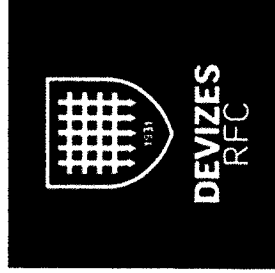


From: Chris Long, Outgoing Chair of Devizes RFC Juniors



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Dear Parents and Guardians,

JUNIOR CHAIR'S NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2025

I hope everyone is having a great summer and enjoying the, largely, wonderful sunshine. With the start of the new season on Sunday 7th September, here is a quick update on a few matters and an urgent appeal for help.

We are looking ahead to the biggest season that the Juniors have seen for many years. Every age group will be represented once more and the Club will have senior girls playing as a team at the dual U11/U12 level as well as a separate combined U13-U16 squad. Fourteen groupings, which is a level that not many clubs can boast these days, so thank you for your great support to date. There remains a never ending need to attract new players to build strength in depth within our teams and whilst I am now receiving daily requests from parents of potential new players for details of the Juniors restart, we will always welcome more. You are the Club's greatest recruitment ambassadors; so, as we head towards the new season, please use your personal and school-based social media links to promote the restart of the girls' and boys' rugby on 7th September.

To maintain this momentum the Juniors urgently need your further support. As announced over a year ago, at the end of this month I must step down as your Chair. A range of potential successors have been approached since Christmas and whilst a number have been keen, new jobs and other ties have meant that none are able to commit to the role now. On your Junior Committee there are also roles to fill as Minis' Coordinator, Kit Managers, Schools Liaison and Team Manager Liaison plus there are always places and training available for people who fancy having a go at coaching or the vital team manager roles. With the new season all organised, none of these roles require a huge amount of work but they urgently need people to take them on either on an individual or a shared basis. We have got beyond the point that you can assume that someone else less busy is bound to be available: the Juniors need volunteers now for all these roles, so please let me know as a matter of urgency what you can do to help.

Appreciating that some of the older age groups have been doing some impressive fitness training over the summer, all eyes are now focused on 7th September. The plan is to make the day a much bigger event than normal, so standby for further details.

We will be aiming to have subscriptions paid up as soon as practicable. The Club has significant facility improvement plans, for which early payment of subscriptions will be key. As well as free rugby coaching, no match fees, the free initial issue of shorts and socks, etc., the membership card offers a 10% reduction on drinks at the bar and reductions in the cost of hiring the fantastic facility for private parties. The further good news is that subscriptions are unchanged from last year:

U6-U8 Tag	£72
U12-U16 Girls	£72
U9-Colts	£140
Coaches and Team Managers	£50

Whilst the Club would prefer full payment of the subscriptions which are due on 1st September, they can be paid over ten months via a direct debit arrangement. The option to use direct debit is offered when on the RFU's Game Management System buying membership through the Devizes RFC club website.

Over the summer the three Lions Test Matches saw a fantastic atmosphere in the packed Clubhouse, even if the last game didn't quite go our way! Next England's Red Roses and the other home nations start their Women's Rugby World Cup campaign. For the Red Roses' first match on Friday 22nd August against the USA, the Ladies' Team will be running a BBQ and holding an open joint training session with the senior girls at 6pm. Everyone will then be watching the game together which kicks off at 7.30pm. It would be fantastic to see a full house again that evening and at the subsequent games, which will all be televised, as will the autumn internationals beyond them.

Last season saw huge improvements on the catering and bar parts of the Clubhouse, and with the recent appointment of a new facilities manager these will be stepped up still further. The aim is to make the fantastic Clubhouse a community hub, as it should be, so come along and join in the feast of rugby that will be available to watch over the next few months. It is also available to hire for corporate events and very popular for birthday parties and other celebrations.

This is my last newsletter as your Junior Chair. It has been a huge honour and privilege to have held the role, for which I am in debt to you all, players, parents/guardian and fellow volunteers alike. Now new blood has become essential though so that Devizes RFC Juniors can continue to offer your daughter or son and their colleagues in our local community and surrounding area the opportunities that come from being involved in our wonderful game. I really look forward to hearing from you - thank you.

Best wishes

Chris
