



**REEDS
WEYBRIDGE
R.F.C.**

Letter to all Youth Section parents and members from David Edwards, Youth Section Chairman

Dear players, parents and friends,

A warm welcome back to rugby at Reeds Weybridge RFC to all our returning players, parents and friends, and an especially warm welcome to all of the new faces at Reeds Weybridge this season. For the new joiners I am confident that you will find Reeds Weybridge a friendly and happy place to enjoy your rugby.

The running of the club is solely dependent on the subscription base, fundraising activities held throughout the year and the generous support of a number of sponsors providing match shirts for each age group, and other individuals who have made personal donations towards projects such as the installation of the floodlights. I thought it was worth highlighting the various items on which the club funds are spent. I would like also to encourage your support through getting involved in the club – taking on even the smallest tasks make a difference. And at the end of this letter you will find a couple of ways to help raise funds, including a very simple way to benefit the club through your on-line shopping at no cost to you.

Lease of our grounds from Whiteley Village

You may be aware that the lease on the grounds was renegotiated last year, and the club is having to absorb a 50% rise in the cost of the lease to £18,000 per annum for the next 21 years, which we believe still represents great value.

Pitches

Our pitches have to be able to cope with weekly training and match demands of 15 different age group squads across the minis, youth and senior sections of the club. Significant maintenance is required to enable the pitches to stand up to those needs and recover from the wear and tear during the close season. This season has seen £10,000 spent on pitch maintenance. Projects to invest in drainage and seeding over the last few years have improved the condition of our pitches, and they have remained playable over the last couple of very wet winters, when many Surrey clubs have had to cease use of their pitches for weeks at a time.

Floodlights

The pitches are looking fabulous and inviting to kick off the new season, and look even more so under the bright glare of the fantastic floodlighting that has been installed on the 2nd XV and Lower Worth pitches. Investment from the club, generous donations from members and an RFU grant has allowed us to install this significant improvement to our evening training sessions.

Facilities

While we haven't got the smartest clubhouse in Surrey (yes, we're still waiting for that generous benefactor or legacy...), our facilities cost money to run for utilities and upkeep. The clubhouse has been redecorated over the summer, and new kitchen equipment has been installed.

Kit & Equipment

Our stocks of training equipment (balls, tackle bags, bibs, etc.) have been replenished. In October, we will take delivery of a new scrumming machine that is specifically suited to Mini and the younger Youth age groups.

We provide free club socks and shorts in the first season a new player joins the club. Players need to purchase any subsequent requirements through wear and tear or growing out of their kit. The club kit shop is open on Sunday mornings prior to youth training.

Many clubs require players to buy their own club shirts for matches in addition to membership subscriptions. At Reeds, we do not require players to purchase their own shirts. Match shirts are provided through generous support of squad sponsors. While not obligatory, for those that wish to, there is an opportunity to buy a club shirt.

Coaching/ Referee qualification support

The Club is committed to “coaching excellence” and ensuring that our players develop in fun and safe environment with appropriately qualified coaches. We are dependent on parent volunteers for all administrative and coaching positions. The club pays for our volunteers to undertake coaching and refereeing qualifications. We also pay for occasional interventions from professional coaches to provide training session on specific techniques, and expert support and advice to our club coaches.

Match days

Meals are provided for our players and visiting teams on match days. We also have to cover referees’ expenses for all home matches.

Medical Cover

We took a decision several years ago to pay for professional pitch side medical cover on youth and senior match days. While we have been very grateful for the expert attention from Sussex Medical services for the last couple of years, the cost of this paramedic service has significantly exceeded the £30 per player included the subscription, and we do not feel we can justify increasing this cost. For this season we have secured more cost effective and more specialist pitch-side rugby injury management expertise. This service will be provided by Conor Barrett, physiotherapist to the London Welsh professional squad and several of the Surrey county squads, with many years of specialist experience in dealing with rugby injuries.

We have had to raise subscriptions for the 2014/15 season to £185, discounted to £150 for siblings. For players in older age groups that will not be playing for Reeds until after Christmas, once the school rugby season is over, the rate is discounted to £110. This subscription includes parent/ family membership of the club, which is necessary to comply with licensing regulations.

The club could not run without the generous support of our sponsors, and generous personal donations from members. Here are a couple of ways you can help.

NO-COST DONATION

[Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) is the easiest way to raise money for Reeds Weybridge RFC. Shop with any of over 2,700 retailers and a percentage of what you spend is donated to Reeds Weybridge RFC at no additional cost to you. Retailers include Amazon, John Lewis, eBay, Tesco and many more. Please register to support us today - <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/reedsweybridge>

JUST GIVING

Having achieved CASC status last year, donations can be gift aided, and are subject to the usual regulations on tax relief. The simplest way to do this is through the Reeds Weybridge “Just Giving” page: www.justgiving.com/reedsweybridgeRFC

So finally, an appeal to you to get involved in supporting the club. We are enormously grateful to all those that give of themselves and their time to the various activities required to run the club. Please offer your help for even the smallest tasks – it makes a difference.

I look forward to another exciting and rewarding season with you all at Reeds Weybridge RFC this year!

David

David Edwards
Youth Section Chairman