



Ongar Rugby Football Club

Mini Rugby Newsletter #2: October 2009

Dear Parents,

It has been great to see so many of your children in the last few weeks. Here is the latest news and plans

Fantastic numbers of children training

We have had over 30 different children attending the first four training sessions with an average of 24 each week. There are over a dozen children that have attended every session. The glorious sunny weather certainly helped although it did mean the pitch was like concrete.



The first session gave us a chance to see how many children we had and the numbers in different age groups. Since then, so that each age group could develop at its own pace and children could develop familiarity with other players and the coaches, we have divided the children into an Under 6s and Over 6s. The ten or so Under 6s seem to be having real fun and already keep asking for their favourite activity: Bulldog Tag!

Developing the older players

You will have noticed that we have been splitting the Over 6s cohort into two smaller groups. They have been making real progress in their skills and game play. To keep all the players engaged and improving at their pace we are going to divide this group more formally into U7s and Over 7s after half-term. In age groups of six or so players, with their own coach, we can develop their passing and game continuity further. The added benefit is the players will get to know their team mates better in preparation for the matches against other teams.

Reminder of half-term break and Term 2 dates

Just to confirm that the last training session of Term 1 will be Sunday, October 18. There will be a break of two Sundays before Term 2 starts on Sunday, November 8. This will give your families a chance to have a lie in and recharge the batteries.

**No Tag Rugby on
Sunday, October 25
or
Sunday, November 1**

Amazing support from Ongar RFC members

It was great that ten members from the Club attended the RFU Tag Rugby Coaching course on September 7. Not only have all of them started helping out on Sunday mornings but they have also volunteered to help out on the Schools programme we are running with the support of Sportessex and Essex RFU. My thanks to all of them.

Schools Programme gets going

This week our primary school Tag Coaching programme got going in Doddinghurst Infants, Chipping Ongar, Moreton, High Ongar and Dr Walkers. Unfortunately the first rain for weeks affected the planned session at High Ongar but this will be made up. Delays to the CRB checks meant we haven't been able to get going at Shelley but hopefully this will start after half-term.

Schools where ORFC is coaching Tag Rugby

- **Doddinghurst Infants**
- **Moreton Primary**
- **Chipping Ongar Primary**
- **High Ongar Primary**
- **Dr Walkers Primary**
- **Shelley Primary (tbc)**

The plan is for a Tag Rugby festival on Sunday December 13, starting at 12pm at Love Lane. All the schools will be invited to send teams to take part alongside teams from Ongar Knights made up of players that don't attend one of the six schools. It should be great fun for the players and the parents will be able to enjoy a drink from the Sports & Social Club bar and hot food the Rugby Club will be laying on. More details to follow.

New kit goes down well

The new Ongar Knights shirts have gone down very well with players and parents with the first batch of 20 selling out on the first morning. We know have a second batch in stock, available on Sunday mornings from the back of a rather dodgy looking Ford Galaxy. I hope you agree the shirts are excellent quality and that the players and coaches look very professional out on the field.

Looking Ahead: Matches and Festivals

At the first session we explained that matches against other clubs would start after Christmas. The reason for this was to give players time to develop skills, game play and team spirit before meeting more established clubs and more experienced teams. Kids love competitive matches and when blended with training can really sharpen skills and team work. But we don't want parents put off by having to travel across Essex every other Sunday. So we will be aiming for one match before Christmas and another two after Christmas before entering the Essex Mini Rugby Festival in March. More details to follow.

Getting Social: Dates for your diary

The Ongar RFC Christmas party is on Saturday, December 12 at Love Lane. Apparently Father Christmas is a big rugby fan so makes a special visit. He can't wait to meet the Ongar Knights. It is a party for all the family and tickets will be available on Sundays to buy.

On Saturday, October 17 the Ongar RFC 1st XV play Kings Cross Steelers in a crucial league match at Love Lane. It would be great to see as many of you and your kids there to watch and have a drink with members and players.

**Ongar RFC Christmas
Party**
7pm till late
Saturday, December 12
Love Lane, Ongar
Kids and Families
welcome
Meet Father Christmas

For more information about Ongar RFC go to

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