

Dear All

Another sunny weekend and so many new faces running around the field enjoying their rugby. A BIG WELCOME to everyone who is new to the club this season, there are a lot of you :- ) and I hope that I have had the chance to speak to all of you at least once so far. The weather is looking changeable again this weekend but the sun should shine. Saying that, please always bring plenty of layers for the children and spare gloves and hats as things can get wet and uncomfortable.

CONGRATULATIONS to Morgan Jales and Kayley Grantham for winning the 'Excellence' Awards this week. What a fab way to finish your first training session. Please remember to bring them back this weekend so we can give them to the next winners.

I always try to keep my newsletter as short and snappy as possible but there is rather a lot of new people who have lots of questions so it is a little bit longer this week. I am covering: Your Head Coach Message, Membership, Maidenhead Festival, Sponsorship, Contributions and Volunteers, Maidenhead sports kit, Tag Belt shortages, Photography, Fixtures secretary, Safeguarding Officer Assistant and Cash for Sports.

Head Coach Message:

Record Numbers – with 32 new children signing up to join the under 6s (that makes 74 so far), the playing field was packed with excited youngsters on Sunday. To assist coaches in learning children's names we will try to place name tags on each child as they arrive. Many of the coaches commented how much better the children respond when you call their name..(we will learn them but at this stage with so many new face it is a bit of a challenge).

With the larger numbers, ensuring that we have sufficient coaches is critical. With more coaches this also allows us all to miss the odd week or two without feeling guilty and makes it easier on anyone. We still do not have any female coaches helping at the Under 6s and my personal challenge is to get at least one before the end of the year. Coaching is genuinely fun and once again no experience is necessary so if you are interested please do let myself or Michelle know. This is looking like a fantastic season and with the help of you the parents and some amazing kids we will all have a great time. See you on Sunday at 10am. Rich

Membership:

Membership is due by the end of September so we are getting close to the date where I start to bother you about payment. This is very easily done by going to [www.maidenheadrfc.com](http://www.maidenheadrfc.com) and clicking on Membership which is the ninth tab down on the left hand side of the screen. You then need to scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on 'New members join and pay' or 'Existing members pay' and you can pay using the normal online payment system. For those of you who are new starters, I would already have mentioned that it is ok to come down for a couple of weeks to make sure that your children would like to join before paying for membership. The simplest payment would be for a youth membership, which is £100 for 33 weeks of training (if you started with us on the 4th of September) from the beginning of September until the end of April. As Richard mentioned above, we now have 74 children registered so the less of you I need to chase for membership, the better please :-)

Maidenhead Festival:

Children are not allowed to take part in Tournament/Festivals until they are 6 years old hence the U6s will not be taking part in any of this year's fixtures, except one..... This does not mean that we will not be training as we will. The U6 age group will be training every week, even when the rest of the club is away so there will be some weeks when the fields will seem deserted but we are still there. There are two exceptions: Maidenhead Festival is on the 9th of October so the grounds will be used and there will be no space for us. On this day we will be training elsewhere and I will let you have the information once it is confirmed. London Irish Festival is normally in April and we do try to send one team to take part so the older children can have a go at competing. BUT only children who have turned 6 by the date of the festival will be eligible to be picked for the team for that day.

Sponsorship, Contributions and Volunteers:

I wanted to thank those who have bought down boxes of sweets (currently reduced to £5.00 in the supermarkets) as we are going through rather a lot at the moment. I thanked the parents that gave me 2 boxes but wanted to thank the 2 others who gave boxes but I did not see them. This small contribution is much needed and appreciated as the age group is self-funded and always looking for contributions, sponsorship and volunteers. If you would like to talk to me about any of this, please feel free to come and say hello.

#### Maidenhead sports kit:

A few parents have been enquiring to where they can buy the MRFC sponsor sports kit. We have 1 supplier of this kit and that is Hawkins Sports who are based in Bourn End, on the high street. Their Tel number is 01628 819242. BUT please remember that having the same kit as everyone else is not a requirement to being members of the club or coming down to training, only the children enjoying themselves is. Your children need warm clothes for training in the colder months, lots of spare to wear if things get wet or cold and trainers. You can get studs from most sports shops (Sportsdirect.com at the bottom of Maidenhead high street) for between £10 and £15 but trainers are fine if you would like to see how things go before spending any money.

#### Tag Belt shortages,

When you arrive at training, please can help your child put a tag belt on and attach 2 tags to it. They are then ready for the warm up and first game of Bulldog. We are aware that there are not enough Tags and Tag belts at this time but the club are ordering us some more which means they should arrive shortly. Please bear with us :-)

#### Photography:

Most of you have signed a Photography agreement form (except those who joined last week as I ran out.....sorry). If you have not signed a form then please come and see me this week and we can get this sorted for you. On the other side of the pitch, please be aware that you are not allowed to take photos from the side of the pitch unless you have signed a separate for giving you permission to do so. This is all part of the Child Safeguarding policies and if I see anyone taking photos, then I am obliged to come and ask you not to. We do plan to have some photos taken during the season which are then available for you to purchase on line with all proceedings going to the U6 age group. If you would like to take your own photos of your children, please come and see me and I will give you the correct form to sign.

#### Fixtures secretary,

The Club is in need of a Fixture Secretary for the Mini Age Groups. They are looking for a volunteer from these age groups who is able to attend the fixtures meetings with the other clubs in the area (normally 1 or 2 a year) and handle any queries. This is an important job within the club and we are in much of having a permanent secretary. Please come and see me if you are interested and I can tell you more about the role before any commitment is made.

#### Safeguarding Officer Assistant:

Another position that the club is looking for a volunteer to fill. Tony Doolan is the Safeguarding officer (also known as the Child Welfare officer) and he is looking for a helper to help deal with the CRB checks that have to be done with all the coaches and volunteers who work with the children in the club. This is a rewarding job and tony would love to talk to anyone who is interested in helping him out. Please speak to me for more information.

#### Cash for Sports:

We are always looking for ways to get more money to pay for better kit for the children and this is a great way to do it. Please collect the @Cash for Sports' vouchers which are in the Maidenhead Advertiser every week. The more we collect, the more funds we can hope to have.

Please remember the 10am start this week and that I am always available to answer any queries you may have. See you on Sunday.

Michelle Fuller

U6 Manager

Maidenhead Rugby Club

[michellerugby@gmail.com](mailto:michellerugby@gmail.com)

[www.maidenheadrfc.com](http://www.maidenheadrfc.com)

Rugby = Team Work, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship