

## Monmouth Young Rugby back to TWINNING Ways!



Action pictures by Clifford Freeman.



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The last weekend of October not only saw Monmouth basking in unseasonably warm sunshine but also the welcome return of young rugby teams visiting from our French twinning counterparts Carbonne some 40 years after Monmouth last ventured over there.

On arrival via Bristol airport on the Friday night the Carbonnais were welcomed by Monmouth Town Twinning Chairman - Michael Hargaden and Jonathan Henry - Chairman of Young Rugby at Monmouth RFC. Their onward journey then continued to Monmouth RFC where they were warmly welcomed with supper by their hosting families for the weekend.

A bright and sunny Saturday gave the Carbonnais the chance to explore Monmouth at their in all its splendour and indulge in some retail therapy before heading to the clubhouse for a buffet and a chance to meet more club officials and supporters before providing the Guard of Honour for the afternoons WRU National Bowl Competition between Monmouth RFC's First XV and Penybanc.

They proved to be very lucky mascots on the day with the home side progressing into the fourth round of the cup with an emphatic nine try victory.



Monmouth RFC is very much looking forward to visiting Carbonne in 2018.

Sunday saw mixed teams from Monmouths Under 13s 14s and 15s take on the French visitors in brilliant sunshine on Chippenham Fields with some dazzling displays of rugby by all participants. Lunch at the club was followed by a reception at The Shire Hall hosted by The Town Twinning Committee and the Mayoress of Monmouth - Cllr Felicity Cotton who welcomed the Deputy Mayor of Carbonne - Mr Ali Benarfa and visiting guests.

Monday saw their whirlwind visit come to an end with a VIP tour of the Principality Stadium in Cardiff - what better way to end this special trip than to the home of Welsh Rugby and a visit to our capital City? Commenting on the visit - Monmouth's Young Rugby Chairman - Jonathan Henry was once again delighted to see just how kind and generous the hosting families were towards their guests following on from their previous hosting of Wales U20s world cup players only this time with the added complication of the language barrier.

As always such events cannot take place without the kind generosity of both hosting families - club sponsors and volunteers alike who are an intrinsic part of why Monmouth Rugby Club continues to offer such a warm and welcoming platform to all those wishing to experience rugby at all ages irrespective of ability either as a player or supporter.



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As part of Monmouth RFCs continued desire to engage the local community at all levels it is very important to look at new initiatives which expand our younger players horizons both on and off the pitch and open up new opportunities to form friendships across all social levels and boundaries which is why it was considered so important to support the Town Twinning Committee in this worthwhile endeavour.

Monmouth RFC is very much looking forward to visiting Carbonne in 2018 to further strengthen those ties and friendships already made.