

JRFC Minis Juniors & Colts



January 2023

2022-23 mid-season review

Round-up of Sussex rugby action

From U12s who are enjoying Sussex action for the first time to the more experienced Colts, no squad has been immune to travel and weather disruption during the first half of the season. Colts even had to contend with an enforced 2-night stay in the UK after BA cancelled their flight home at short notice.

The Colts, comprising mainly 16/17 year-olds, have a respectable 2 wins from 6 in the Premier Division, as well as a thumping 58-0 win over Uckfield in the Cup, which sets up a tantalising quarter final clash with Brighton. U16s are second in League 2 behind the seemingly unstoppable Brighton, whilst U15s are unbeaten in League 3, although weather disruptions mean only 3 rounds have been completed so there is still everything to play for.

In the Sussex Waterfall tournaments, U14s have won 3 out of 4 on the road, losing only to Guernsey. Their desire to reverse the earlier defeat last weekend fell foul of the weather, as frozen pitches at St Peter made contact impossible and the teams played Touch instead.

U13s are a large squad and have 2 teams entered in the Waterfall, an organisational feat in itself and testament to the dedication of the group's Coaches and Manager.

Both teams combined their Sussex games with a trip to Twickenham in November, where the England victory clearly inspired U13 Red team (*right*) who went on to beat a strong Lewes side 25-10.



The M&Js boasts a 500-strong membership, making us one of the largest junior sports clubs in Jersey. You can join our Minis from school Year 1 and will begin contact rugby from Year 4. If you prefer a fast, non-contact game you can join our Touch Squad.



U16s win 3-0

Narrow victory over Sarnian rivals

Rarely does a penalty in the second minute determine the final result, but in atrocious conditions at St. Peter those 3 points turned out to be the only score of the game.

Although attacking rugby was difficult, both teams had scoring chances they couldn't quite convert. Guernsey failed to score after being camped on the Jersey line for 5 minutes in the first half and dropped the ball just short of the line in the dying minutes of the game.

Determination and the strength of the home side's defence proved to be the deciding factor, with Jersey claiming the win under the most testing conditions.

News from around the M&Js

Excitement as Jerri the Lion pays a visit

M&Js mascot Jerri the Lion popped in to see our very youngest players just before Christmas. Dressed for the occasion in an eye-catching Santa-suit, Jerri gave every child in U6s, U7s and U8s



their very own rugby ball, which we hope they will use to practice their catching and passing skills at home, in the park or on the beach. Here is Jerri with some of our fantastic U8 coaches!

A big thank you to Jerri and the M&Js Committee for such a generous gift.

Our Girls Squad are keen to share their enthusiasm for rugby and encourage more like-minded girls to join them, so they are holding an Open Day on Sunday 29 January at the Rugby Club. Please share with anyone who might be interested – any girls aged 11-18 are welcome to come along.



Also going from strength to strength are our Mixed Touch Squad who train with experienced coaches from the [Jersey Touch Association](#) and plan to enter a Touch tournament in the UK later this year.

This is our first M&Js newsletter and we hope you like it! Please tell us what you think and send us your ideas for future editions.

Volunteers' Corner

Our amazing volunteers are the lifeblood of the M&Js and we could not do what we do without them. We are sure there are people out there who can assist with some exciting upcoming projects, so if you have enthusiasm and a few hours to spare we need to hear from you!

Please [get in touch](#) if you can help with media (including social media, website and future newsletters) basic carpentry skills or if you could help us manage our kit and equipment. Thank you!



Santander International are our main sponsor and we thank them for supporting the M&Js financially, but also in lots of practical ways too!

Huge thanks also go to our Colts Sponsor Saltgate, as well as Carey Olsen, Kleinwort Hambros, KPMG, Ports of Jersey and Sentinel.

M&Js also thank Strive Academy and Jersey Sport for their support.