

## Professional Rugby - Go Henry Go!

Following the events of last weekend (18th -20th February) a friend suggested that I contact *The Wychwood* with my news. I did, but I just sent a couple of lines and the official RFU Press release.

Subsequently the Editor asked if I would write a short article - and “it didn’t matter if I came over as a proud dad!”

Well firstly let me say that Jill, Georgina and I are very proud parents and a proud sister for sure.



Henry had a call asking him to join the 22 man squad for the England U-18 Clubs and Schools team - absolutely amazing! To be fair this is not the full England U-18 team which would be the top of the RFU’s ‘performance development pathway’, but is the top honour for guys who are in the ‘aspirational development pathway’ which, and I quote, “rewards players who have advanced within their Constituent bodies. It

### What’s the Story?

Well my son Henry has played Rugby since he was around 6 years old. Starting at Chipping Norton Rugby Club and then Burford School, he also played for the county U-16 and U-17 teams. In summer 2010 he moved school to Cokethorpe for sixth-form (which should not reflect negatively on Burford which is a fine school with a good sporting pedigree). At Cokethorpe he has played for the first team which won the county cup for the third year running, and was selected for the county team and then the South West Divisional U-18 team!

Last weekend they played the divisional festival matches against the North and the Midlands winning both matches comfortably. That could have been the end of the story and effectively the end of a great season; however on Sunday night

allows talented players to achieve international honours while continuing to pursue academic and career interests and keeps them on the selector’s radar.”

### Ireland International- and Exams!

What’s next? Well two squad training weekends, a match vs. Worcester Warriors Academy and then an International match in Dublin vs. Ireland U-18s Clubs on April 10th. Oh and school work for his AS levels. I’m still pinching myself.

Throughout the whole of the time Henry has played Rugby he has been helped and supported by many great coaches, teachers, helpers and other good players. Too many to name but you know who you are and thank you. Henry’s ambition is to be a professional rugby player.

**Andrew Purdy**