



WASPS
Football Club
Founded 1867

TWYFORD AVENUE

HOME OF WASPS RUGBY

THE CLUB

WASPS U15 COACHES SPREAD THE RUGBY WORD

Two young coaches at Wasps U15s are on a mission to fundamentally change the nature of youth rugby. Joe Mackie and Brad Sculley met at St. Mary's College and found they had a shared belief that it was important to spread the rugby message. They both ended up teaching, Joe at Alperton Community School and Brad at Mossbourne Academy in Hackney. These were schools where rugby was not played and they were determined to introduce it. Many of the boys were from families and from countries with no rugby tradition such as Somalia, Jamaica and Afghanistan. Their initial efforts, at getting pupils involved with the sport, proved phenomenally successful so they approached Wasps FC to see how they could work together.

Wasps were delighted to have two extra qualified and dynamic coaches, as well as an influx of new talent. They linked up with the current U15 team which was already a successful group but predominantly made up of boys from top rugby playing schools. Some of the new players came from troubled backgrounds, and had been excluded or expelled from schools, but their natural talent and instinctive ability to make a tackle meant that they quickly won the respect of the established players and the integration of the two groups was seamless.

Joe said, "The benefits of the programme were not just on the playing field. The boys found a new sense of self-worth and self-discipline."

In their first season, Wasps development team won their league with ease and made some massive technical improvements. Joe and Brad now regularly scout at emerging

schools tournaments to find talented players with limited rugby experience to bring into the Wasps fold. Last year, the squad went on a tour to Biarritz and won friends and admirers in the Basque country for their high standard of rugby and conduct.

Aussie Brad said, "The trend is for fewer schools to play rugby and we want to reverse this. By combining with Wasps, we can give boys who were born to play rugby the opportunity to take part in the sport at a high level. We have already taken two boys through to the Middlesex County set up and we believe that is just the beginning. If English rugby could effectively tap into this talent pool they would regularly humiliate southern hemisphere teams."

The group is planning to tour in Wales this Easter. Every effort will be made to ensure that financial need will not exclude any member of the squad. If you would like to make a bursary contribution or talk about sponsorship please contact team manager Marco Salvalaggio on msalvala@mac.com.



WASPS U15S WITH COACHES JOE MACKIE (LEFT) AND BRAD SCULLEY (RIGHT)

THE GAME

CONGRATULATIONS!

Former Wasps FC junior player, Anthony 'Ant' Brennan played for England U18 against Australia on 13th December. Ant joined Wasps FC as an Under 8 where he developed all his rugby until he was 16. At 16, following a recommendation from his coach, London Wasps gave him a trial and offered him a place in their Apprentices scheme. His London Wasps coaches have honed his skills and converted him into a prop who can play both sides, a distinct advantage over his rivals.

Last season, Ant was awarded the prestigious Ivan Sharpe Cap that has a history going back more than 80 years and recognises 'the most promising youth player'. He puts his success

down to the encouragement and rugby education he received from all his coaches at Wasps FC, Apprentices and now England.

Last weekend Ant was selected for the England 6 Nations squad and is preparing to play France on 21st of Feb. Good luck Ant from all at Wasps!



ANT BRENNAN, WASPS FC GRADUATE AND ENGLAND U18

JOIN US

To find out more contact:

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Women: Liz Riley on riley@cantab.net or 07762102682

Youth (U13-Colts): Norman Parker on normanparker@hotmail.com or 07917265824

Minis (U6-U12): Graeme Aifille-Cook on graemeac@waspsfc.co.uk

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Or visit www.waspsfootballclub.co.uk

THE BUZZ

