
YOUTH PLAYER PATHWAY UPDATE



BOYS

2020

Welcome from Director of Rugby JACOB FORD



At Westcliff we are very proud of our commitment to foster homegrown players. Throughout the years the club has always put young player development at the very heart of everything it has done. The fact that our National Division 2 senior side is packed full of Westcliff players is testament to that long term ethos.

Heading into the 2020 season we feel that now is a good time, not only to tell you about the continuation of that core belief, but also how we plan to build and develop our young player strategy for the new decade.

We are excited to continue building excellent relationships between our Senior and Colts groups and the future will see important and specific development in this area.

Linking the benefits of our outstanding senior playing and coaching group more closely with the Colts and Youth sections will take Westcliff RFC, already strong, into 2020 and beyond with a renewed “One Club Philosophy”.

We will continue to encourage our young players to “be the best that they can be” on and off the field and to put “enjoyment first”.

OUR VALUES

ENJOYMENT

TEAMWORK

HUMILITY

HARD WORK



MINI AND YOUTH GROUPS

→ Colts

Our U17 and U18 groups form our Colts. Both age groups play separately in their respective Essex Cup and League Competitions' and also come together to play in a combined U17 and U18 National Cup competition.

Both groups will train alongside the senior 1st XV with senior coaching staff on a Tuesday with the U18s continuing to train with the seniors on a Thursday to help the young players transition into senior rugby. Coaches and players in this group will benefit from increased contact time with senior players and coaches. We hope this will greatly increase the familiarity between them and make senior rugby far less daunting.

Due to the joint nature of the Colts there will also be weeks where some of the older group can play senior rugby on Saturdays.



→ YOUTH AND COLTS RUGBY

James Evans - Youth Chair



Our development pathway focuses on the direction and assistance that our Youth and Colts teams will receive on their journey through to playing for our senior teams.

Traditionally and extremely successfully our mini and youth teams have been, and will continue to be, coached by parents, many of whom, like me, are ex senior and youth players themselves. This is what gives our youth coaching such great continuity, deep understanding and passion. We are, at heart, a family club.

We aim to continue in that way but to add in, where appropriate, learning experiences for our players and our youth coaches through closer links with our outstanding senior coaching team.

Youth players and their coaches will now be integrated into the thinking and playing style of our National Division 2 South coaching set up. Through this way of working we will see even more seamless transition of skills both mental and technical.

Our ethos will always be about enjoyment and fun but we hope to learn a little along the way.

→ Youth Teams

U13/14/15 and U16 make up our youth section. They all train in their separate groups on a Wednesday evening and play on Sunday's. Each team has its own manager and qualified coaching team and the club continues to supply physio support for all groups.

The youth teams, players and coaches, will benefit from coaching sessions by the senior coaching team.

We expect that these closer ties with the senior group will enhance the already outstanding youth coaching provision with groups playing in the same way as the senior club, "The Westcliff Way".

→ Mini/Lion Cubs

Our Lion Cubs sessions are run on Saturday mornings and cater for boys and girls aged 2 - 5 years.

Minis start at U6 to U12 and train or play matches on -Sunday mornings with many coaches and volunteers helping out. The aim is to maximise enjoyment and participation.

Vision

To provide the best rugby experience in the country - throughout the club.

Strategy

Coaches, parents and volunteers working in cohesion to provide expert coaching and opportunities to aspiring young rugby players of all abilities

Measure of success

Level of enjoyment

Level of participation

Number of Westcliff players

playing for senior sides

Number of players moving on

to play at a higher level

SENIOR COACHING GROUP

→ Jacob Ford - DoR and Head Coach



Jacob has experience in coaching at National Division 1, National Division 2 and also BUCS Super Rugby with Loughborough Students. Jacob has a strong understanding of creating winning environments through his excellent support network and work ethic. He is also the youngest Level 3 coach and the highest qualified for his age in the country.

→ Jordan Turner Hall - Defence/Backs Coach



During a 10 year period Jordan made 170 appearances for Harlequins. He played in Harlequins 2012 victory in the Premiership Final and scored on his England debut against The Barbarians. He gained two full England caps in wins over Scotland and Italy in the 2012 6 Nations. Since injury cut his playing career short he has coached at National League level and is now Head of Rugby at Ipswich School. Known for his hard running and hard hitting playing style Jordan is massively influential in this role.

→ Jackson Wray - Forwards Coach



Jackson started his rugby playing career at Westcliff before England U16s and U20s led him through Saracens Academy and a professional career of over 200 appearances for Saracens, winning the Premiership and European Cup on numerous occasions. Still playing a hugely influential role in the back row for Saracens, Jackson is developing his coaching at Westcliff, adding his experience and support to the coaching team and playing squad.

→ Joe Vandermolen - Forwards Coach



Having come through Westcliff Youth system himself Joe spent time away playing at Chinnor in National 1 and prior to that for Bedford Blues in the Championship gaining the Blues Players Player of the 2014 season. His experience and understanding of National League rugby are hugely important to the squad both on the pitch as a player and off it as a coach.

SENIOR COACHING GROUP - CONTINUED

→ Kent Bray - Skills Coach



Kent played for Australia U20s and at stand off for New South Wales against the British Lions in 1989. Six months after that he won an Oxford Blue against Cambridge and a year later had moved to England and joined Harlequins. In the days of Will Carling, Jason Leonard and Chris Sheasby he became a Harlequins regular mainly playing at full back. Kent was also Head Coach at Rosslyn Park and Assistant Coach at Harlequins.

Kent brings huge experience, wisdom and guidance to the coaching team.

→ Max Crumpton- Forwards Coach



Max played at Westcliff right up to Colts before moving on through the Saracens Academy and England U20's to spells with Plymouth Albion and Bristol before cementing his place at hooker with Harlequins.

it is bitter sweet for us to have him back at The Gables as sadly injury has forced him to retire from playing. We wish him well for the future and look forward to seeing his undoubted experience and knowledge shine through in his coaching.

→ Peter Mahoney - Backs Coach



Pete played at centre in National Division 1 and 2 for his home club Barking. As a younger man he also had a spell in Australia for GPS Brisbane.

He was involved helping in a coaching and occasionally playing capacity as long as 15 years ago when Westcliff started to rise through the leagues. And only last season was DoR at Westcliff.

He is head coach of his sons age group (U16s) and will be a key link between the youth and the senior sides with particular responsibility for the Lions in the coming 20/21 season.

Contact us

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PATHWAY STRUCTURE

1st XV: National 2 South

LIONS XV

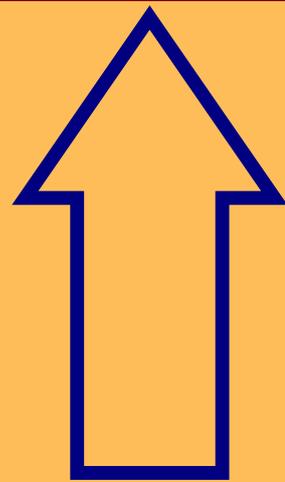
RHINO'S XV

HONEYBADGERS XV

U18's: League and cup

U18's & U17's Combined cup

U17's: League and cup

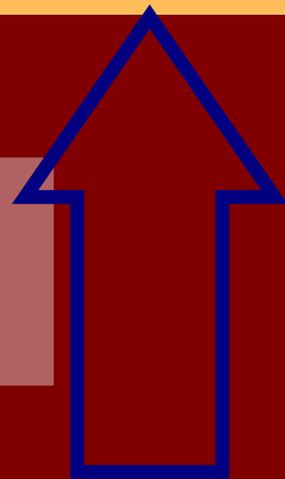


U16's XV

U15's XV

U14's XV

U13's XV



U6's to U12's

Lion Cubs 2-5 Years

