



## MINI & YOUTH NEWSLETTER

6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

### What's new?

Bar (new Epos cards)

Halloween

Club Vision

M&Y Wall Planner

### Sponsorship opportunities

### Social diary dates

Halloween Party 27<sup>th</sup> Oct

M&Y Tour 6&7<sup>th</sup> April

### Housekeeping

Ambulance access

New 20mph speed limit

Smelly Boot Stall / Bar

Regular Training Times

### Pitch plans

### Match reports

U10 – Letchworth Festival

U11 – Letchworth Festival

U13 vs Saracens

U15 vs Fullerians

### Thank you to our sponsors

### What's new?

#### Bar

A new Epos system is in the process of being installed in the Bar. It will enable any member with a card (deposit £5) to purchase goods at a preferential price. Watch-out for more news over the next few weeks.



#### Halloween

The U8s are organising the Halloween Party for the Minis on the 27th October. Please see the poster below for details and ticket information.

We would really appreciate it if you could bake / buy some cakes for us to sell on the evening of the disco. If you wouldn't mind then please let us know, so we have an idea of how many we have on the night. We are also looking for a few more volunteers on the evening (bouncers! food helpers etc). Again, please send us an email if you would be happy to help.

All profits are going back into the rugby club, so please do help us make this a great evening.





## Our New Club Vision to horizon 2022

Hitchin Rugby Club will be admired as a centre of excellence in Hertfordshire, providing first class coaching, facilities and organisation for players of every age, gender and ability.

Our club will be the principal venue in Hitchin for sports and social activities and business events, a vibrant place that is fully engaged with and valued by our local community and more widely.

Which means for our section:

Nurture our M&Y sections to feed through to our senior teams

- ✓ The pitches and facilities full of children and families on Sundays
- ✓ At least 50 members and 2 teams in each Youth age group

Innovative coaching methods to continually improve the quality of our rugby at all levels

- ✓ Hosting more County training for Herts RFU boys & girls
- ✓ Herts County Rugby being played at Hitchin regularly
- ✓ Our coaches feeding into the County coaching teams

Modern catering facilities / operations that supply appropriate and quality food for all events / activities

- ✓ A good balance between professional and volunteer roles

Attracting a growing and diverse range of sponsors

Creation of a sustainable foundation for future generations to enjoy and build on

## M&Y Wall Planner

Following our hugely successful M&Y Calendar last year, this year we are planning on creating a M&Y Wall Planner.

If you are interested in sponsoring the calendar, contact Geoff Stringer: [Safeguarding@HitchinRugby.com](mailto:Safeguarding@HitchinRugby.com). With 620+ players in M&Y, this is a sizeable local opportunity for your company.

## Social diary dates

### Halloween party

Our upcoming Halloween party Will be organised by the expert U8 age group and will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> October at the club. See poster above.

Following on to this event we'll have Xmas cheers on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec at the club again.

### M&Y Tour

Tour will be on 6-8<sup>th</sup> April at Holt and Kingswood the U11 organising team is finalising the details but keep the date open. Book early, we are limited to 180 places this year.

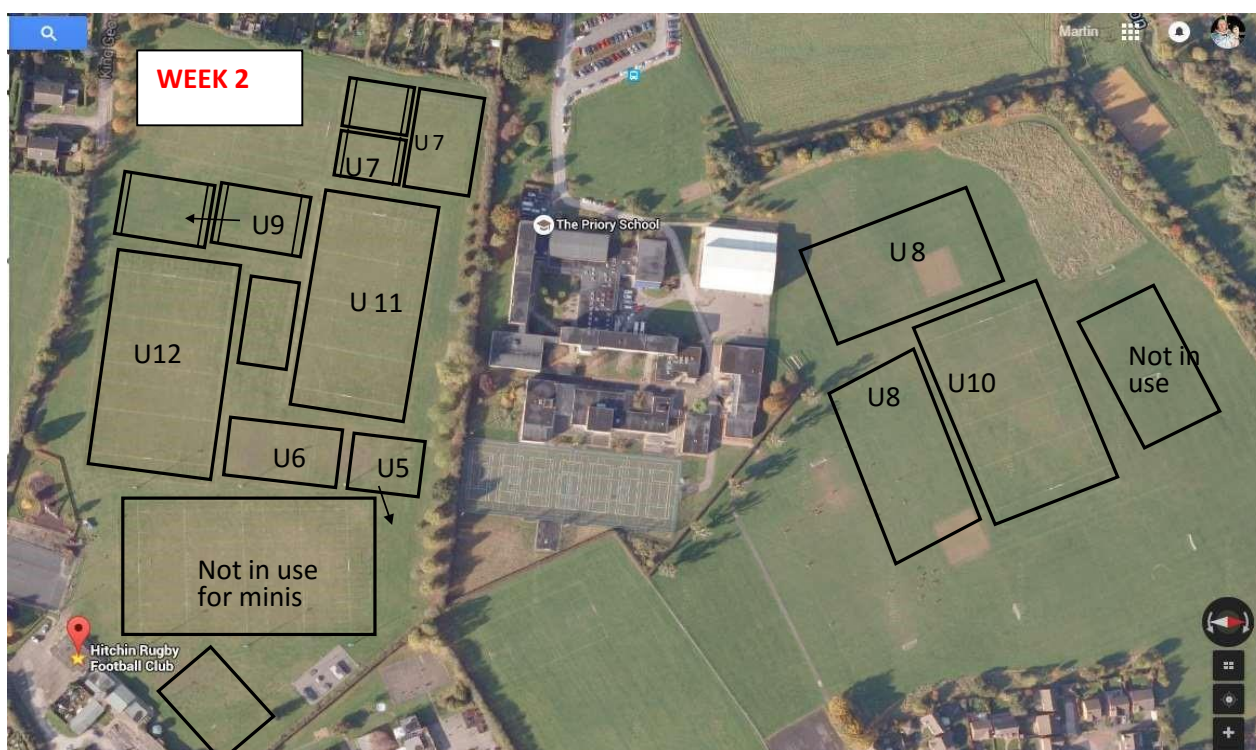
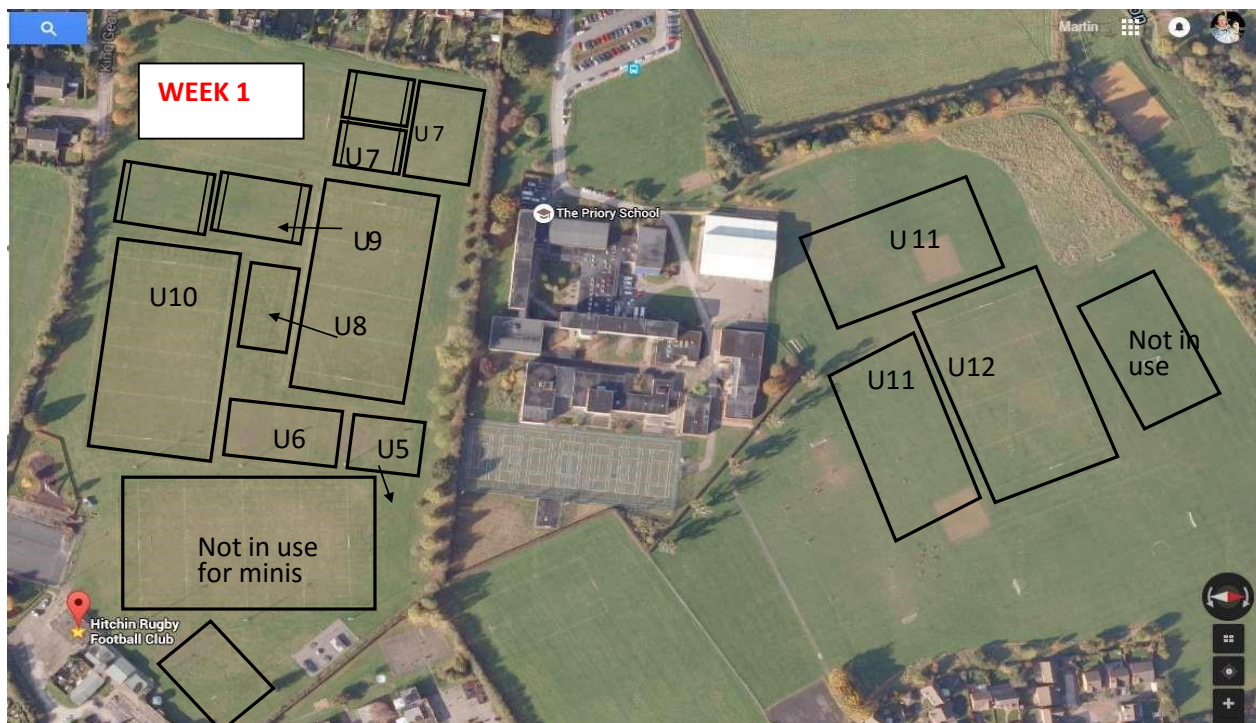






## Mini's Pitch plans

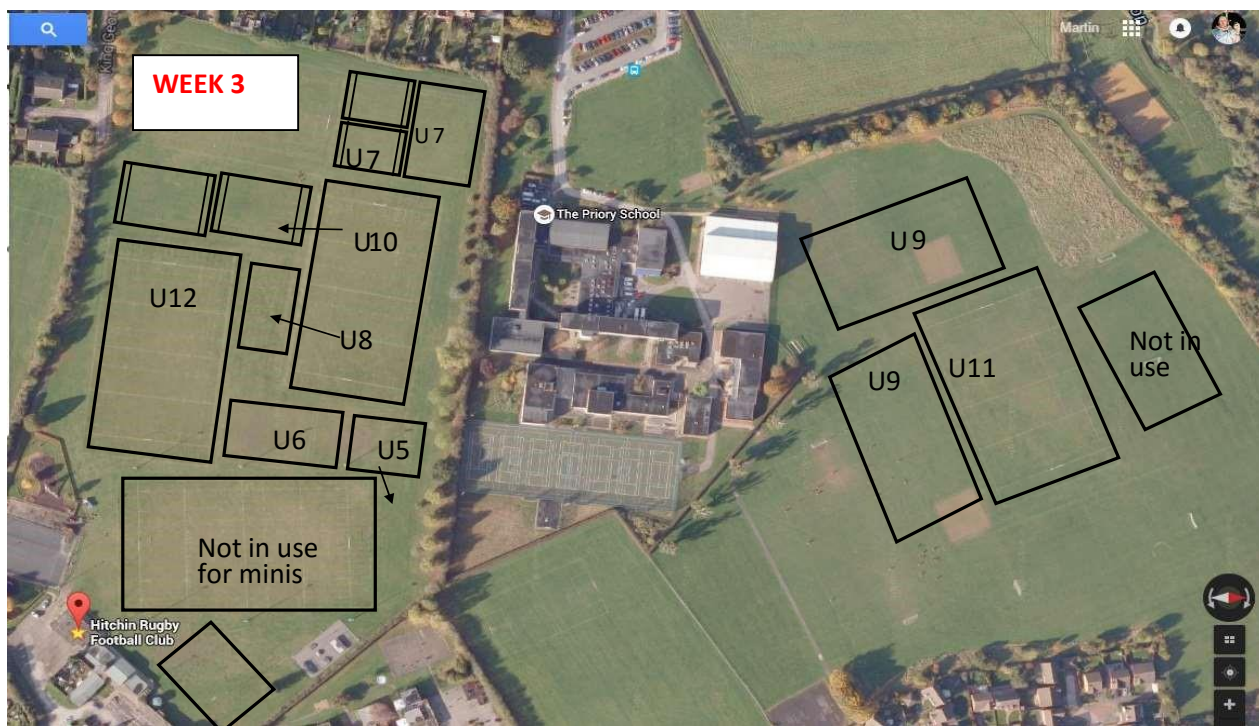
Here are the pitch plans for training weeks. There may be changes on match days, your coaches will let you know.





## Mini's Pitch plans cont ....

Here are the pitch plans for training weeks. There may be changes on match days, your coaches will let you know.







# MINI & YOUTH NEWSLETTER

6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

## Youth Pitch plans

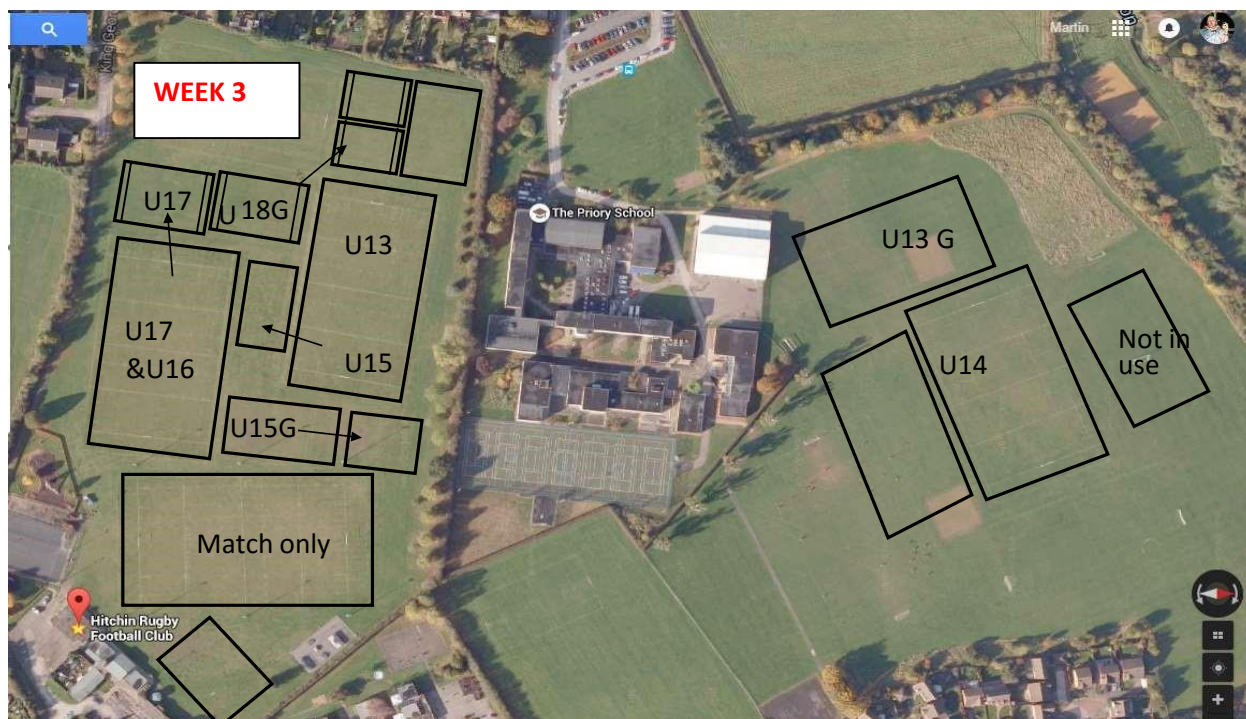
Here are the pitch plans for training weeks. There may be changes on match days, your coaches will let you know.





## Youth Pitch plans cont ....

Here are the pitch plans for training weeks. There may be changes on match days, your coaches will let you know.







## Match reports

### U10s

#### Team A

Hitchin 1 vs Letchworth 7

Tackles : Tomas 13, Harry W 10 , Ewan 8, Jack 4, Elijah 3, Harry K 3, Sam H 3, George 3, Guy 3, Charlie 3, Jamie 3, Teddy T 2 , Jake T 1, Jude 1

Passes: Sam H 5, Guy 5, Tomas 3, Teddy T 3 , Elijah 1, Jamie 1

Turnovers: George 1, Guy 1

Tries: Elijah 1

Hitchin 6 – Bishops Stortford 3

Tackles: Elijah 4 , Ewan 3, Jack 2, Charlie 2 , , Guy 3 , George 2, Teddy 3, Tomas 2 Harry K 1, Jude 1, Sam H 1

Tries: Ewan 1, Elijah 2, Sam H 2, George 1

Turnovers: Jude 1, Guy 1, Harry W 1, Tomas 1

Hitchin 4 – Datchworth 9

Tackle: 3, Elijah 3, Guy 4, Tomas 4, Sam H 1, Teddy T 3 , Jack 1, George 3, Harry W 1

Tries: Ewan 1, Guy 2, Harry K 1

#### Summary

Very good commitment and bravery from the players in the tackle. There was also some good support play and good use of space. Guy was man of the tournament with his barnstorming running through the middle, which gave the whole team great go forward. The main reason we lost 2 matches is that we decided to stay out of almost every breakdown, which was good for the defensive line but meant we hardly ever had the ball. Will have a rethink on coaching the breakdown; as the players were over thinking it.

#### Team B

Match 1 Hitchin v Letchworth – Win 4:3

Tries: Jake 2, Fraser 1, Lewis 1

Tackles: Eddie 5

Fraser/Sam 4

Ollie F/Ollie L/Jake/Thomas/Ethan/Lewis 3

Iris/Rosie 2

Close very equal match. See summary at end as all matches were similar.

Match 2 Hitchin v Datchworth – Lost 1:5

Try: Jimi

Tackles: Fraser 5

Lewis 4

Ollie F/Ollie L/Thomas/Sam 3

Ethan/Rosie/Jake/Elias/Eddie 2

We lost this game in the first 3 minutes. They scored 3 tries through missed tackles and by getting the ball out wide. After that our kids held their own with a load of possession and great defence. Their defence was good too and a few handling errors cost us tries.





**U10s cont ...**

Match 3 Hitchin v Stevenage – Lost 2:6

Tries: Eddie 2

Tackles: Ollie F/Fraser 5

Sam/Ollie L 4

Iris/Thomas 3

Turnover balls through ripping or tackles cost us here. Great ripping performance from Jimi.

**Summary**

Some good rugby throughout and a lot of go forward play. Great tackling in all games but not consistent. Not contesting for the ball enough. The guys fought hard but too many turnovers cost us.



## **Hitchin U11s Match Report - Letchworth Festival 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2017**

### **Pumas**

Adam, Connor, Dylan, Lucas, William, Lucy, Mattias, Tristan, Leo, Jamie, Harry, Felix, Ertan

This was the first festival to start the under 11 season. The Pumas were put in Pool B with matches against Letchworth, Datchworth and Stevenage. There was a good turnout with two new additions to the squad, Leo Mason and Jamie Timms. It was agreed to put Pumas in pool B as they had played the last festival in Pool A. It would be panthers turn to go in the lead pool.

### **Match 1 - Hitchin Pumas 9 - 0 Datchworth B**

It was really a game of two halves. The first was a close fought affair with Hitchin taking a narrow lead into the break. However in the second half they ran in many fast paced tries to finish 9- 0.

### **Match 2 - Hitchin Pumas 13 - 0 Letchworth B**

This game was also one-sided with Hitchin running in 13 tries in total.

### **Match 3 - Hitchin Pumas 17 - 0 Stevenage B**

The final game was against a Stevenage side that were clearly very tired after playing several games without subs. Hitchin ran in 17 tries for an easy victory.

All games were played in good spirits and enjoyed by all the players. The Pumas showed respect for the opposition both during and after matches.

Clearly the Pumas were never really tested today. They can only play the team in front of them so cannot be criticised. Their passing was good, they showed a hunger for the game and were active at the breakdown. It is hard to judge their true performance due to the extent of their domination. For this reason I have decided not to award a player of the match or a top tackler. All players played within themselves and I would expect a great deal more. I am sure that they will without doubt face many tougher challenges in future matches. The squad received their tournament medals and all left happy and with no serious injuries reported.

Ade Osoba

U11s Puma Coach



**U11s cont ...**

**Hitchin Panthers**

Harry J, Oslan, George, Luca, Oliver, Curtis, T, Sam, Elijah, Harry E and Alfie

A good early season test for the Panthers in Pool A today at Letchworth, albeit in a reduced Pool due to the withdrawal of Royston.

**Match 1 - Hitchin Panthers 4 - 1 Letchworth A**

A strong first game for Panthers facing uphill and into the wind in the first half, excellent tackling and rucking kept Letchworth's strong runners at bay and secured some good possession. They went ahead after some good ball recycling up to Letchworth's try line and Curtis punched a hole through to take the lead. Letchworth then responded with a flowing move into the corner that our defensive line couldn't stop to leave it 1-1 at half time. Facing down hill and with the wind at our backs, the Panthers picked up where they left off from last season and started to run the ball well with Curtis making a powerful break from the halfway line through 2 tackles to take us 2-1 up. Harry J then wriggled through Letchworth's defensive line after some good movement of the ball from the scrum to cross the try line for 3-1, and then made a fine individual break, beating 2-3 players with pace and trickery to touch down in the corner.

Overall a fine performance against a well drilled, physical and skillful Letchworth team, and a reversal of last years fixture where the Panthers were overpowered 4-1 by the same team.

**Match 2 - Hitchin Panthers 0 v 5 Datchworth A**

We knew this was going to be a tough game against a really strong Datchworth A team, after watching the Pumas play them on tour and at the same fixture last year. Facing up hill in the first half, we got off to a difficult start with Datchworth rucking over well and securing much of the ball which resulted in some nice interplay, good running and eventually a try into the corner. A mix up at the restart then led to a soft second try for Datchworth and heads started to drop a little. Datchworth continued to keep the ball well and to snuff out possession for Panthers in the ruck and at the breakdown and they conceded three more tries out wide, after a few missed tackles and a loss of defensive shape, which left it 5-0 at halftime.

Kicking down hill in the second half, Panthers pushed Datchworth hard and competed much better for the ball, which led to much more possession and a number of chances which on another day would have been taken to get us back into the game, but Datchworth's work in defense was too strong and the boys couldn't quite turn the hard work into a try.





**U11s cont ...**

This was a good learning game for us, Datchworth are one the best teams our squads have faced to date and whilst heads dropped and our aggression and line speed was down from other fixtures, there was much to take from the game with good performances across the team

**Match 3 - Hitchin Panthers 2 – 1 Letchworth A**

A hastily arranged third fixture for the Panthers, with some of our players volunteering to turn out for Letchworth. A competitive game ensued and Letchworth went 1-0 up through a poachers try by T. Curtis then burst through to equalise after a fine run and we took the lead after a good kick and chase into space by Curtis, great follow up work from Lucas and a good finish to the line by Elijah. Well done to the boys who turned out for Letchworth and took the game to their own squad too!

Overall a good day, despite the loss against Datchworth and a great test for the Panthers against two good and well drilled teams. Lots to work on in training for the next fixture too!

**MOTM - Luca Thomas, for an all round excellent performance**

**TOTM - Harry Jervis, who rarely missed a tackle on the wing**

Neil Jervis  
U11s Coach

Well done to all the players for upholding the RFU core values at the festival and doing us proud. Thanks and well done also to the coaches for their support and refereeing performances. Particularly Alex Turner who was complimented by opposition coaches and parents alike on both sides.

Birant  
U11s Head Coach



## MINI & YOUTH NEWSLETTER

**6<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

### U13s

Saracens 15 – Hitchin 15 (Scorers Alex, Daniel, Alfredo) (NB each try scores 5 now!)

Isaac R, Ben W, Luca, Jack, Alfredo, Daniel, Isaac WP, Alex S, Ted S, Declan, Max AW, Gregor, Oscar, Nicholas, Thomas, Mali, Sam N, Jo T.

A beautiful day greeted us to kick off the new season. It was the first of our league games in the Herts Middlesex Junior leagues U13 pool B and we didn't know what to expect.

Having only had a couple of training sessions this was a great result. The game started well with the forwards taking the ball up strongly, recycling and giving the ball to the backs. Despite the big pitch there was good tackling on both sides especially from Oscar, Isaac R, Nick, Daniel and Ted and neither team could get the upper hand in the early exchanges.

The boys were still a bit nervous and a couple of mistakes led to turnovers. Saracens capitalised through some slick passing in the backs to dot down with our defence bunched on the wrong side of the pitch. Despite the try the boys realised they could more than compete and solid phase play, including Sam showing fierce determination to tackle and rip, led to a penalty close to the line and Alex, through some strong running and neat stepping, dotted over. Sarries essentially repeated their first try to lead 2-1 at the break.

The second half was all Hitchin with Mali and Gregor going close. Another great run from Alex and recycling by the forwards enabled Daniel to crash over. Then good phase ball gave Alfredo a one-on-one chance which is all he needed to fend and have a 20-yard run to the line. The boys were held up twice over the line but couldn't get the additional score while Sarries did a "threepeat" spotting the lack of defenders and scoring an equalising final try.

All in all a great morning of rugby. Sarries were very welcoming hosts and special thanks to their medic.

Plus points: ability of players to beat the first man, scrum, rucking (generally), tactical kicking and chasing, going hard and right to the final whistle, great positive support from the parents, the kids seemed to really enjoy themselves. Special mention for Ben & Jack who both stepped up and held their own in a very competitive environment.

Things to work on: 'back chat' to the ref and each other, defensive lines/organisation.

Unluckiest player of the day: Isaac WP who was came off after the ref mistook good ripping technique for something else (tough luck, Isaac).

Man of steel: Luca who carried on playing despite dislocating his shoulder. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Fool of the day: a certain forwards coach who took a player off but forgot to put another one on leaving the team 12 v 13 for a short while (making the result even more impressive!).



Hitchin U15

24 September 2017

# MATCH REPORT

## Hitchin RFC U15 welcomes Fullarians

The Watford side had one game under their belt this season before coming to Hitchin and it showed. Well organised defensive side with some strong runners in forwards and backs.

## Rusty Hedgehog

Hitchin U15 first game of the season got off well at the start against the Fullarians whom had a quick defensive line that Hitchin struggled to break down. When Fullarians moved the ball wide the attacking line was deep with the ball moved quickly to players moving at pace.

## Player of the Match

Sam Thompson playing at full back had a good game being tested in defence from a positional perspective and last man tackling. Good attacking run helped set up our first try.



**HITCHIN RUGBY  
FOOTBALL CLUB**



Ben Aves of Hitchin kicked off into the sun on a beautiful warm sunny day. Fullarians let the ball bounce and Glenn Harris playing at centre showed his loose forward pedigree in the clear out. Fullarians kicked well testing Sam Thompson's positional awareness. Ollie Owen playing left wing had an excellent defensive game making a number of try stopping decisions in defence. Amazing to see lifting in the line out going so well, credit to the coaching and players whom made it look safe and easy. Dan Beesley at 8 made good gains in traffic, when he went to ground good ruck and 2nd phase ball was moved along the line to Glenn whom also took the contact.

Fullarians had excellent line speed caught Hitchin standing a little to shallow man and ball. Fullarians played the match in Hitchin's half but when we turn over or they had ball under pressure they kicked and chased. In an early visit to our 22 Fullarians 8 picked up from a scrum and went blindside with the nine and winger in support. Ollie on the wing had to step in and stop the 8 whom off loaded to the wing with a big step. Try and excellent conversion to make it 0 - 7. Ollie gain was defending coming in taking the ball carrier who off-loaded to the winger (didn't this just happen?) but Ollie's pace meant he tackled him into touch. There were a number of handling errors combined with some excellent Fullarians defence that meant we played a lot of the game in the wrong part of the pitch. Hitchin defensive line was slow and staggered which gave a back line, standing deep, too much space to attack at speed. That is basically the difference in the performance a side that had blown out the cobwebs and one that hadn't.

This pattern of slow defence gave Fullarians a number of overlaps in the right part of the pitch due to intelligent play and kicking. Tom Scott reacted quickly to loose ball on a Watford line-out collecting the ball and getting his head down. Uncontested line-out does not mean you let them







Hitchin U15

24 September 2017

## Fullerians winger

The NO. 14 was given too many opportunities to demonstrate his pace and finishing skills on a wide pitch, I counted 3 tries!

## What we did well

- Gritty if not organised defence
- when we moved as one in defence the first breakdown was behind the gain line
- kept your heads up
- Scored some well worked tries

## What we could do better

- Keep the ball - basic handling
- Play in their half
- Move up in defence as a line quickly every time
- hit rucks in two's - compete for the ball - slow it down.
- Communicate - shout it out "shuffle this way" "going blind"

have it! Tom also had a steal in contact and went on to put in a brave tackle that saw him leave the field injured. Hitchin strung a number of excellent phases together with the ball moving out wide then players coming back inside such as Ollie and Glenn, these individuals made good gains deep into the opposition 22, ruck ball was secured and Louis Bailey crossed the line only to be held up. The drop out restart was collected by Sam whom ran it back where the resulting phases and penalty advantage saw Louis Bailey make sure of the TRY this time 5-11. A very good phase of play in the red zone. Retaining possession in the 22 with hard running and inevitable points! We conceded a soft try when a kick over the ruck into space bobbled over the Hitchin try line which was grounded by the kicker. 5 - 17.

Hitchin struck back with a fantastic effort being crowned by the combative Isaac Pike on the wing. He really should not have made it but bounced tacklers, rolled off contact and stepped his way past the long line of defenders to have the try line open up TRY. 12-17. Fullerians ran in two more tries with the patten of the game being repeated in slow defence and ones or two's not competing for the ball giving the extra man on the wing 12-27. Kian Postlewaite at 9 and Ben Aves at 10 had to do a lot of tackling for half backs. Kian had a purple patch of highly disruptive play making it difficult for Fullerians to settle and build momentum. Hitchin put them selves under pressure when passing behind the player in our 22 resulted in turnover and the big rangy 6 cleaned up and TRY 12 - 34. Again field position and pressure forced a Fullerians kick where Finn Wain kicked back a up-and-under, knocked on Hitchin scrum, ball moved wide for Max Brawn to go over in the corner 17 - 34. Fullerians had the last play with field position then scoring through the forwards pick and dab off a ruck 17 - 39.

## SQUAD

- 1 Louis Bailey - replaced by Joe Miller
- 2 Ethan Turley
- 3 Louis West
- 4 Callum Hall
- 5 Harry Gates
- 6 Jack Tomlinson
- 7 Tom scott
- 8 Dan Beesley
- 9 Kian Postlewaite
- 10 Ben Aves
- 11 Isaac Pike
- 12 Conner Rathbone
- 13 Glenn Harrison
- 14 Ollie Owen
- 15 Sam Thompson \* MOTM

## Finishers

Joe Miller  
David Addison  
Lex Gatchouse  
Will Guest  
Freddie Welbury  
Max Brawn  
Finn Wain

**SAM  
THOMPSON**

Try scorers; Louis Bailey - Isaac Pike - Max Brawn  
Conversions: Ben Aves





## Thank you to our sponsors

A big thank you to all those who sponsor Hitchin RFC .



If you are interested in sponsoring the club, please email Becky Bolter,  
Sponsorship Manager: [Sponsorship@HitchinRugby.com](mailto:Sponsorship@HitchinRugby.com)