

Junior Section Annual Report 2024/25

It has been another wonderful season across the Junior Section with many highlights to be proud of. Although detailed in the full report headlines are

- Teams playing across all age groups in the main season from Pre- school to U18 boys, and along with operating four girls teams between U12 to U18. (c350 players)

Season 2024/25 achievements

Boys

- U18 - West Regional League North Winners
- U16 - West Regional League North Winners
- U15 - West Regional League Runners Up
- U18 - National Shield Semi Finalists
- U18 - West Regional Shield Semi Finalists
- U16 –National Cup Semi Finalists
- U16 - West Regional Shield Runners Up
- U15 - West Regional Cup Semi Finalists

Girls

- U16 -National Cup Winners
- U16 -Regional Cup Winners
- U16 – National Sheild Finalists

Cambuslang and Rutherglen Sports Council

- Volunteer of the Year – Colin Campbell
- Coach of the Year – Abbie Fountain
- Team of the Year – Girls U16
- Scottish Club of the Year – Cambuslang Rugby club.

We have been able to support local Charity Healthy and Happy through the Xmas gift appeal along with supporting the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Food bank.

The section continues to thrive, underpinned by a hard-working committee along with our coaching team who dedicate lots of time and effort to benefit the development of our young players as we continue to focus on creating an environment with no barriers to entry.

I would like to thank everyone's dedication and support this season, which can only be described as an enormous success and one that I personally have been very proud to be involved in.

As we start to look towards season 2025/26 we will be focusing on succession planning in the Junior Section committee to ensure that we sustain the drive and longevity over the future outlook.

Yours in Rugby

Stewart Barnett

Micro Section (Pre School – P3)

Playing numbers continue to be healthy across the 4 micros teams. P1 recruitment has been a little slower than previous years and will be a target area for recruitment in the run up to the summer and into next season.
Cubs 4 girls/12 boys (16)
P1 5 girls/13 boys (18)
P2 5 girls/23 boys (28)
P3 5 girls/25 boys (30)

The target for teams leaving p3 into p4 is 10 girls and 20 boys to give the club the best hope for full teams working through to midi rugby.

Coaching numbers are healthy on paper but in practice they are quite tight on some weekends, particularly with P3s playing away. Coach recruitment and retention of coaches not "having" to move to P4 will be a focus in preparing for next season. Coach recruitment efforts have commenced recently to try and target up to 4 new coaches. In addition, the micros have been supported quite well from U16/18 girls this season and would like to continue such an arrangement.

The mini/micro festival hosted on 31st March was a success. Approximately 600 players from 9 visiting teams and Cambuslang took part in the festival. It was supported by around 40 volunteers who helped with: catering; setting up pitches/tents; car parking; match admin; physio/first aid. P2/3 teams played matches in the festival.

Areas for development for micro teams and coaches include:
- Rugby knowledge for coaches who are often not experienced
- Refereeing courses building on the course held in Feb 25 for more coaches
- Playbook development to aide session planning

Andy Dick will likely move on from the micro section after next season. A new micro section coordinator to 'shadow' Andy in the 2026/27 season will be part of succession planning.

Mini Section (P4- P7)

Overall, a positive and busy season for the mini teams. With the last festival taking place on 18th May, all teams will continue to train until 22nd June. The focus during this time will be to begin the transition to the law variations of the next age and stage. Our own mini festival was another successful day for everyone involved and we will look to build on this again next season.

P7
A challenging season at times for the P7s. We knew coming into the season that numbers were low and despite a recruitment drive from Glasgow Academy by one of the players, they have still struggled to field a full team at times. Unfortunately, we didn't see much transition from the primary school programme with only one new player. This will create an obvious challenge as the team moves into U13.

P6
Another successful year for the P6s which has culminated in some excellent performances in their end of season tournaments. It has been a year of change as a lot of girls have formed the core of the

U12 girls team which has meant our numbers have been lower. We will still have a core group of 20 players moving into P7 which leaves the team in a good position.

P5
P5 have made good progress throughout the year, with the highlight being their tour to Newcastle in May. A huge well done to Andy Robertson who has driven this from the start of the season. Numbers have remained steady throughout the year and this will remain the same as the team moves up to P6.

P4
P4 have again made good progress as they started their journey into their first season of contact rugby. This was highlighted with the team winning the Marr festival at the end of the season. Again their numbers have remained steady throughout the year which will help as they move up to P5.

Midi Section U13 – U18's

Competition Achievements

U18 - West Regional League North Winners
U16 - West Regional League North Winners
U15 - West Regional League Runners Up

U18 - National Shield Semi Finalists
U18 - West Regional Shield Semi Finalists
U16 - National Cup Semi Finalists
U16 - West Regional Shield Runners Up
U15 - West Regional Cup Semi Finalists

Another strong season across the boys midi section with strong player numbers and highly competitive teams at U14, U15, U16 and U18 age groups. All teams are highly competitive against the strongest sides in the Glasgow region.

At U18 the collaboration with Cartha again proved successful with all 8 Cambuslang players regularly starring in match days squads and contributing hugely to a successful season. 4 of those players now move into senior rugby with one - Christian Roos - already having made his senior debut for Cambuslang.

The U16 side had a tremendous season with the highlight being their run to the Scottish Cup Semi Final. After wins against Dundee Rugby, Stirling County and Dumfries Saints in the earlier rounds, a hard-fought encounter with eventual cup winners Boroughmuir narrowly brought their run to an end. 4 players from the squad - Oliver Heriot, Findlay MacKinnon, Nathan Stefani and Magnus Boan - were members of the Glasgow & The West U16 squad through the season, representing the club with distinction in a number of inter-district fixtures.

The highlight of another strong season for the U15's was in the West Regional Cup where wins against Marr, West of Scotland and Dumfries Saints took them to a semi-final that they lost narrowly against an excellent Dalziel side. The strong squad depth at this age group allowed for several Development fixtures to played through the season to ensure all players were getting game time.

The U14 side continued to achieve the same high standards they set for themselves in the previous season with a tremendous run of performances this season that saw them record notable wins against Ayr, Biggar, West of Scotland, GHA and Marr. A mighty East-West clash against Haddington, one of the leading sides in the Edinburgh region, saw a match with nearly 100 points scored where Cambus lost by only a couple of scores.

The U13's struggled with player numbers and coach support through the season. Despite best efforts of those involved and engagement of the DO, this squad has unfortunately now folded.

Big success with 150-175 male and female players from our midi teams attending; additionally large number of parents in attendance to watch in the members bar where a live feed of the awards was shared on the TV.
Jack Mann, Gregor Brown, Allie Tucker and Claire Haughie in attendance
Great night to recognise all our players, share special recognitions and celebrate another successful season. BBQ operated on the night with Burgers supplied by McIntyres!

As the season comes to an end, the teams round off playing 10's and 7's competitions and the U15 boys are taking part in the Player Development Hubs that are the initial stage of the SRU Player Pathway.

Girls Section

The girl's section has continued to progress this year with significant success at the u16s level. The team, undefeated went onto win the National Scottish cup and west regional cup titles.

The U14s have dominated majority of their games as well as welcoming 5 new players at this age group.

We've had our first u18s team representation in the league and cup as well as being entered into the west cup however unfortunately due to numbers from opponents were unable to compete.

This season we started our first u12s team who originally set out with the aim of 1 game a month to playing every weekend in the lift off series.

The u12s&14s mini tour to Islay was a huge success with the girls gaining so much experience and we hope to return the favour soon.

Our aims for next season are to build numbers within the u14 age group as we currently sit with 4 players, we'll look to increase this by at least 8

Four of the U16 team have advanced into the u16s Scotland team as well as other U16 players joining the national PDH. This is a real landmark for the club.

Community Update

Xmas Gift
We again supported Healthy and Happy with our annual Xmas Gift appeal which was well received.

Xmas events
We hosted all sections for annual events across the function hall in the Club, Air Thrill, Top Golf and Murrayfield for the W6N's (girls section)

Cabin
Continues to operate successfully with volunteers on match days
Stock rotating well with mainly Hot Drinks, Cans, Crisps and Chocolate on offer

End of season Junior Section Fundraiser, 15th June
Likely to consider another BBQ on the day - will be asking for usual volunteers to step forward. Coaches and Parents will be requested to offer help erecting tents and gazebos. As grateful as this is, the volunteer numbers drop significantly at the end of the day for clearing and tidying.
Once again, it would be great to request senior club members to join us on the day to show Club unity. ***(Discussion about moving the date due to extension on Ground works)***

Summer Touch Rugby;
It is intended that we will once again host Friday night Fun sessions during the off-season.
Plan will be to coordinate usual Touch and Rounders format as per previous years.
Currently exploring organising options with new/alternative lead coaches.

Summer rugby camp
Will be operated by Development Officer Andrew Johnston.

Warriors Community Event
U13 team represented Cambuslang at recent Kubenet rugby event at Glasgow Warriors;
A combined S1/2 team made up a combined U13 team to attend this festival at Scotstoun - no competition but plenty of game time and success for our players. P7 remains an age group who have missed out in recent seasons so a request for invitation has been shared with Warriors community team.

Preseason 2025/26

This will start at the end of July to prepare for the seasons starting in August.