



Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club

Heathbrook, Swindon Road, Wallheath, DY6 0AW. 01384 287006
www.dkrfc.co.uk



Youth Section Report to AGM 2010

On the whole this has been a great season! Not perfect by any means, we have still encountered problems, situations that we could have done without and mistakes have been made. It's been a funny season in many respects not least because of the weather, I have never known so many games called off and training disrupted so much in all the years I have been down here.

However the season has provided us with many positives:

Numbers are growing 240+ players, add Parents, siblings etc and we are probably at over 800ish.

At the beginning of the season we set out our stall with a 3 year development plan and a 12 month action Plan, this has given us a focus and members of the committee specific roles to work on.

The youth section now has a Full policy document which sets out procedures that should be followed and this has added a level of transparency in the way we work and what is expected of all our members.

The development of the Web site has been a huge step forward in communication. The following weeks fixtures are displayed with names of the referees, all our documentation is available including development and action plans, registration documents and things like injury reporting forms and tour documentation etc as well as information for coaches, upcoming courses, news and events. Each team has their own page, many of which have links to match reports and photos.

I reported at the last AGM that we were going for re-designation of our RFU Seal of Approval; I can report to this meeting that we were

successful in this bid! It took a huge amount of work and could not have been achieved without the dedication and commitment of the committee, coaches and managers. The club is very lucky to have such a great Committee and the Seal could not have been achieved without them:

Andy Gallis: Incredible dedication to club as treasurer and vice chairman, we could not function without him.

Bob Parker: Fantastic servant to the club, youth section and North Mids, he is constantly reminding me what needs doing and by when.

Jan Burbie: Ensures that all our 240 plus players are on Rugby First.

Caroline & Brad Willetts: Have made sure that all adults who work with kids are CRB cleared and have steered over 20 managers and coaches through the RFU Safeguarding course, they show amazing compassion and dedication in ensuring everything is in place to provide the safest possible environment for the youngsters at DK.

Mandy Platts: Through her hard work has made sure that no coach at U13's up has had to referee their own team in 3 years, she has got 7 of our members through the referees course, 4 from senior and 3 from the U15's thus helping to ensure referees for the future. All 4 of the U15's refereed at the Gallis Trophy this year. Her intention is not only to provide referees but also to provide opportunities to keep people involved in the game and offer possible career opportunities. I must at this point publicly thank Pete Morgan of the NMSRFR who appoints our referees. Pete has been very ill for some time battling against cancer, but he has still delivered, working with incredible dedication in unbelievably difficult circumstances.

John Griffiths: Has successfully delivered fixtures for 11 teams and has represented the club at North Mids, he is literally down the club more than at home. We also hosted the U15 county festival.

Ken Morrissey: As we know Ken, with Shaker, have provided us with the best pitches at any club I have seen and has looked after the changing rooms, what you probably don't know is that he has provided the youth section with 20+ more coaching qualifications by organising courses.

Shaun Evans: As a part of the RFU Seal we had to implement Proficiency awards. Shaun has done this and is now working his way

through the youth teams, he also intends setting up a system of player profiles so as players move to colts they will each have a dossier of achievements and progression gained through their time in youth.

Daz Moore: For the first time in a while we have a CCC who is being actively proactive in the development of coaching and coaches in the youth section. He offers support and advice to coaches, recommends courses and has done the liaison with the first team. At this point I would like to express my gratitude to Ben Connett for all his support over the season and to the many first team players who have given up their Sundays to come and coach the little ones. A special thank you must go to Luke Greenwood who came down to help at an U17 session and ended up staying for the whole season!

Sara Pearce: Tours are tight, our documentation is in place and Sara has made sure all possible problems have been minimized. Our tour packs are a pain but they offer not only protection for the youngsters but also for the coaches and other responsible adults that go on the tours.

Nick Parker: Although his work commitments have meant that he has not been able to come down the club as often as he would like he has still represented us at the North Mids and was responsible for organising yet another fantastic Gallis trophy.

Larry Priest: Has provided us with a honest and supportive link to the senior section. The links with Senior section I believe have gone from strength to strength, the fantastic support from Graham Robbins, presenting trophies at both our presentations. Many thanks also to Simon Dowding and Ken Crane for their continued support. I also believe that the initiative of "Whole club events" is paying dividends.

Gail Harris & Martin Simmonds: Our newest members, taking on the publicity and sourcing funding streams. We are looking forward to their great enthusiasm in the coming season, indeed they have made such an impact I believe they have been picked by the senior section.

St Johns, Sue Fellows, always there and totally professional.

Now it's going to be the whole clubs turn, by 2014 all CLUBS will be expected to have or be working towards the Whole Club Seal of Approval and the youth section will be fully supportive in this venture.

Gallis Trophy: What can I say? It was our 37th year and the best ever! (Until next year) The Gallis family still support the tournament, Alan, John, Andy and Adam were all there and involved. We believe it is the Oldest club youth tournament in the country. This year yet again we provided all home grown referees including the 3 newest additions from the U15's. We were told by visiting coaches that it is the best organised tournament they have been to. This year we had more sponsorship than ever before, Land Rover, Premiership Rugby and Sacla, the thing is we didn't ask them, they came to us and asked to be involved, surely this is confirmation of the high esteem the tournament is held in across the midlands. Land Rover and Premiership Rugby meant that the winners went onto a national final in London and Sacla provided one lucky lad with a coaching session with Lawrence Dellagio at Twickenham.

Coaches & Managers: It must be said that without the dedication and commitment of our coaches and managers there would be no youth section, every Sunday and in some cases midweek as well they turn up and provide a safe environment for the youngsters of the community to learn and enjoy Rugby. Many of the teams went on tour and the responsibility that coaches and managers take on in that respect should not be underestimated. The U14 won the Fair play award on their tour and the U16's had a very successful tour to Belgium, a tour which is now firmly a part of the youth section calendar.

On the Past Present and Future weekend, for the first time ever every team in the youth section from U7's to U17's had a marked out pitch to call their own and this has been maintained throughout the season. The First team were there and we also organised a presentation of certificates to representative players from the youth section on the Saturday. To be presented certificates by the President of the RFU in front of a packed stand was a significant moment for those youngsters.

One problem we had provided a silver lining, because of RFU regulations we had to stop under 6's from playing and training with the

U7's. Due to the tenacity and commitment of Sarah Robbins the U7's manager and Damion Watts it brought about the inception of the first ever "Micro" rugby team or U6's, and they have built up a squad of about 12 players.

One of our biggest achievements of the season occurred on one day in February. We had U7-U12 plus 3 junior teams all at the club, all U7 to U12 were in Tri tournament's, the U10's all had 2 teams each! This meant we hosted 27 teams at once, plus squad players and all their parents and families. All had parking spaces, all had their own pitches and all were fed and watered!!

I have also got to mention the presentations. The Friday was a great evening the Marquee worked a treat and the Sunday was unforgettable, the marquee was packed with smiling faces, every single child received a round of applause and the sight of the "Micro's" receiving their awards from Ben Connett will live with me for many a year!

Kitchen. The kitchen is an iatrical part of a Sunday morning and I would like to extend my thanks to Jenny, Ruth & Holly + Alison Morrissey for their Stirling work.

I would also like to thank the Bar staff for their work on a Sunday.

So what of next year? Well next season has a lot to live up to, I just hope that we can maintain the momentum and continue to grow and develop as a section and as a club. I welcome the appointment of Adam Blackford as the Colts coach and coordinator/link between Youth and senior, he has already made contact and started the ball rolling. Our development plan is still running and after a coaches and managers meeting our new action plan for 2010/2011 is ready to be written, and we look forward to the County Finals in 2011 that we are hosting. Finally, as we are only temporary custodians our focus is inevitably on the coming season, however, we still strive to develop a club that will be here for generations to come and we look forward to the challenge.