

LONGTON RUGBY

JUNIORS NEWS

April 2009

To All players, parents, coaches, etc of Longton's Junior Section.

As the 2008/9 season draws to a close, here are some dates for your diary and some important information regarding coaching at all Junior levels.

Staffordshire County President's Day

On Sunday 26th April, Longton will be playing host to this important occasion.

There will be 2 County Finals played that day:

The Owen Cup, between Linley and Barton under Needwood, kicking off at 12.30 and

The Intermediate Cup, between Trentham and either Burntwood or Tamworth, kicking off at 15.30

Amongst all the other tasks the club is responsible for, our Junior Section will be providing ball boys for both matches. Food and refreshment will be provided for the juniors taking part.

Because of this, there will be no Junior Coaching on the 26th April.

End of Season 2008/9

Coaching will officially end for 2008/9 on Wednesday 29th April for all age groups and there will be a summer break throughout May.

Presentation Night

The end of season Juniors Presentation Night will take place, at the Clubhouse, on Wednesday 6th May, starting at 8 pm.

Closed Season Coaching

All Junior coaching will recommence on Wednesday 3rd June, at 7.00 pm. (including TAG rugby) and it is intended to only train on Wednesdays during the close season.

Season 2009/10

Next season will start on Sunday 7th September with a Registration Day, when all new players will be Registered and details for existing players will be verified to ensure contact details are still accurate.

Membership Fees for 2008/9

Any outstanding membership fees for this current season should be paid as soon as possible.

Speak to Doug

Membership Fees for 2009/2010

It is suggested that the Junior Membership Fee be increased to £30 for next season, but that this would include the supply of an embroidered club training sweatshirt. Second child fee would be £20 and subsequent children would be £10. The additional Family Membership will remain at £10 and will continue to provide a 7.5% discount on bar purchases.

TESCO Vouchers

The Club is once again collecting the Schools & Clubs Vouchers and is hoping to obtain 6 new tackle pads for the juniors. There is a collecting box situated by the main notice board on the landing in the Clubhouse. Please help us achieve our target of 6000 vouchers.

Can we say **a big thank you** for all your patience and help during the past 12 months whilst we have settled in to our new home. As with all new ventures, things have not always gone smoothly, but we have made significant progress in developing our junior section.

During the past year, we have recruited 7 more qualified coaches, introduced TAG rugby sessions for boys and girls, put 14 additional coaches, parents, etc through a First Aid Course, recruited 2 more Referees and sent a number of volunteers on a course for the Safeguarding & Protection of Young People in Rugby. These are all extremely important milestones for the Club.

Catering

In recent weeks, in response to your comments, a food and hot drinks service has been provided on Sunday mornings by Jez and Julie. This has been a very welcome improvement and we ask you to make full use of the facility, so as to make it a permanent feature on Sunday mornings. A huge vote of thanks to Jez and Julie for their hard work.

Next season we are hoping to run teams at under 12s, under 14s, under 15s and under 17s ages and to continue with the development of TAG rugby. It is important that, as well as coaching TAG rugby, we organise competition for this group and we will be actively pursuing games against other clubs and schools.

All this development has brought a tremendous amount of additional workload and we desperately need more volunteers to get involved with the weekly running of the teams. We are striving to provide each age group with their own Coaches, Team Manager and First Aider and would welcome any help we can get in any of these areas. Don't be afraid to get involved, you will get all the support and training you need and your reward is to see our young players taking part in the best team sport there is.

By the way, have you checked out the Club's new website? There's loads of information about the Club, social activities, juniors, etc. and there's a Forum, where you can have your say about anything to do with Longton Rugby Club. All Junior fixtures, training information, cancellations, etc will be on the website next season, so if the weathers bad you will be able to check if games or training sessions are still on. Just go to **www.Longtonrugby.co.uk** and have a look around.