



# Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club

Founded 1963

President: Ian Brownlee Esq. Chairman: Ian McKernan Esq.

Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club Limited,  
Springgate, Chickney Road, Henham, Hertfordshire, CM22 6BQ Tel: 01279 850791  
www.swrfc.co.uk info@swrfc.co.uk  
Reg. No. 30405R VAT No. 388860002



19<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Dear Player/Parent,

## SWRFC Youth 2010-11 Season Starts 5th September

With the new season approaching, this letter will tell you about registration arrangements and other news about developments within the club.

**The season starts at 10 a.m. on 5th September, with registration and a training session.** We really hope to see all of you returning so we can continue the progress of the last few seasons. **Please also bring gear for a normal training session, including trainers if the ground is very hard.**

**Registration and medical information forms are attached to this email so that you can print, complete and bring them with you on the 5th.** Please keep these forms separate, as they are processed in different ways once we get them. Please also bring 1 passport sized photo of each player and your subscription (see below) which can be paid by cash, cheque (made out to SWRFC), or credit/debit card. Subscription fees for the 2009/10 season will remain unchanged at £30 for one player, £40 for two from the same family, and £45 for 3 or more from the same family. As with last season there is a one-off amount of £20 per youth player (Under 13 and above) to cover the cost of our excellent post-match food for youth squads – please add this amount to your subscription.

As outlined in the recent summer newsletter (you can get your copy at [www.swrfc.co.uk](http://www.swrfc.co.uk) if you haven't seen it already) there is still considerable work to do on the clubhouse and grounds, which will involve spending large amounts of money. This places a strain on the club's finances at a very difficult time. Notwithstanding this we have decided to freeze subscriptions for the second season in a row, meaning that we continue to provide you with quality rugby at very low cost. Instead we are inviting members to make a small donation to the club where they are willing and able to do so. We suggest a donation of £20 per family, but if you wish to donate more or less its entirely up to you. Please keep this payment separate from your subscription, and tick the gift aid box on the registration form if you are a UK tax payer.

**On the playing side**, we are this season launching the SWRFC Rugby Academy for players in the U17 age group and above. The aim of the academy is to give these players regular access to their senior counterparts to help their transition to senior rugby over the next year or so. Ex 1<sup>st</sup> team player Andy Wisbey, who has played National League and representative rugby, has kindly agreed to be the Academy Head Coach, and his experience will be a major boost to the squad.

Last season the U15 and U16 squads enjoyed regular coaching from members of the 1<sup>st</sup> team squad, mainly through the efforts of Andrew Lancaster (Lanky), and he has kindly agreed to continue in this role this season on Wednesday evenings. Younger youth squads will also benefit from coaching from 1<sup>st</sup> team coaches and players on an occasional basis. **All youth teams have been entered in the Essex League this season**, which will add an additional element of competition, and we will still be playing many of our traditional local rivals. We will advise details of mid-week training sessions for youth squads very soon.





# Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club

Founded 1963

President: Ian Brownlee Esq. Chairman: Ian McKernan Esq.

Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club Limited,  
Springate, Chickney Road, Henham, Hertfordshire, CM22 6BQ Tel: 01279 850791  
www.swrfc.co.uk info@swrfc.co.uk  
Reg. No. 30405R VAT No. 388860002



**One or two of our age groups are in particular need of additional players this season** to make sure they have squads which are big enough to deal with absences and injuries, so if you know of anyone who wants to play, please try to bring them along on any training Sunday. The specific age groups are the U9's, U16' and U17's, but we will welcome new members in any age group. Please feel free to share this letter with your friends, and to invite them along on any Sunday training session.

There has been a lot of debate amongst the coaches about the **clubs policy of providing match shirts for youth/mini age groups**, and also concern from parents about the condition and availability of shirts for the mini age groups in particular. Replacement shirts for the U6 to U11 age groups are desperately needed, and these have been ordered. We are very conscious that the majority of mini players have their own club shirts, which they tend to wear for matches, and that the club policy of providing shirts at this level is an administrative burden that coaches could do without. We have therefore decided that match shirts for the U6 to U11 age groups will no longer be provided by the club, and that every mini player should have his/her own club shirt (which is largely the case anyway). We have a new kit supplier this season, and I will send out a separate email with details of this. However, please rest assured that the design of the new shirts is very close to the Samurai design, so if you already have a shirt it is likely to be fine (as long as it still fits!).

The club is run entirely by volunteers who give whatever time they can spare to make sure that we have a great team of coaches, fixtures secretaries, child safety officers, first aiders, kitchen staff, etc etc. **As always, we are looking for more volunteers** to help the club to conduct its day to day business, and to share the load more evenly. So if you can spare some time to help in any area, even on an occasional basis, please indicate this on the registration form in the space provided.

The excellent catering service at the club on Sunday mornings is the result of some very hard work by Rachael O'Brien and a core of volunteers. However, Rachael spends too much of her time on the phone trying to drum up help, restricting time available to develop and improve things even more. **A new scheme to 'encourage' people to help out will therefore be introduced this season**, which will involve asking parents from one or two age groups to step up on pre-allocated Sundays to help with catering, car parking etc. To avoid burdening coaches with organising this, we want a non-coaching parent from each age group to step up as Team Manager to organise helpers for the days that their age group is 'on duty'. If you are willing to perform this role, please let you head coach know at the training session on 5<sup>th</sup> September (or indicate this on the registration form).

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we're looking forward to seeing you all on 5th September.

All the best

Simon Read  
Director Youth Rugby, SWRFC

