

Mini Junior Section

Once again, we have had a very successful season, maintaining or increasing numbers across all age grades in the mini / junior section. This is particularly rewarding given that the national trend is the opposite, so we must be doing something right.

The numbers taking part on Sunday mornings is a delight to see, but does create problems. Managing car parking is always an issue. It is challenging finding changing room space for them all. The numbers needing to be fed after their session caused queueing – we are working with Kerry's team to explore how we can resolve this.

There has been significant growth in the numbers of Under 6s. Players as young as 4 were joining us throughout the season, leaving us with over 30 by the end. This is a good problem to have, but makes coaching difficult so we are considering making a minimum age of 5 on this age grade.

Added to this is the growth in the Girls section, headed up by Emily Dean, which is going from strength to strength. We have been working together to make sure that girls rugby is integrated with the overall mini/junior section.

In competitions, there were good Yorkshire Cup runs for our Under 14s, 15s, 16s and Colts. The Yorkshire Cup competition returns next season for the Under 13s.

Our Colts will remain for next season and not operate as separate Under 17s and 18s to make sure we have sufficient numbers to fulfil fixtures.

Our annual Mini Festival was attended by 895 children. As well as taking £3,000 on the gate, food sales and club entry fees brought the total sum raised to around £5,000, which is valuable income to support the running of the junior section. We had amazing feedback from all clubs, and have interest from clubs further afield wanting to attend future Festivals.

Our first Girls Festival was due to be attended by almost 250 players but the poor weather in the spring meant that we had to cancel it on the day as there was standing water on the pitches. This was very disappointing for Emily and all her team who had put so much effort into it.

Paul Dervey
Mini Junior Chair