



# Junior & Mini Section

Registered Charity No. 1085791

## Under 13's gone for a Burton!



I just wanted to say a **really big** thank you to all of the lads on tour.

Your behaviour and the way you represented ERFC was exemplary and I am proud of you all. Even the travelling supporters behaved!

We have had comments from Burton and Burntwood, praising the team on and off the field.

The games were tough as we knew they would be, the whole team, to a man stuck to the task and never gave up, the tenacity and defence were of the most determined nature we have seen all season.

The first game slipped away from us in the second half, mainly due to the fact that the guys had worn themselves out before kick off with all the excitement. We started well enough with two unanswered tries, then the home side clawed their way back into it. Burton on Trent 36 - 17 Eastleigh.

In our Sunday game at Burntwood, neither side had breached the others '22' after 13 minutes!! Then the breakthrough came for the home side, who went into half time 5-0 the better. They finally ran out 15 - 7 winners. Perhaps a little more sleep may have helped?

Thank you as well to all the tour staff; Andy, with his puppy like boundless and just as well controlled energy. Gordon for assisting with team and warm ups, Lorraine for medical support just as required, Heather who lets me loose to follow my passion and picks up the pieces, Louise, to the travelling supporters and the local contingent John and Glen with their families who smoothed the way.

See you on the 23rd May for the presentation evening.

Gary (& Heather)

## Well Done Under 9's!

This season has been an important foundation for the U9's, with the change from tag to full-contact being tackled head-on. Some fine displays have seen Eastleigh competing well and seeing some hard fought wins - and even when results haven't gone our way, opposing teams have had to work hard for their victory and we have never been a push-over.

Some fantastic new players have joined this season and really made an impact and our more experienced

players continue to grow. Our target for next season is to enlarge the squad so that we can not only compete, but be a force at the tournaments. This together with an enlarged coaching base and tapping into the rugby knowledge we have standing, cheering on the touchline - will make season 2008-09 one to remember!

Gordon, Steve, Dave, Jon

## Under 10's invade Bristol

The under 10's have had a great season only losing Three games and those were by 10-15 points.

The only trouble is that the squad couldn't replicate this at the tournaments.

Cup Semi Final knock out at Havent

Plate Final runners up at Bournemouth

Plate Semi Final knock out at Trojans

But we did manage to win the Hampshire Bowl.

The climax of our season was a mini Tour to Bristol.

The squad took 14 players and all the parents came along to enjoy the weekend.

The first day we were hosted by Gordano RFC who are the current South West Champions in this age group.

We played two games that day and were beaten by the hosts by 5-0 in the first but then went onto beat Nailsea RFC 15-5

After the games we retired to a very swanky wine bar in the Clifton area of Bristol (which we did not trash) to enjoy food and drink before going Bowling and ending the evening by taking over a local village Pub for the night.

The final day was hosted by Nailsea RFC and meant return matches and once again Gordano showed their might beating us convincingly but we held our heads up high and took it to our hosts beating them 35-0

The players loved the whole experience and it was amazing to hear a 9 year old saying 'What Goes On Tour stays On Tour'

All in all a successful year and with some recruitment over the summer and increased training sessions we will be ready to take on everyone next season.

Dylan Chandler, Lead Coach under 10's

## Dates for the diary

*Summer training* Starts Wed 4<sup>th</sup> June 6pm till 7pm

Note: Please check with your individual team coaches!