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SAFFRON WALDEN RUGBY CLUB

FOUNDED 1963

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK AND FIXTURES WELCOME

President: Kevin Moll **Chairman:** Richard Menhinick

Affiliated to:

The Rugby Football Union
Eastern Counties RFU
Cambridgeshire RFU



Eastern Counties

Colours:

Green and White

Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club Limited

Springate, Chickney Road,
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WWW.SWRFC.CO.UK

TEL. 01279 850791 | EMAIL: INFO@SWRFC.CO.UK

 SAFFRON WALDEN RUGBY CLUB NEWS |  SWRUGBY

Compiled by the SWRFC Committee
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Last season will go down as a very good season. It was certainly one I really enjoyed.

The first team won their league and the Cambridgeshire Cup remaining unbeaten all season. We got a second team out regularly and they won their Cambridgeshire Junior cup.

We won an award as the team of level 7 in the rugby pyramid and were awarded club of the season by Eastern Counties.

We had a pre match lunch for nearly every first team match, which proved very successful, and it was great to see so many new faces at the lunches and on the touchline watching. There have been a lot more ladies coming to the club which augers well for the future

Off the field, a lot has been achieved. Parking has been increased, pitches have been drained, and numerous jobs in the club house have been undertaken..

All these successes took place in our 60th year which culminated with a big bash at the club in April which saw hundreds of people come to support the club.

We still have a lot to do to improve our facilities. We are still looking to get women's and girls rugby off the ground and we are keen to have more functions take place during the summer months.

The first team will be in a very tough league this season and the seconds will be seeing league action having done well last season. The mini and youth is arguably the best organised it has ever been and its importance is there for all to see on first team match days, as 2/3rds of the team have come through the system.

I look forward to seeing you all at the club during the season.

RICHARD MENHINICK - CHAIRMAN



HISTORY OF THE SAFFRON WALDEN RUGBY CLUB



An early version of the Lion and Crocus crest.

The hard winter of 1962/63 Season resulted in many frozen pitches and little rugby being played. Peter Reader, John Soulsby and Martin Smith - who all played for Upper Clapton, used to meet at the Cross Keys pub in Saffron Walden on Saturday mornings; instead of playing they discussed the formation of a local club.

A local newspaper advertisement attracted 15-20 people to the inaugural meeting and a steering committee was formed. In the following weeks, we recruited a former Kent hooker, Iain Wright-Watson as captain, and a City Banker, Frank Gelling as President. Frank Gelling's friendship with Tom Latham, a Thaxted farmer, led to the recruitment of some 'class' players, including Jeremy Janion (who later went on to gain 10 caps for England) and the early establishment of a successful club, later strengthened when a number of Old Stortfordians joined us when their club folded.

Saffron Walden RFC originally joined the Essex sub-county of 'Eastern Counties', but changed to Cambridgeshire when we were unable to get county trials for any of our players, we have always belonged to Cambridge University & District Referees Society.

Saffron Walden RFC played a scratch game against Bishop's Stortford at the end of the 1962/63 Season which was lost badly, despite Iain Wright-Watson hooking all of Walden's put-ins and most of Stortford's, whilst sliding backwards at every scrum. The first proper game at the start of the 1963-64 Season was against Bury St. Edmunds 'A' which Saffron Walden won 19-9.

In the mid to late 60's John Pollitt, was inspirational in establishing the club, a sports master at Saffron Walden County High School who introduced the playing of rugby to the school and also captained SWRFC 1sts for a number of years. In 1976 Saffron Walden was one of the first clubs in the area to introduce new mini rugby, this was specifically aimed at boys from non-rugby playing schools and encouraged many new players to the game. Chris Lipscombe formed the Colts with Roger Smith organising the first Colts team in 1978, the difficulty then, of finding fixtures as few other clubs had junior sections. By 1984 the under 19's and under 16's had full fixture lists and Walden were providing most of the players for the Cambridgeshire teams. Like many clubs, Saffron Walden has had its ups and downs in terms of results and playing strength. The first "Golden Period" came in the late 60's when a number of new players joined to strengthen the first team and allowed for the addition of a third fifteen. The inaugural Cambridgeshire Knockout Cup was won, for the first of 10 times. This record has only recently been taken by the Cambridge City Club, Walden were also runners up on a further 8 occasions. The 80's saw one of the strongest periods in Walden's history with a place in the 1st Division of the new Eastern Counties Merit Table which contained all the top clubs in the area. In 1986 Walden just lost to Sudbury in the Final of the Eastern Counties Cup and then played Blackheath in the John Player Cup, the first and only time we entertained a 1st Class Club at Springate. Walden were unlucky to lose 9 - 16.

The Club has consistently developed the talents and abilities of its players and encourages them to strive for the highest goals. This naturally has led some players to move on to more senior clubs and Walden always encouraged members to play at their highest level. The great

benefit is that these players usually return and pass on their experience to other aspiring members.

After a shortage of organisers and supporters led to the demise of the previous junior section, it was revived in the late 90's with Hayden and Debbie Crumpler instrumental in running this important part of the club. It progressed with support from Simon Read and Ed Norman who introduced the new RFU "Kids First" programme aimed for the younger players of the club's continuing future. Robin Wardle, a former player also came on board as Youth Director of SWRFC, this was a real turning point for the club which now has a thriving Youth section. During this period with the senior leagues were being expanded across all levels of Rugby Union, Saffron Walden entered Eastern Counties Division 1 and finished a creditable 5th in the 1998-99 Season. The following season under the leadership of New Zealander Damon Jakeman they gained their first promotion winning the league in style. This forged a long lasting relationship with his home club Wiauku which continues right to the present day where young players from both Saffron Walden and Wiauku have spent a season or two playing on the other side of the world bringing lasting friendships between players from the two clubs.

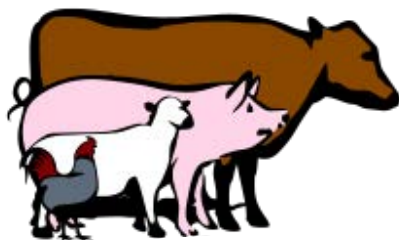
With promotion to the London Leagues they played in 4 North East and finished 3rd in their first season and then were champions in 2001-02 Season to gain promotion to London 3NE. A couple of years in mid table then saw the team relegated back into London 4NE after a difficult end to the 2005-06 Season. But they regrouped and under the leadership of Coach Tom Hughes and Captain Paul Marshall they immediately bounced back as Champions the following year. This was recognised nationally when they were Runners Up in Rugby World Magazines Team of the Season for being the youngest Coach/Captain Combination in the rugby clubs history and nearly 15 years later Paul is still Club captain and part of the Senior Squad. Over the next 6 seasons under Coach John Read the team settled comfortably into the league finishing mid table and with the restructuring of the League system in 2010 they found themselves in London 2NE.

Tom Hughes was reappointed as Player Coach for Season 2013-14 and this along with a good influx of quality players enabled the club to look towards the top of the league finishing second. Captain Adam Miles led the team at Twickenham rfc for the promotion playoff and it was one of the most memorable Rugby Matches for all those that played and travelled to watch, it went down to the extra time and then to the last play of the game only to lose by 1 point 44-43. It was reported as 'a true celebration of amateur rugby'.

2015 saw the appointment of Danny Hunter as Head Coach, assisted by Nigel Howe and with James Gosden as Captain, things could not have worked better. Although still firmly an amateur club a professional attitude was instilled and the results started to come. They won the league in style with one game to spare and were promoted to London 1 North as worthy champions, the clubs highest level since the league structure started and also winning the Cambridgeshire Cup.

The following season the team competed well in London N1 and finished a creditable 8th in the league, unfortunately this high level of Rugby could not be maintained and despite some good results they were relegated back into London 2NE.

The 2022/23 season will go down as one of the most successful in recent times. Under head coach, Neil Gaffan, the first team were unbeaten all season, winning Counties Eastern Counties 1, also winning the Cambridgeshire Cup, whilst the seconds won the Cambridgeshire Junior Cup. We were also named by the RFU as the best team in level 7 of English rugby and were named Eastern Counties club of the season. All this in our 60th year.



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OUR VALUES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

These are our values:

Teamwork - is essential for our sport

Respect - mutual respect forms the basis of our sport

Enjoyment - is the reason we play and support rugby union

Discipline - strong discipline underpins our sport

Sportsmanship - is the foundation rugby union is built upon

The committee of Saffron Walden RFC is committed to develop the 'spirit' of rugby along with playing the game. With this in mind, playing members of the Club are expected to adhere to these guidelines.

Play to the laws of the game. Accept all the referee's decisions. Control your temper - you and your team will benefit. Co-operate with your coach, referee, team mates & opponents. For without them, there would be no game. Remember, the game is played for enjoyment. In addition, spectators, parents and all other visitors to the Club are requested to adhere to the following RFU guidelines.

Respect the referee and all of his decisions, do not backchat him. Keep off the pitch during the game. Parents - encourage your children to have fun, that's what it is all about!

Saffron Walden Rugby Club, as required by the RFU and Eastern Counties RU has an internal Discipline Sub-Committee to deal with playing members who have been cautioned or dismissed whilst representing the Club. The sub-committee is made up of the Chairman, the Honorary Secretary and the Director of Rugby.

'ONE CLUB'

We are one club, offering rugby for every age. From the vice presidents sponsors and advertisers who help finance the club, the parents who come to watch their children, senior players who will come to help coach on a Sunday, the colts transitioning to senior rugby. It is a club where you can start off as a 6 year old progress through the age groups, transition into the senior club, retire from playing, join the vice presidents, bring your children to play rugby at the club.

A club where you can make friends for life, learn life skills, teamwork.

Coaches start off with a young age group and take the group through to the colts and help those players transition to senior rugby. They can then continue coaching with the seniors if they wish.

As a club, we want to offer the best possible playing experience for the kids and coaches alike, for the seniors and for the club supporters and ex players a reason to keep in touch with their old friends.

Be part of 'ONE CLUB'

WHO'S WHO

Club Committee

Kevin Moll	07789 379829	president@swrfc.co.uk	Club President
Richard Menhinick	07792 618171	chairman@swrfc.co.uk	Club Chairman
Elliot Field	07473 090938	treasurer@swrfc.co.uk	Hon Club Treasurer
Ben Ogilvie	07485 535405	secretary@swrfc.co.uk	Hon Club Secretary
Graham Marshall	07941 362038	fixtures@swrfc.co.uk	Senior Team Manager
Dominic Russell	07703 532822	tricorp@consultant.com	Mini and Youth Chairman
Justin Joubert	07342 167029	headcoach@swrfc.co.uk	Head Coach
Gary Baines	07930 442773	garybaines10@yahoo.co.uk	Rugby Safe & Medical Lead
Justin Joubert	07342 167029	headcoach@swrfc.co.uk	Head Coach
Dan Hall	07739 721510	medic@swrfc.co.uk	Coaching Coordinator
James Palmer	07710 910752	safeguarding@swrfc.co.uk	Safeguarding Lead
David Boreham	07379 730486	basilcottage@btinternet.com	Catering

Mini & Youth Committee

Dominic Russell	07703 532822	tricorp@consultant.com	Mini & Youth Chairman
James Palmer	07710 910752	safeguarding@swrfc.co.uk	Safe Guarding Lead
Sarah Wayper	07860 851048	registrar@swrfc.co.uk	Registration
Michelina Partridge		michelinal@hotmail.co.uk	First Aid
Jason Marshall	07956507075	marshall.j@btopenworld.com	
Melanie Goodger	07974 794944	safeguarding@swrfc.co.uk	Safeguarding officer
Daniel Hall	07739 721510	ccc@swrfc.co.uk	Club Coach Coordinator
Ben Ogilvie	07485 535405	secretary@swrfc.co.uk	Kit & Technology
Chloe Ogilvie	07957 659775	events@swrfc.co.uk	Publicity & Events
Clive Collins	07803367058	m&yfixtures@swrfc.co.uk	Fixtures
Chris Tunnicliffe		m&yfixtures@swrfc.co.uk	Fixtures
Glenn Cassidy	07790108828	m&yfixtures@swrfc.co.uk	Fixtures

Useful contacts

Steve Langford	07836 738452	internationaltickets@swrfc.co.uk	International Tickets
Ben Ogilvie	07485 535405	info@swrfc.co.uk	Hire of Clubhouse
Liz Cook	07786 024352	vps@swrfc.co.uk	Vice Presidents Secretary
Chloe Ogilvie	07957 659775	facilities@swrfc.co.uk	Clubhouse Manager
Sponsorship		sponsorship@swrfc.co.uk	
Volunteer		getinvolved@swrfc.co.uk	

Seniors Section 2023/24 Season

1st XV

Justin Joubert	07342 167029	justinjoubert123@gmail.com	Head Coach
Graham Marshall	07941 362038	graham.marshall2@icloud.com	Team Manager

2nd XV

Rupert Rowson		rupert.rowson@kpmg.co.uk	Coach
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WHO'S WHO

Youth Section 2023/24 Season

Colts			coltscoaches@swrfc.co.uk
Glenn Cassidy	Coach	Matthew Searson	Head Coach
Alec Dunn	Coach	Ben Lancaster	Coach
Geordie Reid	Coach		
u16			u16coaches@swrfc.co.uk
Paul Bowen	Head Coach	Michelina Partridge	Coach/Admin
Tom Wood	Coach		
u15			u15coaches@swrfc.co.uk
Richard Dear	Head Coach	James Beaton	Coach
u14			u14coaches@swrfc.co.uk
Anthony 'Digger' Davies	Head Coach	Brian Molyneux	Coach
Rory Joseph	Coach		
u13			u13coaches@swrfc.co.uk
Jason Marshall	Head Coach	Matt Lloyd	Coach
Bo Davies	Coach	Dom Lees	Coach
Andy Simpson	Coach	Matt Bradshaw	Coach

Kids First (Mini) Section 2023/24 Season

u12 Coaches			u12coaches@swrfc.co.uk
Clive Collins	Head Coach	Bruce Penrice	Coach
David Logue	Coach	Chris Allen	Coach
u11 Coaches			u11coaches@swrfc.co.uk
James Palmer	Head Coach	Daniel Hall	Coach
Rohan Campbell	Coach	Paul Bryant	Team Admin
Elisa Mitchell Davis	Coach		
u10 Coaches			u10coaches@swrfc.co.uk
Ben Ogilvie	Head Coach	Ricky Lambourne	Coach
Kaye Hall	Coach	Chloe Ogilvie	Admin
Dan Harwood	Coach		
u9 Coaches			u9coaches@swrfc.co.uk
Alex Haddad	Head Coach	Harry Richardson	Coach
Dave Philp	Coach	Sam Parker	Admin
u8 Coaches			u8coaches@swrfc.co.uk
Paul Marshall	Head Coach	Dave Smailes	Coach
Will Hemsley	Coach	Michael Veitch	Coach
u7 Coaches			u7coaches@swrfc.co.uk
Matt Coleman	Head Coach	Mitch Smith	Coach
Chris Tunnecliffe	Admin		
u6 Coach			u6coaches@swrfc.co.uk
Dominic Russell	Head Coach		



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for the season.*



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CHAIRMAN OF MINI & YOUTH SECTION

The time has come where we all, once more, don our boots in the relentless pursuit of Excellence in our beloved game of Rugby!

I and the Mini and Youth committee, along with the Senior Club Committee have been working tirelessly over the summer to ensure you all have the best possible experience this season.

Safeguarding and the wellbeing of all who are part of our club is our top priority. To this end, coaches have been busy upgrading their qualifications, particularly where tackling and the contact game are concerned.

We now have a minimum of two first aid qualified coaches per age group and all our coaching staff have up to date DBs checks. This is certainly a record in our own club and, arguably, sets the example for all our competitor clubs. Three People have been instrumental in this: Our club Safeguarding Officer ('Harry' Pamer), Club Coach Coordinator (Dan Hall) and First Aid Lead (Michelina Partridge).

As we grow, we are looking to spread these people's workload and I would welcome anyone who has some IT skills to contact me (07703 532822) to help keep this standard over the coming years.

We now have a better structured Fixtures process thanks to the work of Clive Collins and Chris Tunnecliff. They have now been joined by Glenn Cassidy who will oversee making sure pitches, Parking, changing rooms and Catering are all coordinated in time to make the match experience enjoyable for all.

It would be really helpful if someone with some admin skills could join this team to help further smooth the process as all three of the fixtures team also coach and help in other parts of the club.

For the first time, we will be starting the season knowing that every age group will be equipped to the highest standards so that all the players can enjoy the coaching as much as the coaches! It has taken our Kit Coordinator, Ben Ogilvie a couple of seasons to pull all this together.

We are looking for sponsors for the next generation of kit for the Mini and Youth section. So, if you have budget for this kind of thing, please speak to me (07703 532822) or come and find me in the clubhouse or in front of the club house where I will be coaching the under 6s!

Last year we had a number of social events and fun days. This was all thanks to our events/social committee headed up by Liz Cook and Chloe Ogilvie with able assistance from Jane Lambourne, Sarah Wayper and Jane wood. We hope to do even more this season as each social event helps put much needed funds into the coffers so that we can continue to reinvest in yours and your children's experience. An example of this has been the complete revamp of the drainage of all our playing areas. It costs something in the region of £150,000.00 to run a club like ours. Clearly these costs only rise. So fundraising is a massive part of what we do. Please get involved in these events and if you can help out on the day, let us know. There will be loads of communication through your age group admin.

Finally, we have constantly been refining the registration process. You will all have had the letter regarding this. Our Registrar, Sarah Wayper, will be in the clubhouse from the 3rd Sept offering assistance in the registration process. This is an essential part of our Safeguarding process and, with the addition of week-by-week registration through 'Teamo' we will have all the information we need to be able to ensure you and your children are protected in the event of any incident. If you have any difficulty registering, please come and find Sarah in the Clubhouse in the first couple of weeks or, again, once again, call me on 07703 532822 and I will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

Good luck with all your rugby endeavours this season.

Best wishes

Dominic Russell

Chairman of Mini and Youth



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*Good Luck SWRFC
for the 2023/2024 season!*

TEL: 07764785764
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INFORMATION FOR MINI & YOUTH SECTION

MEMBERSHIP

At the beginning of a new season we hold an annual registration session on the first two Sundays. All players of SWRFC are required to be registered with both SWRFC and the RFU (Rugby Football Union) via GMS (Games Management System) and Teamo.

Saffron Walden Rugby Club membership runs from September to August. All Under 18s must have parental consent as stated on the Membership Form and completed with payment.

Please note that if subscriptions are not paid then a player is not considered a member and will NOT be covered by the Club's insurance and therefore cannot play under the RFU regulations and our Club policy.

MEDICAL /SAFEGUARDING CONSENT

As part of the membership process, the medical section must be completed with any relevant details of the players health.

This must be completed every season to provide SWRFC and coaching staff with up to date information on a player's medical and behavioural conditions, and give consent to obtain medical assistance should a player be injured or taken ill. You will also be required to provide details of the child's current school as part of the safeguarding/ child protection policy.

COACHES

Saffron Walden Rugby Club coaches are all volunteers who have offered their services to help coach children. SWRFC offer full training for all volunteers allowing them to become qualified coaches. Coaches are DBS checked through the RFU, to ensure their suitability for working with young people.

FIRST AID

Each age group carries a basic first aid kit. A defibrillator is held in the clubhouse. There is always a first aider attending training and games.

PARKING

SWRFC parking is free but we ask you all to please park with care and consideration. On fixture days our car parking can get very busy therefore SWRFC kindly asks you all to respect our Parking Marshalls when on duty.

OUR DOG POLICY

SWRFC strongly ask that **all dogs must be on a lead at all times**, no matter how friendly your dog is. SWRFC will not accept any dogs running loose around players.

Please **DO NOT walk your dog across any playing pitch areas**, to prevent any mishaps occurring from your dog. Always walk your dog around our pitch areas.

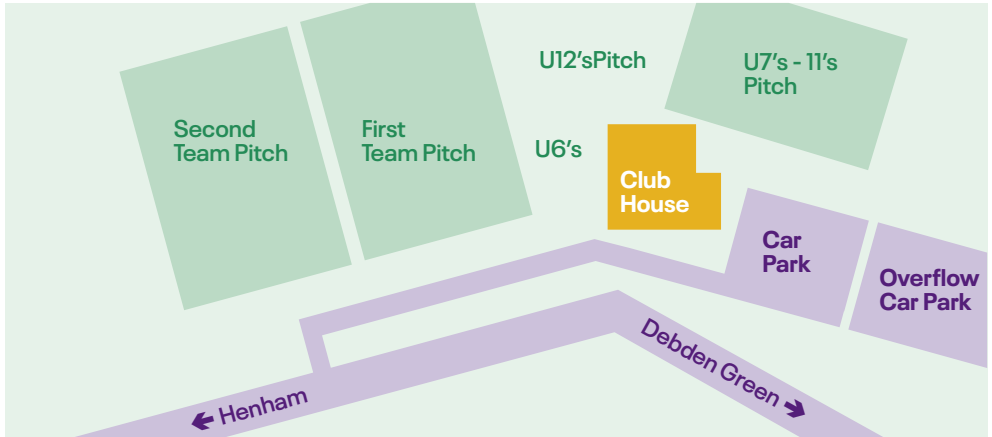


Keep our children's playing areas clean. Please ensure that you clean up after your dog. All dogs must be on a lead at all times.



CLUBHOUSE PLAN

We have Inside seating, Bar, Café, Toilets, Changing Rooms, Open Log Fire (for cold days).



We have introduced our **No Rugby Boots** policy inside the clubhouse. Players are encouraged to bring spare footwear to reduce the amount of mud and save the condition of the Club House flooring.

THE RUCK & ROLL KITCHEN

Missed your breakfast trying to get your children out of bed on a Sunday morning? It happens to us all!

Treat yourself to a bacon roll and a coffee while watching them play. There are light refreshments available until the bar opens and warm snacks for those hungry players.

Drinks include thick milkshakes with cream and marshmallows, teas, coffee, hot chocolate and soft drinks.

Menu includes Priors Hall Sausage Rolls, Bacon Rolls, Sausage baps and Burgers.

All profits go towards making the club successful so thank you for your continued support.

Fresh meat sourced from Priors Hall Farm.

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INTRODUCING



KIDS FIRST

As well as the Rugby Football Union (RFU) supporting the adult England rugby teams, the RFU have created Kids First, focusing on supporting the junior game.

Aimed at u7-u12 boys and girls rugby at clubs, schools across the country, Quilter have partnered with the Kids First RFU programme in playing their part in making a difference to the prosperity of future generations. The Kids First programme provides a setting in which children learn to play the game at their own pace, developing their skills and having plenty of fun as they do so. It also upskills coaches and creates a great rugby environment to encourage young people to stay in the game for longer.

RUCKLEY



SAFFRON WALDEN RUGBY CLUB WORKING TO PROMOTE THE RFU CORE VALUES

TEAMWORK | ENJOYMENT | DISCIPLINE | SPORTSMANSHIP

Putting children at the heart of everything we do.

Encourage fun on the pitch, through equal opportunity and realistic expectations of our children.

Develop children's confidence and character as players and as people, challenging any behavior that conflicts with this.

Build the skills of our adults to provide a safe, healthy, respectful and enjoyable environment for kids.

Champion rugby's core values, inspiring a lifelong bond between children, adults and our sport.



Age Grade Rugby is the framework for 6-18 year olds in clubs, schools and colleges. Its purpose is to prepare players for adult rugby in clubs through the game being player centred, development driven and completion supported.



U7 → **U18**



KIDS FIRST

MINI RUGBY



English Bulldog Ruckley is the Official RFU Ambassador for children's rugby. As well as helping make the sport more engaging and easier to understand for our young fans, Ruckley's first job will be to help explain and promote Kids First Rugby, the RFU's new approach to the way mini rugby is played.

U6 - Fun games learning basic ball skills

U7 - Introducing Tag games

- Max Number of players - 4
- Max mins per half - 10
- Max mins per day - 50

U8 - Tag games

- Introducing 6 tags for turn around
- Max Number of players - 6
- Max mins per half - 10
- Max mins per day - 50

U9 - Introducing Contact games

- Learning tackle and hold
- Max Number of players - 7
- Max mins per half - 15
- Max mins per day - 60

U10 - Contact games

- Continue learning tackle and hold
- Introducing 3 player uncontested scrum
- Introducing Ruck and Maul - 1 support player per team
- Max Number of players - 8
- Max mins per half - 15
- Max mins per day - 60

U11 - Contact games

- Continue learning tackle and hold
- Introducing 3 player scrum - strike, no push
- Introducing Ruck and Maul - 2 support player per team
- Introducing Kicking - no fly hack
- Max Number of players - 9
- Max mins per half - 20
- Max mins per day - 70

U12 - Contact games

- Continue learning tackle and hold
- Introducing 5 player scrum - strike, no push
- Introducing Ruck and Maul - unlimited
- Introducing Fend-off below armpits
- Max Number of players - 12
- Max mins per half - 20
- Max mins per day - 70





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CLUB SAFEGUARDING TEAM



SWRFC WELCOME

MELANIE GOODGER

JAMES PALMER

SAFEGUARDING@SWRFC.CO.UK

Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club is committed to Safeguarding.

Our priority as volunteers, coaches, members, managers and committee members is our duty of care to all members of our rugby community from the youngest to the most senior. We recognise and approve the RFU policy on the welfare of Rugby Union and keep our policies and procedures up to date.

Information is available inside our clubhouse or online at www.swrfc.co.uk



Call us on 01799 526777

*Good luck to all at Saffron Walden
RFC for the upcoming season.*

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www.benten.co.uk

REGISTRATION

In the first two weekends of the season, we will be having 'Registration days' where members of the committee and your Age group Admin support will be in the club house assisting you if you need help navigating either GMS or 'Teamo'.

We will ask you to register AND 'affiliate', or if already registered, affiliate to Saffron Walden RFC through the Games Management System (GMS) as before. It is extremely important that you press the 'AFFILIATE' button. If you do not, we will not be able to communicate with you or your child and there is the risk that our insurance might not cover you in the event of an incident. Details of what you need to do are attached.

After a successful first season on the 'Teamo' platform, we continue to use the software as a club attendance and fixture organisation system – please ensure your child is registered on Teamo. If you have any problems registering on GMS or Teamo, speak to your coach or one of the Mini and Youth officials

ADULT, MINI & YOUTH PLAYING KIT



This can now all be bought on line;

[STC-STORES.COM/COLLECTIONS/SAFFRON-WALDEN-RFC](https://stc-stores.com/collections/saffron-walden-rfc)

Green shirts, white shorts and green socks. This kit has been introduced over a year ago. However, if you have older designed kit, then you can still wear it and only get the new kit when too small to wear.

Get **rugby boots** as studs are different to football boots.

Mouth Guards; The wearing of mouth guards is compulsory from Under 9's upwards, and is recommended for younger players. You can get 'boil and bite' orthodontic mouth guards.

Club ties are available from the Clubhouse bar.

The wearing of rugby boots in the Club House is not allowed. So, it is a good idea to have a kit bag with slip on shoes and spare clothes to change into on wet days.

There is also a range of casual clothing, training tops etc, which can be purchased from the STC website.

Winning legal advice

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HIRING THE CLUBHOUSE

Saffron Walden Rugby Club provides a tranquil venue in the country side with plenty of free parking, whether you want to hold a small Birthday party, Sporting or Social event or a Business convention, Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club could have the facilities to suit your requirements.

Large function Room

Bar

Kitchen

Free Parking

Outside Ground

Our functionroom opens out onto our patio and grounds and is complete with bar facilities. A professional kitchen which can either be used to prepare your own food or used by an outside catering company. We provide you with full use of our tables and chairs. There is also television screens suitable for PowerPoint presentations. Changing rooms and showers are available if required. Our grounds could also be used for holding a marquee or an outside event.

Further details of the facilities can be provided on request and an informal, no obligation meeting to discuss your specific requirements can be made by contacting Ben Ogilvie on info@swrfc.co.uk, giving details of the date, event type and your requirements.





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Graphic design local services

I'm a local graphic design studio based in Saffron Walden and relish helping local companies big and small tell their story through **branding, promotion and print design.**

Specialise in designing

leaflets | brochures | corporate branding | books | magazines | business stationery | signage

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- I also design wedding or party invitation sets, order of service, personalised stationery or bespoke one-off books.

Graphic Design Services

Clare Webber

T 07710 129 499

E design@clarewebber.co.uk

www.clarewebber.co.uk

@cwebberdesign

FROM THE HEAD COACH



Reflecting on last season's astonishing achievements, such as celebrating our 60th Birthday, our consistency in training and performance from our players throughout our mini, youth and senior divisions, our coaches, parents, volunteers, and sponsors have been excellent in their support to each other and our club as we strive toward our ambition in being the best community Eastern Counties Rugby Club. Our 1st and Saxons teams winning the Cambridgeshire Counties cup and to crown it all off, the 1st team earning promotion into division six by delivering a perfect season were key moments for us to feel full of pride.

Looking toward the new season, we are right where we need to be with my personal ambition to leverage from the key principles that the sport of rugby brings us and with the support of our committee and coaching staff, we will continue to deliver an environment that is safe, welcoming, provides enjoyment for all levels within our community club so we are able to encourage our mini, youth and senior players to bring out the best versions of themselves.

Let's work hard, be purpose driven, be confident in our own abilities and above all, bring out your full potential to make the most from every opportunity that the new season will bring you...

Justin Joubert

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OP6 INNOVATION

**We are proud to sponsor Saffron Walden Rugby Club
for the 2022/23 season.**

WWW.OP6INNOVATION.COM

1ST XV FIXTURES

Date (Bold for Home Match)	Kick Off	Opponent	Home or Away	League, Cup or Friendly
09/09/2023		Thurrock	H	L
16/09/2023	3.00	Harlow	A	L
23/09/2023		Southend Saxons	H	L
30/09/2023	3.00	Brentwood	A	L
07/10/2023	3.00			
14/10/2023		Norwich	H	L
21/10/2023	3.00	Stowmarket	A	L
28/10/2023				
04/11/2023		Dagenham	H	L
11/11/2023	3.00	Woodford	A	L
18/11/2023		Chelmsford	H	L
25/11/2023	3.00			
02/12/2023	3.00	Holt	A	L
09/12/2023	3.00	Thurrock	A	L
16/12/2023		Harlow	H	L
23/12/2023		Xmas		
30/12/2023		New Year		
06/01/2024	3.00	Southend Saxons	A	L
13/01/2024		Brentwood	H	L
20/01/2024	3.00			
27/01/2024	3.00	Norwich	A	L
03/02/2024		Stowmarket	H	L
10/02/2024	3.00			
17/02/2024	3.00	Dagenham	A	L
24/02/2024	3.00			
02/03/2024		Woodford	H	L
09/03/2024	3.00	Cambs Cup – Cantabs	A	C
16/03/2024	3.00	Chelmsford	A	L
23/03/2024		Holt	H	L
30/03/2024		Easter		
06/04/2024		Eton Manor	H	L
13/04/2024	3.00	Cambs Cup Semi Final	H	C
20/04/2024	3.00			
27/04/2024	3.00	Cambs Cup Final – Camb	A	C
04/05/2024	3.00			
11/05/2024	3.00			
18/05/2024	3.00			
25/05/2024	3.00			

Fixtures correct at time of print, always check with your coach for confirmation

SAXONS XV FIXTURES

Date (Bold for Home Match)	Kick Off	Opponent	Home or Away	League, Cup or Friendly
09/09/2023		Bishops Stortford 4's	H	F
16/09/2023		St.Ives 2	H	L
23/09/2023	3.00	Cantabs 2	A	L
30/09/2023		Mildenhall Red Lodge	H	L
07/10/2023	3.00	Peterborough 2	A	L
14/10/2023		Ely 2	H	L
21/10/2023	3.00	Cambridge 3	A	L
28/10/2023	3.00	Cambs Cup – St.Ives 2	H	C
04/11/2023		Haverhill	H	L
11/11/2023	2.30	March	A	L
18/11/2023		Thorney	H	L
25/11/2023	2.30			
02/12/2023	2.00	Bury 3	A	L
09/12/2023		St.Neots 2	H	L
16/12/2023		Cantabs 2	H	L
23/12/2023		Xmas		
30/12/2023		New Year		
06/01/2024	2.00	Mildenhall Red Lodge	A	L
13/01/2024		Peterborough 2	H	L
20/01/2024	2.00	Ely 2	A	L
27/01/2024		Cambridge 3	H	L
03/02/2024	2.30	Haverhill	A	L
10/02/2024	2.30			
17/02/2024		March	H	L
24/02/2024	2.30			
02/03/2024	3.00	Thorney	A	L
09/03/2024	3.00	Cambs Cup – Q/Final	H	C
16/03/2024		Bury 3	H	L
23/03/2024	3.00	St.Neots 2	A	L
30/03/2024				
06/04/2024	3.00	St.Ives 2	A	L
13/04/2024	3.00	Cambs Cup – S/Final	H	C
20/04/2024	3.00			
27/04/2024	3.00	Cambs Cup Final – Camb	A	C

Fixtures correct at time of print, always check with your coach for confirmation

YOUTH BOYS

		U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17 / U18 (COLTS)
10/09/2023	Sun	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	
17/09/2023	Sun						Colts conference
24/09/2023	Sun		Suffolk 7's, Norfolk 10's			Haverhill (A)	
01/10/2023	Sun	Camb Festival (A)			Camb Festival (Saffron)		Colts conference
08/10/2023	Sun		Ely (A)		Haverhill (H)	Camb Festival (Newmarket) (A)	Newmarket (H)
15/10/2023	Sun	Mini 6 (Shefford) (A)					Stow Festival (A)
22/10/2023	Sun	Autumn Half term	Autumn Half Term	Autumn Half term	Autumn Half Term	Autumn Half term	Autumn Half Term
05/11/2023	Sun		Shelford (H)	Shelford (A)	Shelford (H)	Shelford (A)	CB County U18
19/11/2023	Sun	Ely (H)	CambFestival (Cambridge)				Newmarket (A)
26/11/2023	Sun		Bury St. Edumnds (A)	Bury St. Edmunds (H)	Bury St. Edmunds (A)		Colts conference
03/12/2023	Sun					Bury St. Edmunds (H)	CB County U18
10/12/2023	Sun	Mini 6 (Saffron)		Hold: County Cup	Hold: County Cup	Lowestoft (H)	Colts conference
17/12/2023	Sun					Hold: County Cup	CB County U18
24/12/2023	Sun	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas
31/12/2023	Sun						
07/01/2024	Sun					Haverhill (H)	CB County U18
14/01/2024	Sun	Wendens (A)		Hold: County Cup	Hold: County Cup	Hold: County Cup	Colts Cup
21/01/2024	Sun		Colchester (H)	Colchester (A)	Colchester (U15B's) (H)	Colchester (A)	
28/01/2024	Sun		Festival (Shelford) (A)				Colts Cup
04/02/2024	Sun	Royston (A)		Hold: County Cup	Hold: County Cup	Hold: County Cup	Colts Cup
11/02/2024	Sun		Ely (H)	Norwich (A)	Norwich (H)	Norwich (H)	
18/02/2024	Sun	Spring Half Term	Spring Half Term	Spring Half Term	Spring Half Term	Spring Half Term	Spring Half Term
25/02/2024	Sun			Hold: County Cup	Hold: County Cup	Hold: County Cup	
03/03/2024	Sun		Stowmarket (A)	Stowmarket (A)	Stowmarket (H)	Stowmarket (H)	
10/03/2024	Sun	Camb Festival (A)	Mothers Day	Mothers Day	Mothers Day	Mothers Day	Mothers Day
17/03/2024	Sun		Bury St. Edumnds (A)	Bury St. Edmunds (A)	Bury St. Edmunds (H)	Bury St. Edmunds (H)	
24/03/2024	Sun	Cambridge (A)	Festival (Tbc)	Hold: County Cup (Reserve)	Hold: County Cup (Reserve)	Hold: County Cup	Colts Cup (Semi's)
31/03/2024	Sun	Easter	Easter	Easter	Easter	Easter	Easter
07/04/2024	Sun	Easter	Norwich (H)	Norwich (H)	Norwich	Norwich (A)	
14/04/2024	Sun		Shelford (A)	Shelford (H)	Shelford	Shelford (H)	
21/04/2024	Sun	Shelford (H)			Colchester Festival (A)		Colts Cup
28/04/2024	Sun				Haverhill (A)		Colts Sevens
05/05/2024	Sun			May Bank Holiday	May Bank Holiday	May Bank Holiday	May Bank Holiday
12/05/2024	Sun	Harlow (H)		CB/Academy	CB/Academy		CB County U17
19/05/2024	Sun			CB/Academy	CB/Academy		CB County U17

MINI (CONT')

		U07	U08	U09	U10	U11
10/09/2023	Sun	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching
17/09/2023	Sun					
24/09/2023	Sun					
01/10/2023	Sun	Cambridge Festival (A)	Cambridge Festival (A)	Cambridge Festival (A)	Cambridge Festival (A)	Cambridge Festival (A)
08/10/2023	Sun					
15/10/2023	Sun	Cambridge (H)	Cambridge (H)	Cambridge (H)	Cambridge (H)	Cambridge (H)
22/10/2023	Sun	Autumn Half term	Autumn Half term	Autumn Half Term	Autumn Half term	Autumn Half Term
05/11/2023	Sun	Haverhill (A)	Haverhill (A)	Haverhill (H)		Haverhill (H)
19/11/2023	Sun	Ely (H)	Ely (H)	Ely (H)	Ely (H)	Mini 6 (Ely) (A)
26/11/2023	Sun					
03/12/2023	Sun					
10/12/2023	Sun	Mini 6 (Royston) (A)	Mini 6 (Camb) (A)	Mini 6 (Ely) (A)	Mini 6 (Shelford) (A)	Mini 6 (Wendens) (A)
17/12/2023	Sun					
24/12/2023	Sun	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas
31/12/2023	Sun					
07/01/2024	Sun					
14/01/2024	Sun	Wendens (A)	Wendens (A)	Wendens (A)	Mini 6 (Saffron) (A)	Wendens (A)
21/01/2024	Sun					
28/01/2024	Sun					
04/02/2024	Sun	Royston (A)	Royston (A)	Mini 6 (Wendens) (A)	Royston (A)	Royston (H)
11/02/2024	Sun					
18/02/2024	Sun	Spring Half Term	Spring Half Term	Spring Half Term	Spring Half Term	Spring Half Term
25/02/2024	Sun				Colchester (A)	
03/03/2024	Sun					
10/03/2024	Sun	Camb Festival (A)	Camb Festival (A)	Camb Festival (A)	Camb Festival (A)	Camb Festival (A)
17/03/2024	Sun					
24/03/2024	Sun	Cambridge (A)	Mini 6 (Royston) (A)	Cambridge (A)	Cambridge (A)	Cambridge (A)
31/03/2024	Sun	Easter	Easter	Easter	Easter	Easter
07/04/2024	Sun	Easter	Easter	Easter	Royston (H)	Easter
14/04/2024	Sun					
21/04/2024	Sun	Mini 6 (Camb) (A)	Shelford (H)	Shelford (H)	Shelford (H)	Shelford (H)

ENGLAND INTERNATIONALS

Date	Event
09/09/2023	England v Arg 8pm
16/09/2023	
23/09/2023	England v Chile 4.45pm
30/09/2023	
07/10/2023	England v Samoa 4.45pm
14/10/2023	Quarter Finals 4 & 8pm
21/10/2023	Semi Final 8pm
28/10/2023	Final 8pm
03/02/2024	Italy v Eng 2.15pm
10/02/2024	Eng v Wales 4.45pm
17/02/2024	
24/02/2024	Scot v Eng 4.46pm
02/03/2024	
09/03/2024	Eng v Ireland 4.45pm
16/03/2024	France v Eng 8pm



VICE PRESIDENTS & HOW TO JOIN

We are proud of our Vice Presidents (VP's) and the support they give the club and in particular acknowledge our Honorary Life Vice Presidents for their service to the club.

Ian Brownlee

Malcolm Flood

Ian McKernan

Bob Mercer

Kevin Moll

Andrew Arnold

James Potter

Di Potter

Tony Dorren

It was a good season for the Vice Presidents last season. In the past we have organised 4 pre match lunches. Last season we organised 11. They were all very well supported with great food and an excellent atmosphere with a lot more ladies joining us. Mrs Cooky did a great job organising the meals and a lot of fun and money was raised for the club. One member gave the club enough money to get the car park extended and the a lot of the grounds drained.

We look forward to seeing you at the club and if you are reading this and are not a paid up Vice President, that can be remedied!

Kevin Moll, President

Pre match lunches

Saturday 14th Oct

V Norwich at home

Saturday 4th Nov

V Dagenham at home Saturday 18th Nov V Chelmsford

at home Saturday 16th Dec

V Harlow Christmas lunch Saturday 13th Jan V Brentwood

Burns lunch Saturday 3rd Feb

V Stowmarket

Saturday 2nd Mar

V Woodford

Saturday 23rd Mar

V Holt Ex Players lunch Saturday 6th April V Eton Manor

Vice Presidents subs are £90 a season. For further details vps@swrfc.co.uk





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extraordinary

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EARLY DAYS OF SAFFRON WALDEN RUGBY CLUB

There had been two previous Saffron Walden rugby clubs, one before the First World War and the second in the 1930's and 40's. Rugby was played in Saffron Walden in the 30's and 40's on the land behind Shire Hill occupied by Engleman's Nursery. The club colours then were dark and light blue hoops.

After the formation of the Current Club in 1963 the first games were played away and then on various sites as and where they could be found from week to week.

The first President Frank Gelling's contacts enabled the club to rent Wimbish Recreation Field as the club's home pitch for a few years from the parish council, and RAF Debden provided facilities of a second pitch as well as winter training in the hangers. The club remained here until the formation of Uttlesford District Council and local politics caused the club to move to RAF Debden, with after match festivities at the Kings Arms in Market Hill.

The Rose and Crown in Saffron Walden was used as the club's headquarters until it was burnt down in 1969.

After many unsuccessful attempts to buy land for a permanent home in or near Saffron Walden, SWRFC purchased land at Henham and our current home at Springgate was established. It took two year's hard work by club members to turn the agricultural land into 3 full size pitches and to build the original, mainly wooden, clubhouse. Further development took place in 1982 with the construction of the current Clubhouse and in 2000 the playing area had an extensive drainage programme completed.

Since then, there has been many upgrades especially to the Bar and Kitchen along with the installation of floodlights and the acquisition of the piece of land beyond the Car Park for Mini and Youth Rugby along with a Car Park Extension to cater for larger events at the club.



© Jamie Pluck

A smiling man with a beard, wearing a green and purple rugby jersey, is the central figure on the left side of the page. The jersey has 'STC' on the chest and 'HUMPHREYS' on the front. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT RUGBY CLUB YOU DO!

Saffron Walden Rugby Club recognises that a huge number of people play an invaluable part in ensuring that every game played at Springgate, Henham runs as smoothly as possibly, especially:

- All the players, from Seniors, to Juniors to Minis without whom there would be no game and no enjoyment for us all
- All our coaches, team managers and administrators at every level of the game played here at Saffron Walden Rugby Club
- All the referees who give us their time and expertise and without whom there is no rugby
- Our grounds man who takes such good care of our pitches
- All those who help out preparing match teas and serving behind the bar or selling teas and coffees
- In fact, every member of the Club who volunteers their time and service for the good of the Club
- All our supporters and spectators who attend our games and give our players the encouragement they richly serve
- All our sponsors for their kind support
- Saffron Walden Reporter and the Walden Local for the consistently great coverage they give us

To All of you, a very big thank you!