

Strathmore Sharks Youth Section AGM report 2024

Boys Youth Section

It's been another hugely positive year for the Sharks youth section with our on-field success mirroring last season on and off the pitch.

Our decision in 22/23 to revert to having our own Under 18 team has again been the correct decision as our U18's performed above and beyond and as a team we have gone from strength to strength.

If not for a couple of cancelled fixtures the team would have potentially won the league; unfortunately, the last game of the conference saw us being defeated by Deeside, they were again runners up in the Caledonia Shield Final at finals weekend.

Our U16s won the Caledonia Plate Final and were victims of an away fixture logistical problem to Orkney which couldn't take place, so we were announced co-winners.

Our U13s & U14s continue to go from strength to strength and perform at local and regional festivals, this has allowed all our players to develop their skills which will eventually enable them to play "The Strathie Way".

The last two seasons have seen Strathmore Sharks be involved in 5 finals and the U18 team have been winner and runners up in their conference. I believe that we are 1 year away from national conference.

Girls Youth Section

A great campaign this year for our girls having been involved again in a collaboration with Perthshire which saw some of our U16's players play at finals weekend in the shield final against Stirling RFC.

The girl's youth section continues to grow year on year with a good number of competitive fixtures for both the U14s & U16s.

We have to continue to grow and turn that corner to become a standalone girls sections at required age groups.

Junior Rugby (P1-7s)

Another great season at Junior Sharks (Primary 1-7) with a number of new coaches and players gracing the field in black and purple. We continue to attend matches and festivals and regularly have the largest number at each age group of any other club in Angus and have even managed to run single year group teams at Primary 6 and 7 for the latter part of the season.

The highlight of the season is always our home festival and our team of players, parents and coaches are blessed with positive feedback on how we run these events each time we host a tournament.

We are finishing the season with 78 members across Primary 1 to 7 and 21 volunteer coaches; special thanks has to go to them for giving up their time each week to coach the future of Strathmore rugby players.

School of Rugby

The School of Rugby continues to grow at Websters High School with several players filtering into the shark's system at youth level with S1 & S2 pupils representing the Sharks.

Still led by Callum Burnett (WHS & Club Community Coach) with over 40 pupils participating every week.

Players at regional Pathway/Cally & National pathways

U18s 3 at regional/Caledonia Pathway

U18s 1 at National Pathway

U16s 1 at regional/Caledonia

U15s 1 at regional/Caledonia

Girls 3 at regional/Caledonia

Stepping down

I still will step down as Youth Chairman at the end of this season It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be part of growing Strathmore Sharks to this place for the last number of years, we are not in this place without those who have come before and to those who had the vision in the first place.

Stefan and I reluctantly stepped up but I wouldn't change it now for the world where our club has grown throughout 10 year and its remarkable.

What next

What do I leave behind and what are our next steps? There will be a transition period and I will stay until August where I will work closely with Scottish Rugby to ensure that we implement and make a Development Officer happen for the Youth sections at the Sharks. We have identified this person, and we will work hard to make this happen. This is the next and logical step for the sharks and shows our progression.

We still need to identify a youth Chair position to support the senior committee and junior chair along with the need to run the general day to day working of the sharks.

Where do we start next season?

U18s 21 Player

U16s 15 Players

U15s 10 Players

U14s 14 Players
U13s 15 Players
P1-3s 32 Players
P4-5s 20 Players
P6-7s 26 Players
Girls 22 Players

14 players will migrate to the Senior section and again we take a step closer to being a self-sustaining pathway from Juniors to Youths to Seniors. To those players and those who aspire to wear the Griffin; this is my take on what Strathie and proud means to me:

To those who wore it, wear it and who will wear it.

You're the custodian of the jersey.
You wear it now.
You are part of those who wore it before you.
You will hold it until someone wears it after you.

Pull it over your shoulders with pride.
Play in it with Passion.
Take it off exhausted having given it your all.
When your done pass it on with Pride.

You're Strathie and Proud!

Laura Robertson
Co-Chairman Strathie Sharks
04/05/2024

Gary Wood
Co-Chairman Strathie Sharks
04/05/2024