



Alcester Rugby Football Club

**Annual Junior Section Report
2007 - 2008**

**ARFC Junior Section
Annual Report
AGM Wednesday 25th June 2008**

At the outset I must express my thanks to all the members of the Alcester rugby club junior section, without their hard work and commitment none of the activities we have held this season would have taken place. I also wish to thank, all the many parents who have helped and supported in many different ways and to the Executive Committee for their continued support.

Junior Rugby at Alcester has moved ahead from modest beginnings a few years ago with a couple games played between local clubs. Alcester RFC juniors are laying the foundations for the future of the club, learning skills and developing friendships that will further the clubs development in the years to come.

The 2007 to 2008 season has proved to be the junior sections most successful season to date.

Established Strengths

RFU Seal of Approval

The club has made in roads to achieving level one of the RFU Seal of Approval. This is an accreditation programme used as a method of examining, maintaining and improving the game of rugby within a youth section.

Building upon current good practice, the aim is to recognise the efforts and achievements of the club and to reach, maintain and improve on the current standards. The club could not have achieved this without the hard work and determination of three individuals Rob Thomson, Peter Cook and Brian Armstrong and I would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedicated efforts

Membership

This season saw nearly 200 junior members playing rugby from ages 5 to 17. This is the largest number of juniors the club has ever achieved and although only a 10% increase on last years membership it is still growing at a steady rate. This year for the first time ever we will be able to field a team from every age group from U7 through to U17.

Coaching

We ran two successful level one training courses this season, each attended by nearly 40 coaches from various clubs across the county, thirteen of our own coaches participated all of which are now qualified Level One Coaches and listed below.

Scott Carmichael
Pete Hucker
Ernie Johnston
Gary Vale
Alan Arthur
Carl Putnam
Andy Flynn
Herman Hendriksz
Steve Green
Dominic Skinner
Laura Bashford
Andrew Heap
Neil Johnson

This brings the total number of qualified coaches at Alcester to 23

Referee

One junior member of the U17's Michael Heap completed his Entry Level Referee Award this season and congratulations must be given to him for being one of the youngest referee's within the club.

Training

Training ran from September to April this year, with a good consistency of numbers and appears to be well supported in a competitive environment.

School of Rugby

We progressed our reputation as a club through county representation at 3 age groups with Dasari Vasushta U16's, Spencer Lunn U15's and Jay Proctor U14's all making it through to the school of Rugby.

School Liaison

School Sports Coaching Sessions

As part of our drive to attain Seal of Approval for the club, we are working closely with the local primary and senior schools. Delivering coaching session to further develop our commitment to the community and to the game of rugby in general. We delivered 25 sessions in total and my thanks go to all those coaches that took time off work to help and to Peter Cook for organizing the sessions.

Festivals

Alcester Rugby Club 3rd Annual West Warwickshire Schools Tag Festival on 7th Sept 2007

A very successful and enjoyable event with 16 schools attending and over 160 children participating. The festival enabled many youngsters to learn about Rugby for the first time and develop ball skills in a safe and friendly environment.

Congratulations To Bidford Primary School for winning the tournament shield.

They were also invited to the Worcester ground along with the other finalist St Nicholas School Alcester to replay the final in front of a packed Sixways Stadium at their Guinness Premiership clash with Sale Sharks on Friday 23rd November 2007. Next seasons Tag Festival is to be held on Sunday 12th October 2008.

Alcester Rugby Club Year 7 Contact rugby Festival 2nd December

Another great event with 9 schools participating and congratulations go to King Edward sixth school Stratford on being the eventual winners.

Peter Cook continues to work hard at encouraging visiting schools to take part and introducing young players to the game of rugby.

Both of these festivals were very well organized and I would like to thank Peter again for all his hard work.

Rugby Camp

Alcester Rugby Club in conjunction with Worcester Warriors held the first warriors training camp in October half term, 45 boys and girls from across the county and across the age groups all joined in on run, kick and pass challenges with expert coaching from the warriors coaches.

Tours

A record number of teams toured this year

U12's and U13's tour to Somerset in April where they played Dowlais RFC on the Saturday before entering into a mini tournament against old adversaries Hornets RFC, Weston Super Mare and Camp Hill RFC.

U16's visited Cornwall to play Wadebridge Camels RFC

U11's visited Crediton Rugby Club

Touring Team Visits

Again this season we played host to several touring teams

Tynedale RFC played our U13's on Saturday February 24th 2008

Syston RFC played our U16's on Sunday 16th March 2008

Hendy RFC played our U14's on Sunday 30th March 2008

All of which sent emails to thank us for making them so welcome.

Events

Numerous rugby, social and fund-raising events were held, including

Bonfire and Firework Display,

Rugby Festivals

Rugby Camps

Camping Weekend

Christmas Party with over 60 children and 40 parents

Junior Award Presentation again presented by our Patron The Marquess of Hertford

End of Season Party

Tour Fundraising Parties, Car Wash and Sponsored Walks

Tesco Sports For School Vouchers

Thank you to all the parents and children that helped to collect the vouchers, we manage to collect 9890 that's 1400 up on last years. This enabled us to acquire much needed equipment.

Balls

Size 3 x 7

Size 4 x 20

Size 5 x 6

Kit bags x 7

Red Tags x 1 set (20 belts and 20 tags)

Kicking Tees x 5

Focus for Juniors Development

- Increase children's numbers allowing better internal playing opportunities.
- Increase the number of girls playing rugby.
- Introduce a Colts Team.
- Increase the number of Coaches & Coaching Assistants per team for better training sessions.
- Increase the number of team managers.
- Increase the number of Level Two qualified coaches.
- Better defined training programmers for all age groups.
- Increase the number of qualified referee's within the club.
- Continue to liaise with local schools to provide closer links.
- Run the ARFC Tournaments on similar lines, but aiming to increase numbers of visiting teams.
- Identify players for county representation.
- To improve the club facilities using all avenues of funding and financing which are available to us.

We also look forward to some more help from the senior squad players - this happened occasionally last season and is very much appreciated. The kids really respond to the senior players and it helps us build links between the junior section and the main club, which is important if we are to ensure the boys move easily into senior rugby when the time comes.

We need to have more involved participation both on and off the field and need to continue to set ourselves targets. On the non-playing side, expanding the numbers involved in management of the club is a necessity if we are going to maintain and expand the playing strength of the club.

Alcester Rugby Club Junior Section is held in very high esteem throughout the county and we have succeeded this season in maintaining that high regard. We have had some successes and some disappointments but there are many signs of encouragement. Children, today, are faced with increasing demands on their time and with more and more pressures as well as attractions, we have had to work very hard to draw young people into club and to keep them playing throughout their childhood.

When we succeed we will have given them a game for life, and they will have acquired through rugby many important social skills, which are invaluable as they move on to adulthood.

Though we are a small club, we remain positive and would welcome involvement from any enthusiast who wishes to put something back into the game that we all love.

In closing, I would just like to emphasise how proud I was of every ones performances this year. My very best wishes to you all and I look forward to seeing you all for pre-season training, which will commence on Sunday 31st August 2008.

Tony Darby
Junior Representative
Alcester RFC