



Hi everyone and welcome to all our new members.

Firstly a little apology from us for the newsletter being late, but it has been an extremely busy start to the new season this year....I wonder why?

There will be so much to cram in over the next few weeks but let's start with the important stuff, the rugby.

Match Reports..

Hitchin U17s beat the mighty Saracens in a division 1 league clash at the weekend, winning 23-16. A spirited performance from the whole squad. Well done boys!

Last week U18s girls sent a delegation to the County trials. We are extremely proud to say that being only 15 and after fighting off exceptionally tough competition against many older, more experienced girls and 5 England players having places!, Easter Pereira, Esme Gianfrancesco and Scarlett Welbury were chosen for the Hertfordshire, U18s Development squad. Very well done. Equally high in achievements are Rosie Inman, Holly Pomfret, Ella Shawley and Ellie Wilson who all made it into the U15s County Squad. Every Hitchin girl player represented the club and themselves really well and the club is proud of them all.

Adrian Pomfret.

Calling all Volunteers!

Your Managers/Head Coaches have all been tasked with recruiting volunteers from every age group. I am sure you will have been asked a few times by now, but every volunteer we have makes a huge difference to the club. Please try to sign up for a few jobs around the club.

There are many different posts to fill and the more we have the less time is needed to commit to. We particularly need Bar Managers for short shifts at any day or evening event, as well as the Smelly Boot Stall and the Club Shop. All of these very necessary jobs are on a rota basis so you can do as many or as few shifts throughout the season as you like. We would hate for these facilities to be closed down during the season and it's coming close.

Thank you.

Hitchin U9s Winners at NH Letchworth Festival!

The Hitchin U9s hedgehogs completed their first ever competitive contact competition last week Winning Pool A and finishing runner up in Pool B. Combined the U9s won 9 of the 11 games played with one draw and a single loss. Overall the U9s Won the most games of the clubs attended. This is a fantastic start for our U9s Hedgehogs!



For their first participation in a competitive tournament where the best of the counties Rugby clubs were represented this was an amazing display and performance. This could have easily been seen as baptism of fire, however the U9s played displayed great skill, determination and dominated the day.

Winning was pleasing but more importantly was seeing all the hard work pay off from training being taken into the matches. The games were by no means easy and there were some hard fought battles and hard tackles on all sides. Due to the limited numbers that were permitted our squad were split in two with one squad at Training and the other at Letchworth. Our Training squad worked very hard last week and performed brilliant in their drills & matches really underlining the strength and depth we have in the U9s squad.

Hitchin 1 - Results - Winners Pool A and Trophy

Match 1 - Hitchin 6 - 0 Stevenage

Match 2 - Hitchin 6 - 1 Welwyn

Match 3 - Hitchin 4 -2 Letchworth

Match 4 - Hitchin 4 -2 Datchworth

Match 5 - Hitchin 3 -0 Royston

Team: Osian J, Gabriel K, Felix M, Dylan M, Adam M, Youssef S, Jamie T, William B, Fenton W, Samuel B, Eden S, Lucy B.

POTM: Adam Miles and Fenton Williams

Hitchin 2 - Results - Runners Up Pool B

Match 1 - Hitchin 10 - 0 Welwyn

Match 2 - Hitchin 6 - 0 St Albans

Match 3 - Hitchin 5 -4 Royston

Match 4 - Hitchin 3 -1 Datchworth

Match 5 - Hitchin 3 -4 Tabard

Match 6 - Hitchin 3 -3 Letchworth

Team: Alfie C, Harry J, Reece H, Ertan O, Tristan H, Tristam H, Joseph H-W, Connor H, Tjay H, Curtis H, George T, Mattias D.

POTM: Tristam Harwood and Harry Jervis

Overall our Hedgehogs were magnificent in defence with strong lines and prolific attack play. Both Hitchin teams started off with blistering pace coupled with superb passing and support play. Our passing was really outstanding and the U9s played intense defensive rugby leading to comfortable wins in the first few games. The enthusiasm and technical strength was abundant and particularly in our tackling which was extremely difficult for our challengers to handle. The U9s had to learn to play with a scrum half and picked this up very quickly incorporating it seamlessly in their play. We were immense in defence and this was the platform that they built on to overcome their opposition. There was turnover after turnover and we had almost every squad member scoring tries. With Hitchin in control of the ball we rapidly moved it into space and on to runners that went on to score quality tries. Hitchin 1 romped to victory Winning Pool A and Hitchin 2, Runners up narrowly by a single try. There were too many players that excelled and everyone contributed as part of the team.

What impressed us most was how well the players reacted to the challenge and executed the skills that we have been practicing so hard in training. Well done!

Thanks to all the Parents and Coaches that helped at both sessions - we all appreciate the support for the club and players. We're very proud of all our players with both superb performances at Training and Letchworth.

Well Done and Congratulations Hitchin U9s!

Match Report by Birant Osman

U13As win their opening league match against Hackney

Hitchin's U13's travelled to Hackney for their first league match in division 3. On a warm and sunny Autumn morning Hitchin started well against an inexperienced home team. Hackney responded and tackled well and pinned Hitchin into their own 22. Ben A burst out of Hitchin's half and ran the full length of the pitch only to be stopped to but Hitchin were awarded a penalty. From the penalty Hitchin passed the ball quickly out wide and Charlie scored Hitchin's first try of the season. Ben A converted the try for Hitchin to lead 7 - 0.

Glenn caught the ball from the re start and ran straight through Hackney to score a try. Ben A converted the try for Hitchin to extend their lead to 14 - 0. Hitchin were beginning to dominate the game and good passing from the backs created an opening for Jack to score Hitchin's third try under the posts. Ben A converted this try to lead 21 - 0. Hitchin's forwards rucked well and Ollie ran deep into Hackney's half. Hitchin won the next line out and Louis crashed through several tackles to set up good possession. Ben A picked up the ball and showed good speed to score his first try which he did not convert. 26 - 0. James caught the kick off but Hackney won the ball back and Hackney kicked into space. Harry and Sam tidied up the ball and launched another attack involving Theo who showed good pace. Sam broke through Hackney with good straight running and passed to Glenn who scored the try which was not converted. 31 - 0. The final play of the half involved Ollie breaking through Hackney's defense and Ben A finished the move with his second try which he converted. 38 - 0.

At half time the coaches from both teams agreed to stop the match as a league match as it was becoming one sided. It was decided that the second half would be a friendly and Hitchin would take their tallest players Jack, Ollie and Glenn off for the second half. Hitchin put on Joe, Lex and Tom to replace them.

Hitchin won the first lineout of the second half and good passing created a chance for Harry to score a try which Finn converted. 45 - 0. Ben A was back in the points when he scored his third try but he missed the conversion to take the score to 50- 0. Hitchin had a scrum in a promising position in the centre of the pitch and Freddie playing at flanker broke through the Hackney tackles to score a try which Finn converted. 57 - 0. Hitchin regained possession and George drove through the Hackney forwards with Tom in close support but Hackney won the ruck and kicked to relieve the pressure. Harry picked up the ball and launched a counter attack which Ben A finished off with his fourth try and another conversion to take the score to 64 - 0. Now it was the forwards who combined well with Lex and Louis punching a big hole in the Hackney defense. Hackney responded to this by running into Hitchin's half and winning the next ruck. Hackney gained a penalty not far from Hitchin's try line and despite a good tackle from Finn, Hackney drove the ball over the line to score a try. Hackney spirits were lifted by the score but Hitchin showed they could defend as well as attack and good tackles from Lex and Max stopped Hackney adding to the score line of 64 - 5.

A good opening game for Hitchin against an inexperienced Hackney , who kept going despite the scoreline.

U13bs

WASPS vs Hedgehogs: A bit of a Stinger

Score: 67-0

Hedgehog's under 13B had their first outing of the season at WASPs. A tough game for the start of the season and for a fair few of the boys this was their first ever competitive rugby game. The score tells very little of the game and how well the boys did.

Not surprisingly, in the first half it took the boys a little time to get to grips with the game and were up against a more experienced side with a very fast winger. Hedgehogs leaked most of the tries in the first half as the boys got to grips with the tackling and defending as team for the first time. There was however signs of progress as the half proceeded. Dominic Jaynes lead by example and made an excellent tackle and put a stop to one attack and the forwards showed their mettle by being more than a match for WASPS at the scrum and ruck. Ben Hartnack was having a notable game at loose head but had to go off briefly when he got a bit of a knock to his cheek and is now probably sporting a bit of a black eye. He was on again soon after. As the half progressed the backs got a chance to run and James Sweeny made an excellent run down the wing before being held up. It was then George Storey's turn a full back to get a knock after excellent work competing for the ball. Callum Game at lock was making his presence felt in the rucks before he too had to come off with a leg injury and George to his credit was back on and giving his all.

The second half was a completely different story. The break had given the boys a chance to regroup and the hedgehogs were a changed side and dominated possession and territory and for a lengthy period of the second half pinned WASPS to their 22. They were desperately unlucky not to pick up a couple of tries. Hedgehogs kept possession and made their superiority in the forward line count.

Robbie Clarke at lock made good breaks and the forwards of Zayn Yasin and Joe Miller battled manfully to keep the ball and move the team forward. Jeremy Veasey could be seen giving his all in support of the forwards and taking the game to WASPS. We saw a few notable breaks by Gabriel Moss and Sam Grady making 5 to 10 metres each and taking the team up the field towards the WASPs line. The extra possession gave Ben B at fly half the chance to distribute the ball and get the backs into play and James Sweeny, Lewis Drummond and George Storey all had had a go at different times and were unlucky not to make the breakthrough. Matt Hutchinson at Scrum half played a captain's game and kept the team attacking and going for the try. He kept the pressure on his opposite number all game especially at the scrum. Luke Matthews got player of the week for playing in a number of forward positions and generally making a nuisance of himself to the opposition. All in all the second half saw the hedgehogs come together as a team and it bodes well for the future. The boys should take heart and confidence in the second half performance and be proud of how they played

Next game is a friendly at home with Chess Valley on Sunday the 25th at 11 am.

As of the next coming weekend, the newsletter will be back up and running and all match reports and items for inclusion should be sent to mychairminis@hitchinrugby.com with the important subject heading of NEWSLETTER, if not it may be lost. Midnight Tuesday at the latest. Please invite your children to add to the newsletter and include them in it's content. Junior Reporters are needed and pictures etc. can be sent to hedley@hitchinrugby.com.

Hitchin Rugby Club Mini's

Thursday 29th October 6:30 pm

Halloween Party

Dancing & Raffle
Hot dogs 'n' chips
Ghoulish Games and Prizes, Bar Open!
Prize for best fancy dress

Tickets £5 each
From your Social Reps. Or
mychairminis@hitchinrugby.com



