



OLD COVENTRIANS
R.F.C.

OLD COVENTRIANS RFC JUNIOR SECTION

www.oldcoventriansrfc.co.uk

FOR THE NEW 2010/2011 Season

MAY 2010

First of all, once again a big thank you to all players, parents, coaches, officials and other volunteers for a successful Season (despite the weather!). We are once again pleased that all age groups from Under 7s through to Under 17s have had many successes throughout the Season. All will be mentioned at the various Presentation Nights, however brief summaries from across the Junior Section are over the page!

Other news and some dates for your diary:

- The Year 5 and Year 6 **Tag Rugby Festival** is on Wednesday, **26th May** from 12.30pm – 4.00pm
- The Annual Year 5 **Tag Rugby Festival** is on Wednesday, **23rd June** from 12.30pm - 4.00pm, if you are able to help out at either festival, please let us know.
- Junior **Summer Fun** starts on Wednesdays from Wednesday, **30th June** from 6.15pm onwards although check with your coach as some coaches have decided to have a longer break!
- New Season starts on **Sunday 5th September** from 10.30am for player and parent registration and training. **Please make sure you register on Sundays 5th, 12th or 19th September.** Remember you need to be registered with OCs every season to play - no form, no game! For those who still need to provide photos, can these be provided on registration? The provision of photos for ID purposes is a RFU requirement.
- Fancy being a **First Aider**? RFU First Aid Training is on Sunday, 27th June at Nuneaton Old Edwardians RFC.
- Rugby **Holiday Camps** – check the website for further information.
- OCs continue to work towards the **Seal of Approval** Award and we are always seeking ways of providing better junior rugby for children and young people. So if you have any ideas, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you again for the start of the new season on Sunday 5th September 2010, if not before!

For the New Season:

The OCs **Website**: www.oldcoventriansrfc.co.uk, is regularly updated and has the latest information about training and fixtures and how to get involved whether you want to play, coach or volunteer. Our Club **Volunteer Coordinator** is John Lapworth, johnlapworth@yahoo.co.uk who has been able to get even more people involved in volunteering at OCs. A message from John is "Remember, there is a role for everyone. **So just see John!**" Check out - www.oldcoventriansrfc.co.uk/volunteers_wanted.php.

We continue to seek **new sponsors** and we must continue to make sure that all contributions are recognised, so if you are interested in sponsoring a team etc. please see Jane Waterhouse janewrfu@btinternet.com who will be able to put you in touch with the right people.

The **OCs Mini Festival** was successful in 2009 and we are planning to hold another Festival in 2011. So watch this space. What made it a success was the contribution the volunteers made who included coaches, parents, players and many more! So if you would like to be part of the Planning Committee then please see Jane or John, contact details above. The next one will be easy as we now have a plan!

For booking the **Function Room** contact Mike Owen on 07855 424097. It is available for hire for private parties, christenings, funerals, business meetings etc, but not 18th parties!

Old Coventrians RFC 200 Club – see our website www.oldcoventriansrfc.co.uk and click on "200 Club" for full details of the 200 club, last year's members and winners. Now is the time to join, before the new 200 Club year starts. Cost £24 per year for one number with £5400 paid out in prizes per year with 11 monthly draws with prizes up to £100, Xmas draw with prizes up to £1000 and for a member and partner there is free hot & cold buffet, plenty of free wine and beer. **How do I join?** Membership forms are available behind the bar and can be downloaded from the OCs Website or contact Peter Owen by email on peterowen@tesco.net. The 200 club normally makes about £4,000 per year towards the clubhouse and ground maintenance fund.

Under 16s



- ✓ The two highlights of the season were an unbeaten run of 11 competitive matches between October and March, and the team's tour and participation in the Bognor RFC Festival during the Easter holidays.
- ✓ Skipped by Dan Gover, the team have played 16 matches, winning 13 of them and scoring 405 points and conceding 185. Notable successes have included Nottingham, Oadby Wyggs, Newbold, Leicester South and Lutterworth.
- ✓ 15 different players have scored tries in matches with the leading try scorers being Sam Rospin (20), Dan Gover (9) and Oliver Breedon (5). Alex Telfer has added 38 points with conversions and 4 other players have contributed points with the boot.
- ✓ The season ended with a tour, when the team made many rugby friends and gave Hemel Hempstead, the festival winners, their hardest match of the year. The team's performance on and off the pitch and on tour was a credit to the Club. Their final engagement of the year saw the team come second in the Kenilworth 10s Festival.
- ✓ A big thanks to all parents, coaches, sponsors, supporters and helpers for contributing to a memorable season and an especially big thank you to the players who have taken a huge step forward as a team. Bring on the Under 17 League!

Under 14s



- ✓ This Season has been one of great challenges and achievements for the players. It was very encouraging to have a consistent squad of 20 carried over from the previous Season, even when the Team was hit by injuries of some key players, they always managed a full strong Team.
- ✓ They have continued to progress and develop their skills resulting in an outstanding Season. Although facing challenging and testing games, some of which were lost, but the Team always pulled together and never lost their drive, enthusiasm and commitment to the game.
- ✓ A couple of games needed to seal a victory away from a draw and a few games were lost at the start of 2010 due to the snow and ice, but the Team played their last few games which were enjoyed by all.
- ✓ This year's Tour to Shrewsbury was a great success and was enjoyed by all and parents too.
- ✓ This Season, 9 players were picked to play for Coventry Schools and 4 to play for Warwickshire. This was a great achievement and showed to all the skill that we have at Old Coventrians. OCs are proud of you all!

Under 13s



- ✓ The Team have attributed themselves well in their first full season of Junior rugby. They are developing into an excellent 15 aside team, which is competing strongly and starting to play open and exciting rugby.
- ✓ The successful integration of several new players throughout the season has strengthened the squad from a playing perspective and also added diversity as they now have players from 7 Secondary and Independent Schools from across Coventry, Warwickshire and Leicestershire.
- ✓ The team have played a total of 26 matches which includes Tournaments and Festival games winning 12, drawing 3, and losing 11. They have scored a total of 416 points and conceded 402.
- ✓ They are a well travelled team this year playing games in Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire! Also competing against teams from Holland and Wales!
- ✓ Many thanks must go to all Volunteers and Parents for their continued support throughout the year. This is greatly appreciated by both Players and Coaches.

Under 12s



- ✓ This season started with four new additions to the team which proved very valuable to the side with a strong start against Earlsdon. They then went on to win their first Festival of the season at Broadstreet in October.
- ✓ By Christmas, the team remained unbeaten. Unfortunately, the weather restricted the games, however this didn't dampen their spirit - it just made them more determined by training indoors! This was to prove very beneficial so that when they played the game against Kenilworth, they played good phase rugby and scrummaged well. The players did not only believe in themselves they believed in each other's ability and strengths - this is what makes them special!
- ✓ Preparations started for the International Tournament in Wales. Working hard they raised £3,000 for the tour which was fantastic. After a tough day on the Saturday, and losing a game, on the Sunday they decided they were not going to leave without a trophy and the boys were like the 'Phoenix rising from the ashes'! They rucked and scrummaged and played their hearts out but cruelly got knocked out by default but the Challenge Cup was still to play for!
- ✓ The boys did Coventry proud as they also beat Ireland 15-5 in the final which sums up the spirit of the team this season. They never gave in - "A man's greatest conquest is not when he has fallen but when he gets up"!
- ✓ Next season they move up to Junior rugby and will be ready to make OCs proud once more.

Under 11s



- ✓ The season began with an influx of 12 new players giving them a squad of 32! The new guys (and gal!) came with great enthusiasm and quickly picked up the technical side of the game. Playing as red and yellow teams prior to Christmas allowed everyone game time and for the coaches to see who had the skills, abilities and attitude that they were looking for the second half of the season. They are pleased to report that everyone stepped up and as such the good results since Christmas reflect the skills and team spirit within the squad.
- ✓ They have had a good festival season, coming second at Kenilworth and Old Leams, and have broadened their fixture base by playing Ilkley, Preston Grasshoppers and Marlow! They also took a party of 40 players and parents for a great day out to see Harlequins at the Stoop in April.
- ✓ Thanks must go to all the Coaches - Steve Davies, Matt Baker, Nigel Rix, John West and Richard Lapworth - for the time and effort they put in to support the team and to all the players and parents for supporting the coaching team in what the team is trying to achieve in "delivering a rugby experience for everyone". Looking forward to seeing you all back as Under 12s next season!

Under 10s



- ✓ In a season severely disrupted by the weather, the team can look back on some notable successes. Highlights to be particularly proud of include Barker Butts, beating KHVIII for the first time, as well as wins over Nuneaton, Sutton Coldfield, Shipston and Rugby Lions, all teams they have previously lost to.
- ✓ This season brought new elements to the game, with contested scrums and lineouts, to which they adapted very well. They have continued to strive to play an open running style of rugby which best suits the lads' abilities.
- ✓ The squad has improved during the season and the gap that used to exist between the experienced/newer players has significantly narrowed, making the squad far more interchangeable. When the lads 'click' they have proved they are a match for any of the teams they have played.
- ✓ Their development can be seen in the playing record which has improved from last year. Overall results: tries for 103, against 75. It has been an extremely satisfying season with lots to look forward to next year with the introduction of second rows, a full back and kicking!
- ✓ Thanks go to the lads for their continued enthusiasm and willingness to learn. Special thanks to all the parents for their support and commitment too.

Under 9s



- ✓ This season has been one of growth and stability, where the team has adapted well with the transition from Tag to Contact Rugby, and learning the art of tackling, rucking, mauling, scrums and lineouts. The squad involved 24 registered players with some new players also joining this year to what made a very competitive squad built around teamwork, comradeship and team values. Tries for 174, against 40.
- ✓ Overall, it has been another extremely successful season, winning all three tournaments entered at Broadstreet, Old Leams and Kenilworth respectively.
- ✓ At the time of writing this, we are about to go on our first Rugby tour away at Burnham-on-Sea, which has been superbly organised by our newly installed tour committee.
- ✓ The coaches have been particularly proud of all the players this season, and would like build on the success of this team in the seasons to come.
- ✓ We would like to thank the continued support of the club, volunteers and parents which is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Under 8s



- ✓ The continued effort from all the team, together with support from parents and grandparents, has helped us win all three tournaments: Broadstreet, Old Leams and Kenilworth. This was a good measure of the Season, with numerous wins against worthy opponents and the squad did us proud throughout with 90% of our regular players helping to score the tries. Some prolific try tallies were totted up and we think negotiations on the £1.00 per try from parents may be in re-negotiation before next season starts!
- ✓ Some new players and two sets of twins have helped to put two teams out on a number of occasions. These evenly skilled teams were able to feed off each other in training, deliver the goods in matches and develop into a squad which is more than ready to move onto full Contact Rugby next Season. Their support of each other as a true team has enabled some outstanding displays of passing, (which our current England team could learn from!).
- ✓ A special mention has to be made for Patrick Maxwell, who once again represented the Club with outstanding performances and was rewarded by being selected to attend a day at Twickenham with Lawrence Dallaglio. This boy has a side step that O'Driscoll would be proud of!

Under 7s and below



- ✓ It was a slow start in terms of recruitment but, by mid Season we had 20 registered players with another 10 or so, mainly Under 5s, `trying it out` on Wednesday evenings. An unusual feature was that there was only one player remaining from the previous season and so the squad was almost starting from scratch!
- ✓ The first game was in October (vs Sutton Coldfield) with some trepidation. However OCs came through well with only the odd score separating the teams. The squad put in a good performance for their first ever Festival at Broadstreet, playing five matches, winning two and drawing one against some very good opposition.
- ✓ It was gratifying to see the players` skills, teamwork and enthusiasm develop as the Season progressed, a tribute to the commitment of the 5 newly trained coaches - Sinead, Craig, Paul, Neil and Mark together with the brilliant support of all the parents. In the two end of Season Festivals – the team finished third at Old Leams and runners up (without losing a game) at Kenilworth.
- ✓ All in all, and despite the weather they had a successful and thoroughly enjoyable season!