include a B League competition with a number of our age groups entering two teams. Meanwhile, the U12's have linked up with Old Dartfordians to form a Barbarians team (the Dartamians) that will enter a couple of B festivals.

Looking forward; for the first time we're taking four of the mini age groups U9s - U12s on our end-of-season tour to Camber Sands over Royal Wedding

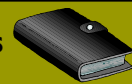
Weekend, and will be joined by the U14s to lend their touring experience to the party.

On the 7th May the mini section will be holding their annual Presentation Evening. Andy Wilkins has kindly agreed to provide some music for us all and we're hoping that Scrummies will be open to provide for all your catering needs. Please mark your diaries - 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

The mini section continues to go from strength to strength through all the hard work and dedication of all the coaches, referees, team managers and other helpers. We've made significant strides forward this year in developing and attracting new players to rugby at OE's, and as we enter the Festival season it promises to be an exciting end to another excellent season.

Mark Pryor
Chairman of Minis

Diary Dates



- *16th March—Joe Ward, Sale RFC Coaching clinic @ OEs (All welcome)*
- *27th March—Kent festival Preliminaries*
- *3rd April—Kent Festival Finals*
- *9th April—1st XV last match of the season*
- *30th April—Minis tour to Camber Sands*
- *7th May— Minis End of Season Presentation and Disco @ OEs*
- *15th & 22nd May— Referees Course @ OEs*
- *Sometime in May— AGM @ OEs (All welcome)*

RFU Proficiency Awards

These awards are designed to help coaches measure player development. OE's now have a set schedule in place to ensure all players in the mini section go through and get a Gold, Silver or Bronze award. As those who have done them will vouch these are no "turn up and get a prize" awards – If you get Gold you are good! For Coaches they also act as a great guide to what's important, with drills put together by RFU coaching staff. Full updates on awards in the next Newsletter. Furthermore, the boys have the fitness awards to look forward to over summer training!

Matt Watkins
'Jedi Master' Proficiency

Schools Tag Tournament

Friday 4th March 1.00 pm

Sixteen teams from eleven local schools entered the inaugural OE's schools tag festival for years 5 & 6. Lots of boys from the club were playing for their schools and I'm sure they were proud to show their friends around the club. The event itself was won by a talented Days Lane school, winning a close final with Scotts Park, fea-

turing Seb from the Under 11's. The whole club from the seniors to the under 7's contributed to helping put the festival together and really showed what a great event we can run when we put our mind to it. Great refereeing, pitch marshalling (and Glamorous Assistant pitch marshalling!) supported by Lin and Sarah in the Control tent (sorry Marquee) made

sure the day went with a swing. And to top it all Mark Large produced a fantastic set of pictures to capture the day. Pride of place though goes to the hooter, which ruthlessly kept things on track.

A new event has just become a permanent fixture!

Matt Watkins
Head Coach Under 11s



Your Committee



Your Committee meets once a month to review the progress of the section. Notes of the discussions, decisions and actions are posted on the club website.

It's important to know who is to blame:

Alan Farmer

Youth Section Chairman, Club Welfare Officer and Under 7s Coach

Contact: 07793 810183

Ian Sutton

Academy Manager and Fixtures Secretary

Contact: 07876 208989

Kevin Day

Fixtures Secretary and Coach Under 10s (incoming)

Contact: 020 84672395

Vicky Andrew

Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Contact: 07775 583292

Russell Taylor

Secretary and Head Coach Under 16s

Contact: 07766 776046

Mark Pryor

Minis Chairman and Head Coach Under 10s

Contact: 07801 233298

Mark Garrett

Coaching Co-ordinator and Coach Under 15s

Contact: 07538 398253

Matthew Watkins

Proficiency and Head Coach Under 11s

Contact: 07779 999639

A.N.Other

Fund Raising Officer

Contact: TBD

David Loveless

Communications and Head Coach Under 12s

Contact: 07767 865750

CONGRATULATIONS!

A good win over Warlingham on Saturday 12th March saw our 1st XV winning the London 2 South East League and gaining promotion—still with games still to go.

Well done to all involved for a successful season.

Your Club Needs You!

Like making loads of money and not ashamed of it?

Always wondered what goes on in committee meetings behind the closed doors?

If you answer **YES** to the above, put your talents to work by becoming the Fund Raising Officer for the Youth Section.

Never again will you have a dull moment in the bar! You'll need all your powers of persuasion and creativeness as you try and convince people to part with their hard earned cash!

Must have a love of the game of rugby and a deep-rooted desire to redistribute wealth, not in that order.

Apply to a Committee Member today!

Andy Miller, Head Coach U14s

It is with great regret that we have to report that Andy Miller is hanging up his whistle as Under 14s Coach.

He is going out at the top with the Under 14s currently performing well this season. Andy who seems to have been at the club since the ice age came to

the rescue with this group of boys when they nearly folded. Over the years the club has benefitted from his vast experience and knowledge of the game.

Best known for his lengthy match reports, sleeping in hallways on tours and of course not forgetting his renditions of Father Abra-

ham!

Andy is going to concentrate on coaching the 1st XV for Charlton Park in their quest for promotion from London 3 SE League and beyond.

Good luck Andy and all the very best



The Club Website

Don't forget to visit the new club website on Pitchero (see address bottom of this page).

Many thanks to the coaches for their contributions each week, but special thanks must go to the visionary Stuart White and the irrepressible club

nerds Ian Sutton and Chris Cunliffe for getting the site up and running over the last 18 months. An impressive hit rate has seen OEs move into the top 20 club sites on Pitchero (It has been suggested that this is due to Ian and Chris visiting the site 40 times a

day, but I'm having none of that! – Ed).

The site contains loads of information about the club including the club sponsors, match results and reports, all the fixtures as well as details of upcoming events. It's also got loads of embarrassing photos!

Quotable Quotes

Heard in the bar last month:

"I've met Jeremy Guscott, that's one seriously good looking bloke!" (a Coach)

"I am in shape. Round is a shape."