



OLD COVENTRIANS RFC

Junior Section Successes

Season 2008/09

The **OLD COVENTRIANS COLTS** team have just completed a most successful season, sweeping the board of Warwickshire Colts Competitions by winning the Merit League, the Colts Cup and the Colts Sevens competition. During the season they have only lost 3 times, to Bedford, Moseley and Hinckley which ranks us among the top 10 Colts teams in the country. Credit must go to Richard Protherough, who has coached the team for the past two seasons, and to Lau Langkilde who coached the team from Under 12 until last season. This is the latest indicator that the OCs investment in Mini and Junior rugby is paying off and we can hopefully look forward to a stream of good young players progressing to the senior teams.

So how are the other age groups getting on? Did you know the following?

Under 7s	Under 8s
<p>The team started the season with good wins at Earlsdon and Leamington, including 8 returning players from last season's Under 6s. Bolstered by a squad of newcomers they have been able to put out sides for every fixture. It is thanks to the encouragement from parents that they have seen attendance on Wednesdays on average at around 16, which has meant that Sunday match days have become much more rewarding and fruitful for the players. They have seen the skill levels of all the players increase through the season which has been made easier with additional help from newly recruited coaching staff. All in all a successful season with more wins than defeats and in particular strong wins at Kenilworth and Camp Hill Festivals.</p>	<p>The team has 26 Boys and Girls registered, which made for a very healthy and competitive squad, some new players who have quickly become key members of the squad. The team's behaviour and willingness to learn has been excellent and they recognise and respect the team values and are supportive of all their team mates and coaches. The team have developed their skills throughout the season. Results have been good too with only a handful of losses. They were winners of the Broadstreet, Kenilworth, Camp Hill and Barkers Butts Festivals and Runners-Up in OCs Festival. The coaches were particularly proud in how they all performed. They have started the transition into contact and they have risen to the challenge and really enjoyed it. Parents have been a great support too!</p>
Under 9s	Under 10s
<p>The team have coped with the change from Tag to Contact rugby which is not easy for both players and coaches! Taking everything new into account - tackling, rucking, mauling, scrums and lineouts plus trying to think about positions, overall it has been a good season and definitely one that they can build from. Their playing record is played 51, won 20, drew 10, lost 21 is respectable especially with a number of new player new to the game. Their try count was for 61, against 128. With a squad of 23 active registered players the future is looking bright. Thanks to all the players and parents for their commitment during the year. Roll on next season!</p>	<p>This season has been one of growth and stability. The squad has grown from 14 to 25 with 20 turning up on a regular basis for training allowing them to field two squads and give more game time to everyone. The season has been a good foundation one for the more arduous rigours that await the players as they rise through the age groups. Our target is to emulate this year's colts success in 2016, and a rarity for an English Rugby side they have experienced the taste of victory in Wales!</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Under 11s</p> <p>This season has proved to be a big challenge and a big learning experience for all the players and everyone involved in the team.</p> <p>They have suffered losses to teams they know they could have beaten and they have had some great wins and performances against some really tough opposition, playing great rugby along the way.</p> <p>They have had some fantastic new additions to the team this year and the list of people who have been with them from Under 7s and 8s does not get any smaller which is a real credit to all. Players, you just need to start believing in yourselves.....you are a very talented team!</p> <p>As ever they could not do their jobs without the fantastic support they receive from the club and all of the great parents and helpers of the team.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Under 12</p> <p>The team have continued to build upon progress made in previous years with an outstanding season, playing a total of 32 games, (with Tournaments) scoring 128 tries and conceding 24. This resulted in 27 games won, 2 games drawn, and 3 games lost. Success in the Broadstreet, Kenilworth and Barker Butts Festivals, have been key achievements, along with the invite and participation in the Tiger's Land Rover tournament at Oakham, where OCs narrowly lost in the Semis to eventual winners Stafford. The squad size has increased with 6 new players successfully integrating into the team, and contributing greatly to the squad development. Since February they have been able to turn to 15aside development fixtures in preparation for the new season as they move into Junior rugby. Thanks go to all Parents and Volunteers for their continued support, which is greatly appreciated by both Players and Coaches.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Under 13s</p> <p>The bad weather at the start of the season did little to dampen the spirits! With players from several schools across the City, the current squad is developing at an ever-increasing rate and have enjoyed a season which for them was all about playing rugby and making new friends along the way. The season finished a little sooner than they would have liked, with the latter half of this season seeing some excellent displays of rugby as well as some brilliant individual displays. Next season looks very promising for them as a group. The season finished with more wins than losses and a very good second to Old Leams at the Broadstreet 10s!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Under 14s</p> <p>They have had a challenging year with playing numbers however there have been regular attendees that have enabled us to fulfil most of their intended fixtures during the season. A style of running rugby has been adopted that hopefully all have enjoyed playing. Off the field the Club have established a school/community club link with Bishop Ullathorne School which has seen Old Coventrian's coaches taking PE lessons at the school and hopefully will encourage a number of new players to join next season. Also they intend to approach the Rugby "League" players over the summer with the aim of encouraging them to join OCs over for "Union" during the winter season. Here's looking forward to next season when OCs look forward to seeing you all again.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Under 15s</p> <p>Registered players 31 from 9 schools in or near the city, 14 new to the squad this season. 678 match and training attendance days with 16 players notching up in excess of 30 appearances. Played 16, won 9, lost 6, drawn 1 and scored 380 points with 64 tries and 30 conversions. Conceded 173 points. Notable wins include Nottingham, Oadby Wyggs, Leicester Vipers, Melton Mowbray, Kenilworth and Old Leams. A big thank you must go to parents as they have travelled to many away games with 10 matches outside Coventry and now know Leicestershire quite well! Most unusual session was indoor training with principal ballet dancer from Birmingham Royal Ballet who took a session on jumping!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Under 16s</p> <p>The most pleasing aspect of coaching is seeing the development of players and watching those who have no previous experience of playing rugby improve game by game. They have attracted several new players this season who have bonded well with the existing team. It was their intention to introduce them gradually into games as the season progressed, but due to injuries and unavailability they have played from the very start! This has produced some very good rugby players, who will be better for their experiences, which we hope will continue to improve for the long term benefit of OCs. A very successful season!</p>

