



BALMY BEACH RUGBY

Balmy Beach Junior Rugby 2015 Fall Update

2015 was another very successful year with continued growth and development at all levels. We had over 300 participants with the BBC having one or more teams at all age groups from Under 18 to Under 8 years of age. In addition to the strong numbers of players we were also able to grow our number of coaches and other volunteers who are critical to our continued success.

2015 was our third year of running a Winter Training Academy. BBC Junior Rugby ran regular indoor practices at the gym at SATEC/Porter CI for U18 boys/girls U16 & U14 boys. This program was very helpful in our player development, recruitment and retention. We will be repeating our Academy in 2016 and we have been working towards securing additional gym space for U12, U10 & U8 teams to participate this winter also. Coaches will update all registered players with details on winter training when it is confirmed and the schedules will be posted on <http://balmybeachrugby.com/jr-rugby/>

Hosted tours are one of the best ways for BBC to create a deeper association of the club to our players. Once again this season BBC was happy to have had the opportunity to host some touring sides. Each event was followed up by a gathering at the club for the associated socializing and general comradeship that compliments this great sport.

In addition to the hosted tours noted above the Junior Program treated all the teams to a year-end BBQ at the club that included; awards, games food and fun. BBC staff and Fuel were very helpful with their support for these events.

A few photos and some comments on the season by age groups and divisions as provided by coaches are as follows:

U8 & U10 Mixed Minors Non-Contact (flag)

Coaches: Andy Steele, Chris Steele, Brad McBride

U8's once again we had lots of players registered who participated in tournaments at various locations in and around the GTA. The kids have tremendous fun and success on the pitch. Once again we hosted a home event of "real beach rugby" as in played on the sand in front of the club. The players and parents from the BBC and our guests the Ajax RFC club once again found this to be the highlight of their season.

Congratulations to all of the 30 plus U10 players, many coaches and great parent / family supporters. We had another champagne season that showcased some future Team Canada Reps. Our teams played in several tournaments around GTA and practiced nothing but sportsmanship and eager play. There was a significant improvement in rugby skills throughout the season. The last three tournaments had the U10's go undefeated against some very strong sides. At a few stages in the end of season play the U10's set up 'switches, fake passes and even spin passes that traveled over half the pitch!' This was truly a pleasure to watch and to be part of this fantastic journey.

Up The Beach!
Andy



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Group shot of "beach" Rugby:



U12

Coaches: Peter Rava, Richard Owen

We had 38 kids registered this year, the most we've ever had at this age group. It was literally divided in half between experienced kids and ones who had never played. Throughout the spring we entered a number of festivals and were able to field three teams to the majority of them. Of course we were successful in all of them. The new kids responded well and the veterans showed them the way.

Richard and representatives from 4 other Toronto clubs created the first ever Toronto u12 house league. This is a model that proved very successful and one that we will be pursuing again next year. Rich may have more to add but as per usual we had some great kids and Mike, Rich, and I had a blast coaching them this year.

We are looking forward to next year already; which may include some early work under the dome. Details on early work will be shared when confirmed.

Up The Beach!!

U14

Coaches: Ryan Redwood & Jack Blakely

This season started off with a bang. We had a lot of brand new players this year that we had to teach how to tackle and Fast! So began our practices. We hit everything. We hit each other, we hit big bags, we hit small bags, and we even hit coach Bags! We then learned how to form a scrum, practiced rucking, mauling, penalties and kicks! All of this for the first time. Our team was very fortunate that we had lots of help on the coaching side of things. I would like to extend our thanks to; Jerry Ramsay, Jimmy McGowan, Gavin Sheull, Pete Kurfurst and Scott Switzer.

After all that hard work it was game time. I have to say that our practicing paid off and our team played very well. It was after our first victory that Coach Jackie and I knew we had not only great kids on our team but also great players. The quote that was



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going around about our team was "we have a lot of great Athletes on that team". As a team we were unbeatable and that proved to be true as the only games we lost were when we were short players.

There were a lot of good memories this season. Too many to list, they included poor Jake Carruthers running in for a try all alone when it seemed that the ground disappeared right from under him! Jake landed on his face but held onto that ball. Unfortunately the dip in our home field swallowed poor Jake before he crossed the try line and no points were scored. It was sure great for a laugh though.

After a hard fought battle against "the Georgian Bay man child" many of our team showed how to lose with grace and soak their wounds down at the Beach in Collingwood. From what I heard many Hot Dogs were devoured and some amazing water Rugby was played.

All in all our kids played some darn good rugby, represented our club with great sportsmanship and class and made us proud of every single one of them.

On behalf of Coach Jack Blakely and myself I would like to thank our players and parents for yet another wonderful season. Up The Beach!!!!

Coach

Ryan Redwood

U16

Coaches: Scott Switzer, Demeach Kokanakis, Sam Qubti, Brad Hord, Iain McLeish

2015 Beach U16 season saw eighty+ eager boys with varying rugby competence.

We fielded three TRU Champion teams and one ORU Premier Team. We won the TRU and placed fourth in a strong Premier division. Lack of team play was prevalent throughout yet our Boys showed true grit and determination during matches. Their aptitude for the game and personal skills continually progressed.

Our community should be seeing a lot of them to continue to compete in the Blue and Gold, evolving into team leaders. We're looking forward to seeing them at winter training some will be move up to U18 and other will hopefully be returning for the 2016 season.

Special note to those who were selected to play for Ontario Blues:

Blues U15- William Abbott, Jared Augustin

Blues U16- George Butterworth



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One of three U16 teams:



U18 Girls

Coaches: Craig Bolton, Sophia DaSilva, Steffan Oolup

Another great season from our Under 18 Girls squad! Although we came up a hair short in the consolation final, the team should be proud of the tremendous effort put forth this year. As the season progressed the girls vastly improved leading to an undefeated regular season. Thank you to those senior players who have played their final game at this level. Your services have been greatly appreciated and good luck with the rest of your rugby careers! Fortunately our roster remains deeply talented. With players as young as 13 suiting up this past summer, the program looks to be in good hands for many years to come. A big thanks to parents/guardians for their taxi services and other contributions - we hope to see you all again next year! Many thanks to our coaches Craig, Steffan and especially Sophia who despite tearing up her ankle while coaching, never missed a shift as our backs coach/trainer! Finally thank you to Jim Drohan and everyone else associated with Balmy Beach Junior Rugby. Up the Beach!

Special acknowledgements to the following award winners:

MVP: Dominique Rumble

Players player: Natasha Cyrille

Eric Hobson Award (Most improved) Maya Mitchell



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U18 Boys in playoff scrum:



U18 Boys

Coaches: Paul Myers, Chuck Wust, Kevin Quinn, Myles Martin

Congratulations on a great season despite the outcome of the last game you are to be congratulated on a very successful season.

Highlights

- Finals of the TRU championship disputably the toughest u18 league in the country
- 11-1 record undefeated in league play
- 8 players on Regional 15 teams
- 4 players made u18 All Ontario Squad
- 5 players on TRU 7s team
- 10 New players to the game at u18
- Playing the game the way it should be played
- Great support by family and friends

You are all to be commended for your efforts. For those going back to school, I hope you have a good fall season with your teams and an even better spring.

For those of you moving on; it has been an enjoyable ride. For some of you it's been 6 years! I hope we've helped you to believe that everything is possible, to believe in yourself, and if you maintain the strength in character you will "Go Forward" The coaching staff and I are very proud of what you've accomplished both individually and collectively. We wish you much success in your future endeavors.

Finally I ask that you pay it forward.... Whenever and wherever you can volunteer to help a school, club or community centre, Help to grow and strengthen the game.

I'll be out there watching you. I'd like to see you all on the field with Balmy Beach Academy (under 25) teams in the spring!

Sincerely, Coach Myers



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Special acknowledgements to the following U18 award winners:

MVP: Dylan Young
Players Player Aidan Abbott
Most Improved: Cameron Roberts 2015
Kristan Merritt 2014

Directors Note:

The success of our 2015 season and our junior program in general is truly a group effort. I cannot thank the parents, players, coaches and other members of the Junior Rugby executive enough. They give so much personal time and effort to this program and they are the foundation we build upon. Moreover, the financial support we receive from the Rugby Alumni, the Club executive, the Webby foundation and general membership is tremendous. We are also very pleased to continue to get such great support and encouragement from the senior Men's and Women's rugby players and their executive.

I would also like to note that this was my last season as director of our junior program and what pleasure it was to contribute to the continued growth of this program that had been such a big part of my early life at the BBC and a program my two sons also enjoyed very much.

I'm very pleased to announce that Jason Rybak will be taking over the role officially as of October. Jason has a great deal of experience in all aspects of rugby and the organizational skills to ensure our program continues to succeed. I will be working to assist Jason in his new role and be assuming the duties of treasurer for the coming season.

Our continued growth will call for more assistance moving forward and I would encourage anyone that is interested sponsoring our program financially or in getting involved directly; to contact me or Jason to discuss the various ways you can participate in this great program for our youth.

Sincerely,

Jim Drohan
jimdohan@gmail.com
Director, BBC Jr. Rugby
Up the beach!