



## WELCOME TO OLD COLFEIANS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

August 2020

*Dear Players and Parents,*

### **Welcome to the new season 2020-2021!**

We hope you, your families, friends and colleagues are as well as possible bearing in mind how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected everyone and continues to do so.

We are very excited that rugby is returning to Horn Park on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020**, and all the volunteers at Old Colfeians are looking forward to welcoming you back! Do look out for communication coming shortly from your Team Managers on what to do next.

You will recall that last season's Rugby had to finish early because of the coronavirus however the government and the Rugby Football Union have allowed rugby to restart on the basis that all clubs and schools etc follow an official Return to Rugby "Road Map".

Our focus for the last few months has been to fully understand the Road Map so that you can return to rugby at Old Colfeians with confidence. Since July, permitted "out of season" rugby activity for older age groups and some of the younger age groups has taken place at Horn Park following careful planning in accordance with government and RFU guidelines, and in the last few weeks we have provided day training camps which were approved by the Kent RFU with its additional guidelines.

**Please note: there are changes to the way we need to organise rugby for you, as well as how you can enjoy the facilities at Horn Park and in the clubhouse.** These changes along with all the info about the Return to Rugby format can be found at: <https://www.ocrfc.co.uk/return-to-rugby-update/>.

This includes some important Covid-19 checklists that you will need to familiarise yourself with BEFORE attending on the 6th September so please visit: <https://www.ocrfc.co.uk/covid-19/>. These will also be shared with you by your Team Manager in separate communications shortly along with guidelines regarding online membership.

Bearing in mind the government, RFU and Kent RFU guidelines on returning to rugby, we are committed to giving all our players a fun and enjoyable place to play rugby combined with the highest standards of coaching to ensure that the players benefit from each and every training session.

We are very proud of our players, with a thriving pathway for Minis, Juniors, Girls and Colts with many already part of the Kent Saracens Developing Player Programme.

As in previous seasons, we shall provide and be involved in festivals, tournaments, floodlit matches, tours, Saracens events as well as a full range of social events as and when we are permitted to do so.

Many players from across clubs in Kent have been choosing to move and join in the success and enjoyment at OCs; our RFU All Schools Programme has seen new players joining from local schools, and schools wanting to make rugby a part of their curriculum. As we are confident in how we are dealing with the effect of the coronavirus on rugby we believe we will be as popular a choice of place to enjoy rugby as ever.

Finally, a huge thank you to all those who were able to contribute to the Club's Just Giving early summer fundraising to replace the income lost when last season was cut short and help the Club survive. OCRFC continues as a Partner Club with the Wooden Spoon Charity, the children's charity of rugby and look forward to helping them through the season.

### Details for the Coming Season

- The season starts for all our Youth rugby sections (Minis, Juniors, Colts and Girls) on Sunday, 6 September 2020 at Horn Park.
- The start times of each group are being staggered more than normal due to Covid-19 RFU Guideline. Please note that some minis age groups may need to start at 9am (rather than the usual 10am). Your Team Manager will be in contact with you to inform you of your age group's start time, so please make sure you are aware of this before coming down.
- The registration and membership process is online using GMS. You can find all membership info as well as the Club Handbook containing all our club policies and guides (which you should familiarise yourself with) on our [Membership page](#). It also explains the new requirement to renew your players RFU registration as well as your subs.
- and NEW THIS YEAR...you can now even add your kit orders from the [club shop](#) to your basket before you check out!:

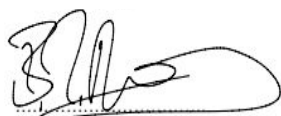
Finally, we have 2 things that we hope you'll consider when renewing your child's membership. 1. to become a Social Member (discount available when purchasing at same time as player membership) and 2. to sign up for the monthly [200 Club monthly Lottery](#). Without these funds the Club would not survive and the 200 Club is used in particular to help keep our subscriptions as low as possible. You can find these along with a donation button on GMS for purchasing.

As always, we want to help as many kids access rugby as possible and therefore if financial help towards membership from our clubs Bursary fund would be of assistance then please speak to your Team Manager for an application form.

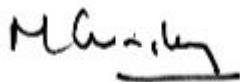
We can't wait to pass on our energy and enthusiasm to all of you, whether returning to the Club as an existing player, or starting with us on a new exciting journey. We wish you all a great season and look forward to seeing you at the Club.

If you have any questions about the start of the new season do contact your Team Manager or your sections head who will help you as best they can.

*Yours in rugby,*



**Benedict Annable**  
Minis Chairman  
Old Colfeians RFC



**Mike Wrigley**  
Juniors Chairman  
Old Colfeians RFC



**Tom Chapman**  
Colts Lead Coach  
Old Colfeians RFC



**Vicky Fleetwood**  
Girls Lead Coach  
Old Colfeians RFC